



CONFERENCE REPORT

Understanding Africa's Waves of Democracy: Media's Impact on Global Policy & Perceptions

African Union HQS
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Foreword

I am very proud to present to you the outcome and results of the CMPI Conference *“Understanding Africa’s Waves of Democracy: Media’s Impact on Global Policy and Perceptions”* held in New York at the African Union Mission to the United Nations on May 28 2013. This event attracted over 100 participants in person and more than 360 viewers of the live stream footage online. It was the first ever CMPI event of this scale at which we were able to actively engage with and reach out to a wider range of stakeholders across Africa and United States.

The main objective of the Conference was to use the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the African Union (AU) [formerly called Organization of African Unity (OAU)] to reflect on Africa’s democratic challenges over half a century with emphasis on how the media contributed to the continent’s decolonization processes and consolidation of democracy today.

In addition, the forum was designed to illustrate how CMPI implements its mission in practice, and to showcase its activities, achievements and developments to date at all levels. CMPI is a think tank nonprofit organization that provides learning opportunities for journalists, citizens, and civil society activists on conflict-resolving journalism and democratic governance.

To that effect, the Conference sessions were designed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of Africa’s challenges and CMPI activities that would allow them to benefit from the array of expert opinions expressed by panelists and discussants.

Additionally, the Conference served as a forum for representatives from all sides of the knowledge triangle notably journalists, diplomats, policy makers, and civil society to interact and build bridges.

The different sessions provided the framework of wider discussions on how Africa has developed from pre-colonial, colonial and postcolonial stages and what can be done to change Africa’s negative portrayal in the international media. Indeed, the one day event was buzzing with lively discussion and debate – not only during the interactive sessions, but also around the coffee tables.

CMPI is particularly grateful for the support it received for this event. First and foremost to Ambassador Tete Antonio, the African Union’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations for allowing us to make use of AU’s magnificent Conference Hall and the state of the art technological equipment.

And last, but certainly not least, the CMPI wishes to thank wholeheartedly all contributors including our directors, staff and participants of this event for making it an informative and enjoyable one day.



Uchenna Ekwo, Ph.D.
CMPI President

Executive Summary:

The key themes that emerged in the opening discussions were: the state of media and democratic governance in Africa; the Egyptian transition and the role of the media; creating African narratives; the search for more favorable media coverage of Africa's economic development that could reflect the true merits of Africa. There were controversies on the situation of media in Ethiopia and concerns about how the Western media overpowers African voices. A reminder was made of the need of reparations for the slave trade.

In the first panel there were calls for infrastructure development and for heterodox economics that favors sustainability. Lawrence Freeman, a journalist spoke about the need to create Hamiltonian banks, focused on facilitating lines of credit for industrial and infrastructural investment for real economic growth. UNESCO Ambassador, Ms. Sire Dione Conde spoke on conflict, peace and the key role of women in society as life givers and leaders.

Dr. Kwame Akonor, a professor of political science was concerned about the existence of a wealth accumulating class at the top that is in control, stifling development in Africa. Akonor spoke of Nkrumah, his project of African political and economic union, his search for a unified platform of communications and infrastructure and the effectiveness of the integrity of this vision today.

Mr. Bakary Tandia, a civil society activist saw the African migrant Diaspora as a fascinating new player in the United States.

In the second panel, there was an interesting discussion on Zambia's community radio stations and the widespread use of Internet and cellular phones by Chibaula Silwamba, Zambian born journalist and diplomat. Media and civil society are seen as symbiotic, promoting democracy and development.

Mohamed Keita, of the Committee to Protect Journalists stressed the need for more media and expressed concerns about the increase in social inequality. The size of Chinese investment in Africa is worrisome, knowing that charity never comes for free. He stated that in most of Africa, governments saw media as threats to be silenced. He also said that to promote media we needed, besides training, to learn how to create an enabling environment. Keita saw a vibrant middle class and support for a free and diverse media as key to democratic stability.

For a close look at Africa's diversity, potential and the issues defining its future, this was the place to be. Many more issues of relevance were covered, from the pros and cons and viability of polygamy to the forgotten genocide in DRC. The discussion was so free-ranging, extensive and diverse – and often heated. Now we need to mainstream this debate in the US, to enrich America and make Africa a powerhouse for the future of humanity. A truly appropriate celebration of the 50th anniversary of the African Union!

Media's Impact on Democratization in Africa

Members of the diplomatic corps, colleagues, conference participants, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Media and democratization are clearly inseparable bedfellows. Hyden and Okigbo (2003) describe the relationship between the two as “complex at worst and interwoven at best”. Ocitti (1999) aptly describes the relationship as “mutual political bedfellows or implacable arch-foes”. It is therefore safe to say that media and democracy are close cousins that can relate or deflate at different times. Nowhere is this mutual relationship evident than in the struggle for the decolonization of Africa in the first half of the 20th century to the consolidation of democracy today. Africa's democratic experience mirrors the waves of democracy in the world popularized by Samuel Phillips Huntington — the late influential Harvard political scientist.

Huntington's analysis show three phases of democratization processes in the world beginning from the First World War to the Second World War and then to the collapse of communism. In all these periods, there were moments of low and high momentum.

