

**ISSUES REPORT OF THE “HELLO AFRICA” ACTION RESEARCH
NATIONAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP**

ORGANISED BY THE

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SEND) FOUNDATION OF WEST
AFRICA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT (AFFORD)**

HELD AT THE

CSIR– STEPRI CONFERENCE CENTRE, ACCRA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Social Enterprise Development (SEND) Foundation of West Africa with the support of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) – a United Kingdom based African Diaspora Organisation organised a two – day national workshop under the theme **“Promoting Diaspora Linkages for Sustainable National Development”** at the CSIR – STEPRI Conference Centre on 14th and 15th May, 2004.

The Workshop was designed to share the findings and recommendations of the Report of the “Hello Africa” National Research project into various models of Ghanaian Diaspora Linkages with their local communities as a means to leverage development. It was also to explore options by which the opportunities for national development which this kind of engagement offers can best be harnessed and optimised towards poverty reduction, social justice and equity in Ghana.

The Workshop brought together participants drawn from the main organising bodies of the project, the research partners, District Assemblies (DAs), as well as representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and public service institutions.

Deliberations of the Workshop took place in plenary and group sessions. The Opening Session was addressed by Messrs Samuel Zan Akologo, Director of SEND Ghana, Siapha Kamara, Chief Executive Officer of SEND FOUNDATION of West Africa and Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Executive Director of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD). Mr. Stephen Asamoah – Boateng, Deputy Minister of Information was the Guest of Honour and also performed the official opening. The Opening Session was chaired by Mr. Dan Boakye Agyeman, Special Assistant at the Office of the President.

The plenary sessions witnessed presentations by the research team and received reports from the syndicate group discussion sessions. The sessions were chaired Professor Takyiwaa Manuh of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. The Research Advisor, Mr. Aloysius Denkabe of the University of Ghana, presented the research methodology of the Hello Africa project and provided insights on the questions of the relevance of the research, the distinctive process involved and the issues that

emerged. Mr. Siapha Kamara facilitated the plenary session that generated the discussion themes for the syndicate group sessions.

The Research Presentations made were by;

1. Lola Clinton on the UK research experience which indeed provided the framework for AFFORD'S research engagement process in Ghana. She noted that, the research activity involved postal surveys, literature review, focus group and electronic discussion groups' monitoring.

The UK African Diaspora Organizations that were looked at included mainstream local service providers, capacity building organisations such as AFFORD, professional bodies such as the Network of Nigerian Nurses and informal associations.

2. Professor Anoba J. Annorbah-Sarpei, Executive Director of the Centre for Community Studies, Action and Development (CENCOSAD) on Diaspora Based Organizations (DBOs) and Traditional States with the case study on Diaspora Akyem citizens and the Akyem Abuakwa State. The thirteen communities sampled in the core traditional area were Pameng, Mase, Akrofufu, Amanfrom, Apapam, Potrase, Bonsu, Odumase, Kibi, Akoko, Asafo, Adu Nkwanta and Ekroso.
3. Mr. Emmanuel Yenube Kpari, the Programmes Co-ordinator of Sustainable Integrated Services Centre (SIDSEC) on the case study of the Upper East and West Civil Society organizations which focused on eight Diaspora projects in the Jirapa and Nadowli Districts of the Upper West Region and the Bolgatanga, Bongo and Builsa Districts of the Upper East Region.
4. Mr. Seth Sakyiamah, Regional Manager of the Sunyani Office of ISODEC on District Assembly led Diaspora Projects in the central zone with coverage on the Sunyani Municipality, Tano, Nkoranza, Dormaa, Techiman and the Berekum Districts.

(See Appendix A for the Reports of the Research Teams as presented)

The syndicate group discussions which focused on the thematic clustering of key issues were on the following:

- Group I: *District Assemblies and Diaspora Relations* with report presented by Nii Adjaye-Laryea of CENCOSAD.
- Group II: *Chieftaincy Institution and Diaspora Relations* with report presented by Richard Alandu of FISTRAD.
- Group III: *Areas of Further Research and Policy Consideration, and Profiling other forms of Identity Based Organizations (IBOs)* with report presented by Emmanuel Kpari of SIDSEC.

(See Appendix B for the Key Issues and Reports of the Syndicate Group discussions as presented)

2.0 THE RESEARCH

2.1 Background

In furtherance of the mission of the United Kingdom - based African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) to expand and enhance the contribution that the African diaspora makes to Africa's development, it initiated the action research within a project frame entitled "Hello Africa: Shifting power, tackling poverty by linking Africa and the African diaspora" that Comic Relief agreed to fund.

2.2 Assumptions

1. The 2001 Homecoming Summit for Ghanaians living abroad amply demonstrated the relevance of the research project. It is clear that, on the one hand there is the recognition of the importance of the Non Resident Ghanaians (NRG) to the overall developmental process in Ghana. On the other, it is evident that diaspora based Ghanaians do participate in the country's development at the level of their communities. The challenge of the research was therefore to mainstream and make visible these contributions which otherwise may not seem discernible.
2. The potential of the critical mass of Ghanaians in the diaspora who constitute an important source of development resources for investment finance, skilled and experienced human capital and modern technology is still very much untapped.
3. Even as there have been attempts made at recognising this potential as evidenced by the Homecoming Summit, the establishment of a Non-Resident Ghanaian (NRG) Secretariat, and the Ghana Poverty reduction Strategy which identifies NRG as key sources of financing the national development agenda, this

has not yet been translated in concrete actions, plans, programmes or projects that individual organisations or initiatives such as “Hello Africa” could partner with.

4. Despite these apparent weaknesses, the country has a favourable policy and political environment for promoting the engagement of Ghanaians in the Diaspora in the national effort towards poverty reduction.
5. Some of Ghana’s Diplomatic missions abroad have initiated various innovative programmes to assist and facilitate the mobilization of resources from Ghanaians living in the countries of the missions to support development programmes in Ghana.
6. The Government has given greater constitutional recognition to Ghanaians in the diaspora so that they can equally exercise basic citizenship rights of taking part in the process of electing the Government of their country.
7. The favourable environment created by the Government is further bolstering other efforts of linking up with citizens in the diaspora. The chieftaincy institution for example has been used as a national cultural instrument to link up with citizens abroad.
8. The decentralization process has also given District Assemblies greater leverage to engage in various innovations of resource mobilization including linking up with their citizens for this purpose. The various ‘Old Boys and Girls’ Associations based on schools of their alma mater are also beginning to establish significant linkages abroad and the benefits that such linkages bring to their former institutions are enormous.

2.3 Purpose

The overall purpose is to deepen the national consciousness, know-how and commitment towards maximizing the participation and contribution of our kith and kin in the international and local diaspora. It is also to enhance the quality of development partnership between Ghanaians in the diaspora and local development groups and communities.

Specifically it is to:

- Identify and document existing development partnership involving UK Diaspora Based Organisations (DBOs) and CSO in three zones of Ghana;
- Identify and document avenues and opportunities for development partnership in the three zones between Ghanaian CSOs and diaspora based CSOs
- Identify and document new areas of interest and opportunities to increase partnership between Ghanaians in the diaspora and their communities of origin and
- To develop strategies for strengthening development partnership between AFFORD and West Africa based CSOs engaged in diaspora linkages.

2.4 Organisation

The research as encapsulated in the title: “Hello Africa” Action Research Project was informed by the principles and values of partnership and it involved case studies, focus group discussions, experience sharing and validation workshops. The research was organised in a decentralized fashion covering three agro-economic zones (Northern savannah, Central forest belt and coastal low lands) and it interrogated three principal institutions - CSOs, DAs and chieftaincy that are frontiers of the poverty reduction process. Each of these zones and institutions were studied by a research team.

