



“WHADN NEWS”

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Connecting Back — Moving Forward

“Queen LaMbikiza of Swaziland visits the FDA”

Her Royal Highness LaMbikiza, Queen of Swaziland visited the Washington DC office of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, during her recent visit to the United States of America. She was accompanied by Her Excellency Ambassador Mrs. Mary M. Kanya, the Ambassador of The Kingdom of Swaziland to the United States of America, and Dr. Sarah E. Moten, Chief, USAID Africa Bureau Office of Sustainable Development, Education Division.

During the visit, Mr. Fred Oladeinde, President, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, presented the House of Nanny Initiative to Queen LaMbikiza, Ambassador Kanya and Dr. Moten. The House of Nanny is an initiative of the Kenya Diaspora Network (KDN) and other Diaspora Civil Society Organizations under the Western Hemisphere Africa Diaspora Network (WHADN). The ini-

tiative addresses the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and their care givers. Queen LaMbikiza expressed interest in the initiative for Swaziland.

Her Royal Highness was also briefed on a mobile health clinics initiative which can help extend and complement treatment and supply of Anti Retro Viral drugs to communities in rural areas of Africa affected by HIV/AIDS.



Her Royal Highness Queen LaMbikiza of Swaziland along with Her Excellency Ambassador Mrs. Mary M. Kanya, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Swaziland to the U.S. (left) and Dr. Sarah Moten (right), Chief, USAID Africa Bureau Office of Sustainable Development, Education Division.

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“Nigerian Diaspora Day”

The Nigerian Information Technology Professionals in Americas (NITPA) along with the Nigerian Computer Society (NCS) is organizing the 2004 Nigerian Diaspora Day. The event will be held in Abuja, Nigeria on June 17th. The program for this year is primarily aimed at kicking off the initiative, with the hope of expanding it next year into a viable means for bridging the divide between problem location and solution sources in the diaspora.

The first conference which took place last year, brought to light several issues in the Information Technology sector, which were grave enough to turn the conference into an annual event.

The focus of this year's conference will be around 'bridging the digital divide' which is threatening to keep the country below the lines of development. The conference will also provide a forum for all established organizations to make meaningful contributions to the development of Nigeria in the areas of information Technology, education, health, finance, investment, tourism etc., enabling the country to focus on its human resources and move ahead towards rapid develop-

ment.

It is also expected that the conference will bring about policy discussions and formulations at the national level as well as help build a platform for engaging the West-African sub region. The National Diaspora Day is also to be part of an annual National Program designed

“ provision of a forum for all established professional organizations to make meaningful contributions to the development of Nigeria ”

to address National Development issues of critical and strategic importance.

This event is to draw Nigerians in the diaspora back to Nigeria to prepare for the global knowledge Olympiad, through Professional service and grassroots intervention. The view of people in the IT industry is that this concept will help Nigeria to prepare for the emerging knowledge Olympiad and spur the country for global competitiveness—applying best practice modes and attain higher quality standards at all levels of development.

Professor Manny C. Aniebonam,

President of NITPA has indicated that NITPA is seeking legislative backing and executive approval to set up and organize an annual Diaspora day as a national event, will be one of the objectives of the international IT conference. He also said that establishing a Nigerian Diaspora Day was in recognition of the needed contribution to nation building, by over 4.5 million Nigerians making life outside the shores of the country. Professor Aniebonam is also stated to have said that “provision of a forum for all established professional organizations to make meaningful contributions to the development of Nigeria in the areas of information technology, education, health, finance, investment, tourism among others will be part of the objective of the conference’.

Mr. Chris Uwaje, the ex-ITAN boss and who is also the Advisory head of the local committee is reported to have said that the International IT Conference will go a long way in charting a new course in the growing Nigerian IT sector which would yield the country much needed foreign earnings as has been the case with a developing country like India. He reiterated the optimism that the stake holders in the indus-

try had shown on using the occasion to explore the issues of Diaspora home coming, within a view in mind of assessing where the Utopian view of the subject ends and reality takes over.

Mr. Uwaje who had pioneered the IT Policy documentation has shown optimism in saying that he hoped the event would be supported by the presence of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and other important Ministers, including those for Communication, Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology. Mr. Uwaje also hopes that the Ministerial Round Table Conference and Business Luncheon will help highlight global competitiveness opportunities, investment incentives and opportunities, and the strategic role Nigerians in the Diaspora can play as the engine and hub of development, knowledge, commerce and industry for indigenous and international investors.

