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FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

OIED GLOBAL NETWORK

FAMU JOINS IN CELEBRATING NIGERIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Office of International Education & Development at Florida A&M University will join with the Nigerian Union of North Florida, Inc. (NUNF) to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Independence Day Anniversary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on October 1, 2010.

Fifty years after the end of its colonial status under Great Britain, Nigeria has emerged as the largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa and is viewed as a nation in transition. The theme for the celebration is "Nigeria at 50: Abounding Opportunities for a Nation in Transition." Chairperson of the local Jubilee Celebration is Dr. Oghenekome U. Onokpise, Associate Dean, FAMU College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture.

Kicking off the celebration is a scholarly symposium, "The Connection Between the Physical and Economic Health of A Nation and Its Prosperity: Challenges and Successes" to be held Friday, October 1 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the FAMU Teleconference Center.

Among African countries, Nigeria, along with South Africa, has the greatest potential to meet the challenges of the global economy. Together, they account for 55 percent of the region's GDP and a quarter of its total population. Nigeria is one of 15 countries in West Africa that make up the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

and accounts for half of its population and three-quarters of its total GDP. It is the world's eighth largest oil producer and has the seventh largest reserves of natural gas. As a major oil exporter, Nigeria and the West African Gulf region are expected to supply a fourth of the United States' oil needs by the end of this decade.

Symposium presentations will address Nigeria's position in the global economy, issues impacting on its sustainable development, and its role in the African Diaspora. Featured panelists include Dr. Gennifer Bell, Dean of the FAMU College of Education; Dr. Maria Okeke, professor, Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; Dr. Zacch Olorunnipa, professor, Agricultural Sciences; Mr. Akin Akinyemi, a Leon County Commissioner; and Dr. C.M. Okoroji, a local practicing physician.

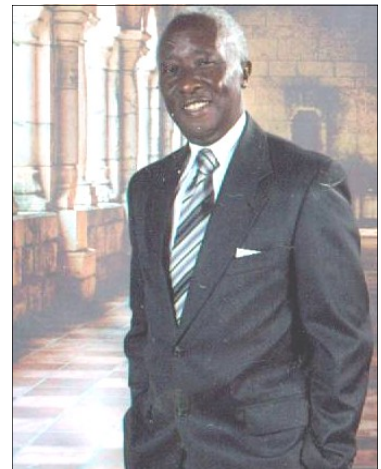
Other panelists are Dr. Peter Kalu, professor, mechanical engineering and a FAMU Fulbright Scholar; Mr. Olu Sawyerr, president of the NUNF, Inc.; Dr. Keith Simmonds, professor of Political Science and assistant dean, College of Arts & Sciences; and Mr. Joseph V. Jones, interim assistant vice president, Office of International Education & Development; Dr. Oghenekome U. Onokpise, professor, Agricultural Sciences; Dr. Olugbemi Moloye, professor, Anthropology; and Dr. M.L. Emenibe, local practicing physician.

To increase local awareness about Nigeria, the Union will sponsor African Movie Night on Friday, October 8, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Spectra Engineering Conference Room, 3058 Highland Oaks, in Tallahassee.

The celebration will culminate with a Golden Jubilee Independence Celebration Party on Saturday, October 9 at the Senior Center in Quincy, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

FAMU is currently involved in several capacity building and research linkages with several public institutions in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Union of North Africa is an organization of Nigerians, currently living and working in North Florida, who have joined to celebrate and increase awareness of their rich culture and heritage. Many NUNF members serve on the FAMU faculty and are active in local community programs.



