



Energy Assistance

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Energy Assistance NEWSLETTER

A fully booked 10 years anniversary

Energy Assistance's 10 years anniversary was a real success: more than 300 persons flocked into the *Atrium* room to listen to the different speakers explaining the achievements and the future of E.A. Above all, they all came to share experiences, projects and friendly bonds within what has become a true community.



**Gérard Mestrallet
(CEO GDF SUEZ) :**

You have achieved great things... which you can be proud of ... and speaking for the 218000 employees of the Group, I can tell you we are very proud of it too.

You are an example for all our colleagues, for their children and for their families.

You have contributed to the image of our company

A film shot during the last E.A. mission in Haiti paid homage to the know-how and the devotion of our voluntaries. We were honored by the presence of the **Haiti** ambassador. We also welcomed an important delegation of our main sponsor, GDF SUEZ, as well as our colleagues from *E.A France* and *Aquassistance*.

I want to thank everyone who involved themselves into this event and contributed to its success. In particular, many thanks to our team of permanent employees who were helped by many friends and voluntaries.

(to be continued on pg. 2)

Roland Rosseel



CONTENT

A fully booked 10 years anniversary	1
A true marathon under the Congolese sun	3
Kapolowé (DRC) - final sprint	5
E.A. at the GDF SUEZ Raid	6
Run in Lyon	7
ORES Family Day	7
Echos of the BoD	8

Our main sponsor

GDF SUEZ

Our logistics partners

ORES  Sibelga 
OPÉRATEUR DES RESEAUX GAZ & ÉLECTRICITÉ

A fully booked 10 years anniversary



Jean Bouckaert (President E.A.) :

10 years of a human adventure, made of solidarity and mutual help, that allowed to bring to the most fragile populations the very much needed energy and light. This adventure could only be made possible thanks to the good will, the commitment and the high ideals of all the participants, be they sponsors or volunteers, who got in sole return the smile and the gratitude of the beneficiaries



A true marathon under the Congolese sun

Here at E.A., we often find that one successfully completed project leads to others, and that was precisely the case for the great assignment that four of our volunteers recently undertook in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In October 2010, our friend **Johan Baert** (*Tractebel Engineering*), one of our most experienced volunteers, conducted a major mission, in conjunction with **Lieven Pierret** (*SIBELGA*), at the **ophthalmological hospital** in **Nioki**, in the northern part of **Bandundu** province. Whilst there, they were asked to take their efforts “a little bit further” – a 160-km boat trip away – to the **San Saturnino healthcare centre** in **Inongo**, to assess the possibility of fulfilling a request received a few months previously from Sister **Mathilde Monsho**. They then had to go down to the **healthcare centre** in **Fula** to evaluate the request submitted to us by Father **Lucien Madiangungu**, who had been able to admire the work undertaken by E.A. in March 2009, at the *N'Temo College* in *Kasongo-Lunda*.

Johan, the volunteer designer who came in from the cold

However, nothing could ever stop Johan from keeping his eyes well peeled throughout his many travels, which explains why, on the road towards **Fula**, he noticed the large **general referral hospital** in **Masi-Manimba**, took a detailed tour, and suggested to the head doctor that he quickly submit a request for E.A.'s assistance, to ask them to install a **back-up electrical system**. After that, our friend also wanted to return to the large *Saint Joseph hospital* in **Limete** (*Kinshasa*), where he had already discovered the situation was catastrophic during a previous assignment.

Thus, upon returning from the October 2010 mission, Johan brought with

him all the elements required for carrying out four more in 2011: **St. Joseph** in **Limete**, **Inongo**, **Fula** and **Masi-Manimba**.

When he went back to *Katowice* (where he has been posted for a few years now for *Tractebel Engineering Poland*), Johan took advantage of the long Polish winter evenings to tackle the task at hand immediately so that we could present the four project execution budgets before the BoD at the December 16, 2010 meeting. Joint orders for equipment and marine shipping naturally meant considerable savings.

Spring 2011 kept us busy as we put the finishing touches to the studies and placed our equipment order. By the start of July, all of the equipment had been gathered together at *Wereld-Missiehulp* in *Boechout*, ready to be loaded into a container headed for *Matadi*.

Johan had been able to count on the valuable assistance of **Axel Lefèvre**, who brought from *Arlon* all of the



From left to right, Jos, Dominique, Luc and Johan

small pieces of equipment that he had gathered together for his old adventure buddy, as well as a small genset gifted to E.A. by Mr. **Bernard Lempereur**, for the hospital in *Nioki*.

