

2013 Newsletter and 2014 Look Ahead



AZLera

Africa | Latin America | Education | Environment



Dear all,

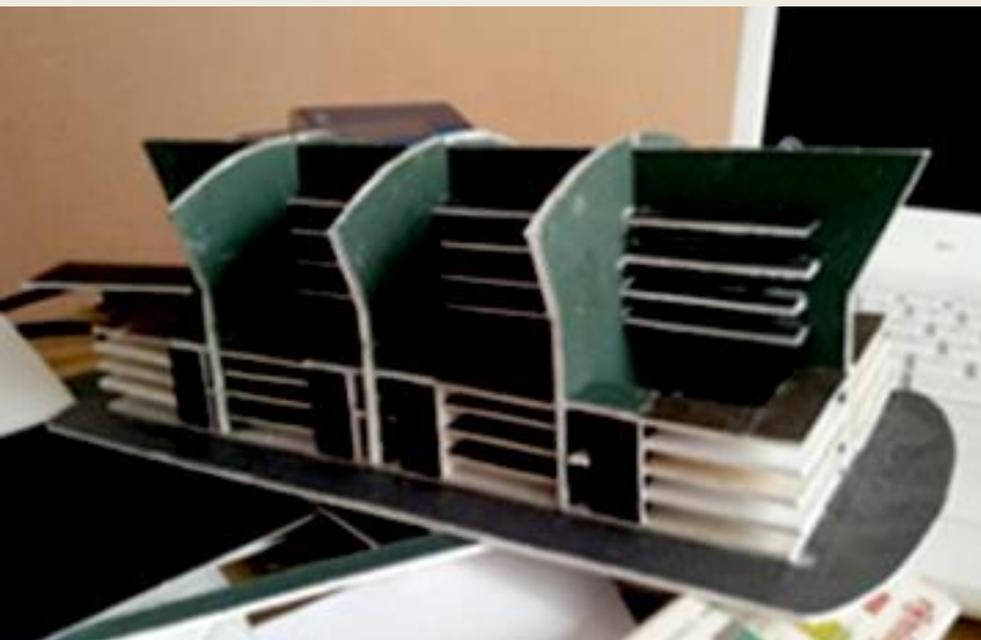
A very belated happy new year to you all.

My apologies that this update is later than planned but I am pleased to say that 2013 was another busy and successful year for AZLera and Project Ocean in Mozambique.

AZLera's University Scholarship Programme completes its pilot year with students **Firoza and Mingos** making great strides on their respective Architecture and Medicine Courses, proving the real potential we saw in them through their years at **Projecto Oceano**

We recently completed the first full year of our [University Scholarship Programme at AZLera](#). As expected, the programme represented an enormous challenge for us as an organisation, but I am pleased to say that we have come out the other side far better off. We have stronger connections with the leading institutions in Mozambique. We understand the higher education system much better and most importantly of all, we have proved that Projecto Oceano's top candidates have what it takes to compete alongside other, often more privileged, Mozambican students.

Our successful duo from the 2012 selection process, [Mingos and Firoza](#), began their respective courses in Architecture and Medicine back in March 2013. One year on, the students have performed excellently, although challenges abound for them and for us as it is a huge experiment in mentoring, logistics and performance; they are now preparing for year 2.



Over the coming week, we will be posting some photos and reports on our website detailing the experiences from their first year at University, for those who are interested.

The experience to date of the programme has incentivised us to continue. We believe these young adults going to University is an integral part of our programme once they complete high school and are ready for the “next” stage in their development. In order to make sure that we at AZLera are ready for them and for the next generation of students, this year we will professionalise our fundraising and are in active talks with individuals to do that. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any leads.



NEW MANAGEMENT with sustained achievement and growth at **Projecto Oceano on Ilha de Moçambique**

AZLera’s after school education programme on the Ilha de Moçambique, Projecto Oceano, continued to go from strength to strength through 2013. Denny Newhouse led the project from the front as our In-Country Manager from March through to November 2013, and [Adam Peters](#) is now entering his third month



as our project manager, having taken over the reins from Denny. He is settling in well, acclimatising to the island and raring to go as the new academic year and project year began in earnest on 1st February.

