

# Energy Assistance NEWSLETTER



Energy  
Assistance

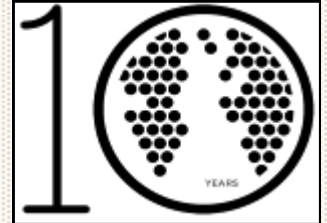
N° 34  
Sept 2011

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## A 10-year adventure

In June 2001, a handful of enthusiasts, either working for or retired from *Electrabel*, *Tractebel* and *Fabricom*, had a dream: that of setting up an organisation within which they themselves and their colleagues, all voluntary workers, could pool their professional skills in the energy field in order to carry out humanitarian projects in countries in need. With the financial and logistic support of their employers (now either *GDF SUEZ* or *Grid Operators*), the pioneers' dream came true and the *Energy Assistance* (E.A.) adventure got underway.



After a few months dedicated to planning and choosing our first projects, we set to work in 2002, in *Ouadane*, Mauritania. Since then, increasing numbers of members, donors and voluntary workers have bolstered the ranks of E.A. year after year.

Meanwhile, a sister organisation, *Energy Assistance France*, was founded in 2005. Based in Paris, it pursues the same goals we do, and in close cooperation with us.

Today, the target of 100 projects –completed successfully following a rigorous selection process –has long been exceeded, with around twenty projects wrapped up every year, in **over 30 countries**, chiefly in Africa. Hundreds of thousands of individuals benefit directly from the projects –be they children who are able to stay in school after sundown or women who are no longer obliged to give birth in candlelight. All thanks to the dedication of around one hundred voluntary workers backed by three permanent employees, and with the financial support and “helping hands” of hundreds of members, donors and other friends of E.A. We would like to extend our gratitude to each and every one of them.

Despite their combined experience, our project leaders and field volunteers do not risk falling into a routine. Each project remains an adventure – sometimes technical, but above all else, human. Full of encounters with remarkable individuals working locally to relieve the misery of their fellow citizens and with all of the quiet heroes who once worked alongside our colleagues, who dedicate their free time, some of them to analysing, devising and organising the missions, and others to completing them with their own hands in the field, without forgetting those who devote their time to the organisation's management, coordination and communications.

E.A. is currently facing a threefold challenge:

- the expansion of our activities in **Central and South America** and in **Asia** with the support of volunteers from the Group's local companies
- the recruitment of **new project leaders** to guide this expansion and progressively replace the “old” ones
- further **professionalisation** of the segments that provide assistance in **projects**, such as administration, logistics, purchasing and so forth.

In order to address these challenges, our organisation needed reinforcement. Hence the arrival of **Jean-Pierre Jeunieux** (see p. 2 ), our new *Executive Manager*, who will be heading the team of permanent employees, composed of **Michel de Ligne**, **Xavier Desmarets** and **Sabine Baeten**. We are very confident that his presence will help E.A. take on a new lease of life and we wish him every success in the new adventure that lies ahead of him.

Jean Bouckaert  
Chairman, Energy Assistance

## Welcome to ...

**Jean-Pierre Jeunieaux** joined *Electrobel Engineering* in 1977 as an engineer. He went on to gain broad experience in thermal and nuclear generation, as well as in electricity and gas distribution.

Currently *Senior Vice President Purchasing* at *GDF SUEZ*, he has built up a vast network of contacts all over the globe.

Moreover, Jean-Pierre is also involved in humanitarian initiatives privately. He was appointed **Executive Manager of Energy Assistance** on July 1, 2011.



## Marie-France Roy jette l'ancre en E.A.F.

Twenty years ago, Marie France Roy enters the *GDF Suez Group* in order to build up the communication services of *Novergie*, a company specialized in heat treatment of waste.

In 1991, she joins *CPCU* (urban heating network of Paris) as Communication Director. In 2007, a sabbatical year gives her the opportunity to take the lead of *Kerguelen* base (*French southern and Antarctic Islands*). In 2010, she quits *CPCU* for the same mission in *Antarctica (Terre Adélie)*.

At the end of that year, she takes office of **General Delegate of Energy Assistance France**, where she is since February 1st 2011.



