



Cameroon Youths and Students
Forum for Peace
(CAMYOSFOP)



Report of the US /Cameroon Immersion "Youth, Development and the Millennium Development Goals"

(Yaounde, Bamenda, Bafut, Foumban, Buea, Limbe)

June 10-26, 2007



Immersion Participants with
H.E. Chief Ephraim Inoni, PM of Cameroon



Immersion Participants with
H.E. Adoum Garoua, Minister of Youth Affairs.

Report Prepared by:

- Eugene Ngalim Nyuydine
- Synthia Fondufe Ayuveh

Edited by:

- Patience Fule-Buang E lango

Mounted by:

Nereus Patrick

For Detailed Information, Contact:

- Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace
(CAMYOSFOP)

P.O. BOX 3873, Yaounde-Cameroon

Telephone: +237 - 77 - 32 - 93 - 61

E mail: camyosfop_p@yahoo.com

Website: camyosfop.org (Under Construction)

- Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA)

P O BOX 11007

Washington DC, 20008

Telephone: 202- 577- 6322

E mail: gypa@gypafrica.org

Website: www.gypafrica.org

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A. Foreword

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), promulgated by the 192 member states of the United Nations during the Millennium Summit held in September 2000, in New York, have become the cornerstone policy of almost every government in the world. The youths in particular are a major component on the drive towards the achievement of these goals in their various countries by 2015.

It is therefore for this reason that the UNDP and the UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) have taken the lead in empowering young people in a bid to vulgarise and achieve these goals. MDG 8, which focuses on 'the promotion of partnership for development,' also aims at reducing the world to a global village. Since 2000, speeches pronounced in fora organised either by the UN or governments, call on the youths to take action in the realisation of this goal.

The June 2007, Cameroon/US Youth Immersion, with the theme 'Youth, Development and the MDGs,' organised by the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) and the Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA), aimed at not only evaluating the progress of the MDGs in Cameroon, but making MDG number 8 a reality for CAMYOSFOP and GYPA. During the two weeks of this exciting program, American and Cameroonian youth leaders selected from Universities across the US and Cameroon, were able to explore many issues surrounding Cameroon's development by, engaging with local communities in dialogue and direct service in five of Cameroon's ten provinces. Most importantly, these participants were able to encourage and support each other to work together and to understand the critical role they can play in the development process of Cameroon and the US.

Testimonies including participants' and partners' assessment at the end of the program proved that, the immersion was a big success story. Never-the-less, the organisation and success of this program wouldn't have been possible if Eugene Ngali, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP and initiator of the program was not given the chance by UNDP Cameroon to participate in the Second Pan African Youth Leadership Summit on the MDGs, held in Ifrane - Morocco, from August 18–23, 2005. Thanks to this continental Youth Leadership Summit, co-organised by UNOSDP and the Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW), under the leadership of Dr Djibril Diallo, Director of UNOSDP and Dena Merriam, Convener of GPIW Eugene met with Jeremy Golberg, Founder/Director of GYPA. They both strategized on the way forward to the Moroccan summit and especially, the promotion and achievement of MDG 8 in Cameroon and the US. Hence, the organisation of the 2007 youth immersion in Cameroon, and later on, a similar program in the US.

It is also worth mentioning that the fruitful collaboration of the government through H.E. Chief Ephraim Inoni, Prime Minister and Head of government, added to that of the Minister of Youth Affairs, H.E. Adoum Garoua, and of the Embassy of the United States of America to Cameroon, galvanized the participants of the program to success. Today, these personalities have taken the commitment to give a more dynamic orientation to the program. Finally, our gratitude goes to all the participants and partners who were very committed to the success of the program. There is no doubt that the foot print of this first immersion is going to galvanise and provide the necessary tools for the success of other immersions.

NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine

Program Coordinator-Cameroon/US Immersion 2007.

Executive Director-CAMYOSFOP

UN Youth Spokesperson, Africa 2015 (MDGs), Cameroon

Commissioner-National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF)

Coordinator-International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Cameroon

B. About the Organisers

b. Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)

CAMYOSFOP is an NGO founded on non – partisan and non – profit making basis. Created in 1999, with an official authorisation on October 10, 2001, its prime objective is educating youths, students and the public in general, on their moral and traditional values. This education is done from the perspective of its ideology, which includes: Fear of the Lord; Friendship; Harmony; and Amicable resolution of conflicts in fora. All the above mentioned, culminate in the promotion of human rights and conflict resolution, which are all prerequisites to a culture of peace.

CAMYOSFOP seeks to:

- v Educate youths, students and the public in general on their moral and traditional values and ways of resolving differences, in a bid to restore a culture of peace.**
- v Foster peace, justice and progress through social interaction and communication among youths, students and the public in general.**
- v Initiate amicable fora for resolution of differences.**
- v Work relentlessly in establishing a network with institutions of the same calibre.**
- v Work in collaboration with Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders and Ministries involved with youth issues.**

CAMYOSFOP has gained reputation over the years through its actions and it's Executive Director who was appointed in June 2004, the UN Youth Spokesperson for the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals in Cameroon. In September 2006, he was appointed by a Presidential Decree, member of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. Equally, in June 2005, its Public Relations Officer was appointed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Deputy Youth Representative of the Commonwealth Youth Caucus for African Region.

