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The road to Justice and Prosperity in the Niger Delta:

Exploring the dialogue option via targeted sectoral stake holdership parliament.

By Oronto Douglas

There is nothing as sweet as Dialogue. Not even Honey. In today's Niger Delta of Nigeria where the sound of booming guns speaks louder than the shout for environmental justice and peaceful co-existence; where the cry of pain inflicted on local people invokes a burning desire for revenge against identified perpetrators be they corporate, governmental, communal entities; where issues in the Niger Delta are attracting more commentators and analysts and not enough solution bringers, an opportunity that brings all the key stakeholders in one place to talk frankly and proffer holistic measurable solutions to age old problems can best be described as sweet.

Such was the gathering of the four hundred or so participants mainly youths who met from the 17th to the 19th of April at the AAPW-facilitated NNPC Niger Delta Youths Stakeholders' Workshop in the Rivers State Capital, Port Harcourt.

As I observed in a paper at the Democratic Leadership Institute recently "for dialogue to take place there are certain features that must be present. There must be willingness to dialogue; there must be the right atmosphere that would guarantee the positive outcome and finally the dialogue must be anchored on clear objectives. Dialogue is not possible in a chaotic and cacophonous atmosphere"

Determined to make a difference in the Niger Delta, the youths drawn from all the states of the Niger Delta and representing various tendencies cooperated with AAPW and NNPC so that a new window for the resolution of the political, economic, environmental crises that has befallen the region can be addressed.

The Port Harcourt workshop can be described as a watershed in the sense that never before has a gathering on the Niger Delta attracted key stakeholders at the highest level. From the president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo who led the federal government delegation to the heads of the various oil companies to traditional rulers and various government interventionist institutions like the NDDC through Onyema Ugochukwu to the security services as well as State government representatives led by Sir Dr. Peter Odilli.

It was a people's parliament on the Niger Delta of a sort. Discussions were frank, robust and

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The road to justice and prosperity in the Niger Delta: (Contd)

Oronto Douglas

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promising. Although a communiqué was not produced immediately after the conference it was left for the original State Delegations to return to base to review the whole conference and issue communiqués in line with their domestic positions and visions of how they want the Niger Delta crises to be resolved and what processes to follow. The communiqués also made suggestions towards a post Port Harcourt conference.

In the meantime AAPW, NNPC and the Youths representatives who were desirous of consolidating the gains of the conference began consultation as to how to move the process forward. A Standing Committee made up of the Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, the GMD NNPC, the Youths and the Oil industry was constituted as a vehicle for bringing the dialogue to fruition. The steering committee then set up a sub committee "to design a road map" The sub committee met several times in Abuja and deliberated on the report with a view to putting together the road map for the special attention of the full house for immediate, medium term and long term implementation. The Roadmap will be presented to the full Standing Committee in early October.



Oronto Douglas addressing the closing session of the NNPC/AAPW Niger Delta Youths Stakeholders workshop. Flanked by Engr. Funso Kupolokun, GMD NNPC and Dr Judith Asuni, ED, AAPW

NNPC and Youths Stakeholders

Judy Asuni

Four hundred people from across the nine states of the Niger Delta gathered at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt for the first annual Niger Delta Youths Stakeholders Workshop, sponsored by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and organized by Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW). This workshop came out of a series of discussions between the NNPC Group Managing Director, Engr. Funso Kupolokun and the Executive Director of AAPW, Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, in which the recently appointed GMD expressed a desire to meet with his youth stakeholders. The planned workshop kept growing in size and visibility, especially when the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, agreed to come, along with his retinue of Federal Ministers, National Security

Adviser, Secretary to the Government of the Federation and other dignitaries. The Executive Governor of Rivers State, Sir Dr. Peter Odili, spoke, as did the Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Dr. Edmund Daukoru. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu and Chief Emmanuel Aguarivwodo respectively, were honoured guests. Traditional rulers, top executives of all of the major oil and gas companies, state government officials and representatives of NDDC and foreign donor agencies were also present.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this occasion was the very obvious presence and active participation of the Niger Delta youths themselves. Pre-workshop seminars had been held in Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom states, to start a process of careful consideration of issues to be discussed at the workshop. A Planning Committee consisting of Oronto Douglas, Von Kemedi, Miabiye Kuromiema, Joseph Inyang, Iro Sam-Woruka, and Kingsley Akeni worked with AAPW staff for two months to carefully plan selection of participants, facilitators, and rapporteurs. The syndicate group facilitators came two days in advance to prepare guidelines, in an effort to ensure that discussion was focused and productive. Two Niger Delta youth leaders, Oronto Douglas and Miabiye Kuromiema, gave presentations during the opening ceremony. President Obasanjo frequently referred to Oronto's speech in his own extemporaneous remarks

The second day of the workshop was spent in syndicate groups, which addressed a number of issues important to the youths of the Niger Delta, such as resource control and management, economic/urban consequences of oil and gas operations, partnering for peace and development, corporate social responsibility, conflict and peace, environmental security, and post-oil and gas era. The youth participants were active and constructive in their discussions.

The recommendations from these syndicate sessions, as well as key points from the presentations of Engr. Kupolokun and Dr. Daukoru have since formed the basis for development of a Roadmap for NNPC and the Oil and Gas Industry's partnering with the youths of the Niger Delta. Facilitating the interaction between former antagonists, such as the youth activists and representatives of oil companies, has been a challenging but fulfilling assignment, as we see new channels of communication and cooperation opening.

Copies of the 142-page report on the Niger Delta Youths Stakeholders Workshop are available free-of-charge at any Academic Associates PeaceWorks office.

From the Desk of the Executive Director....

Judy Burdin Asuni

Actually I'm not writing from a desk. I'm sitting on a bed in the government guest house in Lafia, Nasarawa State, having gone from Abuja to Warri to Asaba to Port Harcourt to Abuja to Lafia in 4 days. I sound like an American tourist on the classic 2-week tour of Europe.

But this does indicate the hectic pace of Academic Associates PeaceWorks activities in the past 6 months. In early March we officially began the MacArthur Foundation/NDDC project "Promoting Partnering among Stakeholders in the Niger Delta". Overnight we went from 4 offices, to seven, with an additional 2 offices later funded by the Rivers State Government. This project has also brought on board an additional 20 staff members, so the sheer administrative work has multiplied considerably. However the excitement of seeing the model pioneered in Karu Local Government of Nasarawa State over the past two years working successfully in the Niger Delta makes the hectic pace worthwhile.

