

## African Youth Foundation Newsrelease

Bonn, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### **“African Diaspora and Leaders Zenith“**

Integration of the Diaspora in African and European government affairs is the AYF's priority in this era of Business and investments in both Europe and Africa.

The African Youth Foundation and its collaborative partners will seek to develop methods to reverse the brain drain that has seen Africa lose a third of its skilled professionals in the last two decades. Ministers, Policy makers, Directors of Training Institutions, Representatives of International and Non-governmental organisations, Teachers, Journalists, Representatives of African Diaspora Organisations, Representatives of Private Sector Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, University students and interested individuals, will meet in October, in Bonn, Germany, to take decisions on practical measures and options to accelerate progress toward these and other migration economic and development goals.

To be held from **19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006**, the Open Forum will be the second session to discuss issues related to the youth of Africa in migration, governance, education, Information Technology, health and entrepreneurship.

The aim of the meeting is to implement a lobby platform where different organizations and partners will dialogue to implement new strategies on the impact and effects of migration, wealth creation by Diasporas in Europe and Africa, related investments and entrepreneurship issues affecting Diasporas in their host and countries of origin.

The African Diaspora is increasingly being recognised as a growing force for development in both their host and countries of origin. This has therefore become an issue which the AYF has decided to address and raise some awareness as to potentials that would benefit all.

According to the Executive Director of the African Youth Foundation, Dr. Pauly Jansen, *“European nations are complaining about African youth migrating to Europe, when in the same breadth, offering packages to screen African academics from Africa. African Nations on the other hand, are clinging on to faded ideologies like foreign aid and debt relief, instead of including their Diasporas and their contributions in their development concepts. Action is the fulfilment of knowledge, and knowledge is meaningless unless we use it to do something positive. There will be no better time for African governments to benefit from the brain drain of their nationals like this era. The earlier we all contribute our fraction to the development of our nations, the better for the continent.”*

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For more information on the Open Forum on **“African Diaspora and Leaders Zenith”** please visit [www.ayf.de](http://www.ayf.de)

The programme is available at: <http://www.ayf.de/documents/documents.html>

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