

Report on the



Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Organized in Kumbo, Cameroon On Friday 21st, July 2006

CREATIVE  *Traveling Arts Exhibition*
CHANGE



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1. Key objectives of the Workshop

- ✚ Continue to generate awareness on the MDGs and inspire others to take action in creative change
- ✚ Support the interdisciplinary approach of arts in social change and development
- ✚ Recognize those creative young individuals worldwide, give voice, and share their work, and knowledge as well as encourage their role in the development field, particularly in achieving the MDGs

2. Organizers

The CreativeChange Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals was organized by the **Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus'Art), Cameroon** <http://www.musartgallery.info.ms> in collaboration and support from **Art4Development, USA** <http://www.art4development.net> **TIG Global Gallery, Canada** <http://www.takingitglobal.org> **UN Millennium Campaign, USA** <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org> and the **World Bank Public Information Center (PIC), Yaounde, Cameroon** <http://www.worldbank.org/publicinformation>

3. Event Sponsor

The event was sponsored by the **One Village Foundation (OVF), USA** <http://www.onevillagefoundation.org> through the **Collective Resources for the Arts & Talents Enrichment (CREATE), Cameroon**, <http://www.createinfo.net.ms>

4. Event Summary

Attended by 54 persons drawn from the Kumbo arts scene (both visual and performing); youths especially students from secondary, high school and university; development workers from the community and other interested persons the workshop was the first on the Millennium Development Goals to be held in Kumbo. Three main speakers delivered presentations on the following topics:

Keynote Address: “The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): What is expected of the youth”

This paper was presented by **Justice Mbuagbaw Peter Esonmbi**, Vice President of the Bui High Court & Coordinator of the Research Centre for Peace Human Rights and Development (REPERID).

1st Thematic Paper: “Protecting our Environment: Young persons & the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”

This paper was presented by **Njamsi Nelson Ndi**, Coordinator of the Association of Environmental Education Teachers & School Clubs of the North West (ASEC-NW) & Head of Geography Department GBHS Kumbo. See <http://www.asecnw.org>

2nd Thematic Paper: “The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A challenge for artists to produce”

This paper was presented by **Peter Musa**, (Freelance Journalist & Visual Artist) Director of the Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus’ Art) & Coordinator of the Collective Resources for the Arts & Talents Enrichment (CREATE). See <http://www.musartgallery.info.ms>, <http://www.createinfo.net.ms>, <http://www.freewebs.com/petermusa>

The main message carried by the three speakers was on what the Millennium Development Goals are all about and on how youths as change agents can help in the realization of the MDGs in Kumbo through the medium of arts. The CreativeChange model was highlighted as a unique approach to effecting meaningful sensitization, communication and action within the municipality of Kumbo <http://www.kumbourbancouncil.org> with over 100.000 inhabitants (*2nd General Population and Housing Census 1987*) towards the realization of the MDGs by 2015. The presentations in full follow immediately after this event summary.

One very important aspect of the workshop was the Question and Answer session. Very interesting and thought provoking discussions were held between the audience and presenters. Of particular note was the worry that before the turn of last the last century, there was this slogan “Health for all by the year 2000.” The year 2000 came and passed, without the realization of this goal. Today the presenters have come up with another new doctrine

“Achieving the MDGs by 2015” how are we sure this is not one of those empty presumptions? The audience was reassured that if the global community failed to achieve “Health for all by the year 2000” the MDGs was therefore a great challenge to everyone, be it in the developed and developing countries. Hence the CreativeChange workshop provides a stimulus for artists to become involved in the global campaign at the local level. By 2015 if we fail to achieve the MDGs in Kumbo then we should blame ourselves, if our leaders failed to achieve “Health for all by the year 2000” then this is the right time for us to prove that global citizens, young men and women can make a difference and create meaningful change that the world needs so badly to come out of poverty. Is the MDGs and your current workshop not one of those empty talk-shows? No. CreativeChange in other words means action. You can all create an impact which should definitely ensure that Kumbo attains the MDGs by 2015. This calls on everyone present here to do something. No matter how little, together we can all help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals starting from our municipality.

Apart from the papers presented at the workshop, participants were thrilled by musical presentations by a new generation of Kumbo musicians namely; Richard Kings (a young and highly talented composer, singer/guitarist), as well as Romeo Luks (another great name in the making) and “The Afro-Konnexion” (two upcoming stars who are also brothers). All these young musicians blend African and Western styles of music to create enjoyable tunes that capture both the old and young, Cameroonians and whoever happens to listen to their music or in a live performance as was the case at the workshop. Richard Kings who is becoming an icon of Anglophone Cameroon music was challenged to use his music in raising awareness on the Millennium Development Goals.

The musicians served as examples of how the youths could use their talents creatively in engaging the community, politicians and government in meeting development challenges especially the MDGs. At the end of the workshop participants were distributed papers on which to visualize how Kumbo would be by 2015. The artworks are still awaited at Mus’Art. These artworks shall be put together to form a mural on the MDGs which shall be displayed permanently at the museum as a method of continuing to raise public awareness on the MDGs in Kumbo.