The zoning approach adopted in the research allowed the researchers to arrive at some representative truths on the specific studies. Participatory approach was also utilized with regular workshops at various research stages.

Through the decentralized and partnership framework adopted, the research sought to cover the entire country and therefore its findings and policy recommendations are informed by insights of hundreds of ordinary Ghanaians, many DAs and one significant traditional authority whose life situations are being impacted by the projects and programmes financed by remittances from the diaspora.

The action oriented nature of the research project was to assist bridge the gap between the rhetoric and the reality in as much as there is the felt need that has to be addressed in relevant ways.

The conduct of the research revealed that the UK Research utilized a methodology that attempted to use a diverse approach in gathering information. The distinctive mark is

what the UK method offers in terms of personal surveys, extensive literature review, electronic access and the latter did produce a diversity of information as to what is happening in the diaspora. In a complementary way, the Ghana research attempts to fill the gap by recognizing the diversity of the experience and goes into the issues that are generated.

The concerns was expressed on the involvement of local people in the identification of the projects and an indication why the DBOs were not interested in working through the DAs and with the chiefs.

A further question was why the research projects did not look at the involvement of Youth Associations in the development of these relationships. It was the view that, the projects could have been better delivered through the youth associations since they have better organizational systems.

2.5 Findings and discussions thereon

The key findings of the research can be summed up as follows:

- Civil Society offers diversity of context and channels of engagement; many diaspora individual are operating through different CSOs; these CSOs are diaspora individuals setting up and supporting income generation schemes especially for women groups, community infrastructure such as schools, health centres and organisational development
- DA case study highlights an interesting public-private partnership scheme in which people in the diaspora invested in the development of a market complex
- The DA study also brought to the fore a key challenge the diaspora faces in trying to develop partnership with government institutions. This has to do with strategic capacity issues of the DAs such as communication, accountability, planning and monitoring. This is particularly relevant since citizens in the diaspora like other private investors want accurate information and data, prompt reporting and transparent and accountability mechanism.
- Again on the DAs, the process anticipated the bureaucratic and non-proactive posture which therefore raises the question of sustainability. There were also issues of cultural identity and renewal.
- The case studies on the involvement of the DAs were limited as it did not assist the DAs in locating DBOs.

- Chieftaincy case study shows how the institution is used to educate Ghanaians in the diaspora about their culture, affirm cultural identity and also utilized for the effective mobilization of financial resources from the diaspora for local development initiatives.
- There was a case in the diaspora where groups split around the issue of chieftaincy. There have been similar occurrences where chieftaincy problems at home related particularly to conflicts around succession tend to divide the DBOs but as soon as the choices are determined, the dust invariably also settles in the diaspora. Therefore one challenge is to ensure that conflicts at home do not flow over to affect DBOs. However, the reality is that, problems of allegiances cannot be avoided when dealing with the subject of IBOs.
- Development initiatives supported by the diaspora are beset with a number of challenges such as weak accountability and sustainability mechanisms, low participation of project principals and beneficiary communities.
- The DBOs themselves do not seem to be well organized and that is why they seem to trust family members in the remittance of funds and other resources for developmental projects back home.
- DBOs are organized around specific interests and the study did prove that they are particularly ethnic in character. However in the Sunyani District, there is an ongoing project which involves the construction of a mosque.
- A study of IBOs affirm that they start from welfare issues and the challenges of the needs and concerns of their members. The response to these issues is largely sporadic. It is also to be recognized that these are internal tensions and this invariably has to do with the problems of staying abroad. It is not exactly easy to get into these organisations and there is suspicion and challenges at different levels.
- There is the concern whether the studies brought to the fore anything about liabilities as what is being transported back home. Further, since the issue is about mainstreaming, it would be useful to investigate how involved the disabled are.
- On the concern for the disabled, there is the evidence of a number of such projects involving the disabled and deprived in the savannah zone. There is for example, an Orphanage and Centre for the physically challenged in Jirapa.
- An analysis of the research findings suggest that, there are a number of cross-cutting issues related to funding and capacity, greater research on needs, more information on DBOs, concern for monitoring, sustainability, accountability and

transparency, reports, trust, channels of communication, community participation and involvement and resource flow.

2.6 Envisaged Outcomes

These include:

- (a) Country reports on Ghanaian diasporan supported initiatives
- (b) Increased awareness within the NGO community in Ghana and how they can be involved in the fight to reduce poverty
- (c) Increased development partnership between CSOs and the DBOs

2.7 Policy Implications

The research project on the engagement process with the Ghanaian diaspora had implications for policy as their involvement in national development is contemplated. There is the need therefore to fast track the various initiatives aimed at reforming public sector institutions and service providers so that they become result oriented and create an enabling environment for poverty reduction.

Secondly, there is the demand for strengthening the Non-Resident Ghanaian (NRG) Secretariat so that it can develop policies, systems and mechanisms aimed at enhancing diaspora confidence and to promote the meaningful participation in the national poverty reduction agenda.

Different parts of Ghana, institutions and indeed social formations are involved in the process and this has implications for policy at the national, sub regional and regional levels. The partnership therefore has the potential of reframing the entire relationship between the governments and the governed at various levels.

Whilst the research focuses on the transfer of material resources, the frontiers of the relationship can be expanded to include the available intellectual resource capacity particularly within the context of the possibilities presented by the New Information Age.

2.8 Challenges of the Research Project

One main challenge that confronted the research project was the recognition of the necessity to have a wide range of skills in such an endeavour.

Secondly, there were variable levels of research capacity and this brought to the fore the necessity to be sensitive to the pace of the practitioners. This no doubt had implications for the question of time and documentation among others.

The critically question though is do the challenges of making connections with Africa represent a whirlwind or it is just a breeze? Secondly, is there a momentum that is spreading as regards the genuine interest in making these connections? A further question relates to the involvement of the youth and their readiness to move the process forward.

The research should also try to investigate the problems that the DBOs also face. Most of the DBOs are basically welfare organizations and therefore investment delivery was not their main driving impulse. When it comes to investments, the associations tend to respond to their ethnic origins and other identity callings back home. They are concerned about where the investment project would be sited for example. Family affiliations play a critical role in influencing the choice and character of the investment since trust is key to the process projects.

Education of the DBOs is essential since most of them see the DAs as the old style Urban Councils.

Diaspora based individuals should be better organised since models of the kind would enhance the process.

3.0 BROADER CONTEXTUAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The research project was situated within a historical context - as a continuation of the resistance against slavery and colonialism. References were made to the heroic struggles of the freed slaves from Africa who fought for the emancipation of the continent and the 5th Pan African Congress at Manchester which set the path for Ghana's independence and indeed of the rest of Sub Saharan Africa.

The project has therefore to be seen in its larger context as a challenge of the African Diaspora to completing the unfinished task of emancipation from colonial and neo-colonial subjugation and indeed of eradicating poverty.

It is to be noted that, there has been a long standing desire of the people in the diaspora to make connections with the continent. This of course started with the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its dislocation of our African brothers and sisters who have had the desire and recognition to be Africans. For example, early 18th Century writing in the United States had people referring to themselves as children of Afrique and America which represents a conscious desire to reconnect.

Under globalization, there has been a one way connection of people stranded in the Americas trying to make a connection to Africa. In similar situations, even as there are voluntary migrations, there is also the involuntary aspect which is a result of compelling economic and other circumstances. Even in such instances, there is the desire for Africans to make connections with their countries of origin.