A number of things are simultaneously coming together in the Niger Delta. For ten years we have worked in the delta, first with peace education programmes in secondary schools and the University of Port Harcourt, then on violent community conflicts in Eleme/Okrika, Soku/Elem Sangama/Oluasiri, and Warri. Through these we came to understand the issues of the Niger Delta from the communities' point of view. AAPW has also worked with several oil and gas companies: first with NLNG on a youth programme in Bonny, followed by cross cultural/conflict management training for all of the NLNG staff on Bonny Island. This was followed by a youth empowerment programme for Shell Petroleum Development Corporation, development of a Community Engagement Plan for a new gas project, and conflict management training for Shell community development and community liaison officers. We also did some work for ChevronTexaco on conflict issues in their host communities. Thus we came to understand issues from the viewpoint of the companies. One of the reasons why AAPW moved its headquarters to Abuja two years ago was to promote cooperation between government and civil society, in the process coming to understand government's point of view. We have increasingly tried to promote the triple bottom strategy of government, the private sector and civil society working together to maximize human and financial resources.

This is the principle behind the MacArthur/NDDC partnering project. It is also the follow-up to the NNPC/AAPW Niger Delta Youths Stakeholders Workshop, held in April. Since the workshop, a Standing Committee on Niger Delta Youths has been established, comprising of Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, the GMD of NNPC, the MDs of Shell, Chevron and Agip, and four Niger Delta youth leaders. We have worked consistently over the past 2 months in developing a Roadmap for implementing the recommendations from the workshop. It has been very interesting watching youth activists, oil company staff and government officials sitting down, hashing out some very delicate issues, and coming to a meeting of minds (not always- but a good share of the time!)

This change of attitude from suspicion to cooperation is exciting to watch. It shows that gradually in our more open democratic space, groups that used to be antagonists are learning to partner for greater peace and development in the Niger Delta, and other parts of Nigeria.

Judy Asuni

The National Youth Peace and Empowerment Project (NAYOPET): Notes from the First National Summit

Von Kemedi

NAYOPET was conceived to address the present situation in the country where the youth have no voice because of harsh socio-economic effects, specifically the problem of youth unemployment. The resulting feelings of disempowerment and hopelessness compound, exacerbate existing problems among the youths and society in general.



Syndicate session with Ustaz Abdulhakum Mustapha

The challenge of NAYOPET has been to identify practical and effective strategies to eradicate youth unemployment. While much has been learned, we must admit that more has yet to be discovered. As the present employment situation throughout the world shows, only few countries have managed to generate decent employment for their youths. One thing is clear: sustainable, job-enhancing economic growth remains an indispensable component of any strategy to eradicate youth unemployment. Experience has shown that employment friendly growth is essential, and targeted programmes can only provide complementary resources and cross-gap actions.

Although the Nigerian Government has designed several programmes targeted at the youths such as poverty alleviation and eradication, it is not quite clear if they have reached the intended beneficiaries.

The summit held at the National Women Development Center Abuja from 15th - 18th of July 2004, examined major issues related to peace and empowerment in the context of National development with particular reference to Nigeria's youths. Some 500 participants attended the summit from the six geo-political zones of the country. Goodwill messages were sent by the Honorable Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. Hassan Lawal; Special Advisor to the President on Informal Sector, Engr. Mujaidu Stanley Dako and Mr. Akin Komolafe who represented the FCT Minister, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai.

Several papers presented at the summit discussed these issues of unemployment and violent conflict, as well as youth roles in community development. These papers were presented by representatives of many Nigerian non-governmental and governmental organizations. These organizations included UBE, Nigeria Labour Congress, and FCT Council.

A special panel of youth role models included individuals who are making a difference in their spheres of work. These included: Mr. Von Kemedi of Our Niger Delta- working for peace and development in the Niger Delta; Miss Olasubunmi Iginla of NAWOPEG- a young architect and peacebuilder in Lagos; Miss Kaneng Ja- a peace and development worker in Karu with Academic Associates PeaceWorks; and Fada Usman JP and Abdulhakeem Mustapha of the Inter-faith Mediation Centre in Kaduna. These youth leaders later led discussion groups and shared experiences with summit participants.

Oil well discovered in Karu!

Kaneng Ja and Mohammed Usman

The Peace and Development Committee in Karu Local Government of Nasarawa State has become a household name and indeed its fame is spreading in the country and beyond. This is so because of Academic Associates PeaceWorks' laudable achievements in promoting not only peace but development in the area.

The Peace and Development committee which was formed under the auspices of AAPW as mentioned in the last news letter received a grant from the German Embassy to do five hand dug wells with hand pumps in Ado. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources gave the Committee free hand pumps thus enabling it to rehabilitate two other existing wells in the community. This project brought the Peace and Development Committee, AAPW, German Embassy, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Karu Local Government Council, UNICEF and members of various communities working together for the development of the local government.



Members of the peace and development committee surveying the Beniseed plot. L-R: Chief Danjuma Tuta - Chairman, peace and development Committee in Karu, Mr Bako Malaji - Donor of land at Luvu, Mr Habakuk Jakmayiba - Assistant technical officer, lands dept Karu LG, Alb. Al - Mustapha Sani - Secretary, Farm Management Committee

In March this year, the committee with facilitation by Academic Associates PeaceWorks decided to embark on other development projects. The cassava cultivation campaign which has been going on in Nigeria for some time by the President and which seems to be become a major source of revenue to the country besides oil influenced the committee's decision to embark on this prospect and a number of other farming activities. Members in two communities and the Soil Conservation Scheme in Karu Local Government have kindly given free use of 10 hectares of land each to the Peace and Development Committee. The parcels of land acquired are at:

- Kugwaru, from a member of the community- For Cassava cultivation
- Luvu Madaki, from a member of the community - For Beniseed cultivation
- Soil Conservation Scheme at Kodope - For Soya Bean cultivation

The former Chairman of the Transition Monitoring Committee of the Local Government Council, Hon. Elisha J. Dachor sent two surveyors from the Lands Department to survey the plots and produce site plans. Agreements with the land owners were drafted by the Legal Adviser to the Peace and Development Committee, Barr. Iliya Adamu Haruna.

Specialist Advisers were co-opted from the Nasarawa State Ministry of Agriculture; Agriculture Department, Karu Local Government; and Nasarawa Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) to assist with the budget proposal especially the Agronomical details. The Peace and Development Committee's Farm Management Sub-Committee has also been in contact with two representatives of NEPAD to discuss the cassava project and possible assistance in terms of export of the produce.

The Farm Management Sub-Committee members listed below oversee the three projects, with 3 members acting as coordinators. The standing committees of the PDC in the respective crop areas are the nucleus of the farm supervision and operation.

