



AFRICAN RENAISSANCE AMBASSADOR

Newsletter
June, 2007
Volume 1 Issue 1

'Help Africans Help Africa': www.africanrenaissanceambassador.com

The African Renaissance Needs you

By Chris Muflam, ARA Corp President and CEO

"At eight years of age, Decu has never been to school. He is a child, born into poverty in what could be one of the richest places in the world – the Eastern province of Katanga, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are *vast mineral deposits beneath the soil here, over which he walks bare-footed each day*. This treasure trove has never benefited him! Decu could be the next Einstein or Mandela but he has no opportunity to manifest his potential.

African Renaissance Ambassadors believe that there are ways to directly or indirectly change Decu's situation, and that of many Africans today. You can **inform** others about Decu's potential and galvanize the community to become more proactive about those in need – As the African saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Also you can help **transform** Decu's condition by sending him to school. Either way, you are helping to write a different storyline about Africa. You are making sure that through such transformation, the Decus of Africa (Africa's future) would manifest their innate potential. One could become the Einstein whose ingenuity would benefit all of humanity, or another Mandela whose leadership would enable other Decus to benefit from the vast 'mineral deposits' in Africa. By informing/transforming, you **help Decu** to be able to **help Africa**. As you let your light shine, you give others

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The African Renaissance needs you!	1
The African Anthem: Tribute to the African Mother	1
Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu hails the African Renaissance Ambassador Initiative	2
Who is an African?	2
Helping Africans planning to travel abroad	3
The Worst moments of Africans abroad	5
Up coming Events and African Renaissance day	6

permission to do the same. That is who an African Renaissance Ambassador (ARA) is. An ARA is someone who sees Africa's potential, and acts towards translating such visions into reality. To be an ARA is to become part of the solution to Africa's future, ensuring that everyone understands that their contribution is crucial to changing every situation of social and economic injustice into an oasis of success.

As Mandela says in **ARA's 'Preamble'**:

"Africa is beyond bemoaning the past for its problems. The task of undoing that past is ours, with the support of those willing to join us in a continental renewal. ...We (Africans) must take responsibility for our own destiny, that we will uplift ourselves only by our own efforts in partnership with those (Non-Africans) who wish us well."

In other words, the African Renaissance needs you! You can be an ARA for a new ERA in Africa, wherever you are today! (www.africanrenaissanceambassador.com).

THE AFRICAN ANTHEM: TRIBUTE TO THE AFRICAN MOTHER

By Kenneth N. Ngwa, ARA Corp Arts Division Director and Professor at Drew University

It is no coincidence that, in response to a BBC inquiry, Africans chose Prince Nico's "Sweet Mother" as the African Anthem. As an African child who has known the tender care, nurture, and inspiration of a mother, it occurs to me that few, if any other, conceptual images can capture the essence of life for the African child than the adjectival

phrase that combines "sweet" and "mother." I looked up the definition of "sweet" in the dictionary. Here's what I found. Sweet is an adjective that, when used with regards to a person, describes someone that is adorable and loveable, and "who shows a kind and pleasant character." So Prince Nico was articulating the idea of a mother who has a kind,

Please see *The African Anthem* on page 4

I am an African

By Wayne Visser, Nottingham University Business School, UK

I am an African
 Not because I was born there
 But because my heart beats with Africa's
 I am an African
 Not because my skin is black
 But because my mind is engaged by Africa
 I am an African
 Not because I live on its soil
 But because my soul is at home in Africa

When Africa weeps for her children
 My cheeks are stained with tears
 When Africa honours her elders
 My head is bowed in respect
 When Africa mourns for her victims
 My hands are joined in prayer
 When Africa celebrates her triumphs
 My feet are alive with dancing

I am an African
 For her blue skies take my breath away
 And my hope for the future is bright
 I am an African
 For her people greet me as family
 And teach me the meaning of community
 I am an African
 For her wildness quenches my spirit
 And brings me closer to the source of life

I am an African
 Because she is the cradle of our birth
 And nurtures an ancient wisdom
 I am an African
 Because she lives in the world's shadow
 And bursts with a radiant luminosity
 I am an African
 Because she is the land of tomorrow
 And I recognise her gifts as sacred.

