

AFRICA HOUSE

REPORTING ON AFRICA
HOUSE GLOBAL INITIATIVES
AT WASHINGTON SQUARE &
ABROAD



PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA, H.E. JAKAYA M. KIKWETE, ADDRESSES 10TH PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

In collaboration with the Africa Travel Association, the 10th Annual Presidential Forum was held on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in September 2015 to bring together tourism leaders from across Africa to

spotlight the critical role tourism plays in driving socio-economic growth and development. President Kikwete delivered the keynote address and the *Open Forum on African Tourism* was moderated by Peter Greenberg, CBS News Travel Editor, with Ministers from Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

CELEBRATING A BIOGRAPHY OF A PEOPLE THROUGH CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

As part of community outreach in Kumawu, Ghana, Africa House and the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED) are engaging local community members to contribute stories and artifacts to the Kumawu Palace Museum. The museum showcases cultural heritage documentary films and traditional artifacts from the region. During the Rural Tourism Development Forum held on December 21, 2015, a dedication ceremony was led by museum curator Professor Yaw Nyarko, Barima Sarfo Tweneboah Kodua (Kumawumanhene), and Hon. Elizabeth Ofose-Adjare, Ghana's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Creative Arts, and attended by members of the local community.



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Africa House Newsletter 2015-2016
*A publication of Africa House at
New York University*

Please send comments and questions to:
africa.house@nyu.edu

INTRODUCTION LETTER

By: Yaw Nyarko

Dear friends of Africa House,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, interest, and engagement with Africa House over the years. As we release the 2015-2016 newsletter, we reflect on the tremendous research activities, programs, and interest in Africa across NYU's global network of campuses. Through rich and vibrant discourse on Africa, research activities, and engagement with NYU faculty members, scholars, and students, we realize the outlook for Africa is bright.

Throughout the year, Africa House hosts a variety of economic and development related conferences and workshops on Africa. This year was an exciting year for Africa House and the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED) as we grew the scope of our programs and research activities. We concluded our pilot baseline research activities on commodities exchanges in Africa. In the context of that baseline study in Kumawu, Ghana, we indicated the existing data available and the data needed for a successful impact evaluation of a commodities exchange. Now, we are in beta testing on a number of mobile phone applications at CTED to collect the baseline data for a nationwide, impact evaluation of the forthcoming exchange. We did this in partnership with the NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute, the International Growth Centre (IGC), donors, and a number of community research partners.

During the 10th Annual Presidential Forum, we welcomed H.E. Jakaya M. Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Ministers of Tourism representing five countries. In December 2015 in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and local community partners, we launched the 1st Rural Tourism Development Forum in Kumawu, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana with Hon. Minister Elizabeth Oforu-Adjare of Culture, Tourism and Creative Arts in Ghana, to address the challenges and potentials of developing tourism in rural communities. In collaboration with African Development Bank and the Africa Travel Association, we released the 3rd edition of the *Africa Tourism Monitor*.

To support scholarship in Africa, we have expanded our student research fellowship programs to provide students with funding and opportunities to undertake research on the continent. Thanks to the generous support of donors, we currently offer four awards: the Africa House/CTED Development Impact Fellowship, the Thoyer Fellowship, the Robert Holmes Travel/Research Award for African Scholarship (with GSAS), and the Gallatin-Africa House Summer Fellowships.

We thank all of you for your support over the years and encourage you to continue to attend our programs and stay engaged with Africa. For more information on upcoming Africa House programs, please visit our website and stay connected with us on social media via Facebook and Twitter.

Sincerely,
Professor Yaw Nyarko
Director of Africa House





Photos (left to right): 10th Annual Presidential Forum; UNECA Presentation; H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete (Tanzania); Kumawu Palace Museum Commissioning; Stern in Africa Forum; Africa House PEN Festival Poetry Workshop; Hon. Minister Elizabeth Oforu-Adjare (Ghana); CTED Summer Internship in Kumawu; Tigo Jean-Baptiste at Africa House PEN Musical Workshop; CTED Summer Internship in Kumawu; Africa House PEN Literary Mews Panel Discussion; DRI Co-Director Professor William Easterly; Africa House Fellowship Awards Presentations with Dean Benton (GSAS), Bob Holmes, Mike and Judith Thoyer, and student recipients; and CTED Kumawu Research Center.

11TH ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

September 2016
 Location: NYU Kimmel Center

SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN GHANA: TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT FIELD RESEARCH IN RURAL EMERGING REGIONS

Summer 2016
 Location: NYU CTED Kumawu, Ashanti Region, Ghana

In the summer internship, Technology and Development Field Research in Rural Emerging Regions, students from across the NYU global campuses will have the opportunity to spend 3-4 weeks participating in field research activities working closely with researchers from NYU CTED.