About the middle of the 20th century, nationalist leaders in Africa sought political independence from colonial administrations with the aim of installing democracy. The decolonization process represented the first wave of democracy in Africa. Democracy experienced a setback as most countries experienced a reversal of democracy and enthronement of military dictatorships. A second wave of democratization started in the 1990's with sweeping democratic reforms and structural economic adjustments in Africa prominent among which were the introduction of multiparty democracies, end of apartheid, and deregulated media system. This period coincided with the wave of democracy in other parts of the world notably the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union.



CMPI President, Dr. Uchenna Alexius Ekwo (left), Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek of Egypt (middle), Jennifer Dunham, Senior Research Analyst, FREEDOM HOUSE.

Africa's third wave of democracy is underway with the struggle for the political and economic integration of the continent as well as developing the capacity to cope with globalization.

In all these political transitions, the news media remained an active participant in shaping the contours of the continent's march towards the consolidation of democracy. During the first wave of democracy in Africa, the media were the mouthpieces of nationalism. The print media became pivotal in the struggle for self rule with emergence of language press to challenge the narratives in the broadcast media completely owned and controlled by colonial governments which opposed democratization.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta set up the *Muigwithania* or *The Reconciler* which served as the mouthpiece of Kikuyu Central Association. Kenyatta's fellow nationalist Achieng Aneko was one of the first editors of *Ramogi* – a Luo language crusader for nationalist causes. In neighboring Uganda, a vibrant press had emerged in Luganda. Newspapers such *Munno*, *Taiifa Empya*, and *Kizito* had impressive circulations of 10,000 copies (Hyden, Leslie, & Ogundium, 2003).). In Tanzania, *Mfanyakazi* (The Worker) was



A Cross Section of Conference Participants



UNESCO Ambassador Sire Dione Conde speaks on "Stemming the Tide of Violent Conflicts in Africa"



Dr. Cyril Obi, (Left) Program Director, African Peace building Network, Social Science Research Council and Dr. Kwame Akonor, Associate Professor of Political Science, Seton Hall University, Newark NJ

Several nationalist leaders served as editorial staff of these media outfits. In his book: *The History of Nigerian Press*, Fred Omu shows how the press newspapers served as the vanguard of opposition to

established to become the mouthpiece of the powerful trade union movement that supported the nationalist cause. *The Bulawayo Chronicle* in Zimbabwe, *The Post* in Zambia, and *The Guardian* in Nigeria contributed to democratization by being outspoken and helping to set national agenda.

It is therefore ironic that some African nationalists, who used the media to seek social change, oust colonial regimes, and demand self determination are today opposed to allowing the media to scrutinize their governments, encourage transparency, and end secrecy. It is not a secret that the media in Africa are among the most suppressed in the whole world as some African governments, under the guise of constitutional rule, have resorted to the enactment of suppressive laws against an increasingly critical media. I will also want to point out that in the past 50 years so much of the debate about Africa's political and economic problems are conducted by non-Africans. In fact, the African discussion has been colonized as surely as the African continent was a century ago. We need to do something about that. The 2013 Press Freedom Index published by *Reporters Without Borders* shows that of all 179 countries surveyed, a majority of African countries led from behind. With the exception of Namibia, Cape Verde, and Ghana, the independent journalism group ranked other African countries at the bottom of the list. This is not an impressive record. Moving forward, leaders in government, media, business, and civil society must work towards energizing the media to support the public good.

In order to understand the role of the media in Africa's democratization, it is important to assess the degree of state control on the media. We know that the state intimidates the media to the extent that most journalists engage in self-censorship and consequently

the imposition of alien rule and helped provide the intellectual leadership for the nationalist struggle.

Shantayanan Devarajan and Wolfgang Fengler predict that the success of recent reforms and increased openness in African societies would enable countries in the continent to grow more rapidly and reduce poverty level in coming decades. This is the crux of this conference. It is our hope that conference participants, speakers, and discussants will seek to address the following questions and more: What kind of contribution have the media made to political and socioeconomic reforms since the 1960's? How do the media influence the development of strong civil society and ideal political culture? What is the role of traditional and new media in contemporary public sphere? To what extent do the media represent interest groups or communities? What is the state of media freedom in Africa? What is the role of the media in democratization and political participation in the continent?

No doubt the past 50 years have been challenging for Africa in all fronts—political, economic, social, conflict management, among others. From its inception in May 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which metamorphosed into African Union in 1999 achieved its primary goal of eliminating colonial rule in the continent along with other “vestiges of colonization and apartheid”. The challenge for the African Union is to consolidate the democratic momentum in the continent. Our expectation is that the media will be a partner in the process: nursing, nurturing, and defending democratic values of freedom, transparency, participation, accountability, and pluralism.

limit their influence. An unfettered media system has ramifications for supporting good governance, citizen engagement in the political process, and stimulating international connections to spur global policy and perceptions. Africa has nothing to lose in supporting openness and everything to lose in sponsoring secrecy. In a recent article in *Foreign Affairs*, [Africa's Economic Boom: Why the Pessimists and the Optimists are both Right](#), two World Bank economists,

On behalf of CMPI, I welcome all of you to this conference. Our special gratitude goes to the African Union Mission to the UN and all speakers, discussants, volunteers, and participants for making this event possible.

Thank you for your attention.

Opening Statement by Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, President Center for Media & Peace Initiatives at the Africa@50 Conference on May 28, 2013 at the African Union Mission to the United Nations in New York.



