

THE USAU YOUTH



“Africa’s future belongs to its young people... We need young Africans who are standing up and making things happen not only in their own countries but around the world”

President Barack Obama

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“... Africa is rising and Africans are not. Renaissance will be gauged primarily via economic emancipation, increase in prosperity and better standards of living attained by a majority of Africans.” **Paschal Chem-Langhee** (Page 4)

Content:

Good to know.....Page 2

- Key Celebrations in USA
- The AU to convene Ouagadougou +10

Opportunities.....Pages 2,3,4

USAU Youth Library.....Page 3

- Fundamentals of NGO Management

Contribution (article).....Page 4

Word to the Wise.....Page 5

- Mr. Ishmael Dodoo, Country Advisor/Office of Director, Bureau for Africa, UNDP

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to 2014! Over the past two years, we have remained committed to engaging with you on subjects that matter most to you. This includes everything from education and environment to culture and employment!

Last year, when we began Volume 2 we asked you for input on how we could improve. The feedback we received has helped us to provide more relevant news and opportunities to our readers. In other words, feedback from our readers has energized us to keep going and we aim to provide even more news and opportunities this year!

In this year’s first issue, you will find new sections as well as some of the old ones. It is our goal to keep sharing opportunities and knowledge that will help us to improve the education and employment for African youth. Also, be sure to check out our Word to the Wise section to get ideas on how to improve your personal and professional life! As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated! Happy reading!

Octavio H. Diogo

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GOOD TO KNOW

Key Celebrations in USA

⇒ “Peaceful Transitions in Power,” celebrated in January

Democracy requires more than holding elections. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. eJournal USA explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur.

For more insights check out this month’s issue of eJournal USA titled [More Than Elections: How Democracies Transfer Power](#).

⇒ February is African American History Month

February’s National African American History Month celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of the Nation’s history. Read more [here](#).

The AU to convene Ouagadougou +10

The African Union Heads of State and Government will meet this year to assess the progress made in the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Youth Employment and Poverty Alleviation. Given the high level of poverty and high percentage of vulnerable employment, youth employment in Africa overall is as much a qualitative problem as it is quantitative. As a matter of fact, over the past 5 years, youth employment has been attracting the attention of various governments and development partners. This includes USAID to the African Union who funded over 250,000 USD to programs dedicated to enhancing youth skills and providing a more comprehensive policy for education in Africa in 2013.

Check out the full Ouagadougou Declaration [here](#).

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Need help with the operational management of your NGO?

Network Learning provides you with a handful of tools and resources necessary to help grow the skills of your NGO. It provides over 25 different resources in human resources management, project management, financial management, and more.

Check out their website [here](#).

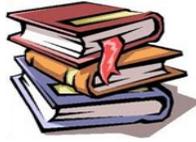


MSFS at Georgetown Scholarship for Sub-Saharan African Student, 2015

The Master of Science in Foreign Service at Georgetown University is offering a full-tuition scholarship for a talented graduate student from sub-Saharan Africa. MSFS is a two year, full-time graduate degree program in international affairs. Students will take courses in international relations, international trade, international finance, statistics and analytical tools and history. In addition, students choose an area of concentration such as Global Politics and Security, International Development or Global Business and Finance. The scholarship will cover full-tuition for two years. Special consideration will be given to applicants from: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. **Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2015 for a start date of Fall 2015.**

For more information and to apply check out the website [here](#).

USAU Youth Library



Handbook: [Fundamentals of NGO Management: A Practical Guide to the Financial Management of NGOs](#)

Authors: Theunis Keulder & Erika Benz

Excerpts:

“The financial situation of an organization should be reviewed at least on a monthly basis, with the focus on the budget, receipts of income and expenditure. The Executive Director/financial officer shall be responsible for ensuring that financial controls are in place and adhered to...”

“Although a complete separation of functions may not be feasible for a small organization, some measure of effective control may be obtained by planning the assignment of duties carefully. Many of the most effective techniques for providing internal control are very simple.”

“Sometimes, during the period of the project, it appears that certain activities cannot be carried out as planned, or are not as effective as expected, but could, with adjustments, achieve better results. Under such circumstances, the consent of the donor is to be obtained ahead of changes in the execution of the project.”

“As an organization changes and matures and funding and programmes change, you will periodically need to review the internal accounting control system which was established and to modify it to make allowance for new circumstances (bigger staff, more restricted funding) and regulations (such as receiving bigger grant awards with increased compliance demands).”

Check out the full handbook [here](#).

Octavio Diogo



African Youth Association of Non-Governmental Organization (AYANGO) will hold their First International Conference/Official Installation and Inauguration of African Youth Association from May 30-31st, 2014 at FCT, Abuja – Nigeria

Who can Participate?

- 1) Candidate must come from the African Region.
- 2) Candidate must be working with an existing NGO and must be recommended by such NGO.
- 3) Candidate must be willing and able to cover his or her own VISA and/or travel cost.
- 4) Candidate must provide reasons why he or she should be accepted into the conference.
- 5) Candidate must be between the ages of 16 – 35 years.

