

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2009 NEWSLETTER-SUMMARY- *Flash back from juin to before COP15*

Gillian left Funafuti June 11th 2009. 24 hours in Suva for a lunch with the French Ambassador's spouse, another 24 in Los Angeles to grab things left on the way in and 2 weeks in NY to debrief Chris on Tuvalu activities and help on her son's and grand son double moving... End of june, she landed in her home island, the Butte Bergeyre, a parisian hill, reached after 87 stairs up. There 1000 residents get the priviledge of panoramic views of the prettiest capital of the world and the advantage of the city without its noises. But there's a draw back\*.. Once the luggage carried up another 72 steps, the feeling is to arrive in a warm, special Home. 3rd floor : gilliane's private corners 40 m2... with built-in furniture is full of colors, carpets, books, and a wall of Tuvaluan necklaces hanging from the ceiling... 4th floor is luminous with outside bright light from the veranda all around. This is the Alofa Office.

First activity was climbing up to the roof terrasse, picking the few bad weeds (Thanks to birds and insects dropping from pot to pot, the garden evolves and never gets boring.), cutting dried lilac's flowers with one regret : not to have seen the red puppies blooming.. Hyperactive as always, next we had to empty the 3rd florr shelves to make space for the yearly arrivals : handicraft and tapes from the 2009 mission. Things have to look as if nothing had been added. A yearly challenge which means reorganizing all other archiving spaces around : garage, basement, a commercial building down the street and Gilliane's mom house, (now owned by her son and elected by Fanny as her home. Outside of Paris, the basement and garden house are full of videos and files from the last 30 years.) Amongst Paris delicacies : fruits, cheeses, yogurts and, Summer bonus : day light till 11 pm...



**Ahead for july :** tax return and follow up Alofa activities with Sarah, Sandrine, Gilles, Chris, Cat... Decision was taken not to communicate about the biofuels mission as we usually do. No time. On the agenda too : fixing some of the buildings issues, which made us wonder if anyone is ever « safe at home ». In gilliane's previous home nestled under the roof of a 19th century parisian building, a small leak revealed major damages in the main wood beams... \*The commercial building and the house on the hill are built on top of old quarries, a real swiss

cheese, At any moment homes can collapse and some are tilting to the side of the hill... This is a concern for parties on the roof terrasse such as July 14th ...



This year it was great to have Gilles over and for him to meet Panapasi, Linda, Liz, Laurent, Laure, Rachel and other friends. The evening ended unexpectedly. At 3.30 am, after much chatting with Laima and Panapasi, they walked to they hotel to find it closed... and had to climb back. In the morning they went back to Brussels and we left for Brittany for Egon to know better his Britton family and roots.



We all love many friends and belong to many families. Gilliane biological family has homes in the « armoric coast » and « end of the land » region. 3 days resourcing, marine air and ocean smells. Despite many years in between gatherings, the link amongst the Le Gallic generations proves very strong.



Back in Paris, a storm had killed our internet/phone system. Another week free from technologies was welcome. Did not feel that great though trying to understand what the hell happened with **Piggarep** (a gef funding we were lead to believe early since 2006 would co-fund the Biomass training center). The original substantial assistance dwindled to almost nothing and we have not seen yet a cent. We can smell it is not lost for everyone.

Editing the most urgent subjects (biodiesel and gasification demos) is a good rest for the brain. Amongst other July recreations : A Unesco Seminar about Education and Climate Change allowed us to exchange about pedagogical tools with people from all over the world. Following Sandrine's first report on biodiversity, Sarah's testing red and sour todi in English lab, Gilles writing the biofuels mission report. When Chris forwarded an article where Kausea announces that Tuvalu will be fossil free by 2012, we were pleased that the Small is Beautiful concept was being disseminated officially.



**August went like a flash.** Our energy was split into the King tides festival pre application and pre budget, the report for the French Minister of Environment planned trip to Tuvalu, the 2 years biogas history report for Sopac and consolidating global budget for Biodiversity's next step for Sandrine's application. The process of accreditation for Copenhagen got started with Panapasi great help.

In the media : Maneval, one of Gilliane's old friends invited her to his « Bon esprit » program on France Inter national radio. « Trouble in Paradise » was screened a few times in France and early september, in Toronto where Chris participated in the « Climate change is coming to town festival ».



Alofa's Friends: Leonie (Canada aid) made the walk to Santiago in Spain. On her way in and out, it was a pleasure to have her over, on the hill. Another nice gathering happened at Kent's (who drew the comic book) around a BBQ.



**September 11:** Weird day and one yearly question : should we go on ? Dont know what triggered this. Tuvalu has become the symbol Alofa Tuvalu had planned it would become ; More and more people, for reasons good or bad, are making offers ; More money will be available tempting more people to greed. The international monetary system is so designed, that assistance is becoming a way of life. Climate Change or not. The world is not perfect but to go further we ought to keep on dreaming that it can be better and ignore harmful people. It is sometimes difficult. Luckally when feeling



discouraged, we keep reminding ourselves that we have the privilege to chose to stop at anytime. We dont owe anything to our funders. They owe us for past activities. We only owe to our friends in Tuvalu who want us to go on.

The feeling was more positive after viewing a September 11th documentary. The courage some humans are capable of in extreme situations was deeply touching and comforting. In the towers there were probably more cowards, ready to kill to save their lives, but some cared enough for others to put their own life at risks..



