Fig. 1. Participants building screens in the workshop, 'Empowerment Through Art'

Fig. 2. Women’s synergy, celebrating womanhood

Fig. 3. An impromptu parade to open the Women’s Panorama
Panoramas

Women: ‘A dynamic experience’

Children: ‘Get to know my Stone Town’

Village: *Mwaka Kogwa*

Pemba: Bulfight
The Women’s Panorama: A Dynamic Experience

By Aida Ayers

This year’s panorama focused on encouraging women to explore themselves and discover the special qualities that make them the individuals that they are. We celebrated the differences among women in an effort to allow them to see that all women have unique and special gifts allotted them. We encouraged women to step away from what they perceive as their role and explore new ways of seeing themselves and celebrating their womanhood.

Our approach to making this happen was holistic, that is, creating a balance between mind, body and soul. We all have skills, talents and information that we can share with others to promote growth and it begins with caring for and accepting ourselves as we are, or changing those things about ourselves that are not conducive to positive growth.

There is a direct link between how women see themselves and what they achieve. A positive self image is the beginning to understanding all that we are capable of accomplishing. With so much attention placed on how the ideal woman should look and act, women tend to forget that genetics have a huge role in determining who we are and how we look, not every woman is supposed to wear a certain size of clothes or have a flat belly, and we certainly cannot stay young forever. What we do have is the choice of taking care of ourselves the best we can with what we have and loving who we are. This is the message that this year’s panorama imparted.

We achieved this through workshops in gender issues, nutrition, beauty tips, yoga instruction and mental and physical health care advice.

HIV/AIDS Segment

Among the highlights of this year’s festival were the workshops on HIV/AIDS and the woman’s role in caring for herself and her family. The workshop entitled, ‘Devaluing the Stigma’, explored how women are perceived once infected with the virus and what measures we can take to prevent blame being placed and work with our male counterparts to examine new ways of dealing with this issue. We resolved that the best approach is to deal with the fact that once one is infected the best thing to do is to establish a healthier lifestyle and focus on safety and nutrition, not on whose fault it was.

In collaboration with a local health professional, we implemented a workshop called, ‘Relationship Skills.’ Much to my delight, this workshop attracted an audience of almost 40 women. It was exclusively for women as the issues discussed were private and sensitive. The issue of continuing a healthy sexual relationship once infected was addressed, and the audience participation was positive. The facilitator explained through diagrams, the parts of our...
bodies which will encourage arousal through dry sexual contact and she explained and demonstrated condom use. She also addressed the issue of sexual satisfaction for women, which really got the attention of her audience. The age range of the women was 20 years to 65 years and there were questions form no less than 20 participants. The workshop lasted an hour beyond its scheduled time of two hours.

‘Mother to Child Transmission’ was another popular workshop, drawing 35 participants, including Red Cross workers. Medications, techniques and preventative measure were explained. As with the other workshop, audience participation was positive and there was a continuous dialogue.

Outside of the workshops there were three booths that provided information on these topics and films related to living positively with the virus, as well as prevention and healthy lifestyles. These booths were set up in collaboration with ZANGOC, ZAPHA+, ZAC, the Clinton Foundation, UNICEF, and The Women’s Dignity Project.

**Gender Issues**

In an effort to address issues not widely discussed, we held a panel discussion for women. The audience numbered over 50. We were honoured by a panel of experts from different fields.

Khadija Mohammed Hija, organizing committee, World Social Forum; Hon. Asha Abdallah, Minister of Women and Children and Member of House of Representatives;

Mariam Rashid, director of Coconut radio station; Hassina Hamad, journalist, radio personality; Dr. Ester Mtumbuka, project coordinator of The Clinton Foundation, Zanzibar; Sabaah Saleh Ali, General Manager, Zanzibar Tourism; Natalia Dabo, facilitator.

It truly was an honour to have such an esteemed panel of professional women. Among the topics discussed were: Early Marriages and Infidelity, Sexual Harassment, Rape, Career Choices, and Physical and Mental Abuse.

