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ANNUAL REPORT 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

The aim of the Finnish-Namibian Society (F-N Society) is, according to its rules, to act as a friendship association between the Finnish and the Namibians, and to support their mutual contacts in the social, economic and cultural fields. One of the main tasks of the society is to continue and develop the tradition of co-operation that has lasted for a long time. Another important objective is to maintain and increase the knowledge about Namibia in Finland, as well as to implement development co-operation projects between Finland and Namibia in the varying official co-operation context.

The work done in the society is based on voluntary work. The board members as well as its other members also have the conviction of maintaining friendship between Finland and Namibia.

Year 2010 was the 36th financial year of the Finnish-Namibian Society

COMMUNICATION

The F-N Society published four member newsletters during 2010. The newsletter was posted to the members, and it was distributed to people who were interested in the society's activities, for instance in different events. A leaflet about Namibian tourism was also given out at the Travel Fair in January 2010. The print number of the leaflet was 2000 which was exceptional and all were given out. Veera Jansa and Liisa Korkalo were responsible for the layout of the leaflet.

Tuomas Rantala was responsible for the maintenance of the webpages of the society. The F-N Society also told about its activities in various public events.

A sincere thank you to all who contributed in writing, photography, newsletter reporting and distribution, and in the remarkable voluntary work input.

MEMBERS

The membership register had 697 members at the end of year 2010 (700 members in 2009, 709 in 2008). Of the 697 members, 627 had paid their membership fee. The membership fee was 14 euros and for students it was 7 euros. The community fee was 50 euros.

EVENTS

The F-N Society participated on the yearly **Travel Fair on 21.-24.1-2010** organised by the Finnish Fair. The event was a success and we also obtained new members.

Namibia's 20th Day of Independence was celebrated on 21st March 2010 in Omnia ((Kirkkokatu 16, Espoo). The Education district of Espoo, Omnia, was mainly in charge of the festive arrangement as a student project. Finnish-Namibian Society was responsible for the program. There were 245 people present, and Veera Jansa was the presenter.

Festive program

21.3.2010 at 14.00 – 16.00

National hymns of Finland and Namibia, with music group Jakaranda, director Pekka Nyman

Congratulatory toast and opening speech: Ambassador Kirsti Lintonen

Greetings from the Republic of Namibia: Ambassador Theresia Samaria

Greetings: President and Mrs Martti Ahtisaari

Festive greeting (which was read): Ministry of Education Henna Virkkunen

Greeting of the Espoo diocese: Bishop Mikko Heikka

Festive speech: Minister Pertti Paasio

Music: Jakaranda, director Pekka Nyman
Greeting of the City of Espoo: Mayor Marketta Kokkonen
Coffee break: served by Omnia students
Closing words: Chairman Seppo Kalliokoski
Music: Jakaranda, director Pekka Nyman
Free time

The spring meeting was held before the festivity.

The F-N Society also arranged the following exhibitions in honour of Namibia 20 years:

The library of Mäntyharju: Elia Shiwoohamba, graphic art, 5.1–30.1. 2010
Topelia library, Helsinki: Elia Shiwoohamba, graphic art, as well as Namibia book exhibition, 1.3-26.3. 2010
Metso library, Tampere : Elia Shiwoohamba, graphic art, 29.3-11.4. 2010
Arabianranta library, Helsinki: Elia Shiwoohamba, graphic art, 15-16.4. 2010.
Lauttasaari library, Helsinki: Elia Shiwoohamba, graphic art 1.7-30. 7. 2010

Our sincere thank you to you all who participated in the facilitation of the exhibitions!

The F-N Society also had its traditional stand in the **Maailma kylässä festivity (The World Visiting)** 29.–30.5.2010 in Helsinki, Kaisaniemi Park. Our stand had numerous visitors because we had Namibian visitors introducing their own products. Ms Twapewa Mudjanima, a Namibian entrepreneur, had been invited to Finland by the Development Communication Unit of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Immanuel Namwandi and Samuel Shatimba. They had brought their own products with them from Namibia. They were there at the invitation of Savitaipale Tuki (Savitaipale Support), which is led by Anni and Kaj Wahlroos.

The F-N Society participated in the yearly **Mission Festival** of the Finnish Missionary Society at Varkaus on 11 - 13.6.2010.

The F-N Society arranged **Namibia's Heroes' Day event on 26.8.2010**. At the beginning of the event researcher Marja Suomela gave a presentation about the work against corruption in Namibia. The Minister of Prison and Homeland Security, Mr Nangolo Mbumba, also attended the event. He was also on an official visit to Finland, accompanied by:

Hon. Nangolo Mbumba – Minister of Safety and Security
Commissioner Anna-Marie Gôagoses – Regional Commander, Namibian Police Force
Mr W Nahole, Deputy Commissioner, Head of Communication Division, Namibian Police Force
Assistant Commissioner Anna Rosa Katjivene – Prison Services
Assistant Commissioner James Sidney Adams – Prison Services
Ms. Ferdrika Garises – Personal Assistant to the Minister

The music group Jakaranda, under Maria Laakso, welcomed Minister Nangolo Mbumba. The Minister of Education, Henna Virkkunen, gave a gratifying speech on missionary work. Minister Mbumba also spoke in a gratifying way. The director of the Finnish Missionary Society Seppo Rissanen and charge d'affaires of Namibia Asko Luukkainen also had the floor. After the event we visited the mission museum. Sara Pykäläinen served us well, as always. The evening was spent in an African way, and there were 70 people present.

