



“WHADN NEWS”

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Connecting Back — Moving Forward

AfrICANDO 2004 - DIASPORA TOWN HALL MEETING

FDA's annual Trade & Investment Symposium AfrICANDO 2004 was held with much fan fare at the Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel in Miami, Florida from September 16-18, 2004. The theme for this years symposium was "Effective and Efficient use of Agricultural Science, Technology and Research as Tools for Development in Africa".

The symposium was well received with participation of V.I.P.'s like Secretary of Agriculture, U.S.D.A. the Honorable Ann M. Veneman and Her Excellency, Honorable Rosebud Kurwijila, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission, as well as a broad audience from Africa, the Americas and Europe.

AfrICANDO 2004 was a precursor to the WHADN 'Diaspora Town Hall Meeting' at the end of the symposium on September 18, 2004 at the same venue. The Town Hall Meeting had a wide audience participating and debating in great detail the 'proposed structure of WHADN'. (This document is available for viewing at the following web link: <http://www.democracy-africa.org/documents/WHADNStructure.pdf>).

The Town Hall Meeting also had important discussions on issues such as: - The African Union's recognition of the African Diaspora as important in achieving broad-based African development; WHADN's agenda for the future; the efforts the African Union is making to connect with the Diaspora and what their achievements have been to date;

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EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION, SEPTEMBER 03-09, 2004, OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

The Extra Ordinary Session of the AU on Employment & Poverty Alleviation in Africa opened at the level of Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) & Experts on October 3rd, 2004. The session was opened by the Burkina Minister of State for External Affairs and Regional Co-operation, Hon. Youssoufou Ouédraogo. In his opening, the Minister pointed out the importance of the meeting as a launching pad for consultation and exchange of ideas and views on how Africa can develop socio-political and economic mechanisms to tackle the challenges posed by unemployment and the increasing influx of poverty.

A close look at the major causes of poverty, unemployment and underemployment shows that economic decline is a major cause of poverty, declining labor productivity and unemployment in Africa. "The economies of most African countries have over the years, either stagnated or shrank, or experienced low growth rates. With the exception of perhaps one or two African countries, none of Africa's 34 Least Developed Countries are likely to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015" said Adv. Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Mr. Anthony Okonmah, Executive Director, FDA attended the conference on invitation of the African Union as part of the Civil Society delegation.

(Full details at: <http://www.africa-union.org/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT.htm#>)

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“Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora”

Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora: October 7th—9th, 2004, Dakar, SENEGAL.

The conference was the first meeting of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora organized by the African Union, the General Theme for the conference was : **“Africa in the 21st century: Integration and Renaissance”**.

The objective of the meeting was to Mobilize the Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora about the African Union and NEPAD and to help chart the development course of Africa. To look at tapping its own brains both within the continent and outside, and by giving primacy to the interests of its sons and daughters at home and in the Diaspora.

The result sought by the African Union Commission from this meeting was nothing less than a contract between the Continent and its intelligentsia, be it indigenous or from the Diaspora, to transform ideas into knowledge and knowledge into power. Such a contract is expected to pave the way for a more substantial and better structured participation of intellectuals in the conduct of the Continent’s affairs and the management of its relations

with the world, generating a fresh interest in politics for the intellectual and building a new partnership between these two categories of players on solid foundations. The African Union looked to the intelligentsia of Africa and its Diasporas to speak out energetically over issues of integration and renaissance and on many other issues.

Even though African associations have existed from as far back as 1897, early signs of Pan Africanism had become visible in the resistance move-

“The African Union is said to have invested significant efforts for this October 2004 meeting to be scientifically fruitful”

ments of Black slaves in America, with its actual birth being in 1900 when Henry S. Williams from Trinidad organized the First Pan African Conference in London.

