



A school in Bamako
History and future

NEWSLETTER :: ROSEY-ABANTARA



BACKGROUND

Our major project in Mali, which began three years ago is now reaching the end of its first chapter: by summer 2007, the main construction work will have been completed and we will begin work on fitting out the interior of the school. Here are a few reminders of what our "Rosey Abantara" project is all about:



1. To build and equip a private school in the suburbs of Bamako, Mali, entirely financed through the work of Le Rosey Charity Committee. The school will be ready to welcome around 1500 students at the beginning of the 2007 school year in autumn.
2. "Rosey Abantara" school is Le Rosey's "younger sister". It will have close links with l'Ecole Biya, whose owner and director is Mr Alessane Maiga, our remarkable partner chosen for his enthusiasm, spirit and creativity. We have chosen a private initiative in order to have full control of the project with the help of a local fiduciary and accounting management firm and of Veritas.
3. Three groups of Rosey students, accompanied by their teachers, have already visited Bamako to work in the school and to get a realistic idea of the immense educational needs Mali has as one of the poorest countries in Africa. These Rosey students have all been profoundly marked by their experience in Africa.
4. Our aim is to provide Rosey Abantara students –in return for a nominal school fee– with a quality education based upon a number of fundamental Rosey principles. This is a long term project which aims to make Rosey Abantara one of the most dynamic schools in Africa.



REPORT: AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF THE PROJECT

Before the next stage of the project, a decision was made to carry out an independent survey on the value-for-money and financial management of the project so far. To this end, an independent, reputable company was appointed, "Afrique Expertises" whose mandate was to respond to the following questions:

1. What is the structural quality of the building?
2. What is the value of the building in terms of local market prices?

The study took a month to complete and the results were received on 1st May; copies of the study have been made available for reference in the school library. We will be happy to send this document upon request to anyone who has made financial contributions towards the project. The results of the study are as follows:

1. Analyses both on site and in the laboratory showed that the structure is solid. The study did, however, make some reference to the fact that the concrete did not fully meet the required standards in terms of the concrete mixture used and some vibrations which were detected. Nonetheless, it was concluded that this would not affect the resistance of the structure of the building.
2. In summary, the value of the building when compared to local market prices has been estimated at 490 millions CFA, i.e. CHF 1,200,000. The actual cost of construction undertaken by Le Rosey totaled a figure of 267 millions CFA, i.e. CHF 670,000.

This is quite a substantial difference, something which proves that all the effort which has gone into managing the construction of quality premises at the best price has borne fruit. This is due in particular to:

- the excellent work carried out by the office of our local representatives, EGCC International in Bamako, who have closely managed the finances of the project and who have found reputable building contractors
- our own efforts, both in Switzerland and in Bamako, in terms of relations with building associations, price negotiations, and, with help of Veritas, commitment to ensuring the quality of the work undertaken.

We have just started the last stage of construction: painting the walls, tiling, and installing electrical equipment and sanitary facilities, blackboards and furniture. This work should be completed during the summer, and the building will be ready to receive its first students in the autumn. To this end, we have just transferred CHF 400,000 to the project.



THE FUTURE

And beyond? It is clear that the main part of our work begins now — to create a school which is faithful to the values of Le Rosey in terms of:

- open-mindedness, tolerance, respect for human values
- professional development for the teaching staff
- bilingualism, to promote skills learning in all areas and to devote time to sports and arts.

In order to achieve this, we still have to:

- finish fitting out and equipping the school
- supply the school with books (library, classrooms) and material (IT, laboratories)
- buy land within the vicinity covering an area of 5000m² which will be converted into a sports field.

In order to realize our ambitions for this next stage of the project, we will need around CHF 200,000. In years to come, many Rosean students and teachers will have the opportunity to visit the school and assist staff. Daily Internet links will be established and academic programmes will be shared. Our commitment to provide help both financially and in any way we can does not end here!

Our contribution towards a better world is through the education of young people, future leaders of this century, not only those who are entrusted to us in Rolle, but also through offering a solid education to those who are less fortunate. We are also convinced that such a project in the developing world constitutes an essential life experience for Le Rosey students.

We continue to count on the enthusiasm and generosity of current and *anciens* Roseans, Rosey parents and on Le Rosey. Many thanks to you all!

Yours sincerely,

ALEXA FIRMINICH AND MARC DAHER.
PRESIDENTS OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE 2007-2008.

