

Contact:

Joanna Ashworth, SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development,  
[joanna\\_ashworth@sfu.ca](mailto:joanna_ashworth@sfu.ca), 604 317 9202 or Shaheen Nanji, Director, International  
Development, SFU International, [shaheen\\_nanji@sfu.ca](mailto:shaheen_nanji@sfu.ca) 778-782-5576

### **Diasporas, Dialogues and Development: Tapping Potential for Change**

Metro Vancouver boasts a diverse and multicultural population. Many retain a sense of attachment to their place of origin. These are the region's diaspora communities and many of them, particularly from the Southern hemisphere, contribute, or have the potential to contribute significantly to development in the countries, towns and villages of their origin.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, Simon Fraser University is officially launching a two-year public dialogue series to bring the Canadian public and leaders of these diaspora communities together to tap into this potential for change. "These are innovative leaders. They've done everything from building schools in Pakistan and funding education in Namibia and Southern Sudan, to organizing Haitian relief and supporting peace in Darfur. They've purchased goats for Kenyan villagers," says Joanna Ashworth, co-director of the project. "These dialogues will explore current initiatives, critically examining their impact, and the vast potential of diasporic-driven development."

Shaheen Nanji, co-director of the SFU project, adds that the dialogues "recognize the potential of the diaspora with their local knowledge of the community, to contribute to social, economic and ecological development. This is phenomenon is gaining attention internationally but there is much yet to be explored."

The dialogues, organized around the UN Millennium Development Goals, will focus on initiatives that address poverty reduction and economic growth, health, education, peace and human security and diasporic contributions to development. An interdisciplinary advisory group of SFU faculty, graduate students and community leaders provide guidance and input. The public dialogues and leadership workshops begin in January 2011. Diaspora leaders are invited to send their stories to [info-diaspora@sfu.ca](mailto:info-diaspora@sfu.ca).

Funding support provided by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and presented in partnership with Simon Fraser University, CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education.

Note to editors: Media are welcome to attend the launch, 6 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 13 at the Teck Gallery, SFU Vancouver, Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings. Backgrounder available.

[www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas)



## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

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# University events promote work by diaspora communities

**BY JANET STEFFENHAGEN, VANCOUVER SUN** OCTOBER 13, 2010

Development work by diaspora communities in Metro Vancouver that have retained close ties to their countries of origin will be highlighted through a series of public events organized by Simon Fraser University.

The intent is to bring diaspora communities together to share ideas -- whether they're about building schools in Pakistan or supporting peace in Darfur -- and raise awareness generally about individuals who have made Metro their home but use their knowledge of other countries and cultures to promote social, economic and ecological development abroad.

"It's really quite incredible," Joanna Ashworth, the project's co-director, said about their work, much of which goes unnoticed by the public.

[jsteffenhagen@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:jsteffenhagen@vancouver.sun.com)

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## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

# Diaspora dialogues development

SFU launches two-year dialogue series on Vancouver's diaspora

**CANADIAN IMMIGRANT** OCTOBER 19, 2010

Simon Fraser University has launched a two-year public dialogue series focusing on Vancouver's diaspora communities — those that retain a sense of attachment to their places of origin around the world and have the potential to contribute to the development of those towns, villages and cities.

The aim is to bring the Canadian public and leaders of diaspora communities together to tap into this potential for change.

"These are innovative leaders who've done everything from building schools in Pakistan and funding education in Namibia and Southern Sudan, to organizing Haitian relief and supporting peace in Darfur," says Joanna Ashworth, co-director of the project. "These dialogues will explore current initiatives, critically examining their impact, and the vast potential of diasporic-driven development."

Kenyan-born Shaheen Nanji, co-director of the SFU project, adds that the dialogues "recognize the potential of the diaspora with their local knowledge of the community, to contribute to social, economic and ecological development. This phenomenon is gaining attention internationally, but there is much yet to be explored."

The public dialogues and leadership workshops begin in January 2011. Diaspora leaders are invited to send their stories to [diasporas-info@sfu.ca](mailto:diasporas-info@sfu.ca). Or learn more at [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas).



## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

### Project profile: Nadia Chaney and Shaheen Nanji

SFU GRADUATE STUDIES NEWSLETTER JANUARY 18, 2011

Education graduate student Nadia Chaney (right) and International Studies graduate student Shaheen Nanji are serving on the advisory group for the Engaging Diaspora in Development project, which will host its first dialogue at SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue on January 19, 2011.

The event is sold out but there will be a live stream viewable on your computer.

If you'd like to participate, the CIDA-funded Engaging Diasporas project is looking for stories from members of diaspora communities in Vancouver, and will be holding four more dialogues in 2011.



Both students are representative of Vancouver's wide-ranging cultural mosaic: Canadian-born poet and artist Nadia Chaney has a Muslim father and Catholic mother from India and Shaheen Nanji, who's the Co-Director of the Diasporas Project and Director of International Development and Faculty Engagement in SFU International, was born in Nairobi and moved to Vancouver in 1989.

- Engaging Diaspora in Development project
- Vancouver Observer: Starting the Conversation
- Nadia's blog: Partnerships for Youth Empowerment (PYE) in Bangalore, India
- Shaheen's website: International Development and Faculty Engagement, SFU



## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

# Engaging Diaspora in Development: Dialogue Series

**SFU NEWS** JANUARY 19, 2011



SFU is bringing together leaders of Metro Vancouver's diverse multicultural communities and the general public for a two-year public dialogue series beginning Jan. 19, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

The CBC's Margaret Gallagher is moderating the Jan.19 dialogue, which will be streamed as a live webcast at <http://www.lidc.sfu.ca/broadcast> (Note that Adobe Flash Player 10 is required).

The dialogues will focus on how many of the communities, known as diasporas, contribute or have the potential to significantly help with development issues in the countries of their origin. The goal is to tap their potential to bring about change.

"These are resourceful leaders; they've done everything from building schools in Pakistan and funding education in Namibia and Bangalore, India, to organizing Haitian relief and supporting peaceful social mobilization southern Sudan," says Joanna Ashworth, co-director of the project.

The dialogues will explore the impact of current initiatives as well as the potential for future endeavours. The first deals with innovations in poverty reduction and economic development.

Project co-director Shaheen Nanji says the dialogues will examine diasporas' local knowledge of the community and their potential to contribute to social, economic and ecological development. "This phenomenon is gaining attention internationally but there is much yet to be explored," she says.

The dialogues are organized around the UN Millennium development goals and will focus on initiatives that address poverty reduction and economic growth, health, education, peace and human security and diasporic contributions to development.

An interdisciplinary advisory group of SFU faculty, graduate students and community leaders will also provide input. Funding support provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and presented in partnership with SFU, CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education.

For more information contact [diasporas-info@sfu.ca](mailto:diasporas-info@sfu.ca) or visit: [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas).