On the emancipation notion of homecoming, it would be useful to acknowledge the point that, the political discourse in which homecoming is structured flows from the power relations that has been engendered by diasporan relations.

The project is also concerned about "...shifting power and tackling poverty by connecting Africa and the African Diaspora". It is designed therefore to address the fundamental question as to who drives the process of Africa's development and shapes the continent's destiny. In the context of development, too little of the driving, conceptualization and definition of the Africa's problem takes place outside the continent – that is, in the North. In dealing with the issue of the Diaspora, the question of power needs to be confronted. The Diaspora would become relevant only if it is recognized that it is part of an agenda in shifting power to the key drivers on the continent.

It is estimated that Ghanaians in the Diaspora make a yearly injection of about 1.3 billion dollars into the Ghanaian economy. This clearly outweighs the few hundred million dollars that Donors put into the economy and yet ironically dictate the entire path of Ghana's development agenda. There is therefore the need for greater dialogue and the sharing of information in what is evidently a strategic project.

Within the wider context, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) makes references to the importance of the Diaspora to Africa's development. However, NEPAD puts the emphasis on the relationship with the G8 instead of our own national and diasporan investment capacity. What the Hello Africa Project does however is to "add a

bit of meat to the bone” by stressing the important role of the diaspora relationships in making the issues more tangible.

There is the necessity to appreciate the political dimension of the shifts in policy (particularly with the North) engendered by these new forms of diasporan relationships. The bigger issues that face Africa such as trade and debt would need shifts of policy in the North. For example, markets are becoming inaccessible to African products and with the imposition of unacceptable conditions on our governments. This therefore raises the inescapable political dimension to the issue of diasporan relationships since all these capitals are shaped by a consciousness of the strength of our social capital and common interests.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

People have multiple motivations in the complexity of relationships between the diaspora and home. There are positives and negatives and therefore the need to move the process forward. Information needs to be shared by stakeholders to enhance the fulfillment of AFFORD’s larger vision of the emancipation of the continent.

A clear issue is the feasibility of carrying on research work on the DBOs noting that these associations have been formed for a variety of reasons with the members involved in different kinds of vocations.

There is also the need for more information on DAs. It might be useful for DAs themselves to explore the different mechanisms of informing others about themselves.

The issue of retired migrants not only as means for channeling resources but also as sources of information also comes to the fore.

The important role of the involvement of women in these relationships has to be accentuated and there is therefore a great deal to be done in the regard. There are for example, concerns of women who are married to expatriates and the evidence suggests that there are a number of women involved in the setting up of different kinds of initiatives.

There is also the need for greater collaboration between the DBOs and the Ghana Education Service since there is a lot of ignorance about the situation in education particularly in the North.

Mainstreaming the project and the attempt to involve larger civic populations would certainly require further research into relations of traditional authorities and diasporic communities. The example of the Akyem is useful. The Asante and the Asante Congress could also offer newer insights.

Further, involving civil populations also raises the question of empowerment. There would for example be the need to find out from the communities the evidence of how hard-felt needs are articulated and expressed.

There are tensions in the issue of subjects versus citizens in the traditional society and these have to be investigated in clarifying whether those in the diaspora are on the same wavelength with the internal dynamics. This brings to the fore, the question of values and shared perspectives. What for example are the attitudes and concerns about people about organising around ethnic groups as a way of moving Ghana forward.

The issue may not need to be put too starkly since it is not as if the 'diaspora' and 'home' exists in isolation. For, the research as shown that there are different layers and levels of engagement. Further, there are multiple identities and they shift as people engage, reconstruct and negotiate their interests.

There is also the need to critically look at these values and determine how they promote democratic principles and the larger issue of emancipation.

It is to be recognized that, even as there are different pulls, the need for the determination of a framework that allows for the definition of a policy to construct the relationships is crucial.

The concern for addressing the needs of diaspora communities is not reflected in the reports. The challenge should be about recreating the spirit of nationalism among the diaspora and the DAs for example could ensure that their sons and daughters are nationalistic.

The research suggested that the next generation of diasporan children are more interested in deploying their skills. The whole point about issues of identity is that they are constantly being reconstructed. There is the concern as to how the DAs for example are going to strategize to engage the new generation of young Africans.

Fundamentally, do we seek to raise resources to undertake the same type of development as currently in place or is it for a different type of agenda? What therefore is the added value?

It is prudent to be concerned about the danger of taking giant leaps. The IDOs for example, are taking on new dimensions of engagement and we should therefore be patient in our expectations.

There is the necessity for moving the process forward and the importance of looking at best practices elsewhere for example how diasporan Indians in the United Kingdom work with their country of origin.

The research has revealed that Ghanaians in the diaspora have provided substantial resources towards the development of their communities and country. The challenge is how to ensure that more of the resources can be generated so as to make the people the drivers of their own destiny instead of the reliance on loans and grants. There is the need for the setting up of priorities and the determination to finance our own development.

The DBOs for example have an obligation to contribute towards the development of their communities. They should be educated on the necessity to assist because they would eventually come back home. We however need to be sensitive to them and their obligations and be circumspect since some of them may not even want to come back home.

Africans must start thinking beyond the current models where `people in the Diaspora are expected always to send remittances to Africa for development projects thus portraying the continent as a place in constant need. This is, in view of the fact that, the future generations of people in the Diaspora may not share this idea of remitting for development in Africa.

4.1 Specific Actions

- The Ghana Export Promotion Council should seize the opportunities offered by the workshop to develop the informal system of the small non-traditional exports into the main trading system. We could look best practices in places such as India which has tapped on its diaspora.
- SEND will integrate the opportunities created by the research in its activities in the eastern corridor. It would collaborate with and sponsor workshops for interested DAs for example in East Gonja - in Tamale Municipality on how to use the model to develop the communities. Thus, SEND will be collaborating at two levels; the DAs and the identity based organisations. It would also undertake advocacy work on the mainstreaming of diaspora contributions to development.
- SIDSEC intends to make a comparative analysis of the models elsewhere by way of research
- ISODEC intends to collaborate with DAs to profile DBOs and extend the research to cover the rest of the district.
- Ghana Association of the Disabled on its part will seize the opportunities provided by the research to establish links with people with disability in the diaspora through identified DBOs.
- DAs on their part would sensitize their colleagues at their general and national meetings of the all-important emerging issues from the research.
- AFFORD would build on the strengths of Africa through an operationalised fashion. This AFFORD would do by being in situ to get a more regional spread of its activities. The organisation will also work with DBOs interested in strengthening CBOs etc. It would explore other areas of research.

5.0 THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HOMECOMING SUMMIT

The research project was more or less a sequel to the July 2001 Homecoming Summit for Ghanaians living abroad organized by the Government of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) under the theme “Harnessing the Global Ghanaian Resource Potential for Accelerated National Development” The event partnered over 1600 Ghanaian in the diaspora and at home.

The Summit was therefore organised to develop a process for the renewal of confidence of Ghanaians living abroad in their country; to enhance dialogue and explore opportunities for productive relations between non-resident Ghanaians and their home

country as well as to identify the means to tap into their acquired capacities for the creation of the national wealth.

A number of key planks were laid by the Summit in investment and entrepreneurial opportunities in finance, export trade, agribusiness, agro-processing, manufacturing, transport and tourism; in information and communications technology as well as in key sectors such as science, technology, energy, environment, education, health and culture.

