

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ROLE OF AFRICAN HIGHER  
EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:  
THE CASE FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITY**



**DECEMBER 28-30, 2008  
TALI TOWN HALL, CAMEROON**

## Table of Contents

Message from the African University Initiative Chairman .....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
Background.....	6
Program Officers .....	7
Symposium Program.....	8
First Day .....	8
Second Day .....	10
Third Day .....	12
Symposium Outcomes .....	16
Next Steps.....	17
Notable Quotes .....	18
Acknowledgments.....	19
African University Foundation .....	20

## **Message from the African University Initiative Chairman**

Our progress from concept toward the implementation of African University in Tali, Cameroon has been systematic and measured. We seek to launch African University as a fine international university that offers a new choice in African higher education preparing a new generation of leaders.

This report covers the 3-day enriching and engaging symposium held in the Tali Town Hall from December 28 through 31, 2008. The symposium focused on the role of African higher education in community development including a discussion of a case for African University. The program is aligned with the mission of African University Foundation to facilitate and serve the development of African University, Tali, Cameroon. This symposium was for individuals interested and able to support African University's realization in Tali, Cameroon.

Yours sincerely,

William Agbor Baiyee, Ph.D.  
Chairman, African University Initiative

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 3-day enriching and engaging symposium focused on the role of African higher education in community development including a discussion of a case for African University. The 3-person delegation from the United States included President & CEO of African University Foundation, Baiyee-Mbi Agbor-Baiyee and two board members of African University Foundation, William Agbor-Baiyee of Indiana University School of Medicine and David Williams Russell, Jr. of Harrison & Moberly.

The program for the symposium is aligned with the mission of African University Foundation to facilitate and serve the development of African University, Tali, Cameroon. Participants of the symposium will be drawn from the non-profit, government, business, education sectors, members of the communities, among others. Although a number of papers were presented the majority of the symposium time was spent in group and plenary discussions, debating the role of African higher education in sustainable community development, but also to discuss and recommend how best to advance African University, Tali, Cameroon.

The symposium outcomes included the following:

- Discussed the relationship between African higher education in sustainable community development;
- Discussed strategies that motivate African higher education institutions into actions that engage them with the community development activities;
- Discussed the African University educational model;
- Strengthened the constituency for African University in Cameroon in general and Tali community area in particular;
- Disseminated the proceedings of the symposium through venues such as the African University Foundation and Harrison & Moberly web sites as well as the Eden Newspaper and Spectrum Television in Cameroon.
- Recommended strategies to advance African University.
  - Focus group discussions recommended that community development efforts of African University in Tali, Cameroon focus in rank-order on the supporting the following programmatic areas: 1) Health training/facility; 2) Agriculture/agribusiness/forestry/environment training/facility; 3) Business/microfinance; 4) Water; 5) Community development/cultural activities/groups; 6) Education/adult literacy; 7) Engineering/technology training; 8) Electricity; Roads; 9) Women empowerment; and 10) Communications center.

- Focus groups recommended that academic development efforts of African University in Tali, Cameroon focus in rank-order on the following colleges: 1) Agriculture; 2) Health Sciences; 3) Business and Management; 4) Engineering and Technology; 5) Education; 6) Architecture and 7) Law

The next steps are as follows:

- Conduct a general survey of the 6.5 square miles reserved for African University.
- Launch planning for phase one of African University
- Construct an integrated community center

## Background

**Symposium Purpose:** The purpose of the symposium was to provide a forum to examine the role of African higher education in sustainable community development as well as to furnish a context in which participants discuss key issues relevant to advancing African University ([www.africanu.org](http://www.africanu.org)), Tali, Cameroon as a new focus for African higher education. Participants of the symposium will be drawn from the non-profit, government, business, education sectors, members of the communities, among others.

African University has been proposed as a new model of African higher education. The central mission African University will be a unique international institution of higher learning that will ensure all deserving students in Africa and abroad the opportunity to acquire an integrated education, develop their talents and transform into leaders of society. African University will create a unique university model in Africa which provides an integrated education that optimizes the social, intellectual, and personal development of its students as they prepare for the diverse vocations necessary to promote the well-being of society. To accomplish this central mission the education at African University will be an enriching shared experience that seeks to link education to real life. African University will be dedicated to the expansion of educational opportunity, contribute to Africa's economic and social well-being, and to promote research, and development as well as entrepreneurship.

