

# AFRICA ASIA SCHOLARS GLOBAL NETWORK

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Kent, UK 27th March 2018

António Guterres Secretary General United Nations New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Mr. António Guterres,

#### **UNGC Communication on Engagement 2016 - 2018**

I am pleased to confirm and reassure you that the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) is committed more than ever, to the implementation and promotion of the ten principles of the UN Global Compact that we adhered to in March 2016.

AASGON is a multilateral organisation focussed on unlocking the wealth of universities, through productive academic entrepreneurship. It is in the business of creating and promoting enabling structures, innovative, strategic and proactive public private partnerships for the sustainable development and attainment of equitable, peaceful co-habitation and prosperity of peoples and institutions primarily in the Global South.

As an active Participant and Signatory to the UN Global Compact, AASGON is duly committed to:

- Support and extensively promote the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption;
- Advance these 10 principles within its sphere of influence, and make a clear statement of this commitment to its stakeholders and the general public;
- Support, initiate and take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact.
- Communicate every two years with its stakeholders on its engagement in the Global Compact and efforts taken to support the ten principles, and post this Communication on Engagement (COE) on the UN Global Compact website.

In spite of the odds and discomforts experienced in carrying out certain activities, some of which are cited in our report of engagement between March 2016 and 2018, I seize this opportunity to declare our uncompromising commitment at advancing the principles of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Directors and Management of AAGON, kindly in our in-depth service to humanity, accept the assurances of our highest regards.

Respectfully yours

Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed Founder and Group Executive President

Registered in England & Wales No. 07492816, AASGON is a Signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, Member of the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD), Affiliate Member of the International Association of Universities (IAU), Member European Alliance for Innovation (EAI), Strategic Partner, Danubius Academic Consortium (DAC) and Advisory Council Member/
Associate of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP).



# About AASGON

A multilateral organization and global civil society network focused on sustainable growth, the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) is a Signatory to the United Nations Global Compact., Member of the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD), Affiliate Member of the International Association of Universities (IAU), Member European Alliance for Innovation (EAI), Strategic Partner, Danubius Academic Consortium (DAC), Advisory Council Member/Associate of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), Member Governing Council, Africa Asia Development Council (AADC) and the World Academy of Informatics and Management Sciences (WAIMS).

A co-founder of the newly established World Council of Universities (WCU), AASGON has initiated a number of structural projects (frameworks) that will constructively address the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through proactive Public Private Partnerships, namely:

- FAAAPUP Forum of Africa, Arab and Asia Pacific University Presidents.
- PAAAPUL Pride of Africa Arab and Asia Pacific University Leadership Global Awards.
- SADFA 'Sino-African Diaspora Forum and Awards.
- FIMAAFEST 1st World Film Music Arts Awards Festival.
- IABTEE Indo-Africa Business, Technology and Education Expo.
- GSSPNT Global South Strategic Partnership on NanoTechnology.
- UKAAABTES UK Africa Arab Asia Business, Technology Education Summit.
- FECAAP Forum of Emerging Cities of Africa Arab Asia-Pacific.
- FSSLSP Forum of South-South Law Scholars and Practitioners.
- SSCILJ South-South Centre for International Law and Justice
- 1<sup>st</sup> London Consultative Forum, Expo & Awards Caribbean Tourism & Hospitality Industry.
- ACCSEP Academic Career Culture Scholarship and Summer Exchange Program.
- Global South Digital TV Network.

Building bridges and structures through a foundation of trust for growth and sustainable development, AASGON's initiated projects are evidenced based globally sensitive development agenda, realizable mainly through the transparent partnership of all committed stakeholders, government, international organisations and the organised private sector.

Committed to Post MDGs and seeking lasting solutions to the complexity of Africa Arab Asia Pacific diverse sustainable development concerns as well as sharing the increasing socio-cultural, economic and trade co-operations among nations, AASGON, a spirited response to the 1955 Bandung Principles, the South-South Cooperation, the UN Post MDGs and the increasing globalization on socio-economic and cultural resource development for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity, continues to explore practical areas of collaboration with policy makers, multi-national corporations, national, regional and transnational research, developmental and entrepreneurial institutions across the world.



#### **Established Partnerships:**

- United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)
- UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)
- ➤ Beyond 2015
- Bandung Spirit Network
- European Alliance for Innovation (EAI)
- Danubius Academic Consortium (DAC)
- World Peace Initiative
- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP)
- Association of Arab Universities (AARU)
- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE)
- Pan Africa Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- > S.S. Jain Subodh PG (Autonomous) College
- > SIAS University, China
- Business Press India (BPI)
- > Teamwork Arts, India
- > 48 Group Club, UK
- South London Export Club (SLEC)
- SPIC MACAY
- Vellore Institute of Technology University (VIT)
- Africa Asia Development Council (AADC)
- World Association of Small Medium Enterprises (WASME)
- ➤ Institute of Technology, Delhi, (IIT Delhi)
- World Consortium of Universities (WCU)
- World Academy of Informatics & Management Sciences (WAIMS).
- Jagran Lakecity University (JLU)
- > Innovation society, India
- > Amity College, Florida
- Giant Step
- Excel Group Institutions (EGI)
- Kerala Business School (KBS)

#### Working with the SDGs

AASGON 2018 UNGC COE on Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption;

#### Overview

A number of demands remain unanswered and unresolved, as challenges facing developing countries expand incessantly. There is greater need for the Group of 77 (G77) to preserve the spirit of the UN Charter and to make the UN a more balanced, effective forum for confronting and resolving the challenges developing nations face in today's changing world.



With the mandate to prepare a 'practical development vision' for presentation to the General Assembly Member States in September 2013, the former UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon on the 31st of July 2012 appointed President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia; Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom to jointly head a 'High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.'

To complement the work of the High Panel, the UN Chief on August 9, 2012 launched the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a new independent global network of research centres, universities and technical institutions.

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, the appointed head of the SDSN and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on global anti-poverty targets, and Director at Columbia University's Earth Institute was quoted as saying,

"In the 20 years since the first Rio Earth Summit, the world has largely failed to address some of the most serious environmental and social problems pressing in on us. We can't afford business as usual. We need to engage the academic and scientific community, and tap into worldwide technological know-how in the private sector and civil society, in order to develop and implement practical solutions"

To complement practical recommendations on a global post-2015 agenda", the Africa Asia Scholar's Global Network (AASGON) in its effort at 'building formidable blocks of sustained prosperity for all', had to carry out an in-depth research and re-assessment of the workings of the UN, weigh up how business should and could be done to meet the challenges of our time, or 'Our Fractured World' as exemplified by the theme of the 2018, 48<sup>th</sup> World Energy Forum held in January in Davos, Switzerland.

We therefore took our time and resources to develop and put forward a number of strategies that will fashion in a much 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) by 2030, particularly within the Africa Arab Asia Pacific region, through the pursuance of proactive and effective public - private partnership with direct engagement of government, the academic, the organised private sector and the civil society.

In addressing the SDGs in the most apposite approach that will yield positive results, we also analysed the concerned statements made by Ambassador Csaba Koros, Co-Chair of the UN Open Working Group on Post 2015.

While speaking at the Session on the Role of Foundations and Civil Society in the Post 2015 Agenda, Koros lamented "My major frustration with many actors in this process is that they are focused on one thing, and forgetting the foundation".

He went on claiming "There is a strong and disproportionate emphasis and demand for goals when we have not even built the foundation. The success of the Post 2015 agenda will not depend on the goals, but on the Frameworks - the Financing Mechanism, and the Monitoring through the High Level Political Forum" and concluded by saying "No one seems



to be paying adequate attention to these areas-yet without them the Post 2015 Frame work will be even less successful than the MDGs"

With regards to lack of dissemination of information on the works of the UN Co-Chair of the UN Open Working Group (OWG), Ambassador Macharia Kamau said "Sadly our media, both print and electronics, have yet to revolve the extensive skills needed to process the variety of information and outcomes from UN debates and conferences for public communication and consumption"

A major concern raised by the OWG which we believe should not be over looked is the statement that, "Current models for development are unsustainable and that the SDGs must represent a new development agenda that respects the physical constraints of the planet and can also lift the poorest people out of poverty"

These observations added to the ones below, and in particular the admission of S.E.M Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly acknowledging that the "UN was not doing enough to meet the fundamental challenges of our time to end extreme poverty in this generation, and significantly narrow the global gap between the rich and poor", were taken on board to guide us on how best we can join others in making meaningful contribution towards the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Far too many people according to Amina J. Mohammed the former UN Special Adviser on Post 2015 Development Planning and now the UN Deputy Secretary General tickled our fancy my her speech on the key role of the organised private sector. She resonated that "too many people continue to face serious deprivations of basic human needs including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter and education. When we talk about the poverty goal, It's really about the economy and the economy is much about the private sector. Without the private sector being the engine of growth, we are not going to get anywhere, but we have to put growth with equity, we have to have growth that means something to the poor man"

It's clearly stated by the UN that 'addressing Global Challenges require a collective and concerted efforts involving all actors and that through partnerships and alliances and by pooling comparative advantages we increase our chances of success.