In 2005, during the Second Pan African Youth Leadership Summit, held in Morocco, CAMYOSFOP was a laureate of the UN/King Mohammed VI Continental Award on Youth led Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related projects. Its project was on the campaign against the illicit proliferation and misuse of war toys, firecrackers, small arms and violent films within the youth milieu in Cameroon.

CAMYOSFOP has been involved in almost all processes of youth development both nationally and internationally. Some of these processes include: The National Youth Policy and the National Youth Council in Cameroon; the African Union ECOSOC Process; the UNECA African Development Forum V; Continental and Global Youth Summits on the Millennium Development Goals; and the UN World Program of Action for Youths.

As an organisation that works with volunteers, she also organises exchange programs with youths and volunteers from diverse cultural backgrounds in Cameroon and beyond. The June 2007 Cameroon Immersion that brought some 13 American students to Cameroon was the first to be organised by CAMYOSFOP in collaboration with GYPA.

b. Global Youth Partnership for Africa

The Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA) emerged from Project Namuwongo Zone B (PNZB), a joint effort between Ugandans and Americans established in 2003. From the outset, PNZB served a community-based sustainable development and aid organization based in Washington DC, with staff in Kampala, Uganda. PNZB evolved into GYPA in 2005 to accommodate the organization's growth in both size and scope. While the original community development components remain, today GYPA is also engaged in empowering young American leaders through experiential learning opportunities.

GYPA believes that the youth of the world must actively explore and engage in activities that support the people of other countries. GYPA programs are designed to develop a renewed global effort to respond to the humanitarian issues facing the entire African continent. GYPA provides a platform for youth within the United States and Africa to gain cross-cultural insight, make new friends, hone leadership, advocacy, and diplomacy skills, and share their own perspectives and views of their world.

Since 2003, GYPA has hosted six Immersions and two Global Kimeeza programs in Uganda, as well as one Youth Summit in Sierra Leone. The June 2007 Cameroon Immersion was the first to be organised by GYPA in collaboration with CAMYOSFOP.

Report of the Cameroon/US Immersion
"Youth, Development and the Millennium Development Goals"
June 10 – 26, 2007

C. Introduction

1. The fruits of the Cameroon/US Youth Immersion coined "Youth, Development and the Millennium Development Goals," were sown in the kingdom of Morocco, in August 2005, during the Second Pan African Youth Leadership Summit on the MDGs, organised by the UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace, in collaboration with the Global Peace Initiative for Women, the Micro Sun System and the government of Morocco. During this event, Ngalim Eugene, Executive Director of Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) and Jeremy Goldberg, Founder/Director of the Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA), based in Washington DC, met and brainstormed on the possibilities of promoting the achievement of goal number 8 of the MDGs. This focuses on the 'promotion of partnerships for development,' within the youth milieu in Cameroon and in the US.

2. The outcome of this encounter was the establishment of a partnership between CAMYOSFOP and the GYPA that extended the GYPA students' exchange program in Uganda to Cameroon. This exchange program known as student immersion aims at bringing US students to Cameroon and vice versa, in a bid to interact and exchange experiences on developmental issues and to form lasting friendships and partnerships, with a lasting commitment to remain engaged in cooperative efforts to support each other.

3. This dream came true in June 2007, when Joshua Goldstein, Associate Director of GYPA led a 13 man US delegation to Cameroon. The programme which ran from June 10 – 26, in five of the ten provinces of Cameroon, saw the participation of 13 US students, 12 Cameroonians and 1 British. The schedule respected during the two weeks of the immersion included: appointments; conferences and presentations; voluntary work; leisure trips; sports and brainstorming in groups.



D. Appointments with Government Officials and the US Embassy

4. The first appointment was with the US Embassy in Yaounde, on June 12. On that occasion the participants of the Immersion were received on behalf of the US Ambassador to Cameroon by Noelle Young-Wright, the Cultural Affairs Officer of the Embassy. The programme was then handed over to Yah Gladys Shang Viban, the Cultural Affairs Specialist and Dairou Yaoba, Chief of Security at the Embassy. Gladys and Dairou provided the participants with information regarding cultural differences between Cameroon and the US and security measures in Cameroon.

5. The next appointment was with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, where these youth leaders were received by His Excellency, Adoum Garoua, the Minister of Youth Affairs and his entourage. During this visit, the Minister was briefed by Eugene and Joshua, both Coordinators of the programme, on the raison d'être of the entire programme. In return, the Minister expressed his wish to see the Cameroonian participants make a return trip to the US. He also appealed to all participants to make use of ICTs to foster development in the area of youth development and world-wide cooperation.

6. Lastly, the participants in this first immersion were highly honoured on June 22, by an audience granted by His Excellency Chief Ephraim Inoni, Prime Minister and Head of Government for Cameroon. During this audience, the Prime Minister keenly listened to the participants' experiences and their first impression after their trip to five provinces of



Audience with P.M., H.E., Chief Ephraim Inoni

The participants equally used this opportunity to present to the Prime Minister, the results of the brainstorming that was carried out in the various issue groups. The topics discussed in the issue groups included: Education; Gender; and Economy.

