

News from the DLN

Read about the activities within and outside DLN the last three months. Enjoy the nice photos. The Hon. Minister - Mannete Ramaili encouraged her information officer to contribute some articles. She has submitted an article about Culture. Please find it under News from Lesotho.



The new DLN-board: From the left behind: John, Karina and Helga. In front from left: Lisbet, Anne and Karen

Report from the Board

By: Anne Andersen

There is still high activity in the Board and since last time there has been a general assembly where several new board members joined. Welcome to you. There is a mood report elsewhere in the newsletter, explaining further how the meeting went.

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af: Anne Andersen

Der er stadig høj aktivitet i bestyrelsen, og siden sidst har der været generalforsamling, hvor der kom flere nye bestyrelsesmedlemmer til. Velkommen til jer. Der er en stemningsrapport et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet, som uddyber, hvordan generalforsamlingen

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Membership of DLN

The approved record lies in its entirety on the website.

The two projects, which managed to get funds during 2010, are up and going. The Rural Self-help and Development Association (RSDA) project is running almost as it should and causes no major problems. The same can not be said about the project with the Development of Peace Education (DPE). Communication is difficult, and the agreed accounts and reports are not as they should and are defective. It can not be seen what the results of the activities have been. The next portion of money is still being held back and so it will be until there have been discussions with the Projektrådgivning on what they would be ready to accept.

Berea Agriculture Group (BAG) has already built one of the three water tanks DLN donated money to.

On July 1st the refugee ship Anton will anchor in Svendborg. The ship will be berthed in the port July 1-3 and Jens Galschiøt is the artist responsible for this art event. DLN will be present with information material, so don't hesitate to drop by. DLN joined the U-house in Aarhus. It lies at Klosterport and is a place where many NGO's have a meeting point. This means that there is now a place where DLN may hold board meetings and AGM. Lisbet has been key manager.

Helga has participated in an experiential session on the Project Council, and it has been instructive. Among others, she could see that some of the problems with DPE perhaps derived from not spending time to get in place what is expected of a partnership before the project was started.

The tourist trip to Lesotho in October becomes a reality. Ten participants have joined, and they have all paid the deposit, so the tickets are ordered.

Next year it is 10 years ago, DLN was founded. This should be celebrated. Good

gik. Det godkendte referat ligger i sin helhed på hjemmesiden.

De to projekter, som det lykkedes at få midler til i løbet af 2010 kører. Rural Self-help and Development Association (RSDA) projektet kører næsten som det skal, og volder ikke de store problemer. Det samme kan ikke siges om projektet med Development of Peace Education (DPE). Kommunikationen er besværlig, og de aftalte regnskaber og rapporter kommer ikke, som de skal og er mangelfulde. Det kan ikke ses, hvad resultaterne af aktiviteterne har været. Den næste portion penge bliver stadig holdt tilbage, og det vil den blive indtil, der har været drøftelser med Projektrådgivningen om, hvad de vil være med til at acceptere.

Berea Agriculture Group (BAG) har allerede bygget den ene af de tre vandtanke, som DLN donerede penge til.

1. juli lægger flygtningeskibet Anton til i Svendborg. Skibet vil ligge i havnen 1. – 3. juli og Jens Galschiøt er kunstneren, der står for denne kunstevent. DLN vil være til stede med oplysningsmateriale, så læg endelig vejen forbi.

DLN er blevet medlem af U-huset i Århus. Det ligger på Klosterport og er et sted, hvor mange NGO'er har deres gang. Det betyder, at der nu er et sted, hvor DLN kan holde bestyrelsesmøder og generalforsamling. Lisbet er blevet nøglebestyrer.

Helga har deltaget i et erfaringsmøde på Projektrådgivningen, og det har været lærerigt. Blandt andet kunne hun se, at nogle af problemerne med DPE måske stammer fra, at der ikke er brugt tid til at få på plads, hvad der forventes af et partnerskab, før projektet blev startet.

