

“What’s up ?” Alofa Tuvalu bulletin -Fall 2010

Congratulations to all members of parliament for their recent election and members of GoT for their nominations. Elections have been on everyone’s mind for the last months and, on September 16th, a real excitement for the Alofa Tuvalu gang who stayed plugged from Paris to Tuvalu via Los Angeles, Fiji, New Zealand and Japan. This did not prevent us from keeping busy and before it is all forgotten, we’ll recount below some of the things which happened, since GiGi left Tuvalu and landed in Paris, last June.



- Early June, while Mataio, Ian and Tineku were actively negotiating at the Bonn Climate Talks, Maud and Fanny from the Alofa Tuvalu (AT) Parisian office acted as Tuvalu booth keepers promoting the country’s efforts to reach “the fossil fuel independency by 2020” target.



- In Fiji, Sikeli, AT Biogas specialist built, from sketches we supplied, the first prototype of a plastic biogas digester in Fiji.

For the Nanumea Kaupule and community, we decided, as the first reproduction of the Amatuku digester, to use plastic rather than bricks. Sikeli used the prototype at home and, late August, Sarah and him made the trip to Nanumea to assist families and communities to operate their individual biogas digesters. 4 were implemented. ([Fieldtrip brief report](#) and more : www.alofatuvalu.tv/blog)



- In Tahiti, early August, Melton, Tuvalu Climate Change officer and AT General Secretary represented Tuvalu and Alofa at the

22nd French Polynesia Congress of Communes. A few things had to be adjusted with the organizers who did not speak English but Melton did a great job introducing French Polynesia institutions to climate change impact and telling about Tuvalu ongoing actions to tackle global warming. The 2006 King Tide video was projected.



- In Tuvalu, John, followed up the request from AT last committee meeting and developed the idea of importing more electric bikes and creating a solar charging station. Many interesting exchanges in between John & Saufatu, Chris in the US, Sarah in the UK and us in Paris. If there is enough interest, we will send applications for funding a few dozen bikes and charging station.

- In Noumea and Magnetic Island, Sandrine & Dani, AT marine biodiversity specialists, sent the 1st step of the 2010 survey report done in partnership with the fishery department, kaupule’s and Semese. 2 more reports to go. The 1st one is now in the hands of Fanny and Alofa Tuvalu Paris treasurer,



Severine, a marine biologist herself. In 2011, Sandrine will restate the survey findings to concerned ministries departments and institutions.



Providing we find the funds, she might, at the request of the fishery department, train officers in diving security methods and emergency responses. At the request of the Funafuti Kaupule, Alofa Tuvalu is also considering booklets to be produced for kids educational events.

- Mid September, AT junior legal expert, Florent, landed in Funafuti. He has been following climate negotiations since a few years and is there to share information & raise awareness about international issues and help where it is needed (environment department, Tuvaluan lawyers, students, communities, etc.). Here he's counting trees with Pasivao, Scott and Sarah.



Apart from coordinating or assisting on the above, with the help of Cecilia, Laurent, Maud, Kryss, Laurent, Elizabeth, etc, other activities pursued in the Paris office since June included:



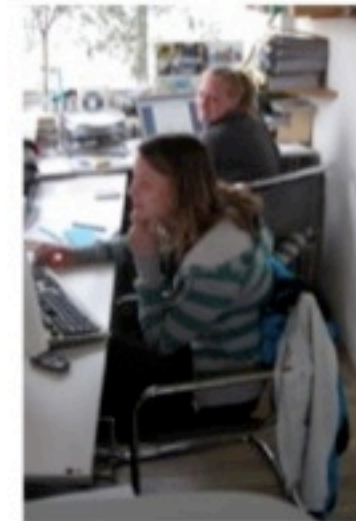
- Following up the comic books translations: Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Serbian, Maori...

- Preparing Cancun Conference of Parties, with a kid awareness event and translating, lay-outing and soon printing of the Spanish comic book.

- Drafting (slowly) the biodiversity book.

- And as usual: participation to festivals, conferences, children events and multiplying administrative tasks: Reports to funders on biofuels 2009/2010 and Children communication ; Application for 2010 communication activities ; Application for kid

awareness educational tools based on biogas, biodiesel, gasification in Tuvalu ; And last but unfortunately not least the longest saga ever : Piggarep, thousands of exchanges over 4 years to maybe get a few dollars. It is now a question of principle and one day, we will write a book.



We had some fun too : the 14th of July traditional fireworks were shared with Alofa friends and, this year, Lilian and Tine joined in. They came back in August with the children to visit Paris and we were pleased to be able to accommodate them in the building. Sandrine too paid her first visit to the Parisian office, coming from Noumea to see her family in France.

And... we closed the office for 4 days... One of them was dedicated to pick up 3 varieties of plums in the family garden and making compotes ! Watching roses, ladies of the night, orchids and other flowers bloom again and again over the summer was very refreshing too.

- Before heading for Tuvalu last August, Sarah spent days and nights preparing her ["We are all Tuvalu"](#) art exhibition to take place from October 9 to November 20, 2010 at the Mansfield Museum (Uk). The last AT rendez-vous before.... COP16

Last but not least, the last few months in France, many people grew more and more mortified... It started with our soccer team making a fool of itself... followed by political scandals making a fool of France. Many went down in the Streets to demonstrate their disagreement, and shame... for our nation to have lost some of its dignity. This is France !



Fetaui...