**Symposium Objectives:** Symposium objectives included the following:

- Discuss the relationship between African higher education in sustainable community development;
- Discuss strategies that motivate African higher education institutions into actions that engage them with the community development activities;
- Discuss the African University educational model
- Recommend strategies to advance African University
- Continue to build an engaged constituency for African University
- Disseminate the proceedings of the symposium

Although a number of papers were presented the majority of the symposium time was spent in group and plenary discussions, debating the role of African higher education in sustainable community development, but also to discuss and recommend how best to advance African University, Tali, Cameroon.

## PROGRAM OFFICERS

### Chairman

Dr. Frtiz Tabe Tambi, Eye Care Foundation, Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon



### Vice Chairman

His Excellency Martin Baiye Arikai Tanyitiku, Former Governor, Eastern Region, Cameroon



### Director of Ceremony

Mr. Etong Tanyitiku, Instructor, Government Technical College, Tali, Cameroon



### Chief Rapporteur

Ms. Elizabeth Tanyi, Project Coordinator, African University Foundation, Cameroon



# SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**First Day: December 28, 2006**  
**General Theme: Introductory Remarks and Welcome Addresses**

**12:30 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Registration**

**1:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Opening Prayer**

~ Reverend Apostle Henry Egbemba Betang, Former Moderator of the Apostolic Church in Cameroon and Vice Chairman, African University Foundation, Cameroon

**Pouring of the Libation**

~ His Royal Highness Chief Simon Orock Tabi Baiyee, Tali Traditional Council



**1:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Welcome Messages**

~ His Royal Highness Chief Simon Orock Tabi Baiyee, Tali Traditional Council

~ Mr. Orock Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Tinto Rural Council, representing Lord Mayor Enow Sabine Egbe

~ His Excellency Enow Tanjong, Former Governor, South West Regions and North West Region and Chairman, African University Foundation, Cameroon

~ Dr. William Agbor Baiyee, Director, Master of Science in Medical Science Program, Indiana University School of Medicine and Chairman, African University Initiative, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA





2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

**Program Overview**

~ Ms. Elizabeth Tanyi, Coordinator, Association for the Promotion of Women and Children and Secretary, African University Foundation, Cameroon



3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**First Session**

Presentation: **Need for engaged African universities in sustainable community development**

**Presenter**

~ Mr. Thomas Eyong Orock, Chief of Service of Employment and Vocational Training, Buea, South West Region, Cameroon



4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Second Session**

Presentation: **Higher education institutions in Cameroon and their role in sustainable community development**

**Presenter**

~ Dr. Enoh Tanjong, Associate Professor, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs, University of Buea, Fako Division, South West Region, Cameroon



5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Break**

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Dinner**

**Second Day: December 29, 2008**

**General Theme: The Role of University Education in Sustainable Community Development in Africa**

**7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**9:0 - 10:00 a.m.**

**First Session**

Presentation: **The role of university education in the development of sustainable community healthcare**

**Presenter**

~ Dr. Sylvester Ndeso-Atanga, Head of Department of Nursing and Lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Buea, South West Region, Cameroon



**10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Second Session**

Presentation: **The role of university education in promoting sustainable environmental conservation**

**Presenter**

~ Mr. Victor Nkwanyuo, Divisional Delegate of Environment and Nature Protection for Fako Division, Buea, South West Region, Cameroon



**11:00 – Noon**

**Third Session**

Presentation: **The role of university education in advancing sustainable agricultural and economic development**

**Presenter**

~ Mr. Louis Nkembi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Environment and Rural Development Foundation, Buea, South West Province, Cameroon



**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch Break**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Fourth Session**

Presentation: **An exploratory discussion on African University**

**Facilitator**

~ Dr. William Agbor Baiyee, Director, Master of Science in Medical Science Program, Indiana University School of Medicine and Chairman, African University Initiative, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



**3:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Break and Business Meeting**



**6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Dinner**

**Third Day: December 30, 2008**  
**General Theme: The Case for the African University Education Model**

**7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**8:30am to 10:30 a.m.**

**First Session**

Visit to the site reserved for the African University campus



**10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Break and Business Meeting**



11:30 to Noon

Break



Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Traditional Ceremonies



3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Second Session**

Presentation: **African University: The vision, mission, values, motivation and programs**

**Presenter**

~ Dr. William Agbor Baiyee, Director, Master of Science in Medical Science Program, Indiana University School of Medicine and Chairman, African University Initiative, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Third Session**

Presentation: **The Educational Model for African University  
College of Agriculture**

**Presenters**

- ~ Dr. Baiyee-Mbi Agbor-Baiyee, President, African University Foundation, Indianapolis, USA
- ~ David Williams Russell, Esq., Chairman, Business Services group, Harrison & Moberly, LLP and Vice Chairman, African University Foundation, Indianapolis, USA



