WCPA has many active supporters and excellent leaders in Togo in West Africa. This report describes our itinerary in Togo and the new project we initiated there in June.

I left for Togo on June 2nd, with connections in Atlanta and Paris, and arrived on June 3. I was met at the Lomé airport by Joseph Ekpetchou and the driver he had hired, Richard Woobey. They took me to a lodging at which Joseph knew the owners, the Auberge de France. Joseph is President of the WCPA Chapter for Southern Togo.

The next day, they picked me up at the lodging and we went to the East of Lomé to an area where there is a school within which Joseph has some authority. It is a school that emphasizes global education and the Earth Constitution. It has been named the “Institute Glen Martin.” They held an assembly of the whole school, including some parents, the teachers and students. Joseph and I both gave speeches to the assembly. In my talk I emphasized the Earth Constitution and the need for a global vision. The photo shows Joseph Ekpetchou and myself with parents and teachers in the background.

After these ceremonies, I was given a tour of the classrooms, which are badly in need of good blackboards and other essential learning tools. I told them that I would try International Rotary in the hopes of getting funding for the school but that WCPA had no funds itself as an organization. In fact, my entire trip to Togo, airfare, lodging, food, transportation within Togo, etc., was paid for out of my personal funds and none of it came from WCPA or the Institute on World Problems. The photo shows one of the blackboards in the school. One can hardly read what is written on it.
After the school meeting we drove out to the shoreline for refreshments with the teachers and a couple of the parents (photo with teacher, parents, and Joseph Ekpetchou below), and then back to Lomé and Auberge de France. The next day our driver took us up north to the village of Lama Tessi, which is about 30 km south of Sokode where Dr. Balouki (WCPA coordinator for Africa) was planning two events on Monday, June 8th and Tuesday the 9th. We visited Joseph’s village and his farm, not far from Lama Tessi, which were wonderful to see. Then Richard and Joseph returned to Lomé.

On Sunday the 7th, Dr. Balouki and I visited the morning service of two churches in the area to tell them about the big workshop and meeting the following day. We also visited with Moslem leaders and invited them to the event. One of the wonderful things about Togo is the harmony between Christians and Moslems, with both religions found in nearly every town and village. In the afternoon, we visited the site of the meeting and helped with the preparations, seating, covers to keep the sun off, signs and banners, etc.

On Tuesday there was a picnic and celebration on the same site as the workshop and conference, also co-sponsored by WCPA and Ramanuja Mission Trust of India (as stated on our signs). Tuesday afternoon, I checked out of the Auberge in Lama Tessi and hired a driver to take me to Kara where Esther Boumbere had reserved a hotel room for me. Esther is President of the WCPA for the northern region of Togo. She met me and the driver and guided us to the hotel.

Some of the audience at Lama Tessi

At the Lama Tessi event with Dr. Balouki, WCPA Coordinator for Africa and Mr. Tchemi Tchambi, Administrator for Togo, Central Region
On Wednesday, I visited the school where Esther teaches and we acquired a computer for her so she could better to school work and WCPA work. On Thursday we travelled outside of Kara to the village where Esther grew up and I met relatives and her mother who still lives there. On earlier trips I have been to Dr. Balouki’s village also. These cultural side-trips are valuable for educating me about how people live, what they think, and what kind of issues are of concern, etc. On Friday, as is the custom in Togo, we visited some of the dignitaries invited for the big WCPA meeting on Saturday.

At the Saturday meeting, there was a good crowd of people attending. I paid for the rental of the hall and for one drink for each person attending, as on my past visits to Togo. The Mayor was unable to make the event but there were several dignitaries there, one of who was a representative from the Mayor’s office, Mr. Bonfor, who was very enthusiastic about this project for Togo.

The project, that I spoke about in the south, the central region around Sokode, and the northern city of Kara, is parallel to the project we initiated last year in Costa Rica, with the help of our Vice-President for Latin America, Celina Garcia. We are promoting a petition in each country, with the goal of getting 25,000 actual signatures. The petition will go to the Parliament requesting that the Parliament organize a country-wide referendum on the Constitution for the Federation of Earth. Even though Togo has a very different culture and traditions that Costa Rica, I was very pleased at the enthusiasm for this project among the people and the leaders.

While I was back in Lomé for a couple of days before leaving, Dr. Balouki was making efforts to have me meet with the Prime Minister of the President of Togo. This did not work out because of the busy schedules. However, after I left the country Dr. Balouki emailed me that he had received a phone call from the President who regretted missing me and was interested in our project.

Hence, following the meeting in Kara, I returned by bus to Lomé. Since I do not speak French, I had to depend on the wonderful help of our WCPA Officers and friends.
took me to the bus in Lomé and, at the other end of the line, Joseph was waiting as I got off the bus 7 hours later in Lomé. He took me back to the Auberge de France. Richard, our driver, became a WCPA member, and I was helped renew my expired Togo visa by WCPA member Natege Boyodi, who lives in Lomé, works at the airport, and speaks English. Joseph and Natege were great hosts those last days, showing me some of the sights around Lomé, and taking me to the airport when I left. I flew from Lomé, heading back to Paris, on Wednesday, June 17th.

WCPA has projects in a number of places worldwide. However, this particular project in Togo, and its cousin project in Costa Rica, may prove to be a model that we can use in many countries. Thank you all for your support for this important work.

Dr. Glen T. Martin

President, World Constitution and Parliament Association (WCPA) [www.worldparliament-gov.org](http://www.worldparliament-gov.org)
President, Institute on World Problems (IOWP) [www.worldproblems.net](http://www.worldproblems.net)
Professor, Philosophy and Peace Studies, Radford University [www.radford.edu/gmartin](http://www.radford.edu/gmartin)
Laureate, GUSI Peace Prize International