



Minutes of the Meeting “Des Territoires En Marche Vers L’économie Humaine” of 21st December 2019 at Yaounde between RIEH and local Organisations of Bamenda, Yaounde and Douala

Host Organization: Initiative for Social and Economic Development (ISED)

Local Organizations represented:

1. Initiative for Social and Economic development (ISED)
2. Cameroon Consumer Service Organisation (CamCoSO)
3. Research Organization for Health Education and Rehabilitation- Cameroon (ROHER-CAM)
4. Rural Doctor\s
5. TeenAlive
6. Girls Initiative Cameroon (GIC)
7. Manju Youth Association (MAYA)
8. Transcending Association
9. Team Didactics
10. Better Health

The meeting started at 10:20 am with an opening prayer from Mrs Winifred Bih, an ISED member. She thanked the Almighty God for the gathering and called upon the Holy Spirit to direct the deliberations and grant a successful meeting. Euphrasia then took the floor and presented words of welcome to the attendees on behalf of the host organisation’s managing director, Louise Amungwa. She proceeded to give a brief presentation on ISED’s vision, mission, activities and experiences so far as well as plans for the coming years.



Next on the agenda was a detail presentation of RIEH by Michel who elaborately explained what the network is all about as well as what it seeks to achieve. He said, the network is made up of people who do not accept the normal deficiencies of their communities but seek to transform it into the world they would love to live in. He insisted that for this transformation to take place, there must be a vision accompanied by appropriate actions. Going by his words, the human economy seeks to counter capitalism through the promotion of a holistic approach to addressing human needs, that is; people responding to their needs. He continued to elaborate on the concept of the Human Economy by enumerating the four (4) basic underlying principles governing the functioning of RIEH;



- Addressing the needs of the whole human person (material, psychological and spiritual needs)
- The general good (for Everybody)
- Inclusiveness (by Everybody)
- The human person being the conscience of the living



He reiterated that, the word “Economy” in RIEH, refers to ‘how people in a given environment organize themselves to meet the needs of everyone within that locality.’ He went forth to explain that though this organisation is different from the usual political groupings or organizations, it is in itself a system of governance given that it is a way by which people can decide and build together the kind of world that they want to live in. He concluded by outlining some basic ingredients for meaningful transformation (education, democracy, human, technical and material resources) and giving succinct description of the functioning of the RIEH;

- ◆ Facilitating the exchange of experiences and competences between member organizations.
- ◆ Drawing lessons from our experiences to transform our present undesirable communities and shape the kind of world we want to live in.
- ◆ Influencing local and public authorities to put in place appropriate policies and mechanism for the common good.

Gilbert took the floor and expatiated on the aspect of the project "Territoire en marche vers l'économie humaine" and illustratively explained how local organizations can get involved in RIEH. He explicitly explained the global, continental and national organizational structure of RIEH. He advised that organizations could come together and form local RIEH networks e.g. RIEH Bamenda, RIEH Yaounde etc. With focal persons representing them at national, continental and global levels. For the purpose of administrative functions vis-a-vis the continental and global offices, the national RIEH network should assign a lead organisation through which communication could be channeled and coordinated.

He made it clear that the local network would not necessarily require an authorization from the RIEH head office in Mene to validate its existence nor define its operations but however, local networks are called upon to uphold the concept of the human economy in their functioning and do well to communicate to the head office their activities.

Gilbert rounded up by indication that the “Territoire en marche vers l'économie humaine" project is basically a mechanism to facilitate the organisation of people in a particular territory towards responding to the needs of each and everyone.



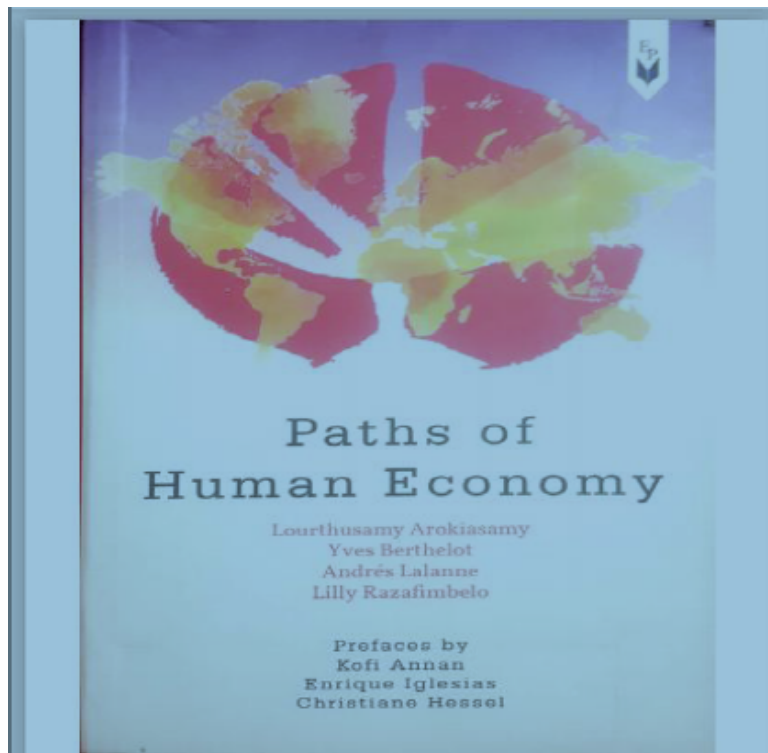
It was around 12:05 pm when representatives of the various organizations then took turns to introduce their organizations and ask questions to understand how to get involved as well as what to expect from the RIEH network. Dr Clovis of Rural doctors wanted to understand the procedure/channel of communication between member organisation and the RIEH network. Mr. Oju Sylvester from University of Bamenda Team Didacticians sought to know concretely hoe RIEH could be of help to his organisation’s objective of bridging the didactic gap between learners in rural and urban areas. Mr. Nji Helman of Transcending Association rather had a advice for all participating organisation, wherein he called for all to incorporate equity in their respective humanitarian interventions in view of accommodating persons living with disability. Mme. Francoise, ISED’s women empowerment consultant expressed the need for her organisation to be materially supported in their endeavor to provide quality basic education to the rural underprivileged child.



Michel and Gilbert took turns to respond and react to the questions and comments put forth by the various participants. Next was a cocktail reception during which an Exhibition of Songhai was projected and then after, resolutions arrived photo shoots taken. Michel and Gilbert handed two copies of the book titled “Paths of the Human



Economy” as a source of reference to the local groups as they operationalize the concept of the human economy in their communities.



Resolutions

1. Creation of local RIEH networks in Bamenda and Yaounde. Local organizations were directed on how to go about structuring a functional RIEH unit in their locality and liaising it with the continental and global structures of RIEH.
2. Each organization was asked to do a brief write up describing its mission, objectives, activities indicating its needs especially technical needs. This information was to be forwarded to Michel the Executive secretary, who then will upload to the RIEH website for feasibility and onward networking and exchange within the RIEH global network.
3. It was recommended that an appropriate platform be setup to facilitate information flow within the local RIEH network and the head office in Mene.



Photo shooting



The photo shooting commenced with a general photo with all participants and proceeded to each local group taking turns to post with RIEH representatives (Michel, Gilbert and Frederick)

