

AZLera's Projecto Oceano: Monthly Report – July 2014



Life on the island this month has been dominated by the Muslim holiday of Ramadan. Although only half of our members are Muslims the holiday strongly affects daily life on the island as every day around 4:30 to 5pm (at sunset) everybody stops work and goes home to eat with their families. Women and girls are particularly affected as they get together in the afternoons to prepare the evening feast. On the 29th of July Muslims across the island will celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid-al-Fitr, which corresponds to the end of Ramadan, and hundreds of people will gather near the fortress at sunset to celebrate this event.

Over the past few weeks the island has been getting ready for the visit of the President of Mozambique. The town has been given a makeover with buildings being renovated and painted, parks and beaches being cleaned etc. With the elections coming up in a couple of months this will be an important event for many local people.

July has also seen the arrival of a larger amount of tourists on the island. Although this region is never really overwhelmed with tourists, due in part to the continuing insecurities further south, there is a marked increase in tourism during July and August and we've had a number of people stop by to ask about Projecto Oceano.



Students from the secondary school, including most of our members, are currently taking their exams marking the end of the first semester. Many of those who are in their final year of secondary school are starting to think about what they will do once school finishes in December. Most of our members are keen to pursue university studies and many have been doing research and discussing together the different options available to them.

A few weeks ago we enjoyed the visit of a lecturer from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, Meera Sabaratnam, and two of her project assistants. They are doing some research in the region and agreed to give a presentation to our students on studying International Relations and Politics at university. Many students attended and had lots of questions for our guests.