

PAN AFRICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (PAYLF)
DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA: RENEWING THE VISION
JUNE 18 – 25, 2007
ACCRA, GHANA
FRIENDS OF AFRICA INTERNATIONAL (FAI)

2007 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROBLEM:

The multitude of crises that beset Africa in the last three decades of the 20th century and which might continue to compromise the future of the continent, was largely two fold and inter-related. In the first place, it was a crisis in the value system(s) that inform our institutions; and secondly, it was a crisis of leadership. If Africans are to reclaim and realize their enormous potential, it is important that young leaders acquire skills, training, networking, and a continent-wide awareness of the challenges that face the continent.

African countries are confronted by countless obstacles to development. Governments and civil society organizations toil to combat poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and underemployment, conflicts and displacement, and the HIV/AIDS crisis. The socio-economic problems faced by African nations have deeply rooted historical antecedents.

Disturbingly, African youth are largely excluded from the policy debates and the identification of solutions to these key challenges. Nevertheless, it is young Africans who bear the burdens of Africa's underdevelopment, widespread poverty, and health crises. Yet, despite their constituting a majority demographic in many African nations, they have few opportunities to contribute to dialogue on development alternatives. Friends of Africa International (FAI) believes that young Africans must be part of the development debate. As the continent's future politicians, professionals and community leaders, African youth must be incorporated into such integrated development planning.

If, as FAI believes, youth are among Africa's most precious resources, they must be equipped with the skills and opportunities necessary to contribute to national policy dialogue. African youth must be afforded space to stimulate socio-economic and political development so as to enhance not only their own quality of life, but also that of all Africans and of future generations. Enabling youth involvement in African political discourse calls for appropriate training and education. Equipping young professionals with skills and knowledge to engage in political action will foster the development of the continent's future leaders.

Further, the need to involve African youth in the development process has become unequivocally apparent. The World Bank *World Development Report 2007* asserts that youth are daily confronted by risk, but are also in an age laden with opportunities- opportunities to advance themselves, their families, their societies, and their economies.

It is this time in life where decisions are made that will determine how human capital is protected, developed, and utilized. Thus, it is imperative that youth are afforded access to quality education, health care, gainful employment, and are given a voice to exercise their rightful citizenship. The report affirms that the situation of youth today presents the world with “an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate growth and reduce poverty” and that responsible public policy will play a vital role in realizing these potential gains. The World Bank report also suggests that policies should be analyzed through a “youth lens” and offers three strategic directions for policy reform: broadening opportunities for youth, developing youth capabilities in making informed choices among opportunities as responsible agents, and offering second chances to those who have been affected by past misfortune or poor decision-making.

In order to apply such a youth lens such a “youth lens” to policy analysis and development programming, FAI has organized this Pan African Youth Leadership Forum to be held in Accra, Ghana from June 18 -25. It will provide a venue for young Africans to be heard on the issues that they deem most pertinent to Africa’s youth.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- To encourage the active participation of youth in community leadership and public policy formulation.
- To create an ongoing dialogue between young future leaders and African leaders on renewing the vision of democracy in Africa.
- To provide these delegates with strong practical and theoretical knowledge and skills needed to promote democracy in Africa and to strengthen democratic values.
- To draft action plans to tackle issues faced by African youth. These action plans will draw upon the information obtained during the first 3 days of educational workshops and dialogues as well as from the knowledge and expertise of the delegates.
- To create a platform for assembling some of Africa's dedicated, promising, and most proactive young individuals who are well informed in order to promote dialogue among them and foster exchange of information and perspectives on common problems faced by African youth.
- To enable networking among delegates, facilitating the exchange of productive human and material capital.

STRATEGY:

The Pan-African Youth Leadership Forum will be a one-week program to be held in Accra, Ghana in June 2007. Participation will be limited to 106 delegates drawn from as many as Africa’s 53 countries as possible.

The first three days will be focused on dialogue with international experts from Africa and elsewhere. This will be accompanied by skills building workshops on human rights and democratic governance in Africa, using models from countries with enduring democracy. Building upon personal expertise and on the training participants received from the forum, the fourth day will feature regional dialogues on plans of action, strategies for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The fifth day will be an international conference where dignitaries in decision-making bodies of the continent will be presented with our recommendations. Participants will be able to have a one-on-one discussion with Heads of State present in Ghana for the Africa Union Heads of State Summit at which the plight of African youth and the development process will be addressed. On the final day, the participants will embark on a field trip to historical sites in Ghana.

PLEASE NOTE, MOST OF THE SESSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH. HOWEVER, ENGLISH - FRENCH - ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL BE PROVIDED.

PROGRAM FOCUS:

This one week intensive program will focus on but not limited to the following key issues in Africa:

- Democracy in Africa: Past, Present and Future Perspective
- Democracy and Leadership: Success Stories
- The State of Human Rights in Contemporary Africa
- Armed Conflicts in Africa: The Role of Youth as Change Agents
- Free and Fair Elections in Africa: A Possibility?
- Development and the MDGs: Can NEPAD Deliver?

