



AAA e-NEWS BRIEF OCTOBER 2014

Innovating for Girls' Education: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD - 2014

Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes:

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

"Women's economic autonomy" through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

On 11 October 2014, AAA will celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child. Contrary to the usual stress linked to securing of a speaker, this time we have one of our homemade speaker, Grace Azange Kawo, an African Action on AIDS science scholar since 2007. Grace will help us encourage more girls to study sciences subjects. **Also, 1 Minute of Silence will be held to Remember AAA Life Member Elisabeth Gelzer.** See what Grace has to say below:

"EFFICIENT LIVING CONDITIONS THROUGH THE EYES OF AN AFRICAN GIRL WHO HAS MASTERED THE BUILDING SITE"

When I had my ordinary level, I wondered whether I will like to be science inclined or arts inclined. I could not come to a conclusion since I had all eleven papers, with an 'A' grade in History (which is extremely arts inclined) and an 'A' grade in Chemistry (which is extremely science inclined).

With my dream of living in a sustainable home and producing my own energy, I realized the answer to my dream was in the science field. I therefore embarked on a science journey. I did advanced level in science where I had all five (5) papers and then got registered into a professional university. It was the Catholic University Institute of Buea (CUIB) which has as mission 'to prepare professional servant leaders with moral and spiritual values that will contribute to the sustainable development of their communities'.

People always asked 'what are you doing in a man's profession? You will soon get tired and leave. Can anything good come out of an engineering girl?' I replied 'wait and see'. I was adamant and knew where I was heading to and am now in my third year at the university. We are three girls in a class of twenty five so you already see that girls shy away from engineering when it's really no big deal.

After my first degree, I intend to do a Master's Degree in Structural Analysis, and then in Architecture. These days anyone can draw a house plan, but not just anybody can calculate the load a structure is supposed to carry, reason why most of our structures fail. In doing this, I will be propagating the philosophy of AAA: MA YEM MA BO 'I know and I do'

I want my dream house to be totally made of local material in order to reduce importation of synthetic material. I intend producing my own energy from biomass in a process called biomethanation (topic learnt in school) and also using the biogas which is one of the end products as cooking gas.

I WILL BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN TERMS OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND NOT JUST A DIPLOMA HOLDER!

AZANGE GRACE KAWO, Civil Engineer Student

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Your contributions keep us going!
Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below



Grace is also a bookworm!



Grace during professional internship