

News from the DLN

This is the last issue of Lumela.dk in 2009.

Read about:

Summer pitso in Pejrup where young people who spent their childhood in Lesotho met. How the Chinese are expanding their activities in Lesotho and how the global economic crisis influences life in Lesotho. What happens in the DLN board?

The challenge to secure funding for new projects in Lesotho.

An eye-operation camp will take place in Maseru February 2010.

DLN wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Du sidder nu med det sidste nummer af Lumela.dk i 2009 foran dig. I dette nummer vil du kunne læse om, hvad en af de unge, der deltog i sommerens Pitso i Pejrup fik ud af at være med.

Hvordan kineserne udvider deres aktiviteter i Lesotho, hvordan den økonomiske krise påvirker landet, og hvordan nogle tidligere MS-partnere klarer sig.

Hvad der sker i bestyrelsen og hvordan den tackler udfordringerne med at finde penge til projekter i Lesotho. Du kan komme af med dine gamle briller på en måde, der gavner i Lesotho.

God læselyst, glædelig jul og godt nytår

Næste generalforsamling vil blive afholdt i Odense den 17. april 2010. Sæt kryds i kalenderen allerede nu!



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Membership of DLN



News from the Board

By Helga Halck Højsager

Once again there is activity on several fronts in the DLN. After a long summer and a minor crisis we are now engaged in an application for a project pool for both the Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) Development and Peace and Education (DPE). We are looking for financial support to carry out an appraisal/ final project formulation that will take place in Lesotho in collaboration with the two partners.

An important motivator for the Board has been working with Project Advice and Training Centre PATC that has always believed in us and given us positive and critical feedback. The PATC has particularly asked about DLNs capacity when we talk about the preparation of applications and the ability to monitor projects. After thorough reflection/introspection on the Board we decided to start all over with the help of students/new members.

The Board offered a "job" among students at RUC and African Studies in Copenhagen as a volunteer/active member. The job is helping to write applications and join the project groups. This led to seven applications from students of different faculties.

The 4th October we had interviews with the applicants and a unanimous Board decided to offer voluntary work and membership to three students.

DPE was associated with Marie Villumsen from African Studies in Copenhagen. She is now in training at the Institute for Human Rights. Marie also has an education in financial marketing and she has been working on several missions abroad for Doctors without Borders.

Nyt fra bestyrelsen.

Af: Helga Halck Højsager

Der er igen aktivitet på flere fronter i DLN. Efter en lang sommerferie og en mindre krise er vi nu i gang med en ansøgning til Projektpuljen for både Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) og Development Peace and Education (DPE). Vi søger om økonomisk støtte til at få udarbejdet en afsluttende projektformulering, som vil finde sted i Lesotho i samarbejde med de to organisationer, som det hele drejer sig om.

En vigtig motivator for bestyrelsen har været samarbejdet med Projekt Rådgivningen, som hele tiden har troet på os og givet os positiv, kritisk feedback. Her blev bl.a. stillet spørgsmål til DLNs kapacitet, når der tales om udarbejdelse af ansøgninger og mulighed for at følge projekters gang. Efter en grundig selvransagelse i bestyrelsen besluttede vi at tage fat på ny med hjælp fra studerende. Bestyrelsen udbød "job" blandt studerende på RUC og Afrika Studier i København som frivilligt og aktivt medlem. Jobbet er at hjælpe med at skrive ansøgninger. Dette afstedkom syv ansøgninger fra studerende på forskellige fakulteter.

Den 4. oktober havde vi en samtale med "ansøgerne", og en enig bestyrelse besluttede at tilbyde det frivillige arbejde og medlemskab til tre studerende.

DPE fik tilknyttet Marie Villumsen, som går på Afrika studiet i Kbh. Hun er nu i praktik på Center for Menneskerettigheder. Marie har desuden en uddannelse i økonomisk afsætning og marketing og har flere gange været udsendt med Læger uden Grænser.

RSDA fik tilknyttet to tidl. studerende. De har begge netop afleveret deres speciale i henholdsvis statskundskab/antropologi og økonomi. Begge har været solidt plantet i det udviklingsmæssige landskab gennem mange forskellige aktiviteter og har et brændende



The RSDA group will work with two former students. They both have just submitted their thesis respectively in political science/anthropology and economics. Both have been firmly planted in the developmental landscape through many different activities and have a burning desire to continue this - despite the fact that they have full-time work. The two are Maria Clausen and Line Kaspersen. We warmly welcome all three as new members and look forward to cooperation.