The Summit itself identified the diaspora's contribution to national development in several key areas including the following:

- as a potential market for non traditional exportable items such as foodstuff and garments
- as a source of finance capital for investment to develop the local private sector
- as ambassadors for Ghana's culture – food, clothes and other aspects of our social life.
- as a source of modern knowledge and technical know-how for development, particularly information and communication technology
- as a link between Ghanaian communities and local foreign-based communities.

(See Appendix C for the detailed listing of the Homecoming Summit Key Issues on Investment Opportunities and the Strategic Initiatives to encourage productive relations between Ghanaians living abroad and their home country)

REPORTS OF THE RESEARCH TEAMS

1. Presentation of the UK Research

Lola Clinton made a presentation on the UK research experience which indeed provided the framework for AFFORD'S research engagement process in Ghana. She noted that, the research activity involved postal surveys, literature review, focus group and electronic discussion groups' monitoring.

The UK African Diaspora Organizations that were looked at included mainstream local service providers, capacity building organisations such as AFFORD, professional bodies such as the Network of Nigerian Nurses and informal associations.

The range of activities of the organisations include; education support, health initiatives, local politics, gender and human rights, youth training and employment, child protection, environment and wealth creation.

She indicated that, there is some level of misunderstanding in the diaspora of the social context, the policy environment, network and infrastructures that exist in promoting relations between the diaspora and the continent. Further, some of the common themes in diaspora that engage different organisations include issues related to; Africa without borders, an African development agenda, youth mobilization, media and communications, education for development, social enterprise and business.

She concluded by suggesting that the development opportunity that is presented by this engagement process would require a degree of motivation, the readiness of seize the opportunities presented and the means to mobilize the necessary resources.

2. Presentation of the Case study of the Okyeman State by CENCOSAD Research Team

This was presented by Professor Anoba J. Annorbah-Sarpei, Executive Director of the Centre for Community Studies, Action and Development (CENCOSAD) who focused on Diaspora based organizations and Traditional States with the case study on Diaspora Akyem citizens and the Akyem Abuakwa State.

The thirteen communities sampled in the core traditional area are Pameng, Mase, Akrofufu, Amanfrom, Apapam, Potrase, Bonsu, Odumase, Kibi, Akoko, Asafo, Adu Nkwanta and Ekroso.

The Research focussed on the Akyem Abuakwa chieftaincy institution because it has a comparative advantage for culture and identity promotion and is linked to cultural associations with chapters in North America and Europe. The associations are engaged with Okyeman State in promoting development in two key areas; on cultural identity which in this situation relates to the Akan (Akyem) culture and on environmental protection which has an institutional framework overseen by the Okyeman Environmental Foundation.

The research found out that, the Akyem Diaspora populations are organised variously under the Okyeman cultural associations with various chapters in places such as Washington, Canada and London. It was however difficult to draw up profiles of members, structure, activities, gender composition and relationship with the Okyenhene and the towns of Okyeman even as they have a website called “susubiribi”.

It was noted that, the form of engagement has facilitated resource mobilisation for various developmental activities in respect of the poverty reduction programme but there was no evidence of any transactions. This raises questions of accountability, participation, civic rights and the relationship with evolving decentralised democratic local governance institutions.

It was noticed that the motivating factors for the DBOs involvement was the result of a desire at resource mobilisation for pursuing goals such as the development of hometowns or birthplaces. Further, the networks of interpersonal relationships serve as the focus for membership recruitment.

The research also sought to investigate whether the collective behaviour to find an individual identity in an alien environment and results of deprivations were the motivating factors accounting for the formation of the DBOs.

In exploring the dynamics of linkages, the question that the research sought to answer were whether the linkages were a carryover of the traditional Subject-King relationship or a new relation between citizens and their collective representative.

The challenges posed by the engagement process included issues of sustainability as regards planning, participation, priority setting and integration with existing institutions. It also involved issues of monitoring and evaluation, follow-up, governance, information, communication, documentation as well as the cultivation of trust and confidence from the diaspora particularly in the absence of regular systematic reporting and accounting.

The lessons learnt relate to the establishment of strong administrative systems to support fundraising efforts of traditional institutions, opening up of the chieftaincy institutional budget proposals to public debates with the effect of increasing citizens' participation and support and the appointment of royal archivists for documentation, storage and retrieval of records.

It was noted that, encouraging DBOs to work with the chieftaincy institutions in formalizing their community support systems strengthens the institution, promotes civic rights and patent democracy at the local level. It also increases accountability, citizen's participation, debate, consensual building, collective prioritization and decision making.

The recommended strategies include the Chieftaincy Institution identifying and utilizing all avenues and opportunities to development partnerships between the traditional state, its diasporan citizens and the chieftaincy institution. There is also the necessity for increased partnership between Ghanaians in the diaspora and the chieftaincy institution in Ghana through the identification of new areas of interest and opportunities. Further, there is the need for the development of strategies for strengthening development partnerships involving DBOs engaged in promoting African culture and continuing the open transparent relationship through the publication of materials on the development needs of the local people. Also important is the funding and other activities of the Traditional Council needed to generate the support and involvement of diasporan Africans.

Others include utilizing planning and project development skills essential for achieving a meaningful partnership between the DBOs and the chieftaincy institution, developing the capacity of the chieftaincy institution for the planning and development of projects, engaging in a concerted effort to attract DBO investments in the identification and establishment of environmental friendly small-scale business units that will deepen the partnership between Ghanaians in the diaspora and the chieftaincy institution. There is also the use of community-based events to involve visiting members of the diaspora as a

means of initiating and strengthening development partnerships with the African diaspora.

Furthermore, it is important for the DBOs and the chieftaincy institution to strengthen the DBO – traditional African institutional partnerships for example through the dissemination of development information and opportunities in Okyeman.

Institutional recommendations include:

- CENCOSAD to further to look at the implication of mainstreaming the use of the chieftaincy institution as a conduit for development effort in national programmes such as the GPRS and investigate the kinds of bonds that can help build diaspora - Africa relations to the point where one might see sustainable institutions playing a key intermediary role.
- SEND to continue the task of managing and facilitating the research effort of the partnership it has established to pursue the diaspora supported local initiatives in Ghana further.
- AFFORD to continue to support work on securing profiles of diaspora based organizations, such as the UK based Akyem chapters. Also, to follow up on research support of local initiatives, stimulating interest in the findings of the research among associations of Africans in the diaspora and the facilitation of the dialogue with African governments in mainstreaming diaspora based support for local initiated development by creating the enabling environment for diaspora populations.

3. Presentation of the case study of the Upper East and West Civil Society Organizations by the Sustainable Integrated Services Centre (SIDSEC) Research Team

Mr. Emmanuel Yenube Kpari, the Programmes Co-ordinator of SIDSEC made the presentation. He underlined the main objectives of the Workshop and indicated that, the study focused on eight Diaspora projects in the Jirapa and Nadowli Districts of the Upper West Region and the Bolgatanga, Bongo and Builsa Districts of the Upper East Region.

The research methodology employed included desk study, focus group discussions, interviews and guided observations

Diaspora supported projects studied in the Upper East and Upper West Regions were as follows:

In the Jirapa Lambusie District of the Upper West Region, the study focused on the education support project of Dr. Bakyeyie which included the rehabilitation of old community centre into a Library in 1998, provision of furniture to library/Primary school, provision of books to community library, St. Francis Girls' Senior Secondary School, Ullo Senior Secondary School, Nurses' Training College and the payment of fees for all pupils in Duori Primary and JSS.

The management structure/linkages were basically informal relationship between the financier and focal person.