The African Union is said to have invested significant efforts for this October 2004 meeting to be scientifically fruitful. In this regard, at the invitation of President Adboulaye Wade of Senegal, a preparatory meeting was held in Dakar in November 2003, which enabled the hundred or so participants to voice

a few concerns that were looked into, before they could be taken on board by this October 2004 meeting. These concerns included the importance that should be accorded the Diasporas. Earlier, during the two meetings organized in Addis Ababa in October and November 2003, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, pleaded in favor of a more significant contribution by African intellectuals to the structuring of the African Union and ideas aired on the themes and issues which it may be interesting to delve into during the October 2004 Dakar Conference. Based on the ideas developed during the deliberations/meetings and the vision of the African Union, six general themes had been outlined, to be addressed and debated at the meeting of African intellectuals, namely:

- Pan-Africanism in the 21st Century;
- Contribution of intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora to the deepening and strengthening of African integration in the context of the 21st Century;
- African identity in a multicultural context;
- Africa’s place in the world;
- Africa’s relations with its Diaspora;
- Africa, Science and Technology: stakes and prospects.

As regards the expected results of the Conference, it was hoped that the Conference will provide ideas that could contribute towards ensuring:

- 1) the remobilization and renewed commitment to a really operational "Global Coalition for Africa";
- 2) the mobilization of leaders and decision-makers at the level of governments, the private sector, as well as the scientific community of Africa and its Diaspora, to promote science and technology for development;
- 3) the establishment of peace, democracy, good governance and respect for human and people's rights on sound foundations;
- 4) the political organization and integrated economic development of Africa, based on the institutional foundations of the African Union, NEPAD and the Regional Economic Communities;
- 5) the definition of the underlying factors of shared identity that will provide a sound basis for African references, symbols and representations as well as the intellectual springboard to moral recovery and re-armanent (UNESCO 1995).

The conference began with a Gala Dinner in honor of the Noble Prize Laureates on October

6th, followed by the Conference on October 7th. There were also cultural activities with book exhibition, thematic exhibitions following the Conference, which ended on October 9th.

About 700 participants attended the conference. These participants included Heads of State and Government, 500 participants whose expenses were borne by the organizers (350 from Africa and 150 from the Diaspora), about 100 personalities including Nobel Prize Laureates, Eminent Personalities who were honored at the

"Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, pleaded in favor of a more significant contribution..."

Gala evening as well as Patrons of the conference. There were also about a 100 participants (60 from Africa and 40 from the Diaspora) who paid their own expenses.

Further information on the conference is available at the African Union website <http://www.au-ciad.org/>.

Ninth National Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, October 6-8, 2004 Tuskegee University, Alabama

The WHADN Secretariat was invited to the Ninth National Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, by the National Business League (NBL), which co organized the summit.

Speaking at the summit, Mr. Fred Oladeinde, on behalf of the WHADN, presented to the attendees the basis of WHADN, its objectives, its mission and the role the Network will play in connecting Africa with its Diaspora.

Mr. Oladeinde thanked the NBL for their kind invitation to the summit and spoke of the close ties that the NBL has formed with WHADN through the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding. Through this MOU, NBL will be working closely with the WHADN secretariat in achieving WHADN's objectives.

The NBL, founded by Booker T. Washington in 1900, continues to create and foster closer ties with Africa and promote Trade and Commerce between Africa and the U.S.A.



“AfrICANDO 2004 DIASPORA TOWN HALL MEETING”

continued

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'effective ways of reversing the effects of the "Brain Drain" on African Societies. The key speakers on the opening panel were Her Excellency Rosebud Kurwijila, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy & Agriculture, AU Commission and Her Excellency Elise Loum Ndoadoumngue Neloumsei, Vice President, Pan African Parliament of the African Union. Other representatives of the African Union and various Diaspora groups from the Western Hemisphere were part of these discussions.

Commissioner Kurwijila spoke to the audience on the African Union, the AU Commission and its goals of achieving socio-economic development and economic integration, and how the AU is moving forward with its Vision and Mission.

Madam Neloumsei followed the commissioner, speaking on the Pan African parliament and its objectives of implementing the mission of the AU and familiarizing African people with the missions, objectives and decisions of the African Union's constitution.



Her Excellency Elise Loum Ndoadoumngue Neloumsei, Vice President, Pan African Parliament of the African Union addressing those present at the Diaspora Town Hall Meeting. Seated left to right are Dr. M'bow Babacar, President, Africa New World, Mr. Fred Oladeinde and the Honorable Rosebud Kurwijila, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy & Agriculture.

