

ፋረንጅ

ኢትዮጵያ

FERENGE ETHIOPIA

ProjectsAbroad

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad Ethiopia

March 2013, Issue No. 56

**Join us and comment and say something
on**



Inside this issue:

Volunteer Story in English	2
New Arrival Volunteers	6
Volunteer Story in Danish	7
Staff Contact List	9

Editor's Letter

Welcome to the March 2013 Projects Abroad Ethiopia newsletter. This newsletter aims to inform all our volunteers with news and information about the latest happenings in Projects Abroad Ethiopia.

Projects Abroad Ethiopia team would like to welcome our March volunteers. Thank you all the people who have volunteered with us – we really appreciate all for your valuable time and great help you gave at the different placements. And who decided to choose Ethiopia for volunteering through Projects Abroad.

Enjoy reading this issue and I hope that you will find something that you like. **Thanks to our volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us.** We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter interesting and exciting by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us. Your stories and pictures will help others to understand and learn about Ethiopia. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: bikeseгнаhaileul@projects-abroad.org

Enjoy!!!!

An Interview with Teis

By Bikesegn Haileleul



Hi, my name is Bikesegn, I am working for Projects Abroad Ethiopia as a Project Supervisor and Social Manager. My tasks include supervising volunteer projects and managing volunteer socials - I have much experience working with volunteers in Projects Abroad Ethiopia office. Sometime ago when I was doing my usual work visiting volunteers at our Journalism placement called 'The Reporter' I heard a comment from some people at our placement talking about one of our journalism volunteers called Teis Feldborg Gregersen from Denmark; he was in Addis Ababa

for three months as a Journalism volunteer through Projects Abroad . It already started at the entrance where the security guard called Yeshitella greeted me and said: "You brought such a unique volunteer" and he added that this volunteer is special, I asked him why he thought so and Yeshitella replied: "on his last day he was crying and said bye and everyday he was greeting and his respect to human beings was Teis good quality." Inside the office of the Reporter I met the managing editor of the English section, he said: "Wow Teis was special on producing article every week and his unique points raised on his articles and as an example he mentioned his writing in the article about the shared Taxi conductors in Addis , Teis was working as a conductor of a shared Taxi, called Weyala, for nine hours." I remembered how his article by the title "One day as a Weyalla" is a very famous article and it was even translated into Amharic section of the Reporter News paper – I witnessed that it was on different FM radio programs, where the radio hosts were talking about his article and on different social medias in Ethiopia, and if you want to prove it just google his name and you will find his article on different website as well .

Therefore it propelled me to interview Teis through email , because Teis is back in his home in Denmark, and put it in our monthly electronic newsletter of Projects Abroad Ethiopia .

Bik : Hi Teis ?

Teis : Hello Bikeseegn

Bik: How is life back home?

Teis : Life is fine, but also very quiet compared to my life in Addis Ababa, I live on the countryside and there is hardly anything happening around here.

TEIS WHILE HE IS
DOING AS A TAXI
CONDUCTOR



Bik: Are you ok to reply my questions and to be on our monthly electronic Newsletter?

Teis : Yes, I am. I would love to have new volunteers reading a little about my experiences in Ethiopia with Projects Abroad.

Bik: Have you heard that your name was on different FM Radio and social medias ? Which is about one of your article called 'One day as a Weyala'?

Teis: I have heard about it, yes. People's reactions have been amazing, and I am very grateful that my article was translated and later on went onto the radio and TV.

Bik: Did you have any experience of working as a journalist before coming to Ethiopia?

Teis: Not except for some very basic lessons in my previous elementary school. My goal going to Ethiopia was to get some experience writing as well as using a 'shortcut' going into the journalism study in Denmark.

Bik: What do you benefit from your trip to Ethiopia as a volunteer through Projects Abroad?

Teis: I arrived as a 'child' and departed as an 'adult'. My CV has been greatly boosted and I am ready to start my studies after this year's summer holidays. I have experienced some of the cultural differences between Denmark and Ethiopia and at the same time disproved some of the biases typically connected to African countries. Through Projects Abroad I met some great people from all around the world, and I have already arranged a meeting with some of them later on this year.

Bik: Do you remember the following and how can you explain to our reader about this condition?
".....ferenji weyala (Shared Taxi conductor) is not an everyday sight In Addis Ababa , but that was exactly what people travelling with the shared taxis between Wello sefer and Kera witnessing on one last Friday. For nine hours in a row you were working as the conductor of one of the shared taxis and experienced how difficult the job that a lot of people do every day is."

Teis: Shared taxis are the way to travel around for people in Addis Ababa. They are fast, cheap and effective and in each one of them a taxi driver is working alongside a taxi's conductor. The conductor's job is to collect the payment from the passengers, look out for new ones on the street and shouting the destination of the taxi every time it stops. They have to be fast thinking and speaking Amharic is generally a requirement for them, and that is why volunteers usually can't work as conductor. Nonetheless I got the job as conductor for nine hours and I loved every single minute of it.