It was found out that, the resource assistance included the provision of a resource centre for the physically challenged and the provision of libraries by Dr. Bakyeyie and involved the provision of sewing machines, furniture and working capital for the training of the physically challenged in vocations such as weaving, dressmaking, batik tie and dye and watch repairs. The management structure comprises a three member executive committee.

Also in the Nadowli District, there is the support to the Kaleo Health Centre and the provision of hospital equipment and drugs by Mr. Pelipuo. The management structure in terms of the allocation responsibility was vested in the Upper West Region Health Directorate.

In the Bolgatanga District of the Upper East Region, there is the proposed establishment of a skill training centre for the training of the youth in computing and local craft making with the involvement of Bonaboto.

The management structure also involves Bonaboto which has a five-member national executive committee as well as regional and local branch executives. Diaspora branch members in the UK serve as link persons between the charity organizations in the UK and the Unions in Ghana. There is also the informal relationship that exists between Diaspora persons and the local people.

Also in Pwalugu, there has been established a revolving micro-credit scheme for women with the support of Mary Talata. The management structure involves an informal relationship which is really a mutual understanding between mothers and their daughter abroad. There is a focal person who co-ordinates the activities of the various women groups and gives a feed back to the financier.

Also in Pwalugu, there are the education projects supported by Mr. Atibila and it includes the construction of a six-classroom block, an office store, library and conference room as well as the provision of furniture, teaching and learning materials to school.

The management structure involves an informal relationship between the financier, the focal persons and the community. Funds are channeled through the financier's wife in Kumasi, who in turn implements the projects and gives a feedback to the financier.

In the Builsa District, FISTRAD is involved in an educational project. This involves the construction of an educational resource centre comprising classrooms, a workshop and a library. Over 700 books have also been donated to local schools. It has also organised educational campaigns on bush fires, HIV/AIDS, girl-child education, witchcraft and female genital mutilation (FGM).

The Management Structure is the FISTRAD Board of Directors working in partnership with the communities, District Assembly and the Ghana Education Service. Formal relationship also exists between the financiers and FISTRAD.

In the Bongo District, Mr. Ankama is involved with the Anafobisi JSS Educational Project and has donated volleyball equipment to the school. There is no management structure in place.

The summary of the research findings are as follows:

- Diaspora linkages and intervention in the Savanna Zone tend to be informal revolving around the following forms:
 - Diaspora based person working directly in home community to address specific needs

- Diaspora based person working through family members to address specific community needs
- Diaspora based person using CSO to provide specific community needs
- Non-indigenous diaspora based persons working with an indigenous person to develop a CSO to address specific needs.

Diaspora supported activities in Northern Ghana basically centre on welfare issues (education, health and micro-financing) and capacity building

It was realized that:

- Cases of fraud have been reported
- Poor documentation on Diaspora supported projects/activities
- Except FISTRAD, most supports are initiated and established by Diaspora persons with little community involvement, posing a big challenge for sustainability
- Focal persons mainly used are kinsmen
- Funds are raised either from charity organizations or personal savings of individuals to support development at home
- Except FISTRAD and BONABOTO where funds are channeled through banks, most funds for diaspora projects are brought home personally by the financiers or channeled through focal persons.
- Reporting is mainly by phone calls and sending of pictures to financiers. (FISTRAD sends quarterly and annual project reports to donors)
- Most diaspora supported activities do not have mechanisms for effective management
- CBOs are major development partners

The lessons learnt from the research suggest that the profile of focal persons influences the nature of the links and family ties define the relationships. Further, the difficulty in working with formal structures like the DAs appears to influence the nature of diaspora links.

4. Presentation of the case study of Brekum District in Brong Ahafo Region by the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) Research Team

Mr. Seth Sakyamah, Regional Manager of the Sunyani Office of ISODEC made the presentation. He noted that ISODEC was tasked to investigate District Assembly led

Diaspora Projects in the central zone and investigate whether there are any districts in the region where the DA is taking the lead or involved in Diaspora supported projects.

The Districts covered by the team were Sunyani Municipality, Tano District, Nkoranza District, Dormaa District, Techiman District and the Berekum District.

In all the six districts visited, it was found out that, virtually no or little knowledge about District Assembly led Diaspora projects exists.

However two projects that came close to the focus area were located in Yamfo, in the Tano district and Nyamebikyere (Thursday Market) in the Berekum district.

The investigation looked at the nature and form of DBOs involved in these projects and it came to light that the DBOs are formed with regard to their communities of origin and ethnic background. It was also realized that they have been organized as non profit organizations formed to address the developmental needs of their communities of origin.

Remarkably, it came to light that, a few individuals or couples (usually married to expatriates) were also involved in carrying out such interventions in the communities visited.

The DBOs identified include the Yamfoman Association of U S A and Canada, Berekum Abusua of Toronto Ontario Canada, Berekum Association of Berlin, Nkoranza Association of U K.

The projects identified during the study ranged from construction of latrines, school buildings, community library, Mosque and market stall.

A. Construction of Latrines

These include:

- A 20-seater KVIP place of convenience at Yooyokrom at Yamfo
- Construction of 20-seater water closet public toilet in Zabon Zongo Berekum. This is still on going by an individual
- A 18-seater water closet public toilet located in the market at the Nyamebikyere electoral area

B. Construction of School Buildings

- 2 Three classroom blocks with reading room and place of convenience for the Yamfo RC primary school. The Catholic Church, Member of Parliament also supported this school project for the area and the Tano district Assembly.
- Rehabilitation of the Methodist primary JSS block. in Yamfo (Yet to start)
- Construction of two masters bungalow for the Duayaw Nkwanta Secondary school
- Rehabilitation of the Community Centre at Duayaw Nkwanta

C. Construction of Library

- A library project at Abesim by the Abesim citizens Association in the UK
- Construction of community library at Jinjini by couple

D. Construction of Market Stall

- Construction of 20 market stalls at the Tuesday Market in the Nyamebekyere Electoral Area of Berekum

E. Others

- Construction of a tower alarm clock for the community at Duayaw Nkwanta
- Establishment of education endowment fund for citizens of Duayaw Nkwanta
- Provision of Hospital equipments to the St Johns Hospital at Duayaw Nkwanta
- Support to the construction of Mosque for the Zongo community by 3 natives in Italy and Germany.

- The construction of a mortuary for the Presbyterian Hospital at Dormaa Ahenkro.
- The construction of a Police Station by the Dormaa citizens in the USA
- Rehabilitation of Brick and Tile factory in Dormaa Ahenkro by the USA/Canada Association

The process on the Case study on the construction of the market stalls in the Berekum District involved the advertisement on radio for interested members to deposit money with the DA to enable it construct market stores and WC latrines for them to operate. Interested family members of the individual members informed their relatives abroad who showed interest and sent money for the construction of the facility.

This idea was taken at another level when a native of Berekum, Stephen Gyau travelled to Canada and informed citizens of Berekum (known as Berekum Abusua of Toronto Canada) residents there about the District Assembly's privatization drive. The DBO expressed interest and got involved and construction began in 1998 with the Association routing money through Mr Stephen Gyau, who hired local artisans from the community to undertake the construction of the 20 number market stalls in the Thursday market.

Some of the challenges posed by the research include:

- Identifying a District Assembly led Diaspora project.
- The limited time at the team's disposal coupled with the DA's poor documentation and tight schedules of District Chief Executive (DCE).
- Poor records keeping methods and filing systems by the District Assemblies.
- DBOs reluctance to divulge information to research team because they are not familiar with them. This makes it difficult to verify issues raised by respondents.