Finally, on July 13, 2011, the 15m³ of equipment - weighing 4.4 tonnes, probably a record for E.A. – were loaded onto a ship in *Antwerp*.



Set up of the panels-an always delicate operation

Well-connected local partners

We knew from past experience that the chronic congestion at the port of *Matadi* and cumbersome customs clearance procedures were likely to cause lengthy delays to our plans. However, what we did not know was quite how many connections Father Lucien had. Thanks to his effective intervention with those concerned, the container, which arrived in *Matadi* on August 31, was delivered to the *Procure Sainte-Anne* convent in *Kinshasa* on September 21! The installation mission could therefore get started worry free.

Given that the assignment was going to be especially busy, it was an ideal opportunity to involve some novices in the E.A. adventure. Two *Electrabel* technicians, **Luc Brossé** and **Jos Govaert**, immediately accepted the proposal to accompany Johan. And, only eight hours before the departure, one of our old veterans, **Dominique Thomas**, from *ORES-Arlon*, joined the team, replacing at the very last minute a 4th volunteer, who was obliged to stay behind for unavoidable professional obligations.

The girls dormitory lighting allows the study even in the evening



A race against the clock, followed by local rejoicing

Needless to say, the mission was a constant race against the clock. Johan had drawn up a highly detailed schedule, spreading his men over the four worksites and setting time aside to conduct a few assessment visits for future projects (in all, he brought back all of the data required for five new potential projects, including one in *Kahemba*, in the south of the province, for which he drove for 20 hours in a four-wheel drive with Sister Yolande Buzika!).

At the end of the two weeks, the mission was a complete success – everything had been installed in time, even if there are always unforeseen events, such as the day Luc and Jos had to wait a long time before someone accepted to open the door to a hospital ward in *Fula* that was locked... and where a young woman was giving birth.

Our four heroes were justifiably exhausted, of course, but how rewarding it was to measure the work they had completed by the rejoicing of every-

one there, starting with the children as “fairy electricity” miraculously appeared.

Like in *Inongo*, for example, where, on the last day, Dominique had pulled a table into the girls’ dormitory so he could fix three lights he had remaining to the ceiling. By that same evening, a little girl had already pulled up a chair to sit and do her homework.

A heartfelt thank you goes out once again to Johan, for his inexhaustible devotion to E.A.’s cause, and, of course, thank you and hats off to Dominique, Luc and Jos for their skillful and flawless work on this truly great mission!

Gilles de Roubaix
Project Coordinator

The light party



Scialytic lamp supplied by solar panels



Kapolowé (DRC) - final sprint

After a great deal of sweat, stress and tears (see Newsletter 34), the big **Kapolowé** project was finally officially commissioned and inaugurated on 25 November 2011, by the governor of Katanga. The project consists of the construction of a 15 kV line and several transformer stations to supply a hospital and school complex at **Kapolowé**, a city of more than 20,000 inhabitants located 90 km from **Lubumbashi**.

In a joyful and even euphoric atmosphere, the general reference hospital, the entire St. Gerard Mission with its schools for girls and boys and the Chef Coutumier district have at last received the electricity that for so long they had been waiting for.

Such an ambitious project, on the scale of E.A. , could not have been realised without the financial assistance of the *GDF SUEZ Foundation* and *Solidarité Cistercienne*, the

partnership with the local electricity company, SNEL, and the logistic and financial support of the Katanga Governorate.

It took no fewer than five missions and five repeat volunteers to bring the project to fruition.

Thanks to magnificent team work, the project is seen as a feather in the cap of E.A., now well-known in Katanga. Our thanks go out to all those who supported and encouraged us.

We will cover this topic at greater length in a future Newsletter.

Claude Gastout
Project coordinator



Dominique Keser - Raphaël Matanda - Marcel Bavay - Kapolowé - DRC - May 2011



Kapolowé - DRC - May 2011

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE
WISH YOU AND
YOUR DEAREST ONES
A HAPPY AND
WONDERFUL
YEAR 2012!**



Energy Assistance at the GDF SUEZ Raid

2001 was a year of jubilee : the 10th anniversary of E.A. of course, and the 20th anniversary of the « *Raid* », as well, a major corporate sporting event and well known to the members of the staff of *GDF SUEZ*.Group. But 2011 has also been the field for a World première : on the occasion of this double anniversary the **first team racing under the E.A. colors in the Raid** was created.

