

THE USAU YOUTH



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AFRICAN YOUTH LEADERS SPEAK ON BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

"Boosting Intra-African Trade," is the theme of the 19th African Union Summit. African youth leaders give their opinion on initiatives to encourage youth participation.

The USAU Youth: What, in your opinion, is the role of young Africans in boosting intra-African trade; what do you think our leaders must do to facilitate the role of young people in trade?



NORTH AFRICA

Many young, highly educated, North Africans still face employment issues which have worsened since the Arab Spring, despite experience in **irrigation, electricity, and construction**. We hope the 19th African Union Summit on Trade will improve interstate collaboration and will make it easier for North African youth to work and develop infrastructure across the continent.

*Amr Awad, Physician,
Egypt - Representing North African Youth*

CENTRAL AFRICA

During my three years working on business development projects, leadership, and entrepreneurship initiatives, I realized **African youth suffer from a deficit of training, and motivation**. Many youth lack **practical entrepreneurial skills**, while others may have the skills but **do not have the opportunity to develop, apply, or optimize these skills**. Youth, particularly in francophone-Africa, lack **motivation to venture in precarious entrepreneurship**, because of the security & prestige associated with being a civil-servant. It is my hope that the 19th AU Summit on Trade will raise policies **encouraging youth to maximize their potential**.



*Olivia Mukam, Associate - Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance, President/Founder - Harambe Cameroon
<http://www.harambecameroun.org/>
Cameroon - Representing Central African Youth*

EAST AFRICA



Unemployment is the greatest challenge facing East African youth. This stems from the lack of employment prospects after school. Consequently, young people seek to become entrepreneurs to sustain themselves. Therefore **governments should invest more in nurturing skills, particularly entrepreneurial skills and understanding to improve the performance and success of small businesses**.

*Akampa Tanbull, National Peer Trainer - WSWN School Net Uganda,
Uganda - Representing East African Youth*

AFRICAN DIASPORA

The economic downturn in the U.S. and other parts of the West has made **raising capital** difficult for many young Africans who wish to invest in Africa. Many Africans also **lack information** on how to invest. African leaders can use the internet to **provide information about business opportunities in Africa and how people can go about investing**. Websites like www.transcameroon.com for instance, provide information about investing in Cameroon thereby, **attracting foreign investors to the country**.



*Sandra Jules-Sendze, Founder - Africans on the Move
<http://africansonthemove.wordpress.com/>, www.exceleritas.com
USA - Representing African Youth in the Diaspora*

WEST AFRICA



The African Youth Charter and the AU Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) acknowledge the importance of achieving youth development and empowerment across Africa. Some of the greatest challenges to intra-African trade are **border bottlenecks, local policies, and strict immigration regulations, and the stringent trade regimes of AU member states**. During the 2012 AU Summit, young Africans expect our leaders to come up with a position to **enlarge markets for goods and services, enhance customs cooperation, and facilitate trade**.

*Adeola Austin Oyinlade, United Nations Young Ambassador for Peace, Resource Person to AU Youth Division,
www.adeolaoyinlade.com, www.kycinitiative.org,
Nigeria - Representing West African Youth*

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The youth's greatest challenge is the **minimal investment in the inventive capacity of young people** by governments. Inefficient border checkpoints, stringent import quotas, countervailing duties, and random border tax adjustments are a few of the obstacles to innovation and trade. The **lack of transportation and technology infrastructure slow the flow of goods, services, and information between people**. Improving customs efficiency will free the flow of goods, increasing trade and revenues, leading to job creation for our youth.



*Tendai Wenzyika, Deputy Secretary General - Pan African Youth Union
<http://panafricanyouthunion.org/>
Zimbabwe - Representing Southern African Youth*

EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear readers,

Welcome to a new edition of your monthly newsletter. July brings you a host of information following the African Union Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa from July 9 to 16, and centered on *'Boosting Intra-African Trade.'* Get ready to be informed about a very interesting event for young people hosted by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with support from the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which will take place in October 2012.

We also hope you become inspired as you discover July's youth hero **Ariane Inkesha** on **page 3** and listen to the wise words of USAU's most recent Deputy Chief of Mission, **Peter Lord** on **page 7**. Also, enjoy U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, **Megan Sievert's** experiences as she recounts her story on **page 9**.

'Youth in Democracy and Governance' is the topic we draw your attention to for the rest of the month in our 'Did You Know...Let's Discuss on Facebook and Twitter' column.

Wishing you a wonderful month, enjoy your read.

