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Vakoka Vakiteny News

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Dear friends of *Vakoka Vakiteny*.

In this first newsletter of the year we are very proud to be able to present one new Vakoka Vakiteny book that is now finished: *Toliara - and the South-West of Madagascar* by Klaus-Christian Küspert. We want to encourage all our friends to buy this book to learn more about this fascinating area, and to support our work.

We are also working on a new manuscript which might become our new youth novel. It is a true story written by the young Malagasy woman Voninirina Rakotoson about her suffering as a 'house slave' in Lebanon. Furthermore, the work on the Bara fairytales is going very well and the print of *Hiverina aho, Dadabe!* by Nasrin Siege is now finished and distribution and sale has begun. All in all the first months of the year have been quite busy, and we are very satisfied with that.

Mparany Rakotondrainy
Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

New Vakoka Vakiteny Book

In newsletter No. 3/2012 we wrote that we have several options concerning new manuscripts for Vakoka Vakiteny books. It now seems like our first option can become reality: Voninirina Rakotoson, a young Malagasy woman has written about her life as a "house slave" in Lebanon - an autobiography. She came there through an organisation that promised her a work with good conditions such as high salary, proper worker's rights, sick leave, etc., but the reality that met her was very different from what had been promised. She was locked up in the house and sometimes had to work for18 hours a day. Her passport had been taken away and even if she became sick she still had to work. Finally she managed to flee back to Madagascar after six terrible months…

We are really happy to have received her manuscript out of two reasons: Firstly, it is a gripping story that will make an interesting book to read for youth and young adults and secondly, it will act as a warning for other young people to not go into the same trap as Voninirina (this problem is actually quite widespread in Madagascar). However, the manuscript will still have to undergo many changes and it has now been sent back to the author for revision. We are looking forward to see the second draft.

Voninirina Rakotoson

Vakoka Vakiteny…

…is a young and professional publishing company producing literature for children and youth in Malagasy language.

…is owned and run by a team of young Malagasy.

…contributes to growth and development in Madagascar - culturally and materially.

…promotes the joy of reading and develops the understanding for literature and art in a modern Malagasy environment.

Layout: content: Sophie and Mparany Rakotondrainy

Collection of Bara Fairytales

In the end of January Mparany went to the small village of Mahazoarivo, west of Ankazoabo (see map) and collected around 15 fairytales from children in this village. It was a difficult journey due to much rain at this time of the year. In addition to these fairytales we also have some stories from the Mikoboka area which is north-east of Toliara. There was also accomplished a small illustration workshop with the children. We will, however ,have to get more pictures for the book, but it is a good start.

Now Mparany is transcribing the material into official Malagasy language. Then we will see how many fairytales are useful and if we will need more or if we have enough.

Below are some pictures from the trip to Mahazoarivo. We apologise for the rather low quality which is because the camera broke down and pictures had to be taken with a cell phone.

Above left: Mparany on his way to Mahazoarivo where he met the teacher at the local primary school, Mr Soja.

Below left: The fairytale the boy Tsivevy is telling is being recorded with a voice recorder.

Above: The girl Batritry was also telling her favourite fairytale

Above left: Mparany is instructing the children before they start painting. Most of the children have never painted with a brush before, so this is an entirely new experience.

Above right and below left: Eager children are painting pictures to their fairytales.

Above: Some of the pictures the children painted. When the selection of fairytales is complete, we will have to organise one or several additional illustration workshops with children.

Right: The students at the primary school in Mahazoarivo together with Mparany (at the left side on the back row).

"Toliara - and the South-West of Madagascar"

Finally the trilingual book *Toliara - and the South-West of Madagascar/ Toliara - und der Südwesten Madagaskars/ Tuléar - et le Sud-Ouest de Madagascar* has now been printed and we have received the first 100 copies out of 1000. The author Klaus-Christian Küspert does not take percentages, so the entire surplus of the sale will go directly to Vakoka Vakiteny for the printing and distribution of new children's books. We sell the book for 43 000 Ariary/ 15 € / 150 NOK, shipping not included. It will however also be sold in different book shops, hotels and tourist information offices in Toliara as well as in Antananarivo and other places in Madagascar, and hopefully also at the Goethe Institut in Antananarivo. The prices in Madagascar will be somewhat different du to different sales conditions. Furthermore, we will try to send copies of the book to Norway and Germany so that they can be ordered there, too.

If someone travels or knows someone who will travel from Madagascar to Germany or Norway, please inform us in case this person could take a few books with him/ her.

If you are interested in receiving a copy, please send us an email on vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com. We are also looking for more people who are willing to store some books in their homes and send them to different customers in Europe. If you are willing to do this, we would be very grateful it you inform us.

We want to encourage everyone to buy this book because it is very informative and interesting also for people who have never been in Toliara and Madagascar. It also entails general information about Madagascar and of course many beautiful pictures. In addition, by buying this book you support Vakoka Vakiteny with about 50 % of the price!

The book entails pictures and inside information about the city of Toliara with its people and markets, traffic, lifestyle, religion, music, challenges etc.

There is also a chapter on the surroundings of Toliara with emphasis on the different peoples groups and their customs, and nature and environmental problems

Distribution of Books

Here are two pictures from the distribution of "Fantaro ny Nosintsika" at a school in Antsirabe

News from "Hiverina aho, Dadabe"

All copies of "Hiverina aho, Dadabe" have now been printed and are in the hands of Vakoka Vakiteny. Sale and distribution have also started. 1000 copies will be distributed for free as they were covered by our supporting association in Germany, and 500 copies will be sold.

The first feedback from our readers is very positive. For example Emile, a 16 year old boy really enjoyed reading the book. He said that he found it thrilling as well as sad, and he also very much liked reading the fairytales that are told by people in the book.

Mrs Hanta is supervising the print of the book at the printing house TPFLM in Antananarivo