The members of the Farm Management Committee, which is a sub-committee of the larger Peace and Development in Karu Local Government, are:

· Mr. Tanko C. Noma	-	Agric. Dept, Karu local government
· Chief Sabo Fyenu	-	PDC Treasurer
· Alh. Al-Mustapha Sani	-	Secretary
· Chief Usman Bako	-	Member
· Chief Habu Shewaza	-	Chairman
· Chief Ozurumba Frederick	-	Treasurer
· Chief Johnbull Onuma	-	Member
· Mr. Vundabo Iya	-	Member
· Mr. Tanko Aduga	-	Member
· Chief Yakubu Maikabila	-	Member

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Oil well discovered in Karu! (Contd)

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· Mr. Samuel Attah	-	Nasarawa Agriculture
Development Program Rep		
· Mr. Christopher Tanbgba	-	Ministry of Agriculture, Lafia
· Mr. Goodluck Onyegbule	-	Business Consultant AAPW
· Chief Danjuma Tuta	-	PDC Chairman
· Chief Aliyu Ango	-	PDC Financial Secretary
· Mr. Yamusa Mamman	-	PDC PRO
· Mr. Jacob Babatunde	-	PDC Assistant Secretary
· Alh. Sadiyu Ibrahim	-	PDC Secretary.
· Miss Kaneng Ja	-	AAPW Project Officer
· Mr. Simon Iya	-	CDO, Karu Local
Government.		

The Farm Management Committee is networking with Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB); National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP); Small & Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) for technical and other forms of assistance.

The Peace and Development Committee was invited to attend the Cassava Stakeholders Forum organized by the Hon. Minister of Commerce, Ambassador Waziri at the Banquet Hall, Aso Villa, Abuja on June 7 and 8 2004 and was ably represented by Chief Habu Shewaza, Alh. Al-Mustapha Sani, Alh. Sadiyu Ibrahim and Miss Kaneng Ja. A number of contacts for other cassava cultivators and processors were made. It was at this forum that the Committee established contact with the Sesame Seed Association of Nigeria thus embarking on Beniseed cultivation.

Labour force for the farms was drawn from the communities of Kugbwaru, Kodope, Luvu and other neighboring villages. The Cassava and Soya bean have been planted and fertilized while the Beniseed will be planted at the end of August because the rains are still heavy. Members of the various communities are working and saving the money from services rendered on the farms for community projects.

It is reassuring to note that NEPAD has literally offered to buy off our prospective produce well in advance of harvest. In fact, their marketing scheme has led us to the idea of having a well coordinated out-growers' scheme within Nasarawa State. This is more so that the Committee's 10 hectares of land for each project does not meet the market expectation. The good news in this, is that our farm would be a pilot scheme and a rallying point for the statewide out-growers' scheme which we hope to aggressively coordinate.



L-R: Simon Iya, Tractor Operator, Karu LG, Kaneng Ja on Soya bean farm, July 2004

The Peace and Development committee hopes to do a number of other development projects in Karu with proceeds from the sale of the farm produce and emphasis will be on activities in the host communities of Kugbwaru, Luvu and Kodope. This should inspire other landowners to give land free of

charge for future farming projects, thus making the work sustainable. A percentage would also be set aside for expansions of the farms come next farming session.

On the whole, we see our pilot farm scheme as a good opportunity to revolutionize the agricultural schemes in Nasarawa State and other parts of the country where AAPW is working. This we have started doing with concerted efforts with the Karu Local Government Agriculture Department; Ministry of Agriculture Lafia; and Nasarawa Agriculture Development Program. It has been fun crossing the stream to the farm, working with the members of the communities along side the Agric. Officers and being beaten by rain!

As written in the previous edition of the Newsletter, all you see in the faces of members of various communities in Karu is that- "We are almost there"!

Royal Visit for Partnering in Peace and Development in Ogoni Land

Damka Pueba
Senior Project Officer, Khana

In the last edition of AAPW newsletter, the Executive Director Dr Judith B. Asuni, mentioned a 'buy-in' of State Governors into the AAPW / M a c A r t h u r Foundation/NDDC 'Promoting Partnering in the Niger Delta' Project. The Governor of Rivers State, Sir (Dr) Peter Odili was the first to answer this call. Thus, apart from the one Local Government Area requested by AAPW for funding, the Governor agreed to fund two additional ones and Khana Local Government Area happens to be one of those chosen!

The interesting thing about Khana Local Government is that its headquarters, Bori doubles as the traditional headquarters of the Ogoni people. The Ogonis in the early 1990s, under the auspices of Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) initiated by late Ken Saro Wiwa, mobilized the people in the area, protesting the neglect, under-development, and environmental degradation by oil companies operating in the area and government. The conflict subsequently led to a breakdown of and souring of relationship among the various stakeholders in Ogoni land. Oil exploration and related activities came to a halt and remain largely unresolved till date.

The Khana field office commenced operation in early July with the Stakeholders Database collection. The field office, manned by 3 project officers (Lucky Duumaa, Lemene Ekeke and Yira Lene) is spacious, with two rooms. It is located within the Local Government Secretariat. It was allocated to AAPW by the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Kingsley Leh, as part of his contribution to peace and development activities in the area.

One of the most memorable occasions in Khana field office was the courtesy visits to two out of the three first class traditional rulers (the Gbenemenes) of the three



Judy Asuni, flanked by Chairman and first lady of Khana Local Government, in consultation with the officers of the National grassroots Association of Nigeria. August 17, 2004.



Khana staff, from left, Ekeke Lemane, Damka Penba, Lira and Lucky Duumaa



Khana L.G. Chairman, Hon Kingsley Leh leading an inspection tour of an uncompleted women/childrens health centre in Bori, Ogoniland

districts of Ken-Khana, Nyo-Khana and Babbe. The visits were in conformity with the customs and traditions of the people of Ogoni land, that before embarking on any project within the area, courtesy visits must be paid to the traditional rulers. The visits to the palaces of Gbenemene Babbe, HRM Mark T. Igbara (JP) and Gbene mene Ken-Khana, HRM H.S. Eguru on Tuesday August 10, 2004 were indeed memorable. At the palace of Gbenemene Babbe, the high point of the visit was a prepared text of address by the king which was read out to us. As I listened, my heart went out to my people and motherland, particularly when the king stated that the area is generally peaceful. The royal father assured AAPW of his support for the project and that his doors will always be open for whatever assistance the Organization may require.

At Luubara, the domain of Gbenemene Ken-Khana, the king and his council of chiefs, including the youth president, expressed appreciation for AAPW's desire to work in Khana and his people's willingness to support it. He then went on to enumerate some of the problems of Luubara in particular and Khana Local Government Area in general. This opened our eyes to the enormity of our work. The good news however is the Khana people's willingness to take their destiny in their hands.