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Bilingue et interculturel  
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à Vancouver?  
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# La Source

forum de la diversité Depuis 1999

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## SFU donne la parole aux diasporas du Metro Vancouver

par ALEXANDRA FACORAT

L'Université Simon Fraser (SFU) confirme son engagement envers les communautés avec son projet de recherche *Engaging Diasporas in Development* (Engager les diasporas dans le développement). Lancé en Octobre 2010, ce projet est co-dirigé par Joanna Ashworth, Directrice des *Dialogue Programs* de SFU, et Shaheen Nanji, Directrice du *International Development and Faculty Engagement*. S'intéressant particulièrement aux communautés des continents de l'hémisphère sud (Afrique, Asie, Amérique du Sud), son but est de partager le travail et les expériences des diasporas du Metro Vancouver et de favoriser le réseautage. Se déroulant sous la forme de cinq dialogues, ces tribunes seront l'occasion de mettre en valeur et de partager le travail des canadiens issus de l'immigration qui œuvrent aujourd'hui dans leurs pays et communautés d'origine.

### Diaspora, un concept en perpétuelle définition

Qu'est-ce qu'une diaspora ? Ce concept est bien difficile à définir. L'équipe de chercheurs de SFU, coordonnée par Robert Anderson et James Busumtwi-Sam, a choisi de garder un maximum de flexibilité afin de faire émerger la théorie de la pratique. La diaspora est un concept fluide, se définissant selon les individus. Elle serait une connexion, un sentiment d'appartenance qu'une personne ressentirait vis-à-vis d'un pays, d'une culture, d'une langue. Le projet de



Photo par Greg Ehlers, SFU Teaching and Learning Centre

recherche aura donc pour but de définir plus précisément les diasporas et surtout leurs différentes déclinaisons. Il permettra également de bâtir un langage et un référentiel communs entre diasporas. L'équipe attend ainsi avec impatience d'assister aux dialogues qui auront lieu au cours du premier semestre de cette année.

Pour le gouvernement canadien, qui finance le programme par l'entremise de l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI), il permettra d'identifier les besoins, les acteurs et les projets à soutenir,

mais aussi de trouver peut-être, les causes de certains échecs. En effet, Kina Chenard, professeur en sciences politiques à SFU et membre de l'équipe de recherche, espère que les dialogues permettront « de voir ce qui émerge des pratiques réelles et s'il y a des pratiques exemplaires. »

### Une équipe de projet au cœur des communautés

L'équipe du projet *Engaging Diaspora in Development* est elle-même au cœur de la problématique des diasporas.

Voir "Diasporas" en page 2 ➤

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pour se nourrir  
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Le Kodo de l'île japonaise  
de Sado débarque en ville  
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## Verbatim

### La valse de l'identité

par PHOEBE YU

Peu de questions sont aussi problématiques que : « D'où venez-vous ». J'avoue franchement que cette question me met immédiatement en colère. Elle est souvent suivie d'un silence prolongé de ma part. Quelque soit ma réponse, d'autres questions sur mes origines en surgissent inévitablement. Croyez-moi, je n'ai rien contre le fait qu'on me demande de faire la lumière sur mon profil racial comme aux douanes. Mais mes origines ethniques sont un peu plus compliquées que la moyenne et l'explication est un peu longue.

Je suis canadienne, née aux Philippines, de descendance chinoise. Lorsque l'on me pose la question : « D'où venez-vous », il me semble que l'on ait déjà

une réponse en tête. Étant d'origine ethnique chinoise avec des traits de l'Est de l'Asie, on pense que je viens ou de la Chine ou de Taiwan ou encore de Hong Kong. Comme mes ancêtres viennent de Chine, je pourrais dire que je suis chinoise. Mais si je réponds que je viens des Philippines, on me réplique alors : « Oh, je croyais que vous étiez chinoise » – ce qui n'est pas faux non plus.

Ce serait encore plus compliqué si je disais que je viens du Canada, même si j'ai grandi ici. Après tout j'ai passé les dix dernières années à vivre ici, à recevoir une éducation et à travailler. Je pourrais donc facilement proclamer que je viens d'ici. C'est ici que je vis, ici où je me construis un avenir et je suis attachée à ce pays.

Et pourtant... suis-je bien  
Voir "Verbatim" en page 2 ➤





## À mon tour

# Un hiver chaud en perspective

L'année 2011 sera fertile pour les amateurs de politique au Canada. Pas moins de sept, oui, vous avez bien lu, sept élections générales auront lieu dans les provinces, dont celles de l'Ontario. Sans oublier les deux courses au leadership en Colombie-Britannique et possiblement des élections générales sur la scène fédérale. Ouf ! Je me sens déjà essoufflé.

La pause des fêtes terminée, les campagnes s'activent. En fait, chez les deux principales formations, soit le Parti libéral et le Nouveau Parti Démocratique, les premiers jours de l'année ont déjà provoqué bon nombre de nouvelles. Le temps presse pour les aspirants des deux formations.

Voyez-vous, une course au leadership est avant tout un concours qui couronne la personne qui est en mesure de recruter le plus de nouveaux membres. Les membres actuels du Parti libéral et du Nouveau Parti Démocratique jouent très certainement un rôle important, mais la chance à elle seule ne peut permettre de sortir gagnant d'une telle lutte. Car la bataille se joue avant tout sur le terrain et celle-ci n'a qu'un seul objectif, celui de

recruter des membres qui le jour venu voteront en votre faveur.

C'est la raison pour laquelle il est important de ne pas se laisser distraire par les promesses qui sont faites dans la phase actuelle du cycle politique. Le seul point à l'ordre du jour pour les candidats est de se faire élire par les membres de leur parti, rien d'autre. Les promesses ne s'adressent pour l'instant qu'aux membres de leur formation respective. Après tout, seuls les membres en règle pourront décider du sort de ceux et celles qui convoitent leur confiance.

C'est pourquoi les courses au leadership doivent opérer simultanément sur deux niveaux. Le premier est celui qui est primordial : faire le plein de membres et s'assurer que ceux-ci vous restent fidèles. C'est la seule façon de gagner. Les sondages peuvent vous mettre au plus haut sommet de popularité envers le public en général, mais sans l'appui des membres de votre formation politique, rien ne peut arriver. C'est pourquoi les candidats doivent parcourir la province et rencontrer les membres actuels et potentiels. C'est l'opération de charme.

L'autre niveau sur lequel ils

doivent porter une certaine attention est la population en générale. De toute évidence, les sondages d'opinion publique comptent, mais seulement d'une façon marginale à l'heure actuelle. Les aspirants à la chefferie doivent quand même bien tenter d'épater la galerie pour prouver aux partisans qu'ils sont une valeur sûre aux yeux de l'électorat. L'opinion publique peut aussi aider à convaincre certaines personnes à devenir membre de leur parti et les aider à en devenir le chef si elles aiment ce qu'elles voient et entendent. Il faut quand même admettre que les candidats sont dans la course pour gagner et une fois dans le siège de chef, le public en général doit déjà avoir une opinion quelque peu favorable à leur égard.

Les prochaines semaines seront donc fascinantes pour les friands de politique. Le NPD annoncera le nom de son chef intérimaire, on connaîtra le résultat de l'initiative populaire présentement en cours pour rappeler la députée Ida Chong à Victoria, le Parti libéral élira son prochain chef qui deviendra de facto premier ministre, puis nous aurons ensuite droit à un remaniement ministériel. Le tout sera suivi par l'élection du nouveau chef de l'opposition officielle qui prendra les commandes du NPD. Tout cela avant même que le printemps soit derrière nous.