The lessons learnt include:

- That DBO's preference in sending money through family members, friends and the Traditional Council instead of the DA because of the bureaucratic nature of the local government system. There is also problem of trust and confidence.

- DBO's are not very conversant with the DA system of operation and therefore need to be sensitized about the operations of the DAs.
- The potential to harness funds from DBOs exist. Conscious efforts should be made by the DAs to market the developmental needs of the district to the DBOs through the internet or encourage DCE's visits to Diaspora destinations.
- Lack of effective cooperation between the DA and the Traditional Councils in terms of Diaspora funded projects. The DA should endeavour to develop the relationship much further. The traditional councils could be given a desk at the DA offices to improve their relationships.
- It is clear that DBOs desire to invest in their communities. DAs should therefore consciously court DBOs in their various destinations.
- Coordination of DBO projects raises a key problem. The DAs for example do not know quantum of resources transmitted and how it is used.
- DAs have less control over projects that did not pass through the tendering process of the Assembly. This raises problems of supervision and monitoring
- Delay remittances by DBOs for project, either due to poor reporting or accountability to DBOs delays progress of work.
- Time constraint of individuals who are responsible for coordinating the project and other follow up issues.
- Frequent calls by DBO for updates when money has been remitted for projects
- Insufficient and Improper documentation on the arrangement
- No agreement was signed before the project started

The recommendations made include:

- The DA substructures should be encouraged to facilitate the implementation of the projects at the community level
- Communication between DAs and the DBOs should be encouraged and improved to enhance effective collaboration.
- DAs should strengthen relationship with the DBOs to ensure that they attract investments into the district. Consequently DAs should create desks for DBO activities.
- DAs should encourage DBOs to be conversant the DA structure and system of operation as a means of building confidence and trust in the DBOs

- DAs should solicit and incorporate DBOs projects into medium term development plans
- Platform should be created where DBOs and DAs could share ideas and experiences in the development process in the district
- AFFORD should assist establish information centres for DBOs to easily access information
- AFFORD should establish links/relationship with ISODEC for further development of linkages/cataloguing communities with DBOs and updating data on DBO/CSO linkages.
- SEND should strengthen relationship with AFFORD under the Hello Africa Research project.
- AFFORD, SEND and partners to influence government to waive tax on community development projects materials/donations sent by DBOs
- AFFORD should support ISODEC to build capacity of DAs to source funding for the Districts.
- ISODEC should replicate research in all thirteen districts of the Brong Ahafo region
- ISODEC should work together with DAs to develop marketable plans for identified DBOs
- The central government and DAs should endeavour to package information about the .DAs to showcase and market it in the Diaspora.

The following conclusions were drawn on the study.

- The recommendations and participation by the Districts invited clearly portrays the interest generated by the research. DAs in which the research was carried out have been sensitized to appreciate the fact that DBOs could be major development partners
- There is poor documentation at the DA level this have a negative effect on information and data about DBO projects in the district.
- Trust is a key factor in dealing with DBOs as they seem not to trust people they are not familiar with. DAs should therefore develop this characteristic to attract the confidence of the DBO.
- DBOs are prepared to support and implement development projects in their native communities as demonstrated by the DBOs in the districts that the research was carried out. This potential should be developed to help reduce poverty in our communities.

- The potential for the research to be developed into a viable one is possible, therefore SEND, AFFORD and partners should strategize a plan to develop a project from the findings of the research.
- Research coverage was too limited considering the size of the region. Better DBO projects could have been identified if the research had covered the entire district.

The way forward could be the following:

- ISODEC to broaden research to cover other districts including the Ashanti region.
- Build a network of CSO interested in Diaspora projects and to promote and advocate for the importance of Diaspora linkages in the region and Ghana
- ISODEC to collaborate with DAS to develop marketable plans to be sold to DBO's.
- ISODEC to compile database of DBO's intervention projects in the region as well as DBO's / individuals / couples who are engaged in such projects.
- ISODEC to collaborate with the Regional co-ordinating council to establish a regional secretariat of DBO projects.

**IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ISSUES FOR SYNDICATE GROUP
DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS.**

Indication by participants on the key issues that struck them on the first day of the Workshop and which emerged from the presentations of the research findings.

The key issues listed were:

- District Assembly have no control
- Shifting of decision making from the north to the continent
- District Assemblies and DBOs collaboration
- Favourable political environment
- Potential for financial support from DBO to District Assemblies
- District assemblies creating DBO desk
- District assemblies to market projects
- Profiling of project actors
- Civic democratic values within DBOs
- Working with other forms of identity based organisations eg old girls/ boys
- Linkages between DAs and Ghanaian missions
- District Assemblies to educate DBOs on government policies
- Sustainability
- Accountability for projects
- Support for gender education
- Capacity building for DBOs on District Assembly system
- Institutional structures and systems to support transfers from DBOs
- Negative implications from Diaspora links
- Development of policies to support Diaspora
- Issue of trust
- Issue of values
- Working through chieftaincy for effective Diaspora links
- Information packages for Diaspora
- District Assembly planning with DBOs
- Information sharing
- More research needed
- More integrated planning at District Assembly level

Through the discussion that emerged, the issues were classified into four thematic clusters to be further discussed in the Working Groups. The clusters were:

1. District Assemblies and Diaspora relations
2. Chieftaincy institution and Diaspora relations
3. Areas of further research and policy considerations such as the profiling of other forms of identity based organizations (E.g. Religious groups, old Boys and Girls Association, Youth etc).

A number of cross cutting issues were also identified. These included; Accountability, Sustainability, Capacity Building and Gender issues.

Participants then went into syndicate groups to discuss the following:

- Group I : District Assemblies and Diaspora relations
Group II: Chieftaincy institution and Diaspora relations
Group III: Areas of further research and policy consideration, and profiling other forms of identity based organisations: eg religious, old girls, Youth

Key questions to be answered include:

- Why and how do we strengthen relationships; who are the major players
- What are the information gaps we need to fill?
- What are the areas or issues of relationship building eg, systems, structures, planning etc
- What are the major challenges or obstacles or risk factors
- What are the expected outcomes
- What values underpin the relationships
- Identify crosscutting issues eg gender, capacity building, people with disability, environment

OUTCOME OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group I

District Assemblies and Diaspora relations. This was presented by Nii Adjaye-Laryea of CENCOSAD

A. Why?

- District Assembly is a key player in development in the district
- The main aim of DA and DBOs/individuals is to enhance social-well-being of their people or communities
- District Assemblies' by law (Act 462) are the lead actors in development in the district and DBOs complement
- District Assembly will inform DBOs areas to invest into
- Information sharing and feedback to avoid duplication
- To build trust
- High returns on investments
- Sense of belonging, cultural identity

B. How?

- Identify and profile DBOs and individuals, scope of activities and interest
- Marketing of districts through use of flyers, documentary, festivals, anniversaries, brochures etc
- Inventory of different DBOs
- Establishment of diaspora desk: assign officer, roles, responsibilities, resources
- Build capacity of DA to handle DBOs/individuals
- Establish Sister-city arrangements
- Give information about districts through embassies both within Ghana and abroad, and through ministries, institutions etc
- Highlighting benefits to be derived from the district by DBOs/individuals

Major players

- District Assemblies
- Community members
- Traditional authorities
- Embassies
- Youth associations
- DBOs
- Community base organisations
- Civil society organisations
- Individuals
- Opinion leaders
- Friends