We opened the floor to questions once the topic was introduced, followed by comments from each panelist. As hoped, it proceeded positively and it was solution-driven. The Hon. Asha Abdallah enlightened women on where to go for help and answers concerning local laws to protect women. Dr. Ester Mtumbuka explained how to care for oneself if such an incident should occur, and Hassina Hamad shared information on NGOs in Zanzibar that specifically addressed these issues. The panelists were open and frank with their advice, using their own experiences as examples of what may occur and how to resolve certain issues. The workshop concluded with the following advice for women:

Outside of the home women must be concerned with educating themselves. This is the first step to empowerment. Laws exist to protect women but if they do not seek out the information for themselves, they will continue to be victimized. Also incidents must be reported even if you feel there is no recourse.

How to go about getting help and the importance of getting tested for sexually transmitted diseases and survival once you are infected with a virus.

Analyze your strengths and weaknesses, and work on improving your weak areas in order to grow. Remove the fears you have and go forward, both in your personal life and your career.

Be prepared, know what is happening in the world. This is a free market economy, and the only way to progress to is to compete. Do not blame foreigners for taking jobs if you are not qualified. Whatever type of work you do, remember work is work, if it is honest and well
done then it is worthy.

We must educate ourselves in order not to be marginalised in the political and economic forums. And you must have the confidence to back up your education and experience.

Women must support the efforts of other women; otherwise we will have to fight for the same things over and over.

**Economic Growth**

In this arena we had thirty five vendors who set up different booths. They exhibited and sold their handicrafts, home-made soaps, fashion designs, fine art and home-cooked food.

Although generally shy about the amount of money earned, through interviewing the women, I discovered that they earned profits form Tsh. 30,000/- to over 1,000,000/-. They also participated in workshops and discussions on marketing products, packaging, and ways of developing new products and new markets. Based on a written survey conducted during the festival, it was determined that all of those who participated gained new information and contacts.

The workshop entitled, ‘Empowerment Through Art’, was an overwhelming success. It was estimated that 180 participants attended the print-making sessions over a seven-day period. Instructor Ashura Ahmadi demonstrated printing techniques and materials which could be purchased locally and inexpensively. Using these materials and techniques, participants were able to combine these techniques with what they already knew and develop new products.

The success of the Women's Panorama was unprecedented. For the first time it received the media attention it deserved, and audience numbers were triple that of previous years. The team that worked so hard to pull it together is to be commended for a job well done.

Many people have asked, “Where do you go from here?” As coordinator for the third year, I can say that I hope to establish long-term programming. Many of the workshops that took place touched on issues that are of vital importance to the lives of women everywhere. Sustainable programming is essential if women are to implement what was introduced during the festival. It is not enough to have workshops once a year and hope that what was learned will be applied. So my hope is that this type of programming will be available for women throughout the year, perhaps on a monthly basis.
The Children and Youth panorama activities were scattered in villages and towns to give the children and youth of those areas wider participation in the festival. In Unguja the main camp was at Makunduchi to support the local Mwaka Kogwa celebrations, but other activities were at the Alternative Learning Centre, EACROTANAL, Chumbe Coral Park, Mazson’s Hotel, and on Bawe Island. In Pemba the main camp was at the Kiuyu Islamic College, but other activities were at the Old Fort and Pemba Cinema at Chake Chake, at the Novelty Cinema at Wete, and at Tumbe.

Facilitators were carefully chosen to ensure that the one week allocation for events was fully and fruitfully utilised. The venues were also selected according to the needs of the workshops and for the full utilisation of the available resources. Transport to ferry facilitators to and from the centres was available and was convenient and punctual.

Local Leadership was fully involved in the planning and supervision of the activities in order to give the festival local ownership. The development of the programmes, feeding of participants, selection of official guests etc., was done by the local leadership at Makunduchi and Tumbe. Thus for the first time the Children’s Panorama has established a strong partnership with the local authorities which proved to be very healthy.

The Children’s Panorama was officially opened at Makunduchi by the UNICEF representative in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Rodney. Cultural activities included recitation of a poem, a fashion show, a traditional dance known as gonga, etc. In his opening address, Mr. Rodney praised the young children for the wonderful performance, and urged the parents to give their children every support to live a better life and remain in school. He promised that UNICEF will continue to support the Children Panorama.

Children’s Panorama involved a number of workshops and activities:

The **Sara Workshop** involved 80 primary school children in Unguja and Pemba. The workshop, which was run through discussion, songs, role play and drawing, had three major themes:

- Sara fight against child abuse sexual harassment, child labour and substance abuse;
- Sara vows not to turn her back on HIV/AIDS;
- Sara as a peer educator.