Fanso Bari
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU

AFRICAN RED CROSS YOUTH TO MEET IN ADDIS THIS OCTOBER

"Investing in the Young People of Africa"

*The valuable role young people play delivering humanitarian services is best understood through the story of **Henri Dunant**, founder of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement. Henri Dunant was a young man when, after witnessing the horrors of the Solferino battlefield some 150 years ago, felt compelled to enter the field of humanitarian work. Thousands of young people from all around the world have been inspired by Dunant's vision, participating in health awareness and fundraising campaigns and relief operations and leading the way in peer-to-peer education and support groups targeting youth and adults affected by HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.*

According to **Geoffrey Korir**, RCRC African Youth Commission Chairman, more needs to be done to ensure the next generation of Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers are given the opportunity to develop and lead. Korir argues *"it is not enough for us to lead these humanitarian initiatives, if we have neither the leadership responsibility nor the authority to demand more recognition for today's young leaders. Leadership development must be tilled and fertilized today."*

Korir and his African peers will meet in Addis Ababa on October 19th, 2012, as a prelude to the four-day 8th Pan African Conference (PAC) of the RCRC leadership, the theme of which is *"Investing in Africa."* The youth, aligning themselves with the theme, will discuss issues including:

- The role of young people as contributors to a culture of peace;
- The vulnerability of youth to disease, discrimination, domestic and other forms of violence, in addition to child soldiering, trafficking, and other crimes against humanity;
- The value added by young people disseminating positive messages before, during, and after conflict outbreaks through social media tools;
- The RCRC'S Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) initiative;
- The need to invest in the development of young people through skills exchanges, study abroad opportunities, and internships to foster growth on the continent.

"We have proved our worth within our countries," concludes Korir, *"but now this must be continental, even global. We want to join the continent's march toward the next level of collective development."* The recommendations and conclusions of the African youth meeting will form part of the 8th PAC resolutions and will be monitored over a four-year period through 2016.

For more information on the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, kindly visit www.ifrc.org

Mandisa Kalako-Williams
PAC Co-ordinator - Africa Zone
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ARIANE INKESHA - TRANSFORMING AFRICA THROUGH EDUCATION



Ariane Inkesha
Transforming Africa through Education

Ariane Inkesha was born and raised in Rwanda. She believes that 50 years from now, Africa will be totally transformed by education – the kind of education that gives people confidence in their judgment and avoid succumbing to manipulation – that values every type of work and pushes people to create jobs through entrepreneurship.

Currently, Ariane is the Director of Communications at the Rwandan Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace. She is also the former President of the Rotaract Club of Kigali. After the genocide which tore apart her country in 1994, Ariane decided Rwanda must never again experience such hatred and cruelty. As a result, Ariane started a leadership training program for high school and university students and organized public discussions on resolving communal tensions. She and members of the Rotaract Club share their professional experiences with the students to demonstrate how **taking responsibility can nurture important experiences and skills.**

Ariane has also been involved in strengthening the role of women in peace building by organizing trips for female community leaders to other post-conflict countries such as Somalia, Liberia, and Burundi. While abroad the women meet with peace activists and exchange ideas on fostering peace. Recognizing her outstanding efforts for change, the U.S. Embassy in Kigali nominated her to attend the President's Forum with young African Leaders in Washington D.C. in 2010.

Since her visit to Washington D.C., Ariane continues to apply the lessons she learned from U.S. education policies and programs, economic development, international relations, and other participants.

For more information kindly visit

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/July/20100727175825cpataruk0.6865045.html>

Fanso Bari B.
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU

MONTHLY PROVERB



Picture by
TheMidnightFox

“Slowly, but surely, the egg will walk on its legs.” East African Proverb.

Don't give up, this proverb is all about **perseverance**. Whatever you do, no matter how hard the situation may be, never give up. You never can tell how close you are to achieving your goal.

Fanso Bari
USAU Youth Liaison to the African Union
African Union Youth Volunteer (AU-YV)

DID YOU KNOW? ... LET'S DISCUSS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
(Youth in Democracy and Governance)

Youth Participation in Leadership and Governance

One in five people are between the ages 15 and 24 and about half of the population in the developing world is under 25 years of age. While the demographic change led many to call on youth involvement in democracy all over the world, it also presents alarming challenges for societies and governments.

Democracy is ultimately a means to achieve international peace and security, economic and social progress, development, and respect for human rights. We recognize that for any country to achieve sustainable development, young people must be given a chance to meaningfully participate in the social, political, and economic processes. Many observers hold that, impending crises of crime and violence may occur as in the Arab spring if these people are not involved.

