



AFRICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e.V.

Fondation de la Jeunesse Africaine

ADLER ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

5th December 2009

The African success in Europe

I. Introduction

1. The 2009 ADLER awards event, organized by the African Youth Foundation, was held under the title:

The African success in Europe

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. Started in 2005, the African Youth Foundation in association with the JANERO Consultancy GmbH, hoped that the **ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards** serves as a forum for collaboration among Entrepreneurs, and between Entrepreneurs and parties with funding or other support available, leading to the realization of creative ideas.
4. Evidently, 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. The initiatives range 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.
5. Subsequent to the successful previous ADLER Awards events, the Awards Committee of the prestigious **ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards**, decided to hold the fourth awards event: **“2009 ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards Night”**. The Award ceremony was therefore scheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany on **5th December 2009**.
6. The criterion set for the 2009 Awards selection were:
 - Any African Diaspora professional who had:
 - formed a company/Firm/Organisation in Africa or Europe;
 - played a role that has created positive changes in the local community in the last 3 years; and

- demonstrated that they are willing to serve as role models for their community and have created initiatives that have potential for growth.

Included within the scope of the 2009 ADLER awards are:

- Authors
- Business and Entrepreneurs;
- Civil Society/NGOs
- Media
 - News (politics and economics); and
- Special Awards.
 - Science and Research
 - Emerging Political role model, and the
 - Diaspora Excellenz Award.

II. Participation

7. The event saw a participation of inspired and delighted attendees. Many were also there to witness, support and applaud the few who have contributed to the uplifting of the African image in Europe. In a nutshell, the crème de la crème of African Diasporas participated in this memorable event.
8. The AYF was honored to have dignitaries gracing the occasion namely:
 - ❖ **Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**, *Chairman of the Senate of the Committee on Water Resources, and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action PGA;*
 - ❖ **Mr. Carl Windell**, *Youth Minister, European Union Youth Council; Brussels*
 - ❖ **Chief Kajetan Akalite**, *Eze Udo I of Köln;*
 - ❖ **Chief Cassidy Osuji**, *Babalaje I of Ekiteland, Nigeria*
 - ❖ **Mrs. Frieda Guiso**, *1st Secretary, Embassy of Namibia, Germany;* and
 - ❖ **Mr. Patrick Okoye**, *Embassy of Nigeria, Germany.*
9. The Jury Members were:
 - ❖ **Ms. Afra Gyekye**, *Legal Practitioner and President of the Universal Leaders Group.*
 - ❖ **Ms. Terhas Hagos**, *Independent Consultant and member of the AYF Advisory board.*
 - ❖ **Prof. Dr. Brando Okolo**, *Prof. of Materials Science and Engineering at the German University in Cairo, Egypt.*
 - ❖ **Dr. Osei Asante Gyapong**, *Dentist, aspiring Oral Surgeon, journalist, author and member of the AYF advisory board.*
 - ❖ **Eli Abeke**, *German trained Architect with proven design and Project management experience in satisfying building user's requirement.*

III. The Opening

10. The event started at 08:15 p.m. The opening was moderated by **Dr. Osei Asante Gyapong**, who welcomed participants and introduced the event. He further went on to open the floor for Speakers to present their speeches.
11. As first speaker to take the floor was **Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**, *Chairman of the Senate of the Committee on Water Resources, and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action PGA; in Nigeria.* Senator Ewa-Henshaw in his speech, gave participants an insight about diasporas' contribution in their host

countries as well as in their countries of origins. He also gave an inspiring account of financial support from Diasporas which enhances growth in African countries especially for the youth. He recommended Diasporas for their hardwork and urged them to continue with their efforts.

12. Mr. **Eli Abeke**, a German trained Architect in Köln, Germany, also presented a speech on behalf of the African Diasporas. He drew participants' attention to the efforts made by individuals as their contribution to the development in their communities as well as in their countries of origins in their own small ways, which needs to be supported as well as appreciated.

13. The last speaker on the list was **Dr. Paulyn Jansen**, Executive Director of the African Youth Foundation and CEO of the Janero Consultancy GmbH in Germany. Dr. Jansen gave a vivid account of African Diasporas confrontation with migration issues and implementation of businesses in their host countries. In her speech, she indicated that:

“Migration has been touted to be bad for developing countries especially Sub-Saharan Africa, but is it that bad for the host countries of migrants?”

Globalization with its associated forces has increased the mobility of labour across borders. Multinational corporations favour the movement of labour, especially highly skilled labour. Faced with acute labour shortages, the industries of developed countries are evaluating migration policies and are showing preference for a relatively flexible mechanism. American and European service industries in particular have been pushing for a "liberal policy" for movement of labour as "service providers," especially in the hotel and restaurant, software, insurance, and financial industries. Yet, in all these, the African Diasporas are nowhere acknowledged for their efforts.”

An interlude followed after Dr. Jansen's speech. This was a refreshing musical show by Denham Smith and the Congos from Köln.

Winners and Awards Presentation

14. The presentation of the awards to winners in the different categories was preceded by audio and screen introduction of nominees in the different categories. However, in the case of special award nominees, the introduction was made by special guests and organizing members of the organization, who read out the laudatios. Special awards members were given the chance to address the audience. Presentations were accompanied by rounds of applauses.

15. From a judicious selection from the Jury, the awards were presented to the winners in the following categories:

- ❖ Authors : **Andre Ekama** (Mannheim, www.kbk-cameroon.net)
- ❖ Civil Society/NGOs : **FAHAMU Networks for social justice** (London, www.fahamu.org)
- ❖ Media/News and Politics : **Re Connect Africa** (London, www.ReConnectAfrica.com)

Special Awards Winners :

- ❖ Science and Research : **Dr Akinyoade Akinyinka** (Pieter de la Courtgebouw, www.ascleiden.nl)
- ❖ Diaspora Excellence Awards : **Chief Cassidy Osuji** (Germany, www.casstel.de and www.q-telecom.de)
- ❖ Best Supporter of African Youth Affairs: **Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**
Chairman of the Senate of the Committee on Water Resources, and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action PGA;

16. There were no awards for categories:

- ◆ **Business and Entrepreneurs:**
- ◆ **Best African Embassy in Germany; and**
- ◆ **Best African Ambassador.**

17. The jury could unfortunately not select winners for any of these above mentioned categories, as the criterion laid out for the selection, couldn't be fulfilled this year. This is seen as a challenge for improvement, and the organisers look forward for enhanced results in the next awards in these series.

IV. Summary

18. For a 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.

V. Closing

21. Dr. Jansen acknowledged the efforts of all nominees. She presented certificates to the contestants too. She also thanked all those who had made it possible in giving the organization their technical and moral support for the success of the event. The

outstanding work the organizing team which led to the swift coordination of the event, contributing to the reality of the event, was also recommended.

22. In her closing remarks, she noted that we are living in an era when the human race is at its most sophisticated level! It is not impossible for us to make the world a better place for everyone. We only need to employ our collective energy and creativity and invoke the determination and will to do so! I urge you all to use this platform to contribute your best to the economic and development success of a continent that has been bruised since its existence, then posterity will judge us fairly.

23. The event was then declared over and the buffet was opened.

24. 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 12:30 a.m. The success of the event was celebrated till dawn. The next event in this series is planned for **December 2010**.

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