It is often said that "it's not life's difficulties and pressures, but the way we react to them that rob our joy". Given the positive response to AAPW presence in Khana, I can say that the people are ready to raise their curtain and let the warm wind of peace and development blow through. I hope that as we progress on this journey, other stakeholders will position themselves strategically in ways that channels of communication and constructive dialogue will be opened to allow for better partnering for peace and development in Ogoni land!

Conflict Management and Needs Assessment

Evaluation of Services in Etche: A Veritable Roadmark to Development

Godwin Emenike Egbulefu.

The people of Etche Local Government Area were for the first time, brought together in a conflict management and enlightenment workshop on the 15th and 16th July, 2004. This event has been described by everyone as unique. It was a training of forty and persons were drawn from the five clans of the Local Government Area namely Mba, Okehi, Ulakwo/Umuselem, Igbo and Ozuzu. This was unprecedented in nature where an NGO had to organize such a workshop. Composition of participants cut across various levels such as the Etche Community Youths Leaders, National Council of Women Society (NCWS), Women Political Groups and Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE). This memorable workshop was facilitated by Danjuma Saidu of AAPW office with assistance from Damka Pueba, Senior Project Officer in charge of Etche and Etche Project Officers - Godwin E. Egbulefu and Mercy Meje. The early arrival of participants to the 2-day workshop showed that the people were willing to embrace activities that will keep the area in peace and set grounds for development so that the Umuechem crisis in the Niger Delta will not arise again.

Among others, the perceptions of the Niger Delta, 'Communitization of developments' and change of mindset were also addressed. The impact of conflict management in the area has been tremendous especially in the oil host communities where youths have seen antagonism and restiveness as ways of achieving their goal. Commenting on the workshop, the National Orientation Agency Officer in Etche, Mr. Uwuma Ezikwa said he had viewed Etche as a difficult area until the presence of AAPW was felt with its programmes and so, will maximize the benefits to boost his office. Considering the importance of this workshop, many youths and women called for expansion of the scope of participation. According to one adage that says one thing is to learn, another is to use, it goes to say that the people did wait for a time to put in practice what they have learnt. Indications of early warning signals to conflicts are known and most communities now seek dialogue with companies in the area like SPDC, Risonpalm and Delta Rubber Company Limited as a way to seek improved welfare. By this practical demonstration of the peace process, AAPW has left a mark in the sands of time which supposes that to whom more is given, much is also expected.

Needs Assessment and Evaluation of Services, otherwise called Community Development Planning (CDP) meeting was held in two clans of Etche on the 4th and 5th August, 2004 at Mba and Ozuzu respectively. The Programme was a participatory one that gave the communities the opportunity to open up to issues and to discuss the areas in question with utmost belief that their destiny lies in their hands. The Mba

clan session was held at Umuaturu old court hall, while that of Ozuzu clan was held at the palace of the Onye-isi-Agwuru, HRH. Eze M.R.A. Amaechi. Attendance to AAPW coordinated activities in the area has been outstanding. This is because of the grass root orientation and posture of its activities with constant interaction between the communities and their Project Officers. The Etche people have consistently vowed to do things that will sustain the activities of AAPW in the area and have agreed that no NGO has ever run an office as open as the Organization. Attendance to the Programme included the Project Director; Dr. Edmund Allison Oguru; Facilitator, Kaneng Ja; Senior Project Officers Jim-Dorgu Godson and Damka Pueba; Francisca Abulu of Warri office; Lucky and Lemene of Khana office; Muna Seiyefa and Adam Nnah of Port Harcourt office; and Etche Project Officers. The communities attended in Mba clan are Mba, Ndashi, Obite, Umuaturu, Akporku and Umuoye while in Ozuzu clan we had Ozuzu, Isu, Ogida, Orwu, Egbu and Ihie communities. In his remarks, the Project Director, Dr. Allison Oguru said that the needs assessment will give the communities the necessary tools to get things done in their area. He further said that the onus of identifying their needs lies in them while AAPW will only help them facilitate the peace and development process.

Highlights of the meeting were a brief history of Mba clan narrated by Kelvin Nwankwoala and that of Ozuzu clan was narrated by HRH. Eze M.R.A. Amaechi. The social structure of the clans which are headed by the Onye-isi-Agwuru (the clan head), a second or third class stool next to the paramount ruler (the Onye-isi-Etche) was also narrated. Various associations exist in the area which have carried out or initiated meaningful community projects like markets, town hall, road grading and school buildings were considered. The meeting provided the communities the opportunity to assess the availability of services like electricity, road, water, health, education, housing and environmental sanitation. Level of community participation was also taken into consideration and options of self employment were analyzed if the services are provided. These services were finally placed in order of priority and members agreed that the benefits of such a programme include community sensitization on self help, improved network and teamwork to mention but a few.

In all, Conflict Management and Needs Assessment/Evaluation of Services in Etche are a follow up of the first stakeholders meeting of 22nd June, 2004. There is, therefore need for increased community sensitization and links where possible to ensure continuous reap of the dividends. To these, Etche says, it is well done.

Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC): A Budding Chamber Of Commerce.

Goodluck Onyegbule, Business Consultant

In this era of privatization and commercialization, the role of individual business persons and trade groups cannot be over emphasized. They constitute the engine of growth to any economy or business enclave. Where economic potentials exist, visions abound and enabling environments are created, the foundation for economic growth is thereby laid. This is the emerging scenario in the Karu Local Government Council. It has proximity to the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja and the natural endowment in Solid mineral resources as well as arable land. These factors have collaborated to entice the World Bank group, the visionary executive Governor of Nasarawa State and the business folks in Karu to a collaboration, which promises to bear many fruits. This relationship is to be solemnized under the auspices of Business and Economic Development Committee.

This committee is being primed to assume the status of a formidable business association, which will ultimately mature into a Chamber of Commerce and Industry with local and international affiliation. To realize this objective, a number of concrete steps are being taken by the stakeholders.

Presently, the executive Governor of Nasarawa State has approved the allocation of office space within the Karu LGC Secretariat. This office has been furnished with the state-of -the-art equipment and furniture using the grant provided by the World Bank. In fact, the facilities offer basic business center services to the immediate environment thus generating micro - empowerment to the secretariat of the Business and Economic Development Committee.