Décidemment, l'été sera le bienvenu. À moins bien sûr, que nos amis de la scène fédérale nous envoient aux urnes. ✍

### ► Suite "Diasporas" de la page 1

Shaheen Nanji, née à Nairobi (Kenya) de parents originaires d'Inde, est un bel exemple de leader. Son attachement à la fois à son pays d'origine et à sa culture indienne lui a donné cette envie de s'investir pour le développement de ces deux continents. « Quand j'habitais au Kenya je voulais travailler sur le développement. C'est le désir d'une vie » confie-t-elle. Elle a déjà travaillé sur de nombreux projets de développement dans des pays comme le Cambodge, le Ghana, le Kenya, pour ne citer que ceux-là. La motivation des per-

sonnes issues de diasporas proviendrait selon elle de ce « désir de rendre à leur pays d'origine ».

Kina Chenard, originaire d'une île française des Caraïbes, la Guadeloupe, ne se définit pas comme un membre de la diaspora française ou caribéenne. Pourtant, elle parle de ce « sentiment de connexion à cause de la langue » (le créole) qu'elle a ressenti lors du tremblement de terre survenu en janvier 2010 en Haïti. Plus qu'un projet professionnel, c'est une réflexion sur sa propre appartenance communautaire.

### Construire des liens entre les communautés et définir les bonnes pratiques

SFU offre ainsi aux communautés un espace de discussion et d'échange. Joanna Ashworth affirme la volonté de l'université de « créer

des opportunités d'apprendre les uns des autres ». Elle explique que « ce projet consiste à voir les ressources, le potentiel humain que nous avons et qui fait un travail formidable, et de trouver une manière de le reconnaître publiquement. Il offre une opportunité aux personnes de simplement se rencontrer, de se connecter, de partager des expériences », notamment pour les jeunes leaders. Selon elle, « les diasporas développent le Canada » et les Canadiens auraient beaucoup à apprendre d'elles.

### Un rendez-vous à ne pas rater

Le premier dialogue aura lieu le mercredi 19 janvier 2011 à partir de 18h30, au SFU's *Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue* et aura pour thématique « La réduction de la pauvreté et le développement économique ». ✍

Pour plus d'information : [www.sfu.ca/diasporas/](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas/)

## Le grain de sel de Joseph Laquerre



## Courrier des lecteurs

A la rédaction de la Source,

Je voudrais remercier votre journal et plus particulièrement Tetia Bayoro, pour le bel article qu'elle a écrit sur mon livre "Tu seras ma voix" et que vous avez publié dans la dernière parution de La Source. On dit souvent que les journalistes ont pour habitude de déformer ce que disent les gens, mais je vois avec grande satisfaction qu'il n'en a rien été suite à mon entrevue avec Tetia.

Je vous souhaite une belle nouvelle année 2011, couronnée de réussite à titre professionnel mais surtout comblée d'amour à titre individuel pour toute votre équipe.

Merci,  
Nadine Zeidler, C.C.H.  
*Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist & Author*  
*Hypnothérapeute Clinique Certifiée & Auteur*

### ► Suite "Verbatim" de la page 1

d'ici? Et c'est là le point central de la question. Selon le dictionnaire, *de*, sous-entend un point de départ spécifique dans l'espace ou encore un point d'origine, une source. Il me paraît clair que mon cas ne s'applique nullement à cette référence. Je ne peux pas vraiment dire que je viens du Canada, à moins que j'ignore complètement les années antérieures à ma venue ici, que j'efface mes origines et fasse du Canada mon point de départ. N'est-ce pas ce que font les immigrants? Ils viennent au Canada pour tout recommencer, c'est-à-dire de repartir à zéro.

Effacer mes premières années de vie serait de nier ma propre existence. Nous sommes qui nous sommes en vertu de notre passé. Même si plusieurs immigrants viennent ici dans l'esprit de tout recommencer, reste ce petit tiraillement qui nous chuchote à l'oreille de retourner là d'où l'on vient, de retourner à qui l'on était. La preuve en est dans la myriade d'épicerie ethniques, restaurants et centres communautaires qui pullulent dans la ville. On veut tout simplement se recréer un petit « chez-soi ».

Pour me réconcilier avec cette problématique de mes origines dans l'espace, je réponds d'habitude que je suis filipino-chinoise-canadienne. Mes origines sont ainsi cernées en trois petits mots. Même si ces trois mots ne me définissent pas, il est évident que dans nos sociétés nos origines sont un élément nécessaire sinon primordial de notre identité.

Mon histoire n'est peut-être pas unique aux yeux d'autres immigrants. Il est même probable que certains aient des histoires encore plus compliquées que la mienne. Avec plus de traits d'unions. D'autres, par contre, renchériront qu'au Canada les traits d'unions sont superflus. Le Canada étant multiculturel, il est quasi naturel que les canadiens aient des origines multiples. Mais c'est l'histoire de nos origines individuelles qui font de nous la société que nous sommes, qui forme et définit ce qu'être canadien veut dire. Pour ma part, les traits d'union sont aussi particuliers à chacun qu'ils sont particuliers à l'identité canadienne. ✍

Traduction Monique Kroeger

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La diaspora vit avec son époque : le développement international.

### ÉDITEUR: SOCIÉTÉ DE LA SOURCE FORUM DE LA DIVERSITÉ

Adresse postale  
Denman Place PO Box 47020,  
Vancouver BC V6G 3E1

Bureaux  
204-825 Rue Granville, Vancouver BC  
Téléphone (604) 682-5545  
Courriel [info@thelasource.com](mailto:info@thelasource.com)  
[www.thelasource.com](http://www.thelasource.com)

Fondateur et directeur de la publication  
Mamadou Gangué  
Gérant de la publication Saeed Dyanatkar

Directrice de la rédaction Kerry Hall  
Rédactrice en chef - section française  
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Fanny Boulesteix

Responsable graphisme & arts visuels  
Laura R. Copes  
Graphistes Weronika Lewczuk

Conseillers à la rédaction  
Bernard Ho, Sandrine Simonnet  
Ont collaboré à ce numéro Nigel Barbour, Tetia Bayoro, Denis Bouvier, Serge Corbeil, Erika Costa, Alexandra Facorat, Monique Kroeger, Joseph Laquerre, Raluca Manolache, Danielle Marcotte, Anahita Matloubi, Olena Morozova, Kevin Paré, Don Richardson, Gordon Spence, Phoebe Yu

Traduction Monique Kroeger  
Distribution Nigel Barbour, Sepand Dyanatkar, Alexandre Gangué

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Pour réserver un espace publicitaire:  
(604) 682-5545

Photo par Greg Ehlers, SFU Teaching and Learning Centre



Contact:

Joanna Ashworth, SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development,  
[joanna\\_ashworth@sfu.ca](mailto:joanna_ashworth@sfu.ca), 604 317 9202 or Shaheen Nanji, Director, International Development,  
SFU International, [shaheen\\_nanji@sfu.ca](mailto:shaheen_nanji@sfu.ca) 778-782-5576

**Improving Global Health  
Diaspora and the Trans-Local Potential for Change**

Wednesday March 16 6:30 – 9:00 pm  
SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue 580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

Pre-Registration Required:

<http://bit.ly/gH6F6j>

**Background**

Simon Fraser University is leading a two-year public dialogue series aimed to bring the Canadian public and leaders of diaspora communities together to tap into this potential for global change. The dialogues, organized around the UN Millennium Development Goals, focus on initiatives that address poverty reduction and economic growth, global health, education, peace and human security and, diasporic contributions to international development. An interdisciplinary advisory group of SFU faculty, graduate students and community leaders provide guidance and input.