At the end of June the idea was born and in no more than a few days 6 highly motivated team members, all closely linked to E.A., decided to put together their skills in sport, logistics and, above all, communication, and gained the indispensable support of their respective branches to finance their team's registration.

Stated objective... to get E.A. talked about! This unique event actually brought together 184 teams –1,800, people–representing 24 countries, an ideal opportunity for E.A. to build its contacts with the countries in the group where its action in favor of the least well-off is less known.

Objective surpassed... Our fluorescent yellow equipment was absolutely unique of its kind, and its preferential treatment aroused the curiosity of many.

Secret objective... To finish the competition, and not come in last!

Further objective surpassed... The E.A. team came in an honorable 127th in the overall ranking.

And yet the organisers of the Raid did not make things

easy for poor amateurs like us : organised in *Fort Romeu*, in the French Pyrénées, in a dreamlike setting at more than 1,800 m altitude in a sunshine, the competition was all ups and downs : in all 40 km of orienteering, 65 km of mountain-bike racing and 7 km of canoe, lasting 3 days; hours effort, but in the end, the great joy of having reached our objectives, in the name of our association, and the hope of doing it all again next year!

It was also an opportunity for a team bringing together members of staff from different horizons and with different occupations to discover (for some) a hidden passion for mountain biking (oh yes!) but mainly, to put into practice on the ground the values of mutual assistance and support that underlie our association, to enroll new generous talents (project managers, volunteers) and, more generally, to make E.A.'s action known to an open and curious public.

The whole E.A. team (**Anne Gerset** and **Olivier Callebaut**, our scouts, **Xavier Desmarets**, **Delphine Dehasse**, **Maxime Palante** and **Eric Vander Donckt**, the athletes), take the opportunity of these lines to stress the generosity of their sponsors : the legal department of *Electrabel*, *BEEI*, *Tractebel Engineering*, *Electrabel M&S*, *GDF SUEZ Trading* and *CPM Europe*.

Our warmest thanks go to all of them!



From l. to r. : *Xavier Desmarets*, *Maxime Palante*, *Delphine Dehasse*, *JF Cirelli* (induced by the enthusiasm of the team), *Anne Gerset*, *Olivier Callebaut* and *Eric Vander Donckt*

The good mood after the pain...



Run in Lyon

On October 2, Lyon was the capital of all running races.

10 km, half-marathon, marathon, all endorsed by the French Athletics Federation. But above and beyond this, 5 years ago a corporate challenge was established for the 10 and 21 km races, in order to unite all the actors of the world of business around the common values embodied by sport.

In this framework, **Cofely**, the major sponsor of the event, set up an operation in aid of Energy Assistance France: for each "Cofely" badge worn, one euro is donated to E.A.F. Hence E.A.F. received € 3 500 , a great success on this day which brought together 15 000 people.

Marie-France Roy
Déléguée générale E.A.F.



ORES Family Day

The second edition of the **ORES Family day** took place on September 10th under a shining sun in the magnificent lush park of Castle Resteigne in Tellin (Luxemburg Province). It was the occasion for the personnel to meet outside the work and share family relaxing moments.

ORES generously associated E.A. to this event. The occasion to present the numerous facets of our association and to greet the skills of our numerous volunteers, most fantastic Ambassadors E.A.

It was a moment of conviviality, of strong exchanges evidencing the quality of the ties that link us all together: the spontaneous gift of the best of ourselves which puts hope and action into verse.

We'd like to thank thoroughly **ORES** through the very sympathetic steering committee, for their welcome, and also for the space and means put at the disposal of our stand. E.A. had a real privilege to participate.

Sabine Baeten



The E.A. stand.



The E.A. stand, decorated with a « historical » banner...



Echos of the E.A. Board of Directors - September 20, 2011

Appraisal of the new projects

Country	Name	Description
Cambodia	Mondolkiri	Orphanage : revamping of the electrical installation
Cambodia	Phnom Penh CER4	Orphanage : revamping of the electrical installation
Haïti	Lamardelle	School and dispensary : secure power supply (genset and PV panels)
Haïti	Tabarre	Hospital : secure power supply (PV panels)
Haïti	Delmas	Hospital : secure power supply (PV panels)
Haïti	Saint-Roch	School : electrification (PV panels)
Senegal	Gogone	Quarter 300 inh. and well pump : connection to the network

Roland Rosseel

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.

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 subscription and gift 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.



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