

PRESS RELEASE

“Students with disability build wind turbine to produce renewable energy for CCBRT Hospital”

Dar es Salaam, 13th of October 2011

On the 13th of October, at the presence of Miss Serena Bertaina, attaché at the European Union's Delegation in Tanzania, a wind turbine for the production of renewable energy was inaugurated at CCBRT Hospital. The construction and installation of the turbine was realized during a 2-weeks training held at the Yombo Vocational Training Centre for people with disability. The training was realized by a Dutch NGO named “*I Love Windpower*”, with the support of CEFA - European Committee for Training and Agriculture, an Italian NGO that is implementing a capacity building program in favour of the Yombo Centre within the framework of a EU-funded project entitled: “*LESS is more: Labour, Empowerment and Social Services for vulnerable people in Dar*”.

Aim of the training was to provide students and teachers of the Yombo Centre with the know-how necessary to produce a special type of wind turbine which can be manufactured completely with locally available materials. During the 2-weeks training the participants were introduced to this simple but innovative technology and have learned how to build, assemble and install a wind turbine with a generating capacity of 1 KW of renewable energy. The turbine produced during the training has been purchased by CCBRT and is now providing renewable and affordable energy to its disability hospital.

The inauguration of the wind turbine represented also the closing event of the training. All 44 participants received a certificate that they proudly showed while posing for the final group photo at the bottom of the 18 meter tower lodging the wind turbine. Mr Roland Valckenborg, Director of “*I Love Windpower*” expressed great satisfaction for how the training went. “*Students and teachers of the Yombo Centre have been incredible. They worked hard and with passion for two weeks, managing to build a wind turbine from scratch. Indeed they have demonstrated that being disabled doesn't mean being un-able to do things*”. The excitement among the students was tangible while the wind turbine was being inaugurated. “*In these two weeks we learned a lot of things and it's great to see that all our hard work has produced something that works and produces energy. I enjoyed a lot the training and I'd like to become in the future the wind power expert of Pemba, where I come from*” said Ayoub Said Ayoub, a second-year deaf student of the Yombo Centre.

CEFA's Project Manager, Mr Dario De Nicola, renewed the NGO's commitment to continue implementing its capacity building programme in favour of the Yombo Centre, underlining that: “*We are happy to have established the connection between I Love Windpower and the Yombo Centre, creating the possibility for this training to take place. Investing in knowledge is always the right choice because we truly believe that better skills bring to better jobs and consequently to better lives*”.

Mr. Cassian Mapunda, Principal of the Yombo Centre expressed gratitude for the opportunity offered to his students and teachers, stating that: “*The training provided by I Love Windpower not only allows us to enrich our syllabus of studies, but represents also a concrete possibility of income generation for our students and for the Yombo Centre itself*”. Production of affordable and locally made wind turbines could in fact become a source of income for the Centre, allowing it to count on additional funds for its various activities.

Proudly admiring the newly installed wind turbine, Mr Telemans, CCBRT's CEO, expressed his enthusiasm for the entire operation: “*We immediately liked the idea of a group of students with disabilities building a wind turbine for a disability hospital. I think it is something unique and we are happy that with the funds spent to purchase it we co-funded the training through which it was built*”. It is actually the first time this technology is taught to a group of disabled students, making the training at Yombo Centre a world premiere.

Miss Serena Bertaina, in the name of the European Union's Delegation in Tanzania, appraised the collaboration between the various organizations involved, underlining the positive results achieved thanks to an effective networking. She expressed appreciation for initiatives of this kind, highlighting the EU's commitment towards people with disabilities' integration within the Tanzanian society. A result that can be achieved also through valuable training and consequent better chances of employment.



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Notes to Editors:

About I Love Windpower

The Dutch NGO 'I Love Windpower' started working in Tanzania in 2010. Aim of the organization is the promotion of renewable energy, in particular windpower, through the production of a special type of wind turbine which can be manufactured completely from locally available materials. In the past two year the organization has provided various trainings on wind turbine production, involving important institutions such as REA – Rural Energy Agency and TaTEDO – Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization.

About Yombo Vocational Training Centre

Founded in 1973, the Yombo Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for people with disability is a governmental institution that currently hosts more than 75 students affected by different kinds of disabilities. The Centre offers two-years vocational courses in different trades, that include carpentry, tailoring, constructions, electrical installations and welding.

About CEFA

CEFA is an Italian NGO active in Tanzania since 1976. In 2009, alongside its traditional commitment towards rural development, CEFA started activities in Dar es Salaam, addressing urban poverty. CEFA is currently implementing an EU-funded project entitled "*LESS is more: Labour, Empowerment and Social Services for vulnerable people in Dar es Salaam*". Full social and economic integration of people with disabilities and their care-givers is one of the main objectives of the Action. CEFA is directly involved in this challenge by providing vocational training and supporting institutions that offer valuable vocational training to people with disability, such as the Yombo Vocational Training Centre.

About CCBRT

Based in Dar es Salaam and Moshi, CCBRT is the largest indigenous provider of surgical and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Tanzania. Each year approximately 120,000 people directly access its services which include a disability hospital, community programme, an education programme and economic empowerment, training and advocacy initiatives. CCBRT's main aim is to improve the quality of life for people living with a disability, their family members and caregivers to enable them to become full members of society.

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