**This month the focus is on “Improving Global Health”.**

On March 16, at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue, join a mix of academics, students policy makers, health researchers and practitioners, international development leaders and practitioners, funders and members of the public concerned with global health and intrigued by the unique role of the diaspora in improving global health outcomes. This lively dialogue will examine:

- The unique skills and experiences of diaspora in improving global health;
- The ways these initiatives are transforming health practices, and systems in the Global South; and
- The current and potential impacts of diaspora driven initiatives on people, health systems, and institutions in both Canada and globally.

This dialogue will be anchored in compelling stories of change in public health services, health policy and research in which diaspora figure prominently. All diaspora initiatives are based in Vancouver and have a global reach.

**The following speakers are now confirmed:**

- **Shafique Pirani, MD**, principle organizer and driving force of the Uganda Sustainable Clubfoot Care Project (USCCP)
- **Mohammad Zaman, PhD**, Social Safeguard/Resettlement Specialist and Executive Director of the Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice
- **Marj Ratel, RN**, Vancouver-based neuroscience nurse founded Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation (KBNF) in 2000 with a particular focus on Ghana and the West Africa region.

- **Derek Agyapong-Poku**, KBNF 's Vice President; President of Excellence in Africa Neuroscience and Health and the Canada-Ghana Liaison
- **Steven Pi**, President of Hands Across the World, a non-profit organization that has mobilized the Chinese diaspora in Vancouver and other supporters to take on a number of projects in China. Most recently the group has worked with local partners to humanize drug rehab treatment and address the social stigma of AIDs in China.
- **Lyren Chiu** is Founder and President of the Canadian Research Institute of Spirituality and Healing and has 25 years experience and training in both mental health care and spirituality.
- **Jerry Spiegel, PhD** Manitoba, is a professor at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the School of Population and Public Health at UBC. He is presently leading several ecosystem health projects in Cuba and Central Europe and is part of the team undertaking a study of the effects of globalization on the Canadian Health Care system for the Romanow Commission. He is a co-chair of the Coalition for Global Health Research (Canada).
- **Ashok Mathur, PhD**, is the Director of the Centre for Innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

### **How is the work of the diaspora helping to improve global health?**

Mohammad Zaman, Executive Director of the Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice provides a telling example. "There are 6000 members of the Bangladesh diaspora in the Vancouver area, all concerned about the well-being of their homeland, a region that faces a devastating coastal sea level rise by 2050. The Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice aims to raise awareness inside and outside of Bangladesh about the urgent need for mitigation and adaptation efforts to prevent what will be a global human health crisis due to climate change migration of millions of people." This work involves fund raising, advocating for public policy change, research and networking with diaspora around the world.

"As I learn about the many diaspora driven projects based here in Vancouver, I have noticed that many begin in a region or community that is known to the project leaders because of their trans-local connections, but after time and with success and growing confidence, the projects expand their efforts into other regions," says Joanna Ashworth, co-director.

As Dr. Pirani's says about the Club Foot Project "the project focuses essentially on nonsurgical treatments. We began by testing the treatment in Kampala. Once its efficacy was confirmed, we built capacity for treatment across Uganda. Ugandan paramedics are trained by the project [thus] making this approach a economically and socially feasible medical solution for this crippling birth defect" Likewise for the Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation. While the roots of this Ghanaian project are as a medical mission they are significant contributors to sustainable public health policy and planning in Ghana. Shaheen Nanji, co-director of the SFU project, elaborating on this ripple effect notes, "Diasporas are responding to the realities and needs of their home communities with the necessary knowledge and resources and producing formidable results."

Funding support provided by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and presented in partnership with Simon Fraser University, CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education.

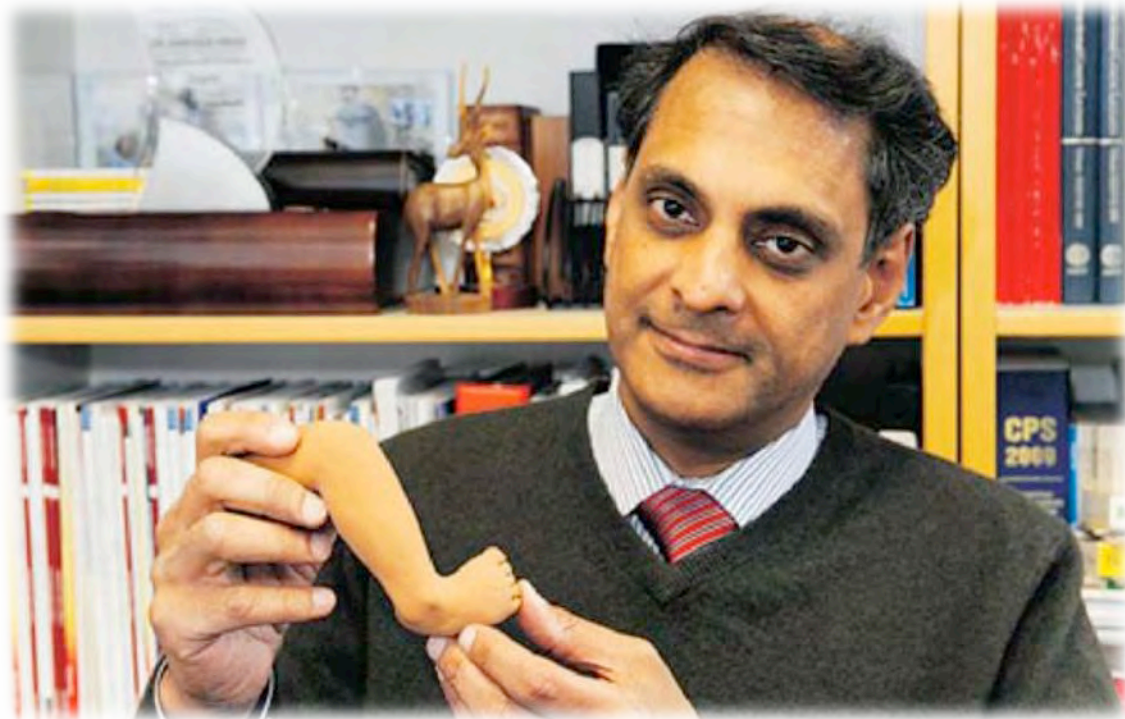


## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

**Exiled from Uganda as teen, doctor returns to help children**  
New Westminster physician is responsible for establishing a club foot treatment campaign in Africa that is spreading internationally

**By Gerry Bellett, Vancouver Sun** March 16, 2011



In 1972, dictator Idi Amin read a message in the heavens telling him to expel all Ugandans of Indian origin from their African home.

The resulting diaspora included 15-year-old Shafique Pirani, who along with his parents, grandparents and five siblings, packed his life in a suitcase and fled before Amin's 90-day deadline expired.

But it's a measure of the human capacity for forgiveness that when the teenager grew up to become an eminent surgeon, he would return to his birth country to help cure Ugandan children of club foot deformity.

