

## **"MONDAYS IN THE SUN" in Berlin**

**The aid organization FAI was honored at the start of the new international event series "Mondays in the Sun" at Afrika Haus Berlin**

**Berlin (04.10.2010) - On the first Monday in October 2010, the non-profit association Farafina e. V. presented the new event series "Mondays in the Sun" to the public at the Afrika Haus Berlin together with the international agency Lespritcom Paris / Berlin. The first evening of this kind was dedicated to the Fondation AMAN-International (FAI) and its various humanitarian aid programs and development projects in the social sector.**

Behind the event is the idea of joint support for social, cultural and artistic projects. The motto "Mondays in the Sun" wants to show that we can all contribute to brightening up an often gray and difficult to cope with everyday life with good humor, humanity and social commitment.

To kick off this series of events in Berlin, the organizers have chosen the Fondation AMAN-International for its long-standing, reputable and universally recognized work on behalf of people in developing countries. Founded in 2003 by Marie Ginette AMANI-FRIDRICH, the Fondation AMAN-International has made a name for itself as a humanitarian organization in development cooperation that helps people in particular need, regardless of national origin, religion or skin color, and has a focus on supporting socially disadvantaged children (children in rural areas, children of separated parents, orphans or former child soldiers) as well as unemployed women in order to give them access to educational opportunities or to build up their own livelihood.

FAI works in particular in the areas of nutrition and health, education and vocational training, nature and environmental protection, and financing of micro-projects. Fondation AMAN-International has implemented several projects in Africa that have been instrumental in significantly improving the living conditions of more than 8,000 people who have benefited from FAI assistance programs, either directly or in collaboration with local civil society organizations. This work has led, among other things, to two honors from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: in 2008, FAI Founding President Marie Ginette AMANI-FRIDRICH was made a Chevalier of the Order of Merit for Solidarity, while Bernd-Dieter FRIDRICH, Chairman of the FAI Board of Directors, received the insignia of the Order of Merit for Solidarity on the occasion of the "National Days of Solidarity" on 25 August last year. August last year, Bernd-Dieter FRIDRICH received the insignia of officer of this Ivorian Order of Merit from the hands of the responsible Minister at the central public event in the presence of several members of the government, parliamentarians, ambassadors, entrepreneurs, scientists and artists, as well as numerous representatives of civil society.

Fondation AMAN-International has national representatives in several countries who work closely with the central FAI office in Abidjan and jointly implement FAI projects with many local organizations. The FAI representative for Germany is Oumar DIALLO, who is managing director of the Afrika Haus Berlin. Bernd-Dieter FRIDRICH is the honorary first chairman of the supporting

association Farafina e. V., which has been supporting the integration efforts of people with a migration background through events at Afrika Haus Berlin for many years.

To promote his activities in favor of FAI in Germany, Oumar DIALLO has attached importance to the fact that the first event of "Mondays in the Sun" with a presentation of FAI will take place in his house, initiated by the internationally active agency Lespritcom Paris / Berlin, which is represented in Germany by Harry LOUISERRE, who comes from Guadeloupe.

The Malagasy singer MFA Kera had opened the evening with a musical performance. In welcoming his guests, Oumar DIALLO affirmed his desire to continue to support FAI in the best possible way, thanking FAI officials for the trust they have placed in him for a long time in his role as the FAI National Representative.

Harry LOUISERRE, for his part, explained the concept of "Mondays in the Sun" and also the idea that a certain percentage of the income from the evening's consumption would go to the organization or person presented, so that the guests could in this way support their respective work. He emphasized that the first evening of the new series of events had been deliberately dedicated to the Fondation AMAN-International in order to draw attention to its extraordinarily successful work in developing countries and to publicly thank the FAI managers for their commitment in Germany.

Afterwards the FAI founding president Marie Ginette AMANI-FRIDRICH, who was born in Abidjan, took the floor at the side of her husband Bernd-Dieter FRIDRICH. She thanked successively, in French and German, the numerous guests present, among them some high-ranking diplomats from several developing countries, as well as national and foreign personalities of economic and cultural life for their presence, among others the Presidents Ronan Le Gleut ("Union des Français de l'Étranger") and Denis Combe-Chastel (Association "Français du Monde") à Berlin.

The FAI President emphasized that the concept of "Mondays in the Sun" has very many points of contact with the FAI concept "La Croisière du Cœur", a kind of cruise based on solidarity tourism that aims to open hearts to humanitarian action. Initiated in 2006 by the FAI, hotels, restaurants or other operators in the tourist environment, for example, make their facilities available as FAI partner companies on a limited scale at special conditions, from which the paying guests benefit directly and where, in addition, a certain percentage of the revenue goes to the FAI. AMANI-FRIDRICH invited all guests interested to participate in the program, in whichever country.

Afterwards, the FAI President asked to watch together the FAI documentary "La Force d'un Rêve" ("The Force of a Dream") and some excerpts from the African TV magazine program "Itinéraire" (A Journey Full of Scenic, Cultural and Culinary Discoveries and Encounters with Local People), which she herself has produced and hosted since 2006. The guests, visibly moved, were able to see for themselves the often arduous daily work involved in the practical implementation of the various FAI projects by the staff of the Fondation AMAN-International. At the end, some passages from "Itinéraire" also showed the beautiful sides of the regions in which the aid organization is active.

The first "Monday in the Sun" passed in a very pleasant atmosphere, accompanied by singing interludes of the Madagascar-born MFA Kera. Marie Ginette AMANI, who is also known in West Africa as a writer and fashion designer, television and radio presenter, signed her latest book "Alliance"; the proceeds from its sale go directly to the FAI.

Contact in Germany:

**E-mail: [dd@aman-international.org](mailto:dd@aman-international.org)**

**WebSite: [www.aman-international.org](http://www.aman-international.org)**