



Paris, February 9, 2010

Air Liquide Foundation: Supporting 18 micro-initiatives in 10 countries

press release



Contacts

Air Liquide Foundation
Xavier Drago
+33 (0)1 40 62 51 43

Corporate Communications
Air Liquide Group
Corinne Estrade-Bordry
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31
Garance Bertrand
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 59 62

The Air Liquide Foundation

With a budget of €3 million over five years, the **Air Liquide Foundation** supports corporate philanthropy actions in **three areas**: scientific research for the preservation of the environment, scientific research for the improvement of the respiratory function and support for micro-initiatives for local development in the countries where the Group is present. Since it was established, the Air Liquide Foundation has supported 23 projects in these areas, located in more than 10 countries.

www.fondationairliquide.com

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, present in over 75 countries with 43,000 employees.

Through its program set up to **promote micro-initiatives** that encourage local development, the **Air Liquide Foundation** supported **18 philanthropic projects** in **10 countries** in 2009, in the areas of education and training, healthcare, micro-entrepreneurship, the environment and disabilities.

In the area of education and training, the Air Liquide Foundation focuses on the fight against illiteracy and promotes training for young people. In **Madagascar**, the Foundation is helping to equip several high schools with scientific media libraries. In **Burkina Faso**, the Foundation financed the construction of a **training center for women** that offers courses in reading, professional competencies and introductory sessions to micro-credit.

In the area of healthcare, the Air Liquide Foundation supports organizations that administer care to the most disadvantaged or that offer emergency first aid and relief. In **France**, the Foundation made it possible for the emergency response crew for the city of Paris (Protection Civile de Paris) to acquire **defibrillators** used in medical emergencies. In **South Africa**, the Foundation is participating in the initiative of a train-hospital that is scouring the country to offer the poorest members of the population a system of modern and economical care. It is thus financing the **unit that offers psychological support** to patients and their families. In **Thailand**, the Foundation is helping to train medical teams that work in Burmese refugee camps located in the north of the country. It is participating in the creation of **pedagogical materials** for chronic illnesses for use by camp medical personnel.

In the micro-entrepreneurship area, the Foundation encourages economic initiatives that help to improve the living conditions of the disadvantaged. In **Ghana**, it is offering support in the form of **training** and **equipment** to more than 100 farmers trained in **agro-forestry**. Combining food crops and tree planting, agro-forestry allows them to diversify their sources of income and rebuild biodiversity in farmed regions. In **Madagascar**, the Foundation is contributing to the effort to support 1 000 fish farmers in the Haute Matsiatra region in the center of the country, by giving them access to **rice plantation fish cultivation techniques**. This practice, which combines rice-growing and fish farming on a single parcel of land, offers the advantage of feeding fish at lower cost using rice culture residues.

Each of the micro-initiatives supported by the Foundation is monitored by a **volunteer employee sponsor for the Air Liquide Group**. Thus, the Foundation offers Air Liquide employees who are willing to invest in solidarity initiatives an opportunity to participate in the preliminary assessment of projects and subsequent follow-up.