Information gaps

- Types of DBOs and their activities
- District assembly or the decentralization concept]
- Integrated database system for information
- Investment plan of districts
- Programmes and potentials of district assemblies and DBOs
- Functions and challenges of district assemblies and DBOs
- Prepared annual reports, audits and medium term development plans
- Reports, audits of DBOs

Areas and Issues

- Capacity building eg in basic accounting, financial management, planning, budgeting etc
- Database building and information retrieval
- Social infrastructure
- Human resource development
- Ensure participation of the poor, disadvantaged etc and sustainability
- Build credible partnership through interactions, get together

Major Challenges

- Building of trust
- Non-partisanship
- Credibility building

Expected outcomes

- Sustained development through increased infrastructure and high involvement of all
- Reduced poverty levels
- Better information flow
- Social well-being
- Greater participation of women, youth and people with disability
- Better cultural exchange
- Transformation of the district
- Appropriate technology transfer
- Value added products

Values

- Trust
- Mutual respect
- Mutual benefits
- Building participation especially of women, youth, etc
- Respect for the environment

Group II

Chieftaincy institution and Diaspora relations. This was presented by Richard Alandu of FISTRAD

1. Cultural identity and exchange
2. Provide alternatives to mobilise the community for development
3. Complements local government administration
4. The need to introduce accountability
5. to enhance development

How?

Through annual visits, creation of websites, festivals etc

Areas of relationship building- encouraging best practices, eg accountability mechanisms

Major challenges

- It can undermine collective national development
- Distance between Diaspora and chiefs in terms of decisions could be a model for development and best practices

Expected outcomes

- Models for development
- Best practices

Values

- Democracy and modernisation
- Equity
- Participation
- Accountability
- Inclusion of citizens and subjects

Crosscutting issues

- Communication e.g use of IT and festivals
- Reporting to Diaspora
- Human rights

Capacity building

- Education and training, and further research

A further issue raised on the Group Two Report related to the need for further research on the issue of women. On best practices, the group discussions brought up the issue of some chiefs who look up to other chiefs. The best practice is therefore more of an issue of looking within instead of without.

Group III

Areas of further research and policy consideration, and profiling other forms of identity based organizations. This was presented by Emmanuel Kpari of SIDSEC.

Strengthening relationships:

Why?

- Mutual benefit
- For transparency
- For development

How?

- Generate data on identity groups: viz structure, contact persons, locations etc
- Through effective communication
- Exchange programmes/visits etc

Major players

- District Assemblies, social welfare, religious bodies, youth councils, women groups

Information gaps

Why?

- Informal nature of Diaspora links
- Lack of need assessment
- Lack of capacity in reporting, record keeping etc
- Inadequate information on formation and operations of identity groups

How?

Research on the set up of DBOs and local identity groups

Areas/issues for relationships building

- Structures properly established and systems democratic
- Capacity building of actors
- Participatory planning and implementation

Challenges

- Informal nature of identity based groups do not promote sustainability
- Personal gains as against collective values
- Socio-politico, cultural environments (tensions)
- Ungauranteed funding sources

Values

- Integrity, transparency, respect for human rights and trust and modesty

Areas of further research

- Profiling identity base groups
- Mainstreaming needs of vulnerable groups
- The need to formulate policies on identity based groups

Expected outcomes

- Better ties
- More developments
- Enhanced resources

An additional point on the Group Three Report noted that, the channels of resource flow and its regularity is a challenge that the group considered. It was also observed that, there is very little information on the DBOs and it is an issue that can be further pursued.

KEY ISSUES OF THE HOMECOMING SUMMIT

Finance

- *Financial Stabilization*
Lowering inflation, reducing interest rates and stabilizing the exchange rate, reducing the domestic debt burden and tight external payment position which has resulted in a build up of arrears and inadequate reserve cover for imports.
- *Rebuilding Public Sector Industry*
Restoring work incentives, improving efficiency and re-establishing accountability in the public sector industry.
- *Private Sector Development*
Nurturing a vibrant export-oriented private sector.

Agriculture

- *Ensure food security for the Nation*
Certain locally produced food items that contribute to nutrition requirements in proteins, carbohydrates, fats, fibres, vitamins and mineral which are all produced locally have to be encouraged.
- *Facilitate the production of agricultural raw materials for the industry*
Industries for which the country has comparative advantage to establish have been identified. These industries could be small, medium or large scale and need medium to long-term credit regardless of the size.
- *Facilitate the production of agricultural commodities for export*
The production of agriculture commodities for export requires accurate market information to determine levels of demand, standard requirement for production, processing, packaging and marketing. It also requires good and unified export organized to withstand the pressure and competition of the external market.

Mines and Energy

- A rapidly growing demand for all forms of energy
- Imbalance in the supply of energy resulting in imports during peak periods
- Over reliance on wood fuels and hydro power
- High levels of end use inefficiency

Foreign Affairs

- Relationship between Missions and Ghanaians living abroad
 - A lot of Ghanaians living abroad have problems with our missions abroad and the attitude of staff
 - Ghanaians living in those respective countries should likewise be more courteous in the dealings with the diplomatic staff.
- Behaviour of Ghanaians outside

Ghanaians must endeavour to conduct themselves and not engage in activities that would embarrass the government and themselves.
- Delays in issuing Passports and documentation

There are delays in issuing passports and documentation in the missions as well as in Ghana.

Ministry of Interior

- Unsatisfactory, inhospitable treatment by public servants even as they are Ghanaians.
- Issues of peace, stability, fundamental human rights and rule of law.
- Ghanaians with proper citizenship of other countries are chased out unless they beg for renewal of stay
- Foreigners are frustrated by tight immigration requirements
- Foreigners with Ghanaian spouses living in Ghana need to constantly renew resident permits or be forcibly separated by repatriation
- Regulations that are needed to implement the citizenship act are not in place
- There are major problems with non-Ghanaians deportees who are repatriated to Ghana from Europe because of the ease of accessibility to Ghana.

MANPOWER

- The demand for qualified and skilled manpower for national development has become a global issue and that both rich and poor countries have to evolve new policies and strategies to satisfy their demands
- Migration trends have escalated in post independence Africa due to several reasons and this has caused serious brain drain
- To build trust and goodwill with its social partners, i.e. Employers Organization and Organized Labour.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Issues for consideration for the setting up of a database include the following:

- Who may be represented in the database and who may participate in the virtual forum that comes along with the solution? These could be individuals, their dependants, companies etc. However, you must consciously determine the nature of the representation.
- How would it be used initially and what is the process for expanding services through the virtual forum. There is opportunity for numerous applications to be developed around the database ranging from basic government forms online to processes including voting, visa's financial transactions etc.
- Who owns the Information and archives? The Intellectual property rights of the Homecoming Summit website, rests with Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC). In the larger scheme of things the ICT community would want to ask for the enhancement of our laws to better protect native innovations including creations from being accessed freely in this venture.
- Privacy considerations of members of this forum must also be addressed. This would assure the members of the forum that information presented would be properly managed
- There would be some security concerns since there may be unfriendly users that would want to "spam" users or intrude in deliberations. For these reasons the necessary technical environment to secure the information as well as the legal framework for recourse are important in allaying fears of abuse. Electronic signature laws for authentication and secure transmissions would be welcome
- Setting up of computer institutes to train Local Government administration staff

Also the use of ICT to source the following:

- Soliciting of grants and subventions to support the rural development funds
- Invitation to take advantage of the present investment climate and develop districts
- Lecturing in any of our secondary and tertiary institutions
- Municipal bonds to be floated by District Assemblies in collaboration with some financial institutions to undertake profitable socio-economic projects
- Rural banks as share holders to increase the capacity of these banks to finance rural based production, processing and preservation of food, fish and meat
- Increase in remittances, donation of hospital drugs, beds and mattresses, books and computers
- Ghanaians living abroad can use their connections to arrange twinning agreements between European/American cities and villages
- Technologies to recycle waste paper, saw dust and plastics in an effort to offer employment to our teeming unemployed youth
- Roads and drainage systems

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN GHANAISANS LIVING ABROAD AND THEIR HOME COUNTRY

FINANCE

The government is in the process of mobilizing savings of non-resident Ghanaians considering the implementation of the following:

- The creation of an investment fund through the issuance of certificates of deposits. Proceeds will be used to encourage an export-oriented private sector
- Floating of special bonds to supplement access to foreign exchange, and
- Special accounts for voluntary contributions to support specific projects
- Ghana Stock Exchange: the stock exchange is capitalized at the level of 3.7 billion cedis and is an area for viable investment on a long-term basis.