At AASGON, we wonder why 'Partnership' as proclaimed by the High Level Panel in 2013 was not and as seemingly expressed by the OWG, regarded as the bone of contention for achieving sustainable development agenda and therefore considered as the foundation in which logically, we all have to build on, starting with the foundation of Trust under the premises and the understanding that the world lacks nothing and if only we collaborate and share our expertise, knowledge and wealth, shall we be able to considerably alleviate poverty, promote human rights, equity, cleaner environment and eliminate corruption.

Rather Partnership even though is justly classified as contributive to all goals 'Partnership for the Goals', as displayed in the bottom of the SDGs, in potential SDGs advocates general mind set, Partnership seems not conceived as the key objective and foundation for all the other 16 goals put together.



It is through renewed, proactive and effective partnerships that all activists within the 16 goals need to assess challenges and good practices for the success of the SDGs.

My organisation again agrees in totality with the Deputy Secretary-General when late last year at the Diplomat of the Year event stated "To change the world, we must respect history, rise to occasion by Doing Things Differently"

For example when participants at the UNGC road show organised by the UNGC UK at Southbank University in London last year, were asked to paste posts on their preferences among all the 17 collection goals set by the UN, stunned as participants avoided posting on Partnerships, I instantly called the attention of the representative of the Host University, Prof. David Clemson, and jointly we had to call participants attention to the significance of Partnership in addressing all the other16 goals.

It is admitted that a number of organisations are providing tremendous services in all the goals listed by the UN, however what is most lacking, which is the foundation for the attainment of the UN Goals is the 'Renewed Global Partnership' as declared by the eminent persons in Bali in 2013

Partnership is to 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

According to the UN, increasing international cooperation is seen as vital to achieving each of the 16 previous goals. Goal 17 is included to assure that countries and organizations cooperate instead of compete. Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial support is seen as critical to overall success of the SDGs. Public-private partnerships that involve civil societies are specifically mentioned.

We are hopeful that with this UN confirmation the relevant UN policy experts will look into our assertion and make necessary review or amendments on their logistics and elevate Partnership as the key foundation and framework for comprehensive and manageable success.

As key to the accomplishment of the SDGs, Partnership should be the core objective for meeting the SDGs.

AASGON therefore strongly call on the UN to intensify on Public Private Partnerships, which quite lacking mostly in government and the civil society due to lack of trust, unpatriotic culture, selfishness, greed and endemic corruption, the fear of rivalry, insecurity and that of the unknown.

Proactive and meaningful Partnership through the building of Trust, Compassion and Tolerance are vital for the attainment of the SDGs, and therefore should be encouraged and celebrated by the UN and its backers. Best practices must be truly and dearly acknowledged and fortified.



# **AASGON 2016 - 2018 SDGs Engagements**

#### **UNGC Network UK SDG Roadshow**

Adopted by the UK and the other 192 member states of the United Nations in 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) provides a path to end extreme poverty, fight inequality, and protect the planet and thus, calls for economic growth, innovation, affordable energy and upgraded infrastructure.

For every company (and every citizen) to understand this important global mega trends i.e. sustained and macro-economic forces of development that impacts business, economy, society, cultures and personal lives, the UNGC Network UK diligently set in place an SDG Roadshow "Making Global Goals Local Business" event across the country.

On May 18, 2017 I had quite an exhaustive and stirring meeting with the Executive Director UNGC Network UK Steve Kenzie who shared his vast knowledge and insight about the roles and responsibilities of his office and that of a Signatory to the UN Global Compact of which AASGON is proud to be counted.

The meeting threw some lights on the workings of the UN Global Compact and confirms that my organization which has its initiatives and strategies aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, could really thrive in making meaningful contributions to the realization of the 10 principles of the UNGC and in particular the renewed UN Global Partnership schema.

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I recognised that Kent, where our head office is situated was not among the list of UK regions penned down to the UK SDG Roadshow.

Not certain if Kent would be included in the list of regions for the exercise, I was quite relieved when in our meeting, it was revealed that there were plans to incorporate Kent. I felt much overwhelmed when a request was made on the possibility of my organisation, AASGON hosting the "Making Global Goals Local Business" event in Kent.



On behalf of AASGON I declared our interest in hosting the SDG Road show in Kent. According to the Executive Director Steve Kenzie, the Kent Roadshow will be considered this year (2018) and AASGON shall be duly consulted.

On the 23rd of May 2017 we sent a document to the UNGC Network UK clearly spelling out the appropriate measure and strategic tool for 'Advancing and Communicating Progress' being made through the countrywide SDG Roadshow.

On the UK Roadshow Sustainable Initiative's growth, monitoring and evaluation process for Kent, my organisation submitted a brief on the proposed Kent and Medway SDG Road show.

We further stressed that the participating businesses and organisations at the Kent 'Making Global Goals Local Business' event, will not only have the advantage of learning more about the importance of meeting the UN SDGs, its application and positive implication but for some, whose business and activities are aligned with the Goals, to rob minds and share their experiences, concerns, good practices and accruable benefits with others in attendance.

Prospective Participants which we were quite familiar with in the region include Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Produced in Kent, Kent and Medway Region - FSB (Federation of Small Businesses), BNI Kent and Dickens BNI (Medway), Kent National Farmers Union and the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership.

The list includes, ECITB, EDA, Furley Page, Handelsbanken, Uniper, Kreston Reevea, National Grid, Lloyds Bank, Kent Reliance, HSBC, Royal Bank Of Scotland PLC, Barclays Bank, NatWest Bank, Santander, Co-op Bank - Chatham, Halifax, University of Kent, University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christchurch, University for Creative Arts, Medway University UTC (University Technical College), MidKent, North Kent and East Kent Colleges, and Kent Messenger etc.

Kent is divided into 12 local authority districts and the Medway Unitary Authority. With the indication from the UNGC UK Network to support the Kent and Medway SDG Roadshow event this year, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Secretary of State for International Development are among the top dignitaries to be invited.

At the close of the day's event a UNGC Network Kent Strategic/Consultative Committee or High Level Panel (HLP) will be put in place to take up the responsibility of furthering the course of the UNSDGs in Kent and Medway.

To maximize the outcome of the SDG Road show, we then proposed to the UNGC Network UK that similar strategies we are adopting for Kent, be adopted at their forthcoming event in London South Bank.



The success of such initiative we emphasized can eventually be adopted as a model for the whole country. Expected to meet every two months the appointed committee or panel is to be inaugurated within six weeks of its formation and seek the wise counsel of the UNGC UK Network on the remit of its operation.

With the production of a quarterly newsletter, the committee, we proposed is to present its periodic reports to the London office of the UK Network.

With regards to Global Goals transforming our world and the prospects of new business models being created to deliver new products and services into emerging markets, I implore the UN GC Network UK Executive Director to read the attached interesting and informative executive summary written by Zeev Efrat on `World's Top Global Mega Trends To 2020 and Implications to Business, Society and Cultures`

#### Observation:

- 1. From our interaction with the Network, the lack of adequate staff inhibits the anticipated achievement of SDGs in the country.
- 2. At the South bank Road show, it took the intervention of myself and Prof. David Clemson of the LSBU to make some of the participants realise the importance to be attached to Partnership for the realization of the SDGs.
- 3. There was a dearth of Decision and Policy makers such as Directors and CEO's of companies in attendance which does explain the lack of interest and commitment of top executives in most corporate firms as evidenced in the performance of most corporate firms listed as signatories to the UNGC.

# 1. Human Rights

AASGON is fully committed to the advancement of the 'Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact' and the 'Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative.

Its prime mandate is the attainment of Global Peace and Prosperity through transparent, proactive and mutual partnership in processing human development, and the promotion and protection of Human Rights across all spheres of life.

# Human Rights Day Celebration and the foundation of FAAAPUP/ PAAAPUL Global Awards

Post MDGs, we made a commitment to make meaningful contribution towards the realization of a more sustainable, peaceful and inclusive global society by addressing major concerns in the developing countries, and in 2015 we had the official mandate from Prof. Toyoshi Satow, President of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), Dr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), Prof. Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, the International Association of Universities (IAU) President; Dr. Shawn Chen,



President Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP); Prof. Sultan T. Abuorabi Al-Adwan, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities (AARU) and Prof. Etienne Ehouan Ehile, Secretary General, Association of African Universities (AAU), along with hundreds of heads of Universities from Africa Arab and the Asia—Pacific to create a platform for University Presidents to constantly meet and proactively engage in 'TRUE' partnership to jointly address the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

Among the numerous commendation received from heads of higher educational institutions is the inspiring rmessage we received from Prof. Toyoshi Satow President of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) and Chancellor, J. F. Oberlin University, Japan,

He wrote "We analyzed the materials that you sent to us, and feel that the cooperation for the Africa, Arab and Asia-Pacific Scholars is essential, and that your initiatives are extraordinary. Your materials show that many organizations and leaders of the organizations support your ideas. While we are also in support of your wonderful goals, we truly appreciate your effort and compassion".

