

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUOMI-TANSANIA SEURA 2010

BOARD 2010-2011

Humphrey A. M. Kalanje	Chairman
Tapio Pitkanen	Vice Chairman
Pertti Vanne Sebastian	Treasurer
Gahnstrom Andrea	Secretary
Fichtmuller Dennis Londo	Member
Edward Mutafungwa	Member
Frateline Kashaga Inga	Member
Lempiainen Marjaana	Member
Toiviainen Micky Mkina	Member
Sirkka-Liisa Peltola	Member

AUDITORS

Anette Miraji

Risto Ekholm

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The current board of the Suomi-Tansania Seura (STS) was elected on 23rd April 2010. It met whenever possible on a monthly basis with the exception of the summer holiday period in 2010. The majority of the meetings were held at the Aurinko Meeting Room at the Kepa Library.

ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2010-2011

1. World Village Festival 2010

The World Village Festival was held from 29-30 May 2010 and the Suomi Tansania Seura participated fully. We took the opportunity to hand out fliers, sell

handicrafts and fabrics. Plenty of people visited our stand. Special mention should go to Inga who organised a lottery at our stand.

2. Summer Picnic 2010

Yjxlr organisation again organised a picnic on Sunday 18th July 2010. It was held at the Iso Vasikkasaari island in Espoo and was very well attended. There were plenty of children and young people. '

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3. Mtu ni Watu Festival.

Our association, in collaboration with the Caisa International Centre organised another Tanzania Cultural Week. The event took place at Caisa and was in two parts. We kicked off with a month long Art and Handicraft exhibition titled "Maisha Yetu" which was opened by Ambassador Kari Karanko, featuring photographs by Kai and artwork from the Makonde in the main gallery. We also mounted an exhibition at the lobby which focused on typical artifacts, fabrics, clothes and handicrafts that are found in Tanzania. Along the corridors we had Tinga Tinga paintings. All the exhibits were very kindly lent from our own members.

On Thursday 16 September we launched the three day Cultural extravaganza bearing the main title Mtu ni Watu. There were programmes for children (storytelling and dance performances), adults and everyone else. The extravaganza was opened by a representative of the Tanzanian Ambassador to the Nordic and Baltic Countries. It culminated with a fashion show and party which again, showcased the skills and talents available in our community.

4. Tufahamiane Club.

Following the success of the Mtu ni Watu, some members of our community suggested that we establish a society which would cater to the needs and aspirations of our female members. STS provided support in the establishment of the Tufahamiane Club which at the moment operates under the auspices of the STS. The Tufahamiane Club organised performances by our children at the Independence Day celebration and provided catering. They have continued to have monthly meetings for children at Caisa.

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5. Independence Day Celebrations.

We celebrated the independence day this year on 5 December. We organised it together with the Tufahamiane Club. We did also manage to have some serious discussions in.

6. Rehema Scholarship Fund

We have continued to sponsor the education of Ms. Rehema Charles who is an Aids orphan and whose late sister was a big part of our HIV/AIDS programme in Southern Tanzania. Rehema graduated last year from the Igumbilo Lutheran Secondary and is now studying at the Morogoro Junior Seminary School for her A-levels (pre-university). Because she is further away from home, the costs have increased to about Tshs 1,500,000 (approx. 684 €) a year. Special thanks should go to her guardian Mr. Noah who has been our main link in Tanzania. Though we are up to date with her fees, we do not have sufficient funds to cover her final year. Contributions are still very much welcome. These can be paid to our bank account, clearly marked Rehema fund.

7. Thanks to Andrea and Sebastian, we have continued to publish our Taarif a Newsletter which however is now mostly done on-line. It is up to all of us to help keep it up to date and relevant. Again, contributions in the form of articles, photographs etc. are greatly welcome.

8. Our associations also received a very generous and welcome to purchase the Safaripassi at a discounted rate. This we did, and the book is now on sale to our members and others.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2011-2012

1. The association will take part in the World Village Festival at Kaisaniemeni from Saturday, 28th to Sunday, 25th May 2008. Volunteers are very much welcome.
2. The association through the Tufahamiane Club will also have a stall from which Tanzanian food will be sold.
3. There will be another Summer Picnic this year.
4. The association will continue to sponsor Rehema Charles's education through

High School. The scope and future of the programme shall be revisited by the incoming Board.

5. The association shall continue to support the Tufahamiane Club. However the scope and extent of this support will be revisited by the incoming board.
6. The next Board will have to start making preparations for Mtu ni Watu 2012. One possibility will be to see how it could also be integrated in the yearlong celebrations of Helsinki as the World Design Capital. Possible sponsors (City of Helsinki, Finnish Cultural Foundation, Finn Fund, Tanzanian Embassy etc.) and collaborators (Caisa, artists etc.) should be contacted as early as possible.
7. It has become obvious to us that we need to improve the quality of our Taarifa newsletter. Members should be encouraged to submit articles to it. The editorial board should be more active in supporting the editor. As STS is becoming more diverse, there is need for volunteers who are able to translate texts into and from Finnish, Swahili and English.
8. A proper inventory of our material at our storage space at Rauhanasema is needed urgently. This should be done as soon as possible.
9. The STS shall again host the Tanzania Independence Day celebration this year. It should be noted that because this will be the 50th anniversary of Tanzania's independence, an exceptional and extended programme would be appreciated. Plans for such should also begin as soon as possible.
10. The STS should continue its links with other similar associations through Moniheli and other umbrella organisations. Increased efforts should be made to connect to other associations active in Tanzania.
11. STS has to work harder to increase and diversify its membership base. Members from all age groups and nationalities should be welcome.
12. STS should find ways of broadening its revenue base. The incoming Board should find of increasing the revenue so that it can fulfill its obligations.

Humphrey A.M. Kalanje

13 April 2011,
Helsinki