

ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change

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Dialogue Program Education for Development

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 6:30 - 9:00 PM

SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings Street

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Dialogue Purpose

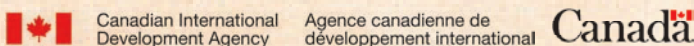
This dialogue is part of an ongoing public engagement series that examines the unique role of the diaspora resident in Vancouver who are committed financially and personally to development activities in the global south. Diaspora-driven development efforts have a powerful impact in the global south that reverberates here in Metro Vancouver. While often informal or grassroots, these initiatives demonstrate the benefits and unique strengths of the diaspora – cultural awareness of communities of origin and residence, fluency working in dual cultures, awareness of local issues and concerns (trans-local), and long-term personal commitment to projects and communities.

Tonight's dialogue will showcase the many ways Metro Vancouver-based diaspora-led efforts support education as an engine for change and development by creating choices for individuals and their communities in the Global South.

The dialogue will explore three central questions:

- **What** kind of education is needed for development?
- **How** do educational projects create opportunities and choices?
- **What** is unique and promising about diaspora-led strategies for trans-local education for development?

Funding support provided by:



This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Ce projet est réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada accordé par l'entremise de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI).

Project partners:



with special thanks to Bruce and Lis Welch Community Fund.

Program

6:30 pm Welcome

Joanna Ashworth & Shaheen Nanji, Co-Directors, Engaging Diaspora in Development Project
Umeeda Switlo, CUSO-VSO, Dialogue Co-Moderator

Storytelling: What kind of education is needed for development?

Randolph-Dalton Hyman, Arts Education for Social Change (Jamaica)
Nasra Mire, Youth Point Media (Uganda)

Dialogue (in threes & plenary)

Share a story about your own educational experiences:

What does education for development mean to you?

In what way have you developed through education?

How are education projects creating choices and opportunities?

James Kamau, Youth Initiative Canada (Kenya)
Ruth & Cecil Hershler, Education without Borders (South Africa)
Joselyne John, The Dzaleka Project (south East Africa)
Omar Kaywan, Beacon of Hope for Afghan Children Society (Afghanistan)

Dialogue:

What are the opportunities of these and other approaches?

What are the limitations? What should the priorities in education be?

What can be learned from these and other examples?

What is unique and promising about the diaspora role in education?

Amos Kambere, Umoja Operation Compassion Society (Uganda)
Charles Quist-Adade, Kwantlen University (Ghana)

Dialogue:

What is needed to empower the diaspora to innovate and grow our potential in the area of education and development?

Making Sense of the Stories and Approaches

Farah Shroff, Dialogue Weaver

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Participatory Closing

Randolph-Dalton Hyman

9:00 pm Adjourn

Reception to follow in atrium

Speakers

JOANNA ASHWORTH, EdD is Associate Director for the Bolivia Community Economic Development project and advises community organizations throughout BC on multicultural dialogue planning. She is a senior research associate at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development. Joanna is also co-director of the Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping our Trans-local Potential for Change project.

CECIL HERSHLER, MD immigrated to Canada in 1974. Maintaining his link to South Africa, he helped bring Education without Borders into realization in 2002. In addition to his work with EwB, Cecil is a physician, storyteller, actor and board member of one other non-profit organization.

RUTH HERSHLER immigrated to Canada in 1974. Maintaining her link to South Africa, she helped bring Education without Borders into realization in 2002. In addition to her work with EwB, Ruth is a senior statistical analyst manager at the University of British Columbia doing research with the Human Early Learning Project (HELP).

RANDOLPH-DALTON HYMAN was born in the city of Kingston, Jamaica. He earned his B.F.A. degree in Developmental Drama in Education from Concordia University and his M.A. from McGill University in Educational Philosophy, specialization in cross-cultural dance education and social change. He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Arts Education at Simon Fraser University. His research interests include international development, moral philosophy, ethics and aesthetics, and Jamaican dance.

JOSELYNE JOHN is a Burundian native and a former recipient of the World University Service of Canada's (WUSC) Student Refugee Sponsorship in 2007. She was sponsored by Simon Fraser University. Having been a refugee since she was 6, this opportunity for an education and her desire to make a difference has inspired the Dzaleka Project, a student-run organization with the primary objective to illuminate the situation of refugees and to change the lives of refugees in Dzaleka refugee camp in south East Africa.