In her capacity as the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), responsible for mobilizing, coordinating and strengthening CEOs commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and concrete steps towards the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through successful partnerships between government, the private sector and the civil society, on the 3rd of May we wrote and sent a detailed proposal on possible partnership on the celebration of the Human Rights Day, to Prof. Lise Kingo.

Within her very busy schedule, we implore Ms. Kingo to find time to digest and consider the content of our well thought out and self-financing proposal, which was designed to address the major concerns of many, notably Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, the appointed head of SDSN and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on global anti-poverty targets and Ambassador Csaba Koros, Co-Chair of the UN Open Working Group on Post 2015, and in particular to deal with the proclamation of March 27, 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, for a 'Partnership that enables a transformative people-centred development agenda beyond 2015 through the equal partnership of all stakeholders', by the UN Panel of eminent persons led by President Ellen Johnson, Sirleaf of Liberia, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom

Suggested for December 2016 or alternatively December 2017 for possible inclusion in the UNGC swarming calendar, highlight of the event was to institutionalise the 'Forum of Africa Arab and Asia-Pacific University Presidents' (FAAAPUP) and the Pride of Africa Arab Asia-Pacific University Leadership (PAAAPUL) Global Awards as a mark of the celebration of the Human Rights Day at the UN building in Geneva.

Ms. Kingo's bold determination to transform the world through business and her conviction that 'Academic institutions have a unique role to play in advancing the Global Compact and the capacity to further strengthen the business case for responsible practices, and most importantly, in advantageous position to better equip our leaders of tomorrow with the knowledge and tools they will need to adequately meet pressing global challenges', was



very clear to AASGON, however in spite of repeated reminders through emails and phone calls, to the UNGC in New York, no acknowledgement was received by us.

Though one does empathize with the UNGC on the enormous volume of request been made of it on a daily basis, however as a signatory to the UNGC, not even getting a response despite our reminders seems strange and hard to accept as true.

That notwithstanding, we have unshaken confidence in the operations of the UNGC and therefore pray and hope that as promised in the UNGC Executive Director's welcoming letter to AASGON as signatory to the UNGC, we would without a doubt, be encouraged and supported in fulfilling our widely acclaimed strategic actions in establishing frameworks that will proactively and meaningfully address the SDGs and positively effect the 'Principles' of the UN Global Compact, in our forthcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Human Rights in India in December 2018.

#### **FSSLSP and SSCILJ -** Striving for lasting solutions to inequalities in the global south.

The North-South divide is broadly considered a socio-economic and political divide. Generally, definitions of the Global North include the United States, Canada, Western Europe, outermost regions of the European Union, developed parts of Asia (the Four Asian Tigers, Japan, Brunei and Israel) as well as Australia and New Zealand. The Global South is made up of Africa, Latin America, and developing Asia including the Middle East.

Home to all the members of the G8 and to four of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the North mostly covers the West and the First World, along with much of the Second World, while the South largely corresponds with the Third World.

With a number of factors differentiating between the two global areas, 95% of the North has enough food and shelter and is defined as the richer, more developed region than the South which is regarded as the poorer, less developed region.

The Global South "lacks appropriate technology, it has no political stability, the economies are disarticulated, and their foreign exchange earnings depend on primary product exports." Nevertheless, the divide between the North and the South increasingly "corresponds less and less to reality and is increasingly challenged."

In economic terms, the North, with one quarter of the world population, controls four-fifths of the income earned anywhere in the world. 90% of the manufacturing industries are owned by and located in the North. Inversely, the South, with three quarters of the world population, has access to one-fifth of the world income. As nations become economically developed, they may become part of the "North", regardless of geographical location; similarly, any nations that do not qualify for "developed" status are in effect deemed to be part of the "South".

Complementing this year's 70th anniversary of the Human Rights Day and the Centennially anniversary of the S. S. Jain Subodh Shiksha Samiti, the parent organisation of one of our partner institution, the S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the first 'Forum



of South-South Law Scholars and Practitioners (FSSLSP) Awards and Expo, will be conducted on the 8th - 10th December 2018, at the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre, Rajasthan in India.

The inspiration to make genuine social contribution to women education led to the creation of S.S. Jain Subodh Shiksha Samiti in 1918, and our Partner institution founded in 1954 and advancing human rights, has achieved several milestones such as re-accreditation with A++ Grade (3.82 CGPA) by NAAC-UGC in the third cycle, which is the highest grade amongst all the accredited institutes of India.

To effect FSSLSP and the establishment of the South-South Centre for International Law and Justice (SSCILJ) in Rajasthan, for the promotion and intensification of the Rule of Law, among others in the Global South, a Memorandum of Association (MoA) was on the 26th of February signed between AASGON and the S.S. Jain Subodh P.G. College at the Curtin University in Dubai, UAE.

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With the theme "Justice, Law reforms & the Sustainable Development of the Global South" we are hopeful that the Office of the UNGC Executive Director will endorse and respond favourably to our invitation and along with its relevant networks, fully support the success of the Forum and the proposed human rights centre (SSCILJ) which in forging sustainable development, is conceptualised to bequeath an indelible legacy to present and future generations of marginalised people and derived communities in developing countries.

#### **GSSPNT - Tackling increasing Inequalities**

In UN's commitment to improving the well-being of all people in developing countries and advance their shared interests globally main agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 'Renewed Global Partnership' is to strengthen bi-lateral relations and essentially to alleviate poverty.

We consider the following measure as most appropriate for AAASGON to justifiably intervene through its establishment an enabling platform, christened 'Global South Strategic Partnership on Nanotechnology (GSSPNT) for proactive and resourceful engagement of Developing and least Developed Countries' (LDCs) nanotechnology R&D and Industrial Sectors.

To narrow the increasing global technological divide GSSPNT shall:

- build trust and facilitate mutual cooperation, acknowledge good practices, share knowledge and access to information and resources, among scientists and engineers as well as leaders and industrialists from within and outside the Global South.
- boost Agriculture, defense, medicines, healthcare, consumer products, electronics, telecommunication, transportation renewable energy, infrastructure, water and the



environment as well as aerospace, shipbuilding, life sciences, construction, textiles, automotive, food and drinks, mainly in the developing countries of the Global South.

Advocating for a Global South Nano Day to be officially declared and observed in order to narrow the increasing global economic and technological divide between the North and South and campaign for a holistic and sustainable development of the disadvantaged countries, in cooperation with our key prominent partner, the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), we intend launching the foundation of the 'Global South Strategic Partnership on Nano Technology' (GSSPNT), a Public Private Partnership venture whose proposed Secretariat will be located in Delhi, with satellite centres in some selected countries.

#### Labour

The Swiss again in January this year at the World Economic Forum's mega annual conference hosted the world's Global Elite Club, comprising of Heads of State, Billionaires, Top Industrialists, Business Tycoons, Investors, Religious Leaders, Entrepreneurs, and other Thought Leaders to network and discuss the most significant topic of discussion "Inequality" and the need to find collective actions and collaborative approaches to solving global problems.

The WEF's 48<sup>th</sup> Conference theme choice: "Creating Shared Future in a Fractured World" though welcome, was quite thought provoking, precise and definitive on the current state of our world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Takes us back to George Orwell's novella, Animal Farm, published in 1945, two months before the UN was created, describing how the pigs changed the Seven Commandments after they start carrying whips and walking like humans.

Instead of having all seven "rules", they changed them to a single idea:

"All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others" a popular phrase . The elites are not just paying lip service but exploiting the trust of the commoners.

According to the UN " All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

After 73 years of the UN, today's world needs divine intervention, saintly values and accountability at the highest level of governance.

In 2013 AASGON called for an improved and more realistic and purposeful institutional framework that will effectively guide sustainable development in realization of 'the Future we ALL want and not just what goes well with the Elites.



To change our 'Fractured World, this trend has to be reversed. Not much we can boast of in our promise on the elimination of poverty within 15years of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), what will be our excuse by 2030 if we ill-perform on SDGs

Echoing the theme of the WEF Davos get-together, 'Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World'. His Holiness Pope Francis in his spiritual message called on the elite participants to build "inclusive, just and supportive societies"

In search of practical solutions to building a more enlightened and enriched Society, a Human-centred future requires 'Accountability and Humane Stewardship'

Happily the 2018 WEF cream of the crop was for the 1<sup>st</sup> time Co-chaired by Women ONLY - to deal with our fractured World.



