

Dear Members of the Rotary Club Tricastin France

Firstly, it was again a pleasure to meet with rotary members in August 2008 in Mondragon and we would again like to thank all members for their constant support for ReefDoctor and our education projects with the Ifaty public primary school.

ReefDoctor would also like to give a big thank you to the outgoing president Mr. Michelfor his support in setting up the collaboration between ReefDoctor and Rotary Tricastin and also for his fantastic work on the school books donation. Also, congratulations to the new president whom we look forward to working with.

This year, due to club members support with school materials and repair of the schools food store in 2007, the 320 school students attained a 70% top grade pass rate in their end of year exams more than any school in the Ranobe area. A number of students will be going on to secondary school this year, as with 2007. With your continued support, this will only get better.

ReefDoctor Rotary collaborative projects 2007-2008

2007 Project Update;

Ifaty School Food store repair

The Ifaty Primary schools food store area was in desperate need of repairs to ensure the food from the WFP (UN world food program) for the children was keep in a hygienic state as the food was being eaten by rats as the floor of the building was just dirt and infested with insects.



Inside old food storeroom - no covered floor



Old school food storeroom

Rotary members kindly donated 700 Euros for the repair which was done by the local villagers under the direction of Mr. Elias and with the help of ReefDoctor staff.

The success of the repair highly impressed the community and school ministry and helped with the continued good relations between ReefDoctor, Rotary and the community, while also motivating families to keep their children in school.



Repaired storeroom - now cement floor



Repaired food storeroom

As the president of Ifaty said to ReefDoctor, *“we have never in all our years ever received such a gift from the westerners even with all these hotels around us who have never really helped our children. What you have done will never be forgotten and we have no way to repay you and can only hope to continue working with you towards the improvements of the school for our children, thank you on behalf of all Ifaty”*

In addition, WFP (World Food Program-UN) members who came to renew the contract between the school in September 2007 said they were amazed with the repairs saying the room was the best in the region and happily gave the school continual food aid for the next 3 years.

School Materials

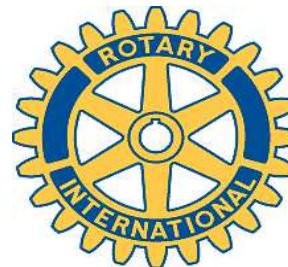
Due to government budget cuts for the 2007 school year, school was in desperate need of standard school materials for the children and teachers.

From the donated money of 1000 Euros, 700 went to the food store repair, ReefDoctor spent the remaining money 300 Euros on much needed materials for teachers for teaching the standard curriculum courses.

ReefDoctor bought the best quality materials available to ensure they last in the hot and humid conditions.



School children help unload materials



Purchased items included;

- chalk of all colours, pens, pencils, colouring sets,
- blackboard – rulers, set squares, triangles, compasses
- administration paper and copy sheets
- large paper for work
- few text books
- note books for all students and teachers
- And much more thus providing materials for all classes for all the 320 pupils for 2007 through to 2009.
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Head Master with some of the materials

Solar Panels and school text books

For 2008, the collaborative project between ReefDoctor, Rotary and EDF's 'Electricians Sans Frontier' has gotten started without problems. Although there were delays in shipping the panels and books to Madagascar, all arrived safely in the capital Antananarivo on the 26th July and no customs duties were required. Mr. Marc Guillermin, one of EDF's and Electricians sans frontiers volunteers, collected the panels and books and delivered them to one of ReefDoctors education staff Miss. Christina Tsimas who has safely delivered the books to Ifaty on the 31st July. The cost for the transport of Christina and materials plus accommodation and food in the capital has come to 900,000 Aairy or 400 Euros. We hope this cost can be covered by the sale of local handicrafts by Rotary which has so far generated 220 Euros. Thank You

Mr. Marc Guillermin arrived the 14th of August to Ifaty and has successfully installed the solar panels on main classroom building. The final step completed was on the 18th August with training for the villagers on the use and maintenance of the panels and equipment. The village president Mr. Bruno has installed a DINA (local law, recognized by regional government) protecting the panels from damage and theft. A guardian has been hired by the local village to guard the panels at night.

ReefDoctor will be inviting the regional educational ministry DREN and CISCO, Major of Belalanda (the regional major), village presidents, Fishermen's and Women's association board of Directors, hoteliers and Toliara ministry of Tourism members alongside the Ifaty villagers to the opening ceremony to be held in two weeks time as per Malagasy customs. Photos and films will be sent to all members

The school books will be organised by ReefDoctor educational staff alongside the school teachers and Director towards the end of August at the end of the school holidays before school starts and co-in siding with our revised marine and environmental curriculum. Due to the great amount of



books donated, not all will be used by Ifaty. The remaining books will be given via the ministry to the Primary school and secondary school in Mangily.

Collaboration with Rotary Tricastin and Rotary Tulear

There has been a rotary club of Tulear operating for the past 10 years and still has a good collection of members which meet every Wednesday once every two weeks. ReefDoctor meet briefly with the club and they expressed their interest to link with Tricastin. In the next few months, Reef Doctor will continue to discuss with Rotary Tulear can get involved in the collaboration between Reef Doctor and Rotary Tricsatin. Contact details will be sent to the new president Mme.....



RD Dive Officer Claire outside Rotary Tulear building

Together, with your continued support, we can continue to change and enhance the lives of the children and communities in the Bay of Ranobe. We look forward to further discussion and cooperation on current and future projects well into 2009 and beyond.

THANK YOU EVERYONE