There is no participation fee to attend this conference; however, the Conference Organizing Committee of AYANGO will not be responsible for round trip air tickets or maintenance costs of Delegates/Representatives accredited through our office to the conference. The Conference Working Committee remains available only to assist AYANGO delegates seeking appropriate arrangement for their arrival. The organizing committee can assist participants by providing recommendation letters for VISA applications. At this time there are no scholarships available.

For more information check out the AYANGO website [here](#) or see below for contact information.

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CONTRIBUTION:

Why pursuit of Pan-Africanism is critical in improving the lives of Africans and the Diaspora



Paschal Chem-Langhee is a young Pan-Africanist from Cameroon. With a background in journalism and communication, Paschal has worked in sales, advertising, broadcasting, and now public relations. He also volunteers with youth organizations to improve communication. Paschal believes that “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance are sacredly hinged on the economic empowerment of African people and diaspora; and communication is crucial to this noble pursuit.” Paschal is an African Union Youth Volunteer and has participated in various Youth forum events during the ongoing AU 50th Anniversary celebrations. Recently, he became a contributor for the Connect African Development Blog.

Pan-Africanism is a concept that connotes pride and oneness among African people and descendants of African people the world over. Hinging boldly on solidarity, this ideology sets ambitious standards in defining African pride in terms of identity, culture, vision, religion and most importantly self-determination. It emanates from political, economic, social and developmental struggles of Africans – through slavery and the slave trade, to colonialism and partial independence or “re-colonization”.

The spirit of Pan-Africanism challenges the relationship between Western and African countries, wherein Western countries appear to put up a patronizing attitude and position themselves as masters vis-à-vis their African serfs. Eminent champions of Pan-Africanism include Kwame Nkrumah and his political contemporaries from other African countries, who helped set up the OAU (now AU), to push for integration and unity on the African continent at the highest level. Increasingly, “African consciousness” is awakening among African people and a sense of empowerment is gaining conviction. That is why the African Union on May 25th, 2013 celebrated fifty years of the OAU/AU under the theme, “2013, Year of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance.”

Because the youth constitute over 50% of Africa’s population, their participation and contributions must be seen as being invaluable in moving the continent forward in achieving renaissance in all developmental facets (in health, education, capacity building, entrepreneurship and empowerment).

Experiences on how Africa is rising are gaining mileage each day, with positive GDP results from some African countries discussed in investment circles as opening a new frontier for development on the continent. However, as Jumoke Balogun from CompareAfrica put it, the view from the ground is that Africa is rising and Africans are not.

Renaissance will be gauged primarily via economic emancipation, increase in prosperity and better standards of living attained by a majority of Africans. This can be done by getting together what I will call, “the coalition of the willing;” that is, going beyond gender and inter-generational barriers to identify and associate persons who truly believe in, and want to work for Africa’s emancipation and development. It implies facilitating and enhancing the free movement of persons and goods within the continent, for as experts have argued, Africa’s economic boom relies heavily on Africa’s ability to trade with itself. Communication is key at this point because the vision and the projects need to be disseminated to and appropriated by the over one billion Africans who commit to work every day in search of a better identity, a better economy and decent social outcomes.

LEADERSHIP CORNER:

"He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times."

— Johann Von Schiller

Follow *Paschal Chem* on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook

A WORD TO THE WISE :

Mr. Ishmael Dodoo,

Country Advisor/ Office of Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP Africa HQ, New York



Mr. Ishmael Dodoo is passionate about work opportunities for youth in Africa. During the African Youth Charter Summit that was held in July 2013 in Tanzania, we engaged with him. Ish has shared his vision of a new generation of leaders rising from youth bulge.

In this interview, our guest gives his point of view about the future of Africa and its youth!

About Mr. Ishmael Dodoo and his experience working with youth oriented programs:

Ish, as he is affectionately called, is a young Ghanaian future leader. He holds a First Class Bachelor's of Science degree in Natural Resources Management and an advanced degree in Environmental Change and Management with specialization in policy and governance as it affects the responsible use of natural resources. He is a Linacre Fellow as well as a Norman and Ivy Lloyd African Scholar from Oxford University. Ish joined UNDP in 2008 through the Leadership Development Programme (LEAD), a highly competitive programme aimed at selecting and grooming young professionals for future leadership in the UN (DP) system. Ish was selected along with 15 others from a pool of over 4500 applicants and was the only African in his cohort group. Since joining UNDP, Ish has served in various leadership and management capacities in both the programmatic and operational side of UNDP within Liberia and Tanzania. Currently, he serves as a Country/ Strategic Advisor to the Office of the Assistant Secretary General/ Regional Director for UNDP Africa. Prior to joining UNDP, Ish worked for ProForest Ltd; a natural resources management Consultancy Company based in Oxford, UK. Apart from his core professional career, he is committed to the African Youth. He has spoken on many youth leadership forums across the continent and currently pioneers a Pan African Youth initiative aimed at grooming future leaders for various political economic spheres in Africa. Ish's passion for seeing like-minded Africans distinguish themselves through leadership for the noble purpose of bettering different segments of African society is unwavering. As a future African leader, Ish is optimistic that we shall soon achieve the African dream albeit challenges the continent face!

