



AfroEuro Foundation

voice of the African-European community

* Afro News * Monthly Newsletter * Volume 1 * Number 1 * April 2009



Reduced remittance flows to developing countries, but rising cause for optimism

Report on the international policy conference on the global financial crisis and migrant remittances
Saturday 21 March 2009, Geld museum Utrecht Eugenia

Garcia- Janelle and Bruno Cho Fon Helped at the Geld museum Utrecht on Saturday 21 March 2009, the international policy conference conference was aimed at highlighting the implications of the current global economic and financial crisis have on migrants' remittances. The conference, co-organized by COS Utrecht, Afro Euro, Oxfam, Novib and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, brought together participants from NGOs, development agencies, migrant organizations and governments to discuss and share ideas on the impacts of the crisis and its implications for development. The conference specifically addressed some of the challenges migrants face during the current global financial crisis and the coping

mechanisms they deploy to deal with it.

In his opening address, Mr. Dittmarsch, Chairperson of COS Utrecht began by recalling another conference held previously in 2008 by COS Utrecht and other organizations on the link between remittances and the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). He then highlighted the need to separate remittances, as flows of private money, and ODA. He specifically emphasized the remittances should be seen as contributory to the impact ODA ought to have in poverty reduction and in pursuing the implementation of the MDGs. He ended by noting that there is still much to be done in harnessing migrant remittances for sustainable development and this cannot be done without collective and collaborative approach of all stakeholders.

In his keynote address, Dr Manuel Orozco (Inter-American Dialogue) pointed out some key issues in relation to the theme. In his view the current recession is having a more serious effect in the industrialized world than in the developing countries today, but that the effect will trickle down eventually. In addition, there are other economic activities by migrants besides remittances



that have a multiplier effect in the economy of host and home country, which should also be considered in light of the current crisis. He also pointed out the effects of the recession and the highlighted five salient issues:

Panel Discussions

The three panel discussions focused on (1) the global economic crisis on migrants' remittances, (2) economic downturn and migrants' coping mechanism, and (3) har-



nessing migrants' remittances for development: best practices and initiatives (capacity building as a key enabling tool). Two of the most important issues raised were that (1) despite the economic crisis, remittance flows are on the whole resilient, and (2) the economic crisis is deep and synchronized around the world.

A key challenge was addressed by the panelists and participants on panel 1: what are the policy responses to address the negative impact of the crisis on remittances? Two major policy options were proposed (1) A general approach focusing on avoiding protectionist measures in the labor market, and (2) IFIs facilitating sending of remittances to developing countries.



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ACTIVITY PLAN 2008 - 2009

The following activities are planned
For the rest of the year 2009

- **Workshop Remittances and development: The role of the African Diaspora Community**

Amsterdam
January 2009

- **Conference**

Remittances and Migrant
Entrepreneurship: Identifying
Good Practices For Policy and
Practice March 2009

- **Information Meeting on Migration and Development**

1e van der Kunstraat 292
(Afroeuro Office building),
The Hague
Participants: The african migrant
community
June 2009

- **Information and Preparatory Meeting For Community Visits**

1e van der Kunstraat 292
(Afroeuro Office building),
The Hague June 2009

- **Issue Paper: Migration, Enterprises and Development: The Role of Transnational Migrant organisations**

Publication date: December 2009
Interested contributors and
sponsors should contact Bruno fon
at info@afroeuro.org or
onbruno@gmail.com

All the dates are provivial and
could be changed. The plan
excludes specific dates For trips to
Ghana and the activities For our
partner organizations as well as
the detailed activity plan our
activities in the Netherlands.



AFROEURO AT AFRIKA DAG 2009

The Africa day event held on 15 April 2009 proved to be as sensational as it ever has been in the past couple of years. A none-profit organization affiliated with the PVDA party is committed to international solidarity in politics, servicing as the voice of people in developing countries to be heard in the Dutch and European politics. Among the dozens of organizations invited are the Afro Euro Foundation. Our stand attracted a whole lot of interested onlooker who seek information about what we do. In giving insight to the interested onlookers, Mr. Bruno Fon (Project Manager) told some of them our aim of providing a platform for opinion and debate on development cooperation, political and economic issues from the perspective of African migrant communities here in the Netherlands and even beyond. "The magazine" he said "provides a credible voice for discussing issues affecting African migrants". He went on to illustrate our partner organizations in two communities in Kumasi and Kibi in Ghana that we are working in partnership with in their developmental program. He also informed them that our director is gone there to see how much they are putting to practice there the vision and also meet new partners. AfroEuro also guide immigrants here in the Netherlands through our quarterly

magazines on issues relating to Africa and Africans in the Diaspora on migration and development. With a pack schedule of debates, workshops and lectures, an extensive cultural program and a lot of politics here and there, the forum is used to call the attention of politicians who often make decisions with the interests of people in developing countries are ignored. This day of Afrikadag, however is the dedicated for the attention everyone in the Netherlands that has a passion for Africa and international development cooperation. A day set aside to beat the drum loudly in expressing the poor situation of Africa and call for the need of politicians to have a change in their view of Africa.