Dr. Shafique Pirani, an orthopedic surgeon, is one of the speakers at a Simon Fraser



University symposium, "Engaging Diaspora in Development," tonight at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 530 W. Hastings St., from 6: 30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The New Westminster physician is responsible for an international club foot treatment campaign that can be traced to a 1995 visit he and his parents made to Uganda, their first visit since the expulsion.

"It was only a five-day visit to see our home and the old school I went to, but the problem with club foot was apparent. By then I'd been practising several years and I had an interest in club foot because worldwide it affects one baby out of 150,000 born each year," he said.

At that time, club foot was treated surgically, which placed it beyond the means of children in a poor country like Uganda. However, in 1997 Pirani discovered that an American physician, Ignacio Ponseti, had developed a non-surgical method of treating club foot. The Ponseti Method had been developed 50 years ago, but failed to catch on.

"I started using his technique. In club foot deformity the foot's all there, it's just twisted out of shape and people end up standing on top of the foot with their toes curled back," he said.

Using the Ponseti Method "you push very gently and accurately on the foot to uncurl it and then put a cast on. You put another cast on five weeks later and make a slight incision in a tendon and after that the foot's corrected and looks like normal. To keep it from coming back you put a brace on at night," he said.

As the Ponseti Method doesn't involve surgery, Pirani believed it could be taught to paramedics in Uganda, so in 1998 he put together the Uganda Clubfoot Project.

Beginning in 1999, he would revisit Uganda and on subsequent visits for the next four years would train paramedics in the Ponseti Method using \$225,000 raised for the purpose by the Rotary Clubs of Burnaby and New Westminster.

In 2003, he evaluated the program and found the results had not been as successful as hoped.

"We found it hadn't worked in all cases. There had been problems with supplies, a child would come back for the second cast and there was no plaster available, or no brace, or after we'd trained a paramedic they'd return to their clinics and their supervisors wouldn't allow it," he said.

"So now we formed the Uganda Sustainable Clubfoot Project. When I first went there as an orthopedic surgeon I didn't have the skills to provide sustainability but now I brought with me public health professionals and the Uganda ministry of health became involved," he said.

In 2004, the Canadian International Development Agency put up \$1 million for a seven-year program to build capacity in the Ugandan health system so the procedure would be available at the country's 38 clinics. It also trained medical and paramedical professionals and nurses to identify club foot in newborn babies. Last year, more than 700 children with club foot were treated.

"It costs about \$150 per treatment which if you divide it by a life expectancy of 50 years comes out to \$3 a year," he said. "And when you realize that if you have such a condition in Uganda you can't work, you won't get married and the chances are you'll live in poverty for the rest of your life. So it's a bargain," said Pirani who has visited Uganda 30 times in the last 10 years.

The program has been so successful that it has been expanded to Malawi, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Bangladesh and has drawn interest from Brazil, Honduras, India and Nepal.

[gbellett@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:gbellett@vancouver.sun.com)

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## **Shaheen Nanji presents on Engaging Diaspora in Development**

April 20, 2011 by [ismailimail](#)

<http://ismailimail.wordpress.com/2011/04/20/shaheen-nanji-presents-on-engaging-diaspora-in-development/>



Born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, Shaheen moved to Vancouver in 1989. She is the Director, International Development and Faculty Engagement and has worked to develop, support and implement international development projects at SFU for 13 years. Shaheen holds a Bachelors degree in Business and Liberal Studies from SFU, a certificate in Intercultural Communication from the University of British Columbia, and a Diploma in French from the Alliance Française. She is currently pursuing an MA in International Studies at SFU. Shaheen has served as the Project Director or Project Coordinator on several development projects in Africa and Asia funded by CIDA and ADB.

via <http://www.sfu.ca/international-development/nanji.htm>.

<http://blogs.sfu.ca/departments/gradstudies/2011/01/project-profile-nadia-chaney-and-shaheen-nanji/>



## Co-Founder Nasra Mire at SFU's Engaging Diaspora in Development event

Posted on [05/21/2011](#) by [twentyscenes](#)

<http://pointyouthmedia.wordpress.com/2011/05/21/co-founder-nasra-mire-at-sfus-engaging-diaspora-in-development-event/>

**May 18, 2011 Vancouver, BC**



Co-founder Nasra Mire recently shared successes and challenges working with Point Youth Media's (PYM) Uganda programming at ***Simon Fraser University's Engaging Diaspora in Development's EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT*** event at the SFU Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. Mire presented on May 18, 2011 and participated in an audience dialogue further sharing her experiences as a young African woman doing work in Vancouver.

In Uganda, Point Youth Media works in partnership with Amagezi Gemaanyi Youth Association (AGYA).<sup>\*</sup> to implement its media arts program with heavy focus on youth driven and youth run media initiatives. "It's been an incredible important program in reminding young people of the value of their own experiences", says Mire, "I've grown so much personally in terms of my facilitation ability and sharing technical media skills I also learned as a young person. Youth of the diaspora have such an abundance of skills and stories to give to one another. Point Youth Media exists to ensure that youth can connect using media arts, sometimes it REALLY is as simple as starting with a camera."

**straight.com**  
Vancouver's Online Source**Diaspora assists development work abroad****By Esther Hsieh Publish Date: May 12, 2011**

*Burnaby resident James Kamau grew up in a tough area of Nairobi, where he started a community-development based soccer program to help kids.*

Miriam Egwalu is a long way from her Surrey home as she navigates through the streets of Akworo. Her fond childhood memories of visiting her grandparents in the village suffocate under the blanket of devastation that now covers northern Uganda due to decades of civil war.

Her heavy heart lightens as she approaches her Aunt Angela's corner store. A year ago, Egwalu had no idea that the \$100 she gave her aunt would take her from abject poverty to thriving entrepreneurship.

Egwalu's type of story is of growing interest to those doing development work abroad. What transpired between Egwalu and her aunt is an example of what researchers are calling diaspora-driven development. It's an emerging field of study, and even the definition of diaspora depends on which researcher you're talking to.

Diaspora often refers to the ancient scattering of Jews, but the word has a wider meaning that includes any group that has been dispersed outside its traditional homeland.

Egwalu is part of the African diaspora that makes up 0.5 percent of British Columbia's population. She emigrated from Uganda in 1996 with her husband, and they now live in Surrey with their children. Although she kept in regular contact with her family and knew that there were troubled times back home, she couldn't have imagined the devastation she would find when she returned in 2005.

There were few able-bodied men left in Akworo and few means for a single mother to raise a family. "In my heart, I didn't know what to do, because this is my motherland," Egwalu told the *Straight*, recalling the despair she felt for her ruined homeland.

She brought these thoughts back to Canada and brooded on them until she went back in 2009 for her mother's funeral. At the service, she met up with Aunt Angela, who was struggling with her family's survival. Egwalu gave her \$100 to help, but she didn't think it would have a lasting impact.

But that small amount of capital was all her aunt needed to open a corner store and rent a sewing machine. Now working as a successful seamstress and store manager, Angela has changed her family's destiny.

The next year, Egwalu returned to Uganda, this time with her 12-year-old daughter, Faith. She saw her peers dressed in tattered school uniforms and learning their lessons while sitting on a dirt floor. And they were the lucky ones: those who couldn't afford to purchase the uniform were not allowed to attend school.

Moved by what she saw, Faith told her mom that she was going to use her baby-sitting money to send \$25 (the cost of one uniform) each month so that more children could go to school.