### **Modern Slavery Act 2015**

A letter dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016, highlighting the responsibilities on large companies introduced by the Modern Slavery Act 2015 with particular reference to Section 54 which just came into force, was sent to our organisation, in its capacity as a signatory to the UN Global Compact.

The Act demands of businesses with a turnover of £36 million to publish annual statements indicating what their company is doing to ensure their supply chains are slavery free. The last paragraph of the letter from the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), passed to us through the office of the Global Compact Network UK, quite encouraging, states "I look forward to reading your statements and working with you in my bid to eradicate the scourge of modern slavery from the UK and beyond".

In our commitment to the SDGs mandate and to support and advance the 'Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact 'as well as encourage businesses to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, we then propose to the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner



(IASC) joint partnership in hosting a 'Consultative Forum on Modern Slavery Eradication', as a mark of the celebration of the 2016 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons'.

The forum was initiated to serve as an enabling platform to throw light on the UK Modern Slavery Act, the crucial role of the IASC as well as the following:

- i. Discuss the important role that increased transparency in supply chains can play in eradicating slave labour worldwide.
- ii. Raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and Appraise Global Plan of Action
- iii. Corporate demonstration of incorporated measures that ensures the eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking
- iv. Share exemplary and best practices on the promotion and protection of victims' rights.
- v. Share information on established victim support structures and initiatives at solving sustainable development challenges
- vi. Table major concerns and hindrances in complying with Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- vii. Appoint a High Level Panel to Institute a 'End Modern Slavery Global Awards'

An opportunity for relevant stakeholders to engage and network, the proposed Consultative Forum scheduled for Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 in celebration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons was to be chaired by the UK's first Independent Anti – Slavery Commissioner (IASC), with Ms. Lise Kingo, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact, the UK Business Secretary, Sajid Javid MP and James Brokenshire MP, Minister of State for Immigration, etc. as Special Guests. Sir Vince Cable, former Business Secretary, Shakira Lady Caine, Patron Anti-Slavery International and Krishnan Guru-Murthy, of Channel 4 were to be invited as Key Note Speakers.

The Forum was aimed at driving up standards in labour markets and supply chain in the UK and internationally. Corporate presentations and submissions to the forum were to be duly published and circulated accordingly.

With my past experience as Coordinator of the Global March against Child Labour in Africa and extensive working partnership with Anti-Slavery International, ECPAT and the UK Consortium for Street Children (1998 - 2006), I and my organisation were eager for a proactive partnership with the High Commissioner, particularly on the strengthening of victim support structures and the promotion of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the first of its kind in Europe, and one of the first in the world.

The initial encouraging engagement with the staff of the Commission and request for elaboration on the proposal was followed by an expansive and detailed 18 page power point presentation sent to the Commission's office, however the project never saw the light of the day due to the inconceivable behaviour of one of the staff of the commission who treated us with disdain.

An appointment to meet with Mr. Kevin Hyland OBE, the Independent Anti – Slavery Commissioner (IASC) or even to discuss the modalities of implementing this well thought



out proposal was un-compassionately rebuffed. This was totally unexpected of such an office which the Prime Minister Teresa May held in high esteem and had boasted to be proactive, when appointing the Independent Anti – Slavery Commissioner into office.

To date there is still an increase in the level of modern slavery in the UK and without a shadow of a doubt, were our project taken on board by the Independent Anti – Slavery Commissioner (IASC), a significant difference could have been recorded in the last year.

However our organisation is resilient and much willing to re-present our cost effective proposal, designed to effectively curtail modern slavery and promote decent and appreciative labour force.

#### **Environment**

'Forum of Emerging Cities of Africa Arab Asia-Pacific (FECAAP) in celebration of the 5th World Cities Day in Rwanda, October 31<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

Our recent commendation of the astute leadership of President Paul Kagame, the current Chairman of te Africa Union (AU) for transforming Rwanda, particularly the City of Rwanda into the pride of all Africans was well received.

With excitement and enthusiasm we gladly acknowledge the recent declaration of Kigali Rwanda's capital by the United Nations as the most beautiful city in Africa and the third greenest city in the world. With such encomium and tribute from the UN, we implored Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) to Chief Host the Celebration of the 5th World Cities Day which is designed to create the foundation of the ' Forum of Emerging Cities of Africa Arab Asia-Pacific (FECAAP) through proactive Public Private Partnership stand of President Kagame, the success or failure of present and future sustainable developmental goals, either at global or regional level.

Almost half of the developing world's population now live in cities, and rapid urbanization is expected to increase this proportion to two-thirds within a few decades, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The City is now the main driver of growth and stability across Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. And the amazing example of Kigali shows developing countries can begin to work better under good governance.

Within the fundamentals of Global Partnership and the positioning of the City of Kigali as core player in the Global Innovation and Growth agenda, the establishment of the proposed 'Forum of Emerging Cities of Africa Asia (FECAAP), in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) schema has become inevitable in meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's challenges.

Cities beyond the traditional financial and business centres are working to improve their quality of living so they can attract more foreign companies. This year's survey recognizes so-called 'second tier' or 'emerging' cites and points to a few examples from around the world. These cities have been investing massively in their infrastructure and attracting foreign direct investments by providing incentives such as tax, housing, or entry facilities.



Essentially in order to enhance sustainable development, FECAAP is designed to effectively promote traditional financial centres.

On the instance of the Rwandan Minister of Infrastructure, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Action (MoA) detailing FECAAP synopsis and the logistics for Rwand's successful hosting, submitted last week is currently receiving closer attention of the Rwandan government.

Establishing a framework that will enhance global priorities in advancing sustainable development through structured partnership and integration of stakeholders in developing countries, Rwanda's hosting of FECAAP, will strengthen Africa's leadership role in global partnership and enhance both the sustainable development outcome of the SDGs vision and Africa's cohesive efforts at facilitating concrete and cohesive partnerships, and the cross fertilization of new innovations.

Rwanda's hosting and institutionalization of FECAAP, which is designed to proactively address the imbalance and inadequacies in the preservation and enhancement of cities in developing countries, will no doubt create an indelible legacy for Africa, open access to funds and new emerging markets as well as a highly responsive modern technology, and as well improve on the health and living standard of the Rwandan populace.

We hope the UNGC will fully endorse and support this innovative, well researched, far reaching environmental sustainable development scheme FECAAP.

#### **Climate Change and Tourism**

In response to our 8th February 2018 meeting with the Commonwealth on areas of collaboration, on the 20th of March 2018, we received a very stimulating email from the Chief of Staff to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, stating that based on the promise made by the Commonwealth to recommend contact points for our projects, action had been taken introducing and connecting our organisation with heads of relevant departments of the Secretariat namely the Director of Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources, Mr. Paulo Kautoke, and Director of Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development, Professor Prajapati Trivedi.

In the coming weeks the named officers will be met on working out details on our anticipated collaboration with the Commonwealth on our strategic projects, spanning Governance and Peace, Trade, Oceans and natural Resources, Economic Social and Sustainable Development.

As evidence of good Public Private Partnership, the Commonwealth has also been magnanimous in connecting our office with heads of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation to facilitate our forthcoming project the '1<sup>st</sup> London Consultative Forum, Expo & Awards on Caribbean Tourism & Hospitality Industry, in celebration of the 45th anniversary of CARICOM and the World Travel Market in London, in November, with the theme "Strategic Management and Effects of Climate Change on the Sustainable Development of Tourism"



We have been assured of the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, the Secretary-General's presence in addressing this august event with the provision of a Foreword to be published in the Forum's Souvenir.

#### Remembrance for all victims of Chemical Warfare

UN Day of Remembrance for all victims of Chemical Warfare was celebrated by AASGON with the issue of a press release and speech delivered at a party organised by graduating students of the S.V. Polythechnic College, Bhopal in India.

Joining UN call to Kim Jong of North Korea, the AASGON founder said it was important for North Korea, as a member of the UN under resolution 46/1, of 26 years ago to assent to the UN Secretary-General's call by signing to the UN Chemical Weapons convention without any hesitation. Such step he emphasised will to a large extent serve as an assurance that his country will refrain from the use of chemical weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

The Day of Remembrance for all victims of Chemical Warfare is an annual event held on April 29 as a 'Tribute to the victims of chemical warfare as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security and multilateralism. It is officially recognised by the UN and has been celebrated since 2005.

#### Climate Change - COP22 Morocco

Pushing the sustainable development agenda forward, the African Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) is committed to exploring practical solutions to disquiets on environment, energy, science, health and climate change within the regions of Africa Asia and the Pacific

We carried out an preliminary research on appropriate ways in which the transition to a low carbon, resource-efficient 'Green Economy' can be realized in developing countries, particularly deprived and

The 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference was an international meeting of political leaders and activists to discuss environmental issues. It was held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 7-18 November 2016. The conference incorporated the twenty-second Conference of the Parties (COP22), the twelfth meeting of the parties for the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12), and the first meeting of the parties for the Paris Agreement (CMA1).

