REPORT OF THE 22\textsuperscript{ND} ANNUAL AFRICA/DIASpora CONFERENCE  
California State University, Sacramento

Organized by: Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR), CSUS  
In Cooperation with  
The California Black Health Network

Theme: 
Africa/Diaspora Health and Human Security

Date & Venue: April 25\textsuperscript{th} -27\textsuperscript{th} 2013, University Union, CSU- Sacramento

The 22\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Africa/African Diaspora conference focused on Health and Human Security. The conference registration commenced at 10:00am on Thursday April 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2013, and was overseen by CAPCR Student Assistant Ms. Manafoh Moiwa. Dr. Data Barata moderated the conference kick off plenary panel on the special theme of Water and Development in Africa. It is noted that CAPCR Director Uwazie and the conference keynote Speaker Dr. Velji as well as the peace awards keynote speaker Jones were guests at the Capitol Public Radio program Insight earlier that day( April 25, 2013).  
The session on water and development was co-sponsored by the ‘One World Initiative at Sac State’. Assistant Professor Edna Udobong from Liberty University School of Law gave the first presentation on The Nile claims and the Public Health Consequences, followed by CSUS Professor Thomas Krabacher, whose presentation focused on the Politics of water and environment in Africa. The presentations were well received by the audience, and they elicited good questions and discussions. Next, was the showing and discussion of a film documentary by Beth Hoffman of the Center for Investigative Journalism on Water, Agriculture and International land grab in Ethiopia. Hoffman could not attend conference, but the film presentation was engaging and the other panel presenters in attendance were able to answer some pertinent questions arising from the film. The politics of the Nile river was seen not only as a regional problem but one that has an effect on the whole world. Over 60 participants were in attendance in the first session, and the conference kicked off to a high note.
There were two concurrent panels in the afternoon period: first on the themes of 'Health, Law and Development in Africa', with presentations by Adekola, Y. Adekunle & Afolayan Olaoti on *Curbing Health Challenges Inherent in the use of Asbestos as a Building Materials in Nigeria*; Edith Ojiako on *Healthy living a Potent Means of Achieving Peace and Progress in a Developing Nation: A Case study of Delta State of Nigeria*; Realization of Health Right in Nigeria: A case of judicial activism by Onyeniyi Ajigboye; Child Marriage in Nigeria: A Challenge to Human Security by Olubayo Oluduro; and Maryam O. Quadri on “Africa's health burden and Africa's Health systems response: The role of the community. The panel was chaired by Dr. Jessie Gaston, with 40 people in attendance.

Concurrent Panel 2 was a special presentation on *Understanding and responding to the conflict between teens and police* by Dr. Everette Penn of the University of Houston, Clear Lake. His presentation was based on a US Dept of Justice grant (PENN P.A.L.S. Academy) on police-minority relations in Houston, especially with at-risk youth. He depicted the effectiveness of fighting youth crimes by understanding the motivation of participating in crime by the disadvantaged youths and other deprived members of the society, and how the youth and law enforcement participants in the PENN PALS Academy had developed better relations with each other. The panel was moderated by Dr. Marlyn Jones, with 150 people in attendance.

Plenary Two on April 25, was a special student and Alumni panel on *Cultivating Cultural and self-knowledge through poetry, prose and research about the African diaspora*. The session of current and former black students (including teachers, safety officers and business professionals) from CSUS and San Joaquin Delta College discussed challenges that the black youth experience as a result of unspoken discrimination or implicit biases in schools and at their workplaces because of their race. The issues raised were hotly debated in the plenary. Various forms of discrimination and social prejudice were highlighted. Dr. Lisa William-White, the moderator and panel coordinator engaged the audience in probing questions and answers that brought out a number of underlying challenges that the black community faces, including the difficulty of engaging in frank conversations on the topic of race and racism. The audience of 70 felt that the time allocated for the session was not enough and they were left asking for more. Dr. Uwazie reminded the audience that the 2014 conference on
Africa/Diaspora ethnic-religious relations will provide another opportunity to continue the dialogue.