AFRICA HOUSE INAUGURAL GALA CELEBRATION

April 13, 2016
 Location: NYU Kimmel Center

The Africa House Gala Celebration features a cocktail reception and dinner with African cuisine, special musical entertainment and dance, and the Africa House Awards Presentation. During the awards, we honor individuals and organizations that embody the spirit and values of Africa House.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: THE DEVELOPMENTAL STATE IN AFRICA

February 18, 2016
 Location: 14A Washington Mews, New York

The event featured a special presentation and discussion with Africa House Visiting Scholar Dr. Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, former Acting Chief Economist of the African Development Bank, to discuss the plausibility of the developmental state model in African countries, given their geography, socio-economic diversity, fiscal constraints, and implementation record.

GHANA RURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FORUM

December 21, 2015
 Location: NYU CTED Kumawu, Ashanti Region, Ghana

Under the theme "Unlocking Africa's Rural Tourism Potential," NYU Africa House-CTED convened the forum for public and private sector leaders, practitioners, academics, farmers, park rangers, and community stakeholders to discuss the role of rural tourism and technology in economic development. Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare, Ghana's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Creative Arts delivered the keynote address and

the Kumawu Palace Museum was commissioned.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART KONGO: POWER & MAJESTY EXHIBITION

November 20, 2015
 Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art

Participants enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of *Kongo: Power and Majesty* led by Dr. Alisa LaGamma; Curator in Charge, Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Kongo was a landmark presentation of Kongo art, bringing together stunning masterworks including luxury textiles, delicately carved ivories, and monumental Mangaaka power figures from institutions around the world, reflecting a rich historical and cultural legacy going back 500 years.

UNECA ECONOMIC REPORT ON AFRICA: INDUSTRIALIZING THROUGH TRADE IN AFRICA

September 25, 2015
 Location: 14A Washington Mews, New York

The event featured a presentation and conversation with Dr. Adam Elhiraika, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF AFDB AFRICAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT 2015

September 25, 2015
 Location: 14A Washington Mews, New York

The event featured a presentation and conversation with Dr. Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa; Acting Chief Economist, AfDB; and Dr. Anthony Musonda Simpasa, Principal Research Economist, AfDB.

10TH ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

September 24, 2015
 Location: NYU Kimmel Center

This high-profile event is hosted on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly meetings to bring together tourism leaders from across Africa to spotlight the critical role tourism plays in driving socio-economic growth and development. In 2015, H.E. Dr. Jakaya M. Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, delivered the keynote address, while the *Open Forum on Africa Tourism* was moderated by Peter Greenberg, CBS News Travel Editor, with Ministers from Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Spring 2015-Fall 2016 Events

Noteworthy Africa House Events at Washington Square and Abroad

THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY: AFRICA REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

July 22–July 24, 2015
Location: University of Zambia, Lusaka

The Econometric Society Africa Regional Standing Committee held a training workshop with the theme “Advances in Econometrics Versus Policy Challenges” for researchers based at African universities, central banks, Treasury/Ministry of Finance departments, and think tanks to offer opportunities to learn frontier research tools from leading scholars.

PEN WORLD VOICES FESTIVAL 2015: AFRICAN LITERATURE ON THE MEWS

May 8, 2015
Location: Washington Mews, New York

Global bazaar met county fair during the 3rd annual festival within the PEN World Voices Festival. Guests discovered a world of literature and music, including a special presentation on “Perspectives From African Writers” with Véronique Tadjo and Rashidah Ismaili.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AND WORKSHOP: SOUNDS OF AFRICA WITH TIGA JEAN-BAPTISTE

May 8, 2015
Location: Washington Mews, New York

Tiga Jean-Baptiste, a multi-talented and accomplished young Haitian musician, delivered a stunning musical performance as part of the PEN Festival. Born into a family deeply rooted in traditional Afro-Haitian music, Tiga continued his family legacy, while embracing music of other regions.

ANNUAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY AND PRESENTATIONS

April 16, 2015
Location: 14A Washington Mews, New York

During this special event, recipients of the Africa House/CTED Development Impact Fellowship, Thoyer Fellowship, and Robert Holmes Travel/Research Award for African Scholarship (with GSAS) were awarded their summer fellowships for research activities in Africa.

TACKLING THE EBOLA THREAT IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT YET AFFECTED – GHANA EXPERIENCE

November 17, 2014
Location: 14A Washington Mews, New York

A roundtable discussion to address mitigating the effects of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa was held with Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, Vice Dean, NYU Global Institute for Public Health; Sari Soghoian, MD, Assistant Professor, NYU School of Medicine and Consultant Physician Korle-bu Teaching Hospital Ghana; Ama de Graft-Aikins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Center for Social Policy Studies, University of Ghana; Karen Grepin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, NYU Wagner; Chris Dickey, Ph.D., Professor, Global Institute of Public Health; Lewis Goldfrank, MD, Professor, NYU School of Medicine.