The conference discussed plans and implementation at combatting climate change and demonstrated to the world that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway.

Participants worked together to come up with global solutions to climate change.



The conference was presided over by Salaheddine Mezouar, the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Approximately about 20,000 participants attended the international conference and Expo.

The AASGON Founder and Gropup Executive President, Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed invited as Guest Speaker participated in the COP22 Conference Talks COP22 and the Smart Tech 22 Africa For Change.

Addressing a large audience of Policy Makers, Scientists, Industrialists and scholars from diverse fields of renewable energy, digital and green economy including Start-Ups, SMEs, or innovative projects, he emphasised on the 'Power of Partnership for Ultimate Success in attaining the SGDs'.

AASGON also had an exhibition stand to promote its activities and the UN SDGs under My green Africa initiative at the COP22.

With focus on poverty alleviation and the realisation of green societies and sustainable development, we are currently developing partnership with some viable networks

# **Anti-Corruption**

With no clear regulation of supremacy, Corruption seems to be thriving in our unimpassioned World.

Assets illicitly acquired by Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) such as Heads of State and high public officials, who illegally enrich themselves through state funds, deprive their state of capital and hinder the development of most countries particularly in Africa.

These so-called "potentate funds" are frequently sent out of the country and invested in international financial centres such as Switzerland which now has interest in ensuring that assets of criminal origin are curbed.

Commemorating Nigeria's Independence Anniversary on Friday September 23, 2016 at the Nigeria High Commission, in London I was invited as guest speaker at the ICAN (Institute of Chartered Accountants) UK & District Society conference.

With the theme "Accountability: Need for a Paradigm Shift in Public Financial Management and Stewardship and citing the ongoing changes in public service delivery in Nigeria, I called for a shift in public mind-set and how public finances are managed and reported in order to ensure accountability and attract foreign investors for ultimate repositioning of the Nigerian economy for growth and sustainability.

Africa endemic corruption as widely acknowledged, is a considerable obstacle to economic and social development, and continues to negate on sustainable development in the vastly endowed continent.



Tarnishing the reputation, values and ethics of honest and truly dedicated professionals, the lack of financial prudence and accountability generally in the public service has extensively impeded growth and wealth creation as well as discourage genuine interest of local and international investors in the development of most African economy, particularly Nigeria, the world's most populous black community.

In the public interest, the country and Africa in general urgently require robust anticorruption measures and practices to protect the reputation of the sovereign continent and create a sustainable economy for its teeming poverty traumatized populace.

For the realization of a more transparent global economy, I made it clear to the audience that 'the UN Global Compact's 10th Principle states that "Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery."

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries and undermines 'good governance and democratic institutions'

I implore the ICAN UK to join AASGON in its campaign against anti-corruption, and with the support of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), we should and must ensure that adequate risk assessment, reporting and supply chain practices. Prevail in the Nigeria public and private sector.

And in collaboration with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and other stakeholders, influence, and join forces with both government and business operators to provide a united voice against corruption in Nigeria.

Meeting the highest ethical and technical standards and as financial experts, in the public interest, ICAN I challenged, should offer helpful insights that will shape government policy and regulation as well as facilitate business and the economy, without compromising ethical standards.

Lately an increase in global high-profile cases of bribery and corruption has led some emerging economies such as china to continue to develop and improve on rules of corporate governance.

With a number of forensic account investigations and prosecution going on in Nigeria, the government I explicate needs viable internal controls and accounting systems backed by a change to positive culture and transparancy that will extol sound financial management, integrity and good business practices that upholds principles and public loyalty.

For the elimination of financial crime and unethical practices in Africa, more needs to be done to genuinely enhance internal auditing and the forensic accounting role of applying applicable training in investigative skills, provision of logistic and financial support for transparent litigation, impartial reporting, and adequate provision of other related services and documentations.



In their anti-corruption initiatives and on the global front, considering the value chain of Africans' in the diaspora to the wealth and plausible sustainable development of their respective countries and continent at large, I enjoined the ICAN-UK to seek collaboration with established UK based African institutes of Chartered Accountants and Chambers of Commerce and Industries such as the South African Chamber of Commerce based in London.

Corruption is one of the consequences of poor governance. Though it's not the duty of a chartered accountant to detect corruption, I made it clear that ICAN members are in vantage position to detect foul play and inconsistencies - potential whistleblower.

I urged them to maintain close relations with established law enforcement agencies and help in improving overall financial accountability by robustly supervising (auditing), and creating a climate of transparency, adapting to good governance, uphold the institute's code of conducts, professional and moral principles to reduce corruption and illicit financial activities.



#### Other Related SDGs Activities and Actions

# Universities Strategic Management Workshops (USMW) for Sustainable Development.

Most universities and colleges around the world are now grappling with changing dynamics of traditional funding models together with the need to grow sustainably.

In terms of student numbers, the challenges in some cases, is to lessen the students, and grow international students' numbers at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Staff in leadership positions including Vice Chancellors, Presidents, Provosts, Pro Vice Chancellors, Deans of Business Schools and Administrators have the additional challenges of balancing academic rigor and relevance, and growing enterprise and commercial activities across their institutions.

In pursuance of our strong commitment to the SDGs and advancing strategies in unlocking the wealth and productivity of Universities and Colleges, we have, to our credit, designed a widely acknowledged 'Strategic Management Workshops (USMW) for Sustainable Development'.

Tested and seen to be very favourable by the number of interests received from across the world, the three day intensive course specifically structured for Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Pro Vice Chancellors for Research to Deans of Business Schools and Administrators aims at empowering universities for better economic and financial viability and stability in today's highly competitive global market.

This three-day interactive workshop seeks to provide leaders within Higher Education institutions with a unique sustainable interface among education, business, government and the civil society.

The program provides leaders in higher education with a unique opportunity to reposition their universities in their competitive marketplace. Participants will be able to enhance the impact, value and organizational performance, and if required gain assistance in developing their internationalization strategy.

By working through lectures, case studies together with the ability to apply this knowledge to reappraise their university strategy, participants will be able to develop renewal strategies to reposition their institutions.



#### **USMW Topics**

The strategic course comes with a number of pragmatic approach and uncomplicated assimilation such as on:

- What is sustainable development? How can this be incorporated with individual institution's strategy?.
- What is academic entrepreneurship? How can universities align their structures with their desired strategy?.
- The application and integration of sustainable development among education, business, government and the civil society.
- Sources of competitive advantage for universities and essence of partnership.
- Research commercialization, balancing research rigor and impact.
- How changes in the external environment and new higher education phenomena affect the strategic role of marketing.
- Identifying and deploying marketing resources as a driver of university strategy in rapidly changing markets.
- Using strategic marketing to link marketing resources, capabilities, competitive strategy and business performance.
- Governance and increasing academic entrepreneurial activities.
- The role of the business and management schools vis-a-vis other faculties in technology and enterprise development.
- Strategy formulation and execution in universities and manage network effects.
- Strategic action and managing change in universities.
- Case study Making it happen in your university.
- Think tank academics, business, government and the civil society.

#### **Program Overview**

Day One - Managing strategic change in the "new normal" environment and initiating sustainable development.

Day Two - Strategic management and marketing of universities for sustainable competitive advantage.

Day Three - Making it happen within your university and managing existing and creating new stakeholder relationships.

Led by Dr. Paul Phillips Professor of Strategic Management, former Director Kent Business School, Founder and Inaugural Chair, UK Association of Business Schools (ABS) Internation- all and External Relations Committee and Chair ABS Research Steering Committee, Paul is also a Visiting Professor at three Universities in China and is currently writing a textbook on Strategic Management.



#### **Key Benefits**

This program presents a theoretical and practical approach to help resolve strategic decisions facing higher education leaders in their national and international markets.

The content will provide fresh insights into how strategic and marketing management needs to change to compete successfully in the crowded global market.

#### Actionable benefits

A key feature of USMW-4SD is for participants to explore the complex issues that emerge from operating across continents.

The last day of the workshop will be focused on helping participants to formulate a repositioning strategy for their institution.

The workshop will extend participants networks further, and help can be provided in helping find new partners for student exchange programs, undergraduate and postgraduate teaching partnerships, and research collaboration.

Recognizing a dual focus on both academic, research and commercially oriented activities, Ambos et al. (2008) argued that universities can resolve tension by being ambidextrous and creating dual structures.

To buttress this assertion that universities are having the additional challenges of balancing academic rigor and relevance, and growing enterprise and commercial activities across the sector, over 60 heads of universities Vice Chancellors, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research to Deans of Business Schools from about 25 countries, have signified interest in the three day university leaders, strategic and comprehensive management workshop,

Providing heads of higher education with a unique sustainable interface among education, business, government and the civil society, the interactive strategic management workshop is designed to enhance research, investment, innovation and sustainability.