The resolutions from these issue groups presented to the Prime Minister included:

- The putting in place of a scholarship programme for two under privileged girls in the US and UK and two under privileged girls in Cameroon, to work on a project designed by them in a bid to foster womens' development schemes;
- Provision of a data base of Universities' scholarships in the US to Cameroonian students;
- Provision of skills on ICTs to Cameroonian students;
- The construction of a Charter school in Cameroon, aimed at improving entrepreneurial and budding talents.

After listening to the outcome of the Immersion, the Prime Minister congratulated both CAMYOSFOP and GYPA for initiating such an interesting project that reduces Cameroon and the US to a village. He, on behalf of the government of Cameroon, took the commitment to support the realisation of the projects put in place by the program participants.

E. Conferences and Presentations

7. The first conference that saw the active participation of the immersions' participants was the conference on the 'African Union and the European Union/United States of America Cooperation Strategy.' It took place on June 13, at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC). The conference that was officiated by Mr. Abdoulahi Nfoumbout, Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, also saw the participation of eminent personalities that included: Professor Jean Narcisse Mouelle Kombi, Director of IRIC, Professor Maurice Tadadjeu, Vice President of the African Union - Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU – ECOSOCC), Mr. Martin Tsonkeu, Cooperate and Development Economist of Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIC), Mr. Mamadou Malick Bal, Associate Economic Officer of the Yaounde Office of UN Economic Commission Africa, and Mr. Selema Akedjol, Director of Associative Life and Leisure at the Ministry of Youth Affairs.



Group picture on the conference on AU/EU/US cooperation strategy

8. The conference which focused on: Monetary threats and opportunities in the Africa-Europe cooperation; Youth contribution to African Union Process; Harnessing globalisation to create decent jobs and reduce poverty; The African Youth Charter as basis for development in Africa; and testimonies on US/Africa exchange programmes, ended with the creation of four working groups:

- Brain drain and migration;
- Cooperation between EU and AU;
- Cooperation between US and AU; and
- Proactive steps to bring about African Union government.

Resolutions from the various working groups included:

- Within the Higher Education Institutes, students should receive more vocational training. In addition, there should be increased investment into vocational training colleges.
- In order to address the lack of jobs, the government needs to take into account local realities in putting in place policies on employment training that will permit young people recognise self-employment opportunities. The government could assist this through regulations which create favourable environments for entrepreneurial development. For instance tax holidays, for young business operating in their first year.
- Increased consultation with youth organisations and networks, to ensure government manifestoes are more reflective of their needs.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs should be able to support youth projects in the entire territory of Cameroon and to also establish partnerships with donor organizations that fund youth projects. The signing of a convention by the Ministry of Youth Affairs with the European Union, could be a stepping stone in reducing youth unemployment in Cameroon.
- The creation of a Central bank that can link currencies of Africa and Europe will help reduce the level of African dependencies on Europe.
- Over dependence on the EU – need midway approaches between the EU and AU. The EU needs to be more cooperative. For example, the EU should be able to lower interest rates for loans and cancel some of the debts African Countries owe to her.
- African countries need to draw on best practices from other places such as the rising Asian countries and other successful countries in Africa.
- In order to improve on the development of Africa, natural resources exploited and exported to Europe should be given due consideration, compensation and be re-invested in Africa.
- Youths from Europe and Africa should be able to come together and create a Euro – African Youth Network, with exchange programmes on experience sharing and best practices. The North-South Centre that has been involved in spearheading the youth process in the EU – AU Cooperation Strategy, should be encouraged to take the lead in the creation of such a network.
- African governments should be able to revise their constitutions and limit presidential terms of office, hence, reduce conflicts arising from the fight to govern.
- African Economic communities should work in close collaboration and share success stories on their missions. This will provide the basis for regional integration in Africa.
- Africans need to be more inward looking in conserving their values. That is, establishing official languages that reflect regional cultural diversity with a focus on fostering African Unity.
- Youths should be able to register and contest elections within the ECOSOCC in order to have their voices heard in the African Union Commission through the ECOSOCC.
- The various African governments should be committed in effectively putting in place the African Youth Charter that is expected to pave the way for youth development in Africa.
- African Heads of State should be able to commit themselves in the creation of the United States of Africa in the shortest time possible.

9. The next set of presentations that followed the above main conference came up on June 16 in Bamenda, in the North West Province of Cameroon. The first of these presentations was done by Mr. Kiven Emmanuel, Director of Volunteers for Development Cameroon (VODECAM). In his introduction, he presented VODECAM as an NGO that aims at developing the spirit of volunteerism in every aspect with young people, through trainings and placement of volunteers. As such, VODECAM has gone an extra mile by approaching government authorities to insert this programme in the school curriculum. The questions and answers session permitted the participants to have a global view about volunteerism and to get information on the set backs and successes of VODECAM and how they hope to forge ahead.