*"I am an African...
 Whatever the setbacks of
 the moment, nothing can
 stop us now! ...However
 improbable it may sound
 to the skeptics, Africa will
 prosper!"*

*"...to be a true African is
 to be a rebel in the cause
 of the African
 Renaissance."
 (President Thabo Mbeki)*

*"There is an Africa in
 every human - an Africa
 that needs to be re-
 awakened."
 (Dr. Wilfred Ngwa, ARA
 co-founder)*

Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu Hails the African Renaissance Ambassador Initiative

by Lydia Asana, ARA corp, USA

After a fortuitous meeting by African Renaissance Ambassador Corp (ARA) co-founder Dr Wilfred Ngwa with Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Arch Bishop Tutu heartily lauded the African Renaissance Ambassador initiative: "I am impressed with your enthusiastic commitment to the concept of the African Renaissance...God bless your admirable efforts."

Professor Ngwa was in Harvard to rally support for an ARA initiative to establish an International Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (ICREST), which would constitute a new model of transformative international science and technology collaborations between Western and Africa Institutions, actively involving African Diaspora graduate students, young scientists and engineers.

*"I am impressed with your
 enthusiastic commitment to the
 concept of the African
 Renaissance...God bless your
 admirable efforts."
 Desmond Tutu*

The meeting in Cambridge led to a propitious partnership agreement between The Desmond Tutu Peace Centre in Cape Town and ARA Corp, New Jersey. ARA is currently planning to run the Trade Mark African Renaissance Ambassador Debates in South Africa in 2008, in partnership with The Desmond Tutu Peace Centre.

Apparently Arch Bishop Tutu's blessings are working as more and more Africans are being helped to be in a position to help others as they benefit

Please see [Nobel Laureate Tutu on page 4](#)



Helping Africans planning to travel abroad and those planning to return: “From Dust to Snow: The AfricanDream?”

By Delanyo and Elizabeth Adadevoh, President and Mrs International Leadership Foundation

The saying that the world has become a big village is no longer a cliché. In Africa, the latter half of the twentieth century saw the emergence of a new trend: the desire to escape the perils of Africa by traveling to the West. It seems many Africans had come to the conclusion that if only they could land in a Western country, they would solve all their problems. You could call this the “African Dream Hypothesis.”

In (the ARA book) *From Dust to Snow: The African Dream?* This hypothesis is put to the test. The book chronicles the true life experiences of Africans who pursued the dream into the West. With different levels of self motivation, apprehension, courage, fear, determination, and ultimately different levels of expectations and fulfillment, the contributors in this book search for their dreams and reopen the question about the character and quality of the African dream. In the end, and irrespective of what might have been their original expectations prior to traveling, many of the stories suggest a profound transformation in the travelers, as they review their presuppositions and assumptions regarding the countries they traveled to, and, thankfully, their own home countries. A new sense of African patriotism begins to emerge. But it is a patriotism that fully recognizes the

News Headlines

- ARA sponsors Achana HIV/Talent show Festival in Kenya.
- ARA partners with the Sts. Stephen and Paul's Foundation, Cameroon in transformative outreach service to the grassroots: local communities
- ARA Campaigns at U.S. Universities to facilitate the transition of international students using lessons drawn from the ARA books “From Dust to Snow: ...
- ARA reaches agreement to provide support for Medicine for Africa. Are you in the medical field? See how you can be a part of this!

From Dust to Snow Book reviews

“From Dust to Snow: The African Dream” is a vivid portrait of recent African immigrants in North America and Europe: Eye-opening, fascinating, groundbreaking...” – *Pashington Obeng (Professor, Wellesley College and Harvard University)*

“...will help non-Africans to understand better the Africans in their midst. These stories also raise the pertinent question - what happens to African societies if their educated sons and daughters do not come home?” – *Bruce Janz (Professor of Humanities, University of Central Florida)*

“ At last a page-turner in ‘Bush-falling (traveling abroad)’ ... This book addresses the reality of falling on your knees and learning to walk all over again.” - *Jessie Atogho Ekukole, Editor in Chief, CRTV Radio)*

“...undoubtedly, an authoritative handbook for first time travelers and others who prefer foreign to home "hell"... This great book deserves to be read, again and again... - *Charly Ndi Chia (Editor-In-Chief, The Post Newspaper)*

pluralistic world we live in, and emerges and grows from a sense of self respect and respect for others.

“Travel and see” is not only a popular saying; it is a wise saying. But since not everyone gets to travel (literally

Please see *helping Africans* on page 5



Achana Festival, Kenya, Nov 2006

African Anthem from page 1

pleasant, loveable and adorable character. Prince Nico's song touches on many things that a mother does: feeding, clothing, comforting, healing, educating, among others. In other words, the song expresses the role that mothers play in the socio-economic, political, spiritual, and health wellbeing of the family and society.

It comes quite naturally, then, that when speaking of an African renaissance or rebirth, one cannot overestimate the role that women and mothers have and will play in it. The imagery of birthing and the commitment necessary to birthing is something that mothers are accustomed to. Equally impressive is their post-birth tender care, suggesting that birthing goes hand in glove with nurturing—hence, sweet mother. Africa has gone through and is in many instances still going through many “birth pangs.” Yet, both natural and man-made disasters have ravaged and continue to threaten the very existence of millions of the continent's offspring. Wars have killed many, and women and mothers are increasingly bearing the burden of catering for ravaged and hurting communities. It is time for the baby to be born, and it is time for the sweet mothers to be appreciated and encouraged. It is such nurturing care, such compassion, such inspiration and courage as demonstrated both in the birth and in the nurture of children that is hoped for in ARA activities. There is no shortage of sweet mothers in Africa. What Africa has a shortage of are concerted platforms that will allow our

Nobel Laureate Tutu from page 2

from ARA services. ARA prepares Africans planning to travel abroad, facilitates giving back by Africans abroad, creating partnerships and networks, providing support incentives for promoting the African Renaissance in African communities in word and action. Here is some of the feedback from you:

Thank you ARA. I dedicate my African Renaissance Day prize to Nelson Mandela” – Azomehwei Marcelline, South Africa

“Our sincere gratitude to ARA for helping us in implementing such a beneficial event (ACHANA 2006) for our young people and community.” – Kwacha Africa, Kenya

“There is no shortage of sweet mothers in Africa. What Africa has a shortage of are ... platforms that will allow our mothers to flourish in their talent and inspire others to do same.”



mothers to flourish in their talent and inspire others to do same. Africa will need to capture the our mothers' compassion for the hurting, hospitality for the motherless and homeless, and patience towards others, and transform such cultural virtues into practical policies that will nurture a new Africa that will become a shining beam on the mountains and hilltops of Africa's majestic landscapes and immense human potential.

In the Zulu epic, *Anthem of the Decades*, it is princess Nomkhubulwane that sings about the need to create human beings that will bind all things in creation together and give them a reason to live and celebrate their fullest potentials. Traditional African society knows of many mothers playing crucial roles in the development of their families. Mothers are the engine of the economy; they accompany children to hospitals, they get everyone ready for school, and prepare warm meals for the evening. In short, they multitask. They wake up early and go to bed late; they work with their hands and with their minds, improvising and compromising for the sake of their families. They expend emotional, physical and mental energy to keep families running. And, even in the moment of extreme serenity, they provide a smile and a word of comfort to a hurting, better still, healing world. Thank God for the African Sweet Mother.

“This is one of the best initiatives of this century.” – Richard Were, Uganda

‘Thank you people for giving me the opportunity to join the (cause) for an Africa Renaissance’ Lucy Ngomba, Cameroon

“I am an Ambassador of the African Renaissance and wish to spread this movement across the African continent.” –Ifeoma Chinedu, Nigeria

Please submit or see more feedback at: www.africanrenaissanceambssador.com. Thank you!

Helping Africans from page 5

Form Dust to Snow), the metaphorical and intellectual component of the journey is encapsulated and portrayed to the reader in these compelling stories. We learn some good lessons by reading what others have seen through their travels. In and through the eyes of those who have traveled, readers of this book get to see the west, and most importantly they get to see Africa anew.

There are books you can read at your own pace. There are other books that inspire you to read more and seem to create the pace for you. *From Dust to Snow: The African Dream?* is in the latter category. It is a captivating piece of work, but more importantly it is a much needed resource for Africans who are thinking of

their future, and are considering overseas travel as one of the good options. It is also a resource for Africans who have traveled abroad and are thinking of the return home as a critical factor in their search for the African lifestyle. The cross-cultural elements in the stories make the book useful for those seeking to live and/or work across cultures. Ultimately, it is useful for all people, not only Africans and Westerners.

We encourage you to read this book, and recommend it to others. *From Dust to Snow: The African Dream?* will entertain all, educate all, and inspire many.

