

Monday, September 29, 2008

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**UNAFRI Director Dr. N.Masamba Sita briefs UNAFRI Staff about his mission to USA**

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On the sidelines of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the GA in New York, USA, the Director held several meetings with a number of potential partners.

*His first meeting was with Dr. Badi Foster the President Phelps Stokes Fund, Washington, DC*

Dr. Foster provided an overview of Phelps Stokes Fund and indicated the two foci are leadership development and building healthy communities among Native Americans, African Americans and Appalachian Whites. As such PSF is interested in helping to develop the new wave of global leaders and fostering new patterns of collaboration within targeted communities to include the core economy, i.e. families, support networks, children/youth and other forms of social capital.

Dr .Sita provided an overview of UNAFRI and indicated the desire to collaborate with PSF. Dr. Sita shared the vision of UNAFRI and its proposed Center of Excellence for Crime Prevention and Development.

They suggested the following areas of possible collaboration which include among others: Prisoner transition back to their communities. Discussed was the need to address the stigma and collateral consequences of being an ex-offender as well as changing attitudes about valuing their desire and ability to contribute to the well-being of the communities. Dr. Sita shared a report on prisoner re-entry

in Uganda. One model of PSF is the notion of “time banks” developed by Edgar Cahn (handouts were provided)

Other topics discussed were human trafficking, women issues with regards to re-entry and the exchange of Ralphe Bunche Fellows and developing a network to support the works of UNAFRI.As an illustration of what the foundation is already doing in Africa, Dr. Badi gave the case of Liberia.

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*Secondly, in the company of Dr. Harvey McMurray, he had a meeting with Mr. Levin, Senior Program Manager and Diversity Coordinator of Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Washington, DC.*

In this meeting the Director provided an overview of UNAFRI. Mr. Levin too gave an overview of ECA and stated that their primary focus is bilateral relations with individual countries. Mr. Levin mentioned a number of ECA supported programs to include the following: International Visitors, Speaker and Specialist Program, Fulbright Program, Citizen Exchanges Program, Scholar In-Residence Program and Student Program.

He further mentioned that, although UNAFRI is an organisation it was agreed that there were common areas of interest that included the trafficking of children and women, the rule of law, and human rights. Mr. Levin made specific mention of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Program. Regional meetings of neighboring countries were discussed in the context of spillover concerns such as human trafficking.

with UNAFRI as gateway to the African Countries.

### *Areas of Possible Collaboration*

1. UNAFRI might be able to provide site-based training in host countries. Mr. Levin noted that it was imperative to contact the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and government officials to secure their support for the training program or meeting e.g. human trafficking.
2. Dr. McMurray will continue to explore options involving UNAFRI, North Carolina Central University and expert/faculty/student abroad on selected topics. The workshop will be organised by UNAFRI.

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*He also briefed staff members about his meeting with ME Ed. Zedlewski Director International Centre, National Institute of Justice Washington, DC*

The purpose of the meeting was to learn about:

- NIJ, the Department of Justice's Research, Development and an Evaluation of Agency,
- NIJ's effort to support initiatives concerning the rule of law and capacity building; best practice models for information sharing and dissemination of research findings,
- NIJ's interest in global crimes, e.g. cyber-crime, human trafficking, possible partnership

Mr. Zedlewski invited collaborators and heads of different sections of the Institute, to attend the meeting. After a word of welcome, Dr. Sita and Dr. Harvey were briefed on the main programs of NIJ: the Justice program; Science and technology; Research and Evaluation.

After the briefing, Dr. Sita was invited to address the meeting. He started by introductory remarks on UNAFRI as a regional African intergovernmental organization created at the request of the African Governments. He indicated that UNAFRI may serve as an entry point to its different Member States for the implementation of any project in the field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The meeting was informed of a number of activities of the Institute: corrections, cyber-crime, trafficking in persons, violence against women and girls, and its Information and Documentation Unit. NIJ has expressed its interest on the described activities and its readiness to cooperate with UNAFRI.

Here the Directors (Dr. Sita) and Dr. Harvey were briefed on some of NIJ ongoing activities such as: Cyber-Crime; Reentry to community, gangs, Children sexual exploitation. NIJ promised to provide UNAFRI with its research publications covering among others, the areas above. They may consider the possibility of contributing, in terms of human resources, to UNAFRI's activities.

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He also briefed the UNAFRI Staff members about his meeting with Dr. Harvey, Qudore Snell, (who is the Dean School of Social Work, Howard University).

The Director Dr. Sita and Dr. Harvey were received by Dr. Qudore Snell and 7 of his collaborators. After a word of welcome and appreciation, Dr. Sita was invited to address the meeting.

He focused on UNAFRI's project on Social Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners going on in Uganda. He made reference to UNAFRI's study entitled: **"From Prison Back Home"**. A number of cases were presented to illustrate the success of the project. The meeting was very interested in the approach and acknowledged that they had a lot to learn from Africa.

The meeting resolved that a working relationship should be established between the School of Social Work of Howard University and UNAFRI. One way of collaboration is to send post graduate students to UNAFRI who wish to carry out researches in Africa, particularly in Uganda. The meeting concluded by exploring to explore practical modalities that would help strengthen collaboration between the two institutions and agreed that contact be maintained for follow-up. *The photo below shows some members of School of Social Sciences and the Second left is UNAFRI Director*



*On Wednesday, October 2, 2008 he had a meeting with Vice Charities Nelms, NCCU.*

He had a meeting with Dr. Emmanuel Orisejafor, Director Office of International Studies, in company of Ms. Oliva Johns, who is the Assistant Director Office of International Studies.



*L-R Dr. Emmanuel, Dr. Harvey, Ms Oliva Johns and Dr. Masamba Sita*

#### *Meeting with the Deans*

- Dean Elwood Robinson, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences.
- Dean Raymond Pierce, School of Law
- Dean Bijoy Sahoo, School of Business
- Dean Irene Owens, School of Libray & and Information Sciences
- Dean Sandra DeLauder, College of Science & Technology

The meeting explored the possibility of joint activities with each of the representative of the schools mentioned above.

*Friday, October 3, 2008 he arrived at North Carolina University*

The Director had a meeting with Dr. Harvey McMurray, Chair Department of Criminal Justice, NCCU.

He also attended the Accreditation Overview Meeting

He met a number of people including Chief Thomas Moss, North Carolina Education and Training Standards Commission, Mathew Hamidullah, Former Federal Warden and Former President, NABCJ; Director Chris Herring, Institute for Homeland Security and Workforce Development, Director Arnold Dennis, Juvenile Justice Institute; and staff.

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- In the afternoon, together with Dr. Harvey, and Director Arnold Dennis, they visited the Research Training Institute (RTI). Here they were received by the following staff of the institute: Dr. Kevin Strom, Dr. Pamela Latimore, Dr. Stephanie Hwakins and Dr. Phillip Graham. Among the discussed items was UNAFRI project ***“From Prison Back Home”*** other projects such as trafficking in Persons, Cyber Crime etc were also discussed. The meeting agreed to explore the possibility of joint activities in the field of common interest.
  - The day ended with the visit to the Federal Correctional Institute where he had a meeting with Butner Senior Warden Art Beeler and Staff. Dr. Sita was impressed by the standards of what should be a “Prison Hospital” and hoped that this would serve as a reference point to UNAFRI when disseminating good practices to Member States.
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