5. Paper Presentations

5.a Keynote Presentation:

Workshop on Creative Change on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held in Kumbo, Cameroon on the 21st July, 2006

Paper presented by Justice Mbuagbaw Peter, Coordinator of REPERID

I. Introduction:

Distinguish Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to be invited to this workshop. The theme of this workshop is: **Creative Change on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and in this keynote presentation, I am called upon to share my views on the theme: **Millennium Development Goals: What is expected of the youth**. This paper aims at bringing the MDGs into youth focus by examining, after this introduction, the concept of youth. This will be followed by an examination of the origin and context of the MDGs. The next part examines MDGs: what is expected of the youth, which is a challenge to the youths. Lastly, efforts will be made at examining the prospects for a greater political and governance reform to ensure the 2015 targets laid down in the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Youth: The Challenge for Change:

Popular use of the world youth refers to a person who is neither an adult nor a child, but somewhere in between. The age in which a person is considered (youth), and thus eligible for special treatment under the law and throughout society varies around the world. Commonly, a youth is defined as being between age 12 and age 26. This qualification varies and is very narrow in certain cases. Youth on the broader sense is used to identify a particular mindset of attitude, as in the popular saying “he is very youthful”. In the context of this presentation I wish to make reference to the Youthful African to include both the age qualification, and the mindset of attitude that expresses in my opinion, a passion for youth. Youth in various social, political, cultural, and legal contexts refers to pre-determined set of experiences, ideals, and perspectives. What is expected of the youth in the

face of MDGs invariably brings to focus the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and in the lives of other people. Civic engagement and participatory democracy are indicators of youth empowerment and participation. Youths need opportunities to enhance their interests, skills and abilities as they move into their adulthood. The natural instinct of young people is at times expressed in their desire to create change in their surrounding environment. This could be through partnerships, related groups organizations and communities to create new opportunities for youth to serve their communities while developing their personal abilities. The process of entering adulthood entails many decisions both conscious and unconscious. During this stage, you undergo behavior changes in response to biological maturation and changes in the social environment. The MDGs: what is expected of the youth challenges most of your assumptions and perceptions. What is expected of the youth in the face of the challenge to meet the 2015 target would be senseless, to say the least, meaningless if we fail to place you the youths as the central person and the ultimate beneficiary of these goals.

III. The MDGs: Origin and Context:

The social suffering of Africa has been mediatized. It is a commercial media product sold, to western television stations and channels and vied by all and sundry. Wars, AIDS, famine, diseases are easily/immediately captured by cameras, and routines misery is the picture of Africa. I hold the view that to be in pain, inevitably leads to reaction. To react to another person's pain may lead to doubts about its real existence and extent. To borrow from the great Mahatma Gandhi: **“we must become the change we seek”**. Major concerns over the glaring situations and conditions faced by most developing countries especially south of the Sahara, led to loud calls by most Nations of the world. The forum for these calls became the United Nations and were articulated and translated in what is now known as the Millennium Declaration.

The MDGs are a positive response to the social problems that plaque the world today especially the Developing World. Africa with its rich history, traditions, natural resources, its spirit and its people is a major concern to international Organizations and Donor Agencies. The MDGs therefore stand as a sign post towards the direction leading to solutions.

Eight goals emanate from the declaration and put into focus a catalogue of human problems that have their origins and consequences in the devastating injuries that social force and human conduct inflicts on human experience. Social suffering results mostly from what political, economic and institutional power do people, and, reciprocally, from how these forms of power themselves influence responses to social problems.

The eight goals are: **Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 2:** To achieve universal primary education; **Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women; **Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality; **Goal 5:** Improve maternal health; **Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; **Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability; **Goal 8:** Develop a global partnership for development. We shall thus examine the 8 goals one after another.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:

The factor here is Poverty. Targets are to reduce by ½ the proportion of people living on less than one (1) US dollar a day. Reduce by ½ the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Today, there are over 238 million people around the world living on less than one dollar a day (source: UNICEF). Poverty has caused an increase in the school drop out rate, resulting in a growing number of street and working children especially in Developing Countries. Goal 1 is aimed at lifting people out of extreme poverty by providing them with the basics they need to live a decent life; nutritious food, cloth, clean water, a home and health care. To reach goal 1, governments especially in Africa should decrease spending on arms, defense and increase funding on education and health, increase agricultural productivity with new techniques, improve infrastructure (power and water supplies, transportation, roads and schools just to name this few) and promote human rights and sustainable development. This can only be realized if the ratio: **Investment against Functioning** is always checked to ensure that the ultimate beneficiary who is the ordinary citizen is the subject of greater concern.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education:

The factor here is Primary Education. The target is to ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. There is no better investment to guarantee the future than to provide children with basic

education. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, many young people are forced to forego school because they have to work to support their families. In some cases the girls are forced to stay at home and take care of the younger ones and cook for the family and thereby give-up their own education. Education reduces poverty by providing everyone with choices and opportunities to create a better life. Goal 2 aims at enabling girls and boys to be able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015. This principle is found in many international conventions that the State of Cameroon has ratified and is inscribed in the Cameroonian constitution and was translated into law by a presidential decree in Cameroon.

Governments are called upon to increase their support on primary education and ensure equal distribution of resources to rich and poor areas.