The Town Hall Meeting also had important discussions on issues such as: - The African Union's recognition of the African Diaspora as important in achieving broad-based African development; WHADN's agenda for the future; the efforts the African Union is making to connect with the Diaspora and what their achievements have been to date; 'effective ways of reversing the effects of the "Brain Drain" on African Societies. Featured guests, representatives of the African Union and various Diaspora groups from the Western Hemisphere were

“Madam Neloumsei followed the commissioner, speaking on the Pan African parliament and its objectives of implementing the mission of the AU”

part of these discussions.

The latter part of the Diaspora Day Celebrations featured an Arts and Cultural festival showcasing African Culture and its influence on the Western Hemisphere. Like the past symposiums, this year's symposium was also seen as an excellent venue to network and meet people from Africa, the African Union and members of various diaspora organizations.

A complete report on the Diaspora Town Hall meeting will be available as part of the AfrICANDO 2004 report. Please check the FDA website in the near future for this report:

[Http://www.democracy-africa.org](http://www.democracy-africa.org)

**2nd Global African Business Titans Conference, Dar ES Salaam, TANZANIA
October 12-13, 2004**

Organized jointly by the Black Business Executive Circle of South Africa, the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC), the National Development Corporation (NDC) and the ministry of industry & trade, the conference focused on promoting the growth of the private sector in Africa.

President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania officially opened the conference, telling the delegation that Tanzania was making deliberate efforts to attract foreign investors, partly by making investment regulations more liberal.

The minister for industry & trade, Dr. Juma Ngasongwa said that the objectives of the conference were to share experiences on empowerment in the private sector, and to discuss current economic trends and policy developments on the African continent. He also mentioned other objectives as the enhancement of efforts of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and explore ways in which the Diaspora can assist in Africa's development in general, and towards the realization of NEPAD's goals in particular.

Mr. Fred Oladeinde from the WHADN secretariat presented and spoke to the conference attendees on the African Union Diaspora Initiative, particularly WHADN and the role it plays in engaging Africans abroad with access to significant Political and Economic resources in the NEPAD process and other African Union programs. To see the entire presentation, go to <http://www.democracy-africa.org/documents/2GABT.pdf>

"1st African Congress for Scientific Research, Technology & Drug Industry"

1st African Congress for Scientific Research, Technology & Drug Industry December 13-15, 2004 Cairo, EGYPT

Organized by the African Union, Africa Society of Scientific Research and Technology (ASSRT), National Research Center of Egypt, and The Foundation for Democracy in Africa, this First Congress is being put in place to address the need for promotion of Scientific Research and Technology for the Development of Africa.

The objectives of the Conference are :

To Promote Scientific Research related to the needs of the African Continent.

· To catalogue inventory of existing Research areas on the continent & Design a continental plan of action for implementation.

· To Establish a Database for the Scientific Institutes & Research Centers through gathering Scientists & Researchers from all over Africa.

· To produce a draft policy &

strategic Framework for Science & Technology in Africa to be discussed & adopted by the policy organs of the African Union.

· To Promote the drug industry & trade within the African continent & achieve economic integration in this field.

· To facilitate establishment of a network of Research Institutions.

Areas of Priority

Health Care

- Management and Delivery Drug Industry
- Manufacturing, technologies and use of generic drugs

African Traditional Medicine with emphasis on

- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- T.B.

Agriculture & Food Technology

- Food processing and canning
- Food science and technology

Water

- Efficient water management for Irrigation
- Technologies for potable water

Energy

- Rural solar systems
- Mechanical technologies for energy production

- Efficient use of natural resources for energy production

Biotechnology

- Genetically modified foods

White papers are invited for topic areas listed as 'Areas of Priority'.

The deadline for all papers in **November 15, 2004.**

All papers must be submitted to:

The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

**1612 K Street NW, Suite 1104,
Washington DC 20006**

To register for the conference please use the web link below to get to the registration form:

<http://www.democracy-africa.org/1stAfCong.pdf>

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION COSTS

Registration Fees:

\$250.00 (US Dollars)

HOTEL (Per Night)

Single Room:

\$135.00 (US Dollars) per night

Double Room:

\$150.00 (US Dollars) per Night

Round Trip Air fare from Washington DC to Cairo, EGYPT is also available upon request, as well as after conference tour options.

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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