



FUTURE IN OUR HANDS THE GAMBIA

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

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FIOHTG ENDS CARAVAN TOUR; UNITY FESTIVAL TO FOLLOW



FIOHTG has concluded its caravan tour in the Central River Region. The tour is aimed at sensitization communities on democracy and the essence of political pluralism and tolerance. It covered towns where weekly markets locally called Lumoo are held; thus lumoolu of Kaur, Kuntaur, Jarumeh Koto and Wassu all in CRR North and Brikamaba, Kudang, Jareng and Bansang in CRR South were reached.

The Programme was coordinated by Ebrima Drammeh and Alimatou Marong of the Community Development Unit and facilitated by officers of the National Council on Civic Education. FIOHTG has a long standing relationship with the NCCE as both work to promote civic education, thus NCCE officers often serve as resource persons at FIOHTG organized event. The event which targeted 6000 people during the 4 days event started on 28th October 2019 at the Wassu Lumoo. Buyers and sellers at the Lumoo listened to messages of pluralism and tolerance from NCCE staff, IEC Regional Coordinator while they were entertained by the renowned traditional Janjanbureh based drummer-comedian, Takatiti.

Speaking to listeners at the Jareng Lumoo, the NCCE officer, explained the importance of national dialogue in pluralism likening its essence to the gathering of members of a house-

hold to discuss their concerns and how to improve their living. Elsewhere in Bansang, similar messages including the meaning and practice of democracy was passed to the onlookers. Following the session, listeners and participants were asked questions to gauge their understanding of the messages received.

Mr. Drammeh reporting from the tour said that “the program is funded by a gift of the United States Government through the International Republican Institute (IRI).” The Caravan tour on political pluralism and tolerance ended at the Brikamaba lumoo on 2nd November 2019. In case you missed the reporting on our social media platforms, check the pictorials and daily updates through the following hash tags: [#kangkiling#benno,#kawral,#ndefleng](#)



“Laws alone can not secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population.”

Albert Einstein



FIOHTG DELEGATES RETURN FROM CONFERENCE



A team of four staff from FIOHTG has returned from a Finnish Conference held in Dakar. The Conference dubbed "Doing Business with Finland" aimed at orienting countries and organisations on accessing funding from Finland was attended by Mr. Yankuba Manneh, Mr. Amadou Sambou, Madam Rose T. Mendy and Mr. Lamin Ceesay. The event availed delegates the chance to explore opportunities in Finnish organisations especially in Education, Agro-processing and Green Economy through the Finpartnership Matching service and Business Proposal from Finnish companies. During the programme, the FIOHTG delegates led by Mr. Manneh introduced the work of FIOHTG to the delegates. On arrival at the FIOHTG, the delegates expressed delight at the window of opportunities provided by the conference. Meanwhile the delegates visited other organisations such as PFONGI which is an umbrella body of 52 organisations in Senegal to explore partnership opportunities. The delegates also visited Madam Fatou Sarr who processes aloe Vera into products such as body lotion, mosquito repellent, soap amongst others.

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FIOHTG TRAINS SCHOOL GIRLS, TEACHERS & PARENTS ON THE PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE SANITARY PADS



FIOHTG concluded a sensitization and training on Menstrual Hygiene Management and the Production of sustainable sanitary pads to girls, teachers and parents in St. Georges Upper and Senior Secondary School and Darsilami Basic Cycle School. The activities conducted under the Keep Our Girls in School Project is aimed at addressing the challenges girls face in managing their menstruation according to best standards. Mr. Sambou, one of the trainers who doubles as an educationist, said that "performance in school has a correlation with punctuality and regularity. School girls who reached the age of menstruation are seriously affected by lateness and absenteeism thus retarding their performance. In this project girls are sensitized on menstruation and also shown how to produce sanitary pads locally. These pads are reusable for a long period and are environmental friendly". The Acting Country Director of FIOHTG, Madam Sarr, who went to see the training emphasized that the training is an empowering one for girls as the knowledge they gain from the session is indispensable. She urged all to support the endeavor. Meanwhile both Madam Secka and Madam Lundahl have expressed their desire in expanding the project to other schools.