Panel of discussants at Africa@50 conference in New York on "Democracy, Development, and Defense" L-R: Moderator: Dr. Cyril Obi, Program Director, African Peace building Network, Social Science Research Council, New York, Dr. Kwame Akonor, Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science and Public Affairs, Seton Hall University New Jersey, Sire Conde Dione, President New York State Chapter of World Federation of UNESCO Centers, Clubs, and Associations, Bakary Tandia, Case Manager and Policy Advocate, African Services Committee, and Lawrence Freeman, Director, African Desk, Executive Intelligence Review Magazine.

Media and civil society in southern Africa: Defense for democracy and development

My name is Chibuala Silwamba. I am in charge of press and Public relations at the Zambia Mission to the United Nations. And before my appointment to New York I was a journalist in private media and I worked for a number of civil society organizations. I was involved in advocacy, so, talking today about media and democratic governance, you can understand that it is my passion. I would like to start by thanking the Centre for Media and Peace Initiatives (CMPI) and CMPI founder and President, Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, and his staff members. Good afternoon Ambassadors and fellow Africans and friends of the continent and distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen. I am honored and privileged this afternoon to be part of this distinguished panel to discuss issues of concern to many of us in this room Africans at home and abroad.

As we look back at the 50 years of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, the fore runner of present day of the African Union, I am glad to look at the success and the challenges and future outlook of the media and the civil society as regards to their contribution to the democratic governance and involvement in Southern Africa. I would like to start by acknowledging the pivotal role of the media and

the society separately and collectively have played and continue to play in the democratization process and systems of democracy in the Southern African Region.

There is no doubt that these two groupings have been key players in the political liberations especially in the 1990's when the wind of change blew across the continent paving the way for multiparty democracy and freedom. Ever since the media and the civil society have been educating and empowering the masses with vital information in the electoral process. I call the relationship between the media and the civil society as symbiotic in the sense that they are intertwined with each other in one way or another. In the last 20 years we have seen an increase in the number of media outlets big and small in Southern Africa and indeed in the whole continent of Africa.

With the formation of the Civil Society Organization, particularly those dealing with the development government and good governance issues that also increased in number, size and input and which is a commendable thing. The media and civil society in Southern Africa worked together in promoting good governance and promoting Africa's version of democracy as well as general economic well being of the masses in many respects. According to the Southern Africa Development Community SADC - the regional bloc for the Southern African region, the principles and guidance governing a democratic election are enshrined in the constitutions of member countries in the region. The constitutions have provision for equal opportunities and proper participation of citizens in the political process and to some extent this is being achieved mainly due to the role that the media and the civil society have been playing.



L-R: Chibuala Silwamba, Head of Press and Public Relations, Zambian Mission to the UN, Arao Amenya, Executive Director, Association of African Journalists & Writers, Kwame Owusu, Insurance Practitioner, and Mohamed Keita, Africa Advocacy Coordinator, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York.

Today more than ever before the civil society movement is playing a certain role in setting the agenda on public discourse. Many a times you find that many of such groups come with an idea that will captivate the entire nation. Consequently, the idea becomes a subject of debate and many interests that you will find that even the authorities will heed to what the people are saying. Media and Civil Society education have provided tremendous advocacy platforms about citizens' rights in attempting to fight against corruption and to many of us we acknowledge that we have serious problems in the continent against corruption and of course the media has played a critical role in trying to unearth some of these wrong doings that are robbing many of our people of the necessary resources that are required for social economic development and well being of everyone in the continent.

Madam Moderator, it is interesting that almost all the Governments in the Southern African Region of the continent are engaged in constructive engagement in the civil society of the main issues of concern to their people and it is common nowadays to find government undertaking the input of the civil society in the formulation of their national budget and government projects and legal constitution making process.

And of course all the expertise that are borne in the civil society have been very enriching in terms of decision making and policy formulation and with the increased membership of civil society movement, which also incorporates the academia and mainly industry experts it is providing the necessary platform to engage citizens and government.

I would like to raise the issue of community radio stations which has sprung up in all parts of the continent. In Zambia you have radio stations that provide platforms for people to exchange views with leaders and hold them accountable.

It is also important to know that in countries with the region, many media organizations are collaborating and working to negotiate respect for freedom of information laws that promote transparency and citizens' right to access to public information.