Mr. Olu Sawyerr, NUNF President

Nigeria is a key strategic partner, not only in Africa but globally. It is Africa's most populous nation, its largest democracy, a significant contributor to peacekeeping efforts across the continent, a crucial partner for economic growth, trade and direct investment with the United States. About one million Nigerians live, study, and work in the United States, providing important people-to-people connections. So today, I want to reaffirm how much we value our relationship with Nigeria and how much we both, I believe, can benefit from closer cooperation.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
 Remarks to Nigerian Foreign Minister
 Henry Odein Ajumogobia, August 5, 2010

NIGERIAN GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Schedule of Events

Symposium: "The Connection Between the Physical and Economic Health of a Nation and Its Prosperity: Challenges and Successes, Friday, October 1, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., C.E.S.T.A. Teleconference Center, Florida A&M University, Corner of Oseola and Pinder Streets

African Movie Night, Spectra Engineering Conference Room, Friday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., 3058 Highland Oaks, Tallahassee, Florida

Golden Jubilee Independence Celebration Party, Saturday, October 9, 6:30 p.m., The Senior Center, Quincy, Florida (White building behind)



IDPC 50 Members

Audu, Jonathan; Edukore, Sunday; Fayemi, Deola; Fayemi, Gbenga; Fadiora, Rotimi; Ijeoma, Sam; Okeke, Maria; Okonkwo, Peter; Onokpise, Oghenekome; Otuonye, Gabriel; Owete, Owete; Sawyerr, Ayopo; Sawyerr; Sobanjo, Segun; Sopeju, Niyi; Udofiah, and Didi.



CULTURAL HISTORY OF NIGERIA

Excerpted from Website of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Much has been said and written about Nigeria, her people and culture, economy, and politics that sheds light on the tremendous potential of this African Giant. However, little is known to the outside world about the many exciting attractions in Nigeria: historic sites nestled amid rivers and rain forests, breathtaking mountain vistas, remote creek villages, miles of pristine beaches and exotic national wildlife reserves. There are also museums, festivals, music and dance, a rich cultural melange right down to everyday traditional markets. Her cultural heritage is woven from threads of history and diversity, legend and conquest.



Nigeria has the largest population of any country in Africa (about 150 million), and the greatest diversity of cultures, ways of life, cities and terrain. With a total land area of 356,668 sq. mi., it is the 14th largest country in Africa and shares its international border with four neighbors: Chad, Cameroon, Benin, and Niger. Until 1989 the capital was Lagos when the government moved the capital to Abuja.

Virtually all of the native races of Africa are represented in Nigeria, hence it has the great diversity of her people and culture. It was here that the Bantu and SemiBantu, migrating from southern and central Africa, intermingled with the Sudanese. Later, other groups such as Shuwa-Arabs, the Tuaregs, and the Fulanis, who are concentrated in the far north, entered northern Nigeria in migratory waves across the Sahara Desert. The earliest occupants settled in the forest belt and in the Niger Delta region. Today there are estimated to be more than 250 ethnic groups. While no single group enjoys an absolute numeric majority, four major groups constitute

60% of the population: Hausa-Fulani in the north, Yoruba in the west, and Igbo in the east. Other groups include: Kanuri, Binis, Ibibio, Ijaw, Itsekiri, Efik, Nupe, Tiv, and Jukun.

Because of the great diversity of people and culture, Nigeria has distinguished herself over the centuries in the field of arts. Nigerian versatility in art is so great that it is generally felt that all African nations should view the country as the principal trustee of the most durable fruits of black artistic genius. It is not precisely known when the first works of Nigerian art reached the outside world, but in 1897, following a British punitive expedition to Benin, over 2,000 Benin bronzes and ivories were shipped to England and later dispersed all over Europe and America.

Country Profile

Population: 150 million (estimate)

Government: Three-tier structure - A federal government structure with 36 state governments, and 774 local government administrations

Official Language: English

Main Indigenous Languages: Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba

Main Religions: Christianity, Islam, Traditional

Main Commercial/Industrial Cities: Lagos, Onitsha, Kano, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Aba, Maiduguri, Jos, Kaduna, Warri, Benin, and Nnewi

Major Industrial Complexes: Refineries and Petro-Chemicals: Kaduna, Warri, Port Harcourt, and Eleme; Iron and Steel: Ajaokuta, Warri, Oshogbo, Katsina, and Jos; Fertilizer: Onne- Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Minna, and Kano; Liquefied Natural Gas: Bonny Aluminium Smelter: Ikot Abasi, and Port Harcourt