On 26.09. 2010 the Society organised a local event with the congregation of Mikkeli. The event was in honour of Namibia's 20th anniversary as well as to honour the deceased Toivo Tirronen who was born 90 years ago on that date. There were 127 persons present. Toivo Tirronen's children Anni Karo and Tauno Tirronen told about their father who was the first principal of Oshigambo High School. Erkki Liikane gave a speech. The Chairman preached in the church service where there were 200 members of the congregation present. We wish to thank our Mikkeli members and congregation for organizing such a memorable day.

Exhibitions in Mikkeli: 20-24.9.2010 Before the afore-mentioned occasion Mikkeli had several exhibitions. One was on the life and works of missionary Toivo Tirronen (1920 - 1981), called "Language and Faith". There were two exhibitions in the lobby of Mikkeli parish centre. One of these exhibition portrayed photographs taken by reporter Päivi Kaipainen-Heiskanen and was called " Traveller's Namibia". The other exhibition was on paintings done by the students of Aune Hirvonen when she was in Namibia (1953-1974). During the exhibition there was also a possibility to meet people who had worked in Namibia. They could be met daily from 12 noon to 2 p.m., as well as on

Wednesday and Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Our sincere thank you to all who participated in the arranging of the exhibitions.

After the spring elections in Namibia, the newly nominated Minister of Education Abraham Iyambo visited Finland with his delegation on 3. – 10.10.2010. The Finnish-Namibian Society met the minister at a meeting organized by the Finnish Educational Union Sector (OAJ). Amongst other things, there was also discussion about the project called "Handicraft as a Means of Preventing Exclusion". Mrs. Eeva Ahtisaari, Pekka Vapaavuori and members of the Finnish-Namibian board were also present.

The Finnish gazette "Opettaja" reported about the minister's visit to Finland with the heading: "The Rest of the Children to School Too".

The autumn meeting was held on 11.11.2010 in the Museum of Natural Sciences in Helsinki. The statutory matters were discussed. The participants had a chance for a guided tour around the exhibition on African animals and nature.

Arts and Crafts Education as Means of Preventing Exclusion – project events, AHACE Project

Due to the change of staff in Namibia this project has been at a standstill for some time. In February 2010 we made a new and revised plan with the organization of National Institute for Educational Development. In 2010 one large seminar was held to the directors of education, and several smaller seminars to the teachers in different parts of the country.

The (Finnish) Adult Education Association organized a project trip to Namibia in February 2010, and the Chairman of the Finnish-Namibian Society acted as the expert on that journey. The Vice-chairman of the society was also in Namibia at the same time clarifying the status of the Society's project. Minister Henna Virkkunen was visiting Namibia at the same time. The theme of the Minister's visit was educational policy and co-operation in field of education. All the Finns had a brief encounter and the Society organized a surprise in the form a song to Minister Virkkunen. This just indicates how versatile the co-operation between Finland and Namibia is.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved the 2009 project plans which were given to them on 31.5.2010. The project will be evaluated and carried out in 2011. A sincere thank you to all those who participated in this project by offering their voluntary services.

Civil society policy

The Chairman of the Society acted in the **Advisory Board of the Civil Society Politics** on the mandate of Development Co-operation Service Centre Kepa. The aim of the Advisory Board is to enhance the co-operation between associations and the officials.

CONTACTS TO OTHERS

The Finnish-Namibian Society kept in touch with the Namibian Ambassador to Finland Theresia Samaria, with the purpose of developing co-operation between Finland and Namibia. Regular contact was also held with the Namibia-desk of Foreign Affairs as well as to the embassy in Windhoek. The location of Theresia Samaria changed in autumn 2010. She paid her farewell visit to Finland on 16.8.2010. The new appointed Ambassador is Daniel R. Smith and he will be accredited to Finland in 2011.

The commercial relations committee of the Society has been in close contact with Ambassador Samaria, as well as with several people in the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Society also did background reports and arranged meetings e.g. between the afore-mentioned people.

The Finnish-Namibian Society is a member of the Development Co-operation Service Centre (Kepa) and Friendship Society Union.

Contact has been kept with other Namibian societies and parties; Espoo district education and training group Omnia, Finnish Church Aid, Association of the Deaf, Laurentius Foundation, Association for the Visually Impaired, the Finnish Educational Union Sector (OAJ), Pasila Rotary Club, the Solidarity Centre of Trade Unions in Finland, Finnish Summer School Association, Finnish Library Association, Finnish Mission Society, Finnish 4H Association, Peace Education Institute, Technology for Life, Unifem, Vantaa City, and Vantaa-Namibia Society.

The co-operation with the officials dealing with Namibian matters has continued in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE BOARD

The Board of the Society met five times during the year.

The members of the Board in year 2010 were: Chairman Seppo Kalliokoski, Vice-chairman Ritva Semi, secretary Heikki Kirjanen. The other members of the board were: Risto Elomaa, Risto Jaakkola, Veera Jansa, Tiina Kaipainen, Liisa Korkalo, Heli Kuusipalo, Hanna Peräkylä and Dora Shivute. Deputy members: Lasse Eriksson, Tuomo Pohjantuli and Matti Sippola.

OFFICE

The Society does not have its own premises. The postal address of the Society is: Rauhanasema, Veturitori 00520 Helsinki. The Society has shelf-space in the archive of Peace Society.

THE ECONOMY OF THE SOCIETY

The economy of the Society, during the fiscal year, was based on subscription fees and donations from members. The Board of the Society wishes to thank everyone for their financial support.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the project Arts and Crafts Education as Means of Preventing Exclusion

Tuomo Pohjantuuli was responsible for the economics. Veli Vanhanen KHT ja Jussi Nuorteva acted as the auditors. Matti Hukka ja Pekka Vapaavuori were the deputy auditors.

Approved in spring meeting on 21.3.2011