The **Preparation for Adulthood** workshop involved 30 school children in Pemba. The major themes of the workshop were:

- The period of transition of childhood to adulthood and its effects to youths;
• Coping with peer pressure and stresses;
• Planning the future;
• Traditional preparation to adulthood.

Besides the selected facilitators, this workshop was also blessed by male and female elders who explained to the participants how children were prepared traditionally to enter adulthood in Zanzibari society. Drawings, songs and plays were used to help the youth understand themselves better.

**The Young Journalists and Photographic Workshop** involved 25 secondary and primary school children each at the Alternative Learning Centre in Unguja and at the Old Fort at Chake Chake in Pemba. In the workshop participants learnt about news collection, editing, holding interviews and photographing. They were asked to visit all ZIFF activities and collect news which facilitated the production of the newsletter CHILDRENS’ VOICE.

**Toward Peaceful Living** was a workshop involving 30 children from Unguja, Pemba and Dar-es-Salaam. It was held at EACROTANAL and concentrated on the theme of PEACE in homes, schools, community and the nation at large. Participants were asked to fight for and maintain peace for better integration. The workshop lasted three days, and the participants marched from EACROTANAL to the Peace Memorial Museum, carrying banners that displayed different messages on Peace. The procession was received by the Director of the Department of Drug Control who urged them not to use drugs because users do not respect peace, and drug abuse is the source of family conflicts nowadays.

A one-day **Music Workshop** involved 35 children from two schools in Unguja who got a chance to learn how to use a violin. The session was both theoretical and practical. The workshop was successful, and children enjoyed and learnt the skill.

Another one-day **Our Environment** workshop was held in Unguja which involved 20 primary school children from Francis Maria Primary School. They had an opportunity to visit
Bawe Island to learn about the sea environment and sea creatures. The children had a wonderful time and learnt a lot about the marine environment.

Finally there was a **Children’s Rights** workshop that lasted a day and had 120 out-of-school youths from Unguja and Pemba. Two senior officials from UNICEF in Dar es Salaam, Fatma Moulid and Mr. Cosmos, facilitated the workshop. The participants were able to discuss their views concerning their rights and obligations. It was a healthy discussion dealing with the legal aspects of the rights of children and what they can do when their rights are purposely jeopardized. Mr. Cosmos suggested that the youths needed to be given more knowledge on life skills.

**Film Screening**

Children film screening was conducted at two centres in Unguja and three centres in Pemba. The Unguja centres were the Alternative Learning Centre at Rahaleo for the town children and Makunduchi Secondary School for the South District children. The Pemba centres were the two town cinemas in Chake Chake and Wete for the town children, and at the Kuyu Islamic college for rural Micheweni children. Over 8,000 children of different ages and academic levels had the opportunity of watching films which were educative and entertaining. At the end of each film children were asked to present their comments. They discussed enthusiastically the content, characters, and relevance to their lives.

On the seventh day of the Festival children in Unguja and Pemba held an **Exhibition** of their works from the various drawings projects, dramas, songs. Both exhibitions were visited by the guest of honour who closed the 2006 Children Panorama.

The Children’s Panorama was highly successful. For the first time 120 out-of-school youths were given an opportunity to participate in the Panorama. They were provided with a platform to express their problems and needs. Parents who participated in the Preparation for Adulthood workshop expressed their appreciation and asked to be given a chance to be with the children during the ZIFF Festival because at home they said it was difficult to have time with them. Despite the absence of the foreign facilitator for the photographic workshop, the children were able to take and produce wonderful photographs, and as a result two copies of the newsletter **Children Voice** were produced. For some time, ZIFF was seen as a town-folks entertainment, but this year it penetrated into remotest areas of Unguja and Pemba.
Get To Know My Stone Town
A photographic competition for children in Mchambawima

By Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society

The Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society (ZSTHS) and the Stone Town Conservation Development Authority (STCDA) joined ZIFF in the 2006 preparation of the Street performance programme ‘Transforming the City’. One of the events planned for the festival week was to involve children in a creative and educational task with the aim of making them aware of their local environment and to see it in a new perspective.