Turistrejsen til Lesotho i oktober bliver en realitet. Ti deltagere har meldt sig, og de har alle betalt depositum, så billetterne er bestilt. Til næste år er det 10 år siden DLN blev stiftet. Det skal fejres. Gode ideer til, hvordan det skal ske, modtages med glæde.



ideas for that to happen will be received with joy.

A Good Mood Report from DLN's General Assembly 2011

By: Claus Bo Jensen

Saturday 9 April, 12 members gathered for the annual General Assembly in Odense. A general meeting of DLN is not like many other general meetings. Of course you meet to clear the formal things like accounting and election for the board. But just as much the participants come to learn more about what is happening in DLN and for sharing the latest news from Denmark and Africa.



It is obvious that the members have a common interest in Lesotho and many know each other from a stay there, but otherwise they have not necessarily much to do with each other in everyday life. So there is always someone there to tell or hear news about the one and the other partner.

After breakfast and welcome, the meeting began. A detailed report can be read on the website, but here I will mention the most important things:

Helga Højsager told on behalf of the board how it is going with the various projects and activities. After some difficulties two projects have now been approved in the

Stemningsrapport fra DLN generalforsamling 2011

Af: Claus Bo Jensen

Lørdag den 9. april var 12 medlemmer samlet til den årlige generalforsamling i Odense. En generalforsamling i DLN er ikke som så mange andre generalforsamlinger. Man samles naturligvis for at klare de formelle ting som regnskabsaflæggelse, og valg til bestyrelsen. Men lige så meget kommer deltagerne for at høre mere om hvad der sker i foreningen og for at udveksle sidste nyt fra både Danmark og Afrika. Det er tydeligt at medlemmerne har den fælles interesse for Lesotho, og mange kender hinanden fra et ophold dernede, men ellers har de ikke nødvendigvis meget at gøre med hinanden til hverdag. Så der er altid lige nogen der skal høre eller kan fortælle nyt om den ene og den anden samarbejdspartner.



Efter morgenmad og velkomst, startede generalforsamlingen. Et udførligt referat kan læses på hjemmesiden, men her vil jeg nævne de vigtigste ting:



Project Council and are ongoing. Both projects deal with training and organizing people in rural Lesotho, and are going along with the two organizations RSDA and DPE. DLN has been receiving good help in the work from both young (ie 3 students) and old (ie a person from the Seniors without Borders). Different members of DLN's board and working groups have visited Lesotho to look at both projects and we got several good stories about what they had experienced and the challenges that remain to keep a regular communication going with a place where people not just go on an Internet hotspot with your laptop. Here at home in Denmark there has been a Pitso (a summer party) and a new tourist travel to Lesotho is imminent.



After reports and discussion, it was time for a lunch break. Spring had arrived in earnest in Denmark this day, so we packed sandwiches into a bag and went into a nearby park to eat them in the sun. Lovely with a little fresh air and fortunate that the weather was just fine.

After lunch, we went on with the accounts and the economy which looks reasonable. The board had a proposal for a strategy to DLN. The proposal was discussed and subsequently approved. Finally there were the usual elections. This year one might sit a little uneasily on the chair, as there were proposals to expand the board with more members. Luckily, enough members joined as of their own free will!



Helga Højsager fortalte på vegne af betsyrelsen om, hvordan det går med de forskellige projekter og aktiviteter. Efter noget besvær er 2 projekter nu blevet godkendt i Projektrådgivningen og er i gang. Begge projekter handler om uddannelse og organisering af folk på landet i Lesotho, og foregår sammen med de 2 organisationer RSDA og DPE. DLN har fået god hjælp til arbejdet fra både unge (nemlig 3 studerende) og gamle (nemlig en person fra Seniorer uden grænser). Forskellige fra DLN's bestyrelse og arbejdsgrupper har været på besøg i Lesotho for at se på begge projekter, og vi fik flere gode historier om hvad de havde oplevet, og om de udfordringer der er med at holde en løbende kommunikation kørende med et sted, hvor man ikke bare lige går på et internet-hotspot med den bærbare. Her hjemme i Danmark har der været en pitso (en sommerfest), og en ny turistrejse til Lesotho er på trapperne.



