Video Awards for BEBUC Scholars

The Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. has awarded two Congolese groups of scholars a video prize and invited them to the award ceremony and to participate in a German-African Media Camp in Bremen. The pupils of the two winning teams are all BEBUC scholars.

For the competition "High School Media Challenge", more than 100 groups of pupils from eleven African countries and from Germany had applied. Only few won the attractive award, which comprised an invitation to the German African Media Camp in Bremen at the end of November. Among the winners there were also two teams from high schools from the Democratic Republic of the Congo: From Collège Alfajiri in Bukavu in the East and from Groupe Scolaire du Mont Amba in the capital Kinshasa. Both schools are official cooperation partners of the University of Würzburg.

The Competition and its Organizers

The competition was organized by the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. (Potsdam, Germany) within the program COMENGA, which stands for "Come and Engage". It is financially supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. The program aims to encourage partnerships between German and African schools and to support civil engagement in this field.

About the Media Workshop

Under the slogan "New Media – New Images", the participants of the Media Camp, which are organized in small mixed groups, produce several works of media (video clips, blogs, animated movies, photo series) in Bremen. Thus, they come to know new techniques, and, at the same time, exchange their views of Africa and Germany and work out new contents and visions to overcome traditional clichés.

All costs are paid by the foundation; those for the originally planned further trip of the BEBUC scholars to Würzburg would have been paid by the foundation Pöhlmann-Stiftung (Margarethenhöhe). Unfortunately, the two Congolese teams did not receive their visa in due time despite the great commitment of the German Embassy in Kinshasa, but the invitation to Germany (including the visit with the President of the University of Würzburg, Alfred Forchel) is still valid. The trip itself has thus been postponed.

About the Awardees and their Institutions

All Congolese awardees are scholars of the BEBUC program, which has been established by Gerhard Bringmann, professor of chemistry at the Uni Würzburg, and his Congolese colleague Virima Mudogo, an alumnus of the University of Würzburg from Kinshasa – meanwhile in cooperation with many further partners. BEBUC is financially supported by the foundation Else-Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (Bad Homburg).

One of the awardees, Gauthier Murhula Bahizire, has just passed his final high school exam at Collège Alfajiri – with the best result in the entire province of South Kivu. Only a few days ago, he has started his studies of medicine at the Université Catholique de Bukavu in Bukavu. His younger brother, Eric Balolage Bahizire, is the speaker of presently four BEBUC scholars of his high school.

During the video production in Bukavu, the two brothers were assisted by the bachelor student Alain Bapolisi, likewise a BEBUC scholar and, at the same, the speaker of all 24 scholars in Bukavu. The Collège Alfajiri (in English Dawn)
Comenga was founded in 1938, still during the Belgian colonial era, and has, since 1941, been directed by Jesuits. It has been participating in the scholarship program since 2012.

The awardees from Kinshasa were Cindy Ntela Lushima, who has been a BEBUC scholar for just a few months, and Daniel Paluku Lwanzo. During the production of the video, they were coached by Trésor Kalonji, the head of the BEBUC office in Kinshasa. Kalonji had already experienced Germany during a previous stay and knows a lot about video production. Groupe Scolaire du Mont Amba is a big high school on the campus of the Université de Kinshasa and, like the school in Bukavu, highly renowned.

Compliments from the President of the University of Würzburg, Alfred Forchel

Although the two Congolese delegations could not come to Würzburg personally, they nevertheless proudly presented their awarded videos – by video link. President Forchel was impressed about its technically and artistically successful performance and its content.

He congratulated the laureates by phone on their impressive performance and also on their excellent study results, and wished them a lot of further success for the future – and renewed his invitation to visit the University of Würzburg.

First contacts in Berlin

The participation had been initiated by Dr. Karine Ndjoko Ioset, the BEBUC Program Manager. She had participated in the German-African Campus in Berlin in June and had, thus established a first contact between COMENGA and BEBUC. She had then initiated and accompanied the participation of the two high schools in the competition.

The University of Würzburg has not only been the place of origin of the scholarship program, it also holds cooperation agreements with all 24 Congolese institutions participating in BEBUC – presently 16 universities and eight schools, among them Alfajiri and Mont Amba.

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Links

Link to the video of the students of Collège Alfajiri:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14HCZe9lv2U

Link to the video of the students of Mont Amba:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/0kc0zvx6pe6l9nd/gsma_german_challenge.mpg

Information on the scholarship program BEBUC and on the NGO Förderverein Uni Kinshasa:
www.foerderverein-uni-kinshasa.de

Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V.:
www.german-african-partnership.org

COMENGA competition:
http://comengachallenge.tumblr.com/