Container full of computers for Africa

VET4Africa organizes delivery of a 20 feet container to Cameroon   **18.05.2021**

Director of Studies Günter Mögele, responsible for IT in the school management of the "Staatliche Berufs-schule I in Kempten" organized a large-scale collection campaign together with the projects VET4Africa and IT4Africa.

In Bavarian schools, many new teaching aids and computers were purchased last year as part of the digitization offensive due to Corona, and materials in need of renovation were discarded. At the same time, in many regions of Africa, education is often provided using only the simplest of means. Since several vocational school teachers from the state vocational school 1 in Kempten are involved in the VET4Africa project, this has become a win-win situation together with IT4Africa.

The **VET4Africa** (**V**ocational **E**ducation and **T**raining **4** (for) **Africa**) project was launched in Wildpoldsried in 2018 under the patronage of Minister Dr. Gerd Müller. Over 20 enthusiastic supporters, many of them vocational school teachers, organized training sessions in Wildpoldsried and mentoring trips to Africa. **IT4Africa** (Information **T**echnology **4** (for) **Africa**) was founded by Cameroonian-born Evariste Happi. Happi lives and works as an IT consultant in Hamburg and supports his home country in many ways. In 2019 Happi took part in a training course on the construction of photovoltaic

Evariste Happi from IT4Africa at a solar training in Wildpoldsried, Germany

systems in Wildpoldsried and since then the two organizations have been working together in partnership at all levels and supporting each other.

How the idea came about is quickly told: Happi told Mögele about his idea to send a container with IT material to Cameroon, but there was still some equip-ment missing and the financing of the transport. The promoter of regenerative energies from Wildpoldsried, Wendelin Einsiedler, spontaneously agreed to take over the costs of the transport.

IT4Africa logo and slogan

 Immediately everything was set in motion: Happi organized a container transport from Kempten to Cameroon and rented a van to bring his collected EDP material from Hamburg to Kempten on weekends in his spare time. In the meantime Mögele collected all the discarded material at the vocational school center in Kempten and especially at the vocational school I that was suitable for use in Africa. In addition to about 200 functional PCs and laptops, the container was loaded to the brim with teaching and instructional materials in the areas of electrical, IT and environmental technology.

Qte.	Material
200	Computer
55	Projector
22	Printers
30	Network devices and telephones
4	Electrical engineering training stands
40	Multimeter
80	Electric motors
2	Large, powerful inverters
	various other material

Material for Cameroon in 20 feet container

Since the container was announced for Monday at 2 p.m., the ma-terial was assembled on Saturday on the ground floor of BS1 in Kempten and packed for transport, so that everything was ready for loading on Monday afternoon. But unfortunately, due to Corona, the transport company cancelled the agreed date for the delivery of the container at short notice. But at the same time promised the delivery for Tuesday at the same time.

Overfull loading of the container for Cameroon

On Tuesday afternoon many supporters waited hopefully for the arrival of the container. But no transport arrived in Kempten. Heated phone calls and mails between Kempten and Hamburg did not result in any satisfactory information as to what had gone wrong. Towards evening, all helpers returned home very disappointed and without any hope that the transport would still take place.

But on Wednesday at noon, the driver of the container transport surprisingly called the school's secretary's office. The vehicle together with the container was already in front of the school and had to be loaded as soon as possible. Spontaneously, many helping hands were gathered and the container was loaded.

After 4 sweaty hours, all the material was loaded, the shipping documents signed and the driver immediately set off for Antwerp, where the container will be loaded onto a banana freighter as a return transport and is scheduled to arrive in Cameroon in 2 weeks. There it will be received by the non-profit organization "Institut Panafricain pour le Développement Afrique Centrale (Institute for the Development of Central Africa)".

Evariste Happi will fly to Cameroon himself to take care of the distribution of the relief supplies. During his stay in Cameroon, he will also equip an orphan school with computers from the container. Happi says: "I am firmly convinced that education for young people in Cameroon is the most important asset for their future. Doctors provide medical assistance, I am an IT specialist and I want to use my knowledge and opportunities to support the people in my home country and empower the next generation to live independently in a modern world."

The entire VET4Africa team would like to thank Evariste Happi and all the helpers for their commitment, as well as the "Special purpose association vocational school center Kempten" and the "transport cost sponsor" for the generous donation, and wish the African colleagues every success at their schools.

Overall organization and coordination of VET4Africa:
Municipality of Wildpoldsried, represented by Günter Mögele, second mayor of the municipality as well as director of studies and staff of the school management of the State Vocational School I in Kempten, in cooperation with bbw gGmbH - International Division, represented by Ms. Marlyse An-noepel and Mr Thorsten Schultheiß. The project is supported by BMZ through GIZ.
For further information see: www.VET4Africa.com

Overall organization and coordination of IT4Africa:
Evariste Happi, IT consultant from Hamburg. For further information see: www.IT4Africa.org