The World Bank country office has begun mobilizing support and resources from other donor and development agencies for Business and Economic Development Committee. So far, it has been able to arouse the interest of GTZ - The German Development Agency, which has promised non-cash assistance. GTZ hosted one of the strategic planning meetings recently. His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State has graciously granted approval in principle to Business and Economic Development Committee, the use of the land of the burnt Maraba Market as a permanent site. This is envisaged to be an international trade / business exhibition center with adjoining parks and gardens for recreation. It will provide a showcase of the rich export potentials of the State and act as a trade enquiry and contact centers for visitors and passers-by entering and leaving the FCT, Abuja. The

serene plain land just beside the jurisdiction of the administration of El-Rufai, the FCT Minister will be investors' delight, as they will be watching Mallam El-Rufai and his bulldozers engaged in demolition of "illegal" structures from a safe distance.

The KAPDA has been re-invigorated under the leadership of Anthony Akika (Esq.) as managing director and Elisha Dachor as General Manager. This has made agency investor friendly and customer-oriented. The World Bank is already networking with its grant programmes and trust funds so as to provide further assistance in nurturing the association. It has mandated Business and Economic Development Committee to conclude its arrangement for the registration with Corporate Affairs Commission as a company limited by guarantee. Also, it has requested for the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the appointment of a consultant/mentor to coordinate and mid-wife the metamorphosis of the association into a chamber of commerce under due process and best practices.

In the meantime, a programme of action is being articulated for the land acquisition for permanent office, capacity building for existing structure, and mainstreaming of social/economic programmes of World Bank (e.g. aids campaigns, government programmes e.g. SERVICOM).

The intriguing and exciting thing about Business and Economic Development Committee formation and transformation is the diversity of interests and the enormous potential it represents against the background of a local and rudimentary origin. As we have said in the past, Karu is a gold mine of business potentials and natural endowment. The Queen of England came to Karu in the course of her state visit in Nigeria. The World Bank group is making concerted effort with other development agencies to uplift Karu. The executive Governor of Nasarawa State is committing material and personal resources in Karu. We at AAPW are coordinating events aimed at transformation of the place. All these stakeholders cannot be wrong on this premise. This is our unique selling point in urging other donor/ development agencies to buy into this project of transforming Karu using the platform of the Business and Economic Development Committee as it marches on to become a Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) In the Niger Delta

Tari Dadiwei, Project Adviser, AAPW Bayelsa State.

Mutual suspicion and deep seated distrust have characterized the relationships between host communities and companies operating in the Niger Delta. The situation engenders conflicts and slows down the pace of development. It has been identified that little or no knowledge of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and how to enter into workable agreements by host communities with the companies, increases the incidence of mutual suspicion and the ensuing conflicts. On the 3rd of June 2004 in Okolobiri AAPW facilitated its first Stakeholders meeting that addressed the fears, interests, and needs expressed by the stakeholders of Gbarain/Ekpetiama concerning the upcoming integrated oil and gas project (IOGP). In conclusion there was a strong emphasis on the need for stakeholders to be trained in the areas of assessing EIA and what constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). As a prerequisite for development, promoting partnering in the Niger Delta to enhance peaceful co-existence is paramount in establishing better communication between the local communities and companies. It is against this background of need and the desire by the communities that AAPW again, organized a 2 day training workshop on the 6th to 7th of July 2004 for stakeholders in Gbarain/Ekpetiama LGA on understanding EIA and MOU. Furthermore, the workshop was geared towards encouraging more effective participation in future EIA studies while using the current EIA of Gbarain/Ubie IOGP to prepare their MOU.

According to Sridhar "the primary purpose of the EIA process is to encourage the consideration of the environment in planning and decision making and to ultimately arrive at actions which are more environmentally compatible". A thorough understanding of the dynamic relationship between the activities of the oil and gas industry and the environment including the human ecosystem composes what an EIA should include. For an EIA to be successful, all participating stakeholders should be fully involved at every stage of the project. Allowing public participation leads to fair and transparent EIA decision making activity especially since they are the primary stakeholders and beneficiaries of such projects. If the public is adequately involved in influencing all stages of the decision-making process, the project would carry more legitimacy and less hostility. And finally the public can exert pressure on project

sponsors and donors to address the negative environmental impacts of such proposals.

MOU refers to an agreement between the host community (ies) and the company (ies) working together as partners in providing some basic needs. MOU is essentially a peace building instrument that must be painstakingly put together for mutual benefits. Four cardinal items are paramount to MOU process: (1) relationship which encourages harmonious living and avoid conflicts (2) rights which should be differentiated from privileges (3) roles and responsibilities of the various parties to the MOU (4) rewards for each party to be made explicit so as to bind the established relationship.

EIA is a necessity in determining the effect of a proposed development action which requires the analysis of many diverse subject areas including the environment, social and economic impacts, health and public opinion. EIA thus aims to ensure that the possible negative impacts of a proposed development project are predicted with possible mitigation measures using the current EIA of Gbarain/Ubie IOGP to prepare their MOU to ensure environmental sustainability.

Internally Displaced People: Our effort so far.

Yaro Tor Gowon.

For centuries humans have dealt with the tragedy of displacement. In the past, displacement has been caused by drought, flood, and other disasters, natural and manmade. In contemporary Africa, displacement has become an increasingly disturbing phenomenon.

Nigeria in particular, has been faced with a wave of violent displacements of persons from their original abode to foreign environs. This current trend of displacement is a result of the quest for political control and supremacy, perpetrated by the suspicion of domination of one group over the other, in the guise of ethno-religious coloration; as illustrated in the examples of the displacement in Kwande in Benue State and Shendam/Yelwa in Plateau State. The result at the end of the day is homelessness, entrenched

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FGN Briefs on the Reform Agenda

Goodluck Onyegbule
Business Consultant

A briefing on the Federal Government Reforms Agenda was held at the State House, Kawo, Kaduna on Thursday, 12th August, 2004. The objectives were:

- To enhance the capacity of field officers of the National Orientation Agency and other stakeholders to embark on advocacy for the Government Reform Agenda, and
- To explain the socio-economic and political philosophies behind the Government Reforms programme

Participants in the briefing included;

- NOA Executive Directors, State directors and programme heads
- Media Executives
- Selected Civil Society groups, which included Academic Associates Peaceworks.

The forum was facilitated by members of the President's Economic Management Team who authored the Reform Agenda and moderated by such eminent Nigerians as Col. John Madaki (Rtd) and Dr. Beko Ransome Kuti. It was declared open by his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed M.Makarfi.

Participants resolved inter alia:

· That the Reform Agenda should be mainstreamed across the critical mass of the Nigerian society devoid of intellectual and or bureaucratic arrogance as is presently the case. Per El-Rufai to NLC "We cannot be debating government policies. In fact, they are not debatable. If labour feels concerned about some of these policies let it go and form a communist party and form a government. But for this PDP led government, we cannot be discussing every policy with everybody". But the forum underscored the point that the Reform Agenda being a policy with diverse programme as well as a vision with multiple strategies should be debatable and indeed debated in a forum of this nature. Indeed, an advocate of an agenda should be "learned" in the principles and practice of that agenda unless it is a hidden agenda. Such debates and workshops will make the advocate graduate to Senior Advocate of Reform Agenda (SARA). In the course of this graduation, all issues and problems would be highlighted and eliminated such that acceptance and adoption rate will be high. After all, reforms are made for man and not man

for reforms. It was the wish of the forum that the Reforms are made open, debatable, amenable and ipso facto achievable for the initiator and the advocates.

