



Dear Members,

A great thanks to all the members who joint us at the lunch meeting of 20th October. Your participation was very encouraging and there was good interaction during the lunch. Many thanks to the speakers of the day who introduced us to the great job that is being done by SOLIDARIDAD. Mr. Saygbe and Mr. Boima really made a masterful appearance and took us through their current programs. See further reporting in the newsletter.

In this issue we are also featuring the project that is being undertaken by EMERGI. This is a Renewable Energy Technology Startup based in the Netherlands and works in West Africa. They have just launched a crowd funding campaign to introduce electric Kekehs in Liberia. See below and join the 1% crowd funding.

Don't forget to **ctr-click** the links at the articles

We have requested your consent to make our members list available to all members. As no members have objected we publish hereby our list at the end of this newsletter.

Good reading

Your LNBBCC team

Emergi is introducing electric kekehs in Liberia

Help Liberian drivers earn more with electric tuktuks!

For Emergi: Innovation in Sustainability

€4,801.11 raised of €10,000

48%

Donate

118 supporters

Deadline: Ends on Friday, 04 December 2020

Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Activity manager: Emergi E-Kekehs

How do you like your VIN? to 547

[Emergi](#) wants to introduce a more sustainable and inclusive means of transport! This means:

Why are we doing this?

Inclusion of female drivers

- Less pollution in the city
- Less noise for the driver
- More income for the driver
- Better service for customers
- Reduced cost of ownership (from US\$4,000 to US\$2,500 per year)
- Reduced CO2 emissions and a positive impact on the environment
- Liberia's resilience is improved as locally produced renewable energy reduces dependency on unreliable gasoline import

Why are we doing this in Liberia specifically?

- Currently there are no female drivers in the Liberian kekeh sector. We are gonna change that!
- Big impact because the transport sector in Liberia is outdated
- More straightforward to create a positive change due to the size of the country
- Liberia has many difficult challenges; by overcoming them we can learn a lot and scale up quickly in neighbouring countries

[Read more](#)

Cocoa stakeholders Hold Strategic Conference on The Sector; Brainstorms Exporting Quality Cocoa from Liberia



Stakeholders of Liberia's Cocoa sector have concluded a day-long annual season Kickoff Conference to symbolically commence this year's cocoa season.

The conference was in two phases: a first phase focused on the National Cocoa Sector Public-Private Platform (NC3P) Steering Committee Meeting which brought together key players from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP).

The conference also had in attendance six other organizations designated from the private sector, producer organization and CSOs/ NGOs. The selected representatives participated in the steering committee meeting to review the goals of the National Cocoa Sector Public-Private Platform (NC3P) and provide a mandate for activities of the cocoa sector platform for the next six months.

Mr. John S. Flomo, Director General of LACRA told FrontPageAfrica in an interview that with support from the government, the organization is working to ensure that efforts are being put in place to boost export of quality cocoa on the world market the quality of cocoa from Liberia on the world market is low. “We also want to ensure that LACRA effectively regulate the cocoa sector. We also want to ensure that the market is regulated. Lot of the businesses are only interested in how much they can make and not how much support they can give farmers and that is something hindering the development of the sector. Not much support is given to the sector”, he said.

[Read More:](#)

UN Women Empower Lawmakers on Gender

Responsive Budgeting for FY2020/2021 National

Budget



To help promote gender mainstreaming within the national budget, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN, formerly UNIFEM) held a day-long workshop on evidential gender analysis of the budget from a gender perspective and through the EU Spotlight project.

The presentation of analysis was facilitated by the country office of the UN Women in Monrovia with the Joint Legislative committees on

Ways, Means and Finance, Public Accounts and the Women Legislative Caucus, which was held recently (Tuesday, September 22, 2020) in a local hotel.

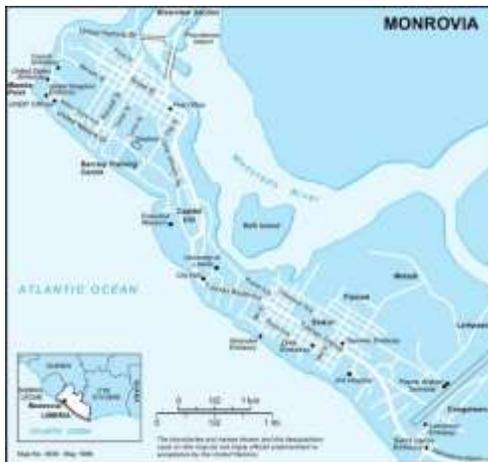
Nine (9) lawmakers participated in the training, as well as the representative of the Deputy Minister of Budget, and UN Women Program Specialist on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), and the consultant that undertook the gender analysis of the FY 2020/2021 national budget, Harold Marvin Aidoo.

During the analysis, key findings underscored that the Government of Liberia is a long way off from addressing gender inequalities, particularly because of differences in budget and policy.

