



PELICAN NEWS

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The time to take action is now!

The dawn of a New Year offers hope for a brighter future, but there are still immense challenges that lie ahead. With global threats such as climate change and unprecedented biodiversity loss setting alarm bells ringing in every corner of the planet, there has never been a greater need for every person, every business and every nation to take action.

2021 promises to be a year of progress. It is a year when we hope to see vaccines finally enable humanity to get on top of the Coronavirus pandemic, and it is a year when COP26 in Glasgow is set to offer the final chance for countries to take firm and decisive action to prevent the worst impacts of global warming.

And it's a big year for Blue Skies too. With the exciting prospect of new products, new customers, new markets and new innovations, there are plenty of reasons to feel optimistic. But among the optimism, we must also feel a heightened sense of responsibility. Responsibility for our climate, responsibility for our resources responsibility for our nature and wildlife and responsibility for each other.

With our Blueprint, we will set out how we intend to take action to help tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our world, and we will report on some of the exciting ideas and initiatives we are planning and are already implementing across the business, such as in Benin where we have introduced new technologies that are reducing chemical use, plastics and energy consumption.

There are tough times ahead but if we all pull together, then we can make a difference, and create the kind of future we can all look forward to. Happy New Year!



Pictured: Our ground-breaking new factory in Benin



Blue Skies mourns the sad loss of two colleagues in Ghana

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of two of our colleagues in Ghana this month.

Charles Ankomah (pictured right) worked in our security team. He was 48 years of age and leaves behind a wife and a child. In the same month, we have also lost Eugene Amadi (pictured left) who was the farm manager at X Ray Farm.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues of Charles and Eugene who will both be very much missed by us all at Blue Skies.

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

School Farm awards and the need for ICT resources in Ghana



Over the stretch of time, the Blue Skies School Farm Award has consistently encouraged agricultural business among students in participating schools from across the country, while concurrently promoting technological development and improving ICT education in both Junior and Senior High Schools.

In today's world of internet, creativity and innovation, equipping the young generation with basic computer skills is a national asset necessary for them to compete in a fast developing world. To be able to make more impact in agriculture, we acknowledge that the new agribusiness manager needs knowledge on high technology in order to conquer the world of complex drone technologies, satellites, smart greenhouse management as well as to take advantage of business opportunities on the World Wide Web (www). This is why it was refreshing to see winners of the Blue Skies School Farm Awards walk away again this year with laptops, tablets and desktops to enable them to solve challenges such as a lack of computers and overcrowding of ICT centres in schools.

Though the School Farm Award continues to benefit schools, teachers and individual students in their process of learning, accessing the internet and administrative works, these various successes do not come without challenges. Irene, one of this year's Blue Skies School Farm Award winners will be using a laptop for the first time and needs special assistance from both teachers and parents, but tells us of her school's inability to provide ICT teachers. Mr Mensah, also a teacher from KwakyeKrom Junior High Schools who won the best teacher award in the Junior High School category last year, noted that his laptop aids his studies at the University however his school is unable to safeguard the computers won over the years as they do not have an ICT centre. Sadly, this and many serve as barriers to the holistic effort to make an impact in society. For us to achieve SDG 6 of ensuring inclusive and equitable education for all, government and stakeholders need to prioritise education and afford schools with the necessary facilities, particularly computer lops.

To encourage ICT, the government should provide free internet and laptops for both tertiary and pre-tertiary teachers. ICT clubs could also be made mandatory for Junior and Senior High Schools in order to involve students, build their skills and develop their interest in the subject. Other stakeholders and NGO's can complement government's efforts by providing community ICT centres close to all community libraries and organise workshops for students at all levels. In order to see the full effects of these strategies, there should be an effort to introduce ICT education to Ghanaian students at the earliest stage possible.

By Winnie A Dogbe, Blue Skies Ghana

Project brings joy to centre for abandoned children



Our first Foundation project in Brazil has been to provide furniture and equipment and to repair recreational facilities for a charity called ABRAC that looks after local abandoned children. The project was completed in 2020 and is already having an impact, especially the playground (pictured) which is proving to be popular with the children.

Sports help to raise morale in South Africa



Pictured: The Blue Skies South Africa netball and soccer teams have been keeping up with matches to stay fit and healthy and raise spirits.

Greetings from Benin

This month, Group Technical Manager, Stephan Morris shares some photos from his recent visit to Benin to support the team at our newest factory as they prepare for a forthcoming technical audit.



Pictured: Elinam is from Togo and has worked with the technical department in Ghana for about a year. She is now in Benin helping the team to develop product specifications for our customers in France.



Pictured: Hitherto, Marta believed Dorothy Land to be a fictional element in the Wonderful Wizard of Oz and is delighted to see myth become reality.



Name that bird. Can you identify this bird, spotted on a pineapple farm in Ghana?

Congratulations



Congratulations to Diederick and Tatsiana on the birth of Oscar Olijje who was born on the 15th of January 2021 weighing 3 kilos. We wish mummy, daddy and baby Oscar lots of love and happiness.

Blue Skies UK welcomes new winter recruit



Pictured: staff at Corby reveal the new head of traffic management, who they managed to construct out of snow after a day of wintry showers. Unfortunately the new recruit didn't last long having melted after just a few days.