Efter beretninger og diskussion var det tid til



At 3PM the conductor thanked for good order and we cleaned up. Helga had made soup - ask her, it was a soup with obstacles - and we went home to her and had dinner before we sat into our cars and drove home.



New faces in DLN's Board

John Knudsen was elected as new member of DLN's Board. He lived in Lesotho from 2001 to 2003 and worked as a gardener in the

en frokostpause. Foråret var for alvor kommet til Danmark denne dag, så vi pakkede sandwichene ned i en pose og gik hen i en nærliggende park for at spise dem i solen. Dejligt med lidt frisk luft og heldigt at vejret var med os.



Efter frokosten gik vi videre med regnskabet og økonomien, som ser fornuftig ud. Bestyrelsen havde et forslag med til en strategi for DLN. Forslaget blev diskuteret og efterfølgende godkendt. Endelig var der de sædvanlige valg. I år kunne man godt sidde lidt uroligt på stolen, da der var forslag om at udvide bestyrelsen med flere medlemmer. Heldigvis var der nok, som af egen fri vilje meldte sig!

Ved 15-tiden takkede dirigenten for god ro og orden, og vi ryddede op. Helga havde lavet suppe - spørg hende, det var en suppe med forhindringer - og den gik vi hjem til hende og spiste inden vi satte os i bilerne og kørte hjem

Nye ansigter i DLNs bestyrelse.

John Knudsen blev valgt som nyt medlem af DLNs bestyrelse. Han var i Lesotho fra 2001 til 2003, hvor han arbejdede som gartner



small organization Boseele. John is married to Bodil and they lived in Butha Buthe with M'e 'Mokuko. In Denmark he works in the organic garden in Odder.

Also Karina Ruby was elected for DLN's Board. Karina writes: After a three years break I have now again entered the DLN's board. From 2004-2008 I was also on the board, and it's an interesting job, so I am glad to be back. My association with Lesotho is rooted in my three years as a development worker through MS in the years 2000-2003. I lived in Maseru and worked for the Lesotho Society of mentally Handicapped People (LSMHP). Through my work for DLN, I have been on the project visits to Lesotho in 2005 and 2007, which has helped to keep me updated on Lesotho's development and maintain networks.



Karina is an occupational therapist and in Denmark she uses her skills at Silkeborg Hospital. She lives with Claus, who was reelected to internal auditor alternate.

Lisbet Kristensen, who last year was elected as an alternate at the last meeting and came to the board since Bodil Mathiasen had to withdraw due to illness, was also elected to the board. Lisbet lived in Lesotho in the years 1988-1992, during which time she worked with women's groups in the Berea district and lived in TY together with her son Andrew and her husband Jan. Lisbet is now

i den lille organisation Boseele. John er gift med Bodil og de boede i Butha Buthe hos M'e' Mokuko.



I Danmark arbejder han i Den økologiske Have i Odder.

Ligeledes blev Karina Ruby valgt til DLN's bestyrelse. Karina skriver: Efter tre års pause er jeg nu igen trådt ind i DLN's bestyrelse. Fra 2004-2008 sad jeg også i bestyrelsen, og det er jo et spændende arbejde, så det glæder mig at være tilbage. Min tilknytning til Lesotho bunder i mine tre år som udviklingsarbejder gennem Mellemløst Samvirke år 2000-2003. Da boede jeg i Maseru og arbejdede for Lesotho Society of Mentally Handicapped People (LSMHP). Via mit arbejde for DLN har jeg været på projektbesøg i Lesotho i 2005 og 2007, hvilket har været med til at holde mig opdateret på landets udvikling og vedligeholde netværk.