Fear of youth driven uprisings must not be the reason for involving young people in governance and democracy. People must realize that young people constitute a vital national resource that can be tapped to promote development.

Issues of youth are cross-sectoral, be it urbanization, ICT, climate change, peace and conflict, or governance. With increased calls for enhanced participation of youth in leadership and governance, the challenge remains how to put this into action.

Tell us peaceful ways you think young people can participate in democracy and governance on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Did-You-Know-Le-Saviez-Vous/181760325263595>

And

on Twitter: [US_AU](#)

DISCLAIMER: The following information has been provided from open media sources.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Read through our articles on our *'Did You know? ... Let's Discuss on Facebook'* column in order to answer all the crossword puzzles. Thank you!

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ACROSS

- 2. The act or process of gradual growth and progress which passes by degrees to different stages.
- 3. A process of social influence where one person influences the direction of others in achieving a common objective.
- 5. A form of governance often defined as 'government of the people, by the people, for the people'.

DOWN

- I. A method or system of how the government exercises authority.
- 4. The rapid and massive growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration to large cities.

ANSWERS:
DOWN - I. Governance
ACROSS - 2. Development
 3. Leadership
 4. Urbanization
 5. Democracy

SUDOKU PUZZLE
THE NEW PUZZLE - JULY

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ANSWERS FOR JUNE PUZZLE

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A WORD TO THE WISE - PETER LORD

Peter Lord is the recently departed Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Mission to the African Union. Prior to his position at USAU, Peter served in Malawi, Iraq, Syria, and the United Kingdom. Next, he will be serving at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. We were fortunate enough to sit down with him as he answered a few questions, shared a few of his experiences, and imparted some advice.



PETER LORD
USAU Deputy Chief of Mission
(Sept 2010 to July 2012)

The USAU Youth: Can you tell us a little about your work experiences in Africa and how it impacted your life?

Peter Lord: In the past ten years of working on African issues, I have been most struck by Africa's urbanization. It reflects the vibrancy and dynamism of the continent. African cities are increasingly becoming economic hubs connected with the rest of the world. African cities are increasingly attracting huge numbers of people who previously lived in villages. That presents new opportunities, but also new challenges. It creates new economic markets

and growth, underpinned by a growing creative class of Africans, but it also puts new demands on city and regional governments for communications, water, and electric infrastructure. These cities – and the connections they afford their residents – will create intellectual energy, driving innovation, reform, and growth on the continent. **As African cities work to keep up with these demands, it will be increasingly important to support city planners and municipal governments to ensure that residents receive the services they need and have the quality of life they deserve.** Witnessing this change has made me interested in the urbanization process and challenged me to integrate the issues surrounding urbanization into American foreign policy.

The USAU Youth: Are there any aspects of your youth or life experiences that have influenced the way you interact with people of different cultures?

Peter Lord: I have four brothers, and everything in my youth was about negotiation. We negotiated who got to sit where, who ate seconds, and who went first. Those experiences – and my mother constantly saying **not to expect life to be fair** – taught me that **the most important thing when interacting with others is respect. Respect is a blend of common courtesy, care, and consideration** – something every person deserves, whether pauper or prince. It's a practical but uncommon currency, and it forms the basis of the trust that makes solutions and progress possible. And, if we don't respect ourselves, we have lost our moral compass and way in life. **So, I'd say respect – self-respect and mutual respect – is the key ingredient for working with other cultures and living with yourself.**

“The most important thing when interacting with others is respect. Respect is a blend of common courtesy, care, and consideration.”

A WORD TO THE WISE - PETER LORD

The USAU Youth: The U.S. Mission to the African Union (USAU) is a pace setter among non-African institutions, in its collaboration with the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC), through the exchange of youth volunteers. Can you tell us a little more about the benefits you have noticed in this collaboration?

Peter Lord: The benefits from our collaboration with the AU's Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC) have been great. Having a youth volunteer from the African Union has been a great addition to the USAU team, as we believe this partnership (between USAU, the AU, Peace Corps, and USAID) serves to deepen our understanding of youth issues and capacity for engagement. Through her previous work and studies in Cameroon and with the AU-YVC, our volunteer Bari brings a wealth of knowledge and contacts with her. Her presence has markedly increased our engagement on youth issues across the continent, especially here in Addis Ababa in our work with the AU. The addition of Mr. Freaselam Belay, as the first Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to the AU, also working with the Youth Division of the AU, further helps solidify the emerging networks between African youth on the continent and Diaspora youth across the U.S. and Europe. As our AU-YV, Bari has been able to help our office expand our youth portfolio, allowing for in-depth engagement between the U.S. State Department and the AU on the development of youth programming and networks. One of the greatest successes has been Bari's work to launch our monthly youth e-newsletter – The USAU Youth. She has made a large imprint on our office, allowing us to develop a greater understanding of African youth and awareness of youth-related issues.

