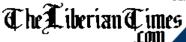
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Liberia: Harvard University Scientists Vist Rural Liberia; visit the Jabateh's farm in Kpein

Jun 22, 2009 by Michael Kpayili / Staff Writer



After week of lecture at various Universities and colleges in and around Monrovia, the two young Harvard trained Scientists extended their science outreach program to rural Liberia commencing with the commercial city of Ganta, Nimba County.

Dr. Adam Cohen and Ben Rapoport left Liberia's

capital Monrovia at exactly 11:30 am and arrived at their first stop, Kpein in Nimba County where they expressed joy over the level of welcome accorded them in Nimba County. Dr. Cohen and Ben Rapoport were met upon arrival in Kpein by the former Commissioner of Ganta, Mr. Vamala Jabateh at the entrance of the Jabateh farm in Kpein Township, Nimba County where the both parties started with a tour of the Jabateh's farm. The 150 acres farmland which is occupied by rubber and palm was viewed with sanguinity by the visiting United States trained Scientists



Adam and Ben tour the Jabateh's farm in Kpain, Nimba County

While at the farm, both Dr. Cohen and Mr. Rapoport asked questions about the production of rubber latex to end product. Out of interest, the guests attempted on many occasions to contribute their physical Labour output to the farm by

physically handling tools such as cutlasses and other materials used for rubber production. Viewing every leave and tree with deep concern, the two American Scientists spent more time questioning farmers over the





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use of the leave particularly when applying it as tradition medicines.

The guests later visited the Kpein Public School and met with the Principal and staff at the institution. Both the Principal and guests were able to exchange views and ideas in nurturing Science education in Liberia. Unfortunately, the guests were not able to lecture students during the brief stop at Kpein Public School due to the afternoon schedule and the closure of the annual school year program.



Dr. Adam Cohen helps with rubber tipping

The visiting science experts also toured major facilities at the Jabateh's farm including the rubber farm, palm farm and the newly planted coffee farm and met with family members of the Jabateh who were busy farming. Mr. Ben Rapoport later attempted

mountaineering the palm tree to help harvest the palm but was stopped by the head of the Jabateh family, Vamala Jabateh due to laughable reasons.

At the end of the tour of Jabateh farm, four curious young Liberians who accompanied us at the farm stood shocked when our tour guide introduced Adam Cohen as an Associate instructor of Harvard University and Ben as a MD-PhD student at both MIT and Harvard. Many of them felt exceptionally happy to identify with such high profile personalities for the first time.



Adam inspects new latex at Jabateh's farm

The concept built in the minds of ordinary Liberians about attending and graduating from Harvard University is very high to the extent that identifying with instructor of such great institution entails even more delight for them. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is a product of the

Harvard University.

Dr Adam Cohen and Benjamin Rapoport are guests of the iHelp Liberia project established by their former Science teacher, Mr. Asumana Jabateh Randolph. The Liberian Mandingo Association in New York (LIMANY) and the Alumni Association and students of the Hunter College High School are proud sponsors of the iHelp Liberia Science project for Liberian School system.

In a brief chat with the head of IHelp Liberia Project based in the United States, Mr. Asumana Jabateh Randolph thanked both the hosts and guests for the level of awareness created among Universities and Schools in Liberia about the importance of Science. He expressed special thanks to his former students which he considered as children for buttressing his initiative. He revealed plans about his visit to Liberia in August for the purpose of developing and enhancing Science education in Liberia.



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Adam observe the package of rubber latex



Ben and Adam chat with Judge Domah on the highway to Nimba



Former Commissioner of Ganta, Mr. Vamala Musa Jabateh teaches Mr. Jabateh teach Ben and Adam how rubber grow









About the Author:

Michael Kpayili is a staff writer for TheLiberianTimes.com. Kpayili has written articles which have appeared on TheLiberianTimes.com since late 2005, and his hard hitting investigative journalism has earned the respect of the Liberian press community.

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