

Joy and happiness at the Energy Globe Festival of Lights in Ghana

Solar light gives villagers new perspectives

Ghana/Traunkirchen – Immense joy, joyful songs, gaily dancing and singing people and over and over again: Thank you, thank you! The Festival of Lights held in the Ghanaian village Tebu on November 7, 2013 by Energy Globe was not only a festival of joy, it also brought light into the lives of the people in the truest sense of the word. On the initiative of Energy Globe founder Wolfgang Neumann the 120 houses in the village were fitted with specially developed solar systems as part of his newly founded “Solar Light for All” initiative. On the one hand the sun’s power brings light into the vesperine darkness of the huts, on the other hand electricity for charging mobile phones or for operating equipment such as a radio is also generated. Energy Globe celebrated the launch of an initiative and – with the support of the EU – wants to implement the initiative in 13 other African countries. "We have the technology, it is simple yet efficient. Bringing light into the lives of these people was and is very important to me - we are creating a better livelihood. Tebu is the second village, we have equipped with the system." Wolfgang Neumann tells local media in the presence of high-ranking representatives from the UN, World Bank and the Ghanaian government.

On-site inspection in the village. A rooster crows, kids are playing on the dusty road with wooden wheels, there is excitement in the houses. Ababuo repeatedly presses the light switch and when the light bulb lights up, she laughs enthusiastically. It works. In the neighboring hut Kweku already recharges the phone - now he no longer has to walk long distances in order to "get electricity" or pay at the kiosk for charging. In the village square it is being discussed what now can be done in the evening. For example weaving more baskets, this will earn money at the market and makes further planning possible. Kwesi is a pupil, who until recently in the evening had to write his homework in the light of the kerosene lamp, his eyes are irritated and learning is tiring. Now, this will be different. He is looking forward to the evening and his books. In the house on the other side of the street a radio is playing. Solar power brings African hip hop. Now Ekwo saves money for the batteries, which normally would land up on the scrap heap - greatly damaging the environment. When darkness falls abruptly at 6pm, the villagers’ lives change in an unusual way: the light bulbs in the huts hold a glowing competition and for the first time the village square is lit. Especially women now feel safer in the evening.

“Light and power give the people a prospect leading to at least a little progress and prosperity, here in the village”, initiator Wolfgang Neumann points out, and that "Lampedusa should be a warning to us, because someone who has nothing to lose, will leave his home and even risk his life." At this stage Solar Light for All has brought light into the lives and the hearts of the people of two villages. Already Energy Globe’s project is recognized internationally. Now we need to join forces and bring solar light to the poor with blanket coverage. Because every contribution counts. Including yours!