

PRESS RELEASE

African Diaspora and Development Day (ad3) 2003

'Shaping Africa's Future – Do Young Africans in the diaspora share the dream of the African Union/NEPAD?'

On Saturday July 5th at Birkbeck College in London West End, hundreds of African individuals and their organisations will meet to raise awareness of the important contributions being made by the diaspora to Africa's development, as well as to help chart a way forward.

Surrounded by colourful African arts and crafts marketplace, music, food, plus exhibitions, stalls, African Diaspora Development Day (ad3) will also provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations to meet with other development agencies - donors, International NGOs, and pan-African development institutions, to share information and work towards joined-up development involving all stakeholders.

Launched under the umbrella of *africa21* (a coalition of 9 African organizations), this year's ad3 will focus on young Africans. It will examine the contrast between their dreams for Africa and those of the AU/NEPAD structures, currently the officially sanctioned engines for Africa's development and growth. A research report highlighting young Africans' perspectives of Africa will be presented for discussion. Insights and lessons will form the basis for future action.

For *africa21* spokeswoman, Diana Mercorios: 'The focus on young Africans is very crucial as they are the ones that will determine the direction and agenda for Africa in the very near future. We need to listen to our youth as they are not simply recipients of the existing ideas, they are creator and innovators. It is important neither they or us lose the connection and concern with Africa.'

Leading computer scientist and mathematician, Philip Emeagwali, dubbed 'a father of the internet' will provide the keynote address - an inspirational speech on how the diaspora could help narrow Africa's skills gap.

Others from UK-based African organisations, African governments, the NEPAD Secretariat/African Union, African youth and international NGOs will speak on and facilitate special workshops on issues as diverse as the role of information, communication technologies (ICTs) in development, challenging images of development, trade in primary commodities, fundraising and donor policy, and brain drain. The early birds will be able to get expert advice on careers and funding in two unique master classes.

The **PEWA** (People Earnestly Working for Africa) awards ceremony, acknowledging and rewarding the valuable contributions being made by Africans in the diaspora, will be launched. In the evening entertainment, featuring leading diasporic performers, will round off a day, the organisers hope will become a key feature in the calendar for Africans working for Africa's development in the UK.

For Diana Mercorios 'ad3 is a good opportunity for Africans in the diaspora to come together to discuss the issues that affect us. ad3 I suspect will be an opportunity for us to work together on the African agenda and have a good time.'

ad3 will be held at: Clore Management Centre, Birkbeck College, University of London
Torrington Square (behind Malet Street), London WC1 E7HX

*** For more information or a registration document please contact:
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ad3@afford-uk.org or check the website: www.afford-uk.org**

Programme for ad3 2003, Saturday July 5th

Time:	Event
8.30-9.00	Registration, Coffee & Networking
9.00-10.30	Early Bird Masterclasses Careers - Masterclass (CVs/volunteering/placement) Leader: Frances Williams (Interims for Development) Funding - Masterclass Leader: Sulemana Abudulai (Comic Relief)/ Mike Day (Community Fund)
10.30-11.00	Opening Plenary: Welcome and Introduction of Chair Creative Exchange 1 – Dorothea Smartt Introduction of Keynote Speaker - Philip Emeagwali Keynote Address: 'Diaspora and Africa's Skills Gap'
11.00-11.30	Introduction to Report Creative Exchange 2 – Yara El-Sherbini Presentation of Report on the Perspectives of Young Africans on Africa and Development

Key Findings and Implications
Discussion (plus input by research contributors)

11.30-11.50 Coffee Break and Exhibition

11.50-13.0 Creative Exchange 3 – Samson Kambalu
Responses to the Report - Panel comprising
UK-based African Organisations/NEPAD/AU/African Government
reps/Young Africans/ British Government

13.00-14.00 Lunch & Market & Exhibition

14.00-14.30 PEWA Awards Ceremony
Creative Exchange 4 – Patrice Naiambana

14.30-16.00 Workshops:

- 1) Understanding fundraising and donor policy
- 2) Linking careers, diversity, brain drain and development
- 3) Promoting gender and development Awareness
- 4) Fostering diaspora input to development policy
- 5) Assessing the impact of Gulf War 2 on Africa
- 6) Understanding the role of ICT in development
- 7) Enhancing leaders leadership in Africa's development
- 8) Challenging images of development
- 9) Tackling trade issues around primary commodities
- 10) Promoting young African's involvement in African development
- 11) Developing diaspora and mainstream development linkages
- 12) Deepening partnership between the diaspora and Africa

16.00-16.20 Coffee and exhibition

16.20-17.30 Closing Plenary
Report Back and Recommendations
Crèche Children's dreams for Africa
Responses and Reflections
Charting the Way Forward
Goodbyes and Evaluation Forms

18.00-20.00 Networking, Performance, food, & Marketplace