Kiven Emmanuel, Director, VODECAM, in presentation

10. The next presentation that equally took place the same day at the Baptist Centre was led by Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP and Zigoto Tchaya Tchameni, Projects Officer of CAMYOSFOP. Their presentation was on CAMYOSFOP's achievements in the campaign against the illicit proliferation of war toys, firecrackers, small arms and light weapons within the youth milieu in Cameroon. According to Ngalim, the achievements recorded so far in this campaign include;

- A drastic fall in the sales of these toys.
- Vigorous censorship of films screened by television channels.
- More awareness raised on the negative impacts of war toys hence, most parents are diverting their attention to educational toys.
- Finally, in 2005, CAMYOSFOP was a laureate of King Mohammed VI's continental award on youth led projects, on the basis of her campaign in Cameroon.



Ngalim, preaching against arms



No to illicit proliferation of arms

11. The above presentation was followed by the screening of a documentary titled “Lets Talk Peace,” produced by CAMYOSFOP. The documentary focuses on the genocides in Rwanda and Sudan and aims at painting the picture of the bloodshed horror which could arise from unmanaged ethnic and cultural differences backed by arms. The discussions that were facilitated by Zigoto came to a conclusion that, the world will be a better place, if arms were regulated through the putting in place of an Arms Trade Treaty by the UN. Equally, participants were of the opinion that super powers such as the US, UK, France, Russia, China and international organisations such as the UN, AU and others have to put in more efforts to ensure the protection of war torn countries around the globe. The two presentations ended with a peace walk to watch the calm that reigns on the mountains, as a sign of hope in a world torn apart by conflicts.

12. Another presentation that took place on June 19, was with Peer Education Program (PEP) Cameroon, a youth NGO based in Limbe. This particular presentation was aimed at exposing the participants to the activities around HIV/AIDS, motivated by youth NGOs in Cameroon. According to Wachiri Melvin, the President of PEP, his NGO deals with HIV/AIDS sensitization and organisation of holiday fora to enable young people discuss sex education and reproductive health issues. He stated that PEP has been opportuned to receive support and work in collaboration with organisations like the US Embassy to Cameroon; UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth Affairs in making the Cameroonian youth aware of the miseries caused by HIV/AIDS. Melvin in his presentation also stated that PEP has been able to make a difference in their sensitization programme in Limbe and the South West Province in general. On that basis, PEP today is the focal point of HIV/AIDS sensitization in the South West Province.

13. The last set of presentations that took place on June 13, were on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals in Cameroon, by Mr. Martin Tsounkeu, Consultant with the African Development Interchange Network, ADIN; the challenges of ethnicity and regionalism in the era of democratization in Cameroon, by Dr Samah Walters, lecturer at the University of Yaounde I and Executive Director of Campus for Peace and Dialogue, CAPED; and Information and Communication Technologies, by Joshua Goldstein, Associate Director of Global Youth Partnership for Africa, GYPA.



Informal discussion and interaction in front of PEP office.

14. The first presentation done by Martin Tsounkeu, of ADIN and expert in the MDGs, working with the Commonwealth Programme, was on the successes recorded by the MDGs in Cameroon in the area of Education, Development, Health, and poverty reduction. According to the report, Cameroon is far ahead in the education goal as she has the highest literacy rate in Sub Saharan Africa. The report also indicates that there is progress in the area of health and poverty alleviation as, much is being done by the government in this area especially with the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. He blamed the slow rate of progress of the MDGs in the Northern parts of Cameroon on the religious and cultural barriers.

15. In the second presentation that tackled the challenges of ethnicity and regionalism in the era of democratization, Dr Samah stressed on the fact that ethnicity and regionalism are the major ills plaguing the Cameroonian society, since the advent of multi-partism in Cameroon. The mission behind this presentation was to paint the picture of how the Cameroonian administration functions, by using criticisms to find practical and pacific solutions to bring about change in the state of affairs. The conclusion arrived at by Dr Samah is that, despite the fact that all the injustices the minorities in Cameroon suffer as a result of ethnic and regional bias, Cameroon can use her multi-cultural, ethnic and regional diversities to do great things and bring about development on a national level.

16. The last presentation by Joshua of GYPA which was more of training on ICT for development, took place in the multi media hall of the Cameroon Bilingual Centre for Information Technology and Consultancy (CITEC), Yaounde. During the training, Joshua explained major ICT for Development concepts such as blogging; on the spot reporting; SMS and ICT for studies. Joshua ended his training by declaring that, the success of the MDGs also depends on the fastest means of accessing and sharing information through ICT

F. Volunteering with the Ministry of Youths Affairs, the Dan and Sarah Foundation and Association An Nour, June 20 – 21.

17. The notion of volunteering by the participants of the immersion was that of direct service with both government and private institutions in order to inspire and enhance progress within those institutions. Volunteering in the above institutions where the immersion participants were placed permitted the American participants to compare service delivery in the US and in Cameroon. It was also aimed at making it possible for the US students to compare orphanages and charity homes in Cameroon, to those in the US, thus inspiring them to think of ways of helping some of these structures to survive.

18. In the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the volunteers assisted in youth policy making by participating in meetings, writing reports and projects, and making suggestions to some of the Ministry's programmes.