## Kapolowe (DR Congo) 2004 - 2011 – Seven years of management (part 1)

### Raphaël, a friend from above

In May 2004, a service request for a number of sites belonging to the *University of Lubumbashi (UNILU)* was submitted to the Projects Committee. The request was sent by **Mrs Renée Richard**, Honorary Chairwoman of the *World Association of Women Entrepreneurs*, who wrote to us on behalf of **Mrs Fierens** (widow of Prof. Paul Fierens, co-founder of the *UNILU*) and Prof. **Lafunda Kaumba**, the then Rector of the *UNILU*. As the service request did not contain any technical data, I was entrusted with the preliminary investigation.

Two sites were shortlisted: *Kapasa Farm* and *Kapolowe Hospital* (see Background p. 4).

In July, with the assistance of my friend and former colleague from the National Electricity Company (*SNEL – Société Nationale d'Electricité*)

**Raphaël Matanda**, a native to that region of *Katanga*, we received some fragmented information. The decision was taken to send Raphaël on a fact-finding mission in September.

Primary results:

- **Kapasa Farm**: Inventory of requirements, but site then abandoned temporarily and completely pillaged (including the buildings' doors and windows) by the Congolese military;  
- **Kapolowe**: Reconnaissance and inventory of requirements at the *Hôpital Général de Référence (HGR)*, as well as other healthcare and educational services at the *Mission St Gérard*.

In March 2005, Raphaël made his second trip to the site, in order to:

- Assess its potential for renewable energy sources: wind and hydropower near the site,
- Study the potential route for laying a MV-line connected to the *Likasi* grid and passing via *Kapulwa*,
- Compile a detailed list of the *HGR*'s normal and priority expenses, as well as those of the school complexes and boarding school;
- Evaluate the city's priority energy requirements.

Out of all of the solutions devised, only one was truly feasible – **supplying power** from the *SNEL* grid in **Likasi** via a **step-up substation** and a **37-km long, 15 kV aerial cable**.





The Hospital that got the benefits of the project.



The support heads waiting for shipment

## The long haul of financing

ORES helped us establish the budget - approximately €500,000!! Fortunately, this initial figure was then cut considerably thanks to lower metal costs.

The first priority was therefore to seek out **partners** to help us cover the budget. The period from mid-2005 to 2007 was dedicated to precisely that, and we also managed to build a scale model of the project. A number of the institutions and individuals contacted responded positively:

- the **UNILU**, despite its very limited resources, agrees to take on part of the local logistics services;
- the **SNEL**, the first “natural” partner of the project, gave its agreement in principle;
- the **DGCD** (Belgian Development Cooperation) : an interview with the Minister for Cooperation was unfortunately fruitless, since E.A. is not an NGO, but there was some hope of having transport costs covered.

However, the **Governor of the Province of Walloon Brabant** (twinned with Katanga), European Commissioner **Louis Michel** (given his interest in the DRC), **Amade Mondial** (Mrs Fierens being the Chairwoman of), the manager in Katanga of the **Coopération Technique Belge (CTB)** and others were all approached... in vain.

Finally, a ray of sunlight seeped through those grey skies thanks to Raphaël and his good contacts in his good city of *Couvin* and its surroundings: we received a **donation of €100,000 from the non-profit Solidarité Cistercienne**. It was actually thanks to that donation that our project could get underway!

## Agreement with the SNEL

Following several exchanges of draft texts and a meeting in *Kinshasa* with **SNEL** General Management, the protocol agreement was finally signed in 2006. It stipulated that the **SNEL** would provide the line conductors and cover the line construction labour.

Similarly to the *Centre Don Bosco in Goma* (Newsletter 21), this project very quickly appealed to the kindness of many of our volunteers at *Tractebel*, *ORES*, *Eandis* and *Sibelga*, who worked hard to provide us with literature regarding the equipment required, to seek out disused MV-equipment within their systems or to enable us to take advantage of the lower prices at which their company orders equipment.

## Orders: nothing is ever easy

It was 2008 and 4 years had already gone by. Let us remember that the solution chosen in conjunction with the **SNEL** was to supply electricity to *Kapolowe* via *Likasi*'s MV-grid. The voltage of the *Likasi* grid was 6.6 kV, not enough to transmit over almost 40 km, so a step-up substation of 6.6/15 kV needed to be built in *Likasi*. The 15 kV was to be drawn from *Likasi* (*Shituru* substation) to *Kapolowe*, passing through *Kapulwa*, as there used to be a 6.6 kV line between *Likasi* and this village. The conductors had been stolen but there are supporting posts for a distance of 15 km. Furthermore, the Benedictine Nuns' project (see p. 4) had left behind sections of railway track, to be used as line supports, all along the route from *Kapulwa* to *Kapolowe*.

