



AFRICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION
Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e. V.
Fondation de la Jeunesse Africaine

ORGANISATIONAL

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ENGLISH

ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards 2008
6th December 2008
Africa's DEVELOPMENT AID to the Western World!

I. Introduction

1. The 2008 African Youth Foundation (AYF) **Adler Entrepreneurship Awards**, was held under the theme:
Africa's DEVELOPMENT AID to the Western World!
2. The **Adler Entrepreneurship Awards** acknowledges the efforts of Africans in the Diaspora who have taken up the challenge of creating businesses or excelled in their chosen field of professions. The first and only one of its kind to be held on behalf of Africans in Germany and partly Europe, the awards is meant to motivate and acknowledge contributions of African Diasporas, who show the greatest promise of contribution to human well-being, through the creation and application of their activities, intellect, and knowledge.
3. Generally speaking, the political, economical and social environment in Europe is still not conducive to motivating Africans to feel at home and start their own businesses. Nevertheless, courageous Africans have taken up the challenge to overcome the barriers and embark on useful as well as lucrative projects. These initiatives ranges from law firms, consultancies, import/export businesses to non-governmental organizations. The road to success is not easy and usually very craggy. However, those with the will power and normal share of luck eventually achieve success.

II Attendance:

4. The event saw a participation of minimum 120 attendees. Interested individuals from all walks of life were there to support and celebrate excellence. Most impressive were the delegations from the African Embassies in Berlin.
5. The AYF was honoured to have dignitaries gracing the occasion namely:
 - ❖ **Hon. Joe Frans, MP, Sweden;**
 - ❖ **Her Excellency Fatoumata Sire Diakite, Mali Ambassador to Germany;**
 - ❖ **His Excellency Dr. Makase Nyaphisi, Kingdom of Lesotho Ambassador to Germany;**
 - ❖ **Mr. Guido Castelbranco, Minister Counsellor, Angola Embassy to Germany;**

- ❖ **Mr. Michael K. Banahene**, *Minister, Ghana Embassy to Germany;*
- ❖ **Mr. Albert Wafula Sifula**, *Political Advisor, Kenya Embassy to Germany;*
- ❖ **Chief Kajetan Akalite**, *Eze Udo I of Köhn;*
- ❖ **Chief Cassidy Osuji**, *Babalaje I of Ekiteland, Nigeria; and*
- ❖ **Mr. Pat Attah**, *talented Nollywood artist, Nigeria/Germany.*

6. The Jury Members were:

- **Chief Cassidy Osuji**, *CEO, Casstel co. Ltd, Germany; AYF ADLER Award winner for best Business Executive in Germany in 2005*
- **Mrs. Maria de Fatima Magalhães da Silva**, *AYF Board Member, European Union Education and marketing Consultant, Portugal;*
- **Dr. Brando Okolo**, *Academic / research staff member, University of Karlsruhe, Germany*
- **Mrs. Ama Pokua von Pereira**, *2005 ADLER Awards winner for best Legal Practitioner in Germany;*
- **Dr. Osei Asante Gyapong**, *Dentist, aspiring Oral Surgeon, journalist, author and member of the AYF advisory board; and*
- **Ms. Afra Gyekye**, *Legal Practitioner, and President of the Universal Leaders Group in Germany.*

III the Opening

7. **6th December 2008** was a day of acknowledgement for African Diasporas in Europe. Organised by the **African Youth Foundation** together with the **JANERO Consultancy GmbH**, the event commenced with an opening address by the moderators, **Jennifer Rucha-Neumann** of *Rucha Gallery in Berlin*, and **Learoy Pryce**, a prominent moderator in North Rhine Westphalia, who gave information about the program of the event, introduced the special guests and called on them to give their speeches.
8. As Special Guest of Honour was the **Honourable Joe Frans**, *MP in Sweden and CEO of Next Generation Africa*. In his speech, he commented on the resources of African Diaspora, especially the skills which are not put into effective use, thus enabling the African countries hire western expatriates as technical assistants at prices nowhere compared to the western levels. He urged participants to use such initiatives as platforms to network and exploit areas of improvement in Africa, as well as in the host countries. Africa in his view, needed its youth as well as Diasporas, who could offer such technical expertise and also create small businesses, which could build the middle classes.
9. The Next speaker was **His Excellency Dr. Makase Nyaphisi**, *Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to Germany; and the AYF ADLER award winner on behalf of his embassy as the best African Embassy in Germany in 2007*. The Ambassador informed the audience of the importance of supporting Diaspora initiatives both in the Diaspora and in Africa to help educate our youth. He also mentioned the approval of 500 million Euros from the European Union to be used in acquiring surveillance equipments which could be used by countries such as Spain, Italy and Malta to detect and return Africans using the sea as a gateway to enter Europe, back to Africa. An amount of money, which would have gone a long way in educating the youth.