THE COMMODITIES EXCHANGES IN AFRICA: TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE

By: Yaw Nyarko and Africa House/CTED Research Team

The Ghanaian government has recently decided to establish a commodities exchange and a warehouse receipt system to improve the welfare of farmers. Currently, Ghanaian private investors have signed on as shareholders, national private warehouse operators have expanded the country's warehouse capacity, governing legislation has been drafted, Ghana's Standards Authority has been assigned to handle grading, and the project team is ready to begin. The commodities under consideration for this exchange are maize, paddy rice, palm oil, soy and groundnuts.

Could this be a revolutionary policy intervention, a radical agricultural transformation, or a march toward food crop and commodities backed industrialization? To answer these questions, NYU Africa House/CTED has conducted a pilot study in a Ghanaian community to assess the



potential benefit of a Ghanaian Commodity Exchange (GCX). The activity of the Ethiopian Commodities Exchange (ECX), which opened eight years ago, has also been used to supplement this research. In conjunction, a newly designed mobile phone technology that develops much needed agricultural data to address the information gap between the agricultural and financial sector of the Ghanaian economy will be introduced.

It is our belief that a commodity exchange can transform the economy via two groups: the farmers (with their production of commodities) and finance/logistics segment (with credit, trading and transportation services). A commodity exchange focusing

on food crops could provide consistent and transparent information for farmers, as well as provide much needed regulation, standards and grading of commodities.

In the markets we observed, there was very little regulation and questionable sanitation in some of the markets. This is important because Ghana imports over 1 billion USD of rice a year. With improved standards, this demand can potentially be replaced with locally produced rice. In addition, as the consistency of the demand increases, there will be even higher demand for rice mills and maize dryers and other small industrial activities currently in limited supply in the rural markets. We believe our research work on

measurement of quantity and quality output, will enable us to track improvements in the traditional agriculture sector. We will do this by a slew of mobile phone applications that measure production of key crops, indication of quality levels, prices, etc., for real time observation as the commodities exchange is slowly rolled out.

On the finance-loan, banking, trading side, our research has also identified a second group of innovations, which may be aided by the commodities exchange. This is in the area of finance through loans, banking, trading and trade credit, etc. Most of the food markets in the rural areas meet once a week, and even the major food distribution centers do not meet daily. Farmers frequently receive loans to buy inputs like fertilizers, or just consumer loans, from traders who thereby obtain a commitment to purchase their goods. This process often limits the ability of farmers to shop around for the best prices for their goods.

A successful commodities exchange could very quickly disrupt many of these relationships. Warehouse receipts for commodities stored but not yet sold on the commodities market will be used as collateral for farmers seeking cash before the final sale of their goods. The

commodities exchange will create a freer market for many commodities, trading daily, eliminating many of the current trading restrictions we observed in many markets.

One group of market participants whose jobs will be affected by the commodities exchange are the small scale buyers (referred to as "traders"). They are the ones who go to the rural markets and engage in bilateral bargaining with farmers for their goods, either at the farms or in the markets. Their role will be absorbed by the exchange.

On the other hand, we have observed a great deal of sophistication and risk taking on the part of these traders. Once the exchange comes online, this would be the group that could be trained to take up the job of being members of the exchange, and who will do the intermediation between the farmers with their warehouse receipts and the big final buyers of commodities on the exchange.

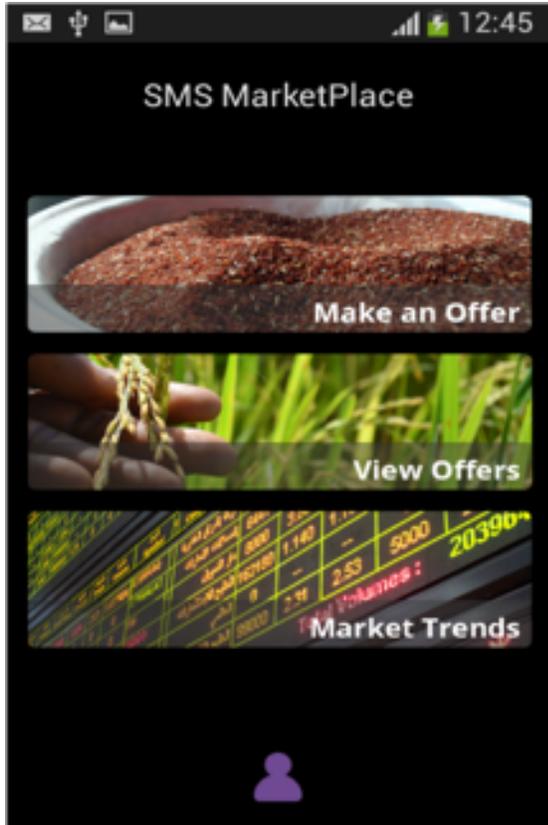
A major part of the commodities exchange activities will involve regular and orderly transport of goods from farms to warehouses. Then, upon the sale of goods at the commodities exchange, there will also be the need for transport of the goods from the warehouses to the final buyers. Given the consistency

and the central organization of this process, we are expecting there to be significant impacts on the transportation system and the development of modern logistics firms and processes.

Currently, trade takes place in fairly small quantities – often with individual traders visiting farms and hiring the odd truck or lorry to transport the purchases of the day to a regional market for sale. With the larger quantities and more consistent flows of output, there will be the potential for modernization of the transport sector and the rise of modern logistics firms to handle the movement of the agricultural produce being traded on the exchange.

We have piloted case studies to measure the transformation of the market microstructure in our rural markets. This will need to be continued to enable the measurement of change brought about by the exchange. Our mobile phone apps are also able to provide some measures of the evolution of the transport sector, to record the changes there too.

In conclusion, we have completed an in depth pilot study of the current methods of farming and marketing of some of the key crops to be introduced into the soon to come Ghana Commodities



We expect there to be impacts on the output and production side. The commodities exchange, if successful, will provide a powerful incentive for farmers to expand the production, improve quality of output, and adopt new techniques in production. We also expect there to be impacts on the finance side – changes in market structure and ease of entry into markets, changes in sources of credit, and major

every indication it will be one of the successful exchanges with many lessons which will be of extreme interest to other African nations considering or implementing commodity exchanges. The farmers are hoping that this will enable them to have efficient and consistent output markets for their crops, enabling them to expand and move up the value chain, and to contribute even further to national development.

I am grateful to the International Growth Center at LSE, New York University Abu Dhabi Research Institute, and donors for funding for this research project on commodities exchanges in Africa.

Exchange. This has enabled us to predict some of the changes and impacts to expect as the commodities exchange is rolled out. We have developed a number of mobile phone based apps, which can be used by large numbers of farmers in rural communities.

changes in the market participants. The data from the rural areas will enable one to observe and measure the impact of the commodities exchange.

So far, the project seems to be on the right track and there is

Yaw Nyarko,
Professor of Economics; Director, Africa House/CTED; Co-Director of the Development Research Institute; New York University



CELEBRITY MUSICIANS CAN'T FEED THE WORLD: THE TROUBLE WITH LIVE AID, LIVE 8, AND POP STAR CONDESCENSION

By: William Easterly

I was browsing in a used record store in the small town of Bowling Green, Ohio, about a year ago when I found what to a foreign aid wonk is comparable to an original Rolling Stones album. It was the original vinyl recording from 1984 of "Do They Know It's Christmas?"—a single produced by music celebrities including Bono and Paul McCartney to raise relief funds for the Ethiopian famine. The song became the best-selling single in U.K. chart history, a record it kept for many years afterward. (The biggest hit from a complementary pop star

collective was "We Are the World," the first single in U.S. recording history to be certified multiplatinum. The celebrity efforts culminated in the 1985 Live Aid concert.)

The cover art of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" showed emaciated African children tormented by flies against a backdrop of photos of white children celebrating Christmas. The album producers were surprisingly unaware that a majority of Ethiopians are Orthodox Christians who do very much know when it's Christmas. More seriously, the degrading picture of the

children perpetrates a common stereotype of Africans that is both inaccurate and insulting. While famine is an enormous tragedy for its victims, it is thankfully far from a common occurrence—in any given year, about 1 of every 345 Africans is affected by famine.

Insulting stereotypes of Africans are at the heart of why celebrity famine relief gets the whole problem so badly wrong, not only in 1984 but still today. The celebrities promote a worldview in which "they," Africans, are unable to help themselves in preventing famine, and so passively await rescue from "we" Western famine experts, a category that apparently includes rock stars. The big question is: Why are Africans so unable to help themselves? The old view that Africans were just racially inferior is thankfully no longer acceptable, but there seems to still be plenty of less explicit condescension toward Africans behind the whole enterprise.

There is an alternative view, that famine in Africa tends to happen in places where the victims are oppressed by local dictators. As Amartya Sen famously pointed out, democracies don't have



famines. If autocracy is the problem, the insulting stereotypes perpetrated by celebrities make the problem worse rather than better. These stereotypes make it harder to recognize how much Africans deserve (and are already fighting for) greater political and economic rights to actively determine their own destinies. Why does autocracy sometimes lead to famine? The most fundamental reason is that autocrats often don't care enough about the population to prevent famine. Autocrats maintain power through coercion and repression, not popular approval. Democratic rulers are forced to care about the population because the populace protests and/or votes to drive them out of office if they cause or allow disasters like famine to happen. In the United States, one of our elected officials suffered enormous political damage from something far more trivial than a famine: just a traffic jam on a bridge!