# **UKAAABTES - Support Mechanism for Brexit**

As Britain prepares to leave the European bloc, the Prime Minister Teresa May, on her first visit outside Europe, led a delegation of small and medium-size businesses to India in November 2016. First time in history heads of micro, small medium enterprises were accorded such prominence.

Today the Business community is experiencing new challenges and opportunities, delving into the unknown of Brexit, rising costs, new markets being explored and assessed, with mounting pressures on productivity.

Similarly with uncertainties on the effects of Brexit on British higher education which is the fifth-largest export sector in the UK, and the pronouncement by the Government's Science and Technology (S&T) Committee at the House of Commons, that the UK risks being left behind if Government does not take action to address the digital skills crisis, late last year, we at the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) initiated the UK Africa Arab Asia Business Technology and Education Summit, Awards and Expo (UKAAABTESE) as a viable and substantial prerequisite for addressing the impending departure of Britain from the European Union, and constantly bolster trade, technology and education with countries outside the EU.

Thanking AASGON for the presentation of its proposal on UKAAABTESE and wishing us the best in the conduct of the Summit, the Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee at the House of Commons, according to Ms. Kate Savin the Parliamentary Assistant to the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, the S&T chairman, in her email of the 18th of October 2017, expressed that the Clerk of the Committee at the House of Commons has been instructed to ensure other members of the Committee receive a copy of our proposal and that the Chairman further promised to bear our organisation and its important work in mind when the committee undertake any inquiries in the sustainable development field.

I spoke with Mr. Simon Fiender, the Clerk of the Committee at the House of Commons on Monday the 26th March 2018 and he did confirm sending the proposal to all the Committee members as instructed by its Chairman. The Clerk was emphatic on been the contact point for AASGON with the Committee wherever and whenever his service is required.

To precede the debut of the Summit, Awards and Expo a number of Global Media Consultative Forums in and outside the country have been scheduled for this year.

To make a success of UKAAABTESE plans are ahead to obtain the official endorsement and full support of government notably that of the Secretaries of State for Department of International Trade, the Department of Education and Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Our intended meeting with the top government officials will provide details on the anticipated partnership, the role of government and the logistics for implementation as well as derivable benefits and value to the government and the country in its entirety after Brexit.



We also plan to get the endorsement of UKAAABTES from Lord Jack McConnell, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the SDGs.

Formed after the 2015 UK general election in advance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals which was held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, the All-Party Parliamentary Group concerns itself with the sustainability of international development objectives and looks to 'promote debate in advance of the sustainable development goals at the United Nations and to monitor their implementation in the years that follow'.

Following my earlier meeting with Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP Leader of the Liberal Democrat and former Business Secretary at a function at the Chinese Embassy, where he received an Award, we made contact with Sir Vince Cable whom we have considered as Keynote Speaker at UKAAABTESE. For the party's engagement, we have been advised to have preliminary discussions with either, Baroness Lindsay Northover, a former government Minister and currently the Lords Spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs or MP Layla Moran who is the Party's Education Spokesperson.

Meanwhile a number of international and local partners have notified us of their partnership endorsement and interest to participate in UKAAABTESE. Some of such institutions are, the South London Export Club (SLEC), the World Association of Small Medium Enterprises (WASME), IIT Delhi, India, the World Academy of Informatics and Management Science (WAIMS), the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Institute of Directors (IOD), India, Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), the Africa Asia Development Council, Information Society, India, Business Press India (BPI), the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), Arab Association of Universities (ARAU) and the Association of African Universities (AAU) to mention a few.

As Signatory to the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and Member of the UK Stakeholders Sustainable Development (UKSSD), to shore up the socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth of the country to attain the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as promote International Student Mobility, our concept of UKAAABTESE is to embrace the annual commemoration of the UN Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Day as from the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in June 2019 at the London Excel.

Preceding the event Pre-UKAAABTESE Global Media Consultative Forums are scheduled to hold in some designated countries after the celebration of this year's June 27 MSME Day.



# ACCSEP - Academic Career Culture and Scholarship Exchange Program

India is the third largest investor in the U.K., and the U.K. is the largest G20 investor in India. It stands to reason that on her for first foreign visit outside Europe after taking over as Prime Minister, India was Theresa May's favourite.

Following her overwhelming state visit to India in November 2016, within our established platform, resources and expertise, and continuation in encouraging and facilitating entrepreneurs' business development to achieve sustainable commercial successes, AASGON, in its clear demonstration and sturdy commitment to the growth of technology innovators, start-ups and early years' organizations in and outside its Kent community, organised its 2016 End of Year Consultative Forum a year after the prime minister's state visit to India.

Held at AASGON headquarters, the Innovation Centre, Medway, Kent, UK on the 16th December 2016, the theme of the Forum was 'Enhanced Integrated Business Technology' (EIBT) for Sustainable Development'.

Complementing Medway and Kent County's strive to promote Technology and it's vantage position of hosting five universities within its province, we invited the President of one of our key government allies, the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Professor Pratapsinh Kakaso Desai, as Guest Lecturer.

In conformity with AASGON's Academic Career Culture and Scholarship Exchange Program (ACCSEP), earlier before the Consultative Forum, the ISTE President accompanied by his wife, was taken on a study tour of the 'Universities at Medway', a globally acknowledged and unique partnership which brought together the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid-Kent College at a shared campus at Chatham Maritime. The entourage which include representatives of government and the organised private sector paid similar visit to the University of Creative Arts in Rochester, Medway.

With policies aimed at projecting India as a Science & Technology powerhouse, and promoting both public and private sector involvement in the Research & Development practice India is the Third largest technical manpower in the world and the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) stands as the leading National Professional non-profit making Society for the Technical Education System in India.

Over the past 75 years the ISTE has been responsible for the Career Development of Teachers, the Personality Development of Students and overall development of the country's Technical Education System. At present, ISTE has a very large and an effective membership base consisting of more than 1,02,985 Life Members, 5,54,094 Student Members, 2410 Institutional Members (including IITs, IISc.., NITs and other leading technical institutions), 1214 Faculty Chapters and 1322 Students' Chapters and 17 Sections.



The ISTE is a close and very strong ally of AASGON. To leverage its academic exchanges AASGON through ACCSEP has advanced actions and contacts with relevant partners in the UK, United States, Africa, Arab and the Asia-Pacific and of course the UK and USA.

# **Happiness Day Celebration**

Recognizing the pursuit of happiness as a fundamental human right and universal aspiration in the lives of all human beings, the first ever UN conference on Happiness was held in 2012. This led to the UN resolution 661281 establishing the International Day of Happiness and its s worldwide celebration on March 20th every year.

As an active partner in the worldwide movement to spread happiness to all, the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON), celebrated the 5th International Happiness Day, at both the RKDF University and the S.V. Polytechnic College, Bhopal (formerly S.V. Government Polytechnic) in Bhopal, the Capital 'Lake City' of Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Speaking at the two interactive sessions on the 15th and 16th March, the Founder and Group Executive President of the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON), Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed, poured encomium on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for his magnanimity and commitment at instilling "Happiness and Positivity in the Lives of Common People of Madhya Pradesh "through the founding of a 'Happiness Department.' in the State of Madhya Pradesh, the first State in history, ever to establish such significant Ministry in India.

Mohammed also commended the Royal Government of Bhutan, which has 10 ministries working in bringing the goal of Gross National Happiness closer to reality and the government of Dubai for establishing the Ministry of Happiness.

The AASGON Chief commended the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), the Jagran Lakecity University (JLU), the RKDF University, S.V.

Polytechnic College, Bhopal and the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) for joining hands with, the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) in the noble drive to officially christen Bhopal as the 'City of Happiness'

Since the 1984 ugly chemical disaster, Bhopal the capital city of MP -The Heart of India-has always been referred to globally as the 'City of Tears', with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's foresight in the introduction of the Happiness Ministry, and the commitment of AASGON in promoting the good work of the government and the culture of the people of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Abdul D. Mohammed strongly believes that the world will henceforth, come to positively recognize and acknowledge Bhopal as the 'City of Happiness'.

Meeting with a number of African and Indian students of the RKDF University the AASGON president spoke on the essence of integration and co-habitation as a means to world peace.

Present at the meeting, the Vice Chancellor, the Chief Admin Office and other key staff, he lectured his audience on the UNCG and its mandate as well as enlightened them on a number of ways in which they can individually and collectively contribute effectively to the attainment of the UN 2030 SDGs.