19. In the Dan and Sarah Foundation, a private orphanage hosting 38 children and located in the outskirts of Yaounde, volunteers worked, played, and brought messages of hope to the children. During the second day of volunteering with this orphanage, the volunteers went along with gifts. During the day, the volunteers and the kids played football, table tennis and prepared food that was shared among all of them. They ended the day by signing the visitors' book. The take home message on charity and benevolence at the Dan and Sarah Foundation was a comment by Mr. Joseph Nzingui, the Board Chairman of the Foundation, when he said, "These children will eat as long as we eat."

20. In the 'Association An Nour,' an organisation that deals with street children and located in the heart of Yaounde, volunteers interacted with some of the street children that work with 'Association An Nour.' During these two days of volunteering with An Nour, the volunteers were opportuned to visit some sites of street children and get first hand information from the street children on the challenges they face. They also visited a sick street kid. Equally, they were fortunate to witness a traditional Muslim wedding ceremony in a home near by. This in effect, added colour to the knowledge of cultural diversity. Alhadji Sani, the President of 'Association An Nour' revealed that most of the street children are victims of manipulation by some organisations in Cameroon and that, some of these children really wish to return to their families, mostly in the North of Cameroon, if and only if they find a means of survival.



Cassandra, amusing Fondation Petit Dan & Sarah orphan kids



Sani Alhadji, President of Association An Nour, surrounded by immersion volunteers

G. Excursion

The excursion permitted the participants to have the chance to travel almost throughout the country, to obtain a unique and in-dept picture of contemporary Cameroon. As such, participants visited significant cultural and tourism sites in Yaounde, Bamenda, Buea and Limbe.

21. The first experience by the American participants was the scavenger hunt in Yaounde that took place on June 12, a day after the Americans got to Cameroon. The scavenger hunt permitted participants to have their first impression on life in Cameroon. This was realised through the appropriate choice of sites, that included; the Kuweit city in the outskirt of Yaounde; the University student residential area of Bonamoussadi; Mokolo market; and Mount Mbankolo which all have stories to tell.

22. The second place visited was the Mankon Palace and its prolific museum where the participants were exposed to the rich cultural heritage of the people of Mankon. This was an enriching experience which was crowned by a visit to the Fon's Palace, where the team was given VIP reception by His Royal Highness Fon Angwafor II, who briefed the participants on the history of the people of Mankon. He also called on the American participants to think of returning to Cameroon to help in the process of development. This visit marked a high point in the program because it gave the participants an insight into traditional administration in the North West Province with the Fon and his Kingsmen at the head, while the villagers owe them respect and loyalty.

23. The next place visited was the only Anglo Saxon University of Buea on June 18. In the University campus the participants listened to Dr Asheri Kilo, Chief of service in charge of cultural Affairs. She talked to the participants on her office programme that include the management of; sports, cultural activities and the university student union. Later on the immersion participants interacted with the bureau members of the university student union. Members of the student union briefed the participants on their mission in the campus and equally took the participants round to visit the various structures and departments of the university.



Fon Angwafor II of Mankon in the centre, with immersion participants



Experience sharing and interaction
in the library of the University of Buea
with the Members of the Students Union

24. The last tourism site visited was Mount Cameroon from the Bankili side of the Mountain on June 19. The trip to the Mountain was about a 10km walk that took the participants hiking on the lava deposits of the last eruption that took place in 1999. The trip was an opportunity for the participants to enjoy the calm and beauty of the mountain and also to exercise them selves a little more.

H. Sport, Leisure and Visits.

25. The sport and leisure item in the programme of the immersion was aimed at relaxing, exercising and revitalising the participants from the stress and work during the immersion. Equally, this item was aimed at giving a different touch to the entire programme. The very first leisure activity was on June 16, in Bamenda, when all the participants had the opportunity of attending the Ayaba, Njang Night club in Bamenda. The evening as such was a fun filled merry making evening that also permitted the participants to share their personal experiences and fully interact with their peers. After the Njang night club, the next relaxation item was the beach walk at the Seme beach in Limbe.

26. One other exciting activity was the projection of a series of movies produced by the Zommers' pictures whose Artistic Director, Zigoto Tchaya Tchameni, is the Projects Officer for CAMYOSFOP. These movies included: 'We are One,' a movie on the passion of football in England and Cameroon. The second film projected titled 'Taboo,' focuses on incest and lesbianism. Both movies that were all very thrilling and projected in the evening, helped in reducing stress from the day's activities.



Climbing Mount Cameroon, 4070m, highest peak in West Africa



At the top of the mountain taking a glance of Buea and Limbe



View of the Atlantic Coast of Limbe



Fun time at the Seme Beach of the Atlantic Coast of Limbe

27. The last major relaxation activity was the gala cultural evening organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs on June 25, at 'Petit Tam Tam,' Nlongkak. This evening also provided the means to award certificates, make speeches, and hand over gifts to participants from the Minister of Youth Affairs. It must be noted that participants were again honoured by the presence of Mr. Fomenky Romanus, the Personal Representative of the Prime Minister and chair of the event. He was directly assisted by Mr. Oswarld Ayuk Eta Tambe, Director of Cooperation at the Ministry of Youth Affairs, also representing the Minister of Youth Affairs. Both participants and invitees for this event left very satisfied as both the representative of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Youth Affairs made it clear on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Minister that, they wished to see the Americans and British come back to visit Cameroon and vice versa, as far as Cameroonian participants were concerned.



