

## 2nd Grand Zambian conference and 45th Independence day celebration

*(Grandiose, informative, empowering, encouraging and a lot of fun)*

### The Conference

We thank God in the first instance for all the experiences we shared together. As the bible says to for you who are believers, *Proverbs 16:9 "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps"* We did the planning and the Lord made a success of the project.



Many themes were proposed to define what the go of this conference would be. The fact that it involved the conference and the celebration part made it not easy to fix the theme. It was not only talent show, not only dance competitions not only multicultural Issues but also progressive ideas , brainstorming in different directions and Sharing of ideas and social integration Issues that "rebooted" and rekindled some minds and gave inspiration to undecided and lethargic minds. Since Obama inspired the world with his slogan "Yes we can", which is true for us, I would personally coin even a more decisive slogan when I say "Yes we do" Yes we are able , yes we do plan and Yes we do implement what we have planned.



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We had a briefing from the Embassy on the status of the Zambian economy, the investment climate and incentives for potential investors, Land Issues and the area of tourism in Zambia and it's promotion in Europe. The necessity of creating a Business advisory council as an entity wing to supplement and handle the inflow of business related matters directed at the embassy. Furthermore ideas were shared on how to we can get more people involved in ZaGeFA (Zambia-German Friendship Association) The need of regionally organized chapters and the need of a coordinator was proposed . We also had interesting professionally well-done presentations on Energy Situations in Zambia from the Energy specialist who has done a lot of research in Zambia on this Sector.



For those of you who missed the morning session The decisions and discussions we had will be published to this website as they get ready and we hope you will make an effort to attend next time. We need your Input and encouragement no matter what your education level is. Just get involved.

The Audience also showed a lot of interest in the Mobile Class. This is an E-learning Project designed to bring education to remote and urban areas with or without classrooms and does not necessarily rely on fixed power lines and fixed phone lines for internet Access. That way education is brought to the masses overcoming hurdles of distance and financial difficulties.

These presentations will be published online as soon as possible so you can access more details on the topics.



Finally we had the pleasure of getting to know the new embassy staff and I was personally impressed to notice that 2/3 of them were females. I sign that gender Issues are not a big issue in our society, at least at the government level.

We all then agreed to form working groups of the Topics in discussion mentioned above. Group leaders were identified in many areas and follow up work has yet to be done the coming weeks.

Please bear with me that there is still a lot to be done on this website and I need your input on all those different categories. If you have an interest please contact me on enock.chota@arcor.de



Since we now have the Website running, all vital matters and information will be published to this website and that will lessen the confusion we had in the past of e-mail "ping-pongs" and mail-filter issues.

Time was not enough to go into all the proposals but the date for the next conference will be announced soon. So keep checking the website.

### Evening Programm :

The evening program took off much later than scheduled as one would expect of Zambians. I mean why come early just for dancing? After all coming late is a Zambian feature and not a bug as most people claim.



The evening started off with a goose bumps raising national anthem sang an amazingly talented Jung lady and mother. There followed opening remarks from the acting Ambassador, followed by Prayers and a PowerPoint presentation of a short Zambian history in words and pictures. The food was saved with specialties like caterpillars, chikanda capentas. Late comes though missed this dish and had to settle for a general African dish of yam and west African specials.

There followed a dressing competition sponsored by design Christine from Hamburg. There followed one colorful dressed lady after the other blended with German models of all ages and even courage Zambia men models did jump on the floor and mixed the whole scene with his men's cat walk to the applause of all present.

Winners were voted by hand signs of the audience. The dance floor was opened and ladies and gentlemen jumped on the floor swinging what they could with quite interesting characters and their dance styles, ranging from European free styles to South African rhythms, from the Zambian traditional swings to the Latin American styles. It was really colorful and people had a good time.

The Master of ceremony did a wonderful job as usual and I would have preferred more performances from him that evening. Presents were offered to several people including those who did cover the longest distance to touch Berlin. I did and Debora (the camera lady) did win this prize. As I opened it I realized something was wrong. It seems the presents were switched. I got a skirt and she got the shirt. To make things worse she insisted I had to wear so she would have some highlights on her snaps. She herself did get some "swing your hips" dancing lessons from Mrs. Mwalimu. She did indeed enjoy that evening, especially having eaten her first caterpillars in life and hoped she would get butterflies in her stomach the next day.