USAU Youth: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Recently, President Obama launched the White House "Trade Africa" and "Power Africa" initiatives. As an expert, how do you see additional investment in power and trade creating more jobs for youth in Africa? What else can be done for advancement in these areas?

Trade complemented by sustainable energy are two key 'growth pole' centers crucial to maximizing the full potential of the Africa economy. However, in order to achieve this, fundamentally, trade policy regimes (whether driven bilaterally between countries or multilaterally through WTO etc.) have to be fair; parties have to ensure that fair values on commodities are paid and that the returns are plowed back to serve the needs and interests of African nations and their peoples. These principles are fundamental to ensuring that countries and their citizens can benefit from international trade. Furthermore, jobs are created from trade when commodities that are traded are value-added....

Continued on Page 6

Opportunity

Wells Mountain Foundation Call for Scholarship Applications

The USA-based Wells Mountain Foundation is happy to announce the opening of the *2014 Empowerment through Education Scholarship application*. Applicants are instructed to apply online and submit their completed application through the website (not via email). For further information, please review the scholarship webpage [here](#).

Deadline : April 1, 2014.

A WORD TO THE WISE (Continued...)

... In other words, Africa can maximize jobs from trade by strengthening the manufacturing sector to ensure value addition to raw materials before trading. Developing the supply chain in this way will have multiplying effect on other economic activities/sector (e.g. the service sector) thus leading to job creation. Therefore, if President Obama's trade initiative would have benefits for Africa, it should be geared towards (i) advocating strongly (especially in WTO) that fair trade regimes are created for international commodities traded from Africa, and (ii) strengthening the policy space on the continent for developing the manufacturing, supply chain and service sectors. With respect to energy, the emphasis should be on Green economy. The Power Africa policy should ensure that Africa seeks sustainable energy pathways for growth. This is fairly easy and possible for the continent. Africa has plenty of rivers, sunshine, wind, biomass and the human resource potential for inculcating skills required. It is therefore absolutely possible to start exploring the use of the full range of sustainable energy options-hydroelectricity, solar power, thermal power, wind power and biogas energy to drive our growth sectors. ***Can you imagine Africa building a state of the art sustainable energy centers at strategic points around the continent to supply the wide range of energy and technical manpower it needs for massive growth: this is an example of the African dream I am talking about! And yes we can!***

Many youth complain about their home country's policies on issues affecting the youth. How can an impactful development policy be developed to deal comprehensively with youth issues in Africa?

As a matter of fact, it is important to underscore that African countries can no longer ignore the sheer power of youth within the sphere of governance/ political power or in exploits of economic development. This is because the youth has proven that it is their time to start taking over generationally. Judging from the Arab Spring as well as the various cases of protracted conflict seen on the continent, it is evident that the youth can no longer be taken for granted. Therefore, my advice is that African countries should do whatever they can to engage and invest in their ever increasing youthful population. Thus, if I *were to advise on policy*, I would encourage governments to advance policies in their respective countries that will maximize the potential of their youthful population for future harvest. And at a minimum, the policy initiative should emphasize the following: (i) empowering youth to serve as partners of development, (ii) equipping the youth with skills matching labour market for employment creation, (iii) strengthening the range of talents in youth to build sustainable national human capital for future development, (iv) empowering youth as vibrant future leaders, (v) resourcing empowered youth as ground breakers and pioneers of innovation/ economic development. This will require massive investments in the youth as well as mindset change in the 'older generation' to pursue this.

Africa is going to experience a demographic bulge in the very near future. From your development expert perspective, how can African youth contribute to ensuring the continent reaps the benefits of the "demographic dividend?"

National governments and citizens of older generation have a moral obligation to invest in the ever increasing youthful population and take advantage of the economic boom of the continent for the larger benefits of societies. This requires preparing, equipping and empowering the youth with all that it takes to become effective citizens, business pioneers and future political leaders with selfless integrity.

We like to end each of our interviews with a "Word to the Wise," or an opportunity for you, as the interviewee, to offer a word of wisdom to those who are wise enough to hear it. So, what has inspired you?

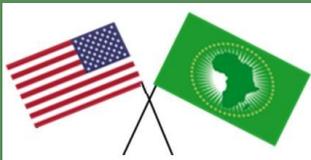
I believe the future for African Youth is bright. We have an economy that is ever growing and offers great potential for everyone's dreams. At the same time, the continent is a paradox with many challenges and hardships that can deter one to dream. But I will still encourage Africa's youth to dream and to pursue their dreams. Keep the focus, educate yourself, work smartly, dare to break grounds, imbibe discipline and pursue excellence. By doing this, you are making one little effort to take a big step towards the future with some degree of preparation. You will then be able to take over and help others to dream too. Step by step together, we shall build the Africa that we want.

Interviewed by Octavio Diogo

U.S. MISSION
TO THE
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UNION

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www.usau.usmission.gov

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ONLINE
SUBSCRIPTION



The USAU Youth is always interested to hear from you!
Please send your articles, announcements, and/or information on any subject matter you would like to see in subsequent editions of the newsletter to USAUYouth@state.gov, and please don't miss out on our monthly discussions on Facebook.



Thank you.

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