



Newsletter: Valeria Giandomenico, Editor

*2nd Newsletter
pages 1 and 2*

*Feature – page 2
Alache Ode from UK-based
VSO lead a workshop “How
to Become a Strong and
Attractive Organisation”*

*News – page 3
Welcoming letter from Afaf
Kamal-Eldin the
Chairperson of BTA*

*&
Upcoming
Events – page 3*

Dear BTA members!

First of all hi! How are you doing? ☺

It is a long time that I am not getting in touch with you!

Well, three months are a long time to skip getting in touch with friends!

I am sure that you would like to describe a lot of things that happened in your life. However, I will be selfish as always and I will start writing on BTA ☺

Last time I was telling you many things about our first achievements:

- 1) We have established external contacts with different organization
- 2) We have activated storage space in Uppsala for items to sell to create money for our activities
- 3) BTA homepage have offered good news about us and our projects
- 4) Team leaders have been chosen for all our projects

Then we have been fascinated by the ants' society and we tried to follow their example!!!

Well.....It's time now to let you know what we did during these last three months!

- A) We have been elaborated a yearly plan with several fundraising project ☺
- B) The Activities in Sweden project started the African Fika project or African coffee events. For all the people who are not familiar with Swedish language Fika means coffee break for socializing ☺. The first appointment created new members and attention for BTA and interest for a second BTA project the African book club. The African Fika project will continue with several new appointments.
- C) Our external relationship member has been done her best to link BTA to several informative sources, such as United Nations Development Program "Migration for Development Community of Practice"
- D) BTA members have chosen our First Honorary Member that will receive her honorary certificate during "The Magician/Rap cultural/fund-raising event" (Aug 15, 2009). Surprise, surprise..... the next news letter will tell more about both! ☺
- E) It was also time to set a kick off for the book club, which is one of our planned activities. We decided focusing on African women writers and the aim is that while discussing the books we have more insights about African issues and get to know more about the different matters through a native eye ☺. The selected books are: 1) Slave by Mende Nazer and 2) Dead Aid: why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa by Dambisa Moyo
- F) BTA's logo has formally been approved after several modification and adjustment to become designer on our own was not that easy ☺



African Nature, by P.Sundin

G) We started continuing studying a lot to be able to improve our BTA. We understood that to attend specific workshops could have been helping

The first selected workshop was “How to Become an Attractive and Strong Organisation”. All of you can read more on *Feature* below.

H) Our Abandoned children project leader and the BTA chairperson are Sudanese women. Today, they have Swedish researcher and professor positions in Uppsala where they live and are going to travel to Khartoum. Their plan is to visit the children homes in Khartoum and to identify organizations that BTA can work with. Our chairman already was informed about Hope & Home for Children (www.hopeandhomes.org). This organization was the first that initiated lifting up the problems at Maygoma and the main aim today is to find families for children and close the orphanages. Our BTA members will try to meet one of their most active member in Khartoum.

I) Last I would like to mention our very important event to conclude this year: the Zimbabwean cultural evening planned for 5 December 2009. ManLuckerz sings, with his group, Zimbabwean songs that he wrote himself. Their songs address social African problems, e.g. violence against women, and all of you can see his homepage <http://www.manluckerz.org/>

It is now time to send my best wishes for a refreshing vacation time and I will be back next October!

Best regards,

Valeria Giandomenico

BTA, Information and recruitment officer

Email: info@bridgetoafrika.se

FEATURE



Alache Ode

A major feature during the past three months is the workshop “How to Become a Strong and Attractive Organization” held on the 1st of May. Ms Alache Ode led the workshop, from the UK-based organization Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO, www.vso.org.uk), an international development organization that works through volunteers. Instead of sending food or money, VSO sends skilled-professionals who wish to help in the fight against poverty. The Diaspora Volunteering Initiative is supported by the UK Department for International Development. Fourteen members of BTA attended the workshop and participated in evaluating the current status and future expectations for the organization.

ABF-Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund in Uppsala and VSO-UK sponsored the workshop.

**I will prepare and
some day my
chance will come!**

Abraham Lincoln
(1809 - 1865)

From the Chairperson

After eight months of its foundation, Bridge to Africa (BTA) is happy to release the second issue of its newsletter. We will use the newsletter to provide information to our members including past and upcoming events related to BTA as well as other news of interest relevant to the goals and objectives of the organization. The newsletter is also open for contributions from the members regarding their views and ideas regarding BTA mission, vision, objectives and the means to achieve them. Philosophical and practical debates related to the core goals of BTA are very much welcome as well as calls for joint actions related to any of our projects and activities.

BTA is proud that many of its members are engaged in different activities of various size and magnitude. It is the power of the volunteer that derives and will stand behind the success of the organization. We need members of different specialties and cultural backgrounds to build and sustain the bridge. Membership is open to every one who finds in BTA a possibility to make some hopes and dreams related to human rights come true. It is easy to join BTA; the code of conduct, constitution, and membership application form are available at BTA's website www.bridgetoafrica.se. Welcome.

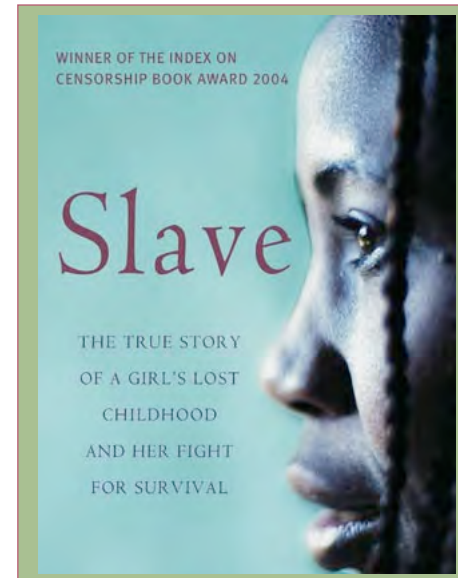
Afaf Kamal-Eldin

Upcoming Events

Book Club Reading Starting in August

- *Slave, by Mende Nazer*
- *Dead Aid: why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa, by Dambisa Moyo*

Please, get in touch if you want to start reading with us!!!



The Magician/Rap cultural/ fund-raising event

15 August 2009 Information for participating is coming soon !!!

The Zimbabwean cultural evening

5 December 2009 Information for participating is coming during fall !!!

Bridge to Africa (BTA)

www.bridgetoafrica.se

Hildur Ottelinsgatan 14B

752 31 UPPSALA

Sweden

Fax: +49 - 32 12 - 10 60 239

info@bridgetoafrica.se