6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Closing Ceremony**





End of Symposium

## SYMPOSIUM OUTCOMES

- Discussed the relationship between African higher education in sustainable community development;
- Discussed strategies that motivate African higher education institutions into actions that engage them with the community development activities;
- Discussed the African University educational model;
- Strengthened the constituency for African University in Cameroon in general and Tali community area in particular;
- Disseminated the proceedings of the symposium through venues such as the African University Foundation and Harrison & Moberly web sites as well as the Eden Newspaper and Spectrum Television in Cameroon.
- Recommended strategies to advance African University.
  - Focus group discussions recommended that community development efforts of African University in Tali, Cameroon focus in rank-order on the following programmatic areas:

Rank	Community Development Program
1	Health training/facility
2	Agriculture/agribusiness/forestry/environment training/facility
3	Business/microfinance
4	Water
5	Community development/cultural activities/groups
6	Education/adult literacy
7	Engineering/technology training
8	Electricity
9	Roads
10	Women empowerment
11	Communications center

- Focus groups recommended that academic development efforts of African University in Tali, Cameroon focus in rank-order on the following colleges:

Rank	College
1	Agriculture
2	Health sciences
3	Business and Management
4	Engineering and Technology
5	Education
6	Architecture
7	Law



## MOVING FORWARD

The next steps following the symposium are as follows:

- Conduct a general survey of the 6.5 square miles reserved for African University.
- Launch planning for phase one of African University
- Construct an integrated community center

## NOTABLE QUOTES

“If Africa is to fulfill its potential, it must shift its place in the world from one of dependency on foreign aid to one of self-sufficiency through industry, enterprise, and trade with itself in particular and the world in general. Africa will be perceived to be of strategic importance to global affairs when it brings about this change. African institutions of higher education can play a critical role in catalyzing this kind of shift.”

- *William Agbor Baiyee, Ph.D., Director, Master of Science in Medical Science Program, Indiana University School of Medicine and Chairman, African University Initiative*

“The first generation of post-independence African universities focused on nation building with emphasis on providing functionaries for the civil service. Today, African countries are facing challenges related to participation in the global economy, meeting basic needs, and contributing to the transition to sustainability. These require increased investment in generation, adapting and diffusing available technical knowledge to local uses. Africa must change the way that its universities operate. First, countries will need to consider universities as productive entities (i.e. as incubators of new enterprises), and not simply as producers of a trained workforce. Secondly, universities and other technical institutes must integrate with their communities.”

- *Thomas Eyong Oroock, Regional Chief of Service for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Programs, Buea, South West Region, Cameroon*

“African University should be able in our view train our youths to be immediately useful to society by being instruments of the development of the community.”

- *His Excellency Enow Tanjong, Retired Governor of the South West Region and North West Region of Cameroon and Chairman, African University Foundation, Cameroon*

“Our lengthy discussions during our most exhilarating trek to and from the proposed site of the University and what I discovered at the Symposium leave no doubt whatsoever in my mind that we have before unfolding in Tali a unique journey to create a unique University in Tali for Cameroon, Africa and the World.”

- *His Excellency Martin Baiye-Arikai Tanyitiku, Retired Governor of the Eastern region of Cameroon*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This symposium was organized by African University Foundation in the United States of America and Cameroon. We gratefully acknowledge partial funding for the symposium from the Indianapolis-based 1) Efrogmson Family Fund, a Central Indiana Community Foundation Fund and 2) Indiana Forum for International Professional Services, Inc.

## **ABOUT AFRICAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION**

African University Foundation is an international 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization (Federal ID 35-20387225) located in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, with a branch office in Cameroon. The mission of African University Foundation is to facilitate and serve the development of African University in Tali, Cameroon where the Tali Traditional Council has granted ten square miles for its construction. African University will ensure the opportunity for all deserving students in Africa and abroad to gain an integrated experiential education, develop their talents and transform to become leaders of society.

As a unique institution, African University, intends to provide all deserving students in Africa and abroad the opportunity to acquire an integrated education, develop their talents and transform into leaders of society. It will implement community-based programs as the critical first step to prepare for the launch of degree-granting programs of the first flagship academic programs. From such community-based programs, people in the Tali community area will be able to build bridges towards improvement of their lives and communities and involvement of community leaders in the evolution of a curriculum stressing workable health care solutions, sustainable agricultural methods, sustainable development approaches and, from these, the good business principles which inevitably are the basis for the sorts of sound smaller-scale, regionally-appropriate, and community-empowering ventures which can serve as potential springboard for other entrepreneurial businesses throughout Cameroon and the rest of Africa.

AFRICAN UNIVERSITY  
[www.africanu.org](http://www.africanu.org)