

Koberwitz 1924 - A cultural impulse for the Philippines: Connecting Man and the Cosmos - Healing the Earth
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"So I see the only chance for man, that he can finally practically heed two insights: that his fate is inextricably linked to that of his fellow human beings in all parts of the world and that he belongs to nature and not to him."
Albert Einstein

Dear friends,

During this time we receive a lot of confirmation for the work that we have been doing here in Palawan, the Philippines and elsewhere in the last ten years and we feel encouraged to continue on this path with all our strength. With seed research and production, with the propagation of regenerative farming, holistic methods of education and healing and through the training of perception with the senses, we make a significant contribution to the healthy development of people and the earth and provide practical solutions to challenges such as those that have now become more and more critical. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who reads this newsletter, supports us, has supported us personally, conceptually, financially and in many other ways. Here are some insights into our work in agriculture, health, nutrition and education in the past six months.

Biodynamic Agriculture

In December we were invited to a national conference on organic farming, where big plans for its expansion were made and a great deal of interest in biodynamic farming was shown. We will closely monitor and, where possible, contribute, where the many measures envisaged go towards realization. Experience shows that much more is said than actually done in this country.



A little further we have come with an undertaking right on our doorstep. Through our coffee project, we have been working with one of the four indigenous peoples on the island for almost seven years. For half a year now we have been working to win over a piece of wasteland up to 300 hectares as a commons (for shared use without property rights) for these people and for the biodynamic impulse. This wasteland gets burned almost completely annually in the dry season

and is therefore also a threat to the adjacent forests, instead of being able to contribute to the food of the population. Extensive consultations with a large number of government agencies were and are necessary, although these are currently limited by the lockdown. A variety of training courses and discussions with the participants have taken place.



The pictures above show the ritual initiation of the initiative by the local chieftain as well as eurythmy guided by Grace. The rituals were included in one of the introductory seminars, here also with guests from the Acacia Waldorf School Santa Rosa and from Switzerland.

Biodynamic Preparations



The preparations are known to play a fundamental role in biodynamic agriculture. In Palawan it is not possible for us to grow the plants required for the compost preparations, but promising tests are being made in a mountainous area in the Philippines. Until we are able to produce them ourselves, we import the raw materials from India. Of course, we do have other raw materials such as quartz and cow dung. The pictures show, from left to right, the production of the cow pat pit preparation during a workshop on January 8, then the harvest on Easter Sunday morning and the storage in clay jars. Stirring a preparation and hanging up yarrow in a deer bladder.

Seeds



We multiply seeds; we try to adapt overseas seeds from bd origins to the local climate; we try out indigenous, sometimes endemic species for cultivation and consumption; and we also try to breed to a modest extent. We are particularly happy with this lettuce. Lettuce is difficult to grow in the heat of the tropics and it hardly forms heads. This one is well adapted to organic cultivation, forms a large leaf mass, tolerates the heat well and is very tasty and digestible. It will be able to meet the increased demand for salad from local restaurants. In addition, see our seeds on offer at a farmers' market.

Processing



The primary producers are the poorest, especially in a country like the Philippines. One of the ways in which the farmer can earn more is to process his produce to a higher product level. Since the beginning of our work, we have always presented new plants for cultivation, but also products to be made from them. Here the hibiscus, known as tea or lemonade additive. In this case, we made tasty jams - with some guava from the garden, there is enough pectine in there to make it gel. On the right: bananas laid out and ready for dehydration.

Medicinal Plants



In addition to nutrition, a focus of our work is medicine. In the garden and the farm, we grow a variety of medicinal plants, some of which are available as seeds or seedlings, some as tea and sometimes in other forms. Our first goal is always to provide information about planting, care and use. Besides these, we are engaged in propagation and distribution. From left to right, the Korean ginseng, the insulin plant, a papaya leaf and Tawa Tawa; the latter two are used for dengue fever. Tawa Tawa, an Euphorbia, also has an amazing immediate healing effect in conjunctivitis. It is no coincidence that the two middle pictures show plants wet with dew - for more than ten years we have also been dealing with the almost completely unexplored dew drops.

Signs of the Time

This article of mine gives a little insight into the current situation in the Philippines - even if the situation naturally keeps evolving every day: [http://www.nna-news.org/de/nachrichten/artikel/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=2797 & cHash = 9fcb2a4e4f33439184734b152e690a93](http://www.nna-news.org/de/nachrichten/artikel/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=2797&cHash=9fcb2a4e4f33439184734b152e690a93). The following video by Grace shows one of our initiatives in the educational field - it is intended for the poorest families in the Philippines and encourages young children to play with open-ended toys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hE55m3sZl6M&feature=youtu.be> - it has meanwhile been given Indonesian subtitles and made available to parents, kindergartens and children's homes in Indonesia through a foundation and is available as well on Facebook. In both countries, many poor families do have access to the internet, especially to Facebook.

The Time is Now

A crisis is equivalent to unlimited potential. In a plant, let's say, in a grass (we have very large grasses, namely bamboo, which can grow up to two meters a day), there is always a node and an internode: a knot and that between the knots. What is between the knots corresponds to ordinary life: the plant grows this way, especially in length. Humans live this way or the other, they walk their usual paths. Life is in the knot - if you want to multiply a plant, it comes from the knot, not from the in between. What we call a crisis among humans is the equivalent of the knot. Here is life, here is origin. Too much for some, but yes, crisis is life and it provides abundant opportunity. So let's be thankful for the crisis, thankful for life and let's make something of it. The time is now.

Invitation

While many people are not allowed to work during this time, we work harder than ever. The drought that has been going on for a year and a half, the shortage of water, the extraordinary heat, the requests, the unfolding future are demanding of us to work seven days a week. At the same time, we have almost completely lost our revenues as a result of global government measures. The annual budget of our company is approx. 40,000 euros, in order to make ends meet we need 20,000 euros (= fixed costs). Probably some of you have similar challenges. Who has ideas for sustainable funding?

Walter Siegfried Hahn and Grace Zozobrado-Hahn, with the team of Koberwitz 1924 Inc.

Donations

can be transferred to the following accounts - see next page:

Germany: Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung at GLS-Treuhand e.V., GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG Bochum
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Purpose: Koberwitz-Palawan

Switzerland: Acacia-Verein, Basel, Freie Gemeinschaftsbank Bank, Basel
IBAN: CH93 0839 2000 0040 0800 6, BIC: FRGGCHB1
Project note: Kulturimpuls Philippines

Or directly to the **Philippines**, preferably via <https://transferwise.com>, because they charge small fees:
Account Name Koberwitz 1924 Inc.
Account Number 130-3-13024518-9 at Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.
Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, BIC (Swift) MBTCPHMMXXX
(It is not possible for the bank to notify us of the transfer to the client. In the case of a transfer, we ask you to inform us at the same time).

Europe 2021

By the way: We have not given up our plans for a trip to Europe in April May 2021 - we thank you for the invitations we have received so far and look forward to contributing to more events - just drop us an e-mail.



The Seedgarden core team after spraying the preparation 500 on Holy Saturday afternoon.