Also, the findings also averred that while the issues of gender are substantially highlighted in the PAPD, Gender Policy, other policies and the Budget Call Circular, gender disaggregated allocations for specific programs and plans are not specified in the budget.

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HELP SAVE OUR UNIVERSE



The Liberia Netherlands and Business Culture Council (LNBCC) in partnership with the Liberia Maritime Group present operations save the Mesurado River.

The Mesurado River is one of the smallest but most strategically located rivers in Liberia. It flows through the capital of Monrovia and is crossed by the Gabriel Tucker and King Zulu Toma Bridges initially, built in the 1970s and rebuilt in the 2000s.

Over 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are said to be killed by marine plastic pollution annually.

Plastic pollution can now be found on every beach in the world, from busy tourist beaches to uninhabited, tropical islands nowhere is safe.

Every day approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. Below in the picture you will see why the Mesurado River needs to be safe. A huge pile of garbage on the bank of the Mesurado River

There may now be around 5.25 trillion macro and micro plastic pieces floating in the open ocean thus put direct harm to our marine environment
Rivers are a major source of plastic waste into the oceans. We estimate that over 1000 rivers are accountable for 80% of global annual emissions which range between 0.8 – 2.7 million metric tons per year, with small urban rivers amongst the most polluting.



What is plastic pollution?

Parties bearing responsibilities for plastic pollution are the Government that can make and enforce rules, the companies that produce or use plastics, and consumers meaning we the communities' dwellers. Each party has its own responsibility to ensure the environment is clear and healthy.



As a trade facilitation group in Liberia, the Liberia Netherlands Business and Culture Council (LNBCC) and Liberia Maritime Group would want to see a clean and healthy environment that would protect our marine environment, support tourism and attract investment to Liberia. Beginning the first quarter

of 2021 both LNBCC and LMG will engage the communities and key stakeholders along the bank of the Mesurado River to commence a marine litter clean-up exercise.



Overlooking Downtown Monrovia from Anglers upper-and-lower-deck

LISCR Opposes EU Emissions Trading Scheme



Liberia has the second largest shipping registry in the world, next to Panama.

Liberian Shipping and Corporate Registry (LISCR) has announced its opposition to the recent proposal from the European Union Parliament on the implementation of a separate, unilateral set of regulations, in the instance of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) scheme for international shipping.

The Liberian Registry comprises more than 4,400 vessels aggregating over 170 million gross tons, representing 12 percent of the world's ocean-going fleet. Liberia has earned international respect for its dedication to flagging the world's safest and most secure vessels, according to LISCR's website.

Alfonso Castellero, Chief Operating Officer of the Liberian International Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR), says: "We understand the need for efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions and continue to push for a cleaner environment, as well as a more efficient maritime industry. However, at least for international shipping, it is vital we work toward one set of requirements established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), avoiding the creation of a fractured system of regional requirements that reach beyond their own waters, and assuring a unified global effort to confront this important issue.

According to the EU, International shipping is a large and growing source of greenhouse gas emissions and requires swift mitigation measures.

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The Liberia Netherlands Business and Culture Council (LNBCC) post Covid lunch meeting Oct. 20, 2020



The Liberia Netherlands Business and Culture Council (LNBCC) Post Covid Lunch meeting 2020 was graced by her registered members, newly incorporated members and potential members who have expressed interest to join the team in the near future. This unique occasion took place at the Mamba Point Hotel, on UN Drive in Monrovia on October 20, 2020. Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Stanley Slagmolen LNBCC Business , opening the occasion; he spoke of the huge business potential Liberia has offered ranging from tourism to agribusiness. He gave

an overview of the LNBCC and its involvements in terms of entrepreneurship in the business sector in Liberia.



Stanley Slagmolen introduced the new members of LNBCC who were present at the meeting: FAYAD Ent. and Mamba point Hotel. He talked about the involvements and collaborations of member's organization and prospects as time goes by. He informed the participants about the RVO¹ SME opportunities offered in Liberia and mentioned the training opportunities that are sponsored by Nuffic (which represents the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Mr. Slagmolen also introduced the lunch keynote speakers, in the person of Mr. Cyrus Saygbe, representing the SWAP programme and Mr. Boimah Bafaie, CORIP, both from Solidaridad West Africa in Liberia

Mr. Saygbe did an extensive presentation about the SWAP program impacts on the lives of local palm oil farmers. A major impact of the program is created by co-financing a mill in a remote area that will support many small out growers. Also the creation of small businesses that provide additional services to the sector, whereby women and youth benefit directly, was impressive. After

¹ Netherlands enterprise Agency

both presentations, many cross-session questions were asked and answers were made. The lunch meeting concluded with networking amongst LNCCC members themselves . This aspect was all about members sharing their progress and challenges during the past year and seeking future opportunities.

Gov't Launches "Air-Liberia" Today



The Government of Liberia launched on Friday, October 30, 2020, its first-ever post-war Airline for Liberia called "Air-Liberia". President George M. Weah, according to a press release from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, did the honors for the launch ceremony at Robert International Airport.

The government acknowledges that the COVID-19 Pandemic has put partial restrictions on borders worldwide, which has come at a great loss to players in the aviation industry. But it said Liberia, through this bold initiative by President George M. Weah, took the opportunity to tap into some good fortune by ensuring it becomes a significant player in the aviation space especially in the sub-region.

It is envisaged that the launch of the new airline by the government will lead to the realization of making Liberia a destination of choice and an aviation hub in the region. A colorful ceremony was held at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County. This unique occasion was graced by the Liberian Leader, government officials and members of the international community, as well as business partners. The new national airline of Liberia was named [Lone Star Air](#), and the motto is "Wings of Liberia." The plan is for the airline to initially fly from Monrovia to 11 destinations in West Africa, including Accra, Abidjan, Abuja, Banjul, Bissau, Conakry, Dakar, Freetown, Lagos, Ouagadougou, and Sao Tome. Liberia's national airline ceased operations about 30 years ago, in 1990. Now "after years of consultation," the president of Liberia decided on Goldstar Air management services.

The goal is for the country to use the airline as a driver of social and economic transformation, with the major objective being that the airline will bring more visitors to Liberia. The airline plans to be a low-cost carrier, with a focus on tour operators.

[Read More:](#)

Hope for smallholder farmers amid a pandemic

The Alternative Livelihood and Empowerment Programme (ALEP) by Solidaridad, which runs alongside its cocoa and oil palm programmes, has served as a lifeline for smallholder farmers to stabilize their food stock and generate additional income during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic in Liberia. With the spread of the virus instigating a lockdown for some period, the woes of smallholder farmers deepened as it hindered their easy access to their farmlands. Farmers also struggled to feed their families due to higher food prices and limited purchasing power.



For smallholder farmers in the Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Nimba counties, who are being supported under Solidaridad’s cocoa and oil palm programmes, their involvement in the Alternative Livelihood and Empowerment Programme — which seeks to promote crop diversification for increased income — built their resilience against the impact of the pandemic.

Through the programme, Solidaridad provides food crop seeds, training and technical guidance on crop diversification for cocoa and oil palm farmers under the second phase of the Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Programme (CORIP) and the Sustainable West Africa oil Palm Programme (SWAPP), funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana, as well as the Liberia Cocoa Sector Improvement Programme (LICSIP), funded by the European Union in Liberia. The Farmers were assisted to intercrop their cocoa and oil palm farms with the food crop seeds they received.

After months of planting the seeds, the farmers started harvesting their produce. Over 230 farmers have harvested peppers, garden eggs, watermelons and cucumbers. Other food crops they harvested include corn (maize), cassava, groundnuts, cabbage, beans, and okra.

Helena Cooper, a 34-year-old cocoa farmer in Gowhua in the Nimba county, who was excited about her harvest says she was able to buy additional food for her family during the lockdown period with the income she generated from the sale of her food crops.

“I got 12,500 Liberian dollars (63 dollars) from the six bags of 25kg garden eggs I sold. From that money, I was able to support my family during the height of the pandemic,” she says.

For Stanley Kollie, an oil palm farmer in Nimba county his sales were unbelievable. “We don’t always make this kind of money when we sell. But the alternative way Solidaridad taught us to plant vegetables has increased our harvest. I made 40,000 Liberian dollars (201 dollars) after selling seven 25kg bags of cabbage, which helped me to cater for my family’s needs during the lockdown,” he says.

Stanley indicates that he invested part of the income he generated into labour on his oil palm farm.

To sustain the intervention, the farmers have been encouraged to reinvest and scale up their farming activities with some proceeds they generate.

“It is exciting to see that our alternative livelihood programme has transformed the livelihood of these smallholder farmers by providing them with alternative income during the pandemic,” says Cyrus Saygbe Sr, Solidaridad’s oil palm program manager in Liberia.

He adds that with farmers generating between 10,000 and 150,000 Liberian dollars (50-756 dollars) they were now in a better position to purchase improved cocoa and oil palm seedlings and inputs from small and medium enterprises, and pay for farm management services to improve their yields.

The Alternative Livelihood and Empowerment Programme activities enhance crop diversification for increased farm income and food stock while farmers wait for their cocoa and oil palm crops to mature. An unintended outcome of the crop diversification is the improved management of cocoa and oil palm farms by farmers who frequently visit farms to nature their food crops.

Pink October: walk organised by Liberian Cancer Society

Saturday 31 October the Liberian Cancer society organised their annual walk to highlight awareness against breast cancer. The walk took place early morning and started near the new government offices in Congo Town and ended at the SKD Stadium. The walk took about an hour and half.

The



turnout was large and two Army Brass bands were part of the procession.

Free scans to detect breast cancer, were available for men and women.



LCS is organizing their 2nd annual pinning program on 28th November 2020 at Royal Hotel, with an evening of Musical Excellence (7:00 PM)

Members

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Hope You Find Our October, 2020 Newsletter very interesting!!!

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