



PAID-WA Newsletter September 2016

ISSN2415-5292; Volume 1, Issue 3

A PARTNER FOR CONCERTED DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

By Divine Mamboneh, Shu

PAID-WA strives to fill the gap of increasing need for information on concerted development in Cameroon, Africa and the world at large by publishing news items on current issues in a regularly basis in her monthly newsletter.

For the first time, the world leaders converged in what is known as the 21st Conference of Parties on Climate Change which took place in Paris from the 30th of November to the 12th of December 2015 to discuss ways to prevent and mitigate hazards of climate change. PAID-WA in her desire to promote and pioneer sustainable development, collaborated with IQ-Carbone (Institut québécois du carbon IQCarbone Montreal, Canada) to organise and train 42 participants on Political Economy Development, International Climate Change Politics, Climate Change Policy, Mitigation and adaptation and Food Security amongst others. These participants ranged from graduate students to climate change researchers to university lecturers to national and International NGO staff, private sector executives through to staff of some decentralised services of the government ministries.

This is a bold step towards consolidating the global efforts of saving our planet.

This September edition of the Newsletter throws more light on the intensive training in Climate Change organised by PAID-WA. Other issues in this edition include: an interns' insights of her experiences as an Intern in Cameroon – (Sierra Meads: a nursing student from Hartwick College USA), understanding the rebranding of PAID-WA in recent times from a PAID-WA students perspective; and a reminiscence of the events of the launch of the PAID PhD Program.

The staff, students and community at large are called upon to make use of the information contained in the Newsletters, and also make strides towards disseminating this information. We also urge the staff and students to contribute news items to the Newsletter especially issues which are relevant to contemporary development.

Happy Reading.



My Experience at PAID-WA

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Rebranding PAID-WA

THE SUCCESS OF ANY INSTITUTION DEPENDS SO MUCH ON ITS INFRASTRUCTURE.

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My Experience at the Pan African Institute for Development-West Africa (PAID-WA)

By Sierra Meads

I am a nursing student in my last year of university at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, USA. I am visiting Cameroon on a research grant, funded by my institution, to study my passion around the impact of globalization on healthcare around the world, what orthodox medicine looks like in a developing country, and how traditional medicine is practiced in those same countries. In order to gain more depth of knowledge around the above topics, I chose to conduct my research specifically around the implementation of orthodox medicine in a developing country, and traditional African medicine.

The first portion of my research was completed within two facilities; the Garden of Eden Naturopathic Institute for West Africa (GENIWA), and a Catholic Monastery located in Mbengwi. My first week learning under Dr. Fru at Mile 18 was incredible. In my time with Dr. Fru, I received a broad introduction into traditional medicine including; the process of diagnosing, what it means to use a holistic approach, and how traditional medicine is different from orthodox medicine. This information was a great foundation for my second week learning under the monks at the Catholic Monastery in Mbengwi. Under the monastery's supervision, I learned a lot about the local botany and how it is used to make herbal remedies. I spent the week piecing both experiences together for a strong basic understanding of traditional medicine in Cameroon.



To fulfill the second portion of my research, I am working at local primary level healthcare facilities to see how western medicine is implemented. In my brief time exploring the CMA in Muea, I have observed vast differences between western medicine in Cameroon as compared to my home country, the United States. In recognizing these differences, both good and bad, I have grown in my understanding of how globalization impacts not only culture but also health care systems around the world.

I feel so blessed to be able to spend five weeks in Cameroon. Ever since my flight landed, I have been continually surprised by the new

and exciting experiences Cameroon has to offer. With lush, beautiful landscapes, rich culture, and its friendly people, Cameroon has become a second home to me. PAID-WA has also been a wonderful host and partner in my journey here, and I am grateful to have worked so closely with such wonderful people. I have enjoyed myself so much that I hope to relocate to Buea after I graduate from my university in May of 2017.

PAID'S PHD AT LAST: A SOARING MOVE TOWARDS VERITABLY AFRICAN, CONCERTED, DESCENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. BY TAKWA ABONWI CHENAA (PHD RESEARCH FELLOW), COORDINATOR FOR ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE.