Apart from this our fundraising group (Anders, Jens and Claus) is working to secure financial support for the Berea Agricultural Group. They also look into the possibility of DLN buying a small notebook PC, which can be useful when we go to Lesotho.

Start-up meeting with the DPE group was on 24th October and we have started to write and read. The first consultation with PATC is 18th November in Copenhagen. RSDA will have their first meeting 14th November.

ønske om at fortsætte dette - på trods af at de har fuldtidsarbejde. Når vi fik to personer, var det ud fra deres ønske om at være sammen om denne opgave, hvilket vi kun så som en fordel. De to er Maria Clausen og Line Kaspersen.

Vi byder alle tre meget velkomne som nye medlemmer og glæder os til samarbejdet.

Sideløbende med dette arbejder vores fundraising gruppe: Anders, Claus og Jens på at få økonomisk støtte til BAG og mulighed for, at DLN kan få hjælp til indkøb af bl.a. en lille bærbar PC, som bl.a. kan bruges, når vi skal til Lesotho på opfølgingsbesøg. Opstartsmøde med DPE-gruppen var den 24. oktober, og vi er godt i gang med at skrive og læse. Den første vejledning med PR er den 18. nov. i København.

RSDA har deres første møde 14. november.

Skulle nogle blandt læserne have lyst til at deltage i en af grupperne, må I endelig melde jer. Det er sjovt, når vi er mange nok.



The Chinese are coming!

By Ulla Abildtrup

Ntate Tsikoane, former Chairperson of the MS Policy Advisory Board in Southern Africa paid a visit to Copenhagen in the beginning of August. At an informal lunch he met with former MS head of office Claus Löschenkohl, TRC-development worker Karsten Lund and wife Inge.

Inspired by the Asian cooking at the restaurant Mr. Tsikoane told about the still larger Chinese influence on the Basotho community.

As a lecturer at the University of Lesotho in Roma he is doing a study on this for the Canadian International Development and Research Council.

The workers at Chinese owned factories work 12 hours a day with only one hour break for lunch and some times even without access to toilets. Thus it is a common sight to see factory workers run for the fence when the bell rings at 5 o'clock in the afternoon to relieve them selves.

The workers unions are striding among themselves and are in no position to press for real changes.

New buildings in Times of Crisis

The influence from abroad is also been felt in terms of the global economic crisis.

Even though many and even ministers didn't think Lesotho would be affected, the crisis is also hurting the Basotho now. Factories are at risk of closing down and many poor people are in dire straits.

The price for crossing into S.A. by car has gone up from Maloti 2 to Maloti 20 thus forcing many to leave the car behind and cross by foot.

Still though, new buildings are rising. A National Library has recently been opened in Maseru and a new Parliament Building has been constructed on the top of the hill behind the Lesotho Sun Hotel. It is difficult to say if the library will be sustainable, Ntate Tsikoane stated. He also questioned the wisdom in building the new Parliament on the top of a hill when Lesotho in recent times has been involved in political uprisings.

NGOs doing well

Ntate Tsikoane had a close relationship to MS organisations for a number of years, but since MS left, very little has been heard from the former MS partners in the press, he told us.

It is clear though, that RSDA is doing extremely well and both TRC and LCN are also doing well. Ntate Tsikoane praised the efforts by Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) to raise interest among Danes for the small mountainous country in Southern Africa among. He emphasized his wish that DLN will facilitate that more Danes will have the opportunity to travel to Lesotho and if possible do voluntary work for a short period of time to get closer to the Basotho.

This has been practised with success by an American NGO since the 80ies, Ntate Tsikoane said.

A Pitso in Pejrup

By Katrine E. Allentoft Haslund

This year's DLN summer party was held in Pejrup in our little farm house in Southern Funen. The courtyard was decorated in a way that made you feel like being at a party in Lesotho. On the tables you would

Pitso i Pejrup

Af: Katrine E Allentoft Haslund

Årets DLN sommerfest blev holdt i Pejrup på vores lille bindingværksgård i det sydfynske. Gårdspladsen var pyntet, så man fik en fornemmelse af at være til fest i Lesotho. På terrassen stod slik og chips, ved



find candy and chips.