Governments are equally called upon to tackle the incident of school dropouts.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:

The factor here is Gender equality. Targets are to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. Gender equality means ensuring that women have the same chances as men to improve their lives and the life of their families. Unfortunately women are often not given the same opportunities in education, employment and in governments. A few years ago, after 46 years of its existence, Cameroonians saw for the first time three women appointed to the position of Divisional Officers out of a total of 256 sub Divisions in the country. It is not uncommon to see poor households in our communities sending their boys to school, and forcing girls to help care for the home and go to the farm. Goal 3 therefore seeks to guarantee that women have equal opportunity to their lives and the lives of their families better. Therefore there must be a positive attitude towards women's role in our society. We must also acknowledge the fact that gender inequality contributes to poverty in the community in which we live. It is the women who produce the potatoes, the corn, the beans, the groundnuts that we eat and sustain our livelihood but women do not have ownership of the land they use. Women's property rights in the North West Province are an important area that needs to be addressed. More women need to be involved in the decision-making process, starting from home, the community, the council, the sub division, the division, the province and the country.

Women must have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives for the MDGs to become a reality by 2015.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:

The factor here is child Survival. The target is reduce by $\frac{2}{3}$ the mortality rate among children under 5 by 2015. More than 11 million children die each year in the Developing World from preventable illnesses (source UNICEF). Child mortality is related to all the other goals because young children are the most affected by the incidents of poverty. Goal 4 addresses health problems that children from infancy to the age of 5 years. There is no better solution to this problem than an increase in public spending on health. This would ensure immunization, take care of preventable diseases and guarantee treatment in their early stages.

Goal 5: Improved maternal health:

The factors here are families and women. The target is to reduce by $\frac{2}{3}$ the maternal mortality ratio. More than 50 million women suffer from poor reproductive health and serious pregnancy related health illnesses worldwide (source UNICEF). Child bearing, although a wonderful moment in woman's life, at times, is a life-threatening event. Poverty and maternal health are serious problems that go hand in hand. Goal 5 aims to improve the conditions of mothers giving birth and reduce by 75% the number of women who die in childbirth. Governments have to expand and extend reproductive health services especially in rural areas. Accessible and fast access to health centers can save millions of lives. The absence of a midwife or Doctor at every delivery would also ensure the life of the woman.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases:

The factor here is health and the target is to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other diseases. Everyday 7.000 young people contract HIV/AIDS (source UNICEF). HIV/AIDS not only affects the individual, it touches entire communities and countries. HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are all preventable but solutions to all these health problems remain out of reach for millions of disadvantage people. Education, diagnosis, creating a conscious awareness, and treatment for HIV/AIDS are still low for many regions of the

world especially Africa. Most people in Cameroon do not even know a healthy looking person could be living with HIV/AIDS.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability:

The factors here are water and sanitation and the target is to reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Environmental protection is a sine qua non for maintaining a healthy society and economy. Improved water and sanitation help to reduce child mortality and better drainage reduces the risk of malaria. Goal 7 therefore aims to improve the way we take care of the environment.

Environmental sustainability is a major challenge that, from the wordings of the new Decentralization law in Cameroon, Councils will henceforth have an important role in water management. People living in environmentally unsafe areas will henceforth have more opportunities to participate in decision making that affects their communities in a council area.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development:

The factor here is a global partnership. What the world would be in 2015 would be a reflection of how developing and developed countries work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Collaboration is a key to achieving goal 8. Effective aid, more sustainable debt relief, reducing trade tariffs and opening trade barriers, fairer trade rules are critical factors that developed countries must consider to ensure the other seven goals.

Greater debts cancellation for developing countries can help them to invest in primary health and education as well as other sectors needed to achieve the MDGs. The achievement point and the cancellation of Cameroon's debt is a major achievement that will generate financial resources to improve sectors and services that fall under the seven goals above. Governance, the fight against corruption, greater social equity, respect of the rule of law, more advanced and participatory democratic tenets will enhance credibility and increase global partnership.

IV. MDGs: What is expected of the youth:

Last year I was privileged to be part of a new dynamism under the Pan-African leadership program, run by the British Council in collaboration with QoD (Questions of Difference) and LEAD. It brought together over 100

emerging leaders from 19 African countries. The program did challenge some of my assumptions and perceptions about Africa. It has awakened an African consciousness in me. It has made me to be in the context of this discussion on a Youthful African.

In this light, I would share with you my brothers and sisters, one of the cardinal philosophies of the Pan African Leadership program, which is known as the “The six passions”. These are: the “Me” Passion, the Passion for leadership, the Passion for age, the Passion for community, the Passion for gender and, finally the Passion for Africa. I call on you to make these passions part of your daily lives and to use them as the guide in understanding the challenges the African youth, the youthful African and the youthful Cameroonian have in meeting the MDGs.

I earlier quoted Gandhi who said: “**we must become the change we seek**”. The essence of “Creative Change” starts from the person, the African youth or the youthful African. Creative change is both internal and external. Internally you must have a passion for self and leadership.

The “Me” Passion. This expresses a passion for “self”. Our behavior and development are based on our vision of and for self. If this vision were positive, then the outer expression would invariably be positive behavior and development. You should love yourself and acknowledge and celebrate your successes. The “Me” passion calls on us to look at ourselves on the mirror, appreciate what is good in us, celebrate what are our successes, be proud of what are our achievements. Once the “Me” passion is born in you, as I see it radiating in your eyes now, you will and should automatically, become sensitive and responsive about your immediacy. This expresses another passion that is in you, already if not, let it be born now! It is the passion for leadership.