**The detailed study** focused mainly on the aerial line. First of all, the route needed to be analysed closely (thanks to *Google Earth*) and then certain parameters needed to be chosen that took into account the route's characteristics: type of conductors, type and height of supports, distance between the supports, etc.

**The conductors** chosen by the **SNEL** were 70mm<sup>2</sup> copper wires manufactured locally. In late 2008, they informed us that that type of conductor was no longer available and asked us to find similar on their behalf.

I took advantage of a market survey conducted by a Belgian company for a contract to be undertaken in the DRC, for which a manufacturer in Indonesia (*Voksel*) was chosen. I sent them a quote request for 93mm<sup>2</sup> aluminium conductors on behalf of the *SNEL*.

The *SNEL* thanked me for the very attractive quote and placed an order in early 2009 – in theory, my job was done. Problem: the *SNEL* is French speaking and *Voksel* is exclusively English speaking. As soon as they received the order in French, *Voksel* came to me for a translation. Next, even more problems arose, with the documentary credit, which needed to be amended several times, the order confirmation, and the inspection and dispatching of the supplies. This little “game” lasted until mid-2010.

A quote request for the **octagonal sheet-metal supports** was sent to manufacturers in France, Portugal and Turkey. As only small quantities were involved, we had to resend the request a number of times. In the end, the most attractive offer we received was from Morocco, so we placed our order. The **grips** (tops of the supports) were ordered in France. The **sections of insulated cable**, basic equipment and accessories were ordered from *ORES*. The **6.6/15 kV step-up transformer** was ordered from one of *ORES*' suppliers, located in the Netherlands.  
(to be continued)

**Claude Gastout**  
Project leader

*Rafael and his team test the renewable potential: wind ...*



*... and hydraulic power.*



## Background

In 2004, Katanga was not as affluent as it is now. In early 2005, a Ministry of the Interior report read as follows:

*The crisis that has been ravaging the country since the 90s has hit Katanga – once considered the lung of the DRC's economy – with full force. The entire colonial heritage has been neglected – factories, businesses, mines, all churning out the unemployed, whose welfare depends on black-market activities that arise according to circumstance and location.*

It was only two years later when metal prices began climbing and China realised that Katanga could be exploited to supply its industry's huge requirements that a glimmer of hope appeared for the area.

An Internet search reveals that **Kapolowe** is a city of approximately 20,000 inhabitants, located around thirty kilometres from *Likasi* and on the shores of Lake *Tshangalele*. This artificial lake, fed by the *Lufira* River, serves as a reservoir for the *Muadingusha* power plant built in the 20s to supply power to the *Union Minière's* plants. It is also a major fish reserve. In the 20s, a Benedictine mission led by Mgr de Hemptinne, arrived in *Kapolowe* and built an abbey there that would become *the Mission St Gérard*.

Internet also reveals that the new Governor of the Province Moïse Katumbi, and his Minister of Energy Laurent Kahozi, went to secondary school at the *Centre Scolaire de Kapolowe* complex, and that comedian Pie Tshibanda taught there.

Before our arrival, someone by the name of Mother Marie-Marthe had planned to electrify *Kapolowe* via a waterfall on the *Luafu* River, but the project was never seen through. In late 1989, *GTZ* (German cooperation) proposes to the *Kapolowe Mission Development Committee* to power the site with electricity from a transformer substation built on the 110-kV line that passed nearby.

In 1995 – 1996, the Benedictine Nuns began work, sponsored by the *Lubumbashi Rotary Club*, to construct a MV-line linking *Kapulwa* and *Kapolowe* – the project was never completed.

*Benedictan Monastery,  
built in 1926*



## In **Banfora** (Burkina Faso) “*Light is cool*” !

On this past July 4, **Christoph Heymann** and **Gilbert Neycken** (both *ORES* employees) went to Burkina Faso to educate pupils at the *Etablissement Louis Querbes* in **Banfora** about PV power (Newsl. 26 & 30).

