

Brief Account Written by a Trainee Glassblower



Glass Blowing is a modern science and technology to fabricate laboratory glassware and a process to manipulate glass into the flame to form a tool. Now it has wonderfully reached South Sudan!

The UN Agency, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which supports the Youth Entrepreneurship Development (YED), has made this Project possible to be available in Malakal - South Sudan, for the first time in history.

The project is part of the Technical Training provided in the Malakal Vocational Training Centre (MVTC) and it has added some more interests and future hopes on the Centre to lead the Country towards Modern Science and Technologies.

The benefits of the project for South Sudan are many. The presence of scientific glass blowing in MVTC will let the Country have a sustainable and fast development in natural sciences, since simple scientific laboratory apparatus will be made available and delivered on time to most secondary schools. Besides that, self-reliance and technology transfer will be a crucial achievement for the development of the

local economy, especially for the youth. Furthermore, the country will probably save foreign exchange on finished products because almost all the neighbouring countries lack such a technology.

In the presence of the basic equipment for glass fabrication supplied by the project, a number of three young glass blowers have been recruited and started their training. The training aims to let them start with glass blowing for the first time in Sudan as well as to instruct others as warranty for the project's growth and sustainability. So far this has not been a simple process although the trainees have a very insatiable curiosity to learn!

The UNIDO National Project Coordinator, Mr. John Paul Aikic, together with the three glass blowers receiving the training and the International Glass blowing expert have also been very active in raising awareness about the existence of this project within the Malakal Community. Ten more students are joining the classes.

As the project is meant to help the people in Malakal and the economy of South Sudan in general, the Government of South Sudan should continue giving support to make the training go very quickly and let this technology grow faster.

If we succeed in everything, the conclusion will be that this is empowering local personnel with job opportunities and poverty reduction.

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