Activists working on the above areas are strongly encouraged to apply.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS:

The forum will host approximately 106 African youth delegates from various nations. The delegates selected for participation will bring various areas of expertise, they will be among Africa's most dedicated, promising and most creative young professionals. Each will have demonstrated a keen interest in Africa's development, and will be actively engaged in promoting human rights, democracy, good governance and social justice in their respective countries.

Emphasis will be placed on African young adults aged between 25 – 35 years, who:

- Have demonstrated leadership in their different constituencies

- Are committed to the social and economic development of Africa building on the legacies left behind by the founders of the Organization of African Unity *now* African Union.
- Are actively engaged in civil society and the rebuilding process who are able to empower others.

TIMING AND COMMITMENT:

The 2007 Pan African Youth Leadership Forum – PAYLF, will run from June 18 – 25, 2007. Participants must commit to fully prepare for and take part in the forum throughout its duration. Selected participants will be required to write a short paper and prepare a presentation about their work in advance of the forum orientation.

FUNDING:

A limited number of scholarships will be offered for this Forum. We strongly encourage applicants to submit their application materials as soon as possible. Applicants should indicate in their application if they would like to be considered for scholarship.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Completed applications are due by May 10, 2007. Applications may be sent by fax, email, or post. Applicants should take into consideration the time it takes for international mail to arrive. All application items must be received by the deadline.

STATUS NOTIFICATION:

Accepted applicants will be notified of their acceptance in the week of May 15, when the selection committee convenes. All efforts will be made to notify others of their status as soon as possible after this time. However, due to fundraising cycles that could affect the total number of scholarships, candidates whose applications have been declined may not be notified until June.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Applicants from ECOWAS member states do not require visa. However applicants from other regions in Africa are encouraged to proceed with visa applications as soon as they receive their acceptance letter.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete all sections. All requested information should be typed or clearly printed in English. For questions that require you to provide answers on a separate sheet of paper, please be sure to indicate at the top of the page which question you are answering. Please limit each essay to one page per question.

Applicants should email, fax, or post all required materials together. Two letters of recommendation are required but may be sent separately, as scanned attachments by

email, by fax, or by post. All letters should be received no later than May 10, 2007. Applicants are encouraged to send materials electronically or by fax to avoid the high costs associated with private, express mail services.

Upon receipt of a completed application, FAI will send confirmation to the applicant. While every effort will be made to notify applicants of any missing materials, due to the high volume of applications, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required materials is received by the deadline.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

Before you mail your application to FAI, please check the following required materials to be sure your application is complete:

- Section A: Personal Data
- Section B: Curriculum vitae or résumé
- Section C: Essay Questions (essays 1-3)
- Section D: Institutional Statement of Support
- Section E: Materials from Your Organization
- Section F: Funding
- Section G: Skills Training Questionnaire
- Section H: Letters of Recommendation (2)
- Letters of Recommendation sent separately

Please submit all application materials to:

Friends of Africa International, Inc. (FAI)
676A 9th Avenue, # 150
New York, NY 10036
USA

Tel: +1 (646) 797-7115

Fax: +1 (480) 287-8290

Email: paylf@fafrica.org

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
ENGLISH – FRENCH – ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL BE PROVIDED**

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Please read this application form carefully. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**2007 PAYLF APPLICATION
SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA**

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family/Last Name:	Given/First Name:
Middle Name:	Gender:
Date of Birth (month / day / year):	City & Country of Birth:
Country of Citizenship:	Country of Residence:
Country You Currently Reside:	

ONE PASSPHOTO (This will be posted on FAI's web site)

How did you learn of the Pan Africa Youth Leadership Forum?

2. ISSUE AREA

Note: Applicants working on program focus areas are strongly encouraged to apply for this Forum.

Please mark the area(s) listed below that correspond(s) to your area(s) of expertise:

- Development Theories and Practice
- Community Leadership and Youth Empowerment
- Economics and Social Cultural Rights
- Human rights and Democracy
- Public Policy and Political Affairs
- Elections

Briefly describe your current work and greatest challenges (limit 500 words):

3. PRIMARY ORGANIZATION'S INFORMATION

Name of Organization:

Your Title: _____ Since date: _____
Status: full-time part-time volunteer other:

Organization's Physical/Street Address:

City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
Organization's Email: _____ Organization's Website: _____

Organization's Post Office Box Address (if applicable):

City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____

Mission/Purpose of Organization:

Founding Date or Age of Organization: _____ Number of Staff: _____
Number of Volunteers (if applicable): _____ Number of Members (if applicable): _____
Organization's Annual Budget (in U.S. dollars): _____
Primary Funding Sources for Organization: _____
Organization's Network Membership(s) or Other Affiliations: _____

4. APPLICANT'S OTHER CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

Please detail other relevant affiliations you currently have in addition to your primary organizational affiliation listed above. For example, please provide information if you serve as a board member, or are acting as a consultant, trainer, volunteer, etc.

Name of Organization: _____ Your Position: _____
Date From: _____ Date To: _____
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Post Code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ Website: _____
Mission/Purpose of Organization: _____

5. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Please list any international organizations with which you or your organization have been working or collaborating (e.g. United Nations, African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, etc.).