When they arrived in the capital, Ouagadougou, our volunteers made use of the occasion to check and accept a unit built jointly by E.A. and *Codegaz* to the village of *Zingue-desse*, 30 minutes from the capital. The project devised by **Philippe d’Hoop** involved the **PV electrification of a borehole pump** supplying the village from a 10m<sup>3</sup> water tower.

Next it was on to **Banfora**, located 6 hours away from *Ouagadougou*, where 30 pupils studying electro-technical subjects were eagerly await-

ing their arrival.

The training programme aimed to provide a full course on PV units. First off: an advanced theory course. The pupils studied the components of a self-contained unit: modules, load controllers, batteries and cables. Particularly close attention was paid to the matters of unit maintenance and safety in the workplace.

The next step involved the pupils putting their lessons into practice. The head of the establishment, *Jocelyn Dubeau*, wanted to convert the fold, located a certain distance from the grounds, into 2 houses. The fold – sitting empty as it had no lighting – comprised 3 areas: the living room-cum-bedroom, the pens, and room usually used for storing corn.

The unit has now a DC power supply and comprises 2 panels, placed on the roof, a controller and a battery. The battery can supply 4 bulbs for two consecutive nights.

At dusk on the first evening, the volunteers saw that the young shepherd had already settled into his new lodgings. Arms outstretched, he welcomed them: “*Light is cool*”.

Owing to high theft rates at night, the caretaker’s house was also supplied with electricity.

The teachers then went on to carry out theoretical and practical exams. Certificates were handed out along with prizes for the best pupils, awarded during the closing ceremony.

**Christoph Heymann**  
Project leader and volunteer



*Graduation, Ch. Heymann, G. Neycken, the electricity teachers and their students from the Lycee Louis Querbes; each student liked to be on the picture with his worktool*



*Practical works on the roof*



*G. Neycken with the student who obtained the best score*



## When generosity and creativity go hand in hand

E.A. owes a great deal to the generosity of its members who contribute, either by their subscription or via a donation, to increasing its ability to undertake an increasing number of projects. However, that generosity also very often comes through indirect channels, devised with admirable creativeness. In certain cases, this is carried out with the help of the employers' HR teams.

For years now, colleagues who decide not to attend a **career milestone party** or a **retirement party** can choose to donate the sum of money in question to a humanitarian organisation – and several of them opt for E.A. Over the last 7 years, some €10,000 have been donated thanks to this system.

Another example is the **"Let's choose"** operation, set up for moving 1,100 Group employees into the *GDF Suez Tower* in 2011. Each individual involved had the choice between a parking space and a service package, mainly mobility related. If there was money left over from the budget set aside for the operation, each beneficiary could then choose to donate it to a selection of organisations, with E.A. at the top of the list. With the majority of employees opting for E.A., the organisation received some €27,000.

Personal initiatives have also been taken that are so remarkable they deserve a mention: certain members asked their

relatives to donate to E.A. the money they would have spent on **gifts** – either for a **wedding** (Aurore and Sébastien Germeau), or for a **birth** (Pierre and Anne Devillers) – adding up to over €6,000.

**Sport** is another great vehicle for donations. Everyone knows about the employees being sponsored to run the *Brussels 20km marathon* wearing the E.A. colours, which brings approximately €25,000 to the organisation every year. Furthermore, some colleagues take part in sporting competitions and either ask to be sponsored or receive prizes that they then donate to EA: the Paris Marathon (several participants from *Electrabel M&S*), the *Marathon des Sables* (Sarah Kiriluk) and the Total Regatta, won twice by a team from *GDF Suez Trading* – representing a gift of €13,000 to E.A.

More **original** still: an after-work party organised by *Electrabel M&S* colleagues (€ 700)... It would be impossible to list all of the initiatives here, our apologies to the organisers.

We would like to give great thanks to all of these colleagues who place their trust in E.A. and back our projects in a variety of different ways. We hope these initiatives are a source of inspiration for all.

**Roland Rosseel**

*A few sport activities for E.A. : the Brussels 20 km marathon (2011)...*



*... Sarah Kiriluk on the Marathon des Sables*



*... the Total regatta (2010)...*



## Total Regatta : GDF Suez Trading rules the waves

There were 16 ships departing from Southampton on Saturday morning to take part to this competition. It was meant to take place over the weekend, in the *Solent*, between the *Isle of Wight* and *Southampton*.