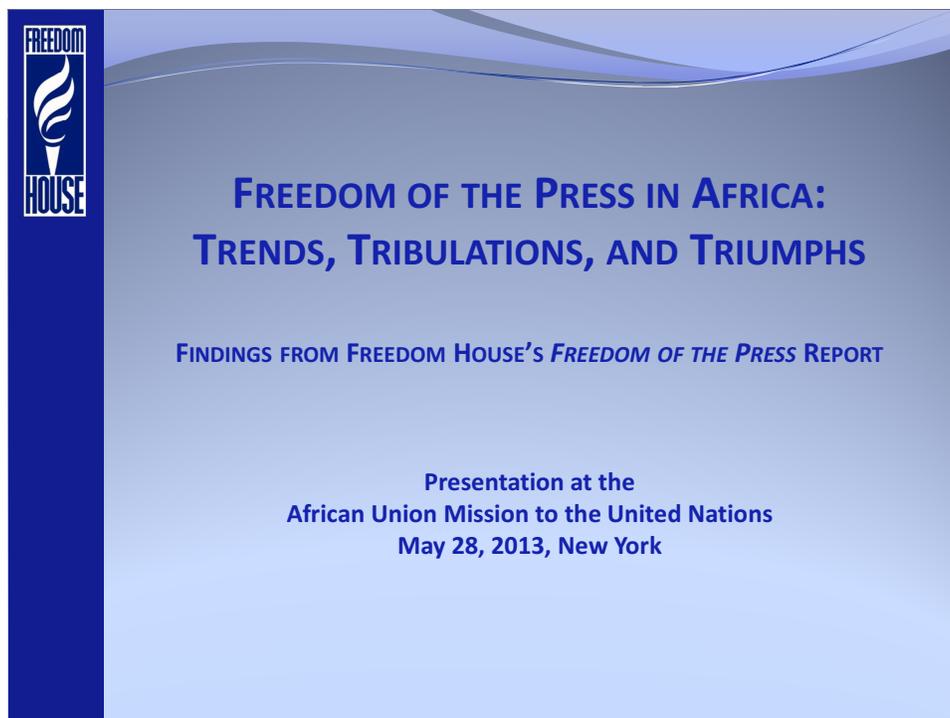
Infrastructure challenges have led to the increase in internet based media use and also mobile connectivity and social media technology improvements are providing opportunities for citizens to participate in decision making. Southern Africa has moved from single ownership to private participation in the ownership of the media.

In conclusion, a strong and fair media is required for strong democracy and national integration and development. Community media organizations are helping to integrate citizens into society thereby orchestrating structural changes in the media landscape in Zambia.

Freedom of the Press in Africa: Trends, Tribulations, and Triumphs

By
Jennifer Dunham
Senior Analyst, Freedom of the Press, Freedom House, New York

Double Click to view Power Point Presentation



Double Click to view Power Point Presentation



Ms. Jennifer Dunham



*Lawrence Freeman, Director,
Africa Desk at Executive Intelligence Review magazine speaking at the CMPI conference on Africa*

Africa's Great Deficit: Challenges of Infrastructure Decay, Peace and Economic Development

With the creation of the Organization of Africa Unity by thirty-two African signatories on May 25, 1963, there was a sense of optimism in Africa and the world, which corresponded with election two and half years earlier of the pro-African President, John F Kennedy, an adherent of President Franklin Roosevelt. A mere six months later President Kennedy was assassinated, which began a long wave of pessimism, and decline, especially in the US, from which we have never recovered.

As the OAU transitioned into the African Union in the early years of this century, its focus shifted away from liberation wars against colonialism to an emphasize on "Africa's development and integration." The vision of the AU is for: "An integrated prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena." (AU website) The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted by both the OAU and AU, emerged from the struggle of 1970s and 1980s and: "Faced with the onset of an economic crisis-huge foreign debts and declines in social development-and the failure of the international financial institutions' free market polices, African countries tried to reverse these trends by calling for a new international economic order (NIEO) through

development strategies." (<http://www.nepad.org>)

Unfortunately this vision has not been realized, and African nations today are still controlled from the outside by the tentacles of those same those financial institutions that reside in the City of London. Speaking truthfully, I can tell you that African nations will never develop their full potential, achieve true economic sovereignty, and end the continued suffering of their citizens, until the power of these financier-predators is broken, and a new radical transformation in long term strategic economic thinking for Africa and the world is brought into being. The development of African nations have been deliberately suppressed initially during the colonial period, and following the "Winds of Change," by neo-colonial practices that have accomplished the same desired result: the looting of the continent's abundant resources under the ground, accompanied by the killing of tens of millions of "natives" above the ground. That is how Lord Cecil Rhodes described British Imperial policy over a century ago. Sadly, these polices have not changed today, only their form.

The two chief mechanisms used to achieve these desired ends have been: 1) the intentional refusal to build regional and trans-continental infrastructure projects in vital categories of power, water, and rail transportation; and 2) the manipulation, creation, and nurturing of "ethnic-

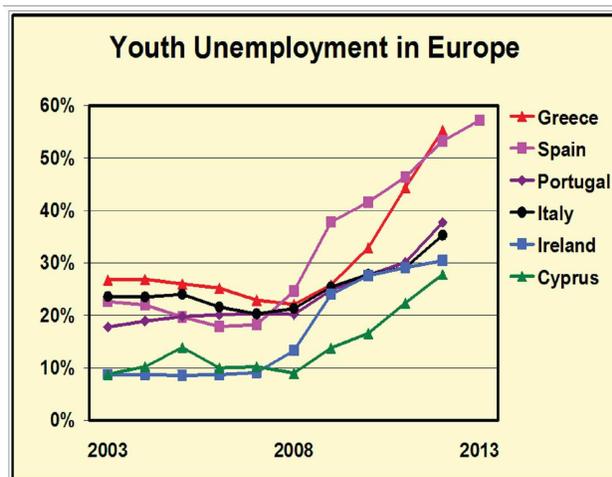
which they could craft self-reliant, culturally relevant and state-influenced -religious' differences. The intended consequence has been fragile or weakened states throughout all regions of the continent. Suffering from the lack of the basic necessities of life, desperate people, predictably turn on each other; fighting and killing their brothers and sisters over food, land, and water, simply to stay alive. We witness these conditions today in Sudan and South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and Mali. Conflicts, wars, famine, and the rise of insurgency, will continue until their root causes are extirpated, and replaced by a **new economic system** committed to growth and progress.