Karina er ergoterapeut og i Danmark bruger hun sine kræfter på Silkeborg Sygehus. Hun bor sammen med Claus, som blev genvalgt til intern revisorsuppleant.

Lisbet Kristensen, som sidste år blev valgt som suppleant ved sidste generalforsamling og trådte ind i bestyrelsen, da Bodil Mathiasen måtte trække sig på grund af sygdom, blev også valgt til bestyrelsen. Lisbet var i Lesotho i



working with accounting and IT in an undertaking for public education.

Two x Bodil as alternates:

Bodil Høiland was one of the newly elected deputies. She is also new to work with DLN. Bodil worked as a social worker at the hospital in Butha Buthe from 2001 to 2003. She is married to John and they lived with M'e 'Mokuko.



In Denmark, Bodil teaches childminders at the Centre for Public Skills (COK), but mostly she works on "afterwage" and will soon retire to become a pensioner.

Bodil Mathiasen, who was a founder of DLN and has been on the board through a number of years, was not a candidate this year. However, she said yes to stand as a deputy and was of course elected.

Counsellor Mr. Phakiso Ralepoma met with DLN- representatives.

By: Maria Clausen and Line Kaspersen
Thursday March 3rd, Maria and Line from the RSDA-group met with Phakiso

1988 - 1992, hvor hun arbejdede med kvindegrupper i Berea District og boede i T.Y. sammen med sin søn Andreas og sin mand Jan.



Lisbet arbejder nu med regnskab og IT i en folkeoplysende virksomhed.

To x Bodil som suppleanter:

Bodil Høiland var den ene nyvalgte suppleant. Hun er også ny i arbejdet med DLN. Bodil arbejdede som socialrådgiver på hospitalet i Butha Buthe fra 2001 til 2003. Hun er gift med John, og de boede hos M'e' Mokuko. I Danmark underviser Bodil dagplejere under Centret for Offentligt Kompetenceudvikling (COK), men hun er mest efterlønner og snart folkepensionist.

Bodil Mathiasen, der var med til at stifte DLN og som har været i bestyrelsen gennem en del år, stillede ikke op igen i år. Derimod sagde hun ja til at opstille som suppleant, og blev valgt.

Ambassaderåd hr. Phakiso Ralepoma mødtes med DLN- repræsentanter.

Af: Maria Clausen og Line Kaspersen
Torsdag 3. marts mødtes Maria og Line fra RSDA-gruppen med Phakiso Ralepoma,



Ralepoma, the ambassador's representative from the Lesotho Embassy to Ireland. The meeting took place a late afternoon at the Hellerup Park Hotel, over viewing the icy park. Mr. Ralepoma was very pleased to meet someone from DLN and eager to facilitate further cooperation between Denmark and Lesotho through DLN. He had just participated in the Danish Donor conference, and cited positively the work of the Africa Commission.

This led to a discussion about the important role of the youth; especially the acquiring of skills. Mr. Ralepoma told us about a new project to be run by the government of Lesotho; a loan guarantee fund for youth to generate business plans. Mr. Ralepoma suggested an active role for Danish volunteers in this programme.



Line Kaspersen, Mr. Pharkiso Ralepoma and Maria Clausen at the meeting.

He shared experiences from cooperating with the Norway-Lesotho Network, which started in 2009. The Norway Lesotho Network has participated in events to increase knowledge about Lesotho and he hoped that DLN would in the future participate in similar events. To the extent possible the embassy would support such activities.

The Embassy proposes cooperation with DLN within several aspects including promotion of tourism in Lesotho and cooperation on exhibitions and other social

ambassadørens repræsentant for Lesothos ambassade i Irland. Mødet fandt sted en sen eftermiddag på Hellerup Park Hotel, med udsyn til den iskolde park. Mr. Ralepoma var meget glad for at møde medlemmer fra DLN og meget indstillet på at fremme yderligere samarbejde mellem Danmark og Lesotho gennem DLN. Han havde netop deltaget i den danske donor-konference og udtrykte sig positivt om arbejdet i Afrika Kommissionen.

