



Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

Blue Skies wins African Economy Builder Award

Blue Skies Chairman Anthony Pile has been presented an African Economy Builder Award at a gala dinner in the Ivorian capital city, Abidjan.

Twenty-four other figures from Senegal, France, Rwanda, Colombia, Benin, Hong Kong, Algeria, the USA, Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, Angola, Togo, Tanzania and Guinea Bissau have been awarded the 2015 "Africa Economy Builders" prizes for their outstanding contributions to the development of the continent.

Michel Russel Lohoré the organizer of the event said "This gathering is a legend. This is the best possible celebration of the builders of the continent's economy".

Anthony Pile said "I am personally deeply honoured. This award means a great deal to both me and my colleagues. We treasure this award and take it as huge encouragement to carry on growing and making a difference for as many people as we possibly can."



Above: Anthony is given the African Economy Builder Award by Ghana GM Ruth Adjei during the May Day celebrations in Ghana

Blue Skies finalists at FPC Awards



Blue Skies have made it through to the final of the Fresh Awards hosted by the Fresh Produce Consortium.

Blue Skies are finalists in the Business Excellence category for CSR Excellence. The winners will be announced on June the 4th.



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New facility opened at Blue Skies UK



Blue Skies opened a new extension to its UK factory this month. The extension will give Blue Skies more capacity for specialist products and contingency supply. Jenny Pile is pictured with Vijay and Marta cutting the ribbon to officially declare the new facility open.

Albert Heijn Exchange project proves a success



On June 12th we are invited by our good friend, Ge Happe of Albert Heijn, to come together to celebrate and formally close the AH Exchange project. It has been and still is of great value to us all. Not only do we have new ambassadors in David Moeketsi, Victoria Asante and Alistair Djimatey but also they have given the local team in Holland (Mariette, Sjoerd and Paul) excellent support. The AH Exchange project is contributing to the success of our business and it has given very useful insights about our business in the future. We are confident with their support we will further improve our presentation in the Albert Heijn stores, communicate more about our uniqueness and make the necessary changes in the supply chain. Thanks to all who have contributed to achieving this. Pictured from right to left: Stephan Lutke Holzik, Paul van der Weijden, Marcel van den Berg.

Report by Paul van Breukelen

Seth Dei enstooled



Blue Skies co-founder and shareholder Mr Seth Dei has been 'enstooled' a chief in his home village of Kofi Pare, a town near to Asamankese in the eastern region of Ghana. Activities in the Cocoa growing community came to a standstill on Saturday during the outdooring of the new Chief who goes by the stool name, Nana Kwarfo Kwasi I. Report and photographs by Alistair Djimatey.

Egyptian melon gets ethical tick



Blue Skies Egypt has successfully renewed Fairtrade status for four melon farms supplying melon and watermelon. The farmers and audit team are pictured above. Congratulations to everyone involved on this positive result.

Smart thinking saves energy use at Egypt



Egypt have two work-in-progress chill stores, and a blast chill for finished products. Two of these three rooms have an extensive south-facing wall made of insulated panels.

Careful analysis of temperature information by Khaled Awad our engineering manager in Egypt revealed that during defrost cycles of the refrigeration equipment for the three rooms, the temperature increased far more in the rooms that have the south-facing walls receiving the full force of the hot Egyptian sun. He concluded that the equipment is working far harder in those rooms to maintain the correct temperature, and that we can save energy and money by adding extra panels to those walls for better insulation from the sun.

This action will save about 70,000 kW hours per year, which is £3000 and 35 tonnes of CO2. The photo above shows Khaled measuring the temperature of the blast chill wall at 43.4C. By Stephan Morris.

More safety training for Blue Skies Egypt



Pictured: A second group of staff from Blue Skies Egypt attend a successful Food Safety training course carried out at the FTC (Food Technology Center), part of Ministry of Trade & Industry in Egypt.

Blue Skies celebrates Labor Day



Blue Skies Ghana celebrated Labor Day on May 1st during a well-attended event organized by the Blue Skies Staff Association. HR Manager Emily A. Boateng made a speech about the Blue Skies family, and Chairman Anthony Pile gave a potted history of the company and formally announced the Queens Award to staff. There were great cheers and shouts followed by some spontaneous dancing to a band which struck up!

Blue Skies sponsors bike tour



Blue Skies Ghana has sponsored a bike tour and student debate as part of a "World we Want" event. The event involved two Dutch students who arrived on their bikes in Accra, all the way from Amsterdam, to consult with youth on their views on the world they want.

Get Revitalised!

Exercises you can do at (or near) your desk

This month: Full Body

1. **Low-impact jumping jacks.** Raise your right arm and tap your left toe to the side at the same time. Keep your right foot on the floor. Alternate sides for a full minute.
2. **Pretend jump rope.** Hop either on both feet at once and alternating feet.
3. **Pretend jump rope, version 2.** Move your arms as if you are turning a jump rope while tapping one foot in front of you. Alternate feet.
4. **Chair dips.** Place the palms of your hands on your chair and your feet on the floor. Move your rear end off of the edge of your seat. Bend your elbows and lower your body. Straighten your arms to return to the starting position.
5. **Chair squats.** Lift your rear end off of your seat and hold for a few seconds.

This concludes a series on **Exercises you can do at (or near) your desk.** Thank you to Sampson Kwawukumey of Blue Skies Ghana for keeping us fit and healthy while we're at work.

By **Sampson Kwawukumey,**
Health and Fitness instructor, Blue Skies Keep Fit club.

Blue Skies Heroes Meet Grace Gyamerah



Grace joined Blue Skies on 11th August 2003 as a contract cashier. During her stay here she worked as the petty cashier, prepared the pay roll for contract and permanent staff and worked on bank reconciliation, loans and floats. Currently, she is still in charge of bank reconciliation, payroll for permanent and contract staff, loans and floats. She quotes from the bible: "whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might". She finds this motivates her to work effectively, especially knowing her salary will be paid every month.

She said her greatest achievement so far with Blue Skies is being able to pursue higher education in accounting. Her achievement this year is being able to pay the contract staff and permanent staff on time almost every month. She said the work itself is very challenging with many lessons and one needs to strategize to overcome each day. The recent introduction of new software to enhance efficiency and productivity has been a great experience.

Grace's plan for the future is to become a chartered accountant and she believes working in Blue Skies gives her a better advantage to achieve this. She loves singing and more especially gospel music. She leads the praise and worship team in her church at International Central Gospel Church-Nsawam branch. Grace is married and a proud mother of two girls and a boy. Her message for us all is, FEAR GOD, WORK HARD AND RESPECT ALL. *By Alistair Djimatey.*

Gianna on search for new ideas in Egypt



Gianna visited Blue Skies Egypt in May to look for new opportunities for the Italian Market. Gianna is pictured above with the Egyptian team and Stephan Morris.

Blue Skies supports Pitsford May Fayre

Blue Skies HQ supported the local May Fayre in Pitsford on the 4th of May by providing fresh fruit. The Fayre featured traditional English May Pole dancing and the crowning of the May King and Queen. There was also junior football, a BBQ and various stalls and games.



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