



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | January 2022 | Issue 184 | www.blueskies.com |

2022 Foundation Projects approved



The Blue Skies Foundation Board met on the 20th of January to approve projects for funding in 2022. Representatives from the Foundation's partners at Waitrose, Albert Heijn and Blue Skies met during a virtual meeting and approved twelve projects. These include two toilet projects at Fotobi in Ghana and Daga in Senegal, four water projects at Anyakope, Yilo Krobo,

Pokrom and Ofotaso in Ghana, a new classroom block for the preschool at Balfour Primary School in South Africa, equipment for the emergency room at El-Rashad clinic at 10th of Ramadan City in Egypt, improvement works for Siyathemba Primary School in South Africa and at an association in Brazil that supports vulnerable young adults. Finally, the 2022 School Farm of the Year project was approved, which will this year be run with support from the Kosmos Innovation Centre in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. 2022 looks set to be another good year for the Foundation, helping to bring yet more positive impact to our local communities.



Pictured: an example of an 'edutainter' classroom converted from a shipping container that will be used for one of our 2022 projects in South Africa

Ghana holds New Year thanksgiving



At the end of 2021, a thanksgiving programme was organised by the Blue Skies Ghana Prayer Team and management to thank God for His mercies and protection throughout the year and pray for his favour to go ahead of us in the coming year. In a welcome address by Alistair Djimatey on behalf of Blue Skies, he thanked staff for all their efforts in spite of the challenging times and admonished that with hard work and hope we will always overcome the storms and grow stronger. He said no matter the challengers, the Lord has seen us through and He will sustain us. He said our strength is in our culture of unity, hard work and diversity. In her short sermon, Rev Rose Azumah encouraged staff to be hard-working and dedicated to the course of the business that is what will continue to keep us together at all times. The 'Cantata program' is held annually in collaboration with the International Youth Foundation of Korea (IYF) to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year's program was conducted virtually with some outstanding performances. Also in attendance was the Foreign Minister, Pastor David Oh (pictured above with Janet and Ruth) who used the occasion to talk about deep thinking as a tool for innovation and transformation. The Director for West Africa led the Management Team to Thank God for the Year 2021.

Report by Alistair Djimatey, Blue Skies Ghana

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

P2 Blue Skies helps to provide 77,000 meals for the Felix Project

Blue Skies provides 77,000 meals for the Felix Project

Surplus fruit from October last year helped to provide over 77,000 meals for the Felix Project in London. This has made a huge difference the charities and organisations that the project supplies and has helped the project to deliver more healthy, fresh and convenient foods in addition to the ambient, longer life ingredients provided. While Blue Skies aims to minimise surplus fruit in the supply chain, we can at least be assured that anything we do have leftover will go to where it is needed most.



Big Idea saves 7 tons of plastic



Congratulations to Abd EL Rahman Ebrahim from Blue Skies Egypt who has devised a new way to strengthen our ACB containers without the need for plastic. The belt replaces a stretch film wrap and not only saves nearly 7 tons of plastic a year, but will also save the business around £10,000. This is a great example of real grass roots innovation.

Making an impact in France

DID YOU KNOW? Through our participation in France's Extended Responsibility scheme through CITEO, in 2021 Blue Skies helped to recycle 20 tonnes of packaging, save 1 tonne of co2e and fund waste collection services for nearly 400 households.

Blue Skies Social Impact Study kicks off

The University of Northampton Centre for Sustainable Business Practices have started work to conduct a social impact study on our business in Ghana. A research team will visit Ghana in February and the full report will be published this year.

Factories set high standards for 2022



January has seen yet more audit successes with Egypt achieving zero non conformances in their ISO 22000:2018 second surveillance audit (pictured top) and Ghana and Benin successfully passing unannounced Global GAP surveillance audits, also with zero non conformances. We have also had successful customer audits, including at Blue Skies UK,

Blue Skies looks for innovation and expertise in energy

In January, Blue Skies presented at an energy innovation conference, hosted by KTN AgriFood Africa Connect. The event aimed at match-making solutions providers with African agribusinesses that are looking for help to solve energy challenges. A number of useful contacts were made. If you weren't at the event but would like to get in touch about helping Blue Skies meet its energy goals, please contact: simon.derrick@blueskies.com.



Brazil safety teams are ready for action



Blue Skies Brazil recently participated in a number of health and safety initiatives. Pictured top (left): Formation of the new CIPA management (Internal Committee for Accident Prevention). Pictured top right: SIPAT event (internal week of work accident prevention). The theme of our SIPAT this year was hand protection. We had lectures throughout the week with a different topic discussed each day. We talked about hand protection and health, eye health, emotional health and HIV and drugs. Pictured bottom: the new emergency management brigade. 30 employees received training on how to fight fires and provide first aid. Many thanks to Fernanda Melquiades Renzi, our Safety Technician at Blue Skies Brazil for the photographs and the report.

Brazil receive a special guest



On January 6th, Blue Skies Brazil received a visit from Blue Skies Board Director, John Gadzi. John was excited to see the expansion work carried out in 2019 and was interested to find out about recent challenges and some of the projects and ideas for the future. He also shared information about challenges faced in Ghana and how they are tackling them.

Farewell Shalaby



In December, Blue Skies said farewell to Blue Skies Egypt Logistics Manager, Mohamed Shalaby. At a small gathering, Mohamed was presented with a Liverpool shirt signed by Steven Gerrard and read out a few kind notes from Blue Skies well wishers. Shalaby was very touched and it was an emotional dinner. Shalaby has been with Blue Skies for many years and played a critical role in building Blue Skies Egypt to what it is today. He will be greatly missed, but we all wish him well for the next chapter of his successful career.

Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday to Sandrya of Blue Skies Skies Benin who celebrated her birthday on the 19th of January. Sandrya is our head of finance and is pictured above with her colleagues in Benin.

NEXT MONTH

- We launch an exciting new project to find ground-breaking solutions to the plastics problem...