The Passion for Leadership. Leadership is born with man and becomes obvious, expressive and visible as we respond to ourselves, our environment, we become conscious of our place and role in family and community. Dear youths know today that you are all leaders and leadership is at the base of the future success of Africa. As leaders therefore, you can and should influence, inspire, motivate and challenge your self and others in your communities. These two internal factors once living in you automatically call us to examine the other 4 passions.

People often make assumptions about others based on age. Often when we make assumptions on people based on age, they are not always accurate and they limit the opportunities we create. Let us be passionate about tapping into the potential of people of all ages. As youths we have children below us and adults above us. We should always of our create an environment that encourages and enables other ages and their differences to fit in the process of our age. Goal 6 is one of the six passions. The passion for gender, understanding and working with gender is a policy issue now in most countries. What expectations do we have of others? Differences that are gender based bring many valuable opportunities and possibilities when we work well with them. Recognizing the history and emotions that people bring, the issue here is not differences between genders, but in the way that people work with gender differently.

As Africans we hold a strong sense for community. Community is simply a group of people that share something in common. The question you must ask yourself now is what community or communities do I belong to and how as a leader, can I work to enable these communities meet the challenges of the MDGs. To have a sense of community is to express a passion for our neighbor, for our family, for our youth group, for our school group, for our church group just to name a few.

Africa as I earlier noted is pictured in the sense of what is not “working”- disease, wars, famine, corruption amongst others. As Africans we should of course be passionate about Africa. The question is, what Africa do we want to be part of? The obvious answer for you leaders of tomorrow is an Africa that meets the goals outlined in the MDGs among others; a transformed African starts from you and is the change you seek Africa.

The Millennium Development Goals: what is expected of the youth:

We have already discussed the origin and context of the MDGs. We have equally situated “youth” within the context of the problematic. Use the six passions as your guide in working with and understanding the challenges of the MDGs. Having awakened the passions in YOU, we shall together, in the discussion that follow, examine what is expected of the youth in the light of the MDGs. The following are what I want to share with you as a youthful African. They are however, in no way complete because the very factors and

ultimate beneficiaries of the MDGs that you are should contribute to these great expectations during the discussion. It is hoped that the salient issues raised in this presentation would be distilled in ways that enhance the development process for the benefit of the youth who are leaders of tomorrow.

What are expected of the youth in respect of goal 1 are collaboration, community consciousness and response by youths and groups. You are the hardest hit by poverty and that is why we need people like you to really get moving. Many youth groups and organizations are already working on poverty reduction strategies and youth driven anti-corruption projects. My call is that more young people should get involved and make their voices heard, because it is your future that lies ahead and you are called upon to fight for it.

To achieve universal primary education is the essence of goal 2 what is expected of you the youth, many of you are already working on bringing primary education to disadvantaged children by becoming peer educators, teachers and mentors. A lot more work still needs to be done because education gives young people a stronger voice in society, and creates the opportunities and chances that allow them to lift themselves out of poverty.

What is expected of the youth in promoting gender equality and to empower which is the basis for goal 3. The youth need to be leaders in the fight to end unfair discrimination against women. In this fight we need men to join the fight to end discrimination against women especially in this society where the women have little or no voice and position. If women do not have an equal chance how would the MDGs be achieved?

To reduce child mortality in respect of goal 4 the youth can act as volunteer counselors and mentors for their young peers on issues such as sexual reproductive health on family planning, sharing stories and asking questions enables people to talk about their problems. When we start discussing what is going on around us, we will start thinking about solutions.


Improved maternal health is another important subject of the MDGs. More youths need to be trained on health with education and awareness campaigns around sexual and reproductive health. Adolescent girls can be more active members of society when they are educated to make better choices about their future.

What is expected of the youth in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases as per goal 6? The youth need information and preventive education in order to decrease the risk of infection and the spread of this disease. Many youths and youth organizations are involved with many more youths to get on board, many of you are acting as peer educators and monitors in schools to encounter the stigma around HIV/AIDS. We can only get to the goals defined by goal 5 and goal 6 if you continue raising your voices and take action.


Goal number 7 ensures environmental sustainability. Contributing to environmental sustainability is like an insurance policy for the youths today and their futures more than any one else. Many young people increase environmental awareness and activism in their own communities and use the media to get the message out.


Developing a global partnership for development. What is expected of the youth in goal 8. The youth of today stand as the alternate beneficiary of the better world that is envisaged in 2015, collaboration therefore among youths and youth groups is significant in forging a global youth partnership for development. In Bui Division most the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Common Initiative Groups (CIGs) are created and run by youth and by youthful Cameroonians. These groups have to work together to develop strategies in order to meet the goal of their missions, that is to change and better lives of the rural poor population. Such partnership should not only be limited to your local region, should not only be horizontal, it should cut across social, cultural, economic, settings and have the vision of forging a strong responsive global partnership.

These expectations apart, I would equally want to share with you three other factors that the youths must incorporate in order to meet the challenges of MDGs.

 **Love your neighbor as yourself.** As individuals we are counted in numbers to make family, community, nation, state and the world. What are our wishes for others? What are we prepared to do for them? Love is the basis of the “me” passion and brings to play the concept of neighbor. Who is your “neighbor”? Your neighbor is the person far or near that you have in contemplation. Your neighbor is also the person’s in your communities. Love your neighbor as yourself echoes in ethical and moral law which under pin the call for benevolence to other men whether or not

finds them lovable. Hence the maxim love your neighbor as yourself. If there is no moral duty to love, then the concept of neighbor would not exist. “Neighbor” is itself a multitude, for “neighbor” implies “All men”. What is expected of you the youths as we have seen under the MDGs would be meaningless if you do not make the concept of neighbor and love part of the challenges that are expected of you.

