

Launch of the third edition of the "Heart Cruise" in Berlin

The AMAN-International Foundation has chosen the theme of reforestation for the next edition of its "Heart Cruise" program

Berlin (08.12.2010) - The AMAN-International Foundation organized in cooperation with the "Black Heritage Group" and the Embassy of Haiti a special evening to launch the third edition of the "Heart Cruise" through which it presented its documentary film coupled with a mini concert of the Black Heritage Group, as part of the symposium of young African leaders at the "Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD)" in Berlin.

Placed under the patronage of His Excellency Jean-Robert SAGET, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti in Germany, the launch of the third edition of the "Heart Cruise" in Berlin saw the participation of a large cosmopolitan audience composed of personalities of the economic, political, cultural and diplomatic world of Haiti, Among them were the Ambassador of Bangladesh and the Ambassador of Benin in Germany who came to support their Haitian counterpart Jean-Robert SAGET who honored the event with his presence.

Mark DONFRIED, Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, began by welcoming the large number of participants to this program, which is part of the Young African Leaders Symposium.

The evening began with a presentation of the AMAN-International Foundation by Harry LOUISERRE, representative of the LESPRIT COM structure (Paris/Berlin).

He continued with the presentation of the music group "Black Heritage" whose lead singer MFA Kera was invited to express the reasons for her commitment to accompany with her group the "Heart Cruise" program initiated by the FAI.

Before starting the musical entrance, MFA Kera explained that she had recently had the honor of singing for the first time for FAI on the occasion of the "Mondays in the Sun" program. After watching the FAI documentary film, she was impressed by the work done by the AMAN-International Foundation in Africa and especially captivated by the "Croisière du Cœur" program.

For MFA Kera, who began her career in Paris as a singer alongside music stars such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Lionel Hampton, and who proclaimed the slogan "The power of music to reconcile man with nature", her meeting with the Founding President of FAI, Marie Ginette AMANI-FRIDRICH was "a great fascination", as she herself expressed it.

The Founding President of the FAI was then invited to the podium and winked at the assistance of the Ivory Coast and Haiti, wishing that stability would return to these two countries, which have been shaken by socio-political upheavals and, for Haiti, by the stigma of the earthquake.

The President explained that the "Croisière du Coeur" program, already so well conducted by FAI for several years in the field of the environment, will put for its third edition a special emphasis on sustainable development because "according to a study by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), 13 million hectares of forests are cut down by man every year, the equivalent of a soccer field every 15 seconds; worse, primary forests, those that have never been exploited by man, represent only 30% of the world's wooded areas". Also Marie Ginette AMANI-FRIDRICH drew the attention of the audience to the climatic upheavals and natural disasters like the one that occurred in Haiti.

Also, after the event "Mondays in the Sun" in October which put the FAI in the spotlight in Berlin, the AMAN-International Foundation (FAI) has committed to launch in Berlin the third edition of the "Heart Cruise", one of the FAI's major programs, in order to contribute in its own way to respond to the emergency through the sensitization of all, but in particular for reforestation operations.

The objective pursued by the AMAN-International Foundation since its creation in 2003 in Côte d'Ivoire is to provide aid and assistance to socially disadvantaged children and unemployed women in developing countries, with a priority in the areas of nutrition and health,

education, vocational training, micro-finance and environmental protection. FAI also places special emphasis on the protection or establishment of human rights. Other FAI actions include support to micro-projects, construction and rehabilitation of schools, hospitals or orphanages and their equipment, improvement of the quality of life in disadvantaged urban areas and rural areas through practical training in the hygiene of the living environment.

On the occasion of this evening, the President and Founder of FAI presented her organization once again. She stressed that FAI does not pursue any political, religious or ethnic goals and does not belong to any national or international movement. However, it may cooperate with or enter into partnerships with another organization or a recognized national or international institution that pursues the same or comparable goals as itself. This applies, for example, to world-wide aid and development organizations, economic, cultural and educational institutions, internationally active funding institutes or comparable organizations.

The special program "Heart Cruise" aims to raise the awareness of the people by inspiring each of them as well as the decision makers to take personal actions or measures for the protection of the environment, biodiversity and sustainable development.

Afterwards, the floor was given to H.E. Jean Robert SAGET who testified to the actions of the Foundation and the seriousness of its work. He particularly greeted the Founding President of FAI and the Director of the FAI Board of Directors and expressed his wish to see FAI establish itself and intensify its actions in Haiti in the near future.

Following the Haitian Ambassador's speech, the FAI documentary film "La Force d'un Rêve" was presented.

The Corsican-Malagasy singer MFA Kera, who founded the group "Black Heritage" with the American jazz musician Mike Russel, then performed a musical and artistic performance under the slogan "The power of music to reconcile man with nature" with a focus on the presentation of the tree scientifically called "Moringa Oleifera" to support the promotion of tree planting as part of the "Heart Cruise" in developing countries.

Funds were raised during this special evening and donated directly to the three FAI partners at the event: 40% of the funds were donated to the musicians to support their accompaniment, 45% were donated to "Trees for the Future", the organization FAI will call upon to gather its expertise for reforestation in Africa as part of the "Cruise of the Heart" and 15% of the funds were donated to the Embassy of Haiti to support the "Soleil d'Haiti" center that brings together a dozen orphaned and destitute children after the recent earthquake disaster.

In addition to the investment for the organization of the evening by FAI, the Director of FAI, Professor Bernd-Dieter FRIDRICH, personally offered a special envelope to the Embassy of Haiti on behalf of the orphanage "Soleil d'Haiti".