The idea of the photographic competition was to gather groups of children living in the neighbourhood where the street performances were supposed to take place. Due to lack of funds, a small programme was prepared for just one area within the Stone Town. The location chosen was a little busy crossroad close to the International Hotel at Mchambawima, within the Mkunazini area, not far from the main market.

As part of the street performance, ZSTHS and STCDA had prepared entertaining presentations on the meaning of heritage, the World Heritage List and the status of the Stone Town as one of the listed sites. The presentations were supposed to give the community residing in the area and especially the children an understanding of the Stone Town as a unique place, and to raise their curiosity of why and what is so special about the place. After the presentation it was announced that children between 7 and 12 years of age were welcome to participate in a photo competition, and that they would receive disposable cameras the following day. A total number of twelve groups were formed; six groups made up of girls only and six groups of boys only, and each group had four members.

The next day the children were all eagerly waiting at Mchambawima. They listened carefully to the instructions and the explanation on what the competition was all about. They were told to look for places, buildings, things or people that had a special meaning for them, like place where they live, play, like to sit or just want to be, or places that made them feel sad, frightened and so on. They were also told that they had to try and give explanations for each picture on why it was chosen, what is special, what they feel and like about it. The disposable cameras were donated by the Swedish Association for Building Preservation (SBF), an association in Sweden dealing in preservation and conservation of heritage in partnership with the ZSTHS.

Most children attend Koran schools in the afternoons, and the cameras were therefore distributed at around 5 o’clock. The children got so excited over the cameras that they immediately took on the task and started to take pictures.

The following day all the cameras were collected and sent for processing. Unfortunately many of the photos came out grey and dull since most of them were taken during the late hours of the afternoon when light was fading. The children did not seem to be upset at all and were only excited over seeing the result of their efforts. It was obvious that they had under-
Fig. 1. Mshua nzuri baharini / Nice boats in the sea

Fig. 2. Pazuri kwa kucheza / A good place to play

Fig. 3. Bishara ya utalii / Business for tourists

Fig. 4. Kuni - Muhimu sana / Firewood - very important

Fig. 5. Matakataka - Uchafu / Lots of garbage - dirty

Fig. 6. Malindi – nyumba bovu na historia imepotea / The house was bad and now history is gone.
stood their mission, and even though the quality of the pictures were not so good, the images reflected the task that they were assigned to. Only one group failed to get any pictures at all.

With much concentration and energy the eleven groups sorted their pictures and eventually had to decide on four photos to hand in for the competition. For each picture they also gave a motivation or comment as to why they had selected it.

A commendable work was done by the photo-lab and the enlargements received were more colourful and brighter than the smaller photos. All the 44 enlargements were mounted on exhibition panels at the Zanzibar Conservation Centre (ZCC). Each group had its own panel and each picture was presented together with the captions from the group. The panels were hung around the walls on the ground floor of the building.

ZIFF had promised to arrange for a jury of five children, who where trained in photography at last year’s ZIFF festival, but unfortunately they were not able to come. To have children to judge the photos taken by other children would have been such an interesting process, but instead an internal jury of representatives from ZSTHS / SBF had to elect the three winners at the very last minute. Each set of pictures was up for judgement, and not single photos. The presentation by each group together with their comments was considered by the judges.

On Saturday 22 July all children who participated were invited to a little prize-giving ceremony at the ZCC. The Guest of Honour was the Director General of STCDA, Mr. Issa Makarani who handed over the awards to the three proud winning groups and all the participants.

The jury’s motivation was as follows:

- First prize: For capturing the different aspects of the Stone Town so well.
- Second prize: For the mix of motion and calmness – good and bad in the Stone Town
- Third prize: For bringing out the contrasts between good and bad in the Stone Town.

All the forty-eight children who had participated received a Certificate of Appreciation and a small note book. Each group also received its pictures so that they could share the photos among themselves. The prize-giving ceremony was celebrated with soda and biscuits for all. Without doubt it was a day that the children of Mchambawima will not forget for the rest of their lives.

Children are our future, they are the next generation…

...they will have to take responsibility for the preservation of Stone Town

Long Live the Stone Town, Today, Tomorrow; … for generations to come.