Sen contrasted authoritarian British colonial rule in India, where as late as 1943 the disastrous Bengal famine killed millions, with post-independence democratic India. In Sen's words, Indian famines "disappeared suddenly with the establishment of a multiparty democracy and a free press." Sen notes that "a free press and an active political

opposition constitute the best early-warning system a country threatened by famines can have."

The 1983–85 Ethiopian famine that was the subject of celebrity efforts occurred under the military dictatorship of Mengistu Haile Mariam, which was about as far as you can get from multiparty democracy and a free press. Ethiopia's autocrats oversaw recurrent famine. An African contrast with Ethiopia was Botswana. Botswana, like Ethiopia, is prone to drought but has been a democracy since independence in 1966. Independent Botswana has never had a famine. Botswana's democratic government explicitly deploys relief efforts during every drought, and even improves them from one drought to the next.

Have celebrity famine fighters gotten any better since the 1980s? Another outburst of celebrity rock stars singing against African misery occurred on July 2, 2005, with the Live 8 concert, aimed at convincing the Group of Eight (the eight leading developed powers), which was meeting in the United Kingdom at the same time, to increase foreign aid to Africa, to combat famine and hunger in Africa, as well as to address other afflictions of the poor. It included some of the same rock stars as Live Aid, headlining again Bono and

Paul McCartney. The Live 8 poster once again embraces the degrading stereotype of an emaciated African child.

Attending the G8 summit to represent East Africa on the celebrity-promoted African aid program was Meles Zenawi, the prime minister of Ethiopia. Meles was fresh from highly disputed elections in May 2005 in Ethiopia that extended his time in power, which had begun in 1991 when his forces had overthrown the previous dictator, Mengistu. Meles would later that year deploy his security forces to shoot down protesters against the rigged elections in the streets of Addis Ababa, as well as jailing opposition figures. The awareness of Ethiopia's unbroken succession of autocrats as a persistent cause of poverty and hunger did not make it into Live 8 concert speeches. If only they had consulted the Who: Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

Bono appeared together with Meles at a May 18, 2012, conference on food security in Africa on the eve of the 2012 G-8 summit. Meles' credentials as the answer to famine in Ethiopia continued to be in doubt. In 2010 Meles had been caught red-handed by Human Rights Watch manipulating food relief financed by foreign aid to go only to members of his ruling

party, literally starving the opposition of support. Donors at first promised HRW they would investigate, then quietly dropped the investigation a few months later. Ethiopia under Meles also fell a bit short of allowing the free press beloved by Sen as a famine preventer. Meles' government had convicted the peaceful dissenting blogger Eskinder Nega of "terrorism" on Jan. 23, 2012. Eskinder is now serving out a prison term of 18 years. Celebrity rock star protests of these events have not been conspicuous.

The attitude toward poor people as passive and helpless, partly fueled by celebrity relief stereotypes, does not make a fertile environment for protesting even those African rights violations directly financed by

Western donors. It is not a fertile environment for supporting the many Ethiopian dissidents in prison or in exile fighting for democracy. Aid continues to support the autocratic oppressors in Ethiopia instead of the oppressed.

Similar situations exist in other African autocracies. The awareness of the autocratic roots of famine has never arrived in the celebrity aid community, one of the loudest voices in the room on African development. This is not good news for preventing the next famines in Ethiopia or in other autocratic countries in drought-prone Africa, or for the general cause of democratic rights for Africa equal to those in the United States or United Kingdom.

The original "We" in "We Are the World" and "Do They Know It's Christmas?" did not include "They" Africans. How about including Africans in the "we" of another, much better song suggestion? When we let freedom ring, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, will be able to join hands and sing: Free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.

William Easterly;
Professor of
Economics, Co-
director of the
Development
Research
Institute, New
York University; Author of The
Tyranny of Experts: Economists,
Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights
of the Poor



This article was originally published by Slate on April 29, 2014.

EXPANDING GLOBAL HEALTH IN AFRICA: PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STEINHARDT'S DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND AFRICA HOUSE

By: *Offiong Aqua*



In 2007-2008 working with a grant facilitated by Africa House and NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture Education and Human Development, I helped to establish a Global Disability Program at NYU Accra. We worked with the only existing licensed Occupational Therapist in the country and toured major medical centers all over Ghana.

This course program has since been successfully offered year after year on a revolving basis at the NYU sites in Buenos Aires and Tel-Aviv.

