

SYNOPTIC OVERVIEW

THE CLACC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ZERO REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATION

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

APRIL 1, 2005 - MAY 13, 2005

ZERO Regional Environment Organisation hosted three Fellows for six weeks. Two men, from Zambia and Malawi, and one woman, from Mozambique, joined ZERO as associates and participated in the full range of activities and projects from the first full day in the offices.

From the beginning of 2005, ZERO staff has worked with a management consultant engaged in a process of analysis, evaluation and enhancement of ZERO's mission, purpose, posture, activities and goals. The CLACC Fellows were able, therefore, to see and experience, first hand the methods and results of the process of constructive and critical analysis of a performance based development " think tank ".

This was an added benefit added to the exposures of the Fellows to the inner workings of ZERO. The Fellows were asked to accompany ZERO staff to consultative meetings with ZERO donors, as well as to sit in on strategy sessions to plan the future directions of projects and programs in future years. They also sat in on the regular staff meetings.

As a " think tank ", one of the prime activities of ZERO is assessment of " what is " and imagining and conducting feasibility studies on " what could be " In an African context of stark reality, these exercises take the form of designing effective programs to ameliorate the effects of levels of poverty and human misery unthinkable and absolutely intolerable in a European or American environment.

Each Fellow was assigned a ZERO staff member to coordinate and supervise his/her visit. These three staff persons had the Senior Program Officer coordinating all of their activities. The Executive Director, of course, gave the initial welcoming speech and also met with each Fellow individually and the three as a group.

Three field trips to ZERO projects were arranged. Projects to do with climate change, appropriate technology, renewable energy and drought mitigation were visited in rural areas of Zimbabwe. These were discussed in meetings, and papers were written by the Fellows.

As much as it is felt that ZERO taught the Fellows a great deal about a very active, regional research, planning and implementing agency, ZERO also gained a great deal from the interactions with talented professionals from Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. ZERO was very impressed with the discipline and dedication shown by the Fellows.

It is also noted that ZERO had made extensive, detailed preparations for the visits. A written structure of procedures and agenda of activities was composed and given to the Fellows on their arrival. Accommodations were available, as was transport.

The only problem seemed to be with the disbursement of funds to each different organisation in the different countries. ZERO would suggest that, due to foreign currency restrictions varying in bureaucratic difficulty prevailing in Southern Africa, indeed in all of Africa, the funding be sent to ZERO for disbursement to individuals and organisations.

Apart from this, ZERO was proud to be the host agency for this activity.

Dorothy C. Manuel
Executive Director
May 16, 2005