Dette førte til en diskussion om ungdommens vigtige rolle, især dens erhvervelse af færdigheder. Mr. Ralepoma fortalte os om et nyt projekt, der skal drives af regeringen i Lesotho, en lånegarantifond for unge til at udvikle erhvervsplaner. Mr. Ralepoma foreslog en aktiv rolle for danske frivillige i dette program.

Han delte sine erfaringer fra samarbejdet med Norges Lesotho Network, der begyndte i 2009. Norges Lesotho Network har deltaget i arrangementer for at øge kendskabet til Lesotho, og han håbede, at DLN i fremtiden vil deltage i lignende arrangementer. I det omfang det er muligt, vil ambassaden støtte sådanne aktiviteter.

Ambassaden foreslår et samarbejde med DLN på flere felter, herunder fremme af turismen i Lesotho og samarbejde om udstillinger og andre sociale arrangementer i Danmark, som vil hjælpe med at sprede viden om basothoerne. Dette kunne muligvis ske i samarbejde med den danske konsul i Lesotho, Ariane Graff Bigler, som RSDA holdet mødte under dets besøg i Lesotho i februar 2011. Muligheden for et samarbejde med ambassaden om aktiviteter under et besøg fra RSDA i Danmark blev også drøftet.

Mr. Ralepoma tilbød også støtte fra ambassaden med hensyn til DLNs aktiviteter i Lesotho - dette kunne være ved at støtte



events in Denmark, which will help spread knowledge about the Basotho. This could possibly be done in cooperation with the Danish consul to Lesotho, Mrs. Ariane Graff Bigler, who the RSDA team met during their visit to Lesotho in February 2011. The possibility of cooperating with the Embassy on activities during a visit from RSDA to Denmark was also discussed.

Mr. Ralepoma also offered the support of the Embassy with regard to DLNs activities in Lesotho – this could be by supporting the contact between DLN and its partners in Lesotho or by helping to arrange a meeting with the former ambassador, the current minister of Tourism and Environment.

kontakten mellem DLN og dets partnere i Lesotho eller ved at hjælpe til at arrangere et møde med den tidligere ambassadør, den nuværende minister for turisme og miljø.

Lesotho is also outside DLN

Karina and Claus invited those Danish Development Workers Karina worked with during her stay in Lesotho. Here are some photos from the day



News from Lesotho:

PEOPLE WITHOUT CULTURE ARE PEOPLE WITHOUT IDENTITY.

*By: Pinkie Masita – Mohale
information officer*

About Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked country within the Republic of South Africa. Lesotho is a mountainous area. It has the highest point of 3,482m and the lowest point of 1,4m above sea level. The Maloti range is suitable for trekkers on holidays. Due to the mountainous terrain as spelled before the temperatures occasionally drop sometimes resulting in heavy rains, hail and thunderstorm across the whole country.

Basotho Culture

Culture is a very broad concept. One of the authors with whom I agree explain culture as the sum total of a way of life that a society can offer in terms of material implements, tools and possession, intellectual and educational level of development, standard of living, ways of life values and value systems, social relations between members of the society, arts and crafts and in terms of religion.

Culture is a people's way of life, the way they dress, what they eat, values and norms. People without culture are a people without identity. A people's culture gives them the reason to live as it guides them to make correct and beneficial choices and decisions in life.

Culture is a dynamic concept. Like any aspect of life it is technology savvy. It is highly affected by modern changes. It also operates within the global village as globalisation cuts across all spheres of influence in people's lives these days. However, there are certain traditional practices that are invaluable to Basotho as a nation. That is to know a person's roots such as the family culture, customs like lobola still exists, lebollo in essence is a traditional form of schooling where young men and women were/are oriented into the adulthood life and this remains one of the integral part of Basotho's cultural believes towards becoming independent adults.

