



## Press release

### Solar case for Africa

**In December 2018 4 lecturers from Bavaria flew to Senegal and trained Senegalese teachers in the design and installation of photovoltaic systems in the Bavarian house in Thies. In their luggage they carried 50 solar suitcases financed by the Bavarian state for the training at schools in Senegal.**

The project was launched in December 2017 in Wildpoldsried during the symposium "World with a future through vocational training". At this event, German Development Aid Minister Dr. Gerd Müller promised to support training courses for African teachers in Wildpoldsried and directly on site. In keeping with the minister's motto: "Africa needs energy, training and jobs! This requires young, motivated and well-trained specialists. Africa can make leaps of the century via decentralised energy supply, "green citizen energy cooperatives" and isolated solutions, as they have been tested in Wildpoldsried for years.

Thanks to the intensive cooperation of active vocational school teachers, two 2-week advanced training events could already be held in Wildpoldsried in 2018. After a very successful training of English-speaking teachers from the African countries Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zambia in July, the same course in French took place in September. Participants from Senegal, Morocco, Burundi and Djibouti were trained in the use of the solar function cases for training purposes.

Since following the training courses in Wildpoldsried, courses on PV technology were also to take place in Africa and this was also to be accompanied by German mentors, the next step was to find ways and means of bringing further training materials to Africa. Thanks to the good contact of Minister Gerd Müller with the Bavarian State Chancellery, another educational project could be financed at the end of the year, this time by the Bavarian government on site in Senegal.

The Bavarian State Government had already opened a Bavarian house in the city of Thies in Senegal in February 2018 to improve the career prospects of young people in Senegal. The aim of the Free State is to offer people in their home countries a future so that they do not end up in asylum centres in Bavaria. So it was only logical to provide further training on photovoltaics in Senegal. The Bavarian State Chancellery spontaneously promised to finance 50 solar suitcases together with a one-week training course in the Bavarian house in Senegal.

The challenge was that the training had to take place in 2018. As quickly as possible, the 50 suitcases were prepared and sent out, and appointments and flights were reserved for the lecturers and translators. After successful completion of all preparations, Wilhelm Kirchensteiner, developer of the training concept and main speaker, Manfred Wolf, teacher training and co-lecturer, Thomas Pfluger, electrical engineer and translator and Adel Jaballah, bfz coordinator and translator flew to Senegal to train another 10 teachers.

It was a special challenge for the lecturers to train the functionality of a photovoltaic system with storage tank in only one week and to realize it practically with the construction of the solar function suitcase. The theoretical contents were supplemented as often as possible by practical measurement exercises in the sun and played through.



#### The Solar Functional Case

Together with comprehensive documentation, serves to train specialists for the planning, installation and maintenance of systems for the generation of electrical energy through photovoltaics. With an integrated battery storage unit, the power supply for the many electrical appliances is thus made possible for 12 V DC and, via an inverter, for 230 V AC. At the same time 4 mobile phones can be charged.

In addition, all currents and voltages in the energy system can be measured with a measuring interface and the enclosed measuring instruments. Thus, the basics of electrical engineering can be taught everywhere in a practical and easily understandable way. In vocational training and further education, the teaching concept based on the dual principle enables both theoretical knowledge to be imparted and practical skills to be trained. On the basis of this tried and tested educational concept, qualified graduates can also plan, build and maintain larger energy systems.



Thanks to the excellent motivation and discipline of the participants, it was possible to hand over the "PV Installateur 1" certificates to all participants at a festive ceremony on Saturday.

Both the participants of the training in Thies and those of the training in Wildpoldsried were each presented with a kit of the solar function case for their own work and two more for the respective school.

The responsible person of the Senegalese Ministry of Vocational Training, Mr. Sire Ba, as well as the directors of the schools from all over Senegal travelled to the Bavarian house in Thies for this ceremony and thanked the lecturers for their work and the motivation of the participants.

All participants agreed that this measure was a very good building block for a successful future in Senegal. Now 20 teachers in Senegal have been trained and equipped with the necessary materials and can now train young people at their schools so that they can take over and spread the future development of ecological and economical energy supply.

Coordination of the project "Solar suitcase for Senegal"

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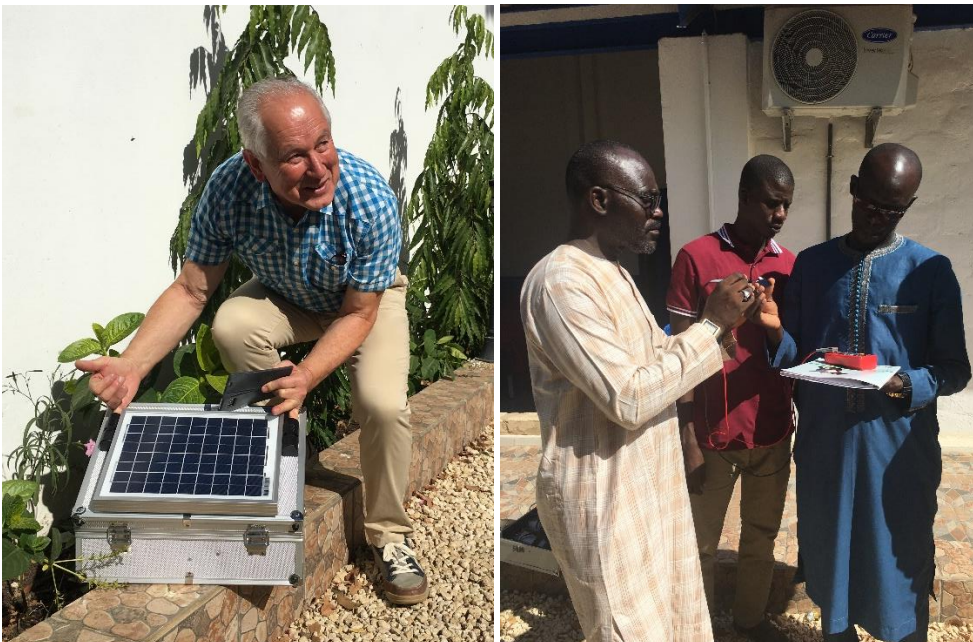
*The project was funded by the Bavarian State Chancellery*

Bayerische Staatskanzlei





The lecturers together with the course participants in front of the Bavarian house in Thies (Senegal)



On the left, the developer and principal lecturer Willi Kirchensteiner loads the solar case with solar energy, on the right, participants create a measurement protocol in front of the Bavarian house in Thies



Installation of the solar module on a new case by a student



On Saturday 10 participants received the diploma "PV Installateur 1".