“Find a support system, be it family, friends, or colleagues. When things get rough – and they will – your support network reminds you where you have been, where you are going, and what’s important.”

The USAU Youth: I understand you will soon be leaving the USAU. Before you do, can you give a piece of advice to the many African youth who hope to achieve what you have someday?

Peter Lord: It takes a village, as the old African proverb says. I think the most important thing anyone can do to achieve his or her goals is to find a support system, be it family, friends, or colleagues. When things get rough – and they will – your support network reminds you where you have been, where you are going, and what’s important. They are there to celebrate the successes, put the losses into perspective, and even to give a swift kick in the pants when necessary. For me, I was blessed with a very supportive family growing up. When I have lived away from home, I have always tried to find a core group of individuals to provide that support. In short, to succeed, everyone needs a caring and honest support system.

The USAU Youth: Thank you Sir, and I wish you all the best as you take up your next appointment

Peter Lord: Thank you, and it was nice talking with you.

THE VOICE OF VOLUNTEERS - MEGAN SIEVERT

As a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer who served in Malawi for three years, coming to Ethiopia to volunteer has been very different. Flying over Addis was the first shock, the sprawl of lights as we flew over in the night. The organization of roads and public transportation, the access to water and education, the diversity of food and people... Differences between rural Malawi and an industrializing Ethiopia were stark in the beginning, but **similarities in hospitality, familial bonds, and deep spirituality remain underlying commonalities.**



Megan Sievert and her Ethiopian host mother

disconnected from the world. We lived in the bush. Every time we needed to eat, we had to start a fire. Every time we needed water, we had to walk to the borehole and wait in line. **Even though most of my time was spent “surviving”, I whole-heartedly enjoyed promoting peaceful relations through cross-cultural exchange by engaging in all activities along with my neighbors and colleagues.** Though time for “work” was hard to find. Mobilizing community members to meet and take time away from *their* survival activities to talk about better hygiene, nutrition, or HIV prevention methods, was put into deep perspective. It was a slow struggle.

In Ethiopia, my assignment has been a lot more professional and less survival oriented. Having been placed in a town of about 25,000 people, the experience living and working in a semi-urban zonal capital has been quite stimulating. There is a hustle and bustle of Bajajs, stores, banks, restaurants, buildings, offices, and a variety of government employees working from 8-5. The access to resources, diversity of food and goods continues to surprise me. After having adapted to the “bush”, I felt lucky that my town was connected with piped water. While the water is regulated and only comes on every few days, at least we can predict it and store it. Along with the relative stability of electricity came access to technological gadgets and a link to global communications. In Malawi I was on the other side of the digital divide, but in Ethiopia, the world is more connected, the experience less isolating. The ability to spend more time on the “work” rather than on survival brought a lot more responsibility, accountability, and achievable results. My role with the Ministry of Education at a College of Teacher Education and the assignment is to work with pre-service and in-service teachers to help improve the proficiency of English. **I feel utilized as a native English speaker and feel like I am “serving a purpose”.** It is satisfying to be more clearly incorporated into development initiatives and a project framework that is in alignment with goals from the Ministry of Education. Even though my living standard here is at the level of an average Ethiopian teacher, everyday still feels like an honor and privilege.

“Even though most of my time was spent ‘surviving’, I whole-heartedly enjoyed promoting peaceful relations through cross-cultural exchange by engaging in all activities along with my neighbors and colleagues.”

*Megan Sievert
U.S. Peace Corps
Malawi 2004-2007, Ethiopia 2011-2013*

U.S. MISSION TO THE AFRICAN UNION

The USAU Youth is a platform for African youth around the world and the views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the United States Government nor those of the African Union.

We're on the web:
www.usau.usmission.gov

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The USAU Youth thanks all the readers who sent in articles for this month's edition. Please keep sending in the articles, announcements, and information on any subject matter you would like to see in subsequent editions of the newsletter to USAUyouth@state.gov. Kindly share with us activities and pictures of what you or your country is doing in relation to youth empowerment in Africa. Thank you.

NOTIFICATION:

KINDLY TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT ALL THE REQUIREMENTS UPON SUBSCRIPTION. WE WILL BE UNABLE TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER IF YOUR DATA IS INCOMPLETE.

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