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(1) The Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society (ZSTHS) was registered as an NGO in 2002. Its is to work for the preservation and conservation of the Stone Town heritage, and to promote environmental and social welfare to its inhabitants. ZSTHS is a membership organisation, open to everyone who lives, works in or has any other connection with Stone Town.
The Village Panorama

By Dr. Martin Mhando, Bi Hinda, Sharifa Awadh

The Village Panorama is an integral part of the Festival of the Dhow Countries especially as it encompasses events and activities organised by and for people outside the core event location of the Zanzibar International Film Festival in the Stone Town. The Village panorama took place in both Unguja and Pemba Islands where 13 villages organised in four clusters participated through contributing to the many cultural activities and training workshops that reflect the atmosphere of peace and intercultural communication that is the hallmark of the dhow countries’ cultures.

These were part of what was a sumptuous feast of organised events and workshops that included traditional dance competitions, dhow races, Sara Life Skills, Young Journalists, Photography, Sand-animations, Taking Care of Animals, Towards Peaceful Coexistence, Preparation for Adulthood, ICT for Disabled Children, and many others. These activities were chosen according to a number of parameters including those that provide skills that can help people in their lives, knowledge that helps people to better control their environment, undertakings that offer solutions to existing problems and conflicts in the family/society, as well as entertainment for the local population.

Festival like ZIFF are increasingly becoming locally centred, giving audiences in small venues a chance to see films of a different and alternative nature, but also becoming powerful assertions of community aspirations. This is what we promote at ZIFF within our Village Panorama. We let the local cultures highlight and promote themselves not only through film but through activities that reflect the direction towards change that the communities themselves are embracing and are capable of implementing. This in many ways is what lies at the core of ZIFF’s Village Panorama’s success. In one article in the Swahili Coast it is said, ‘Last year’s Pemba Panorama was a great success, with some participants going on to form their own cooperative societies which now provide income for their families.’

Included in this year’s Panorama Programme were the following components that need highlighting amongst others.

The Makunduchi Mwaka Kogwa Event

A highlight of ZIFF 2006 was the Mwaka Kogwa event held at Makunduchi village in South Zanzibar. Every year, a few weeks after the conclusion of ZIFF’s festival, another more traditional and local festival takes place – The Zanzibar Cultural Festival. This year, due the World Cup in Germany, the ZIFF festival was moved forward, and as a consequence the two festivals overlapped, and ZIFF seized the opportunity to give an additional cultural offering to its audiences.

Every year, the village of Makunduchi in southern Unguja becomes the scene of Zanzibar’s most spectacular ritual, where a specially built hut is ceremoniously burnt down to
mark the onset of the traditional Shirazi New Year. While local women run in processions filled with dance and songs, bands of men from surrounding villages pounce and flog men from ‘rival’ villages with banana stalks. In this way the participants get rid of any pent-up grievances that had accumulated over the previous year. A ZIFF Caravan of assorted vehicles that made its way in a joyous procession through the picturesque Zanzibar countryside towards Makunduchi, was greeted with much ululation. There the foreign and local guests were treated to a time-warp event where their usual rituals of psychoanalytical visits or religious appeasement were confronted by their ultra-realistic nemesis - the flagellation. While seemingly brutal, this event left the audiences in awe of the power of culture in disseminating information and effecting interaction amongst human beings. The day-long event transformed what is usually an urban festival into a rural festival, and left all who took part in it reflecting how ZIFF is a platform for innovativeness and avowed intercultural dialogue.

The PSI (Population Service International) Mobile Cinema

The main task for PSI Tanzania, which provided a Mobile Video Unit and trainers, was to support ZIFF in the Village Panorama programme for training and film show screening. The screenings were conducted in different villages and regional towns outside Zanzibar as well as at the Forodhani gardens in the Stone Town. The films were enjoyed and received with applause, especially the Malaria Haikubaliki, Ngao Ya Muda Mrefu and the WaterGuard documentaries.

The PSI group however recommended that at the Forodhani grounds, outdoor film shows may be of greater success if conducted during week-ends and public holidays; and ZIFF should evaluate the impact of the festival in Pemba and Unguja respectively for the past nine Festivals already conducted to assess community participation and support in ZIFF.

Women's workshops

A ten-day workshop to use less-smoking stove, wonder bucket and solar lamp was conducted in the Mtende cluster in the South District involving 15 women from four villages. It was facilitated by Mrs Fortunata Nyabenda from REDESOL, an NGO from the Kagera Region on the mainland. The session started with theory followed by practical work using locally available raw materials to help them set up when they go back to their villages. A new women's group was formed called KIJIMAMTEMU which has started the process of registration.