Inspired by her daughter, Egwalu said she would match Faith's contributions. Since they started last April, they have provided school uniforms for 16 children. Furthermore, with the help of her family and friends in Akworo, Egwalu is hoping to assist at least one woman out of poverty each year.

Local knowledge, cultural understanding, and community networks are critical in creating a development project that meets the needs of the people it is targeting, and diasporas have these assets. Additionally, they usually have much easier access to wealth.

**June Francis** is an associate professor in the faculty of business administration at Simon Fraser University. She feels that recognition of the value of diasporas is long overdue and that Canada is uniquely positioned to bridge international communities because of its diverse population and openness to multiculturalism. Diaspora communities are able to stay closely connected to their roots while still being Canadian.

"I gave a lecture 20 years ago about diaspora and got no response," Francis said during an interview in downtown Vancouver.



Francis credited Indian expats in California's Silicon Valley in the '90s with demonstrating the importance of diasporas. During the Y2K "crisis", Indian immigrants working in the high-tech industry there used their ties back home to identify skilled workers to whom they could outsource the overwhelming workload. That laid the groundwork for India's current global prominence in the technology sector.

Similarly, Francis explained, the trade partnerships established by the Chinese diaspora worldwide were critical to China's becoming the world centre for manufacturing.

"The role of diaspora in the development of India and China became unmistakable," Francis remarked. "The diaspora have become visible to people who make decisions."

This includes the international aid community, which, according to Francis, is realizing that the traditional model of western development, rooted in a colonial mentality, is not working. "They are starting to appreciate the people that they are trying to help, and recognize the long-standing problem of people on the ground not feeling included," she said.

James Kamau agreed that this is a key point. Kamau, who lives in Burnaby, grew up in the suburbs of Nairobi, Kenya, and has had experience working with and for various nongovernmental organizations that did not engage local populations in their development projects.

"One of the issues is that they [NGOs] already have an idea of the work they want to do, so they don't consult the community and don't use the indigenous or community knowledge," Kamau explained to the *Straight* in a Commercial Drive coffee shop. Not only does this make their work less effective, he said, it fails to empower the community.

"The communities are not in a position to hold these organizations accountable for their work," Kamau pointed out. As NGOs come and go, their legacies are dubious without involvement from the community. Kamau gave the example of an NGO that installed a village water pump that became useless when it broke and no one knew how to fix it. If the community doesn't participate in the design and execution of a project, there will always be a dependency.

Importing foreign development workers doesn't make much sense to Kamau. "In the community, there is someone who has the capacity, so why bring in expats to run these programs?" he asked. There's a missed opportunity not only to involve the community but also to create much-needed employment.

Kamau's interest in community development started at a young age. He lived in Dagoretti, part of Nairobi affected by drugs, violence, and poverty.

"Growing up in those surroundings, I felt like I had to do something," he said.

While attending high school, Kamau watched many of his peers fall into lives of crime in the absence of other opportunities. To address this, Kamau, along with four friends, started the Dagoretti Youth Development Organization, a community-development based soccer program that used the sport's popularity to attract members.

They also incorporated educational, environmental, and life-skills programs, and they had a homework club in which kids with illiterate parents could work with tutors. They cleared sewers where malaria-carrying mosquitoes bred, and they had speakers come and talk about subjects such as AIDS awareness.

After Kamau graduated from college with a diploma in community development, he continued his work in youth empowerment and was an integral part of a movement that pushed the Kenyan government to establish a ministry of youth and sport.

Young people account for more than 60 percent of the unemployed in Kenya, so one of the mandates of the ministry is to encourage entrepreneurial training.

"If we can help these people start their own businesses, they can better support themselves and their families, and we will be on the right track to eradicating poverty," Kamau explained.

Kamau came to Vancouver in 2006 in an exchange program with the Vancouver-based Environmental Youth Alliance. He stayed, he said, and in 2008 he founded Youth Initiative Canada, an organization that focuses on "mission-driven events that share the connection I have with Kenya and Africa".

As with his work in Kenya, Kamau is aiming to inspire Canadian high-school kids to get involved in their communities, and he hopes one day to establish an exchange program between the two nations. "If kids learn social responsibility at a young age, they will have that with them when they are adults and in positions to make decisions," he said.

**Sumana Wijeratna** has also stayed intimately connected to her native country. She emigrated from Sri Lanka with her family in 2002 so her two children would have better access to a university education. She put her professional experience as an urban planner to good use working for Vancouver-based Sustainable Cities International, a nonprofit that supports worldwide projects to make cities sustainable. In Sri Lanka, she participated in Canadian-led development work that helped empower women and encouraged urban greening.

After five years working for SCI, she decided to start her own development organization. "I wanted to build something independent and permanent," Wijeratna said about her VanLanka Community Foundation, which supports grassroots development for vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka.

The problem with funding-based programs like Sustainable Cities is that when the funding runs out, there's no way for the community to continue the work.

“I want to develop something different than donor-dependent projects,” she said.

Wijeratna said she also feels that it’s critical to capitalize on the local knowledge, traditions, and funds of the community being developed. By supporting projects that are culturally relevant and appropriate, she hopes to foster a sense of ownership.

Shaheen Nanji is the director of international development and faculty engagement at Simon Fraser University, and she feels that there is a tremendous potential in diaspora communities that has yet to be tapped.

She is also the codirector of Engaging Diaspora in Development, a five-part public-dialogue series intended to improve understanding of the role of such communities that are involved in development activities abroad, as well as to connect them with each other.

Many who are involved in their own projects are doing their work in isolation and with little by way of resources, guidance, or support, she noted.

Nanji was born to Indian parents and raised in Kenya, and she identifies herself as “double diaspora”. Despite having worked extensively in international development, and having moved from her homeland, she still struggles with what it means.

“Part of the diaspora experience is a longing for home and an ability to empathize, and to be home in more than one place,” Nanji explained. But it is a layered concept and difficult to define.

Although she ponders the complexity of it, she is clear that she doesn’t want diaspora to be confused with immigrant or used as a label to segregate. “I want the conversation to get away from talking about the ‘others’, because we’re talking about people who are really connected to being Canadian,” she said. “Diaspora can include people who have been here for generations.”

**Lorie Corcuera** is first-generation Canadian, born to Filipino parents. She is one of the cofounders of Enspire, a Vancouver-based nonprofit organization working in an impoverished suburb of Manila.

Although her parents weren’t involved in development work in the Philippines, her upbringing provided the foundation for Corcuera to take up that task while at UBC. “The values my family instilled in me were very important.”

She was taught not to waste anything and was constantly reminded of how lucky she was to be in Canada. Despite hardships, her family was always helping out less fortunate relatives.

Enspire started its work in the Philippines by sponsoring children's education. After a few years, it built a library, and now it has undertaken a project to construct 60 houses in a new community for needy families.

The organization sends a group of volunteers to the Philippines annually for a 10-day trip. Each volunteer donates \$1,000, and a group of 12 covers the costs of building one house. The volunteers spend a few days with the family that will eventually live in the house, then they stay a couple of days on the construction site. The bulk of the construction is done by locals, but the volunteers are able to establish a direct connection to the family they are helping. These personal connections keep volunteers involved, and they raise awareness when they return to Canada.