#### 2017 India-Africa ICT Excellence Award

AASGON President was the Chief Guest Speaker at the 2017 India-Africa ICT Summit organised under the guidance of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India, by the Innovation Society of India, the India–Africa ICT Knowledge Consortium, the Computer Society of India, and the World Academy of Informatics and Management Sciences (WAIMS Foundation). and

Attended by top heads of government, corporate chiefs and ICT experts and scholars, such as Hon'ble Keith Muhakanizi, the Secretary to the Treasury/Central Bank of Uganda who is also Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda in East Africa the Summit, held on the 1st and 2nd December 2017 in New Delhi Republic of India, discussed a number of business opportunities between Africa and India as well as prospect, challenges and way forward to confront Cyber-crimes in Africa and India.

With the success of the Summit, it was unanimously agreed to institute an Africa Arab Asia ICT (AAA-ICT) Summit, Awards and Expo.

The summit presented a Special ICT Excellence Award to the AASGON Founder and Group Executive President, Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed and the Director of Marketing, Mrs. Doha Tahri.

One of the highlights was the official launch of the Asia-Africa Development Council and the Asia Africa Online News Guide.

The Summit witnessed the signing of Memorandum MoU between AASGON and the Innovation Society of India for AASGON to serve as the International Marketing Consultant of the 1st Africa Arab Asia Pacific ICT (AAA-ICT) Summit, Awards and Expo

Scheduled for 2018-2019 the AAA-ICT Summit has received the official endorsement of the Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of



# SADFA - Fostering the Win-Win Cooperation between China and Africa

The Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) is a cooperative partner in the Sino-South Africa friendship and cooperation and Coordinator of the Sino Africa Diaspora Forum and Awards (SADFA)

In furtherance of the Sino-South Africa bilateral investment, and continuous search for new economic cooperation opportunities between China and South Africa, the China Council for International Investment Promotion, Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of South Africa, Department of Public Enterprises of the Republic of South Africa, Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa and Government of Johannesburg will be hosting the Sino-South Africa New Economic Cooperation Opportunities Forum in Sandton, Convention Center in Johannesburg on July 21st, 2016.

In our commitment to FOCAC and the development of Sino-South Africa bilateral investment relationship through joint promotion of investment and trade cooperation between enterprises in China and in South Africa, the AASGON Founder and Executive President Mr. Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed made some vital pronouncements at the Sino-South Africa New Economic Cooperation Opportunities Forum at the Sandton, Convention Center in July.

With great admiration for FOCAC (the Forum of China Africa Corporation) and highly committed to ensure the success of the development of Sino-South Africa bilateral investment relationship, the AASGON President three major requests to the Chinese and South African Governments is for them to act on the following:

- 1. Institute a high level Committee to work with AASGON and other stakeholders to finalize logistics for establishing a China-Africa Association of Small Medium Enterprises (CAASME).
- A fraction of the Chinese President's \$5 billion investment on Africa's Small Medium Enterprises requires an established civil society structure such as CAASME to meet the demands of the sector within the vast African continent.
- 2. To support AASGON on its formation of a 'Forum of Africa China University Presidents' (FACUP)
- FACUP will support and strengthen the CATTF the China –Africa Think Tanks 10+10 Partnership Forum, spearheaded by the Zhejiang Normal University, China.
- 3. The establishment of a China-Africa Structural Development Bank (CASD).
- CASD is to work in parallel with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). CASD will ensure funds are appropriately injected for meaningful development.

The establishment of the Sino-African Diaspora Forum and Awards (SADFA), a strategic Forum initiated by the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) in 2016, got its



inspiration from His Excellency Obed Mlaba the High Commissioner of South Africa to the United Kingdom. South Africa is the coordinating country for Africa on the China relations.

A not-for-profit 'Academic, Socio-Economic and Cultural Think Tank', SADFA was established to promote sustainable development and facilitate business, investments, and mutual understanding between Overseas Chinese and African Entrepreneurs, the Academics and the civil society and most importantly the Win-Win Cooperation declared at the December 2015 China-Africa summit in Johannesburg, where the Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged \$60 billion (55 billion euros) in assistance and loans for Africa.

SADFA's strategic platform brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, businessmen, investors and industrialists keenly interested in doing business in Africa or China and contributing to world peace and prosperity

Promoting sustainable socio-economic and cultural relationships and the exchange of best practices between China and Africa, SADFA creates the enabling environment for Heads of African and Chinese Governments and Diplomatic Missions to engage with businesses, educational and research institutions, the media, and civil society organisations largely based in Europe and America.

To help promote the China-Africa Cooperation by providing interactive networking and business development opportunities, our unique platform essentially conducts investment workshops, seminars, luncheons, dinners, and annual Investors Awards.

Strengthening Sino-Africa relations, SADFA provides professional support for companies wishing to establish businesses in Africa or Chinese communities.

SADFA excels offering Consulting services and assisting with the identification of potential partners and investors, and the exchange of valuable information on commercial, investments and trade relations between China and Africa.

To ensure smooth implementation of the Sino-Africa initiatives President Xi announced, China will offer 60 billion U.S. dollars of funding support, including 5 billion dollars of free aid and interest-free loans, 35 billion dollars of preferential loans and export credit on more favourable terms, 5 billion dollars of additional capital for the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs each, and a China-Africa production capacity cooperation fund with the initial capital of 10 billion dollars. Xi stressed China's readiness to share, without any reservation, advanced applicable technology with Africa and help strengthen "Africa's internal drive for economic development.

"We should respect each other's choice of development path and not impose our own will on others... China strongly believes Africa belongs to the African people and African problems should be handled by the African people" affirmed Xi Jinping.

Over 45m Africans and 6m Chinese reside in America, while about 4million Chinese and 15m Africans live in Europe. With the dearth of engagement and investment between Chinese and Africans in Diaspora, SADFA's key mission is to help bridge the gap and



actively involve the two clan in the accomplishments of FOCAC and Africa's Sustainable Growth.

AASGON is a member of the 48 Group Club 'The Icebreakers'. In the late 1980's the 48 Group merged with the Sino-British Trade Council to form the China-Britain Trade Group, now known as the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC). Today, the Club has grown to over 500 members and continues to develop the work of promoting positive Sino-British relations.

# **AAAPCCIA: AASGON- Private Sector Partnerships**

SDGs is largely becoming the beacon and watchword for the future growth and stability anticipated across nations of the world, particularly the developing countries. Championed by the United Nations in facing the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 'Renewed Partnerships for Sustainable Development', an off-shoot of Post MDGs, is being gradually incorporated in the mindset of not just the academics but the civil society and the organized private sector by AASGON.

In view of the dearth of engagement and partnership among the world's most diverse continents' chambers of commerce which constitutes over two third of the world's growing enterprise and our strong commitment to the successful delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, I went over to Accra, Ghana where I met with one of our Directors, Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankawoso 1, currently the President of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) and that of the Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on the need to endorse the conduct of the 1st Summit of Africa Arab Asia-Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

The aim is to establish a platform of engagement for transnational Chambers of Commerce that will jointly promote economic prosperity, quality of life, collaboration, innovation, enterprise, financial integrity and curb corruption in developing countries.

Transnational Chambers of Commerce and Industry, are groups of chambers sharing a similar geographical region, economic grouping, cultural or language basis. There are more than 20 transnational chambers around the world, creating a regional grouping of chambers of commerce, associations and enterprises.

They are non-governmental organizations, cutting across borders and serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen and women in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth.

Though they can be found in most regions of the world, Transnational chambers are not directly unified among the Africa Arab Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which is why the concept of AAAPCCIA becomes highly necessary.

The idea of the summit and our intent to establish an Africa Arab Asia-Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, (AAAPCCIA) was warmly welcome by both PAACCI and GCCI. When established the consortium will build up partnership for sustainable development,



enhance Africa Arab Asia Pacific economic integration and serve as a united voice for advancing a conducive environment for thriving business

A 'Transnational Business Innovation and Technology Centre for Sustainable Development (TBITC-4SD)' is part of the structure to be established by AAAPCCIA when in operation.

AS partners the Chamber's Head of Marketing Investment and Promotions, Mr. Frederick Adu Amoako, who was at the meeting with us, was appointed to represent the Chamber in a committee we plan to set up this year to formalise the institutionalisation of AAAPCCIA.

Our plans to organise the first <u>Indo-Africa Business</u>, <u>Technology and Education Expo (IABTEE)</u> at the Ghana Trade Fair Centre also received the blessings of the two Chambers.

To discuss Africa's participation at our forthcoming 1st World Film Music and Arts Festival in India, I also met with the Director General of the Ghana Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative, Departmental Heads and the Ghana Creative Arts Association at the Minister's Conference Room. Earlier I was at Kumasi where I gave a short address on the UN SDGs at the Kumasi Chamber of Commerce Conference.

# FIMAAFEST - Promoting Peace, Unity and Diversity

At a meeting in December 2017 with the Indian Ministry of Culture the news of India hosting the 1st World Film Music Arts and Awards Festival was very well received and in principle the Culture Ministry has shown some interest of support.