AGRICULTURE

• *FOOD SECURITY*

- Haulage: Vehicles for perishable and non-perishable food crops; fish and meat
- Processing Plants: Including dryers for grains, dehydrators for roots and tubers, fruits and vegetables, abattoirs for processing livestock, blast freezers for fish and meat and milling machines for grains.
- Storage facilities including silos, warehouses and cold stores
- Packaging equipment: factories to produce, containers, boxes and labels
- Marketing of food items by the establishment of large supermarkets or food chains in heavily populated residential areas, towns and city centers.

• *AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS FOR INDUSTRY*

Medium and large scale industries for the production of the following:

- Sugar
- Textile and Garments
- Leather Products – e.g. shoes, belts, bags,, etc
- Paper products – e.g. stationery, paper cartons, and
- Canned foods – e.g. vegetables, fruits, fish and meat

• *AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES FOR EXPORT*

This includes the following:

- Haulage vehicles with freezing facilities

- Processing plants as in Food Security
- Storage facilities – cold stores
- Packaging as in Food Security; and
- Marketing – establishing export companies for various commodities home and abroad
- General Agriculture inputs including fertilizer importation and distribution, other agriculture inputs supply, the establishment of tractor services and the establishment of credit units.
- Crops: Large-scale production of any crops earlier mentioned.
- Livestock including the following: Poultry, Ostrich Farming, Dairy Cattle and Small Ruminants.
- Fisheries : Aqua-culture (fish ponds) with modern technology
- Feed: Animal and Poultry feed production.

MINES AND ENERGY

- Assist the ministry fashion the right policies by placing their knowledge and skills at the disposal of the nation
- Link Ghana with investors in the area of deep water exploration
- Link Ghana with investors interested in generating power from hydro sources and thermal generation as there is scope for development in this area. Ghana's requirement in the next few years would be an additional 550 megawatts.
- Link Ghana with those willing to invest in the distributive sector of energy
- Mining (value addition processing such as good refinery).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- The Ghanaians living abroad must help Ghana to attract important conferences and put Ghana on the internal map.

TRADE & INDUSTRY

- Cocoa Processing: only 20% of cocoa is processed in Ghana, the potential exists to increase processing of cocoa beans to about 80% and this includes both the finished and unfinished state
- Fruit Drink production
- Salt Mining Ghana has more salt deposits than any other country. Salt processing for commercial use would be a very lucrative investment
- Paper Mill: The need for a paper mill and a packaging industry is extremely high in Ghana. Currently all packaging needs are imported.

- Textiles: The U.S. market is an untapped market for African textiles. This is primarily the African American market with increasing needs for African apparel.
- Banana export
- Telecommunications
- Cassava processing for commercial starch
- Real estate development
- Divestiture
- Telecommunications and infrastructure development
- Tourism

MANPOWER

- Governments to enter into bilateral arrangement with various agencies through return programmes such as the IOM return and RQAN program
- Identifying placement opportunities in home countries and approaching the qualified personnel who meet certain criteria with job offers as well as attractive benefits
- Operate private employment agencies
- Resource, repackage and equip the Management Development and Productivity Institute to become a viable independent and self-sustaining institution within three years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Information Technology Industry

THE INDIAN EXAMPLE

Areas of investment and for countries intending to attract investment using the Indian example to undertake the following:

- Create database of its non-residents nationals to be used to target the right groups for investment (monetary and human resource).
- Consulates and missions should focus more on informing non-residents about business potential and investment opportunities in their home countries rather than an emphasis on cultural and social events
- Non-resident associations should be strengthened through constant interaction with their governments.

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LESSONS

- Non-residents need to realize that missions can help them and they need to push them to promote economic growth back home.
- The government needs to be proactive in targeting entrepreneurs living abroad.

THE PAKISTANI EXAMPLE

The Pakistani government encouraged its nationals living abroad to invest in the country in the following ways:

- Encouragement of nationals to remit money for long-term savings with higher rates of interest than normal between three to ten years
- Promulgation of legislation on foreign private investment and promotion to specifically encourage Pakistani nationals abroad to invest
- Recognition of the role of non-resident Pakistanis to invest without any questions being asked and free of any duties. This attracted investment flows into the rural areas of Pakistan
- Encouragement of non-resident Pakistanis to invest in the transport sector
- Encouragement of non-resident Pakistanis to set up small facilities, which employed people.

LESSONS

The Pakistani government also established a database of overseas Pakistanis with clear indications of where they were and how they could be contacted. They were given dual citizenship and offered the right to vote, which integrated them into mainstream activities back home.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES OF THE HOMECOMING SUMMIT

This involves:

- a) The necessity to evolve a structure/leadership of Ghanaians living abroad to enhance continuous dialogue and to move the process forward
- b) The development of an institutional framework and/or the utilisation of existing framework to enhance cooperation, learning from our experiences, and building partnership.
- c) The definition of policy, initiatives and actions of specific sectors to encourage productive relations between Ghanaians living abroad and their home country.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

1. SECRETARIAT

Immediate steps are to be taken in the: -

- i. setting up of a Secretariat of Non-Resident Ghanaians directly located under the Office of the President. The Secretariat could be simply called “**THE HOMECOMING SECRETARIAT**” or the “**NON-RESIDENT GHANAIS (NRG) SECRETARIAT**”.
- ii. the appointment of an Executive Secretary and a Supervising Board

2. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Secretariat would include the following:-

- Co-ordinate all activities and serve as the centre for all projects programmes and issues involving Ghanaians living abroad
- Facilitate NRG’s diverse support to Ghana
- Ease the re-entry of NRG’s to Ghana (customs, immigration etc.)
- Institutionalize a “Green Card” or “Adeshie Card” system
- Establish NRG desks at the Embassies
- Strengthen Ghanaian Associations abroad
- Promote non-partisanship and a total Ghanaian effort

- Develop internet related products
 - ***Database of Ghanaians***
 - Information on Ghana
 - Opportunities in Ghana (Investments, Career and Consultancies)
 - Internet chatrooms and panels on Ghanaian issues such as governance, budget, economic development, etc.
- Sensitize Ghanaian institutions to promote positive relational dynamics and attitude to NRG concerns
- Institute Presidential Awards
 - NRG who has supported developments in Ghana
 - NRG who has attained international recognition in the diaspora.
- Co-ordinate the international network of summit elected representatives of Ghanaians living abroad.

3. BUDGET/FUNDING

The budget of the Secretariat is to be included in the national budgetary provision of the Office of the President. This is to augmented by contributions from Ghanaians living abroad and from other sources.