The project therefore attracts more volunteers, and Corcuera is preparing to send multiple groups in order to increase the number of houses built annually.

Enspire's presence in the Philippines is also a big help to its success. It works through a well-established local organization (Pagaalay ng Puso Foundation) that it found through the Filipino diaspora in Vancouver. "Our ties mean we know where the money is going," Corcuera said.

Enspire is also working to engage the local population in Manila. With its last group of volunteers, it got local Filipino high-school kids from affluent families to join the project. "It changed their lives. They never realized in their own country that there were these poor people," Corcuera said. "That was an achievement for us, because we're also influencing the people there."

With academics starting to pay attention to diaspora-driven development, it is clear that its effects reach well beyond just its direct participants.

**SFU hosts an Engaging Diaspora in Dialogue at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday (May 18) at Asia Pacific Hall Wosk Centre (580 West Hastings Street [enter via Seymour Street]). To register, call 778-782-8536 or email [diasporas-info@sfu.ca/](mailto:diasporas-info@sfu.ca/).**

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.straight.com/article-392087/vancouver/diaspora-assists-development-work-abroad>

## Media Advisory

### Contact:

Joanna Ashworth, SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development, [joanna.ashworth@sfu.ca](mailto:joanna.ashworth@sfu.ca), 604 317 9202 or Shaheen Nanji, Director, International Development, SFU International, [shaheen\\_nanji@sfu.ca](mailto:shaheen_nanji@sfu.ca) 778-782-5576

Diaspora Dialogue on Educational Strategies for Development: Free to the Public

Wednesday May 18, 6:30 pm at SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue to register: [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas)

This lively dialogue, part of SFU's public engagement series "Engaging Diaspora in Development", will showcase the many ways diaspora-led efforts support education as an engine for change and development in the Global South.

The diaspora are those communities that have retained an attachment to a homeland or region through family history or culture. Shaheen Nanji, SFU's project co-director says that, "The people leading these educational initiatives are Canadians – perhaps first, second or third generation -- who are living and working here in Metro Vancouver. They are using their knowledge of the "local" scene worlds away and are driven by their passion to help improve the lives of others in the Global South."

According to Joanna Ashworth, the project's other co-director, "It's time that Metro Vancouver residents woke up to the incredible force for good that is the diaspora who are committing time, energy and creativity to support solutions to economic and social struggles in the Global South. Individually their stories are inspiring and collectively they add up to a formidable force for positive change in the world. Canadians of all backgrounds and origins needs to recognize and support these heroic efforts to help."

Featured speakers will share stories about educational initiatives that are making a difference:

- Randolph-Dalton Hyman, Arts Education for Social Change in Jamaica
- Nasra Mire, Media Skills for Youth in Uganda
- James Kamau, Sport-Based Learning in Kenya
- Cecil and Ruth Hershler, Education without Borders, Math Programs in South Africa
- Joselyne John, The Dzaleka Project, Education Programs for Refugees in SE Africa
- Omar Kaywan, Beacon of Hope, School Supplies for Children in Afghanistan
- Amos Kambere, Umoja Operation Compassion Society, Building Schools in Africa
- Dr. Charles Quist-Adade, Kwantlen University, Scholarship Programs in Ghana



Funding support provided by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and presented by Simon Fraser University, in partnership with CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education.

See attached list of featured presenters.

#### Featured Speakers' Bios for May 18<sup>th</sup> Dialogue

**Dr. Charles Quist-Adade** has a curiosity and passion for research that is not limited by international borders. Dr. Quist-Adade's projects include an exploration of African-Russian communities in post-communist Russia and research into teenage sexual and reproductive behaviour in eastern Ghana, Africa. His international research and teaching experience are an inspiration for students and faculty alike.

**Dr. Joanna Ashworth** 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.

**Nadia Chaney** is a social artist empowering community voice through radical dialogue. Much of her work focuses on issues of identity, diversity, participatory process and non-violence. She works as a poet, emcee, musician, arts empowerment facilitator and educator, social justice activist, text editor and writing coach. She is also a dialogue associate at the SFU Centre for Dialogue.

**Ruth and Cecil Hershler** immigrated to Canada in 1974. Maintaining their links to South Africa, they brought Education Without Borders into realization in 2003. In addition to their 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) and Cecil is a board member of two other non-profit organizations.

**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, Burnaby Campus, Vancouver, in British Columbia. 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 seven years performing youth work and facilitating community development. His years playing Elite basketball in Kenya gave him the opportunity to mentor youth through sport, an experience which 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*.

**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.

**ShaheenNanji** 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.

**Shahnaz Qayumi** graduated from the Gorky Pedagogical Institute in Kiev Ukraine with a Bachelors and Masters in Early Childhood Education and Psychology in 1980. She returned to Kabul, Afghanistan, her birth country, and began teaching as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education in the Department of Psychology in Kabul University. Due to the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, she was forced to flee with her family in 1982 and, after spending one year as a refugee, she finally immigrated to Canada. In Canada, she soon began to teach Early Childhood Education at different colleges such as Kwantlen University College, Century College, and Native Education College. Currently, she is the producer of Caravan TV, a local Afghan language channel on OMNI Television.

**Dr. Farah Shroff** 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 Massage Therapists' 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.

**Media Release**

**Simon Fraser University with CIDA, CUSO-VSO & BCCIE present  
A community dialogue**

***Diaspora Contributions to Development: Opportunities and Lessons Learned***

**Contact:** Joanna Ashworth, Project Director, 604 317 9202

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 – 5:30-9:00pm at SFU’s Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue (580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver).

Since January 2011, SFU has hosted four public dialogues and a workshop series -- each exploring the many unique ways diaspora from the global south, settled in the Canada are leading initiatives to create change in their communities of attachment. The dialogues have brought forward stories of people taking innovative leadership to reduce poverty, build infrastructure, improve health and education, respond to human insecurity and build peace.

The project has forged important networks, personal connections and learning. Notes project co-director Joanna Ashworth, “through the project, we’ve reached a consensus that development is about creating the space for choice and that development needs to address uneven income distribution and huge disparities between rich and poor. Furthermore, it needs to focus on governance as well as health, education and other poverty reduction strategies.”

“The project has also made it possible for diaspora, working often in isolation, to find others of like mind who are passionate about helping others”, remarks Shaheen Nanji, co-director of the project.

This final public dialogue will identify the ways in which diaspora contribute to development, and explore what is required to enable them to have greater impact including personal capacity development, public policy mechanisms, and institutional support.

This event is open to the public but advance registration is required. Please register on our website: [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas)

This project is funded in part by CIDA’s Public Engagement Fund and sponsored by SFU’s Centre for Sustainable Community Development and SFU International.

# ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

**S**imon Fraser University, in partnership with CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education, will convene an innovative public dialogue series and collaborative learning program that engages leaders of trans-local diasporic communities in Metro Vancouver.

## What is Diaspora?

Diaspora commonly refers to a dispersion of people from their original homeland. In Metro Vancouver, myriad diasporic communities from the Global South carry out significant trans-local development work in the regions, countries, and towns or villages of their origin. These efforts are as diverse as the leaders who initiate them. Some examples include: building schools in rural Pakistan, supporting local artists in South Africa, funding leadership programs in Namibia, creating female education opportunities in Southern Sudan, organizing for Haitian relief, supporting peace-building in Darfur, and initiating the purchase of goats for villagers in rural Kenya.

