

**Internationale Frauen Kaffee Allianz Deutschland
(IFKAD e.V.)
Deutsches Kapitel in Planung**

**International Women Coffee Alliance Germany (IWCA)
Chapter in formation**



Music evening with coffee 2020

Liederabend mit Kaffee 2020

After our first “Liederabend mit Kaffee” one year ago, we had on the 27th of February 2020 a second evening with an excellent concert, coffee and a fruitful discussion about how the living conditions and the education of families who work on coffee plantations can be improved. Most of the participants were coffee consumers interested in learning more about women in coffee and how their lives can be improved from actions taken on this side of the world, in our case, Germany in particular. The discussion focused in their perspective as consumers.

The event was opened by the director of Instituto Cervantes, Mr. Pedro Jesús Eusebio Cuesta, and counted with presentations of the Ambassador from Honduras, Mrs. Christa Castro Varela, the president of IFKAD e.V, Mrs. Liliana Caicedo Schwarzbach and the vicepresident of IFKAD e.V, Mrs. Yanti Pramono.

Mrs Caicedo Schwarzbach mentioned the work carried out by IFKAD, the events where IFKAD has participated on its first year of existence, such as the World Coffee Event, visits to various coffee roasters in Germany, meetings with representatives of IWCA chapters, for instance, Ethiopia and Indonesia’s chapter. And all activities to be held in 2020 by IFKAD in order to increase our working network, intensifying our cooperation with the International Women Coffee Alliance and working closely with coffee experts and organizations to move forward on IFKADs strategy. In 2020, for instance, we look forward to participating in the next World Coffee event in Warsaw (Poland), to fostering our education program, to hold a coffee sacks races competition with schools in Hamburg, etc.

The ambassador of Honduras gave an introduction about the current situation of coffee production in Honduras. Honduras is the 5th largest coffee exporter of the world. There are many family farms and more than 100000 families who benefit from the production of

coffee. She exhorted participants to buy quality coffee from Honduran farms and thus support women in coffee.

Mrs Pramono presented a project from IFKAD with an Indonesian coffee cooperative. IFKAD aims at assisting this cooperative of family farmers in the education of their children. Mrs Pramono herself visited the plantation and showed us the pictures she took and revealed us the needs of the children of families from this plantation who faced a long distance from the plantation to the nearest school, which has increased the school dropouts of these children. These children need help with transportation to the nearest school, books, school materials, uniforms, scholarship program, as well as vocational training. IFKADs is hoping that through donations and engaged work with the coffee cooperative these children can be supported.



Mr. Eusebio Cuesta



Mrs. Christa Castro



Mrs. Liliana Caicedo Schwarzbach



Mrs. Yanti Pramono

Concert

Tenor Jimmy Herrera and pianist Hyelee Clara Chang delighted attendants with an amazing performance and a joyful repertoire (see Annex about artists and repertoire).



Discussion

Participants were organized in six round tables. They discussed the proposed topics and selected one person per table to report on the answers/conclusions. The following two questions were discussed:

Q1.- How can the living conditions and the education of families who work on coffee plantations be improved?

Q2.- What information should coffee roasters make available to consumers to ensure a conscious and sustainable purchase?

Table 1 – Reported by Ulrike Westermann

Q1- It is of most importance empowering women. They need to be educated and supported with money and voluntary work. Thus, they can help their families and give their children better education. There are many women and children in producing countries who need our support.

Q2- When people buy coffee in a supermarket or a discounter at a very reasonable price, they usually don't think of the long way it has come and under which conditions this coffee was brought to the supermarket. As a consumer we need to be more conscious and demand more information from sellers.



Table 2 – Reported by Daniel Schönfelder

Q1 – A first and good step is being done by law makers in Germany in order to improve living standards. They are discussing the law of value chain. This law seeks to oblige every company that is producing or selling in Germany to include in their value chain of production the protection of living standards, human right standards and environmental standards. For instance, to introduce due diligence in human rights, to prevent child labor, forced labor, etc. Thus, they must make sure that the articles they sell are produced without child labor, workers are paid a wage they can live off. At least, they must prove that they are trying to improve the conditions, although they are not obliged to guarantee it. And they must pay fines if they do not do it; pay compensations to producers if something happens for not trying to improve conditions or preventing child work or work accidents.

Q2 – It would be good that coffee rosters inform which percentage of the money the final consumer pays goes to the producer. This information should go in the package of coffee.