A three-day designing of materials (Batik) training work-shop was conducted in the Pwani Mchangani cluster in North A District, facilitated by Mrs Mwanakombo Muhidin. Women from three Shehias were trained to design kitenge, beddings, etc. All the materials were displayed during the Festival, and women were eager to continue, but they still needed guidance and assistance, especially for painting materials which cannot be accessed locally.

Villagers grow various types of fruits but they lack knowledge of preserving them. Therefore 20 women from four Shehias in the Kilombero cluster in North B District were trained on how to prepare fruit jam and pickles (Achari) for marketing. Standard packing process was also practiced.

Recycling is a growing industry, and youths from all the four clusters, i.e. Mtende, Pwani Mchangani, Kilombero and Chumbuni, camped in Zanzibar town where banana leaves, used paper, lemon grass, etc. were used to make some thing very different from the original. One participant was able make a diary from used papers, hand bags, trays etc. This group is also raising funds to establish a small organisation.

The PSI also facilitated Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS in all the four village
clusters. About 30 teenagers from each cluster were provided with HIV/AIDS information. Since the first case was reported in Zanzibar 1986, its prevalence has increased enormously. The 2004 annual report shows that 3.1% of the population group affected by HIV/AIDS was between 10 – 24 years. The national strategies on reducing it were discussed and abstinence was stressed. Voluntary counselling and testing, behaviour change, unsafe sex, individual responsibility in decision making and care of AIDS orphans were discussed in depth. Finally A/B/C was seen as the right approach in controlling the pandemic.

**Gender mainstreaming** was discussed in two clusters at Pwani Machangani and Kilombero. Under the facilitation of Madam Tatu Ali from ZAWCO, the NGO that specifically deals with women issues, the groups compared opportunities in various contexts, such as primary school enrolment between boys and girls and membership in different committees in local communities. Great disparities were noticed between Pwani Mchangani where in class 6, there were 35 male students compared to only four females, and no women were involved in any committee, allegedly because they could not resolve conflict; while at Kilombero, there was a balance between male and female students, and two out of seven participants from there were committee members. The discussion concluded that equal rights should be given to all and should start at childhood.

**Religious Rights** were discussed in two clusters at Mtende and Chumbuni where the agenda was the role of the Quran and the **Madrasa** teachers as one of the effective stakeholders in the upbringing of children. The discussion emphasised the importance of collaboration between parents, school teachers, village leaders and Quran teachers to guide students on moral ethics and Islamic rules that will protect them from bad behaviour. Lessons should start early at the age of seven. Quran teachers requested the facilitators to equip them with the right information on HIV/AIDS, and a plan of action was developed and contacts were made.

**Arts and cultural events** took place in the afternoons when social gathering are common to the entire villages. Dhow races, tug-of-war, playing cards are very popular in Zanzibar. The drama from the Prison cultural group performed in all the four clusters. Child rearing in Zanzibar was a communal activity in which all individuals were responsible, with elders communicating as peers in guiding their children, but this does not exist any more. Dialogues and poems addressed various burning issues that were not discussed in public for fear that they might touch individual feelings. Local ngoma troops from the villages and towns entertained the villagers in the evening when the villagers were waiting for the film shows that went on until mid night.

**General comments**

The various Village Panorama activities involved in total between fifty and a hundred thousand villagers. This is the result of early involvement of the community in the preparation of the village events. Participants appreciated the different skills and knowledge that they acquired. The coordinators had freedom in proposing activities and in decision-making. However, some districts were omitted because of scarcity of funds, and funds for preparations were not always released on time. Technical assistance is required to organise groups through follow-up visits. There was also a problem in the coordination of transport which delayed village coordinators and facilitators. It is therefore recommended that permanent arrangements should be made for transport during the festival, and the Village Panorama should have its own transport. Finally, the number of films was rather limited. Therefore, the number of film options of the Swahili version appropriate for villages should be increased.
The Pemba Panorama

For over a millennium Zanzibar has been a trading centre for merchants travelling around the Indian Ocean. This was made possible by the dhow which transported not only goods but also cultures, beliefs and ideas. The culture of the Swahili people and their Swahili language is a reflection of these interactions. The 2006 ZIFF theme ‘Sails of History, Citizens of the Sea’ reflects the historical and cultural ties of the coast peoples. The Pemba Panorama activities for the year 2006 were selected to respond to that theme. The dhow competition, the bao competition, the bull fight and traditional dances all have a historical touch and exhibit amalgamation of culture.