What Is Wealth?

It has become the latest popular fad, rampant in western capitals, to fraudulently claim that six of the fastest growing countries in the world are in Africa. I say bunk! Look at what are they measuring and the fallacy is obvious. The problem is popular opinion; the belief that money has intrinsic wealth, and therefore everything can be measured in money related values.

Take Nigeria for example, which is reported to have one of highest rates of growth over the first decade of this century according to statistics from the International Monetary Fund. What is the IMF measuring? Not the real growth of economy. Instead it is simply adding up monetary statistical price-values of various sectors, such as; oil, banking-finance, housing, the stock exchange, and who can forget, cell phones. Lyndon LaRouche, the founder of Executive Intelligence Review has insisted on the fundamental distinction between financial-money values and real physical wealth. When we measure the progress of an economy over time, we look at values of physical production per capita and per land area. For example, what is the real economy of Nigeria? We should examine: food consumption per capita and food production per square kilometer of land;

electrical power per capita, per square kilometer, and total megawatt output; total kilometers of rail lines relative to the total land area. The same type of measurements can be done with production levels of steel, turbines, tractors, etc. Next we measure the **rate of change** of these categories of physical production from one production cycle to the next, with special attention to the levels of capital intensity and energy flux density-(the power of your energy source) employed in the production process.



Graph of youth unemployment in Europe

Once we look at physical wealth per capita per land area, we see why Nigeria is in its current condition: over 100 million people trying to live on 1-2 dollars a day; a measly 4000 megawatts of power for almost 170 million people; imports of basic food such as wheat, rice, fish and sugar, growing at 11% annually. And, it was just in March of this year, that Nigeria finally has an operational rail line between two key cities-Lagos and Kano-even if at only at 20-30 miles per hour.

So what is actually growing; financial values, not the real physical economy. It should be obvious why financial-monetary statistics are not only wrong, but are worse than useless in forecasting the future of any economy. This was highlighted by the IMF's 2010 report of Tunisia's economy, praising it as a great model, months before it was overthrown by a population demanding jobs and food.

Credit Versus Money

Mr. LaRouche advocated for decades the replacement of the post 1971 floating-rate exchange **money system** we have today with a Hamiltonian **credit system**, named after the revolutionary proposals by President George Washington's first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, who created the First National Bank of the US in 1791.

There is a fundamental difference in principle between money and credit; they are two different and distinct species, so to speak. While most people have become obsessed with the amount of money they can possess in their greedy little hand in the present moment, the principle of credit takes one into the realm of the future. Credit as opposed to money is extended for the **creation of new-augmented wealth** above what already is consumed in the present.

To understand the most elementary notion of credit, look at the production of food by the farmer. When the farmer is provided with adequate infrastructure and credit, he works to grow more food, whose value is above and beyond the costs that went into producing that crop. The creation of credit for the purchase of land, fertilizer, seed, and capital equipment are essential features of Hamilton's American System of economics, which will successfully increase food production when not sabotaged financial interest of the City of London.

It is immoral and without any justification to allow millions of people on this planet, especially in Africa with its fertile soil, to suffer from starvation and food insecurity, when mankind knows how to grow food.

Nations' agriculture sectors have been destroyed over the last two decades or more by the evils of globalization in the name of free-trade. African courtiers approached self sufficiency in feeding their people from their own land and labor through the 1960s and 1970s, even into the early 1980s. The combination of globalization which demands buying food at the cheapest prices and the

World Trade Organization's liberal mantra, not to interfere with the so called free-markets has caused people to die and suffer needlessly. It has been proven again and again, that when governments provide adequate amounts of credit and subsidies to their farmers, not only does food production increase dramatically, but the whole economy progresses.

We have seen famines and severe food shortages throughout the Horn of Africa that have resulted in the deaths of millions. This is a form of population reduction, caused by the deliberate refusal to develop the agricultural potential of countries. It has been known for decades that Sudan could and still can, be the bread basket for Africa, with studies showing that it has the potential to feed the entire continent-1 billion people. Now South Sudan has 58 million acres of quality arable land, yet a large portion of its 9 million people require food aid to survive, and it is forced to import 95% of its food. Why was there a complete fixation by the west to indict President Omar al-Bashir, and not the same commitment to develop this great untapped agricultural potential, decades ago? Isn't it a crime against humanity; to let people die from starvation when we could have provided them with food?

Leadership Is Living In The Future

Intervention by the state to improve the output of its agricultural sector is not only a matter of national security, but is an obligation of the state to provide for a better future for its citizens.

As I discussed earlier, growth of an economy takes place in an entirely different domain, from one that is based on foolishly on simply adding up monetary aggregates. It is not money that improves an economy, but investments in all forms of hard and soft infrastructure that lead to an increase the productive powers of labor of that society to provide it current population and its posterity.

A nation dedicated to providing for its citizens and their posterity need leaders who *live in the future*. As opposed to Adam Smith's so-called indivisible hand, nations develop and progress by the *willful intention* to create a better, and more prosperous future, than exists in the present. That *intention* to create additional-new physical wealth over the next 10-20 year production cycle, to accommodate an expanding population and a rising per capita standard of living, is what must govern the decisions of the present. Mastering such a time-reversal concept is necessary for competent economic planning. Only when our mind lives in the imagination of the future can we truly understand how to organize our activities in the present.