Table 3 – Reported by Jan Lederbogen

Q1 – People working on plantations should receive minimum wages. Fair prices cannot be achieved if it continues to be fixed in the New York stock market.

Q2 – There should be a certification system that goes on the packaging, so that consumers can see that quality and sustainability standards are being met by producers and sellers. Like it is currently happening with some chocolates.



Table 4 – Reported by Regine Steversen

Q1 - Education is very vital, for children and for adults. Women should get support on the management of the household income. How to calculate a fair price, that at least covers the production cost. Provide them with courses on how to manage the plantation, e.g. technical topics about how to look after the plantation. Subsidize transport for children to go to school or bring teachers to the plantation. This will have an impact on the wellbeing of the families.

Q2 – Direct purchase to coffee plantations, a model already followed by some cooperatives, where a minimum price is guaranteed. Not to be under the pressure of the market. Guarantee that families can leave from coffee wages. To visualize how much work is involved in a cup of coffee. In the medium term there would be a divided market, consumers that are looking for a bargain, and consumers that are ready to pay more since they appreciate the quality of the coffee. These second type of consumers would try to get more information about how the coffee was produced.

Table 5 – Reported by Claudia Murillo

Q1 – education of women should be facilitated in a way that they get more agro-technical skills, this will allow them to be more independent (from their husbands for instance) and have better tools to build a better future.

Despite of laws, the situation in the plantations will not be easily improved, because the families do not have access to knowledge, they do not know that these laws exists.



Table 6 – Reported by Clemens Döllerer

Q1 – laws are a good first step. Workers need to receive fair wages and transport to schools should be granted. If parents receive enough money, kids can go to school.

Q2- We consumers need to pay more money. To make a more sustainable purchase decision, we need more information about the coffee we are buying. Coffee roasters should put a minimum amount of information on the package.

Summary

The discussion overall was very fruitful, participants mentioned that they were left with more questions after discussing the two on the table. This is a topic discussed for the first time for many of them, and they found very interesting and important to get to know more about the value chain behind the production of coffee, and specially the situation of the families and women participating in the coffee production. This makes IFKAD members keener to open such discussions often and more conscious of the need of providing enough information to the general public in order to make beneficial coffee purchases.

Q1- It is recommended to provide more education to women and family workers on how to better benefit and profit from the coffee they produce, as well as to put in place effectively laws that make coffee traders/roasters/buyers to ensure fair wages and fair work on the producing countries. Another important recommendation is to guarantee the conditions for children's education.

Q2- Coffee roasters should be somehow obliged or at least encouraged to put a minimum amount of information in the label of their coffees, for consumers to make more conscious purchases, or at least to get more interested in the origin of the coffee they consume.

Donnations:

An amount of €386 was collected. 68% was given to the artists and 32% remained for IFKAD's project. We thank you very much our participants for their generous support.

Pictures





Annex. Concert

Jimmy Herrera (tenor)



Jimmy Herrera was born in Zipaquirá (Colombia) in 1986, where he began his musical education. He received his bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá. He graduated as a Composer and Singer. And he learnt Violin, Piano and Singing. In Europe he studied with the vocal ensemble of the Early Music Studio of the Hamburg University of Music and Drama. Jimmy gave several concerts as a soloist in Colombia, including one with the Colombian Autism League, where he wanted to raise awareness of people with autism.

Hyelee Clara Chang (pianist)



Pianist Hyelee Clara Chang was born in South Korea, completed all courses with Prof. Konrad Elser and Prof. Inge-Susann Römhild with top grades. Hyelee Clara Chang took part in a variety of international competitions and won numerous prizes, including the Steinway Sponsorship Award 2013 in Hamburg, Possehl Music Competition, Concorso Pianistico Internazionale Roma". She won the 2015 German-Polish Music Competition in Hamburg. In addition, she is a lecturer at various music universities in Germany.

Repertoire

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|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. La Flor de la Canela | Chabuca Granda (3,02) |
| 2. Por ti Volaire | Andrea Bocell (3,52) |
| 3. Perfect Symphony | Ed Sheeran (4,50) |
| 4. Soy colombiano | Rafael Godoy (3,03) |
| 5. Granada | Augustin Lara (3,37) |
| 6. Ständchen | Franz Schubert (3,43) |
| 7. Gutenacht | Winterreich, Franz Schubert (5,90) |
| 8. La Invitación | Jorge Celedon (3,27) |

We thank you for the support

