

Dear Members of the Rotary Club Tricastin France

Ifaty Public School Solar Panels Installation and Opening Ceremony

Mr. Marc Guillermin one of EDF's and Electricians sans frontières volunteers arrived the 14th of August to Ifaty and successfully installed the solar panels on main classroom building.



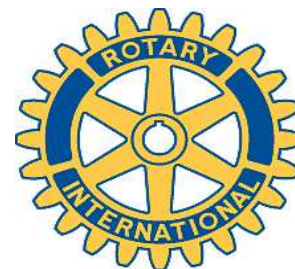
The panels were meant to be installed on the food store room but Marc felt for security reasons it would be better to be put them high up on the main school building.

After the installation was completed on the 18th August, Marc and partner set up a few workshops to train a number of people from the village in the use and maintenance of the panels and equipment. Christophe RAKOTONIAINA and Manjo will be the two main locals looking after the panels alongside Mr. Elias a local entrepreneur and good friend of ReefDoctor. The village president Mr. Bruno has installed a DINA (local law, recognized by the regional government) protecting the panels from damage and theft.



ReefDoctor and the village then invited the regional educational minister Mr. Helland from DREN (Direction Regional du Education National) and Mr. Fransoan the director of CISCO (who run the schools teachers), Major of Belanda (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 which was held on the 23rd September after a long wait to get the required ministers to attend.





The Ceremony went very well with all invited parties attending plus we had Madagascar TV film the ceremony alongside radio and local journalists.

Here is a summary of the speeches:

President of the Fokontany Ifaty- Bruno Kezasouvenir

Greetings to all who attended. Thanks to Reef Doctor and Roderick for cooperation over the last several years. Ifaty is happy to have Reef Doctor living and working together with them here.

School Director Leon

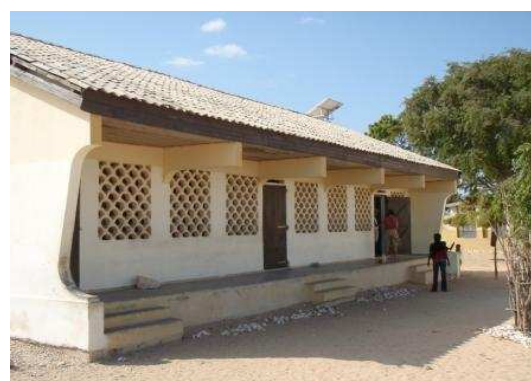
Reef Doctor and Rotary haven't just helped the school with solar panels, they've also done repairs on the school building and the eating area, trained teachers and helped with school supplies. Thank you again to Reef Doctor and Rotary.

Chief Cisco

Thanks to Ifaty for being good at receiving guests and making the Vaza here happy to live and work here. Reef Doctor has done a number of great things with the school here in Ifaty. He then asked Ifaty to continue to work hard to build strong relationships with the Reef Doctor team. To Reef Doctor he gave thanks for helping Cisco do its job and he offered assistance in the future to continue the strong relationship. To the Director of DREN he gave thanks and reminded everyone that he is a busy man with many things to do and only his love for Ifaty, Reef Doctor, and the EPP brought him out to Ifaty to be with us today.

DREN- Mr. Hellond

Thanks to all that attended. Special thanks to Reef Doctor and Rotary Tricastin for their donation and help to the school. He then talked about the public private partnership between the school and Reef Doctor which make this relationship possible. He then gave more thanks to Rotary Tricastin for sending the books and solar panels to the small school of Ifaty, far away from France where none of the members there had even seen Ifaty. He then invited them to come to Ifaty and have a look for



themselves at the use of the panels and the books and the great work being done at the EPP. He then spoke of the need for FRAM (Teachers association) to be reformed in order to stand up and start to work. He talked about the importance of parental involvement in every school and asked the fokonolona (village council) to make sure to get FRAM up and running soon.

Finally he guessed that at some time in the near future there will be computers and computer training at the EPP and hoped that the students would study hard to learn the new tool of the future.

Reef Doctor- Shawn Peabody Project Manager

Thanked all attendees'. Gave brief history of Reef Doctor and explained our three main objectives- Research, Education and Conservation. Give brief history of Education program in Ranobe, the curriculum and teacher trainings. Asked that the teachers work hard to make time for the EE curriculum because of its great importance to the vezo children. He then officially presented the solar panels from Rotary Tricastin, EDF, and Electricien Sans Frontiers. Next he described the planned usage of the panels- night classes, village meetings, educational videos, computer classes, etc.

Reef Doctor- Christina Tsimas Education Officer

Elaborated more about the usage of the panels and the classes that are offered. She asked for cooperation with teachers, parents, students, DREN, CISCO in implementing the environment curriculum.

Reef Doctor- Nome Benjarra Head Socio-Economic Officer

Summarised events and instigated the closing of proceedings.

Reef Doctor- Mameno – Guardian, Led the school children in 4 Dances to officially close the morning's event. The songs they sang were, Reef Doctor and Rotary, Mahay miasa ny malagasy (The malagasy know how to work), The importance of the Environment (tontolo iainana dia zavadehibe) and finally The Goodbye Song (Veloma Longo)





The donated books were also handed over officially from ReefDoctor and Rotary to the school, though the division of books to which classes in Ifaty and some going to Mangily had already been done a week before the ceremony.

ReefDoctor is waiting to get the official confirmation letter of acceptance of book and which books went where from the ministry CISCO and DREN and this letter will be passed onto members.

ReefDoctor is also trying to get hold of the MTV footage of the ceremony and MTV have told us that they will pass us a copy of the film in due course. Unfortunately the journalists decided not to publish an article on the ceremony why we do not know, its Madagascar! However the day after the ceremony the proceedings of what went on etc. was posted on the 6pm news on national Malagasy radio station for Toliara (heard around country), we are also trying to get a transcript of this too for our records.

As all have said in the ceremony a huge thank you goes to all Rotary members for this great project and ReefDoctor will update you all to how the panels are used and looked after before we further the installation of panels in other schools in the Bay of Ranobe

Thank You All