· The forum also advocated for the application of Human Impact Assessment in Reform Implementation. This is to address and cushion the unintended adverse impacts of the agenda against the dynamics of macro-economic imperatives both discernible and precipitous.

· Our ports should be reformed to encourage patronage. The country's Seaports have witnessed low patronage while neighboring ones enjoy increased activities engendered by induced non-patriotism.

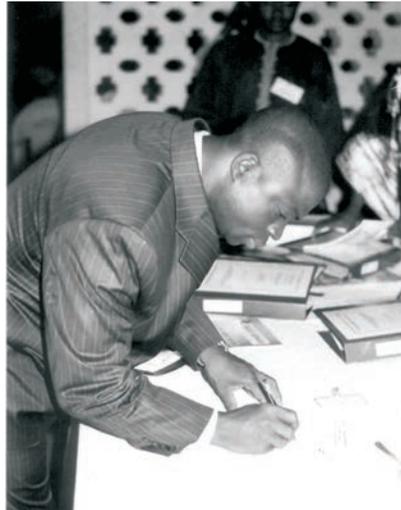
· Since 60%-70% of the people are engaged in agriculture, greater attention should be paid to the agriculture sector for the people to feel the impact of the reform agenda. Fertilizer and other farm inputs should be made available to the people in good time vide due process in procurement and allocation.

· Youth empowerment and genuine developmental policy for the Niger Delta region should be made a deliberate policy.

· Constant Interactive forum should be encouraged to be briefed on and allowed to debate government programmes and strategies of implementation as time changes everything and reviews and debates will enrich such programmes.

· Service delivery programme was examined and commended. Payment of salaries should be given priority to facilitate implementation of the policy. A properly motivated workforce would always perform its duty efficiently and effectively.

· The very laudable Reform Programme should be sustained. One way is to legislate it to ensure continuity, and its details brought to the grassroots. But the minority voices mainly from the civil society organizations have it that it would be wiser to understand the issues in the reform agenda from the perspective of the people being reformed and who will feel the impact of reform directly rather than from the traditional experts.



Goodluck Onyegbule at FG Reform Agenda, Kaduna

IT Training and Capacity Raising

Gato Gourley

Gato Gourley, an Intern with Global Information Internship Program (GIIP), based in the U.S. at the University of California, Santa Cruz has arrived this past July to intern with Academic Associates PeaceWorks. Having been trained through GIIP on the application and dissemination of Information Technology (IT), Gato plans to work with AAPW and other members of Nigerian Civil Society in raising their IT capacity.

With the help and support of AAPW, Gato has begun working with members of the Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC) which is based in Karu, conducting trainings in basic computer literacy as well as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. He has also begun working with NGOs in Abuja; training members in the fundamentals of web design, with the eventual goal of helping their staff produce and post a finished and professional looking website. To maintain the continued dissemination of IT related knowledge and in the interest of sustainability, these trainings have been dubbed (with special thanks to Mr. Goodluck) 'Training the Trainer.' The idea being, that the individuals trained by Gato will then go to their respective organizations and train the members there, thus allowing for the continued dissemination of their newly acquired skills.

In the next few months Gato will travel to Port Harcourt and work with the staff of Our Niger Delta (OND) in finalizing their website. Also in coordination with OND and AAPW he will conduct follow up trainings with several other NGOs based in the Niger Delta who participated in a GIIP sponsored program the Delta Info Initiative (DII) in the fall of 2003.

Through AAPW's network of local NGOs, Gato has been able to establish connections with NGOs in Abuja and evaluate their need for IT. He hopes that through the relationships created during his internship, future GIIP Interns will be able to branch out and work with AAPW and other NGOs in Abuja and throughout Nigeria. In the long term, GIIP hopes to work with a consortium of NGOs to create an info training center in Abuja, allowing for equal access and the continued dissemination of IT related tools.

The importance of achieving computer literacy has never been greater, especially now as the global use of computers and the internet have been rising exponentially, but unevenly in Developed and Developing countries. In an effort to bridge this digital divide and promote the sustainable dissemination and education of IT, the Global Information Internship Program works to "integrate

excluded groups into the benefits of the informational revolution....To raise the informational capacity and organizational effectiveness of community, civil society, and non-governmental organizations by strengthening their ability to use Internet-based information and communication technologies."

For more information on GIIP check out their website <http://www2.ucsc.edu/giip/> or email GIIP at giip@ucsc.edu.

Internally Displaced People: Our effort so far. (Contd)

◀ ● *Continued from page 9*

poverty, unemployment, hunger, disease (especially among children), de-population (and increasing population resulting in congestion in the F.C.T.), mutual distrust, and cultural shock with its resultant suspicion. Displacement distorts and frustrates planned policies and threatens the security and stability of the Nation.

The Federal government's decision to re-visit the issue of displaced persons in Nigeria was demonstrated by the inauguration of a Presidential committee on internally displaced persons. Academic Associates PeaceWorks has been working with a group of displaced persons from Nassarawa, Taraba, Benue, and Plateau State for the past two years. AAPW conducted an initial census of over 10,000 Tiv families in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) under the former minister, Engineer Abba Gana and submitted a proposal to the F.C.T ministry. However these activities later had to be suspended following a change of government. Work on these activities resumed with the appointment of Mallam, Nasir El Rufai as the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory. We have consulted and communicated with the newly appointed Minister, highlighting the dangers the presence the displaced peoples pose to the F.C.T. The minister has shown concern and called for the inclusion of all ethnicities found as displaced persons in the F.C.T. AAPW's re-surveying came up with the following categories of ethnic groups present in the F.C.T.; Mada, Gwandara, Igbo, Gbagyi, Koro, Yoruba, Jukun., Bigim, Urhobo, Tiv, Hausa and Fulani.

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Conflict Management Training in KAPDA

Danjuma Saidu

The Greater Karu Area Planning and Development Authority (KAPDA) is one of Nasarawa State's institutions charged with, among other things, the responsibility of planning the structural outlook and beautification of Karu. This means demolishing a lot of illegal, badly planned and badly built structures, especially those constructed along roadsides. Therefore, KAPDA has an enormous responsibility of ensuring that people conform to laid-down guidelines for erecting legal structures.