BY: ABONWI TARKWA CHENAA



Dignitaries at the Official Launching

Development initiatives in Africa have usually rested on the benevolence or initiatives of foreign powers or countries interested not in Africa itself but in their interests and benefits. Worse still, most of the development initiatives do not take sufficient cognizance of the sociocultural dynamics at play. Because of the disregard for these sociocultural dynamics, these rather economic and politically oriented development initiatives do not have the required sustainability. Consequently, there is a dying need for an African seeking development, by Africans, for Africans and with Africans, which move will take sufficient cognizance of sociocultural and truly African orientation of development. What Africa needs now is not a democratized African but an Africanized democracy.

The above is not meant to insinuate that no such initiative has been undertaken; far from that. Actually, many local and other initiatives have attempted to satisfy this need. The problem or inherent weakness is that a lot of these initiatives within Africa itself which are conscious of the sociocultural dynamics are usually carried out by people who lack the research depth and research proficiency required to make these initiatives sustainable. Practical as most of these are, without the required theoretical framework and research expertise, it will be very difficult, if not outrightly impossible, to make these initiatives sustainable in their developmental strive. Therefore, if the development needs to be African and imbedded with the required

research expertise, there is a critical need for the training of researchers with a strong bias for sociocultural, economic and political peculiarities and specificities of the African continental space.

Thankfully, hope is finally here: PAID's PhD. The conception of the doctorate school is timely and it comes at a time when Africa faces more complex developmental challenges. The official launching of the programme at IRIC in Yaoundé on the 08th of July, 2016 by the President of PAID's Governing Council Dr. Mrs. Theresa Elad, the Secretary General of PAID Professor Emmanuel Kamdem and the Founding Father of PAID foundation Dr. Fernand Vincent is reiteration to the fact that it has come to stay. The dream of that 24 year old Swiss boy – the father of the PAID story – has finally risen to a well-deserved frenzy. Without fear of contradiction, I dare to say that the pinnacle of all this was the aforementioned launching.

What a success story; yet the ink is still fresh and the last word is still in the distant future. This historic launching, was marked by life changing moments of deeply engaging, practically intellectual, and vision driven discussions by very eminent Professors and distinguished Researchers like: Prof. Luc Sindjoun, Professor Charles Binam Bikoi and Professor Moussa Bongoyok, just to name a few. At the helm of these discussions was the thought provoking keynote presented by the Eminent and Distinguished Professor

Ebenezer Njoh Mouelle on the theme: "Pan-Africanism: A key to African Development."

Verily, the door to African development will finally be opened and stay opened. This discourse was sumptuously feasted upon by the other distinguished academicians and researchers. They engaged various different and sometimes divergent perspectives. They challenged the hitherto status quo, enlightening other potent views critical to a balanced understanding of a truly African, concerted, decent and sustainable development; an ideology which is at the heart of the dream of Dr. Ferdinand Vincent the trail blazing visionary of true difference. For all intents and purposes, this PhD-School takes the University of Applied Development Sciences to the next near ultimate level; but more than that, it is a panacea to the worrisome conundrum of African Development.

PAID has done it again. PAID is doing it again. PAID will do it again. This dream come true of the founding father has once more asserted its place as a system committed to resolutely solving African Developmental concerns whenever they arise, however they arise and wherever they arise. Yes! At long last, this initiative sets up a problem solving mechanism build on the requisite practical and research foundation to assure a true development of Africa for Africa, by Africa and with Africa.



Rebranding PAID-WA

By: Roland kimo Wirsiy

The success of any institution depends so much on its infrastructure. For effective teaching and learning, the environment must be conducive. The Pan African Institute for Development-West Africa is an innovative institution that offers specialized training in sustainable development in a variety of specializations. In order to effectively implement this goal, the institution has embarked on infrastructural development.