All our [monthly newsletters](#) are available in the reports section of the AZLera website. Our reports provide a brief summary of the major events and successes from the previous month, as well an insight into life on the island, through the eyes of our In-Country Managers and local members.

Projecto Oceano students host the **United States Ambassador to Mozambique** on the island

In September the US Ambassador to Mozambique, Douglas Griffiths and his wife visited the Ilha de Moçambique on invitation from the Peace Corps who have one of their



..... volunteers on the island, Patrick McGettigan. Given our continued partnership with Patrick, we were able to take advantage of the visit by inviting the Ambassador to the project to meet our students and show off the new library which we had recently opened, including a number of donated books coming from the Peace Corps, via Patrick.

The members all introduced themselves (in English) and told the special guests briefly about the project and the classes we offer and how the programme has helped them in their academic and personal development.

The Ambassador and his wife also participated in a Q&A session with the students. The day was a great success for all involved with the project gaining great exposure and warm words of praise from the Ambassador. A longer commentary on the visit can be found in our [Activity Report's](#) page on the website.



Naiza : Recipient of AZLera University Scholarship Fund 2013

After two long weeks of assessment, including formal interviews and written examinations, the final decision was announced in the second week of January that Naiza Germano Langa had been awarded the 2013 AZLera University Scholarship. Naiza is an intelligent young woman and a leading participant in our programme; she has been a core project member for the last 3 years and received glowing references from our project managers in Mozambique as well as her school teachers.

Naiza led a number of classes and activities at Projecto Oceano, as well as being responsible for the research and writing of our monthly community newsletter – [Voz Jovem](#).

Naiza has decided to study Medicine and is in the process of finalising her applications to either study at UCM in Beira or ISCTEM in Maputo – both excellent Universities that will undoubtedly set up Naiza well for a successful career.

Exciting and ambitious plans afoot for 2014 including new academic modules taught by qualified professionals, the continued development of AZLera's education model and a real push to raise funds to sustain our work in Mozambique

There is much to be proud of from our successes in 2013, but also an even greater realisation of the enormous opportunities that lie ahead of us over the coming year. In particular there is a pressing need internally to do more. We want to expand our reach and we want to increasingly contribute to our community in Mozambique. Having just completed our revised project plan and budget, 2014 promises to be an even more exciting year for the organisation:

- ❖ Following the success of the creative modules in 2013, we will continue with new focused modules (Economics / Business Skills / IT Programming) being taught at the project, facilitated by international qualified professionals who have agreed to commit their time to the programme, in return for the pleasure of being on Ilha de Moçambique (!);
- ❖ AZLera has committed to adding to our management base, with two new roles. We are currently looking to fill the positions of: AZLera Programme Officer and Fundraising Lead. If you happen to know of anyone who would like to support our work on a part-time basis, then please ask them to get in touch with me (freddie@azlera.org) as we are always looking for new ideas and energy.
- ❖ **Fundraising** will be central theme of our work in 2014, as we look to diversify our funding base and make the organisation more sustainable. If you would like to support our efforts in Mozambique, or hear of other ways that you could get involved with the organisations, then we would love to hear from you.

- ❖ Finally, 2014 will be the year when we start to put into action our ambitious plans to turn AZLera's education programme into a **stand-alone educational model** that can be applied to other communities in Mozambique, Africa and potentially further afield. We are speaking to some prospective partners who could lead pilot studies. I will be sure to keep you updated on our developments as these plans come to fruition.

As ever, all reports and updates from the project in Mozambique, including information regarding our Scholarship Fund can be found on our website – www.azlera.org We also have an AZLera Facebook Page for those of you who are connected, which provides frequent updates from the project as well as photos, videos and other useful web links. Our page can be found at the following address: <http://www.facebook.com/AZLera>

Please do let me know if you have any further questions about the programme or our scholarship process and I would be more than happy to speak to you in further detail, or if you would like to support the project or contribute financially to the Scholarship Fund, please go to the following link: [Donate](#). We wish you all a successful and happy 2014.

With best wishes,

AZLera team

Feb 2014



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