In September, Fanny and volunteers animated booths at several yearly festivals such as « Solidarity Week » and « Bubble of air » Forums and Gilliane talked about climate refugees at the "Planète mode d'emploi" congress in Paris. These kind of platforms, (30 to 50 events a year since 2005), allow us to inform audiences, to encourage action and to disseminate the comic books. Copies were provided to teachers, NGOs, individuals, and to miscellaneous events abroad such as the « Sustainable Islands – Towards a Low Carbon Economy » conference in Scotland. Some were sent to Tafue, Tataua and Nala.

Sam, Gilliane’s son, came from NY for a couple of weeks and organized a mega BBQ for family and friends in his garden outside Paris.

**October :** At Environment on Tuesday, organized by our supportive friends, we did an activity update; Leonie came back from Spain for a few more days; we all enjoyed a cheese festival in Meulan-Paris suburb- with Falesa, Katalina, Oli and Alamai, here for a Unesco General Conference where they mentionned Small is Beautiful. The town mayor greeted us like VIPs.



Before leaving Paris, the delegation tasted many different pig products at a dinner on the hill. The day after, Gilliane applied for the St Andrew Awards for energy, while Fanny spoke at a Britany conference with a Bolivian NGO.

**Saturday November 1st**

What satisfied us the most in November is how smoothly activities in Tuvalu went in our absence. Thanks to the net, thanks to many friends in the Pacific (Sikeli, Paul from sopac etc) and to Lee, Eti, Risasi, Penny, Cat and many others in Tuvalu, improbable things were accomplished having to do

with the GEF/UNDP meeting in Funafuti, the fixing of the biogas, and the king tides festival... This one will mean more work but we are all starting to agree on things, learning how to work together even from a distance.

With one month left before COP15, most of the November activities concerned Copenhagen : Editing, finalizing the Danish comic book, organizing shipment. Coordinating with media.



Other activities in November : A trip to Brussels to attend an ACP EU energy facility call for projects launching with Laima. Stranded 24 hours by a sudden train strike, Gilliane missed a one of the kind 130 friends gathering ! On his way back from Barcelona, Panapasi attended a special TV live-like program for French speaking territories. And RTBF (Belgium tv) made another subject about Tuvalu. « Trouble in Paradise » was screened at the International Solidarity Week and at a « Europe Ecologie » conference, where Kryss, a new volunteer took good care of our booth. While Fanny shared experience at a Technology Transfer workshop with the Climate Action Network, Gilliane put her head into funding requests for the King Tides Festival and made a deal with Hachette, a major french school manuals publisher for including Tuvalu in the 2010 French curriculum with comic book and film extracts. Film and Comic Books travelled to Poland, to the Oceania Association which Shuuchi attended. Then we headed for Copenhagen... 2 weeks of sheer emotion.

**When we returned**, Saturday December 19th, Gigi finally could access her phone messages. That's when we heard the bad news : Sarah lost her Nan, her grand ma. They had been living together and counting on each other since Sarah was a young girl and the loss is great.

SUNDAY 20th is when some of us felt sick. For GiGi it was triggered by a friend from the media who needed to do a conclusion paper « now what » and was insistant to get Panapasi's phone. Not only dont we ever give coordinates without the authorization but that sunday just asking felt like intruding in Panapasi's own exhaustion. That's when nausea hit.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23th was plainly crazy. With a surprised visit from Shuuchi and his lovely wife. It was planned the day after. Sam, Gigi's son, had just landed from NY and was sleeping upstairs, Egon, his son, was in his Gigi's bed, We both were working downstairs on the floor and had just hung up skype with Sandrine in Noumea... when the door rung ! Gigi still in her pyjamas felt soooo embarassed.. We improvised a snack... When everyone was gone, she promised such mesadventure wont happen with Stephen, our friend, the lawyer from COP, visiting Paris too..



JEUDI 24 : Our printer/copier died on us. A welcome time-out. It is easy to order a new one, but we dont want the old one to end up in a landfill. There's a law to take back equipment but no supplier seems to respect it. We'll have to do something about this. Another project for 2010 when many are already scheduled either in Paris or in Tuvalu. Amongst them and apart from mitigation and adaptation projects, we first will assist on the King Tide Festival planned late february with the tourism comittee, and cultural office. With the education departments we are planning a Children Event. If all goes according to plans Giliane will be in Funafuti, on February 6th.

Back to business as usual, we submitted an application to the Regional Council of Ile de France for kids awareness with a December 31th deadline, and started a couple reports to funders to get reimbursed for 2009 activities. Many videos in the making too to be able to give the dvd's to our Tuvaluan friends. And of course, our 2010 wishes and the present newsletter which we had forgotten to put on our lists...

Here it is with our wishes for many pleasures and much happiness in 2010

Fetaui

Next mission, with multiple objectives : Gilliane who'll stay 5 months will be the first one to get there early February, followed by Fanny mid February (for a children event), Sarah who'll stay 2 months ½ for a biogas reproduction will land end of February. Gilles (connection biodiesel/gasifier to the grid) and Sandrine (marine biodiversity) are planned in April/May/June. If we get the confirmation of a funding for cultural preservation, Chris will make the trip as well late February.

We are all looking very much forward to see you all again. Fetaui !!