 **Develop a culture of volunteerism.** The notion or concept of volunteerism is founded on the concept of love and concept of neighbor. What is it that makes people to want to volunteer? It is to share, to give, to help, to bring a community perspective, to give ones skills, to give a helping hand among others. All of these would not be possible if you do not have your neighbor in contemplation. Volunteerism is the name given to a culture that has inherently been African. Think of the old mother in the village who takes care of all the children around her and shares the little she has with them. Think of the community village set up where the cry of a neighbor brings all together to share in the grief. Let us ponder a bit and reflect on how we grew up in our villages and what ever we are today. Three factors certainly came to play; love, neighbor and volunteering. The expectations of the youth in the face of the MDGs would greatly be enhanced if we the youths and youthful Cameroonians take part of our times off to volunteer.

 **A responsible youth today ensures a better tomorrow.** Adolescent development is a challenging transition. This transition varies for every youth and is influenced by culture, gender, socio-economic class, family setting, peer group influence, parental responsibility among others. Delinquency is a major challenge in youth development; drug abuse, alcoholism, criminality, school dropouts, teenage pregnancies, internet marriages, free sex life are negative factors that seriously hamper youth development today and might significantly influence the success of the MDGs even beyond 2015.

V. The way forward:

The need for greater political and governance reform to ensure the 2015 targets laid down by the MDGs. It is often difficult for young persons to see how they can make a difference. We have seen what is expected of them and practical ways they can get involved. The political question over the expectations of reaching the MDGs varies from country to country. It is very

difficult to enforce the implementation of economic and social rights. Fundamental rights and civil and political rights have gained a lot of recognition and protection in almost all the regions of the world in the last 15 years. The MDGs fall under economic and social rights and government policy is what enables how and when they are implemented. Governance is at the base of human suffering in Africa. Though the African continent is endowed with rich resources, governance has to be more citizen community and individual oriented. In other words, there is need for greater investment in health, in education, in infrastructure, on protection of the environment. All of these can be achieved if the passion for community, the passion for our country and the passion for Africa is championed by you the youths as you move to adulthood. Leaders of tomorrow you are and leaders of today must make you part of decision making and part of the global challenges that the world faces today. Margaret Mead (anthropologist) summarized this challenge when she said, **“as long as any adult thinks that he, like the parents and teachers of old, can become introspective invoking his own youth to understand the youth before him, he is lost”**.

VI. Conclusion:

The debate over the issues raised so far did not start today and I am sure you are not hearing this for the first time. My experience has enabled me to attempt to bring to focus the salient issues that I have raised. It is hoped that this salient would be distilled issued would be distilled by you in ways that would enhance the development process for the benefit of the larger community at the center of which are you the youths – our leaders of tomorrow. We cannot be unmindful of the enormity of the challenge of the 8 goals to the development of Africa in this rapidly globalizing world. It is also important to note the reality that we face in a world where power and might, wealth and technology continue to determine “who gets what, when and how”. A world that offers no charity for the weak. On that note all I say to you the youth is that we should relax, reflect, unwind and take up our heads and face the challenges that underpin our future. I thank you all for listening and may God bless you.

5.b 1st Thematic Paper:

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT: YOUNG PERSONS AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A Paper Presented on the occasion of the Creative Change Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals as part of the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus'Art)

By Nelson Ndi Njamnsi – Coordinator ASEC-NW

Key Words: Protection, Conservation, Sustainability, Youth, Millennium Development Goals, Participation, Governance, Environmental Education, and Public Awareness.

The Millennium Development Goals are targets set by the United Nations for development by 2015. This is to urge all nations of the world to take initiative for development to redress some of the world's problems such as hunger, poverty, drought, floods, rapid population growth particularly in developing countries and depletion of the natural resources. In Cameroon 70% of the population live on subsistence agriculture and there is lack of knowledge on issues like sustainable agricultural techniques and waste management. This is having negative effects on the lives of the inhabitants with a majority of the population living abject poverty. This is because the population particularly the youth is not aware of the high value of their environment and especially of the negative consequences that the current bad management will have on the future generations and peoples livelihoods.

One way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is through sustainable development. This is development that ensures a better quality of life for every one – now and for generations to come. It means meeting four key objectives:

1. Social progress which recognizes the need of every one
2. Effective protection of the environment

3. Prudent use of natural resources
4. Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

If this kind of development is to take place, the young have a central role to play. This is because young people with their enthusiasm and energy can have an important influence on others, notably their peers and households. This will eventually create awareness in the whole community and provide every person with the opportunity to acquire awareness, knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to participate in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources for an increased standard of living. The work of organizations such as Association for Environmental Education (ASEC-NW), Save the Young, Navti Foundation, CIPRE and many others in involving the youths in their activities is quite encouraging.