Among others, *GDF Suez Trading*, *Total Gas and Power*, *Gazprom Marketing and Trading*, *BP*, *ENI*, *RWE*, *Centrica storage*, *GFI* and *Spectron* were represented.

Despite a difficult weather (Force 6

wind with gusts up to 30 knots), we managed to pass the start line first and consolidated our advantage before the first buoy. We remained leading the regatta till the end and passed the finish line with 10 seconds advance before the first follower.

The second regatta start was also epic and our skipper decided to take no chance. Britain's *Australian Olympic Games* silver medallist, skipping the BP ship, took the best start followed by one of his well known Australian

challenger.

Our ship managed to reach the third place but could not close the gap with the first two ships.

This regatta was stopped earlier because of the too difficult conditions.

On Sunday, weather conditions had further deteriorated and the Regatta Committee decided to cancel the two races. As we were first at the first regatta and third at the second one, **GST team won the Regatta!!!!**

## And the winner is: Energy Assistance

By the way, this is the second time, a *GDF Suez Trading* company won this regatta as, two years ago, a team composed of employees from *Gaselys* and *Electrabel Trading* already won it. As the winner of this regatta, we will receive 20% of the registration rights, which will be donated to E.A. . Two years ago this amounted to € 5500.

Well done to *GST* team which did not spare any effort to win! As our skipper said, we all took part to our success! This was the opportunity to meet with counterpart in a relax environment and also an enjoyable experience. Thank you Aurélie, Vanessa, Richard, Jules, Audrey and Pierre!

**Eric Vander Donckt**  
Member of GST Team



*Hats (or rather caps) off to crew members (from left to right) Aurélie Gillieaux, Vanessa Peffer, Richard Oswald (Skipper), Jules Dufournier, Eric Vander Donckt, Audrey Rossi and Pierre Jossier.*

### MEMBERS & DONATIONS

#### For Belgium

**Yearly subscription:** €20 for associated members and €5 for supporting members. You can download the subscription form at [www.energy-assistance.org](http://www.energy-assistance.org).

**Donations:** in order to benefit from tax deductions for all donations **equal to or exceeding €40 (as of 1/1/2011)**, your payment must be accompanied by the reference "**donation to Energy Assistance**".

Subscription fees and donations must be paid into Energy Assistance's bank account N°310-1675876-93.

(IBAN: BE98 3101 6758 7693 – SWIFT CODE: BBRUBEBB).

#### For France

**Yearly subscription:** €20 to be paid via a check payable to Energy Assistance France, sent to 1, Place des Degrés, 92059 Paris La Défense.

Please provide your details in order to receive your tax receipt (all aid and subscription payments made to E.A.F. are tax deductible (French taxes) up to 60%).

**Thank you in advance.**

Please notify us of any changes in your personal data (address, telephone number, E-mail address) by writing to [contact@energy-assistance.be](mailto:contact@energy-assistance.be).



#### BELGIUM

ENERGY ASSISTANCE asbl  
Simon Bolivar boulevard, 34  
B-1000 BRUSSELS

#### Persons to contact :

-> **Jean-Pierre Jeunieaux**

☎ +32 2 501 24 22

-> **Sabine Baeten**

☎ +32 2 510 74 38

-> **Michel de Ligne**

☎ +32 2 510 74 18

-> **Xavier Desmarets**

☎ +32 2 510 72 41

☎ +32 2 510 21 82

#### E-mail:

[contact@energy-assistance.be](mailto:contact@energy-assistance.be)

#### FRANCE

ENERGY ASSISTANCE France

1, Place des Degrés

F-92059 - PARIS LA DEFENSE

☎ +33 1 41 20 67 62

E-mail: [energy-assistance-](mailto:energy-assistance-france@gdfsuez.com)

[france@gdfsuez.com](mailto:france@gdfsuez.com)

Internet :

[www.energy-assistance.org](http://www.energy-assistance.org)

#### Layout :

M.-F. Lavoye

**Translation :** R. Denaegel,

X. Desmarets, R. Rosseel,

C. Van Kerkhoven

**Responsible editor :**

Jean Bouckaert

The ENERGY ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER is written and composed by the Energy Assistance bureau and communication committee. The authors are responsible for the articles published.