In addition, the department of Occupational Therapy's Chair, Kristie Koenig, with the help of funding from Banco Santander, has been involved as a project director with the Ghanaian Institute of Teaching and Education (GIFTED) Women's Fellowship Program Research Project since 2012. This program provides professional development, ongoing support and leadership training to women educators through collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Education, the University of Education at Winneba, and Fundacion Mujeres por Africa. The overarching goal of this program, which has since been extended for the next couple of years, is to develop women

leaders in the field of education.

Presently, with collaboration of faculty from NYU's Medical School and other U.S. experts, my group is extending its efforts to Nigeria and continuously exploring the possibility of expanding health care services there. Notably, we are in the process of establishing vital Emergency Medical Services infrastructure in Nigeria. This includes the following components: training of doctors and nurses for American Heart Association EMS certifications, providing ambulance equipment and logistics, continuing medical education certifications, and providing a nerve center.

Exxon Mobil, Nigeria National Petroleum Company, and Maxi Vision have partnered with us and helped sponsor the training of 350 medical doctors and nurses the past few years. Through this support, we have been able to provide defibrillators and equipment to ten hospitals in the Exxon Mobil catchment area of the Nigerian Niger Delta. In our last outing, we also provided free eye screenings to 400 indigenes.



We have the following plans to expand our efforts:

- Open a nerve center (and a dedicated number) to coordinate emergency calls on a national basis in Nigeria;
- Help equip existing ambulances in the country;
- Help train EMT technicians;
- Lobby for national legislation to require minimum continuing education certifications

for health care workers in the country; and

- Establish credible national professional organizations in Occupational/Physical Therapy, Communicative Sciences, and Disorders.

We believe that Emergency Medical Services could serve as a cornerstone for the revival of moribund healthcare systems not just in Nigeria, but Africa as a whole.

*Offiong Aqua,
Clinical Associate
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Education and
Human Development*



EXPLORING AFRICAN ART: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART AND THE GLOBAL MUSEUM LEADERS COLLOQUIUM

By: Alisa LaGamma



The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas and Africa House are in ongoing dialogue about important cultural initiatives. Our relationship goes back several years and our collaborations have taken different forms.

Most recently, a group of Africa House staff and supporters led by Dr. Yaw Nyarko joined us in November for a special, curator-led visit to the exhibition *Kongo: Power and*

Majesty (September 16, 2015-January 3, 2016). This project was the result of three and a half years of research and planning at the museum to provide fresh insights into Africa's historical engagement with the world at large through some of its greatest artistic creations. Our session together in the exhibition was an ideal opportunity to have a joint viewing of the masterpieces by Kongo sculptors and weavers gathered for the occasion from some 60 international private and institutional lenders to a group of colleagues already very familiar with the region – but from different disciplines. The works featured ranged

from the earliest luxury textiles and ivories sent by Kongo sovereigns as diplomatic gifts to their European counterparts beginning in the sixteenth century to a dramatic battalion of almost life-size Mangaaka Power Figures conceived as defensive shields during the nineteenth century. The Kongo exhibition's synthesis of scholarship in the fields of art history, history, anthropology, sociology, and religion has led to its catalogue being awarded this year's George M. Wittenborn Memorial Book Award by the Art Libraries Society of North America.

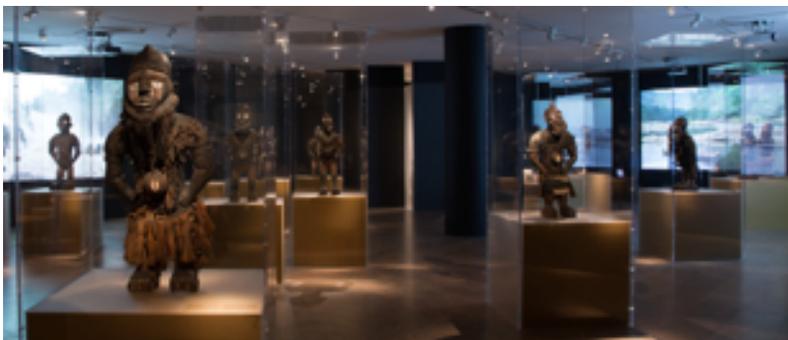


Other initiatives that are ongoing and broader in scope are the Metropolitan's two-week Global Museum Leaders Colloquium (GMLC), an effort to foster greater exchange and dialogue amongst museum leaders around the world. Last year's edition hosted several museum directors from major African institutions: Marie-Cecile Zinsou, President of the Fondation Zinsou and Musée d'Ouidah (Cotonou) in Benin; Marilyn Douala-Bell, Director of Doual'art, an art laboratory and

think tank in Douala, Cameroon; and Yusuf Abdallah Usman, Director-General, National Commission for Museums and Monuments with the Government of Nigeria in Abuja. Over the course of this intensive seminar immersion at the museum, Africa House worked with Met staff to host an additional reception and intimate roundtable discussion focusing specifically on museum leadership in Africa. This year's colloquium will run from April 11th through the

22nd and African museums will be represented by the leaders of the National Museum of Zimbabwe in Harare and the South African Museum in Cape Town.