At the end of the conference, participants will be able to have a whole variety of information and take advantage of initiatives being undertaken by the Federal and State Governments in Nigeria.

Some of the affiliates and invited entities of interest that will be attending the event are: Association of Nigerian Physicians, Congressional Black Caucus of US Congress, African Union, The Presidency NIPC, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Teachers Without Borders, Nigerian Communications

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Commission, Nigerian Universities Commission, Nigerian Youth Movement, Ministry of Science and Technology and many others.

For other relevant information on NITPA, please go to <http://www.nitpa.org>

To get further information on the Diaspora day, please email Professor Manny Aniebonam at profmanny@aniebonam.com



IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- ***A FOLLOW UP ON THE HOUSE OF NANNY***
- ***REPORT ON THE AFRICAN UNION TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON RELATIONS WITH THE DIASPORA***



A group photograph of participants at the African Union Technical Workshop on Relations with the Diaspora, along with The Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago.

The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The African Union's 3rd Ordinary Session of the Summit is to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6-8 July, 2004.

A WHADN delegation will be attending the Summit. All members interested in attending the summit as part of the WHADN delegation are requested to contact the secretariat at the earliest to register and/or visit our website <http://www.democracy-africa.org> to download the registration form.

Pre-



sented by: The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

Where: Miami, Florida

When: September 16 - 18, 2004

Why: To discuss how science and technological advances could impact on African agricultural opportunities and challenges.

The seventh annual **AfrICANDO** Trade and Investment Symposiums will bring together African and US agricultural businesses, educators, trade and investment experts, government administrators and representatives from international organizations to discuss technology based approaches and strategies to advance African agriculture. Based on the transfer of technologies, this will be an opportunity to lay the foundation for new economic partnerships between leaders of the African public and private sectors and US public and private institutions, such as agricultural industries, research centers and some of the Research & Development based agricultural universities and companies.

Advancing agriculture as an engine of development is an underlining objective of this **AfrICANDO** symposium. As a result of this conference, it is our hope that US food processing companies, farm related technology vendors ranging from fertilizer compa-

nies to irradiation/pasteurization companies will envision the advantages of doing business in Africa and identify new market opportunities for their organizations to participate in Africa's development.

An important byproduct of the three-day symposium, from the African viewpoint will be the field trips, lead by agriculture and business experts, to agriculture and eco-tourism sites in Miami - Dade County. Agriculture in Miami - Dade County is among the top three industries, generating over 560 million dollars in agricultural sales every year and is responsible for generating more than 15,000 jobs. Since agri-business provides such a highly significant economic impact in Miami - Dade County, it makes the County an excellent field model for the **AfrICANDO** symposium.

Register today — particularly our International participants who require visa (s) to attend. Registration forms available at <http://www.democracy-africa.org/africando2004.aspx>

WHAT IS WHADN?

The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN) is an African Union (AU) initiative and was launched during the First African Union Western Hemisphere Diaspora Forum held in Washington, DC from December 17—19, 2002. This historical event was convened by AU and coordinated by The Foundation for Democracy in Africa.

MISSION

To encourage and facilitate the utilization of the collective talents and resources of the African Diaspora in the Americas, the Caribbean and Latin America to support economic development and sustainable growth on the continent. To this end, WHADN was established to function as the coordinating network, linking the Diaspora and the AU for the purpose of achieving the common goals of social and economic development.

OBJECTIVES

- ★ To encourage and facilitate the enduring cultural, social and economic ties to Africa within the Western Hemisphere Diaspora communities
- ★ To develop and identify funding for capacity building projects by Diaspora civil society organizations in the Western Hemisphere Diaspora and the African Union
- ★ To work with the African Union to create mechanisms to represent the views, concerns and interests of the African Diaspora within the African regional organization

PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

- ★ Democracy, Governance and the Rule of Law
- ★ Health and Environment
- ★ Peace and Security
- ★ Education
- ★ Trade and Economic Development
- ★ Science, Research and Technology
- ★ Communications
- ★ Arts and Culture

GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

- ★ Latin America (including Mexico and Central America)
- ★ The Caribbean
- ★ Brazil (given its language, size, and historical disconnect with the rest of Latin America)

The United States, Canada (not grouped with the United States given the often different interests of the Diaspora of the two countries, as reported by members of the Working Group)



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