10. He also encouraged Africans around the world to do their best in achieving their goals and helping Africa in the development process. He went on to pledge continuous support for the African Youth Foundation while praising Dr. Pauly Jansen, Executive Director of the organization for her efforts.
11. Following H. E. Dr. Nyaphisi's speech, Dr. Pauly Jansen, the Executive Director of the African Youth Foundation (AYF), gave an insight to the work of the organization and the motives behind the Adler Awards. She expressed her gratitude to the sponsors and the guests that have come from within and outside of Germany to support the event.
12. An exclusive live performance entertainment interlude by the resident Cologne Afro-Pop singer, dancer, choreographer and songwriter, **Julius Lahai** followed, after which the moderators continued with the presentation of the awards.

IV Winners and Awards Presentation

13. The presentation of the awards to the winners in the different categories was preceded by audio and screen introduction of each nominee in the different categories. However, in the case of special award nominees, the introduction was made by special guests or organising members of the foundation who read out the laudatio of the winners. Special awards members were given the chance to address the audience.
14. From a judicious selection from the Jury, the awards were presented to the winners in the following categories:
 - Authors: **Dr. Robert Peprah-Gyamfi** (www.thankyoujesus.co.uk)
 - Business and Entrepreneurs: **Chris Collins** (*FUCO Internationale Spedition*): www.chrisfuco.com
 - Civil Society/NGOs: **AYACSA** (*African - German Youth Arts Culture & Science Association e.V.*): www.ayacsa.org
 - Science and Research: **Dr. James Adjaye**: <http://www.molgen.mpg.de/~molemb/team.html>

Media:

- News and Politics: **The African Bulletin**: www.mediablackberry.com
- Society Magazines: **AfricanLoft**: www.africanloft.com

Special Award Winners:

- **Best African Ambassador in Germany:**
 - **Her Excellency Fatoumata Sire Diakite**, *Mali Ambassador to Germany*: www.ambamali.de/
- **Best African –European Consultant:**
 - **William Wiafe**: www.kosterkonsultancy.com

- **Euro-African Media Ambassador:**
 - **Pat Attah**, *Germany/Nigeria*

- **Diaspora Excellenz Award:**
 - **Capt. Rtd. Budu Koomson**: *Director of Operations, Unique Trust GmbH, Ghana/Germany:*
http://www.utfinancialservices.com/utweb_selected_details_board.cfm?tblNewsCatID=16&tblNewsID=26

V Closing

15. In her closing remarks, Dr. Jansen acknowledged the efforts of each nominee with a certificate. She also commended the outstanding work the organizing team had done in making the event a reality.
16. The vote of thanks was given by the Hon. Joe Frans, MP. He ended his speech with positive remarks about the Adler Awards and the work of AYF. With thanks to all attendees, he declared the event closed.
17. During the reception that followed, press photographers took pictures and journalists conducted interviews. The newly introduced “**After party**” event for participants to celebrate achievers started at 12.00 midnight and ended at 4:00.am. The success of the event was celebrated till dawn.

VI Summary

18. For decade's, Africa has been saddled with the negative image of growth, development and leadership. These awards are acknowledgment for Africans contributing positively to their communities and a motivation for other Africans, who will endeavour to find innovative ways to effectively harness and leverage the immense but largely untapped and under-utilised Diaspora resources to implement leadership/capacity building initiatives in both Africa and Europe.
19. As Africans, and especially Africans in Germany and in the Diaspora, we have come a long way to accept and identify ourselves as talented, dependable and steadfast citizens of the world. It took us time to acknowledge our ***OWN***, but it was never too late. The foundation is now well constructed and the solid domicile is gradually being built on it. Nothing is really IMPOSSIBLE!
20. The positive images of our dear continent Africa is the responsibility of all of us. It may be true that Africans don't migrate to the West with boxes full of money to invest in the Western countries, but the intellect, skills and human resources, especially the cheap labour, which Africans contribute to their host countries, exceeds the development aid donated to African countries, a hundred fold. A kind of resource that no amount of money can buy. The success and acknowledgement of this initiative depends on us all.
21. The next event is planned for **5th December 2009**.