The West Is Dying

When the long simmering fictitious-bubble financial system of the Trans-Atlantic nations exploded in 2007-2008, it was no longer possible to have any illusions, that the west, under the current bankrupt monetarist financial system would invest in Africa at the levels necessary to transform the continent.

For long term, durable economic growth, we must also create a culture that will give birth to a continuous flow of discoveries of new scientific principles, which generate the technological advances required to continually transform the economy to the next higher level. Mr. LaRouche has revolutionized economic forecasting by identifying that the power to make these discoveries lies uniquely in the creativity of mankind. Each new child born is endowed by the Creator with the power of creative mutation, thus a source of potential new wealth for all of humanity.

The truest definition of economic value, is that unit of action, generated from the creative mind of man, which transforms the productive powers of labor to cause an increase in the physical wealth of society measured in output per capita and per square kilometer.

The Euro Zone nations, stripped of their sovereignty are undergoing an accelerated contraction of their economies under the diktats of the Troika; the IMF, the European Central Bank, and the EU Commission. As a result of implementing these austerity measures European nations have experienced such a dramatic increase in the death rate; they have been characterized as being "Africanized."

If you can see the graph it shows that from 2008-2012 youth unemployment in six European countries doubled. In Greece it increased from 22.1% in 2008 to 55.3% at the close of 2012. In Spain, youth unemployment increased from 24.6% to 53.2% in the same time period, and rose again in the first quarter of 2013. This is the result of implementing the Troika orders on behalf of trying to keep a bankrupt banking system alive, when it is already dead. These figures make abundantly clear, that the Europeans are experiencing youth unemployment at levels approaching what we have previously only witnessed in African nations, but are actually far worse, because they are happening in so-called advanced sector urbanized nations.

What Must Be Done

Therefore, it is urgent that we have the immediate re-implementation of Glass Steagall as first passed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933. My organization has spearheaded a drive over several years for re-implementation of Glass Steagall. I am happy to report to you that on May 23, Senator Harkin from Iowa introduced S. 985 in the Senate, and that Marcy Kaptur from Ohio at the beginning of the year sponsored HR 129 with bi-partisan support in the House. This law separates the universal-gambling casino banks from the legitimate savings and commercial banks that serve the interest of sovereign nations. Once this law goes into effect, it will end all "bail-outs" and "bail-ins" that have cost taxpayers and depositors trillions of dollars to keep alive "the too big to fail banks" in the US and Europe. Other countries will follow the US example, resulting in the bankrupting-wiping out of over one quadrillion dollars of debt, derivatives-gambling debts, and other worthless securities, allowing nations the freedom to return to traditional-normal banking practices. The immediate passage of Glass Steagall is not just a good idea, but the only option available to stop the downward spiral of the world economy into complete destruction.

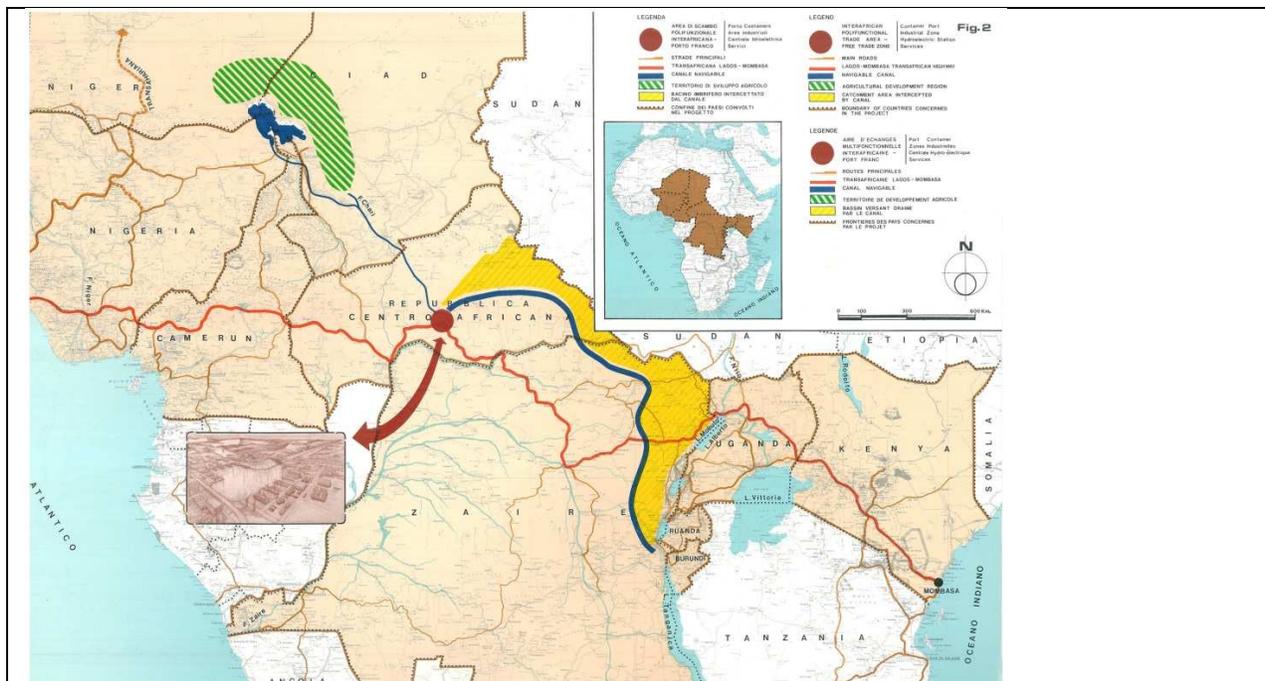
The second step accompanying a Glass Steagall law is the creation of Hamiltonian credit banks by every nation, to provide the credit for investment in agriculture, manufacturing, and other categories of production most especially in infrastructure.