Mr. Ayuketah Oswarld,
Director of cooperation, representing
the Minister of Youths at the closing ceremony



Mr. Fomenky handing over gift from the government of Cameroon
to Joshua Goldstein, team leader of the US participants.



Ajapngu Fomenky, Charge de Mission,
Pm's office, Personal Representative
of the PM at the closing ceremony



Participants celebrating diversity

28. One of the main sporting activities was the walk to the 1000m high Mount Febe, in Yaounde on June 24. Though the walk to Mount Febe was a sporting activity, it also fell within the scope of eco-tourism, as the participants were able to enjoy the view of Yaounde city from the top of the Mountain.



Competitive footing to Mount Febe, Yaounde



Midway the journey up Mount Febe



Taking a view of Yaounde from the top of Mount Febe

29. As concerns the visits to youth run NGOs, the visits basically involved two renowned youth NGOs in Yaounde. These were Presse Jeune and Africa-France Youth Secretariat. The visits were aimed at familiarising the American youth on youth work by youth run NGOs in Cameroon. In Presse Jeune, the President/Founder Thomas Tchetmi, explained to the participants the genesis of the creation of his NGO and the programmes that the NGO has been spearheading in Cameroon on youth leadership. Marie Tamoifo, the African Youth Spokesperson for the Bamako Africa-France Summit, talked to the participants on the genesis of the Secretariat that she manages and some very important programmes that the Secretariat is managing, the most important being the organisation of the Central Africa Sub Regional Youth Consultation in view of the Euro – African Youth Summit scheduled for Lisbon, Portugal, in December 2007. The participants left these two offices with a lot of satisfaction and information from the managers of the offices.



Thomas Tchetmi, President of Presse Jeune, Presenting his organisation



Marie Tamoifo, African and the Diaspora Youths spokesperson for Africa- France Summit, presenting the Africa-France Youth Secretariat

I. Conclusion

30. Following the results of a critical evaluation carried out with the participants and partners of the immersion and the acknowledgement by Mr. Fomenky Romanus, Chargé de Mission and personal representative of the Prime Minister and Mr. Ayuketah Owarld, Director of Planification and Cooperation and personal representative of the Minister of Youth Affairs during the closing ceremony, one could rightly say that the first Cameroon Immersion was a great success. What is very important at the moment is the effective implementation of the projects and recommendations that were put forward by the participants of this immersion and presented to the Prime Minister, who in collaboration with the Minister of Youth Affairs are committed to collaborate with CAMYOSFOP and GYP A in the effective follow up of this very important project on youth development in Cameroon and the US.

Photo Album of some Selected Events of
1st US / Cameroon Immersion. June 10-26, 2007



APPENDICES

Concept Paper of 2007 US /Cameroon Immersion

"Youth, Development and the Millennium Development Goals."

Cameroon, June 10-26, 2007

RATIONALE

The whole of Africa faces a variety of well-known endemic challenges such as growing rates of HIV/AIDS infection, persistent poverty, and political corruption. Cameroon, although recognized as a success story in many ways, is not immune from these complex problems. However, Cameroon possesses a community of young leaders who work to creatively battle these challenges. Their innovation and commitment under such difficult circumstances must be supported, both at home and abroad, in order for their efforts to be sustainable.

Unfortunately, these leaders often lack a support network of colleagues with whom to share ideas and reach out to the broader global community. GYPA recognizes the importance of these "social entrepreneurs" and works to share their stories with national and regional audiences, as well as the international community. American and Cameroonian Immersion participants will carry these messages to other parts of the country and the world, establishing a wider network for those advocating for development in Cameroon.

GOALS

The goal of the Immersion is to identify, encourage, and support youth from the United States and Cameroon to work together and to understand the critical role they can play in development processes at work in the region. The Immersion will facilitate networking; encourage participants to improve their leadership skills; and promote the exchange of ideas and solutions. Critically, participants will form lasting friendships and partnerships with Cameroonian youth who are working to better their country through creative and pragmatic initiatives. The intended result will be a commitment on the part of the participants to remain engaged in the cooperative effort to support Cameroon.

The common adage states that "change begins at home." However, in today's world, when it comes to matters of war and peace, poverty and opportunity, desperation and optimism, youth activists must look beyond their own communities. This is why GYPA and CAMYOSFOP have initiated this Immersion.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA):

GYPA emerged from Project Namuwongo Zone B (PNZB), a joint effort between Ugandans and Americans established in 2003. From the outset, PNZB served a community-based sustainable development and aid organization based in Washington, DC with staff in Kampala, Uganda. PNZB evolved into GYPA in 2005 to accommodate the organization's growth in both size and scope. While the original community development components remain, today GYPA is also engaged in empowering young American leaders through experiential learning opportunities.