The activities for the 2006 Pemba Panorama were staged at four centres, at Chake Chake and Wete towns for film screening, Micheweni for women cottage industry, and Tumbe for bull fight, dhow race, traditional dance competition, bao competition and exhibition. Except for the women cottage industry and film screening, the rest of the activities were organised and supervised by the local people themselves. This was purposely done to give them ownership of the Festival.

The Tumbe Cooperative Development Society, an NGO, worked hard and closely with the Panorama coordinators to make the festival successful. The turnout of people from distant areas to watch the activities was a sign that ZIFF is gaining the heart and support of the people of Pemba. The activities were organised by competent facilitators who had knowledge and experience of the events. There was also a team of monitors who travelled from centre to centre to ensure that the activities were running smoothly and solved any problems that occurred. The performance by activities is as indicated below.

The opening was conducted concurrently with that of the Children’s Panorama at Micheweni, and the guest of honour was the Officer-in-Charge of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Pemba. There was recitation of a poem on ZIFF performance in general, traditional dances and speeches.

In his opening address, the guest of honour thanked ZIFF for the good work for the ninth year, and pointed out that each year ZIFF comes closer to the Zanzibaris’ cultural aspiration, and doubts people had in the early years of ZIFF had vanished. He said ‘ZIFF today does not only bring people of different cultures together, it does not only give Zanzibar an international recognition, but it also reduces poverty among people both in towns and villages.’

The Women Cottage Industry

Thirty poor rural women were selected from the neighbouring villages of Micheweni, and
were given skills in cookery, hair setting, henna painting and making handbags from thrown away plastic bags and earrings from coconut shells. Though the training lasted only seven days, the women learnt a lot of skills and the Tumbe participants are now planning to set up their own cooperative society to produce the bags and earrings to sell to tourists.

The 2005 women cottage industry participants have now all something to do. Some have formed cooperative societies but others have just started their own small-scale businesses. It is highly recommended that because of the poverty of the rural people of Pemba, women cottage industry programme in 2007 should be conducted in every district involving as many women as possible.

The competitions

The *bao* competition was held at Tumbe with four teams of four people each. Bao admirers from different areas came to witness the game. The competition gave an opportunity for old people to participate in the Festival.

Four teams were selected for the **Traditional Dance Competition**. They were Uringe, Gombe Sugu, Nia Njema and Changamke. Three judges were selected to determine the winners. The selection was based on skills in dancing, agility in dressing and competitive songs that reflect ZIFF. The winners were rewarded between Tshs. 60,000 and 30,000.

The **bullfight** was held in Tumbe and it attracted many people from beyond Tumbe who came in lorries, on Vespas and bicycles. Five bulls were involved in the fight, and it was open to every one who was interested and learned how to play the game. The best two bulls came from Chwale and were rewarded Tshs. 90,000 each, and the best players came from Tumbe and were given Tshs. 50,000 each.

The **dhow race** was also conducted at Tumbe. The show was packed, and a total of 12 dhows which used sails were allowed to participate. It was an exciting event where sailors showed their skills in manoeuvring the dhows to catch the wind. The three winners came from Tumbe and Kiuyu and were rewarded between Tshs. 60,000 and 40,000.

Film Screening

Film screening for adults was held in Wete and Chake cinema halls in the evenings. The films varied in themes, including farming, environmental issues, herding, HIV|AIDS, and income generating activities. The cinemas were full every night. Village film screening was also held in different villages using mobile facilities.

The closing of the Pemba Panorama also corresponded with the closing of the Children’s Panorama. The guest of honour was the Director of Primary Education, and it was also attended by a ZIFF board member Mr. Castico. The guest of honour praised ZIFF for maintaining the Festival and extending its activities even to the remote areas. He said that ZIFF was now known by almost all Zanzibaris and had become a national institution. ‘The ministry is very much satisfied with the knowledge and skills children get during the festivals,’ he said.
Indian dancer at the opening of ZIFF