There are also exciting practices such as the practice of attracting a female partner (*mokhoa oa lefereho namely; selia-lia*) According to my observation it was not only about attracting partners but it also contributed to entertainment as well as contributing to the social media network. In ICT jargon we can parallel this kind of networking to "modern" TWITTERS and FACEBOOKS. However, some traditional practices are so crucial that urgent safeguarding is needed for their revival and sustainability such as the practice of working together in the fields - Co-operatives (*letsema*). They used to work as a community to accomplish certain tasks like constructing a house or threshing sorghum using sticks.





Men thresh sorghum using sticks

Communities still team up together to get certain tasks done. *Letsema* is a Sesotho word which describes a traditional partnership of the coming together of villagers to accomplish a heavier task that would take single person days to complete. The owner of the task will prepare food for the people and in most cases it becomes more or less like a feast.



Joining of heads (sheep and a child) symbolizing transfer of misfortune to a sheep which is going to be slaughtered





khutsana) Cleansing ceremony done when a person has lost (one/both parents. This also applies to women when they have lost either the husband or a child.



Traditional ceremony (Pha-balimo)

Culture is of crucial importance in the development of a nation, and its integration as it ensures that economic development is in line with philosophical values and social values. Culture must be seen as integral part to development, and since development cannot take place without the full support and participation of the people, it is essential that all Basotho participate actively in the creation and promotion of a culture that is responsive to their needs and aspirations.



Ndlamu (**Striding Dance**) - This dance features men striding, leaping, and in some cases, sliding, and almost slithering along the ground.





Menkhoaneng women during the crafts training workshop

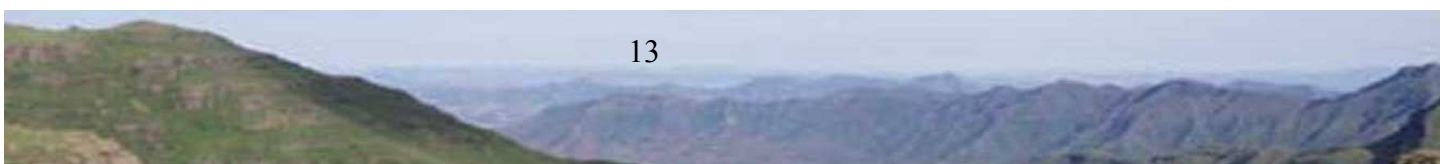
Benefits of Exchange Cultural Education programme Between Dahon High School, Lesotho and Regina Mundi College, Ireland

In the field of culture, courses that the exchange programme students benefit from are; music, Art, English, Irish and Sesotho. Through these learners are able to share their different culture. This is very important because the world as stated before has become like a global village. Students move freely to exchange and this eradicates those stereotypes that existed in the past of associating Africans with nature.

This programme also exposes Lesotho to the global world. People who did know about Lesotho before get to know it better with the flow of information about Lesotho's culture and history. This has a negative impact on tourism in that there will be more people visiting this country particularly because what the Irish learners are taught in Lesotho can be communicated to other people in Ireland.

However, this programme also has some negative effects on our culture and society. Because of programmes like this one, lost are the enriching cultural differences and specificities that make a society uniquely what it is, beautiful traditional clothing is lost between the new bulk-made looks created by the big brands, people look alike, eat alike and dress alike whether they are in Ireland or Lesotho. We loss one of the things that count the most: our identity, the uniqueness in us, that which makes us special.

In conclusion, Basotho are proud of own culture. This is seen particularly during cultural festivals. During these particular days they wear traditional attire like animal skin attire while others wear cultural attire like seshoeshoe and blankets.



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 98677185, cell: +45 23880099, e-mail: karen.steffensen@mail.dk

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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

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