

ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change

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Dialogue Program Diaspora Contributions to Development: Opportunities and Lessons Learned

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 5:30 - 9:00 PM

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

Project Co-Directors

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Dialogue Purpose

Since January 2011, SFU has hosted four public dialogues and a workshop series -- each exploring the many unique ways diaspora from the Global South are leading initiatives to create change in their communities of attachment.

We have heard stories of people taking innovative leadership to reduce poverty, build infrastructure, improve health and education, respond to human insecurity and build peace. We have learned about a broad range of projects aimed at providing choice and opportunity, from local fundraising for student scholarships to developing business opportunities for local entrepreneurs -- and about people acting as cultural, economic, and social bridges between north and south. We have seen how the experiences of diaspora engaged in development activities are having a "looping effect" on their lives in Canada when diaspora bring their skills in development to the local scene where they live and work.

This dialogue will identify the ways in which diaspora contribute to development, and explore what is required to enable greater impact, e.g., capacity development, collaborative opportunities, public policy mechanisms, and organizational change.

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Canada

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Project partners:



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD



BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



Program

5:30 PM: OPEN RECEPTION

Yoro Noukoussi Duo – Percussion and Strings

6:00 PM: WELCOME

Shaheen Nanji, Project Co-Director

Joanna Ashworth, Project Co-Director

6:15 PM: SMALL GROUP DIALOGUE/WORLD CAFÉ (TWO ROUNDS)

Round One:

1. Introductions: name and organization
2. What is the diaspora contribution to development?
3. What will enable diaspora (individually or organizationally) to contribute more effectively to development?

Round Two:

1. Introductions: name and organization
2. What will enable diaspora to contribute more effectively to development?
3. What image or metaphor comes to mind that represents the diaspora contribution to development?

7:30 PM: OPEN DIALOGUE (Asia Pacific Hall)

Engaging Diaspora in Development -- Video Premier

James Busumtwi-Sam, Project Academic Advisor -- Research Findings

OPEN DIALOGUE

1. What do diaspora need to contribute more effectively to development?
2. What is your message to the diaspora, international NGOs, universities, funders, the Canadian public, and the Government of Canada?

Special Guest Respondents:

John Monahan, The Mosaic Institute (Collaborative Public Policy)

Yvette Macabuag, CUSO-VSO, Ottawa (Organizational Policy)

8:45 PM: SUMMARY REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS

James Busumtwi-Sam, Project Academic Adviser

Shaheen Nanji & Joanna Ashworth, Co-Directors

“Book of Stories” Project

Opportunities for learning exchange

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.

JAMES BUSUMTWI-SAM, Ph.D. is Associate Professor specializing in International Relations and Comparative Development in the Department of Political Science at SFU. His primary interests include International Organization, the Political Economy of Development and Security, and International Relations theory. His regional specialization is African politics and development. He has published on international organizations and regional security, the political economy of macroeconomic policy reform and financial liberalization in developing countries, and international financial institutions.

YVETTE MACABUAG has worked with CUSO-VSO for 7 years. Her work has focused on working with volunteers and supporting the development of placements within VSO in HIV and AIDs, Health and Participation and Governance Programming. More recently, Yvette has been working as part of the Diaspora programming team at CUSO-VSO supporting the development and implementation of the Diaspora program. Key activities include programming initiatives in Guyana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Rwanda, working closely with country program offices in the development of programs, with North American Diaspora organizations and with Diaspora community volunteers. Yvette also brings a lens of inclusiveness into the work of CUSO-VSO to ensure that the perspectives and experience of the diaspora community volunteers is at the forefront of program development and volunteer management.

JOHN MONAHAN is Executive Director of the Mosaic Institute, a “think and do” tank that harnesses the creativity, connections and resources of Canada’s ethnocultural communities to advance Canadian solutions to intractable conflicts overseas - starting right here at home. Founded in 2007, the Mosaic Institute has already made important contributions nationally in the areas of inter-community dialogue, the integration of diaspora communities into the Canadian foreign policy mainstream, and the promotion of global citizenship.

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.

ARTIST

ARVIL ORLOFF is a graphic facilitator who draws out people’s best thinking - literally! She comes to meetings like this, listens hard, and translates what she hears into compelling murals that combine pictures with words to create a visual record of the session, in real time. The finished drawing stands as a vivid representation of the group’s ideas, stories and spirit, and reveals the Big Picture - both figuratively and literally.

MUSICIAN

YORO NOUKOUSSI, a multi-instrumentalist, singer songwriter and sound engineer was born in North Benin, Africa to the Chief of the Wama People. He learned the art of storytelling and drumming from his family, and co-founded the “Les Princes du Sahel” Band. In Switzerland, Yoro studied and performed Jazz. In Canada, as a performer and studio musician, Yoro has mastered the rhythms of the talking drum (donga), congas (kokomba) and djembe and offers independent classes and workshops. He is a graduate of the Sound Engineer program of the Colombia Academy of Digital and Analog Recording Arts in Vancouver.

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