Though KAPDA has carried out several campaigns and enlightenment, many land developers and land owners have perceived its actions as outright victimization. It was against this background that KAPDA, under the able and dynamic leadership of its new management contacted AAPW to assist in training its field and administrative staff in conflict management and conflict sensitive approach to development.

The 2-day training was conducted at KAPDA's administrative headquarters in Karu. The participants comprising both senior and junior management and field officers were quite an interesting and active set of people who were always ready to provide useful information during the conflict analysis, conflict progression as well as conflict sensitivity to development sessions. The training sessions provided them with, among other things useful overview of the human rights environment in which they work, the potential or actual impact of their work (to capitalize on previously unforeseen opportunities, as well as mitigate potential unintended impacts) and skills for constructive ways of handling conflict.

Both senior management and field officers interacted freely with the junior staff. The KAPDA staff made a vibrant and dynamic team and this was made possible by the able and pragmatic leadership of the new Managing Director, Barrister Anthony Akika who not only ensured that staff members work as a team, but as a formidable one!

At the end of the training, the staff members agreed to

develop an action plan based on some important issues like the movement of traders to the new Karu International Market, the movement of mechanics to the new Mechanics Village. In the near future, KAPDA will be playing a vital role not only in the beautification of Karu, but also serving as a success story and a reference point in the area of urban planning and development worldwide! I pray however that they develop their website soon.



Cross section of participants at the KAPDA 2 day workshop July 30 - 31, 2004. L-R: Arch Bala Mohammed Ango - Town planning, Engr Yakubu M. Aliyu - GM Infrastructural development, Mr Elisha J. Dachor - GM - Development, Administration and finance, Arch Haladu Abubakar - GM, lands and development control.

Internally Displaced People: Our effort so far. (Contd)

◀ ● *Continued from page 11*

The above named displaced ethnic groups found their way from Kaduna, Bauchi, Benue, Kano, Plateau, and Taraba, as farmers, businessmen and artisans; all in search of peace and security. In October 2003, we re-submitted a proposal, without any response. Without giving up, on the 29th of July, 2004 we approached the National Commission for Refugees to tackle this menace. After a series of brainstorming sessions we were able to harmonize positions and agreed to draw up a working programme for the displaced people. The programme shall include other stakeholders namely National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), the office of the National Security Adviser, etc.

In conclusion, Academic Associates PeaceWorks must be commended as the first Nigerian Non Governmental Organization to tackle the issue of the displaced persons by identifying and putting forward a plan for their rehabilitation outside the usual idea of relief.

Life as an Intern: The Experience and the Challenges in PeaceWorks.

Kassim Yusuf.

Experience they say is the best teacher. Armed with a master's degree in peace and conflict studies (specializing in international conflict management) from the University of Ibadan and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science cum philosophy at the same university, I proceeded on an internship with Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW). The aim is to familiarize myself with the practical usage of academic jargons which are operative in my chosen field, having in mind that there should be a marriage between theory and practice. AAPW has made available various platforms through which theoretical concepts and academic jargons have been transformed into useful and beneficial purpose for the betterment and advancement of communities ravaged by conflict.

My first official encounter with conflict management was during the meeting of the Africa Forum consultation with Civil Societies drawn from across the country, Africa and Canada on the Responsibility to protect which was held at AAPW conference hall Abuja. The main objective of the meeting was to consult and seek the support and co-operation of civil society, through discussion with opinion leaders, regional and international organizations on the right to protect non combatants in a situation of conflict, it is hoped that this may prevent future occurrences of genocide and crimes against humanity, such as those experienced in Rwanda and Burundi in 1994.

Furthermore, practical proactive conflict management methods and strategies, which entail capitalizing on early warning signs to transform conflict infrastructures into

opportunities, development and co-operation, were learnt. I was also privileged to be trained in research methods, proposal and report writing, basic office procedures, organization of workshops, seminar and a host of others.

Basically, AAPW has provided a multi-cultural working environment where I have come in contact with different interns and people in working in the field of conflict resolution and other areas of human endeavour from

Nigeria, Asia, Africa, United States and other continents of the world. It has been interesting and intriguing to work with Gato Gourley (an intern like me) from the Global Internship Programme (GIIP), University of California and Rosemarie McBean of research for CommonGround.



L-R: Yusuf Kassim (AAPW), Mr Christopher Tangba (Ministry of Agriculture, Lafia), Mohammed Usman (AAPW)

Although the vacuum between practice and theory might not be filled in one's lifetime, I have succeeded in whatever experience comes my way. These challenges have shaped and re-shaped the way I view reality. More so, I have learnt various interpersonal skills and the ability to do multi-tasks and work on a wide range of issues. I have learnt how to treat people equally and respect their rights no matter their colour, race, ethnic background, religion or other considerations.

Above all, I say thank you to the Executive Director, Academic Associates PeaceWorks, who has given me the opportunity to "express myself" and has consistently reminded me that I cannot just do it but do it better.

AAPW Warri Office Debuts

Kingsley Akeni

The MacArthur / NDDC Partnering Project / Rivers State Government being coordinated by Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW) in the Niger-Delta, officially commenced in Delta State with the opening of a field office in March 2004 generously offered by the Warri South Local Government Council. The identification of stakeholders through database collection has reached advanced stages with representation of various segments of the local society which was evident in the First Stakeholders meeting held at Ibusa near Asaba. Baseline information about individuals, institutions and their activities is being collected in an attempt to identify the various socio-economic livelihoods of the people in the area. Consultations and visits have been made to Royal Fathers and community leaders with a view to solicit their valuable support and contribution to the project's ideas and objectives.

Since the commencement of the operations of the office in Warri, local youth, community-based pressure organizations and civil society have identified with AAPW's mission statement of building capacities for managing conflict through studies, intervention and peace awareness. These youth-based pressure groups and communities have consulted and sought the contacts and technical expertise of AAPW in resolving arising and potential conflicts that are mostly between the oil/gas companies and their host communities within Delta State. These groups and the communities have continued to network with the local AAPW office to solicit their intervention in resolving potential conflict issues in the area. AAPW in April 2004 was requested to intervene in the lack of lease payments to



Closing prayers of the Warri South Stakeholders workshop. From left: Ms. O. Urboba NDDC Delta State, Engr Gbesimi Akperi, SA on oil and gas to the Delta State Governor, rep of SSS - Dr Victor Fodeke of the Fed. Min of Environment, Lt. Col O Okolajo Rep of Gen Zamani, rep of the Nigeria Police - Gambo Jimba, Dr Judy Asuni, AAPW

over 98 communities from within Bayelsa and Delta States by the SPDC Western Division. Communities and other civil society groups maintain that it was AAPW's intervention into this non-payment that was responsible for the GMD of NNPC's express directive and approval for SPDC to commence immediate payment of these monies to these communities after due ownership verification. It is interesting to note that machineries have been put in place by SPDC Western Division to comply with this directive by NNPC while the verification exercise is presently going on with the involvement of SPDC and representatives of the Delta State Government.