In this light, museums have to work with sculptors, weavers, blacksmith, painters and visual artist to come out with artistic designs to educate the youth and raise public awareness on development/environmental education. These cartoons/objects will send messages to the youth on the various ways their natural environment is being put into use and action to take for its sustainable use. They are equally called upon to address factors responsible for environmental degradation such as bush/wild fires, deforestation, overgrazing and unsustainable methods of agriculture as well as the fight against pollution responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer and consequences there of. In this way, every body in the community will be on board the train towards the development of sustainable lifestyles for a rational exploitation of finite resources. The Musa Heritage Gallery and other museums in Cameroon need to target their audience with specific messages

This means that if extreme hunger and poverty is to be eradicated, universal primary education achieved, gender equality and women empowerment promoted, child mortality reduced and disease incidence and death reduced, there must be sustainable exploitation of natural resources. This can be achieved by:

- A. Integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs.
- B. Introducing environmental education as a module in secondary/professional schools.

C. Integrating environmental and public awareness issues in all development projects.

D. Reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water through sustainable management of catchments.

E. Achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 through effective waste management policies.

Nevertheless, most countries in the world are committed to the principle of sustainable development but this has not resulted in sufficient progress to reverse the loss of the world's environmental resources. Achieving the goals will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources around them and an unprecedented level of networking and global cooperation. The absence of these virtues has been the basis of the unsustainable management of the catchments of Kumbo Water Authority and consequent shortages of water every dry season. This organization will only succeed with the restoration and sustainable use of their catchments if it embarks on an education and public awareness program. The holding in Bamenda on 20 June 2006 of the first North West Environmental stake-holder's forum is a laudable initiative. We hope that many more organizations will join the group so that with one voice the environmental problems of the province could be better addressed.

This brings to the mainstream discussions and debates on good governance in order to allow the youth participate in decision-making processes on development issues. This implies that a system of values, policies and political and social affairs through interactions within and amongst the state, civil society and private sector be implemented. It is also a way a society organizes itself to make and implement decisions, achieving mutual understanding, agreement and action. It comprises the mechanisms and processes for citizens and groups to articulate their interests, bridge their differences and exercises their legal rights and obligations. It is the role, institution and practices that limits and provide incentives for individuals, organizations and firms to participate in national development. It is only through such a system that the youth can find their rightful place to influence policy and actively participate in the sustainable exploitation and use of natural resources.

It is therefore important for the youth to let their voices be heard now on development issues particularly environmental issues as the beginning of their participation in building a just and prosperous world. It is only in this

way that they can enter the mainstream of decision making in their various communities and countries.

Thank you for the action you will take in the near future to cultivate environmentally friendly behavior for the sake of posterity.

5.c 2nd Thematic Paper:

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A Challenge for Artists to Produce

Paper presented by Peter Musa, Director of the Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus'Art) & Coordinator of the Collective Resources for the Arts and Talents Enrichment (CREATE) at the Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals as part of the "2015 CreativeChange Traveling Arts Exhibition from the USA", 21st July, 2006 Kumbo, Cameroon.

Introduction

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the greatest challenge of our time and to quote from the UN Millennium Campaign "We are the first generation that can end poverty." Are you ready to be left out of this historic moment in the life of humankind? This is the time to act local and go global in a bid to make a modest contribution towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 thus ending poverty and the gap between the rich and poor.

The genesis of this campaign was at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, 189 Heads of Government (including His Excellency President Paul Biya of Cameroon) promised to end poverty by 2015. They signed the Millennium Declaration, promising to "free men, women and children from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty", committing developed and developing countries alike to eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs call for a global partnership to address the most crucial issues of our time namely:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

We are already six years gone since the Millennium Declaration was signed in New York, USA. In Kumbo as a matter of fact only very few persons are aware on the Millennium Development Goals, this calls for a lot of sensitization within the community. I encourage each one of you here present to do something else Kumbo shall not be able to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

I also wish to encourage each one of you present here to get more closer and become active participants in the activities of the organizations operating within our municipality. These organizations are all working in one way or the other to push Kumbo ahead. The Research Centre for Peace Human Rights and Development (REPERID) whose Coordinator Justice Mbuagbaw Peter Esongbi presented the keynote paper in this workshop and the Association of Environmental Education Teachers and School Clubs of the North West (ASEC-NW) whose Coordinator Mr. Njamsi Nelson Ndi presented the paper that preceded this one are all civil society organizations based in Kumbo. Your participation in the activities of these organizations can contribute to the development of our municipality thus working towards the realization of reaching vision 2015.

New opportunities for Artists

Artists both visual and performing can contribute enormously in raising awareness on the millennium development goals within our community. They can use their varied and diverse methods of self-expression to reach out to the public, political leaders, municipal and state authorities. We need the contribution of our local artists to be able to meet the global target of ending poverty by 2015. What is your contribution towards ending world poverty? As an artist you can do something that can positively change the face of the world.

Let me draw your attention to some historic moments in the life of humanity that artists have done positive things to change the world.

1. During the long droughts that plaque Ethiopia in the 1980's internationally renown United States artists grouped under the umbrella "United Support of Artists" came out with the famous recording of the hit album "We are the World" proceeds of which were sent out to Ethiopia to support the population which were facing severe food shortages, hunger, starvation and malnutrition.