A year back PAID-WA had an image filled with old classroom buildings, with the increase in

enrolment and diversity in the programs offered there was the need therefore to construct new classroom blocks. Innovation is the driving force of all development and PAID-WA is rebranding to fit into the times. The beauty of the new classroom block stands out. The new building comes to provide adequate accommodation for teaching and learning to be efficient in the institution.

Yea it's happening again in PAID-WA the hub of sustainable development. This goes a long way to answer to the questions of learning efficiency as the classes are spacious and seating conducive to cater for the needs of all learners with access paths (ramps) for the physically

challenged to ensure that training is holistic and inclusive.

The new infrastructural development therefore has come to place PAID-WA at the lime light of sustainable development training and to give it a leap forward to champion sustainable development and professional training in Africa. With these in place and the quality of services rendered, sustainability is ensured both in training and practice.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMICS OF LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT INTENSIVE COURSE AT THE PAN-AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT-WEST AFRICA (PAID-WA), AUGUST 1-14, 2016

This two-week intensive course was generally intended to introduce students and practitioners in West Africa to the latest thinking on climate change and its relation to development. Specifically, it was intended to enable participants develop in-depth knowledge of the political, economic and development of climate change science, adaptation and mitigation at various levels from subnational, national to international and provide participants with a range of conceptual tools to help them better understand, explain and propose climate and development policy in sub-Saharan Africa and situate it within the experience of other regions of the world.

Over the two week period (August 1-14), the course themes explored included

- Introduction to climate change
- Political economy of development
- International climate change politics
- Climate change policy
- Mitigation: Land-use Change and Forests
- Mitigation: Energy
- Food Security
- Adaptation
- Other Country Experiences
- Low-Carbon Development

Each day was divided into three 1h30 lecture sessions. During the first two sessions, the instructor introduced key concepts and the last end-of-day workshop session was used to explore issues in detail in preparation for the final climate policy implementation simulations. Lecture sessions were based on PowerPoint presentations that addressed the specific topic and associated readings.



Cross-section of students during lectures

In preparation for each lecture, participants were expected to cover one required pre-reading. The required pre-readings were drawn from a wide range of academic sources, commensurate with the broad, interdisciplinary nature of the course. Pre-readings were made available as a printed course package prior to the start of the course.

During the course, a field excursion was undertaken to Likombe, a REDD+ village situated at the Eastern flank of the Mt Cameroon area. During this exercise, course participants had exchanges with the villagers on their experiences of climate change and on indigenous adaptation and mitigation practices.



Participants on field excursion in Likombe

At the end of the 2 weeks period, participants were decomposed into country teams. Based on the knowledge and skills acquired during the course, these groups were required to simulate the elaboration of the Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs) of Ghana and Tanzania. At the end of this iterative process, each group made a presentation of the country's ambition for reducing emissions, taking into consideration the country's specificities and capacity.

At the end of the training, a 60 minutes closed-book, written exam was undertaken by the participants. Participants who successfully completed the course with at least a 50% mark received a certificate of course completion from **PAID-WA** and **IQCarbone**.

A total of forty two (42) participants composed of graduate students, climate change researchers, university lecturers, national and international NGO staff, staff of some decentralized services of government ministries and private sector executives attended the course.

Enrollment fee was capped at 30.000 FCFA for practitioners and 10.000 FCFA for students



Cross section of participants at the end of training

About PAID-WA and IQCarbone

PAID-WA is a development institute that is active in development, management and capacity building through training, practice field research, consulting services / advice technical publications. Created in 1969, PAID-WA is part of the expanding network of the Pan African Institute for Development International (I'PAID). Goto: www.paidafrica.org/paidwa • info.wa@paidafrica.org

The **Institut québécois du carbone (IQCarbone)** is an independent non-profit organization based in Montreal, Canada that focuses on climate policy in Quebec, Canada and beyond. Its aim is to bring together experts in climate policy with experts in renewable energy in order to advance research and training towards a low-carbon economy. Goto: www.iqcarbone.org • info@iqcarbone.org

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ISSN2415-5292
Volume1, Issue 3

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