While the focus and programs of the MET and Africa House are distinct, our shared desire to highlight excellence and to address solutions to improving the capacity of sister institutions in the region are complementary. The arts create a better appreciation and more nuanced understandings of the histories and culture of a given society; critical context for those who are tackling some of the most pressing issues facing the continent today. The positive contributions to development, education, and overall growth brought by strong heritage sectors is also widely recognized. These opportunities to come together keep our respective disciplines in constant dialogue, to think creatively, and continuously engage with our respective constituents.



Alisa LaGamma, Ph.D.; Ceil and Michael E. Pulitzer Curator in Charge, Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the

Americas; The Metropolitan Museum of Art

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AFRICA HOUSE VISITING SCHOLAR

By: Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa



When Professor Yaw Nyarko invited me to spend some time at Africa House as a Visiting Scholar early on in 2016, I was extremely excited. When I suggested a talk on "The Developmental State in Africa," it was warmly welcomed.

I started to prepare my power points from a longer paper that I had presented on a similar theme at the 50th anniversary of the Nigerian Economic Society, in Abuja, August 2015.

I am mentioning this to show that Africa House is a conduit to the world, directly through the invitation of scholars like myself with a long experience studying and working in Africa, and also through the sharing of burning issues, such as the developmental state, in the ongoing African debate.

To use modern parlance, Africa House is "fit for purpose." This is for two reasons: first, it is situated right in the heart of NYU, making access to other parts of the University, including its fabulous library, easy, with everything within

walking distance. This means that events organized by Africa House are well within reach for the students and faculty, as well as other stakeholders in the community. Second, it is small and streamlined, with light but efficient staffing. The staff members were very much on top of issues, and the fact that administrative staff also undertook research tasks is innovative. It was also clear that all staff members and assistants were very well informed about various aspects of the continent, having visited or undertaken projects there. I was also impressed to learn

that Africa House collaborates freely with other parts of the University, in a range of areas. Working with others will ensure that Africa House will have much more impact.

Apart from the lecture and the discussion that followed, I benefited from interactions with students and other visitors during my stay. In one case, for example, a visitor wanted to know generally the "true" nature of the African economy, and whether it really was time to invest. This question is often posed not only by Africans in the Diaspora, but also by others seeking opportunities on the continent. Is Africa really rising? What of the political chaos? I answered as I always do. "Kindly desist the temptation of thinking of Africa as a country, it might become one in years to come, but not yet." That said, Africa has changed for the better. There are profitable opportunities in almost every country, although more in some than others.

The second opportunity was the chance to talk with the Director of Africa House and some of his staff on issues related to development in Africa's periphery regions. These are areas forgotten because of distance from the capitals, paucity of resources or inherited neglect, since the colonial powers did not consider them important for their cause. A close inspection

shows however, that neglect has been useful in some ways. The regions have been able to maintain important aspects of their cultural and social heritage. This includes local governance, land management as well as conflict resolution. These aspects could be useful in Africa's search for a robust and resilient social economic basis for development.

In conclusion, my visit to Africa House was very timely for me, having newly left the African Development Bank. It showed me that the African narrative has changed, not only on the continent but abroad as well. But with the change has also come the need for robust discussions of where the continent is headed. It will no longer suffice to fall back on the clichés of the past. The debate must be based on hard facts, and Africa House plays an important role in disseminating them, through its advocacy work and research.

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URBAN EXPANSION: ON THE GROUND IN ETHIOPIA

By: Professor Shlomo Angel, Professor Paul Romer, and the NYU Stern Urbanization Project Team



Figure 1: Municipal urban planners developing an arterial grid plan for Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (July 2013).

Ethiopia is now among the most rapidly urbanizing countries in the world. According to UN estimates, Ethiopia's urban population will triple between 2010 and 2040. Preliminary city-level population projections suggest that some of Ethiopia's larger cities will much more than triple their 2010 population by 2040: Hawassa's 2010 population will grow

more than 6-fold by 2040, Mek'ele almost 5-fold its 2010 population, and Adama and Bahir Dar almost 4-fold.

The built-up areas of these cities can be expected to expand at an even faster rate than their population. Because urban population growth in Ethiopia will be accompanied by economic development and the increasing availability of inexpensive transport, the annual consumption of urban land per person will grow as well—a phenomenon

consistent with the historical experience of cities all over the world. Assuming a 1% annual increase in urban land per person, Mek'ele, Adama, and Bahir Dar are expected to increase their 2010 built-up areas by more than 5-fold and Hawassa may increase in size by more than 8-fold.