The third feature of this program for progress is investment in transformative infrastructure projects. To quote NEPAD: "There can be no meaningful development without trade and there can be no trade without adequate and meaningful infrastructure."

However, I can say with confidence that the private sector will never fund the quantity and quality of infrastructure projects Africa requires. It must and can only be done by public credit earmarked for productive purposes, not for paying off debts, or for speculation. I would recommend that African nations move as quickly as possible towards allocating 50% of their budgets on infrastructure.

Let me conclude by presenting an idea of what the future can be. These are not pie in the sky fantasies or white elephants. These are a few great-regional and trans-continental transformative projects beyond what has been discussed by the AU and NEPAD that are exemplary of the great possibilities of development that lie ahead for mankind, if we chose to accept the challenge.

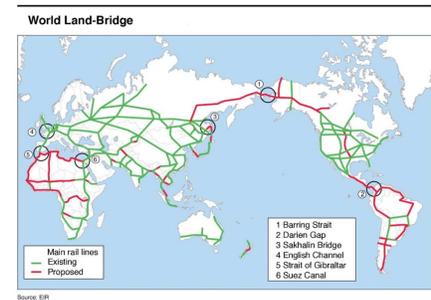
132 million acre feet of water from the northwest Pacific basin, will transform Canada, the US and Mexico, creating up to 12 million jobs, gigawatts of additional power, rail transportation across the US into Alaska, water management that will double irrigation in the US and Mexico, effecting a dramatic increase in food production and a total advance in the productivity of North America.



TRANSAQUA

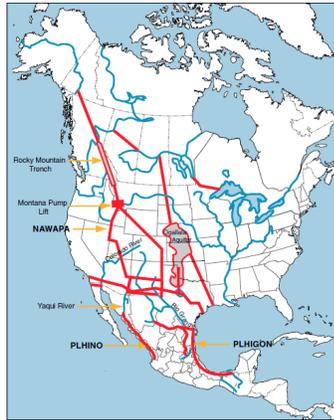
“The Congo-Chad Water Transfer: The Main Features of a Feasibility Study” (EIR Oct 8, 2010 pages 30-34)

This project; Transaqua: An Idea for the Sahel” was first proposed 1991-1992 by an Italian engineering firm, Bonifica, so it has been known for over two decades. The concept is simple; mankind intervenes to assist Mother Nature by transferring water from a wet region-the Congo Basin to a dry region-the Chad Basin, to improve human life and biosphere. The Congo River has 1.9 trillion cubic meters of water flowing out into the Atlantic annually. We can curtail about 5% of this discharge, 1 billion cubic meters, and build a navigable canal send it north to join the Obangui River, across Central Africa Republic, into River Chari, to refurbish Lake Chad. The CAR would become an integrated river port, Lake Chad would expand instead of disappearing, effecting the lives of 50 million people, from Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Niger, reversing the encroachment of the desert, over-all creating new possibilities for economic growth for the Sahel.



MAIN LINES OF WORLDWIDE RAIL NETWORK-A GLOBAL LANDBRIDGE Proposed by Mrs. Helga Zepp LaRouche in the EIR Special Report: “The Eurasian Land-Bridge; The New ‘Silk Road’-locomotive for worldwide economic development.” (January 1997)

NAWAPA- North American Water and Power Alliance.



CANAL FROM EASTERN CONGO TO QATTARA DEPRESSION

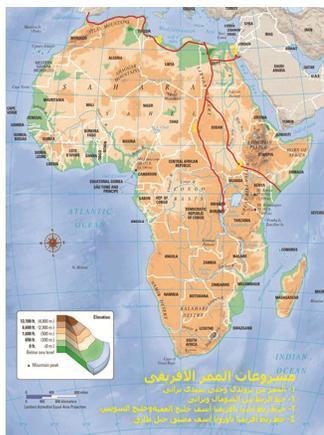
NAWAPA- North American Water and Power Alliance. Originally proposed in 1964 and revised by Lyndon LaRouche’s political action committee-“NAWAPAXXI” (2012 larouhepac.com)

CANAL FROM EASTERN CONGO TO QATTARA DEPRESSION

EIR feature: “Program for an Economic Miracle in Southern Europe, The Mediterranean Region, And Africa.” (“Afro-Mediterranean Revolutionary Project” EIR June 8, 2012, pages 39-43)

This project proposed by Aiman Rsheed, in 2011. An irrigation canal 40 meters wide and 3,800 kilometers long flowing from the highlands of eastern Congo, with the Congo River flowing north through the CAR, Sudan, and South Sudan through Egypt to fill the Qattara Depression . This will transform the desert, increase agricultural and energy production.