Next to the rose bed a small fire was burning and in the garden you could take a swim in the local pool, which here consisted of a children's pool with a sign saying that this was Maseru Sun. The courtyard buzzed with life as old acquaintances remembered common experiences from their time in Lesotho. All we youngsters gathered around the fire to roast marshmallows and bake pancakes. Like the grownups we had a lot to talk about, as for most of us Lesotho were the place where we grew up. The smell of fire and pancakes mixed with the smell of a whole lamb roasting made everyone's mouth water. The mood was excellent and at times you could even hear the horses in the neighbouring field. Sounds of Lesotho! The African rhythms from a worn out cd-player tore the air, as Miriam Makeba and other good oldies lifted the atmosphere. Some were even dancing and shaking their bottoms until it was time for the quiz.



siden af rosenbedet brændte et lille bål, og i haven kunne man tage sig en svømmetur i det lokale badebassin, som her bestod af et børnebassin med et træskilt der viste, at dette var Maseru Sun. Gårdspladsen summede af liv, da gamle bekendte mindedes de fælles oplevelser fra tiden i Lesotho, og nye bekendtskaber blev dannet.



Rundt om bålet samledes alle vi unge og vi ristede skumfiduser og bagte pandekager over ilden. Vi havde ligesom de voksne meget at snakke om, for de fleste af os var Lesotho jo det sted, vi voksede op. Blandet med duften af bål og pandekager, var duften af det hele lam, der hang over grillen, og fik alles munde til at løbe i vand. Stemningen var bare helt i orden og på et tidspunkt kunne man ligefrem høre hestene vrinske og den var god nok, men det var naboens på marken ved siden af.

De Afrikanske rytmer fra en slidt cd spiller flængede luften, da Miriam Makeba og andre af de gode gamle slog stemningen an. Der blev svinget lidt med bagdelene til musikken til der blev kaldt til quiz. Som i det gamle Lancers var vi opdelt i konkurrerende hold. Quizzen indeholdt både spørgsmål om Lesotho og Afrika, men også om mere generelle emner og alle havde mulighed for at byde ind. Der var vist også et vindende hold, men det var ikke så vigtigt. Det, der var vigtigt var, at vi fik hygget os, snakket på tværs af årgangene og grint godt igennem.



Just like in the old Lancer's Inn we grouped in competing teams. The quiz was about Africa and Lesotho but also more general topics, and everyone got a chance to participate. Maybe there was a winning team, but then, that was not of any big importance. The most important was that we had a good time, talked and laughed a lot.

After quizzing came what we had all been waiting for: The Lamb was taken off the grill and cut by the braai chef and of course served with papa le moroho. It was delicious. And naturally, the dessert was also a true Lesotho classic: Jelly and custard.

The day ended with everyone in a good mood. I believe we all agreed that it had been a lovely day worth remembering and to be repeated.

Spectacles for Lesotho/ SEE – Surgical Eye Expeditions.

In February 2010 a team of Danish eye specialists will be going to Lesotho to help needy patients with eye surgery and free glasses.

Before their departure the team will collect glasses that can be given free of charge. So if you have glasses that you do not use – please donate to:

EUROEYES, Øresundshøj 2 F, 2920 Charlottenlund, DK.

“Quite a number of people in Lesotho have serious eyesight problems that could be alleviated by a pair of glasses”, says Jannik Boberg-Ans from the Danish team.

Efter quizzen kom det vi alle havde ventet på, nemlig lammet, der er blevet taget af grillen og skåret ud af den deltagende grillmaster og naturligvis blev det serveret med papa le moroho. Og det blev nydt.



Desserten var naturligvis også en sand Lesotho dessert, jelly og custard.

Dagen sluttede i godt humør, og jeg tror, alle var enige om, at det havde været en dejlig og mindefuld dag, som godt må blive gentaget.

Brille-ekspedition til Lesotho 2010

Et hold øjenlæger rejser i februar 2010 til Lesotho for at hjælpe patienter med gratis briller og øjenoperationer. **Giv dem dine gamle briller.** Før afrejsen vil de nemlig gennemføre en indsamling af briller, som ejerne herhjemme ikke længere har brug for, men som i praksis kan gøre en blind seende i Lesotho.

Send dine gamle briller til Euroeyes, Øresundshøj 2f, 2920 Charlottenlund.

Mange mennesker i Lesotho har alvorlige synsfejl, som imidlertid let kunne rettes op med en brille. Men de må leve i en tåget

The work in Lesotho will be carried out in cooperation with SEE-International and Basotho eye specialists.



SEE-International is a non-profit organization doing eye treatment and surgery worldwide.