The last session of the day was a presentation by Dr. Everette Penn (also a Fulbright Ambassador), during the conference welcome reception, on the topic of *US Fulbright program opportunities* for US scholars and students wishing to study or teach/conduct research overseas. He enlightened the audience on how to apply for the Fulbright scholarship. He encouraged PhD holders and other academics to apply for the scholarship. Through the scholarship scholars are able to mix, travel globally and learn from each other, thereby reducing societal differences as well as prejudices and improve global understanding. 60 people attended the session.

The conference official opening was on Day Two, Friday April 26th, 2013 in the University Union: Redwood Room. The opening commenced with African Drumming by CSUS alumni Tyehimba Kokayi of the Lion’s Den Entertainment, Sacramento, with Dr. Marlyn Jones as the moderator. The CAPCR Director Ernest Uwazie remarked on the importance of the annual conference (now in its 22nd year at CSUS) in bringing Africa to Sacramento, and the timeliness of the 2013 conference theme on **Africa/Diaspora Health and Human Security.** With an emphasis on the interconnections of peace and human security, he argued that “Peace is health,” and officially declared the 2013 conference open. Two Sacramento poets Dr. V.S Chochezi & Staajabu made a special poetry presentation in honor and memory of the late creative writer and father of African literature Prof. Chinua Achebe. Key university officials presented welcome remarks: Dr. Charles Gossett, Interim Provost & VP, Academic Affairs was represented by Dr. Don Taylor-Assistant VP Academic Programs and Global Engagement; and Dr Robin Carter Associate Dean of the Health and Human Services represented the Dean, Dr. Fred Baldini. The CAPCR Board Chair Dr. Jessie Gaston, in her welcome remarks, challenged the audience to get more knowledge about the African continent as it is the 2nd largest in the world with a strong economic potential. Dr. Boatamo Mosupyo, Chair of Ethnic Studies department and Director Pan African Studies/Cooper Woodson College introduced the keynote speaker, Dr Anvar Velji, Chief of Infectious diseases at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento and Co-founder of the Global Health Education Consortium.
Dr. Anvar Velji’s keynote presentation on “Africa/Diaspora Health and Human Security” addressed the challenges of health care in Africa and globally. He pointed out that Africa has inadequate health facilities and infrastructures, sharing some of his own remarkable experiences growing up in Africa. He highlighted several public health initiatives, including certain university exchange programs with African institutions for curriculum development, staff training, and research collaborations. He stated that with the development of information technology there is need for researchers all over the world to work as a team because diseases spread fast, reiterating that the world has become a global village. He emphasized the need for governments in Africa and globally to put in place measures to eradicate poverty and unemployment because they are a hindrance to accessing good health care among the poor and vulnerable populations.

Following the keynote address was the showing of the film Weight of the Nation, with discussions facilitated by the notable US TV personality/actor John Marshall Jones. The discussion focused on key points of the film on reducing obesity by eating healthy food and forming proper exercise habits. 130 people attended the formal conference opening/keynote session.

After lunch(4/26), there were two concurrent panels: special panel for students on Developing negotiation and conflict resolution skills through peer mediation in schools, led by Ms. Pam Bodnar of Afripeace Foundation, with 30 students from Mira Loma High School-Sacramento in attendance via the San Joaquin Global Education Project(SJGEP). The SJEP Coordinator (Maria Gutierrez- Stearn) assisted Ms. Bodnar.

Concurrent Panel Two theme was on Restorative Justice, Conflict Prevention and Human Security. Presentations included: Crime prevention and peace building through institution of violence education in Nigerian School curriculum by Dosumu Grace Modupe; Restorative justice and crime prevention: Antidote for the congestion in Nigeria prisons; Africa’s Health beyond 2015: Lessons from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) experience by Maryam Quadri; and The value of guns, fragility of peace and human security in the Oromo Valley, Ethiopia by Mellese Madda Gatisso of the University of Bergen, Norway. 50 people attended the panel.
The last plenary session on 4/26 focused on Child-human trafficking by Xin Ren of CSU, Sacramento. The presentation clearly revealed the issue of human trafficking in the USA and their global connections, including Africa, with a number of case studies in California, including some local resources for protection and victim services. 30 people attended the final plenary on 4/26.