GYPA believes that the youth of the world must actively explore and engage in activities that support the people of other countries. GYPA programs are designed to develop a renewed global effort to respond to the humanitarian issues facing the entire African continent. GYPA provides a platform for youth within the United States and Africa to gain cross-cultural insight, make new friends, hone leadership, advocacy, and diplomacy skills, and share their own perspectives and views of their world.

Since 2003, GYPA has hosted six Immersions and two Global Kimeeza programs in Uganda, as well as one Youth Summit in Sierra Leone. This will be GYPA's first trip to Cameroon. As such, GYPA is proud to partner with CAMYOSFOP in the organization of the June 2007, US/Cameroon Immersion.

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)

CAMYOSFOP is a non-profit, non-governmental organization aimed at educating youth, students, and the public in general on how their moral and traditional values serve as tools for resolving differences. Since its creation in 1999, CAMYOSFOP has worked very closely with a number of national and international institutions in and outside of Cameroon. In its pursuit of peace and development, CAMYOSFOP has partnered with traditional rulers, religious leaders, civil society organizations, government ministers (of National Education, Higher Education, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Social Affairs, Women's Affairs), foreign embassies, the United Nations, and a number of other international NGOs.

CAMYOSFOP is firmly committed to promoting a culture of peace in Cameroon and abroad. Many of its activities in this regard occur through the organization's Peace Clubs present in secondary schools throughout the country. CAMYOSFOP is also involved in human rights and citizenship education, advocating for a national arms control campaign, promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Cameroon, and assisting international volunteers who are interested working in the field.

TRACK GROUPS

The Immersion will focus on the following major themes, each central aspects of the UN's Millennium Development Goals:

1. Poverty Alleviation & Economic Development
2. Improving Access to Education
3. Empowering Marginalized Communities (Women, Youth, and Minorities)

Each of these topics areas represents a broad category of practical issues that are integral to the progress of development in Cameroon. Breaking the American participants up into "track groups" helps to facilitate topical discussions relevant to students' backgrounds and experience; however, participants will not be limited to only examining these specific issues while in the host country. Discussions of each topic (and others) will be complemented by conversations and site visits with Cameroonian youth leaders, as well as experts and practitioners in the field. At the end of the trip, participants will be able to express the insights they have gained on development issues through a Town Hall Meeting hosted by GYPA in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Immersion is a program for undergraduate students interested in the practical challenges of fields such as economic development, poverty alleviation, public health, and peace-building. Students with backgrounds in the broader fields of international affairs, economics, African studies, and political science are also encouraged to apply, although we do aim to achieve a level of diversity within our participants. The Immersion provides an excellent opportunity to do independent academic research through hands-on experience.

GYPA measures the success of the program not only by the achievements of the Immersion itself, but also by the level of advocacy and partnership generated by its participants following completion of the program. Therefore, applicants should be motivated to serve as advocates for Cameroon and the rest of Africa in their

own communities long after they return home. GYPA alumni are strongly encouraged to hold events on their campuses, write articles for local media outlets, and perhaps even return to Africa to study or volunteer.

Applications, accepted on a rolling basis, are due by Tuesday, April 3, 2007 to the address provided on the application. Please note that applications will not be considered complete without the following items: official application form, current resume, 3 references, and the \$10 application fee. Please refer to www.gypafrica.org to obtain an application form.

PROGRAM LOCATION

Yaounde – The capital of Cameroon, Yaoundé has a population of 1.4 million people. Situated in rolling green hills, it is home to government buildings, sprawling markets, and a number of universities.

Bamenda – Bamenda is the capital of North West Province and is in the heart of Anglophone Cameroon. It is also the center of the country's opposition movement and remains very politically active.

Buea – Formerly an administrative capital under colonial rule, Buéa is a city on the slopes of Mount Cameroon (also known as *Mongo-mo-Ndemi*, or “Mountain of Thunder”) an active volcano.

Limbe – Limbe is a small scenic coastal city near the much busier Douala. It is home to a bustling port, large coconut and banana plantations, beautiful black sand beaches, old colonial buildings, and one of the region's most famous botanical gardens.

COSTS AND WHAT IS COVERED

The total cost of the Immersion is \$3,000. This includes the airfare, preparatory materials, and all accommodation, transportation, and meals in-country. *Please note that once accepted, participants will need to reserve their place on the trip with a \$1000 deposit within 14 days of receiving our invitation to participate. The full program fee will be due by May 1.*

However, there are a number of additional costs that participants will incur outside of the program fee. Participants will be responsible for obtaining their visas to Cameroon, which cost \$98. Additionally, participants will be required to purchase their own travel insurance either through their local provider or an online resource, such as: www.travelguard.com or www.insuremytrip.com. Visitors to Cameroon are required to have a yellow fever inoculation. The following immunizations are also recommended: cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and B, tetanus, and polio, in addition to malaria prophylaxis. GYPA also suggests bringing approximately \$200 - \$300 personal spending money.

