

Andrews Memorial Primary Hosts African Fairtrade Coffee Producer

03 March 2011

COMBER, Northern Ireland: Fairtrade Fortnight 2011, which runs from February 28 to March 13, had a special guest from Africa speaking to students during Assembly at Andrews Memorial Primary School today.

Anna Michael Mlay from the Tanzanian Coffee Co-operative KDCU Ltd, explained the difference Fairtrade has made to the small –scale coffee growers in Kagera, Tanzania. She represents 20,000 individual Fairtrade certified farmers and through Fairtrade UK buyers Cafedirect, Sainsbury's, ASDA, NISA and Fairground, their coffee is readily available. She further commented: "Fairtrade has had a huge impact on our communities in many ways as each farmer also has a family behind them, so by purchasing Fairtrade coffee you are helping over 100,000 of us to improve our lives. We emphatically thank you for this commitment at the supermarket tills and by your parents buying Fairtrade when out shopping."



L to R:

William Orr, Anna Michael Mlay – Tanzanian Fairtrade Coffee Co-operative KDCU Ltd, Chloe Gibson, Ralph Magee – Principal, Andrews Memorial Primary School, Alen Biju, Dr Christopher Stange – Chair of Fairtrade Belfast & Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, Emma Rankin, Sarah Jewell – UK Fairtrade Foundation

Dr Christopher Stange, Chair of Fairtrade Belfast and from the Consulate for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, based in Comber commended Andrews Memorial for this partnership and the ethos of the school to look internationally to help those most disadvantaged. Stange commented: "Any opportunity to have students hear first-hand about Fairtrade and the difficulties being faced by these farmers, producing many of the products we all consume readily is welcomed. It truly is a win-win situation for all. By purchasing Fairtrade we receive an excellent product made under strict social and environmental conditions, and the

farmer gets paid to cover sustainable production with an additional social premium that is democratically invested back into their own communities. No other system of trade addresses these areas simultaneously, combating trade and social justice for small developing world producers.”

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