4/27 (Day Three) commenced with a plenary, special panel on Domestic violence/family relations among the African-Diaspora: The search for education, prevention and resolution which was organized in collaboration with the Sacramento -Africa Peace Committee and moderated by Dr. Don Taylor, CSUS. The presentations included: M. Ali Meatchem of Kaiser Permanente Medical group, Sacramento on Implementing a system-model approach for decreasing intimate partner violence; Rola Tomori, Independent Clinical Practitioner from Marietta, Georgia on the ‘African perception of mental health: The effect of cultural beliefs on the help seeking behaviors of African diaspora community; and Eghosa Osa Ekhator, from the University of Hull, United Kingdom on Women and the law in Nigeria: A re-appraisal. The presentations elicited much conversations and reflections on the challenges of the African immigrant families in the diaspora and the need for adapting to a new world of gender equity and nonviolence. The presentations were engaging and well received by the audience of approximately 40 people. Rev. Sr. Helen Umejesi also did a poster session of the key findings from her recent graduate thesis (for the Masters in Social Work, CSUS) about the Nigerian family in Sacramento, titled “The impact of acculturation of family relationships among the Nigerian immigrants in Sacramento with reference to domestic violence.”

The last plenary, moderated by Dr. Sylvester Bowie of CSUS, on Black youth/gang violence prevention: What works? included presentations by Ernest Uwazie on ’The prospects of restorative justice for managing the black youth violence; Khaalid Muttaqi from the Sacramento City Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force on “The lessons from the Cease fire program;” Ricky Gutierrez, CSUS Sacramento on The best practices and lessons on youth mentoring for minority populations; and Dimitri Bogazianos, CSUS on Cultural responses to violence in the crack era. The presentations provoked good discussions and debate on how to curb black youth violence in American society. 40 people attended the session.
The conference concluded with a colorful peace awards dinner gala, installation of the members of the Sacramento–Africa Peace Committee by Judge Bunmi Awoniyi as well as traditional African libation by Chief Martins Nwoke, and a keynote address on The Preventive medical miracle called Obamacare by Actor John Marshall Jones. The 2013 CAPCR Peace awards were received by Dr. Anvar Velji for Peace Education Award; Mr. Ray Lozada for Peace Service Award, and the Peace Health Award to California Black Health Network. Also CAPCR Student Peace Scholarship Awards were given to Ms. Manafoh Moiwa (Health Science Major) and Ms. Marisa Smith (Criminal Justice Major).

Among the 200 people (in addition to the honorees) were:

Kaiser Permanente representatives:

1. Physician in Chief KP South Sacramento, Dr. Richard Isaacs (and his wife Dr. Deborah Isaacs)
2. Chief of Medicine, Dr. Boone Seto (and his wife Cheryl Seto)
3. Dr. Camillus Udoffia (retired Kaiser Physician and his wife Lola Udoffia)
4. Dr. Ricki Winardi (Director Diversity–Sacramento)
5. Ms. Marci Kutek (Manager, Diversity, South Sacramento)
6. Dr. Pari Velji, CPA Director of Tax Reporting and Compliance, UC-Davis.

California North State University (School of Pharmacy and Medicine)

1. President Dr. Alvin Cheung
2. Vice President Dr. Norman Fong
3. Dean of the School of Medicine–Dr. Robert Suskind (and Leslie Suskind)
4. Dean of the School of Pharmacy–Dr. Shane Desselle
5. Dr. James and Joseph Martel–Associate and Assistant Dean Clinical Medicine
6. Dr. Janak Mehtani

Other VIPs:

Dr. Fred Baldini, Dean College of Health & Human Services(CHHS), CSUS
Dr. Robin Carter, Associate Dean, CHHS
Dr. Ted Lascher, Interim Dean of College of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Studies, CSUS
Dr. Don Taylor, Assistant VP Academic Programs and Global Engagement, CSUS
Ms. Beth Ruyak, Host, Insight, Capital Public Radio
Mr. Tyrone Netters, President, NAACP-Sacramento
Ms. B. Darcel Lee, Executive Director, California Black Health Network
Hon. Bunmi Awoniyi, Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court

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- Travel Forless African Safari, Sacramento
- San Joaquin Global Education project, University of the Pacific Stockton
- California Lawyers for the Arts/Sacramento Mediation Center

Conference & Peace Awards Programs available: www.csus.edu/org/capcr.

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