In 2004 SEE-International had 167 expeditions to 43 countries and carried out 16.000 operations and medical treatments. The expected number of Basotho patients to be treated will be around 200.

All funding, lenses, medicine, glasses and other equipment are sponsored and the doctors work on a voluntary basis.

dagligdag, fordi de netop ingen briller har.

- Det er vores plan at bedømme mulighederne for at afhjælpe blindhed og svagtsyn i Lesotho, siger øjenlæge Jannik Boberg-Ans.

- Det er naturligvis kun lidt, vi kan ændre, men bare hjælp til få blinde eller svagtseende børn og voksne vil have stor effekt på familiers og hele samfunds mulighed for at klare tilværelsen selv.

- Vi vil som fagfolk give vor tid og engagement i en periode. Alt tyder på, at linser, medicin og projektudgifter kan sponsoreres af andre, allerede indsamlede midler, siger Jannik Boberg-Ans.

Øjenlægenes ekspedition til Maseru udføres i samarbejde med SEE-International og med velvillighed fra lokale øjenlæger.

SEE-International er en non-profit organisation, der organiserer hjælpeprogrammer for øjenbehandlinger og operationer over hele verden. Alene i 2004 gennemførte SEE-International 167 ekspeditioner til 43 lande og udførte over 16.000 øjenoperationer og utallige medicinske behandlinger.

Alle deltagende øjenlæger og hjælpepersonale er ulønnede og medbringer selv en stor del af de nødvendige instrumenter.

I Lesotho er øjenlægebehandlinger ikke tilgængelige for en stor del af befolkningen. Det skyldes mange faktorer såsom geografien, ringe transportmuligheder, men også manglende viden og fattigdom. Lokale øjenlæger gør meget for at bedre livet for de blinde og svagtseende, men kun med hjælp fra udenlandske kolleger er det muligt at

gøre en tilstrækkelig indsats.

Ekspeditionen har på forhånd forberedt indslusning af patienter og fundet passende faciliteter til forundersøgelser og primitive operationsstuer. Men mange vil kunne hjælpes blot med briller. Børn og voksne med medicinske øjensygdomme kan hjælpes, og patienter med grå og grøn stær vil kunne opereres.

Det forventes, at minimum 200 patienter vil kunne hjælpes bare ved den indledende indsats. Og på kort sigt måske 100 med en brille, mange flere på længere sigt gennem lokale øjenlægestationer.

Omarbejdet og forkortet af redaktionen.

News from Lesotho:

35 Computers with talking software given to the Visually Impaired persons

From Ha Ntatae September 2009

The Ministry of Education and Training handed over 35 computers with talking software worth M390,000 to the Visually Impaired persons from various organizations at the Resource Centre for the Blind, which have been bought with the financial assistance from Global Fund.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Education, Mrs. Thuto Nts'ekhe-Mokhehle expressed gratitude to the Global Fund for the sponsorship, saying it is vital for the visually impaired persons to have computers for their development.

Mrs. Nts'ekhe Mokhehle said one of the Ministry's responsibilities is to ensure that education is accessible to all people saying, through efforts like this one, Lesotho will realise its aspirations of Education For All (EFA).

She noted that the ministry is working hard to ensure provision of quality education to all people without exclusion, adding that the achievement of intended goals for education for all by 2015, requires equal access to education by all the children, including those with disabilities.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Global Fund Deputy Coordinator, Mr. Mokhothu Makhalanyane expressed hope that the computers will go a long way in assisting the visually impaired persons.

What is Denmark Lesotho Network?

The NGO Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) was founded in 2002 by former Danish development workers in Lesotho and other good friends of the tiny mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. DLN aims at supporting NGO's in Lesotho in their work to develop civil society. DLN uses its network of people and organisations in Lesotho to pinpoint beneficiaries of DLN's support – and to keep an eye on that funding is used according to agreements made. DLN wishes to enhance knowledge of the living conditions in Lesotho and to seek funding from foundations, business enterprises and organisations for actual projects in Lesotho.

Membership of DLN

Anyone, who can support the aims of DLN, can achieve a membership. Members contribute to support initiatives in Lesotho that develop and better living conditions in the country. Members will receive an electronic newsletter four times a year and be invited to DLN's annual general assembly. The cost of a membership is 100 Danish kroner yearly. For membership contact cashier Karen Steffensen, tel.: +45 97578252, e-mail: karen.steffensen@mail.dk

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