## Who are the Trans-Local Leaders?

The individuals profiled in this series conduct activities in multiple spaces with multiple impacts around the world—both closer to home and in the Global South. The series will explore current initiatives and examine the potential of diasporic-driven development. As well, innovative diasporic leaders will be invited to participate in a series of learning events where they will have the opportunity to critically examine the impacts of their work.

## Public Dialogue and Workshop Series:

Connecting the often overlooked or untold stories of trans-local leaders and learning about the impacts of their actions will occur through five public dialogue events. SFU will also host a series of learning workshops that involve university faculty, students, and trans-local leaders in sharing perspectives, experiences, theory and practice with a view to creating tools and resources that support their work.

## Public Dialogues, inspired by UN Millennium Development Goals:

- **Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth**  
January 19, 2011
- **Improving Health**  
March 16, 2011
- **Strategies for Education**  
May 18, 2011
- **Human Security and Peace-building**  
July 13, 2011
- **Diasporic Contributions to Development**  
September 14, 2011


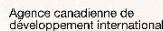
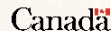
All dialogues will be held at **SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue**.

## Workshop Series themes include:

- Trans-local development and the role of diaspora
- Models of development: a critical analysis
- Engaging the Canadian public: creative strategies
- Collaborative learning exchange

Issues relating to gender equality and environmental sustainability will be prominent in all the dialogues and workshops.

## Funding support:

 Canadian International Development Agency  Agence canadienne de développement international  Canada

## Project Co-Directors:

**SHAHEEN NANJI**, International Development, SFU  
**JOANNA ASHWORTH**, Centre for Sustainable Community Development, SFU  
Phone : 778-782-5576  
Email: diasporas-info@sfu.ca  
Website: [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas)



## APPENDIX 130.5B: POCKET GUIDE

**SFU** SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

pocket guide

# ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

**For more information contact:**  
Project Co-Directors  
**SHAHEEN NANJI**, International Development, SFU  
**JOANNA ASHWORTH**, Centre for Sustainable Community Development, SFU  
Phone : 778-782-5576  
Email: [diasporas-info@sfu.ca](mailto:diasporas-info@sfu.ca)  
Website: [www.sfu.ca/diasporas](http://www.sfu.ca/diasporas)  
Blog: <http://diasporaindevelopment.wordpress.com>

Public Dialogue Series  
January 2011 – September 2011

Funding support provided by:  
 Canadian International Development Agency  
 Agence canadienne de développement international **Canada**

Project partners:  
 **BCCIE**  
 **CUSO-VSO**

Facebook Group  
Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping Our Trans-local Potential  
[www.facebook.com/SFU\\_Diaspora](https://www.facebook.com/SFU_Diaspora)  
 [www.twitter.com/SFU\\_Diaspora](https://twitter.com/SFU_Diaspora)

### Public Dialogue Schedules

<b>January 19, 2011</b> Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>July 13, 2011</b> Human Security and Peace-Building Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM
<b>March 16, 2011</b> Improving Health Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM	<b>September 14, 2011</b> Diasporic Contributions to Development Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM
<b>May 18, 2011</b> Strategies for Education Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM	

All dialogues are held at:  
**SFU's MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE**  
580 West Hastings Street (at Seymour)  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1L6

## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

Join Simon Fraser University and our community partners for this public dialogue series highlighting the untold stories of trans-local leaders who are making a difference in the Global South and right here in Metro Vancouver.

This series examines the experience and potential of diaspora driven development initiatives and engages scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and members of the public on international development issues.

**APPENDIX 130.5C:  
SUGGESTION CARD**

# 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?

**Describe the person, place and project initiative.**

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***How can we reach you?***

Name 

---

Email 

---

 Phone 

---

*Please drop this card off or email us at [diasporas-info@sfu.ca](mailto:diasporas-info@sfu.ca)*

Funding support provided by:



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

Canada

Project partners:



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD



BCCIE  
B.C. COMMUNITY COLLEGE INSTITUTE



CUSO-VSO  
COUNCIL ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE

**ENGAGING  
DIASPORA  
in development**

Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change



## APPENDIX 130.5D: DIALOGUE QUOTE CARDS



Professor Alexander Dawson, Simon Fraser University



Amos Kambere, Umcoja Operation Compassion



Hawa Mire, Point Youth Media



Associate Professor James Busumtwi-Sam, Simon Fraser University



Professor June Francis, Simon Fraser University



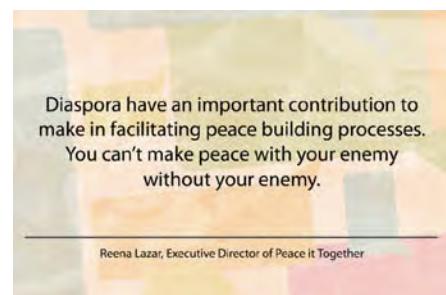
James Kamau, Youth Initiative Canada



Jean de Dieu Tuyisenge, EduAfrica



Dr. Peter Njenga, The Dr. Njenga Foundation for Sustainable HIV/AIDS



Reena Lazar, Executive Director of Peace It Together

### Education for Development



**James Kamau**

Youth Initiative Canada

### Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development



**Sumana Wijeratna**

VanLanka Community Foundation

### Education for Development



**Randolph-Dalton Hyman**

Jamaica

### Improving Global Health



**Derek Agyapong-Poku**

Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation

## Human Insecurity and Peacebuilding



**Reena Lazar**

Peace it Together



## Improving Global Health



**Dr. Mohammad Zaman**

Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice



## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change



## Education for Development



**Ruth and Cecil Hershler**

Education Without Borders





## Human Insecurity and Peacebuilding



**Kawa Jabary**

Northern Iraq

## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development

### Atakilt Haimanot

Society for the Rehabilitation of  
the Horn of Africa



## Education for Development



**Joselyne John**

Dzaleka Project



## Improving Global Health



**Lyren Chiu**

Canadian Research Institute of  
Spirituality and Healing

## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development



**Chantal Kasongo**

Shiloh Place



## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change



## Education for Development



**Amos Kambere**

Umoja Operation Compassion



## Improving Global Health



**Dr. Shafique Pirani**

Uganda Sustainable Clubfoot Care Project

## Human Insecurity and Peacebuilding

**Juliane Okot Bitek**

Uganda



## Education for Development

**Dr. Charles Quist-Adade**

Kwantlen University



## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development



**Miriam Egwalu**

Uganda

## Education for Development



**Chagai Lual**

Padang Lutheran Christian Relief



## Improving Global Health



**Steven Pi**

Hands Around the World

## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development



**Antonio Arreaga**

Canadian Latin American  
Business Association

## ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change



## Education for Development



**Nasra Mire**

Point Youth Media

## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development

**Lorie Corcuera**

Enspire Foundation



## Education for Development

**Omar Kaywan**

The Beacon of Hope for Afghan  
Children Society



## Education for Development

**Farah Shroff**

University of British Columbia



## Education for Development



**Jean de Dieu Tuyisenge**

EduAfrica



## Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development



**Kaye Kerlande**

Hearts Hands Minds for Haiti

## Education for Development



**Nadia Chaney**

Partnerships for Youth  
Empowerment, Bangalore, India