Name of Organization:
Contact Person (Name, Title):
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address:
City: State:
Post Code: Country:
Telephone: Fax:
E-mail: Length/dates of collaboration:
In what capacity have you collaborated with this organization?
Explain the nature of the collaboration:

Name of Organization:
Contact Person (Name, Title):
Organization's Street or P.O. Box Address:
City: State:
Post Code: Country:
Telephone: Fax:
E-mail: Length/dates of collaboration:
In what capacity have you collaborated with this organization?
Explain the nature of the collaboration:

6. HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

Residence Street Address:
City: State:
Post Code: Country:
Telephone: Fax:
Personal email: Alternate personal email:

Residence P.O. Box Address (if applicable):
City: State:
Post Code: Country:

7. EMAIL

Note: Email will be the primary means by which the Friends of Africa International will communicate with you, unless it is not available. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify FAI of any changes in contact information, including e-mail address.

Preferred Email Address: Organization Personal Other:

8. ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Please rate yourself:

Speaking: Fair Good Excellent
Reading: Fair Good Excellent
Writing: Fair Good Excellent

How did you learn English (if it is not your first language)?

9. TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Country	Date From	Date To	Purpose

10. EDUCATION

Highest Degree You Hold:

Degree:

Date of Graduation:

Name of Institution:

Institution's City and Country:

Other Degrees You Hold:

Degree:

Date of Graduation:

Name of Institution:

Institution's City and Country:

Degree:

Date of Graduation:

Name of Institution:

Institution's City and Country:

SECTION B: CURRICULUM VITAE/RÉSUMÉ

Please attach your curriculum vitae or résumé to this application. Include dates and locations for all activities.

SECTION C: ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions (type written preferred). Each answer should be on a separate sheet of paper and should be no longer than one page each. Please be sure to put your name and indicate which question you are answering at the top of each sheet.

ESSAY 1: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

What are your goals and objectives? How would you like to see your work develop? What are the outcomes you would like to see result from your work? What motivates you to do this work? How would you incorporate what you gain from this forum in your work? Describe what experience, qualities and skills you will contribute as an active participant of the program.

ESSAY 2: MEETING YOUR NEEDS

Please indicate in your own words what democracy means to you. How would you relate it to pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial era? In your opinion, how would you approach the issue of renewing that vision of democracy? How does the current political situation in your country affect your work? What are the most pressing challenges? What are the most pressing challenges you currently face in your work? How do you believe this Forum will help you develop your knowledge, skills, and contacts to address these challenges?

ESSAY 3: YOUR COUNTRY'S ISSUES

What are the most critical impacts of the global economy on human rights and democracy in your country? Is your country under a military dictatorship or civilian government? What are the merits and demerits of either? What is the role of youth in your country on nation building? Are they involved in policy formulation and implementation? Please give specific instances.

SECTION D: INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Please Note: The program is designed for individuals who are committed to promoting democracy in their respective countries. In order to be considered for this important forum, applicants must currently be working for a non-profit civil society organization.

Your immediate supervisor or the director of your organization should write a letter of support on the letterhead of your institution indicating the following:

- The applicant's title and length of employment with the organization.
- The applicant's primary job responsibilities.
- Why the organization decided to support this applicant for the Forum.
- How this Forum is expected to benefit the applicant, her/his organization, and the broader community in which he/she works.
- Other necessary information

Please note that this letter of institutional support is in addition to the two letters of recommendation.

SECTION E: MATERIALS FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION

We also request that you include (in hard copy or electronic form) a pamphlet, annual report or other general information on the work of your organization.

SECTION F: FUNDING

There are a limited number of scholarships available for qualified individuals accepted for the Forum. However, accepted individuals will be directed to identified sources of funding. Please indicate below your anticipated source of funding:

Own funding Amount and source:

Scholarship requested

If you are applying for a scholarship, please write below or on a separate sheet of paper a brief essay (no more than one page), detailing why you believe you should be awarded a scholarship.

SECTION G: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation are required. All letters should be received no later than April 27, 2007. Although letters of recommendation may be sent separately from the other application materials, the applicant is responsible for making sure that letters of recommendation are submitted on time. Letters of recommendation must be received in a format that captures the original letterhead and signature. It is therefore suggested that letters of recommendation be sent as scanned attachments by email, by fax, or by post.

Each recommendation should address the following points:

1. How long and in what context the recommender has known the applicant
2. Applicant's level of commitment to democracy and human rights work
3. Applicant's experience related to democracy and human rights
4. How this program is expected to benefit the individual, her/his organization, and the broader community in which he/she works
5. Applicant's ability/capacity to undertake such an intensive one week program
6. Applicant's English fluency (if English is not the applicant's first language)

Please provide the following information for those individuals from whom you have requested letters of recommendation:

Full Name:

Title/Position and Department:

Organization:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Included with application Sent separately

Full Name:

Title/Position and Department:

Organization:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Included with application Sent separately

Please, visit the website for a list of speakers & Trainers.