

# VISIT OF THE FUMOA INDUSTRY BY A SENIOR YEAR CLASS OF THE LYCEE JEAN MERMOZ OF DAKAR

*On 31st January 2017 in the afternoon, 35 senior year students together with 3 teachers of the Lycée Jean Mermoz went to the Fumoa industry which is located in Dakar near the harbor. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about packaging in Senegal and to help the students illustrate the notion of Progress for their final exam.*

Once there, they awaited the arrival of several staff members. The visit was divided in 3 factories: FUMOA plastic, FUMOA metal and COFISAC.

## A little bit of history...

Before leaving the meeting room, M. Sagna (executive assistant) told us a little bit more about the industry's history. FUMOA was founded in 1946 under another name and used to make only oil packaging. This industry was then bought by a prince (Karim Aga Khan IV) in 1995 to make it part of his network named IPS.



COFISAC was founded in 1995 and creates bags to carry sugar, rice, salt, fertilizers, etc... FUMOA and COFISAC have a common management. FUMOA stands for: Fût Metallique et Plastic Ouest Africain.

## FUMOA Plastic

The visitors saw the machines and raw material (polypropylene) used to manufacture the different items made in this factory which are jars, bottles, plastic containers and preformed bottles. They produce up to 33,500 preformed bottles per day for clients such as Kirene, Soboa.

## FUMOA Metal

In this part of the factory, the students were able to see the different steps of the making of barrels. From the raw material to the final product passing by the cutting and shaping, the

assembling chain and the painting. The barrels are used to carry vegetable oil, petrol, lubricant and other liquids. The barrels can resist up to 2.5 tons and are sold to Total, Shell and other companies.

## COFISAC

The making of bags was explained in this part of the industry. The raw material used is the same as the one for FUMOA Plastic but they add colorants in order to change the color of the bag. The making of the bag is done by a circular power loom. The bags are made in different sizes and some are more resistant and can carry a higher charge than others.



The different branches of FUMOA and COFISAC industries have now diversified their field of action and produce packages for cosmetic use, food, vinegar, oil, petrol and others. The visitors then thanked our hosts and took the bus to go back to school. This visit can be linked to their notion "Idea of Progress" as machines and humans are working together to improve packaging in Senegal as well as using science innovations to make the workers' jobs safer and easier to handle.

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