LETTER FROM KEMO S. KINTEH

Dear FIOH FAMILY

Firstly, I want to thank the Almighty Allah who has given me the life, health and wisdom to be able to attend and make a presentation at this all important international summit. My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to Bodil Dahlmann, a landscapes architect at Uppsala University who has had the intent and the idea to invite me to the summit; Kristina Lundahl who served me in three different capacities, a mother, a boss, and an adviser. Kristina's support was enormous. I thank her for the valuable time, energy and resources she spent on me. Thirdly I want to thank my boss Aminata Secka and the entire SDU, this is a wonderful family who has given me their heart, minds their energy since the first word of notice. I could not have been able to deliver without the unflinching support of the SDU giants. Your courage and support was appreciated and I thank you a bunch.



Life becomes reasonable and time runs fast when you have great people around you. I feel safe, secured and confident anytime I walked onto the FIOHTG administrators. Their efforts was second to none. I was supported morally and financially. May I thank the administration and the entire staff of FIOHTG, each member have supported me either collectively or individually and I am very thankful to all of you. By extension, I want to thank the Gambia groups who have co-facilitated my trip.

I will not do justice if I did not appreciate and thank my compatriots and friends in the persons of Buba Fabureh, Lamin S. Sisay, and Amat Jeng for continuously encouraging me. Your supports was helpful and appreciated. Finally, I want to assure everyone that the job has been delivered diligently and successfully. I am optimistic that the outcome will be positive. May Allah make it easy for all dreams to come true.

I honourably salute you all.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Kemo S Kinteh is an educationist, a Program Officer in the School Development Unit (SDU) of FIOHTG. Kemo has served as a public teacher and now serves as a trainer working to improve teaching and learning in the Gambia. Kemo S. Kinteh, in addition to the certificates he holds, is in his final year at the UTG to attain a degree in Development Studies. Mr. Kinteh was in Sweden with other officials of FIOHTG where he participated in the Uppsala Health Summit in Sweden as one of the speakers in the workshop on City gardening and farms for learning and well-being together with Dr. Henrik Lerner, lecturer at the Department of Health Care Sciences, Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College in Sweden, and Dr. Sharon Dank, founder and CEO of Green Schoolyards America, an NGO based in Berkeley, California in the United States. The renowned H.R.H. Prince Daniel of Sweden who has worked to promote good health for children and the youth opened the summit. The FIOHTG team is proud of you.

“Teachers pave the way in the hardest form with low income and yet have dedicated their lives to teaching others. Therefore, it is good and obligatory to reflect on the importance teachers play in shaping the world around us”

KEMO S. KINTEH



TRAINING ON REPORT WRITING & REFLECT HELD IN TAD



A training on qualitative and quantitative report writing and reporting for TAD staff started on the 14th October 2019 at the office of Tumana Agency for Development in Tinkinjo, URR. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Muhammadou B. Drammeh, Executive Director of TAD asked the FIOHTG officials and the participants to feel at home. He recalled that FIOHTG has promised to help in capacity development and this train is in fulfillment of that pledge. He urged all to make good use of the opportunity to build their skills.

Mr. Bubacarr M. L. Camara, Senior Programme Officer at Community Development Unit of FIOHTG who led the FIOHTG delegation thanked TAD for the hospitality. He added that the training organized is inline with the new partnership agreement between TAD and FIOHTG to help in improving the capacity of TAD volunteers. Mr. Camara further stated that the training is twofold, one will be on report writing and the other on REFLECT.

The training on report writing aimed to enhance staff ca-

capacity on qualitative and quantitative report writing. Mr. Muhammed Lenn the Monitoring and Evaluating (M&E) Officer of FIOHTG exposed participants to basic tips on report writing, different reporting schemes, etc. Participants were exposed to Results Based Reporting and at the end of the training, participants together with Mr. Lenn and Mr. Camara developed reporting templates for TAD and the REFLECT Facilitators as well as the Supervisor.

Meanwhile Mr. Camara led the sessions on RELECT. These sessions targeted newly recruited Reflect Facilitators in URR and other facilitators from other regions. Participants were taken through the genesis of REFLECT, its significance in the promotion of literacy and development. Mr. Camara further exposed participants to the various tools available to them in the conduct of their sessions. In his closing remarks, he urged the newly trained facilitators to be opened and think radically as they are about to witness the most radical transformation in their lives.

“Liberation is a praxis : the action and reflection of men and women upon their world in order to transform it.”

Paulo Freire



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Do you have a story or an event for the next newsletter?

If so, we would like to hear from YOU!

Thank you for your support!