Rectorate CTU in Prague

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**IN ZAMBIA, CZECH VOLUNTEERS BUILT THE FIRST BUILDING OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KASHITU. IN DOING SO, THEY TESTED CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY DESIGNED FOR LOCAL CONDITIONS**

**In the presence of Czech Ambassador Pavel Procházka, a workshop was opened in Kashitu, Zambia, which was built over three months by Czech civil engineers and architects with the help of local volunteers. The workshop will serve as a base for the construction of a secondary school. An innovative building technology of interlocking unburnt bricks stabilised with cement was used and taught to local volunteers. The technology can thus be further used on-site to improve the construction of both residential buildings and, for example, the planned construction of a secondary school. The workshop is the first building of this school for 250 students. It will act as a training centre for this new construction technology before the building progresses to the next stage and should serve as a base of operation for the following construction.**

The project was implemented in cooperation with the International Center for World Development of CTU, the Czech organisation Friends of New Renato and the Zambian non-profit New Renato Community Society. The group of volunteers (Kashitu team) that implemented the construction was formed at the first summer school organised by the International Center for World Development of CTU. The construction was made possible thanks to the financial support received through the UNDP Challenge Fund and the contribution of many public donors.

Over 200 locals, including guests, attended the opening ceremony. Representatives from the local community and government officials were also present. During the opening ceremony, Czech Ambassador Pavel Procházka said:

***"We have gathered here in the heart of Kashitu with great joy and pride to celebrate the result of the cooperation between Czech and Zambian volunteers, representatives of CTU and the local community of New Renato. The opening of this workshop marks the beginning of an ambitious project to bring a better future for the people of Kashitu."*** Pavel Procházka, Czech Ambassador to Zambia.

The workshop is the first building of the future high school. The nearest secondary school is 40 kilometres away, and most small local farmers cannot afford to pay their children's fares or accommodation at more distant schools. Zambia's District Commissioner for the Office of the President, Francis Hasalamo, also spoke several times at the ceremony. He spoke highly of the emerging project:

***"Thank you to all the volunteers, especially the Czech ones. Please continue to support the local community, but persevere in the next phases of construction. The high school brings hope for the local population to achieve higher education and thus self-sufficiency."*** Francis Hasalamo, Commissioner of the District Office of the President of Zambia.

A small amount of cement was added to the unburnt bricks mixture used allowing the bricks to harden themselves in less than a month. There is no need to burn them, which saves many trees. As a result, they are stronger than burnt bricks and resistant to termites that otherwise corrupt burnt brick dwellings. The brick-press also creates two bricks at a time in half the time of a traditional tool. Thus, the building process based on interlocking unfired cement bricks makes it possible to build faster, cheaper and with higher quality.

Petr Čanda's next lecture about the project will be on Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 14:00 at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the CTU as part of the ICWD Development Wednesday event. More at http://icwd.cvut.cz/

Czech builders and volunteers will share with the public the joys and sorrows of the three-month-long construction of the workshop on Saturday 28 October in Prague. Details can be found on the Friends of New Renato website (https://pratele.newrenato.org/).

Photos of the brick-press, the building and the surrounding area can be downloaded here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tnTwqTP4F\_xebs60rD1LbaCOAYeLIz5F?usp=drive\_link

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Project Interlocking bricks for Kashitu was developed with cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic