AFRICA-EUROPE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM (AEDP)

FIRST DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FORUM (DDF)

CONFERENCE REPORT

Improve & Enhance the Capacity & Impact of African Diaspora-Development Organisations

The First DDF is organised by AEDP in partnership with:

The AEDP project is implemented by:

AEDP is supported by:

AEDP is financed by the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation:
INTRODUCTION TO THE AEDP PROJECT

AEDP’s mission is to ‘improve and enhance the capacity and impact of the African diaspora organisations that are involved in development activities in Africa’. This mission is pursued through delivery of services to diaspora organisations and individuals in Europe and Africa. In particular, AEDP will help diaspora organisations in the EU, Switzerland and Norway to:

- Optimise their development engagement in Africa
- Professionalise their organisations and activities
- Create effective partnerships in Europe and Africa
- Expand and improve their development activities in Africa
- Influence the policy and practice of development cooperation.

AEDP is funded for 2014-17 by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the European Commission. Further funding is being sought from other donors. AEDP emerged out of a Europe-wide pilot project that ran from 2010 to 2013, which was funded by the European Commission with co-funding from SDC, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

By 2017, AEDP aims to have achieved the following goals:

- Delivered a programme of relevant services to diaspora beneficiaries
- Improved the capacity and impact of participating diaspora organisations
- Recruited legally registered diaspora organisations as formal members of AEDP
- Registered AEDP as a not-for-profit legal entity with headquarters in Brussels
- Established a professional and operational service-delivery AEDP Directorate
- Instituted an elected Board of Trustees and a co-opted Advisory Council of Experts and Champions.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

To deliver DDF, AEDP works with national partners representing both diaspora and mainstream development perspectives and experiences.

Both diaspora and mainstream partners are committed to the AEDP goal to ‘improve and enhance the capacity and impact of African Diaspora-Development Organisations’. The DDF is an opportunity for AEDP to form new partnerships and connections and widen its network. It is expected that the DDF partnership will also help the diaspora partner to enhance their capacity and influence.

**The national partners for the First DDF in Denmark are:**

* African Chamber of Commerce Scandinavia (ACCS) & Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Supported by the Africa Danish Diaspora Rally (ADDR)

The First DDF is organised by AEDP in partnership with:
Aims of the Diaspora-Development Dialogue

The overall aims of the Diaspora-Development Dialogue are to:

- **Facilitate face-to-face networking** between diaspora organisations and individuals involved in African development.

- **Facilitate practical partnerships** between ADDOs and international development agencies and institutions in different European countries.

- **Facilitate effective dialogue** through discussions, debates and exchanges on African development.

Theme of the Dialogue

**Single Theme:** Every DDF focuses on a single theme. This enables participants to explore enough of the factors and issues related to the theme, and make practical and feasible suggestions and recommendations. AEDP will seek to adopt, develop and integrate each DDF theme into its core and supplementary programme of work – in collaboration with partners.

**Theme of DDF 1:** The theme for the DDF 1 is:

- ‘**Enhancing Diaspora Role in Job Creation in Africa**’.

**Sub-themes of DDF 1:** The sub-themes have been chosen to facilitate exploration of ‘general mechanisms for job creation’ and ‘specific circumstances for job creation’. The two sub-themes are:

  - ‘**Diaspora Job Creation through Social and Commercial Enterprise**’
  
  - ‘**Job Creation for Peace-Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction**’
Focus on Job Creation

The rationale for the choice of theme and sub-themes are as follows:

- **Dignity of Work:** Job creation to enable beneficiaries to enjoy the dignity of work is one of the most worthwhile forms of development input. As an obvious and effective form of improving lives and livelihoods, it is essential that the diaspora enhances its capacity and impact in this domain of development work.

- **Self-Help Approach:** The people who suffer from poverty and other forms of socio-economic exclusion and disadvantage yearn for and seek the opportunities to provide livelihoods for themselves and for their families through their own efforts and honest work. Diaspora-development work is a core and integral element of the self-help approach to international development.

- **From Subsistence to Regenerative Remittances:** The diaspora has a major challenge and opportunity to progress from direct support of families through subsistence remittances, to facilitating long term community empowerment by creating and sustaining ‘decent jobs’ in Africa. Job creation ventures and activities will facilitate progression from subsistence to investment-related and regenerative remittances.

- **Sustainable and Decent Jobs:** To ensure that people are assisted to pull themselves out of poverty through the dignity of work, every African country should have a distinct and clear set of indicators of what constitutes a ‘sustainable and decent job’ within their own national economic conditions and local household circumstances.

- **Consensus and Collaborations:** Creation of decent and sustainable jobs is a theme on which there is a seeming consensus amongst development stakeholders. This provides an opportunity for meaningful collaborations between ADDOs, NGOs, International Organisations, government agencies, institutions and departments.

- **Trust Building Beyond Political Differences:** There are instances when suspicion, tension or even antagonism arise between diaspora organisations and governments in countries of origin or heritage. Common interest in job creation for disadvantaged beneficiaries is an opportunity for building trust between stakeholders. It also enables ADDOs to further demonstrate their developmental credentials in a practical and beneficial manner, and emphasise the fundamental nature of their commitment to national development irrespective of any prevalent political differences and difficulties.
CONFERENCE REPORT: FIRST DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FORUM

CONTEXT

AEDP organised its inaugural training and networking event in 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark; to be branded ‘First Diaspora-Development Forum (DDF)’. From 2015 onwards, AEDF shall organise 2 DDFs per year in different parts of Europe and Africa. The First DDF held in Denmark saw diaspora participants coming from the host country as well as other Nordic countries. This regional focus will be the approach used for future DDFs. The DDFs in 2015/2016 may be held in the East European, Mediterranean and Central European regions.

The DDF is therefore a flagship event and a major part of the AEDF service delivery framework. It will bring together and anchor many aspects of research, policy, advocacy, networking and knowledge-sharing activities. The DDF took place over 4 days and comprised of three main components were outlined in initial and promotional marketing communications. There were identified as the following:

- Professional training
- Development dialogue
- Facilitated network

Aims of the Diaspora-Development Dialogue

The overall aims of the Diaspora-Development Dialogue are to:

- Facilitate face-to-face networking between diaspora organisations and individuals involved in African development.
- Facilitate practical partnerships between ADDOs and international development agencies and institutions in different European countries.
- Facilitate effective dialogue through discussions, debates and exchanges on African development.

For more information about the work of AEDP, go to www.ae-platform.org
FACTS AND FIGURES

The conference saw forty-five (45) people go through the registration process online, and thirty-eight (38) delegates registering on the day of the conference. This was an impressive turnout for AEDP and African professionals within the Nordic regions who were meeting to discuss and formulate their policies, synergise their practices and develop paradigms that will foster good practice and job creation in Africa and within the diaspora as a whole. The training delegates came from around sixteen countries of origin within Africa, an impressive tapestry of people contributing to the development of the continent.

The first two days were devoted to training sessions, aimed at supporting African Diaspora Development Organisations (ADDOs) to better understand and influence policy at a national, regional, and international level.

The first training session was delivered by Gibril Faal, Chairman of AFFORD and Interim Executive Director. The aim of the ‘Understanding and Influencing Policy’ training was to make delegates understand the nature and processes of policy formulation and implementation in order to gain the skills required to participate effectively in policy development, and to understand how to achieve and maintain influence in emerging policies and practices in the field of international and diaspora-related development. These are very important aspects of professional development that impact not only on the individual, but have a profound effect on the ability of development organisations to strengthen their operations, and how they interact and formulate effective policies in the diaspora and in Africa. It was important to stress the point that a policy also provides direction on how relevant actions are implemented through guiding principles, priorities, plans and procedures; and that a policy is a framework sets out and provides guidance on the positions, interests, actions, activities, projects and programmes of institutions and organisations; in relation to specified themes or issues.

The ‘Understanding and Influencing Policy’ training finished off on demonstrating to delegates on how to produce realistic and impactful advocacy action plans.

The following day saw invited trainer, Filip Buff Pedersen from the Danish Mission Council Development Department, training delegates about ‘Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation’. Filip’s aim for his session was for delegates to understand the different forms of funds and resources potentially available to diaspora, understand the important reasons why grant applications and proposals succeed or fail and to gain the skills required to present credible and winning funding bids for their respective organisations. He offered examples on how to address grant-makers’ guidance and criteria, talked through the techniques for writing effective applications, and the techniques for demonstrating need and appropriateness of projects, how to demonstrate organisational capacity to deliver projects, and demonstrated how to show relevant outcomes and impact of project in a bid.

The delegates individually and collectively expressed their immense gratitude that a forum such as the DDF is highly professional and sincere in their developmental role and helping to unify the way ADDOs present themselves.
With over eighty (80) people in attendance on day three alone, this day gave the delegates a chance to put forward their understanding of their lessons learned, ideas gained and enquiries about the work they currently do as ADDOs.

In the morning we had talks from stakeholders and partners who gave an insight into the work and how funding, advocacy and policy influenced their decision-making. The session started off with Jesper Boysen, the Africa Denmark Diaspora Rally and Nordic Project Adviser and Gibril Faal OBE giving an intellectually stimulating introduction and welcome. The afternoon’s session was split into two workshops with panel members from various international development agencies and entrepreneurs.

The overarching workshop themes were structured around the ‘opportunities, potentialities and challenges’ expected by ADDOs in Nordic countries when enhancing the role in job creation in African countries and the ‘means, mechanisms and frameworks’ through which government agencies, development agencies, business networks and other institutions can support ADDOs in Nordic countries to enhance their role in job creation in African countries.

Workshop one focussed on ‘diaspora job creation through social and commercial enterprise’. The workshop was led by Ndey Jobarteh, a Gambian entrepreneur and Director of the Africa Centre for Information and Development (ACID) and Jobs Consulting in Norway. She highlighted on how to succeed as an entrepreneur through her personal experience as a feminist activist. She detailed the main constraints to success, and the need to ‘see what opportunities were around and how they can be developed’. The workshop panel was comprised of Filip Perdersen, Danish Mission Council and Edgar Ikombo, Managing Partner, Ikompani.

The opportunities identified were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>POTENTIALITIES</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diasporan knowledge of our given countries and region.</td>
<td>Access to education for the younger generation.</td>
<td>Institutional weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-development of informal economy</td>
<td>Access to a better health care systems and facilities.</td>
<td>Fear and insecurity of the diaspora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavian funding opportunities</td>
<td>The potential of French and Portuguese speaking African countries</td>
<td>Lack of support on the ground by the local people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building bridges between with the different funding agencies, private, government institutions.</td>
<td>Building our relationship with governments.</td>
<td>The dependency culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underdeveloped educational systems</td>
<td>Access to the Nordic countries.</td>
<td>European policies towards Africa such as subsidies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing micro industry</td>
<td>Nordic countries openness to Africa and investing resources there.</td>
<td>Poor negotiation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaspora as a lobbying and advocacy for policy change and business opportunities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td>POTENTIALITIES</td>
<td>CHALLENGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish development policy towards:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Agriculture</td>
<td>• Danida Business partnership, IFA , Exchange credit etc.</td>
<td>• Diaspora seen as an opposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Energy</td>
<td>• The potential of the diaspora as a network</td>
<td>• Lack of time by the African diaspora due to their situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Renewable energy</td>
<td>• Being a pioneer to dare and be bold enough to venture.</td>
<td>• Lack of funding for diaspora organisations in terms of running cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lack of skills in building business plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sanitation etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding available for recycle goods from</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Mission Council.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diaspora as a resource and important network</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in development.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The food industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Solutions**

- Create a common platform
- Grouping all the diaspora organisations to merge opportunities and skills.
- Lobby for policy change
- Create funds to support organisations and entrepreneurs
- Create an organised/structured way of working.
- Help the underprivileged to start their own companies

Comments raised by the delegates on ‘Opportunities and Challenges’ centred on:

- the need to create opportunities in the Nordic countries focusing on agriculture and energy, taking into consideration the experience of the Nordic countries towards environment, renewable energy infrastructure;
- What is the precise role of the diaspora as a kind of lobbying body to position politics and policy makers to defend the interests of for example food industry in Africa;
- The fear/insecurity and inferiority complex of the diaspora towards their identification back in home countries - how they are perceived – ‘there’ and ‘here’;
- The need to educate diasporans in Scandinavia on the need to access high-level education schemes in order to invest properly and go back and invest in Africa;
- The importance of the need for a common platform bringing together all diaspora skills so as to merge opportunities;
- The position of the diaspora towards big institutions like EC Common Agricultural Policy – what leverage can ADDOs bring to change this?
- The share their continent, region, but

> "I am interested in setting up a consultancy company to help the diaspora in Denmark. The conference has enabled me to think about my support needs in setting up youth projects in Kenya."

Delegate from Denmark
Workshop two focussed on ‘job creation for peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction’. This workshop was led by Peter Ntende Chairman of Africa Denmark Diaspora Rally (ADDR). The panel comprised of Mingo Heiduk, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Maria Molde, Civil Society for Development (CISU) and Jonas Vesager Nøddekære, Danish Church Aid.

The opportunities identified were:

- ADDOs researching different and unique funding streams from large corporations e.g. Maersk Line, who have a diaspora programme focusing on fishing as a viable source of income;
- diaspora training job centres which engage African/Black and minority ethnic communities more effectively and that have pro-diversity policies;
- researching several organisations who already provide training and capacity-building available for diasporans for free or at a reduced rate e.g. Civil Society for Development (CISU) in Denmark;
- opportunities to support psychosocial trauma victims of conflict and the need to distinguish between trauma caused by disasters and conflict;
- and the need for diasporans to engage in the day to day life of Nordic society, to be more visible, become role models for youths, become politically involved in the development and assimilation of African diasporans in the Nordic regions in order to influence policy;
- and for more African diasporan institutions to be created in the Nordic regions that specifically support the diverse needs of people within it.

The afternoon saw Christoffer Ludwigs, Dansk Industri and Nikolaj Gilbert, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) join the session in workshop one, and Dr Larley Lawsen, Radical Venstre Party, Maria Molde, Civil society and Said A Hussein, General Secretary, Somalian Diaspora Organisation join session two.

This session highlighted the key points of common purpose, priority action points as a communiqué of the Diaspora Development Forum and the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding and emergent policy framework for collaboration on job creation between diaspora, government and mainstream agencies and institution in Nordic countries.

The final day of the conference was dedicated to drafting an ‘Action Plan’. It was necessary, as a group, to ensure that the delegates could collectively identify advocacy goals, plan how they will achieve these, identify challenges and opportunities and achieve effective advocacy at the national and regional levels – so they start to fully collaborate.

The four groups, broken into the four represented Nordic regions, were asked to identify 3-5 priorities in terms of their aims and objectives and focus over the next three to six months and a year. Looking specifically at what they wanted to achieve and why, what were their expectations, identifiable needs, and how they will achieve it.
They were guided by being informed that advocacy action plans should be practical, realistic, focused, and achievable. That they need to be constructive, not negative; speak with a more united voice and to consider issues-based advocacy vs representation – based advocacy.

The final hours of day four was programmed as the awarding of training. The training was based on courses by Gibril Faal Advocacy published 2014. The training is accredited by the Professional (CPD) Service. (www.cpduk.co.uk). AFFORD is a member of CPDUK and the accreditation is facilitated by the AEDP project.
AGENDA FOR THE DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

MORNING SESSIONS OF THE DIALOGUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30 – 09.00</td>
<td>Registrations, Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.30</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Opening of Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>This session introduces the programme of the day covering aims of the dialogue, details of the agenda and logistical matters.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Africa-Europe Development Platform (AEDP)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09.30 – 10.30 | **Job Creation: Common Goal for Collaborative Action**  
This session sets the scene for the theme and explores how Nordic countries may improve policy and practice relating to diaspora involvement in job creation in Africa.  
**Gibril Faal - Director of AEDP**  
Summary discussion of the role played by both diaspora (individuals and organisations) and Nordic assistance (government and NGO) in job creation in Africa  
**Jesper Boysen – Project Advisor, Africa Denmark Rally/Nordic Council**  
General views of government and development agencies on desirability of making job creation a greater development priority |
| 10:30 – 11.00 | **COFFEE BREAK**                                                                                                                       |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | **Workshops on Opportunities, Potentialities and Challenges**  
These parallel sessions discuss the specific **opportunities, potentialities and challenges** for ADDOs in Nordic countries to enhance their role in job creation in African countries. Each of the two workshops will have a moderator.  
**Workshop 1: Diaspora Job Creation through Social and Commercial Enterprise**  
**Moderator:** Ndey Jobarteh - Entrepreneur, Norway  
**Discussion Starter:** Filip Buff Pedersen – Danish Mission Council  
**Discussion Starter:** Edgar Ikombo – Managing Partner, Ikompani  
**Rapporteur:** Yves Hatungimana, ICMPD |
|  | **Workshop 2: Job Creation for Peace-Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction**  
**Moderator:** Peter Ntende, ADDR  
**Discussion Starter:** Mingo Heiduk – Programme Coordinator, Diaspora Programme, Danish Refugee Council  
**Discussion Starter:** Maria Molde – Advisor, Civil Society for Development  
**Discussion Starter:** Jonas Vesager Nøddekær – Director, Danish Church Aid |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.30 – 13.30</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERNOON SESSIONS OF THE DIALOGUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.30 – 14.15</td>
<td><strong>Feedback from Workshops</strong>&lt;br&gt;Summaries from the moderators and rapporteurs of the two workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.15 – 15.45</td>
<td><strong>Workshops on Means, Mechanisms, and Frameworks</strong>&lt;br&gt;These parallel sessions discuss the specific <strong>means, mechanisms and frameworks</strong> through which government agencies, development agencies, business networks and other institutions can support ADDOs in Nordic countries to enhance their role in job creation in African countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Workshop 1: Diaspora Job Creation through Social and Commercial Enterprise</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Ndey Jobarteh, Entrepreneur, Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Starter:</strong> Christoffer Ludwigs, Consultant, Dansk Industri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Starter:</strong> Nikolaj Gilbert – Deputy Director, Partnerships, UNOPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rapporteur:</strong> Yves Hatungimana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Workshop 2: Job Creation for Peace-Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Peter Ntende, ADDR, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Starter:</strong> Dr. Lartey Lawsen – Danish Radical Venstre Party/ADDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Starter:</strong> <strong>Maria Molde</strong> – Civil Society for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Yoones Nuh</strong> – Somaliyan Diaspora Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rapporteur:</strong> Agnes Madsen, ACCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.45-16.15</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.15 – 16.45</td>
<td><strong>Feedback from Workshops</strong>&lt;br&gt;Summaries from the moderators and rapporteurs of the two workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.45 – 17.30</td>
<td><strong>Communiqué on Enhancing Role of Diaspora in Job Creation in Africa</strong>&lt;br&gt;This session highlights the <strong>key points of common purpose and priority action points</strong> as a communiqué of the Diaspora-Development Forum and the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding and emergent policy framework for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
collaboration on job creation between diaspora, government and mainstream agencies and institution in Nordic countries.

AEDP – Gibril Faal OBE, Director
Dansk Industri - Christoffer Ludwigs, Consultant

EVENING SESSIONS OF THE DIALOGUE

17.30 – 18.30: GENERAL NETWORKING

18.30 – 20.30: DIALOGUE DINNER
At the dialogue dinner, the final draft of the communiqué will be presented and a guest speaker will give a short address about how networking opportunities and options can be structured to facilitate enhanced effectiveness of ADDOs and closer collaboration with mainstream partners.

20.30 FORMAL CLOSE OF FIRST DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT FORUM

“I am interested in education for growth and development. The conference has enabled me to think about my support needs in Expert volunteering-mentorship to young people aged 12 to 20 years, and sustainable community development projects-poultry and piggery farming in Africa.”

“I am interested in Green Tech Solutions, entrepreneurship, sustainable and environmental projects. The conference has enabled me to think about my support needs in capacity building; partnerships; advocacy and engagement.”
BREAKDOWN OF DELEGATE’S PROFILE

This breakdown comprises of all the delegates, and attended guests over the four days of the DDF in Copenhagen 2014.

- **38 delegates** Trained and accredited
- **80 delegates** attended the First DDF
- **20 Nordic organisations** represented
- **10 Representative African countries**

- **35 delegates responded out of 39 delegate feedback forms**
- **37 Women 36 Men** Total delegate gender breakdown (Day 3 only)
- **18 Women 21 Men** Delegate’s gender breakdown (Day 1 & 2)

**Were your training needs met?**
- 1. Extremely Well/Mostly
- 2. Very Well
- 3. Somewhat Well
- 4. Not Very Well
- 5. Not at All

**Relevance of training to your work?**
- 1. Extremely Relevant
- 2. Very Relevant
- 3. Somewhat Relevant
- 4. Not Very Relevant
- 5. Not at All Relevant

**How did you hear about the training?**
- 1. Email
- 2. Word of Mouth
- 3. Web/Social Media/Other

**How did you find the training?**
- 1. Excellent
- 2. Very Good
- 3. Somewhat Good
- 4. Not Very Good
- 5. Poor
PERSONAL FEEDBACK FROM DELEGATES.

Thank you for a great First Diaspora Dialogue Forum in Copenhagen. I must say that I have had the chance to attend various seminars over the years, and I can easily say that this one stands out not only in terms of the level of professionalism conducted by the organisers but most especially for me - the seminars. I had come to the seminar somewhat sceptical, worried about sitting in a classroom setting most of the day listening to the usual development jargon.

I was pleasantly surprised: The seminars were useful and dynamic – they untangled the issues we face as African diasporans; and they were practical too - as they were mostly lessons drawn out from real-life examples. It’s the type of seminar that stays with a person well after they finish, and for me it was also important that they were delivered in more of a discursive format. I must say here that Mr. Gibril Faal is a most skilled and experienced teacher and presenter. To be in the presence of Gibril is to be in the presence of a great teacher, someone who is clearly inspired, and believes in the work he does. It was indeed great to be able to discuss the issues we face, as African diasporans, with other African diasporans. To map out various ways we can intervene in our countries of residence, how to kick-start our ideas for providing a base for more sustainable development in our countries of origin. Indeed, the seminar got me thinking about new possibilities, but also raised my level of confidence in understanding and influencing policy, as well as fundraising.

I was glad to have learned more about the group behind AFFORD, the commitment of the staff to help us reach our desired goals. I must also say I was very thankful for the great networking opportunities that were afforded to us by meeting likeminded colleagues from different diasporan organisations. To extend the discussions beyond the seminar rooms, to create synergy, and to walk away with different ideas and contacts for future collaboration added to my great and most useful experience. I left with a clear idea of how moving forward my organisation will map out a future. I truly hope more of these seminars are organised, and I would be happy to attend or help with any future seminars.

Thank you once again for an invaluable seminar.

Wanjiku wa Ngugi (Kenya)

AEDP’s first Diaspora Development Forum (DDF) in the Scandinavia was a novelty. It has set up a platform for diaspora organisations in Scandinavia to spring up a united front towards development in Africa. On a united front, a lot more can be achieved for the continent than for specific country cases.

When I saw the call for this conference, I truly felt the necessity to attend. My perception of it gave me the impression that attendance would be great. It was interesting to note that attendees would gain skills necessary for developing dialogue between ADDOs and Mainstream Agencies and Institutions in the world. Immediately, I perceived that no diaspora organisation in Scandinavia would want to miss an opportunity necessary for understanding and influencing policy. Meeting stakeholders of Africa’s development and networking for Africa is an opportunity to better understand the dynamics involved for improved action on its development.

The excitement within delegates on the opening day of the conference sealed my thoughts. The turnout was appealing. Delegates looked young and smart from every dimension of the world. I then felt a complete sense of purpose for the forum. First impression was that African youths are ready to seize the baton and make a difference in Africa’s development from a generational new perspective. That seemed ascertained in the training exercise.

To say the least, the training was professional. The response, interactions and cooperation from delegates proved the essence of the platform. I think the trainer, Gibril Faal OBE, is in a class of his own. His mastery of issues on Policy Engagement and Advocacy and of Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation are impressive. His lessons project a new dimension of thought process of our engagement in development aids to Africa in the current state of affairs. As chairman of AFFORD UK and Interim Executive Director of AEDP besides his achievements for the continent, in my view, qualifies him as a role model for African youths.

The dialogue between diaspora development organisations, mainstream agencies and institutions in Scandinavia was quite interesting. Knowledge on how these agencies and institutions work was gained from a range of resource persons representing them. The highlight for me was the concerns raised by diaspora organisations on the gap between us and donor agencies and institutions. We find it imperative for them to partner with us for delivery of their services in Africa. We hold strongly that no matter how alienated we are from home, much of the recipe to the solution lies within our savvy. And there is the assertion that some agencies and institutions are stretching beyond humanitarian agendas to reap Africa off its wealth.

In general the conference was a great venture that galvanised delegates from all over Scandinavia. To improve and enhance the capacity of ADDOs is vital for achieving the overall objectives of Africa’s development. Understanding and influencing policy through advocacy is part of the skills that should drive us to that goal. This training has therefore strengthened ADDOs in Scandinavia, in that direction.

Terence Yuh Yong(Cameroon)
I had the privilege to attend the First Diaspora Development Forum (DDF) and receive professional training for African diaspora development through the Africa-Europe Development Platform (AEDP); a project led and managed by the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) held on the 24th - 27th November 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

AEDP’s first DDF was a full training experience, which focused on important foundations of Success: Creative Curiosity, Identity Development, Collaborative Connections, Inclusive Leadership and Professional Growth and Success. As a participant, we were able to identify our personal goals, discuss our personal identities, and have the opportunity to grow with others in a warm, nurturing and supportive group environment.

The forum was comfortable and demanding — comfortable because you were among a group of professionals who value your input and insights; demanding because your peers and trainer will not settle for uninformed views and inert ideas. Instead, they expect fresh thinking and passionate debate, which is exactly what you expect of them.

The four-day program that also facilitated networking for collaborative action and improved development impact filled in many of the gaps that have existed in my many years in humanitarian work and my newly established entrepreneurship. The training program was challenging, mentally stimulating and has given me a new perspective on the issues that are paramount in today’s developmental work, especially in the area of advocacy.

No question is too big or too small. Nothing is intellectually out of bounds. You cultivate intelligent viewpoints that will be heard and respected; this is the real democracy of learning. You are free to decide and be responsible for whether the outcome translates into effective action.

The opportunity through the Diaspora Dialogue Forum between African Diaspora Development Organisations and Mainstream Agencies and Institutions received during the training, has opened my eyes and self to a wider horizon. I have taken a giant leap forward with the experience and matured in my attitude toward the possibilities available and I feel as if I have just begun the next level of my life.

*Neneh Bojang (Gambia)*
Africa-Europe Development Platform (AEDP)

The AEDP project plans to create a permanent service-delivery directorate focussing on the following priorities:

Providing Guidance & Training
Producing Directories & Databases
Showcasing Best Practices
Information, News & Announcements
Undertaking Action Research
Facilitating Networking & Partnerships
Coordinating Consultations & Joint Positions
Facilitating Policy Representations & Negotiations
Improving the Image & Public Representation of Africa

Improve & Enhance the Capacity & Impact of African Diaspora-Development Organisations

© Africa-Europe Development Platform (2014)

ae-platform.org        +44 (0)20 3326 3750
AFFORD, Rich Mix Building, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, Shoreditch, London E1 6LA, United Kingdom