This occasion had the financial blessing of NCDO, Cordaid, ICCO, Hivos, SNV, Oxfam Novib, Plan Netherlands and NIMD added to the deployment of dozens of volunteers and close to 50 organizations that help made the program possible.

Meanwhile, interesting things of the day came from political information to the cultural aspects, and also African cuisine, music and literature were in display.

This year the main focus not surprisingly was impact of the credit crisis in Africa, fair trade, Obama & Africa, agriculture, health insurance in Africa, migration, education, enterprise in Africa, conflict resources, climate crisis and the International Criminal Court.





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Heey ik heet Jesmy ben 17 jaar oud en zit in de organisatie Afro euro Youth Leaders al 6 maanden lang. Het is echt een geweldige team.

Wij de jongeren organiseren avonden voor de jongeren van buiten zodat zij niet alleen buiten hangen maar dat ze ook wat mee kunnen krijgen wat ze misschien

nodig hebben in de toekomst. In deze organisatie heb ik al veel geleerd wat ik wel nodig kan hebben en mij collega's ook. Als het je leuk lijkt om ook leuke avonden te organiseren kom bij ons dan er is genoeg plek voor iedereen.

Ben jij tussen de 15 & 28 jaar en lijkt het jouw ook leuk om diverse feesten en activiteiten te organiseren en hou je ook van een uitdaging.

Kom en word lid van de Afro Euro Jeugd Netwerk

Contact op achterzijde



Hallo mensen mijn naam is Dally ben 17 jaartjes en zit bij Afro-euro Youth Leaders zit er al bij sinds oktober 2008 maar let er niet egt op. Het is een dynamische team met spontane en leuke jongeren zie ze niet als collega's maar mij vrienden we zijn een groep

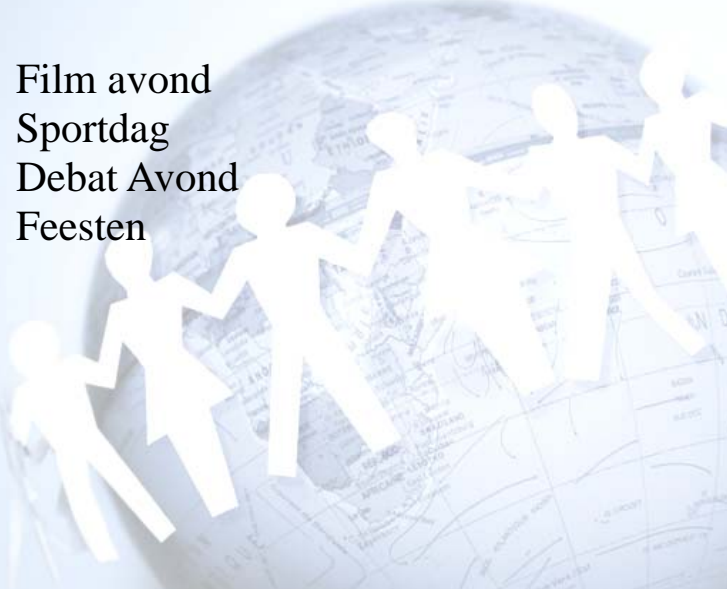
jongeren die feesten organiseren maar we organiseren ook informatieavonden met onderwerpen zoals tienerzwangerschap, burgerschap, onderwijs etc. Bij ons is het niet alleen feesten we geven ze ook wat nuttig mee wat ze kunnen toepassen in de maatschappij. Ik raad iedereen aan om gewoon langs te komen.

Mijn naam is Bridgit Phillip Oteng en ik ben 16 jaar. Ik zit in de Afro-Euro youthgroup sinds vorig jaar augustus. Ik ben gekozen als jeugdleider door meneer Gamba en meneer Bruno. Ik vind het heel erg leuk om in deze groep te zitten, omdat ik er veel van leer. Ook vind ik het leuk om op zondagen met jongeren te zitten om te nadenken over wat wij voor andere jongeren kunnen betekenen en hoe wij hun bij elkaar kunnen brengen. We zijn nu bezig met ideeën voor Ghanafest 2009, daarnaast zijn we ook bezig met onze eigen ideeën. Het is soms stressvol om dingen te organiseren, maar uiteindelijk heb je een mooi resultaat.



Opkomende activiteiten in de Zomer:

- Film avond
- Sportdag
- Debat Avond
- Feesten



AfroEuro Foundation Events 2009



M&D workshop in Amsterdam
Workshop: Remittances and Development 7th Februari 2009



Youth discussion events
Education and Health



Vincent trip to Ghana
Meeting of old and new partners.



Youth Entertainment
End of year youth Gala, Information and award

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