2. When the Tsunami hit South East Asia, the Hurricanes in the USA, as well as contemporary issues that grossly affects our continent such as war, food shortages, poverty, malaria and HIV/AIDS, artists have often come together through musical shows, drama shows, poems, books and exhibitions to raise an outcry, condemn bloodbath and call on public attention with the aim of raising funds to support victims and give hope. This reminds me of the Late Fela Ransom Kuti of Nigeria, one of Africa's greatest musicians who was very critical of Nigeria's military regimes. He was imprisoned several times but he continued to be a great critic of the military dictators in his country. Through his music he preached democracy and today Nigeria is one of Africa's most successful democracies. In 2004, renown African musicians including Manu Dibango of Cameroon came out with a continent wide recording dubbed "Drums of Africa" with the aim of raising awareness on the ravaging effects of HIV/AIDS on the continent and with calls for stamping it out. The project was supported by **vision2015.org** <http://www.vision2015.org> Nelson Mandela of South Africa has been using artists in the campaign against HIV/AIDS and in 2005 was invited to Tromso, Norway to participate in a concert by Nordic Artists to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa due to his record of working with artists in his home country in that area.

I would not like to dwell much on this as cases where artists have stood up for the public good individually or in groups are uncountable. Artists are therefore considered as vehicles of social transformation. The Millennium Development Goals offers you, the artists of Kumbo to be part of the social transformation of our municipality. As an artist you can effect the change Kumbo needs in order to be a poverty free community by 2015 through your music, poems, drawings, drama, and writings. The CreativeChange workshop which we are most privilege to host today, the first to be held in Cameroon is intended to inspire you to become part of the Millennium Development Campaign thus giving you the opportunity to put your names in the history books of Kumbo through your works.

As an artist living in Kumbo today, when you are gone tomorrow you shall be remembered by your works. So what type of works do you produce? Do you produce works that shall stand the test of time when you are gone? Are you an artist that promotes social transformation? Or do you engage in art just as a means of livelihood? This are the questions you must answer. My challenge to you is to wake up from sleep. Artists do not sleep. When I

engage in an artistic production I do not sleep until on the day I am through with my work. This is how my father worked part time as a wood carver. This year the Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus' Art) is celebrating its 10th anniversary and we are honored to host the CreativeChange workshop which is part of the "Vision 2015: Creative Change Traveling Arts Exhibition from the USA" we shall be hosting soon. The screening at the start of this workshop gave you an overview of the CreativeChange traveling exhibition and hope all of you shall be stimulated to take the Millennium Development Goals as a personal challenge. Together we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We are also privilege to have within our midst Richard Kings, a young Cameroonian musical star who happens to originate from Kumbo. Richard Kings blends folk tunes with contemporary African music and is regarded as a great Anglophone Cameroonian musician. The Millennium Development Goals offers new horizons for your music and this is the time to go international if you can use your melodious, charming and very soft voice to sing on your visions for a poor free Cameroon nation, Africa and the world by 2015. We are all behind you and shall do all to encourage you in such a venture. Are you behind Richard Kings? Are you behind Richard Kings? Richard go ahead and dedicate your next album to the Millennium Development Goals. This is the time to make your mark.

I invite all artists present here to join the Collective Resources for the Arts and Talents Enrichment (CREATE). Through your membership in CREATE we can as a team work in creative ways to raise awareness and stimulation local and national action on the Millennium Development Goals. As members of CREATE you shall also have the opportunity to benefit from our networks such as the One Village Foundation (OVF) and the International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD).

Finally I want to thank all of you for your massive participation at this workshop. This workshop would not have been possible thanks to our partners Art4Development, TIG Global Gallery, UN Millennium Campaign, World Bank Public Information Center Yaounde, One Village Foundation, USA and CREATE.

6. Useful Contacts & Resources

6.1 Organizations

6.1a Kumbo

Musa Heritage Gallery (Mus' Art) <http://www.musartgallery.info.ms>

Collective Resources for the Arts and Talents Enrichment (CREATE)
<http://www.createinfo.net.ms>

Association of Environmental Education Teachers and School Clubs of the North West (ASEC-NW) <http://www.asecnw.org>

Municipality of Kumbo <http://www.kumbourbancouncil.org>

Navti Foundation <http://www.navtifoundation.org>

6.1b Yaounde

World Bank Public Information Center
<http://www.worldbank.org/publicinformation>

6.1c International

Art4Development <http://www.art4development.net>

TakingITGlobal (TIG) <http://www.takingitglobal.org>

UN Millennium Campaign <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

One Village Foundation (OVF) <http://www.onevillagefoundation.org>

International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD) <http://www.incd.net>

