

BACKGROUND

1. Introduction of Hear Yourself Book in University Book Club

In March 2024, we approached University of Toamasina Book Club to discuss HY book and they agreed and promoted the book club. This book club was facilitated by HARISON Stéphanio, a professor and the Regional Director of the Ministry of Culture and Communication in the Atsinanana Region.

The book club was promoted on social media, on the official Facebook page of the Ministry of Culture and Communication and using posters. The following is a translated excerpt from an article on the official Facebook page of the Ministry of Culture and Communication:

News from the Atsinanana Region - Toamasina: BOOK CLUB "VAVITIANNA"
Did you know that there is now a book club in Toamasina? Several literature enthusiasts created it and named it after the location of their first meeting, the Vavitiana Museum.

The chosen book for their first collective reading is the bestseller "Hear Yourself: How to Find Peace in a Noisy World" by Prem Rawat.

This initiative aligns perfectly with the Ministry of Culture and Communication's program "Let's Read."

Reading clubs are quite rare in Toamasina, so the growth of such initiatives is encouraged, said HARISON Stéphanio André, the Regional Director of Culture and Communication in the Atsinanana Region.

For those in Toamasina interested in joining the Vavitiana book club, literature enthusiasts meet every weekend, either on Saturday afternoons at 3 PM or Sunday mornings at 9 AM, to read together.





Hello Team! 😊

We've been a bit quiet lately, but our book club is still going strong. We're already on chapter 8! This experience has been so inspiring for me, and I highly recommend it. It's incredible to see people transform before our eyes, and we've created such a beautiful, wonderful community. We should have named it the Book Club for Strong and Intelligent Mothers (since most of the members are amazing moms). 📖👉❤️

To add a cherry on top of this experience, we are planning to start PEP sessions for our book club participants once we finish the book. One of our members, who is a university student, invited the president of their association called "We Are Ravinala," which has 250 student members. The president loved the book and has invited us to present the PEP to the director of the university and the association's board.

2. Expanding to Peace Education Program (PEP)

The book club has garnered significant interest, leading to meetings with representatives of the Toamasina University administration, student representatives, delegates, government officials to introduce PEP.

PEP for Governor RAFIDISON Richard Théodore and cabinet members

On June 29, 2024, a pivotal meeting at the Governor's Office of the Eastern Region in Toamasina, introduced PEP and TPRF to the Governor and his cabinet members.

This event was organized by HARISON Stéphanio, PR Director of the Ministry of Culture and Communication of the Malagasy Government, with DESIRE Kenny serving as a PEP Facilitator volunteer and DESIRE Fabry handling AV.

The session highlighted TPRF's initiatives in peace promotion, humanitarian aid, and education. It was a success, with all 21 attendees, including key regional officials, committing to future PEP workshops.



PEP for Catholic Boy Scouts in the Diocese of Toamasina

In June 2024, Leaders and board members of the Catholic Boy Scouts in the Diocese of Toamasina, which covers over 3,000 members and hundreds of instructors, were engaged in discussions about PEP.

During these presentations and meetings, it was confirmed that all instructors from the Catholic Boy Scouts would participate in PEP, with plans to expand the project to reach all members.

PEP for the Boy Scouts will commence on September 5th.



PEP presentation for the Catholic Boy Scout staff members, at Kenny's office.

PEP for University students of Toamasina

On May 24, 2024, presentation meeting about the PEP Program was successfully held, at ISPG - Institut Supérieur Professionnel de Gestion, affiliated with the University of Toamasina.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the institute's administration as well as delegates and student representatives from the institute. The meeting allowed students to consider the possibility of organizing PEP workshops.

The next step is to organize per group of 30 students to attend the PEP Introductions.

PEP for University students will commence on August 24th.



PEP in the University of Antananarivo (Capital City)

40 Students have completed PEP sessions successfully and more to come.



Stéphano and Wendy are waiting to be trained as PEP Facilitators.