(Available in bookstores and online at www.lulu.com,

The worst moments of Africans Abroad

By Atoneche Fred, Radboud University, Netherlands

The ARA book, *From Dust to Snow: The African dream?* chronicles some of the difficulties that Africans abroad experience: Stigma and stereotypes, homelessness, racism, unemployment, debt or the lack of, war, illegal status, snow, accent labels, deportation, loneliness and homesickness.

I will highlight a couple of examples on Stigma and Stereotypes: Tolu, a Nigerian in the U.S. Army tells how a German girlfriend broke up with him immediately she learned he was from Nigeria; Debbie from Kenya laments her complete isolation and rejection by the African American community in her college because she was white; Emmanuel from Cameroon is incensed that as an African in France, you are considered foolish until proven otherwise.

"And then, there were the questions that were so stereotypical that you thought they could only be asked in the context of a film. "So do you all live in trees?" "You have Internet in Nigeria?" "Are there wild animals playing in your backyard?" says Chieze, a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin.

I could continue to share the other worst moments, but you can read them for yourself in the book. The more important question is how, as an African abroad, you would deal with that. The first thing is that Africans must refuse to be defined by others or the negative news from the media. ARA is at the forefront of

campaigning against such stigma, hence the idea to better prepare Africans planning to travel abroad. The preparation begins psychologically.

Second, just like in the X-Men movie, the book shows how Africans tend to group together as if to fight a common enemy. Africans need a community or someone to help facilitate their transition and integration abroad. Such would help deal with worst moments.

Please send us your feedback on dealing with your worst moments abroad. Speaking out already is one way to fight this. **Are you an African considering traveling abroad?** You are not alone. ARA is there to help you, passively through ARA publications and actively through free consultancy service. ARA is home abroad.

I will be back with the funny moments.



Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder marked his respects at the murder scene of Alberto Adriano, a Mozambican - brutally murdered by three drunken neo-Nazis - One of the worst moments of Africans abroad. (Source Photo: BBC)

Examples of what people are Pledging to do as African Renaissance Ambassadors

"I pledge to spread the African Renaissance concept by telling others about it. Fight injustice: do not ask for or give bribe" - Oscar Funwi (USA)

'I pledge to promote technical education by producing low-cost text books to the fight against poverty since technicians can create jobs.' - T Fofang (Cameroon)

'I hereby make a pledge to increase my personal contributions/donation to 20% of my monthly salary to enable the African Youth Development Foundation sustain its HIV Counseling services' - 'Hon. R Chukwunyere (Nigeria)

'I would also like to sign up for African Cultural Renaissance' - James K. Makubuya (USA)

'I pledge to volunteer in any non profit African organisation, and to tell more people about ARA' - Enjema Agyeman (Ghana)

'I pledge to excel as an African abroad and to use the successes as a channel to all available resources, to my motherland.' Yvonne Niba (Canada)

"I am signing up for 'African Science Renaissance' Fred Fonda 'London (United kingdom)'

'I pledge to support education for the poor and the needy' - Mbariku Akenjo (United Arab Emirates)

ARA website visitors voted Kofi Annan as the African Renaissance Ambassador of the Year 2006. Other Choices were Bill Clinton and Oprah Winfrey

African Renaissance Ambassador Creed by Marianne Williamson:

"It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

African Renaissance Ambassador Corp,

P.O. Box 61, Princeton,

NJ - 08542, USA.

Phone: (+1) 609-925-9050

Fax: (+1) 609-925-9050

E-mail: info@africanrenaissanceambassador.com

Website

www.africanrenaissanceambassador.com

Upcoming ARA Events in 2007

Arts Renaissance Division

- **September, 2007** – The African Renaissance Ambassador Debates begin in Cameroon
- **October 9-12, 2007** – ARA presents groundbreaking book: '*From Dust To Snow: The African Dream?*' at the International ASWAD Conference in Barbados

Science Renaissance Division

- December 16-18/ January 13-15 2008, ARA co-sponsored International Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology Workshop (ICREST) planned for University of Buea, Cameroon

Social Science Renaissance Division

- **August 05**, ARA presents at BMCA convention
- **August 13, 2007**, African Renaissance Day Celebration, World wide with **Great Incentive Prizes to be won!**

For more events, details of events, and how to participate, visit us at: www.africanrenaissanceambassador.com



'Help Africans Help Africa'