We acknowledge the immeasurable contribution of the Government of India to the socio economic advancement of the developing countries of Africa Arab and the Asia-Pacific, particularly over the last six decades from the inception of the Bandung Conference in April 1955.

India's approach to cooperation, according to H.E. Mr. Syed Akbaruddin, Ambassador Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York, can be summarized as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "the World is one Family" and with this philosophical approach, he emphasized "we engage in South-South cooperation"

In support of this well acclaimed phrase of Ambassador Akbaruddin, the Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of UNOSSC, Mr. Jorge Chediek stated that "India is frequently praised for its contributions of manpower and resources towards shaping a better world, and her notable leadership and drive tends towards ensuring that no one is left behind, both in India and worldwide".

Considering the fact that on the 8th of June 2017, the Republic of India and the United Nations office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the hosting of the World's first Film Music and Arts Awards Festival (FIMAAFEST) and the establishment of 'South-South Academy of Film Music & Arts' (SSAFMA) according to pundits, though long overdue, is regarded as very timely and significant for the attainment of peace and prosperity, a contributive tool to the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



With the Ministry of Culture of India and AASGON, as key partners of FIMAAFEST, along with the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), SPIC-MACAY, Jagran Lakecity University, Teamwork Arts, India Institute of Technology Delhi, the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), and the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) as collaborators, the institutionalization of FIMAAFEST, taking place October 13th - 19, 2018, at the IIT Delhi, will shore up the socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth of the Global South.

A significant tribute to the annual Celebration "UN World Food Day and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty", on the 15th of October 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed between the lead partners of FIMAAFEST, the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) and the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) during the ISTE Board Meeting and its 19th National Students Convention held at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

Principally initiated for the unification of people of Africa Arab and the Asia Pacific, it is strategically conceptualized to act as a framework for the enrichment of collaboration among countries of the South in their respective economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains via the world of Film, Music and Arts, including Fashion, Food, Literature, Architecture and Archaeology as well as sports, which is also an 'expression or application of human creative skill and imagination'.

In history, FIMAAFEST is the first multicultural, film, music, designs, technology and arts celebration, specifically initiated for the main purpose of collectively advancing the ancient and contemporary arts, film and music industry of developing nations of the world.

FIMAAFEST is designed to create the enabling environment and platform for Africa Arab Asia-Pacific practitioners, scholars and students as well as broadcasters, researchers and investors, manufacturers, distributors, programmers, engineers and producers in the film, music and the arts sector to integrate, share experiences, identify areas of needs and priorities that will evolve the creation of peace, prosperity and sustainable development through proactive and mutually beneficial partnerships, as proposed in Bali, Indonesia on March 27, 2013 by the UN panel of eminent persons on Post MDGs headed by the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Indonesia President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the former British Prime Minister, David Cameron.

Fascinated by the rapid social and cultural transformation of the world's most populated and diverse communities which have been undergoing dramatic economic and social revolution, FIMAAFEST, an exciting new challenge and major turning point in modern history, will in repositioning the nation of India as core player in the resurgence of the Bandung Spirit and the UN Renewed Global Partnership Schema, showcase enormous cultural potency of India and of those from diverse vocations and nationalities from across the nations of Africa, Arab and the Asia-Pacific.



In partnership with Rendezvous, an amalgamation of art, activities and attractions, famously known as RDV an annual Cultural Festival of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and the SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth) a non-political, nationwide, voluntary movement founded in 1977 by Dr Kiran Seth, Professor-Emeritus at IIT-Delhi who was awarded the 'Padma Shri' for his contribution to the arts in 2009, FIMAAFEST will in October 2018 open the world into a window of breath-taking films, music and art prospects of the 21st century.

FIMAAFEST has been widely acknowledged by producers and directors in the arts and creativity industry as the 1st Film Music Arts Awards Festival ever to be conducted in world history.

Pronounced a significant tribute to the annual Celebration of the "UN World Food Day" and the "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" the debut of this landmark occasion is expected to hold at India's Institute of National Importance, the India Institute of Technology, (IIT) Delhi, 13th - 19th October 2018.

In line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Developing Countries, FIMAAFEST aims among others to facilitate developing countries greater degree of participation in international economic, technical and cultural activities, and for the attainment of peace, prosperity and sustainable growth in the Global South, strengthen proactive partnership and in maintaining food security and poverty reduction increase the level of proactive intercontinental cooperation.

Promoting UNESCO's vision for the future Post-2015 Development Agenda, Proposed Collaboration between the key partners, the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON), the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Jagran Lakecity University (JLU), Teamwork Arts, India Innovation Society, the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), the Association of African Universities (AAU), the Association of Arab Universities (ARAU), the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, on the Institutionalisation of FIMAAFEST & SSAFMA, signifies the fulfilment of the 'Enabling Strategy' for resolving to promote and ensure 'Global Peace, Prosperity and Sustainable Development across in particular, the Global South.

Aside from countries in Africa Arab and the Asia-Pacific, the founding organization of the World's First Film Music and Arts Awards Festival (FIMAAFEST) the Africa Asia Scholars global Network (AASGON) is pleased to confirm the receipt of interest in FIMAAFEST from a number of Countries in the Global South such as the Republic of Argentina, where the 'Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Developing Countries' and the celebration of the International Day for South - South Cooperation were first adopted.

Conceptualized as the first of its kind, FIMAAFEST draws the interest of world leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, professionals and scholars in the field of Film, Music and Arts including Literature, Sports and Architecture.



Thousands are due to converge in Delhi to institutionalize FIMAAFEST and exceptionally showcase the Global South and in particular the Africa Arab and the Asia-Pacific enormously diverse and exceeding cultural potency.

"Celebrating Africa Arab Asia-Pacific cultural and resourceful potency on a world stage, as well as the best of Indian Culture and creativity as a mark of the 'UK-India Year of Culture', FIMAAFEST promotes the very best in the world's most explosive and vibrant industry, the film, music, arts, sports and architecture.

Providing social, historical and cultural context of arts and culture in the emerging nations, FIMAAFEST showcases the latest trends and happenings in the contemporary world".

#### 2018 Dubai International Conclave

Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed, the AASGON Founder and Group Executive President was Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the 2018 Dubai International conclave on the theme, Future of Education: Possibilities & Challenges from Feb 23rd to 26th February 2018 at the Curtin University in Dubai, UAE

Participants at the conference organised by City Counselling Centre Bangalore and GiantStep, include senior professors, directors, principals of many prestigious institutions and heads of corporate firms

In recognition of Abdul Dewale's vast experience and expertise in the field of global education & cultural dynamics, he was presented a special award by the organisers of the conference after his keynote speech..

#### Health

#### Rotary - Guest at Rahat-Medical Diagnosis Camp in MP, India.

Hundreds of people from the rural community of Satlapur, Mandideep in Madhya Pradesh (MP), on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2017, trouped to their community health centre to receive free quality treatment and drugs provided by the Rotary Club Bhopal Hills' through its Rahat - Medical Diagnosis Camp initiative which lasted three good days of selfless humanitarian service.

As special guest at the occasion, Abdul 'Dewale Mohammed, founder and group executive president of the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON), who 25years ago was President of Rotary Club of Iponri District 9110, praised the President of the Rotary Club Bhopal Hills', Rtn. Anil Agrawal, the Club's Secretary, Rtn. Aseem Jindal and the executive members for their committed and continuous efforts at offering free and quality medical services in ensuring good and sound health for people in the rural communities.



"Health is wealth" Abdul 'Dewale re-emphasised when taken round the centre to see all the Doctors, Rotarians and Rotaractors who were busy with the crowded, happy and appreciative patients.

Established in 1905 in Chicago, Rotary International is a world wide organisation of business and professional leaders, dedicated to high vocational standards, community service, and international understanding. Rotary clubs in Bhopal are part of Rotary District 3040, which covers geographic area of most of MP and part of Gujarat. The Name – Bhopal is known as city of lakes. "If the Upper Lake is the soul of Bhopal, the small hills around it are the key features of its personality" Hence the name – 'Rotary Club Bhopal Hills'.

The AASGON President was in Bhopal to prepare grounds for the conduct of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Film Music and Arts Festival (FIMAAFEST) to be held in India.

# Sickle Cell Enlightenment Campaign

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetically passed down blood disorder that results in abnormality in the oxygen-carrying protein haemoglobin found in red blood cells. As the most frequent genetic disease worldwide it is predominant in Africa.

As a consequence of the sudden loss of the husband of one of our members, a health columnist in our AKADA bulletin, to the Sickle Cell Disease in 2011 we initiated ASCC4ER (Africa Centre for Sickle Cell for Education and Research) to provide qualitative research, training and advocacy.

Monitoring and evaluating SCD healthcare and wellness performance across the Continent of Africa, ASCC4ER, will institute an annual Sickle Cell Disease 'Global Awards' (SCDGW) and create more awareness about the Disease...