AAPW was also invited by the Okpala-uku of Igbuku and



Opening ceremony of the Warri South Stakeholders forum, Hon. Commissioner Obozor Macauley (first right) and Ms Omavunmi Urboba of NDDC (second right) Ibusa, Delta state, July 2004.

the South-South people's Congress (SSOPEC) Youth Wing to intervene in the lingering crisis between the Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and the Igbuku community which is a host community to Agip.

The conflict arose from land ownership and the recognition and payment of entitlements from Agip's usage of the land. Meetings, dialogues and deliberations were held at the Agip office in Port Harcourt between stakeholders that are involved.

On the MacArthur Project, the Warri South First Stakeholders meeting witnessed one of the most thought-provoking and sincere attempts of the feuding community stakeholders in the locality to take the re-shaping of the destiny and fortunes of Warri into their own hands. There were presentations from various relevant institutional stakeholders drawn from the area such as the NDDC, Academia, Security, DPR, Oil/Gas industry, Delta State Government e.t.c.

The major highlight for this two-day summit of stakeholders was the inauguration of a Steering Committee which swung into action identifying the needs for re-development of the locality.

No doubt, the activities of AAPW within the past few months in Warri have positively impacted the people. They maintain that the Project is a vehicle which can be utilized to drive the process for both the re-development and re-engineering of the minds of the people in the area towards positive development.

Here & There

New Arrivals/Entrances & Exits!!!

Dorathy Payi

We welcome into the AAPW family:

Master **Clinton Akpevwe**, born April 8, 2004 to Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley Akeni. Kingsley is the Sr Project Officer, Warri South LGA Office.

Master **Ogieltaziba Ebiegberi**, born June 6, 2004 to Mr. and Mrs. Oronto Douglas in Port Harcourt.



Ayoade Temilade

Master **Ayoade Teniola Temilade**, born June 13, 2004 to Mr. and Mrs. Ade Abiodun. Ade happens to be the wonderful chef of Dr. Judith Asuni.

Master **Abdullahi Kolade Danlami**, born 29 July, 2004 to Mallam and Mallama Salihu Abdullahi. Salihu is our ever able supporter and messenger.



Salihu Abdullahi (left), Philip Adukwu (Right) and baby Abdullahi Danlami

We await the time when all of you 'masters' will grow up and storm AAPW to continue the good work.

Entrances

We also welcome:

Ms. Kofoworola Asuni who arrived on June 10, 2004. Kofo has just received a B.A in Psychology and Anthropology from Wesleyan University and is presently in Nigeria for the compulsory one year National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Mr. Gato Gourley who arrived on July 25, 2004. Gato is an IT Intern from Global Information Internship Program (GIIP), Santa Cruz, California. Gato will be in the country for about five months to conduct training programs on Information Technology (IT) with interested NGOs in the country. He has already met with some and has started extensive training of Website Development and other Microsoft Office applications.

Exits

Derin Asuni who came on October 1, 2003 and left on July 31, 2004 to pursue an M.A Programme at Clark University, Massachusetts. As a Project Officer, she was involved in a lot of community development work and also worked in the Niger Delta where the presence of AAPW is a force to be reckoned with. We shall miss her exuberance and

vibrant nature and we wish her all the best in her studies.

Roberto Lopez arrived with Derin on October 1, 2003 on his first visit to Nigeria. Roberto was also a Project Officer and made his presence felt in the communities he visited. Shortly before his departure, he went to Port Harcourt to help put the MacArthur Niger Delta Project on track and did a good job. I know he loved his stay here and he has promised to come back to continue eating grilled fish (and to work, of course!). Like Rosemarie McBean, they always come back. We shall miss him too.



Gato Gourley (l) and Kofo Asuni (r)

Coming to Your Local Television Station...

Kofo Asuni

In a country where television has become one of the most important means of mass communication and entertainment, AAPW and Search for Common Ground find new techniques in combating conflict. With the increase in youth joblessness, AAPW and SFCG offer alternative perspectives on social obstacles in the lives of these youth through television drama that incorporates social consciousness and peace building efforts. As studies conducted in 2002 by Intermedia show that more than half of the 15+ population watch TV on a weekly basis with most watching daily, the power these local television channels have in affecting the perspectives of these youth should not be taken lightly.

Loaded with the support of the Nigerian government and television authority, and funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Department for International Development (DfID), and Nestle, this upcoming television drama is bound to be a success so look out for its new releases coming to your local television stations soon.

AAPW Offices



AAPW Head Office, Abuja.



AAPW Office, Gbarain / Ekpetiama Local Government Secretariat, Bayelsa State



AAPW Office, Khana Local Government Secretariat, Rivers State

Academics Associates PeaceWorks

Mission Statement

“Building capacities for managing conflict through studies, intervention and peace awareness in society”

Objectives of AAPW

To build awareness of the need and possibilities of peace in society.

- To empower individuals and groups in building peace, through training and networking.
- To develop the framework for the peace process through action-oriented research and intervention in current or potential conflicts.

HEAD OFFICE

Plot 1765, Abubakar Koko Crescent,
Off Maitama Sule Street, Behind WHO,
Asokoro-Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: 09-3149009, 670-2292
e-mail: abuja@aapeaceworks.org

BAYELSA STATE
Gbarain/Ekpetiama Local Government
Secretariat, Okoloibiri, Bayelsa State
tel. 0803 772 9870

LAGOS OFFICE

5 Ojolowo, Off Salvation Rd., Opebi, Lagos
TEL: 01-7743203
lagos@aapeaceworks.org

RIVERS STATE

19, Lord Emmanuel Drive, Aba Road,
Rumuomasi, Port Harcourt
Tel: 08033107660
e-mail: portharcourt@aapeaceworks.org

Etche Local Government Secretariat
Okehi, Rivers State
tel. 0803 772 9893

Khana Local Government Secretariat
Bori, Rivers State
tel. 0803 621 2900

Ministry of Energy, Rivers State Secretariat
Port Harcourt, Rivers State
tel. 0802 302 2279

KARU :OFFICE

Karu Local Government Secretariat
Karu, Nassarawa State
09-6716292, 09-6716293
e-mail: karu@aapeaceworks.org

DELTA STATE

Warri South Local Government Secretariat
Warri, Delta State
tel. 0803 772 9871

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