The inauguration was a big attraction.

The State President signing the guest book ...

...and planting a coconut palm.

Festive Opening of our school on Zanzibar

On 21 April 2009, the President of Zanzibar officially opened the CAAA school, a project supported by AKAD College. After the successful opening of the elementary school with a capacity for 500 pupils, an institution for professional training is already planned to follow with the expert support and know-how of agronomics students of the ETH Zurich.

With over 1500 guests in attendance, the State President of Zanzibar, Amami Abeid Karume, accompanied by the First lady and educational minister Haroun, opened the Zanzibar Swiss School for Education and Professional Training. A delegation from Switzerland, including AKAD College-trio Linus Thali (director of the college), Nicolas Sarraj (CAAA President) and Bettina Schmid (CAAA Vice-president) travelled to Zanzibar for the occasion.

Four additional schools in planning
State President Karume was very impressed; in terms of building quality, construction costs, infrastructure and education of the teaching staff, the school is exemplary. The state of Zanzibar will not only assume responsibility for the teaching staff's salaries, but also for the construction of a paved road, making the village of Ndijani more accessible. This is not all however. The project has made such an impact that is about to be imitated all over the island: the Zanzibar government has already planned the establishment of four further schools modelled after the Zanzibar Swiss School. Thus, the project will achieve the desirable side effect of producing jobs for workers in the manual trades across the island.

The State President did not pass up the special opportunity of giving the elementary pupils their first lesson, introducing them to the alphabet. He also planted a coconut palm on the school grounds as a symbol for growth, thereby reminding the public present that the school, the village, and, in fact, the entire society could only flourish, if they were cherished and cared for like a valuable plant.

College Director sponsors first milk cow
How will the project further develop? The next phase will be to establish an agricultural school for professional training, an institution which will be self-supporting and conducive to independence. This will be realised through the cultivation of spices, vanilla and saffron for sale to hotels and other consumers on the island. In this respect, the school can count on professional support from agronomics students of the ETH Zurich. A full-time school for up to 500 pupils also requires a clear concept of food provisions. Thus, the school grounds will soon be home to milk cows. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the school, AKAD College Director Linus Thali, in an appropriately Swiss gesture, seized the moment to sponsor the first cow.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING
ZANZIBAR

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

awarded to:

CAAA - LES COLLÉGIENS AKADIENS ET LEURS AMIS AFRICAINS

in recognition of your valuable contribution in the development of Education at Ndijani - Zanzibar

Dr. Abduhamid Y. Mzee
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training

Signed

Dated: 20th April 2009

It was a media event for the Zanzibar state TV stations.

The Swiss delegation in conversation with educational minister Haroun.

The State President, accompanied by his retinue, was a guest of honour in great demand, both unveiling the name plate of the school and giving the first lesson.