- *Please note that participants demonstrating financial need are encouraged to seek donations, hold fundraisers, and apply for scholarships in the months leading up to the trip. GYPA staff is available to help in this regard!*

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATION

The American delegation will depart from New York City with a roundtrip ticket to Cameroon. The dates of travel are set as June 10-26, 2007; however, due to the volatility of airlines, the exact travel dates cannot be confirmed until March 15. Therefore, it is important that applicants are flexible by a few days on either end of the trip.

In Yaoundé, students will reside at the Printania Hotel Obili. During trips to the other parts of the country, participants will stay in small hotels or guest houses. We will rent small buses or rely upon public transportation to travel throughout the country.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1: Sunday, June 10

Depart from New York City (JFK)

Day 2: Monday, June 11

Arrival at Douala International Airport (DLA)

Day 3: Tuesday, June 12

Program orientation

Tour of Yaoundé/Scavenger Hunt activity

Presentation: brief history of Cameroon

Reflection Session

Evening activities

Day 4: Wednesday, June 13

Visit to US Embassy

Meeting with Minister of Youth Affairs

Day 5: Thursday, June 14

Meeting with Professors at the University of Yaoundé

Departure for Bamenda

Visit to Bafut Palace

Day 6: Friday, June 15

Visit to youth-run organization: Volunteer Development Cameroon (VODECAM)

Visit to Maknon Museum

Visit to Sagba to discover bororo culture & horse riding

Reflection Session

Day 7: Saturday, June 16

Travel to Southwest Province

Stop in Foumban to visit old dynasty

Visit to University of Buéa for cultural evening with local students

Day 8: Sunday, June 17

Visit to Governor's Lodge

Visit to Paramount Chief Endeley

Visit to Mount Cameroon in Bakingili

Day 9: Monday, June 18

Travel to Limbe

Visit to Botanical Garden

Afternoon at beach

Day 10: Tuesday, June 19

Return to Yaoundé via Douala

Afternoon free

Day 11: Wednesday, June 20

Distribution of placements for volunteer work

Visit of youth projects in Yaoundé

Film screening

Reflection Session

Day 12: Thursday, June 21

Activities with African Youth Forum for Peace

Volunteer opportunities (see below for potential locations)

Dan & Sarah Foundation (working with orphans & street children)

Ministry of Youth Affairs (examining policy development)

Ministry of Higher Education (examining the state of the country's education system)

Day 13: Friday, June 22

Continue with volunteer placements

Evening Activities

Day 14: Saturday, June 23

Continue with volunteer placements

Evening Activities

Reflection Session

Day 15: Sunday, June 24

Activities with African Youth Forum for Peace

Town Hall Meeting on "The Role of Youth in Development in Cameroon"

Trip Evaluation

Day 16: Monday, June 25

Closing Session: Next Steps in USA and Cameroon

Afternoon Free

Cultural evening/official closing ceremony

Day 17: Tuesday, June 26

Return to United States

Departure from Douala International Airport (DLA)

Uganda Immersion: "Youth, Development & Peace-Building" (July 2 – 18, 2007)

Uganda faces dramatic challenges, including poverty, political marginalization, and HIV/AIDS; however, it is also at a crossroads. This fall, peace talks brought about a cessation of hostilities in the 20-year civil war in northern Uganda. Now is a critical time to examine the many questions that remain regarding reconstruction and rehabilitation and, particularly, the role youth can play in solving them. What factors brought about a transformation in the conflict? What role do Ugandans see for the international community in the post-conflict environment? How can Uganda help to provide stability of the Great Lakes region? What steps need to be taken to protect and provide for vulnerable populations, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, and orphans?

The Immersion will provide a first-hand look at Uganda through dialogue, cultural exchange, and direct service. Students will gain a unique perspective on issues such as economic development, democracy-building, and transitional justice. The program will include opportunities to meet directly with community-based organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and other young leaders in Kampala and northern Uganda.

Uganda Immersion: "Youth, Development & Health" (August 2 – 18, 2007)

Uganda was one of the first countries in the world to come face-to-face with the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; it was also one of the first to respond successfully to control its spread. As a result, Uganda has been heralded as a model across Sub-Saharan Africa. The Uganda Immersion will focus on the following questions: What role did the Government's strategy play in combating HIV/AIDS? How has the international community assisted in Uganda's fight against other dramatic health challenges such as malaria and tuberculosis? What effect does the 20-year civil war in North Uganda have on the various health problems facing the country? What tools do grassroots and civil-society organizations utilize to improve access to health care and treatment? How are women and children affected differently by health crises? What can you do to help?

The Student Global Ambassadors program will also examine many other interrelated issues facing Uganda, such as post-conflict development, poverty alleviation, and democracy-building. Participants will have a unique first-hand experience in Uganda by interacting with a wide variety of people on the ground. The program will include direct service with community-based organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and young leaders from Kampala and northern Uganda.

Applications, accepted on a rolling basis, are due for all summer Immersion trips by April 3, 2007. Interested students are welcome to apply to one program or multiple, just please note your preference. Students with backgrounds in International Affairs, African Studies, Public Health, Political Science, Economic Development, Conflict Resolution, and Communications are especially encouraged to apply.

Stay tuned to for updates regarding the Immersions in Cameroon & Uganda!