Municipal officials in Ethiopia, assisted by a technical team from the NYU Stern Urbanization Project, are working to make room for this urban expansion—planning ahead now so that the growth

of their cities occurs in an orderly, equitable, and sustainable way.

The Ethiopian Urban Expansion Initiative is a collaborative effort, engaging Ethiopian municipalities as they take a set of crucial steps to keep their cities inclusive and affordable in the face of rapid urban expansion.

The Ethiopia Urban Expansion Initiative is now assisting 18 cities in planning for the next 30 years of urban expansion, based on NYU growth projections and local census data. Their new plans designate a grid of 30-meter wide arterial roads and large public open spaces. Critically, the plans also include strategies for securing this land and protecting it from development.

In the 18 months since local officials from the four cities first sketched plans like the one illustrated in Figure 1, 41.5 km of arterial roads have already been built.

Under this program, local officials in Hawassa, Ethiopia (to take one example), have secured 171.5km² of land for expansion on the urban periphery – a nearly 4-fold increase over the existing administrative area of the city. They have also approved plans for 374km of arterial roads and are surveying and securing the land for the roads by paying compensation to leaseholders. Through Ethiopia's Ministry of Urban Development & Construction, the Urban Expansion Initiative is collaborating with officials from fourteen additional rapidly

growing cities in Ethiopia.

Together, we are working to:

- Make realistic projections of growth in population and land cover,
- Define an arterial grid of roads and public spaces in the area of urban expansion, and
- Secure the land that will provide parks and open spaces and carry key infrastructure and transit in the future city.

By taking these straightforward and inexpensive steps today, the four municipalities are laying the foundation for future cities that are more affordable and inclusive.

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Figure 2: Newly constructed arterial roads on the fringe of Bahir Dar (November 2015). Bahir Dar, Ethiopia (July 2013).

PREPARING FOR EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT YET AFFECTED: PERSPECTIVES FROM GHANAIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

By: Lewis Goldfrank, Gbenga Ogedegbe, Sari Soghoian, Ama de-Graft Aikins, and NYU-UG-KBTH Ghana Ebola Working Group



At the time of our research, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic had ravaged the social fabric of the three West African countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and affected people worldwide. We reported key themes from an agenda-setting, multi-disciplinary roundtable convened to examine experiences and implications for health systems in Ghana, a nation without cases but where risk for spread was high and the economic, social and political impact of the impending threat was felt.

Participants' personal stories and broader debates to define fundamental issues and opportunities for preparedness focused on three inter-related themes. First, the dangers of the fear response itself were highlighted as a threat to the integrity and continuity of quality care. Second, healthcare fears were compounded by a

demonstrable lack of societal and personal protections for infections and control in communities and healthcare facilities, as evidenced by an ongoing cholera epidemic affecting over 20,000 patients in the capital Accra alone since June 2014. Third, a lack of coherent messaging and direction from leadership seems to have limited coordination and reinforced a level of mistrust in the government's ability and commitment to mobilize an adequate response.

Our team initially recommended urgent investment in the needed supplies and infrastructure for basic, routine infection control in communities and healthcare facilities, provision of





assurances with securities for frontline healthcare workers, establishment of a multi-sector, “all-hazards” outbreak surveillance system, and engaging directly with key community groups to co-produce contextually relevant educational messages that will help decrease stigma, fear, and the demoralizing perception

that the disease defies remedy or control.

The EVD epidemic provided an unprecedented opportunity for West African countries not yet affected by EVD cases to make progress on tackling long-standing health system weaknesses. The roundtable discussion emphasized the

urgent need to strengthen capacity for infection control, occupational health and safety, and leadership coordination. Significant commitment is needed to raise standards of hygiene in communities and health facilities, build mechanisms for collaboration across sectors, and engage community stakeholders in creating the needed solutions. It would be both devastating and irresponsible to waste the opportunity.

Read the full article here:

<http://bit.ly/NYUEbolaPreparedness>

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HENRY SCHEIN, INC. SUPPORTS NYU EBOLA PREPAREDNESS IN WEST AFRICA

Henry Schein, Inc., the world’s largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental, animal health and medical practitioners, donated a container of vital medical supplies and materials to the NYU Ebola Preparedness Program in Fall 2014. The gift was donated to the NYU College of Global Public Health through Henry Schein Cares, the Company’s global corporate social responsibility program, which seeks enhanced access to care for underserved populations. The NYU Ebola Preparedness Program is a complement to Henry Schein’s overall pandemic preparedness and response efforts, including the Company’s public-private partnership to create the Global Supply Network for Pandemic Preparedness & Response. This initiative, which is being established in partnership with the UN World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Bank and private sector partners including BD, UPS, Cardinal Health and Johnson & Johnson, seeks to save lives, inform future intervention planning, and serve as a platform to share critical lessons learned.



For more information on Africa House, please visit:

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