Bik: I know that you are 19-years-old and too young to live in developing country as a volunteer – in fact through an organization called Projects Abroad. How do you explain the overall service of Projects Abroad before and after you come to Ethiopia and do you suggest to other young people as well?

Teis: I will for sure recommend Project Abroad, the service has been great, and as a volunteer, I could always call for help. In fact it was much needed on one of my trips out of Addis Ababa where my roommate got very sick and had to visit the hospital at 5 am. There was no receptionist in the hospital, but we called Projects Abroad and the staff spoke to the cleaning ladies, who called the receptionist, and after a little while he got treated by a doctor.



Bik: How was your interaction with other Projects Abroad volunteers in Addis Ababa?

Teis: As mentioned earlier, I am going to visit some of them this summer. It has been awesome to have somebody to share your experiences with and travelling out of Addis Ababa with a big group of volunteers was great for extended weekends. The social arrangements organized by Projects Abroad every week was a great way to get to know the other volunteers, getting to know other people who experience the same things as you, was a part of making my trip to Ethiopia the best thing in my life.

Bik: What was your most memorable experience in Ethiopia?

Teis: My most memorable experience in Ethiopia has for sure been working as a taxi conductor, but everything has been awesome. I really enjoyed living with my host family and going out with the other volunteers. My placement has also been great and I remember I felt like flying on my way home after getting my first article in the newspaper. Travelling with Projects Abroad to Ethiopia has been the best decision in my life!

Bik: Thank you very much for your time Teis and I wish all the best.

Teis: You're welcome

The following article is in Danish

By Teis Feldborg Gregersen - Journalism volunteer from Denmark

Journalist med Projects Abroad i Etiopien



Fra begyndelsen af december og indtil slutningen af februar 2013 arbejdede jeg frivilligt for den engelske organisation Projects Abroad som journalist for avisen The Reporter i Etiopiens hovedstad Addis Ababa. Jeg er 19 år, færdiggjorde STX sidste sommer og har som sådan ingen journalistisk baggrund, men min drøm er at blive journalist og det skulle mit ophold i Etiopien hjælpe mig til at blive. Såfremt man taler og skriver engelsk på et nogenlunde niveau, er journalist-jobbet i Etiopien en fantastisk mulighed, hvis man enten gerne vil snuse lidt til faget, eller hvis man som jeg, drømmer om at leve som journalist resten af ens liv.

Når man rejser med Projects Abroad, betaler man for kost og logi samtidig med en forsikring, og Projects Abroads medarbejdere er mulige at komme i kontakt med 24 timer i døgnet. Udover alt det praktiske sørger de også for præsentation af arbejdspladsen, hvor en supervisor derefter vil stå for at alt fungerer som det skal.

Hos The Reporter fik jeg mit eget bord på kontoret, et kontor som minder meget om typiske danske kontorer. Trådløst internet, et dejligt indeklima og en supervisor, som jeg altid kunne spørge om alt fik mig lynhurtigt til at føle mig hjemme. Arbejdet styrer man meget selv; der er ingen faste mødetidspunkter eller dage, det eneste krav var at mine artikler var færdigskrevne og klar til aflevering når jeg mødte ind torsdag morgen. I de første par uge afleverede jeg kun en enkelt artikel, men efter at være blevet mere vant til at skrive artikler på engelsk, begyndte jeg at skrive to artikler om ugen i stedet. I teorien kunne jeg have afleveret ti artikler hver eneste uge, hvis jeg havde haft nok ideer til det, men det var nok tvivlsomt hvor mange af dem som rent faktisk ville blive trykt.



Artiklerne handlede generelt om mine oplevelser i Etiopien, det var alt lige fra mad til oplevelsen af at stå sammen med utallige etiopiske landsholds fans under African Nation's Cup, som blev spillet i Sydafrika i løbet af de tre måneder jeg tilbragte i Etiopien. Enkelte rigtige nyheder fik jeg også skrevet om, f.eks. om Lance Armstrongs doping tilståelse, som fik ekstremt meget mediebevågenhed i Danmark, men stort set ingen i Etiopien.

Generelt er min erfaring at artikler om mine oplevelser i Etiopien blev værdsat højere end mine nyhedsartikler, og avisen havde allerede mange medarbejdere, hvis job var at skrive om nyheder. Men det skal absolut ikke afskrække folk fra at vælge at rejse til Etiopien med Projects Abroad, da det i høj grad også handlede om hvad jeg selv havde lyst til at skrive om, og hvis nyhedsartikler er drømmen, er jeg overbevist om at det sagtens kan lade sig gøre.

Udover et kæmpe boost af mit CV, har jeg også oplevet at arbejde på et kontor fuld af uddannede journalister i et udviklingsland, en oplevelse man helt sikkert ikke kan finde lignende i Danmark, og det perfekte udgangspunkt for at starte på journalist-studiet efter sommer.