6.2 Websites on the Millennium Development Goals

UN Millennium Campaign <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

Youth site on the MDGs <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth>

UN website on the MDGs <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

How the UN is working with youth <http://www.un.org/youth>

Non-Governmental Liaison Service
<http://www.un-ngls.org/MDG/unaction.htm>

A site with data on the MDGs <http://www.developmentgoals.org>

The World Scouts Program on the MDGs <http://www.youthoftheworld.net>

Global call to action against Poverty <http://www.whiteband.org>

These links on the MDGs were extracted from the publication

ONLY WITH YOUR VOICE

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

YOUTH ACTION GUIDE

created by

The Millennium Campaign,

TakingITGlobal.org, and the

Global Youth Action Network

7. List of Participants

No	Name	Organization
01	Justice Mbuagbaw Peter Esongmbi	Bui High Court & REPERID, Kumbo
02	Mangong Peter Musa	Mus' Art & CREATE, Kumbo
03	Njamnsi Nelson Ndi	GBHS & ASEC-NW, Kumbo
04	Wanyu Melvin Nyango	Counselor, Delegation of Secondary Education Bui Division, Kumbo
05	Atlee Dzeawoni Bah	Lecturer Government Bilingual Secondary School Kikai-Kom, Kumbo
06	Richard Kings	Musician, Kumbo
07	Romeo Luks	Musician, Kumbo
08	Gerald Kiku (Afro-Konnexion)	Musician, Kumbo
09	Ian Kiku (Afro-Konnexion)	Student/Musician, Kumbo
10	Jean-Louis Bime	Navti Foundation, Kumbo
11	Dzelafen Jonah Shiynyuy	Mus' Art, Kumbo
12	Tume Amos	ASEC-NW, Kumbo
13	Wirngo Peter Ayukea	Student, Kumbo
14	Bah Angeline	Teacher, Government Primary School, Kiyan
15	Bah Timothy	Student Government Bilingual High School, Kumbo
16	Bah Sharon	Student, University of Buea
17	Kila Marceline	Student, St. Peter's High School, Kumbo
18	Lontum Yvette	Student, Yaounde

19	Juliet Lom	Student, Chaffee Memorial Baptist College, Kumbo
20	Kifem Brice	Student, Kumbo
21	Langwa Calvin	Student, Government Bilingual High School, Kumbo
22	Sunjo Christa	Student, Kumbo
23	Wirsiy Kingsley	Student, Kumbo
24	Adamu Isa	Student, Islamic High School, Kumbo
25	Nworo Linda	Businesswoman, Kumbo
26	Venan Lenzemo	Musician/Visual Artist, Kumbo
27	Julius Yongka	New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
28	Lanyuy Delphine Yongka	New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
29	Mofor Lizette	New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
30	Nsaibirni Robert	Student, Government Bilingual High School, Kumbo/New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
31	Adeline Yensin	New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
32	Ngah Calvin	Visual Artist, Kumbo
33	Njodzeka Gilbert N.	Green Care, Kumbo
34	Nsairun Justin	Green Care, Kumbo
35	Wirkwa Eric Tayu	Publisher/Editor, The Nso Voice Newspaper, Kumbo
36	Joachim Wiysenyuy	Save the Young, Kumbo
37	Emily Strunk	Save the Young, Kumbo
38	Bam Livinus	Diocesan Newsletter/L'Effort

		Camerounais, Kumbo
39	Ephriam Bam	Printing & Communication Center, Diocese of Kumbo
40	Fuekang Cyprian	Headmaster, Government School Ro-Majaay, Kumbo
41	Chin Francis Toh	Teacher, Kumbo
42	Nsa Jerome	Board Chair, Cameroon Opportunities Industrialization Center (COIC), Kumbo
43	Yungong Jackson	Nurse, Bansa Baptist Hospital, Kumbo
44	Abehyuf Clodette	Student, Kumbo
45	Chin Blessing	Student, Kumbo
46	Nfor Kindness	Student, Government Bilingual High School, Kumbo
47	Bakari Fedeline	Student, Chaffee Memorial Baptist College, Kumbo
48	Bah Donald	Student, Yaounde I University
49	Bongfen Roland	Green Care, Kumbo
50	Yaou Sah	New Vision Youth Group, Kumbo
51	Elvis Fondzemo	Youth, Kumbo
52	Julius S.	Kumbo, Youth
53	Ndze Cajetan	Navti Foundation, Kumbo
54	Lenzemo Eugene	Teacher, St. Augustine's College Nso, Kumbo

About Musa Heritage Gallery

The Musa Heritage Gallery shortened Mus'Art Gallery is a museum named in memory of Cameroonian artists Daniel and son John Musa. It started as a family museum preserving the works of the departed artists and later on diversified to cover the arts and crafts of Cameroon's western Grass-fields. With a collection of over 400 diverse and varied objects mainly done within the last three decades of the just ended twentieth century it continues to acquire contemporary Cameroonian art and craft objects.

Objectives:

- to promote the works of art by members of the Musa family through education, preservation and exhibition;
- to encourage research on the sculptures and their works;
- to produce printed and audio/visual materials on the gallery, the sculptors and their works;
- to encourage off-springs of the Musa family to engage in arts and crafts especially wood carving;
- to bring innovation into the family's artistic heritage thereby moving in pace with the challenges of the 21st century;
- to cooperate with similar organizations in Cameroon and abroad.

Activities:

- Schools Outreach - getting school pupils and students to appreciate and understand arts and to become creative
- information centre on arts, culture & development
- setting-up a music information centre for folk and contemporary music from Cameroon as well as music from other countries.



Mus'Art is striving to be fully involved in raising awareness on the MDGs and in becoming a space where youths can get involved in the campaign through artistic creations, expressions and performances.



The museum shall be most grateful if you can support it to continue raising awareness on the MDGs by hosting the **CreativeChange** Arts Exhibition showcasing works of art by youths from all four corners of the globe and in developing interactive programs involving students, youths and community members on the themes related to the MDGs. If you are able to assist us realize these plans, we shall be most delighted to hear from you. If you are unable to assist at this moment, you are most welcome to introduce us to your friends, other museums and art organizations or to donor organizations who may be interested in our work and in assisting us in the realization of our future endeavors. Join Us!