

Annual Report Ugandan Empowerment & Career Development (UECD) 2011

Eva Winizki, President UECD Switzerland, April 2011

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Dear Reader,

We are proud to say that we have accepted three new students in the year 2010:

First we were able to greet **Robert Okware** (born 1984) as new student in UECD.

Fabian Urech, a journalist with the Neue Zürcher Zeitung wrote an article in the NZZ's Educational Edition "Campus" about Robert as elected Guild President of the Makerere University in Kampala, (see website). Robert is politically active and has been engaged in improving educational opportunities for financially challenged young people in Uganda, thereby pursuing the same aims as UECD. He is studying for a Business Diploma. We asked him if he would also like to be involved in our organization. He responded positively, and is now engaged with UECD, helping as well to recruit other youths at the University, particularly those who cannot continue with their studies—usually after the first semester—because of financial hardship. Robert has thus taken over a most important function, formerly performed by Doreen Tusingwire, who was busy as a Midwife in the villages of Uganda.

In his role as former Guild President Robert meets a number of impoverished young women and men who see no way to continue their career development. We are happy to support Robert financially in his studies while he takes over this special task.

In the year 2009, through Robert Okware, we met **Robert Nangoli**, (born 1989). In March of 2010 we were able to welcome him into UECD. He is also pursuing a Business Diploma at the Makerere University in Kampala, a program that lasts three years. Markus Näpflin, a member of UECD Switzerland, is acting both as financial patron and ombudsman, accompanying Robert through his studies. Robert Nangoli is one of the students whom Robert Okware met in his function as Student Representative. It would have been impossible for him to finance a second semester, and so he sought help from Robert Okware.

In April 2010 we welcomed **Jane Keya** (born 1989) as a student with UECD, studying Business Computing at Makerere University. Jane is being financed through the Marco Nahuel Trust, counseled and monitored by Corinne Corradi, UEDC member, currently active in Development Aid in Ruanda. Jane had also reached out for financial help, for she was unable to finance her second semester. During her time in secondary school II, she met Gerry Kasalia, who now runs the African Queen restaurant in Zürich. He was able to support her financially, allowing her to finish the Secondary II. After her first term at University she applied for a stipend from UECD in order to complete her career training. She was accepted by UECD, and is now able to work toward completion of her degree in Business Computing.

Having completed their degree programs are:

Fiona Kukunda who had been sponsored by Ronald Tusingwire - our first Ugandan sponsor - received her Bachelor's Degree, (B.A.) in Business and Administration In December, 2010.

Adah Tushabire received her Diploma in Computer Science, and decided as a result of talking it over with her sponsor, Maja Plenge, to go forward with a Bachelor's degree. After a three year diploma preparation period, she must only take two, rather than the usual three years, to invest in studying for her Bachelor's.

The Current Stand of Students:

At the moment, we have four students who have completed their career training, another six are in the process of studying for their degrees, and one student's application is in the process of evaluation.

Donations

We were delighted to receive several generous donations this year from a Trust Fund, a Buddhist Center and Credit Suisse. Above and beyond these contributions, we are happy to have received so many donations from private sponsors. Thank you.

Public Relations

It is gratifying that we have received so many compliments on our website, brochure, and flyer. Joschi Kühne, who moderates “Treffpunkt” on radio station DRS 1 brought the attention to the platform of www.youisme.com <<http://www.youisme.com/>>. This website was founded by Irene Marty, an engaged Swiss filmmaker. Youisme is likewise an NGO, that is to say, an organization which gives a platform to small NGOs to present themselves. UECD is presented there in the English language.

Our Board member, Claude Herzog, is doing his civil service in Ifakara, located in the south of Tanzania. He is working for a biological research project at the Tropical Institute of the University of London, co-sponsored by the Tropical Institute of Basel. The program lasts six months, going from May to November of 2011. Claude's first station is Zanzibar, where he is studying Swahili.

Outlook

For this year, we are seeking two sponsors: one for Elisabeth Nangoni Wafula, who has already finished her application, and one for a second female student.

Our NGO is growing — we are beginning to develop in new directions. We are no longer the small enclosed family, where everyone knows everyone else, although we still encourage personal relationships among ourselves. We have to find a form that will insure our continuance on a sure footing, independent of our founders. The pioneer phase of UECD is gradually coming to an end; it is time to define new parameters and to create new visions. One of the ideas is that sponsors, students, and Board members work together guided by a professional organization developer who is in fact Afrikan. This would be a person who understands African and European cultures and is not a member of UECD Mitglied.

The Board of UECD Switzerland would take charge of organizing this interesting and challenging project.

Expanding the present Board of UECD Uganda, and in order to relieve Ronald Tusingwire, President of UECD Uganda, Fiona, Patricia and Obed have already brought

Elisabeth Nangoni Wafula into the selection process. That is to say, the old crew of Doreen, Ronald, and Hilda, has been enlarged. We are delighted that Doreen, our first student who completed her program, continues as a bridge builder in the matter of cultural concerns. She can be reached at her email address: singtu@hotmail.com.

We are exceedingly pleased that UECD is running so well and thank all participants, interested potential supporters and sponsors for the invaluable support and mutual effort that have contributed to our success.