JAMES KAMAU was born in Nairobi, Kenya to a community fraught with drugs, violence and poverty. After earning a diploma in community development from the Kenya School of Social Work, he fearlessly entered the world of activism and has spent the last nine years performing youth work and facilitating community development. His years playing Elite basketball in Kenya gave him the opportunity to mentor youth through sport, this experience combined with his passion for community work eventually led him to found Youth Initiative Canada in 2008, a multi-dimensional organization that partners Canadian and African youth to create sustainable change. James is also a life skills coach, an event planner and a social entrepreneur.

AMOS KAMBERE is the Founder of Umoja Operation Compassion Society, a non-governmental organization serving African immigrants and other nationalities in the Lower Mainland. He is the recipient of the United Way of the Lower Mainland VanDusen Community Service Award for 2008, as well as the Leader Newspaper's Mentorship Award for 2009. He is the author of a new book titled Celebrating Literacy in the Rwenzori Region.

OMAR KAYWAN is the Vice President for the Beacon of Hope for Afghan Children Society, a non-profit, non-political, charitable organization, created in 2006. It is operated by supporters of Afghan children in British Columbia, whose goal is to improve the future of children in Afghanistan by providing them with meaningful opportunities to realize their potential as future leaders. Omar immigrated to Canada in 2000 and has been a volunteer member of the society since 2008. After witnessing and experiencing the struggles of Afghan children in Afghanistan first hand, the society is a personal cause. Omar currently works in the mobile marketing and advertising industry. www.beaconofhopesociety.org

NASRA MIRE emigrated from Somalia to Vancouver with her sister, Hawa, while the two were in their early teens. Over the past four years, they have operated educational programs for young people that focus on expression and storytelling through digital media. Through the establishment of Point Youth Media, they have worked to engage young people in Vancouver and in East Africa. They plan to expand their programs into Tanzania, Kenya and hopefully one day into Somalia as well.

SHAHEEN NANJI is Director of International Development and Faculty Engagement at SFU. She co-directs Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping our Trans-local Potential for Change and oversees CIDA projects in China and Kenya. Shaheen is working on a Master of Arts in International Studies, with a focus on diasporic influences on development. Born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, Shaheen moved to Vancouver in 1989 and has firsthand understanding of the ways diaspora communities seek to give back to their birth nations.

FARAH SHROFF, PhD is a public health professional with over 20 years of experience in various countries including Thailand, India, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nigeria and others. Her major avenues of inquiry include social justice approaches to health and holistic mind-body practices. She has a keen interest in international health and is committed to creating a healthier world for everyone. Currently she is the first Director of Research at the MassageTherapists' Association of British Columbia. She was a founding member of the Ontario Midwifery Education Program and taught courses on public health, health promotion, embracing client diversity and more. She also teaches yoga, dance, self-defense and fun movement activities.

CHARLES QUIST-A DADE, PhD has a curiosity and passion for research that is not limited by international borders. Charles' projects include an exploration of African-Russian communities in post-communist Russia and research into teenage sexual and reproductive behaviour in eastern Ghana, Africa. He also teaches a web conferencing course on Globalization, which links his Canadian students with their peers in Ghana. His international research and teaching experience are an inspiration for students and faculty alike.

UMEEDA UMEDALY SWITLO works with CUSO-VSO as a public engagement officer for Western Canada and Western United States. She is a marine biologist, business entrepreneur, and community activist focused on HIV and AIDS and the environment. She came to the NGO sector from the entertainment sector and is a communications specialist. Umeeda is an Ismaili Muslim who came to Canada from Uganda when she was a teenager as a refugee in 1973.

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Photography

NARRATIVE 360 is a non-profit organization advancing the role of the documentary arts in civil society and supporting their development in the areas of photography, audio and literary journalism. The organization is committed to intellectual discourse regarding media representation of societies, cultures and communities, and supports work in the documentary arts as a way of understanding the social and cultural fabric of humanity. Narrative 360's last project was *Kites, Guns and Dreams*, a documentary photojournalism exhibition on Afghanistan that was exhibited in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

Suggestions?

Seeking stories of Trans-Local leaders

Are you or someone you know doing exemplary development work in the Global South while based in the Metro Vancouver area?

Please email us at diasporas-info@sfu.ca

Next dialogue in the series:

Human Security and Peacebuilding

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 6:30 – 9:00 PM

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