AFRICAN PASS TRANSPORT CORRIDOR



EAST-WEST RAIL ROAD-Dakar to Port Sudan

This rail project begins with a seaport Sidi Barrani in north-western Egypt, to be connected to Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, DRC, the CAR, Sudan and South Sudan by high speed rails and highways, in the second phase extends to Somalia and Ethiopia, and in the third phase to Asia through a tunnel underneath the Suez Canal. The fourth phase includes a high speed rail across North Africa connecting to Europe through the planned Gibraltar tunnel.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference is preparing to fund the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line of approximately 14,000 kilometers. The main line would link Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, and Senegal as the main east-west line, followed by additional branches to Djibouti, Libya, Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Guinea, revolutionizing transport, production, and trade across the girth of Africa.

Conclusion

Africa is reported to have the fastest growing youth population, ages 15-24, in the world, making up 20% of the total population of the continent or 200 million, and 60% of the unemployed. Construction of these infrastructure projects will not only be the most efficient way to provide employment for Africa's "youth bulge," but it will necessitate the education and training of tens of millions of youth as laborers, engineers and scientists. This course of action will provide a bright future for all Africans, and benefit the entire world.

There is no solution to continent's curse of insurgency, war, and weak states without economic progress measured in physical terms. The very task of completing these types of infrastructure projects, ones that encompass several countries working together provides these nations with a vision for the future. This common mission; economic development in the service of the common good of all people, constitutes a new dynamic of relations, that will serve as a unique platform to achieve true unity. ***The AU should dedicate itself to this mission above and beyond all else.***

I am always reminded, if not guided by, what Pope Paul VI wrote in his encyclical, *Populorum Progressio*-on the development of peoples-that "Development is the New Name for Peace." This was written in March 26, 1967, four years after the founding the OAU. The fulfillment of this mission is more imperative today than ever. So let's get moving! We cannot have another anniversary, years from now, and still be discussing these projects for the future, but instead Africans should be enjoying the fruits of their labor.

Thank you

Lawrence Freeman, Director, Africa Desk at Executive Intelligence Review magazine expressed these views at the Africa@50 conference organized by CMPI in New York

Faces at the Summit

The cream of Africans in Diaspora as well as friends of Africa was at the African Union Mission to the United Nations to exchange ideas on Africa's Waves of Democracy and the Impact of the Media on Global Perceptions and Policy. Here are some of the faces that attended the Africa@50 summit in New York



Participants at the conference exchange pleasantries



Dr. Uchenna Ekwo and Ernest Opong



Rashida Wright at the registration desk



Arao Ameny of Association of African Writers & Journalists and Kwame Owusu



Mohammed Keita of the Committee to Protect Journalists, New York and Dr. Uchenna Ekwo of CMPI



Ms. Sire Dione Conde



Figure 1 Mel Brown and Francisco Bozanno-Barnes



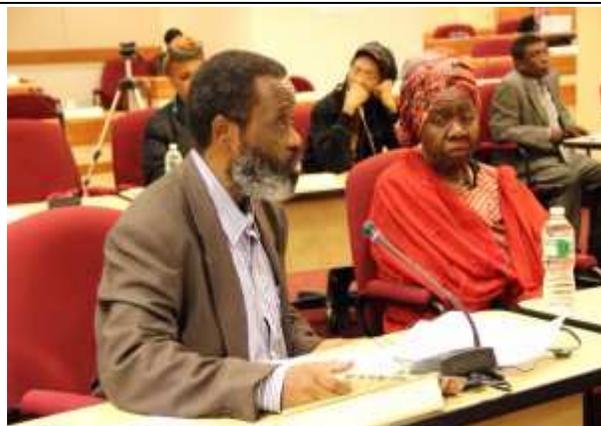
Dr. Kwame Akonor and Mr. Lawrence Freeman



Mr. George Baumgarten UN Correspondent



Above is Donielle DeToy and on the right is Mr. George Alan Baumgarten , a UN correspondent looks with rapt attention at the conference.



Alain POMBO, an activist from Democratic Republic of Congo makes a point



Dr. Uchenna Ekwo and Jennifer Dunham of Freedom House



Top: Mr. Emmanuel Obi Okafor (mni), Minister at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations and another guest; Rashida Wright of CMPI at the registration desk and below are Dr. Kwame Akonor of Seton Hall University and a guest from south Africa.



Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, Ramatou, and Emmanuel Obi Okafor



Mr. Chibaula Silwamba of Zambian Mission and
Dr. Uchenna Ekwo of CMPI



Ramatu and Mr. Okafor of Nigerian UN Mission



Q & A:

Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas with speakers and discussants at the conference. Below is a summary of key ideas that dominated discussions.

A participant who visibly seemed frustrated with the way non Africans present African narratives in the media wanted to know the true definition of press freedom in the continent. How do we define freedom of the press in Africa? This elicited comments from other participants and discussants. It opened a dialogue between Ethiopian Envoy to the United Nations, Mrs. Fortuna Dibaco Cizare and another Ethiopian Diaspora and student, Mohammed Ademo over the status of media freedom in the Horn of Africa. Whereas the Ethiopian diplomat noted with pride that unlike other African countries, her country was never colonized and had enjoyed robust political and media freedom, the student activist rejected any semblance of media freedom in that country.

But the report compiled by Freedom House as presented by Senior Analyst, Jennifer Dunham shows a different picture regarding media freedom in Ethiopia. How authentic is the report about media freedom in Africa? Some participants had argued that the ranking of most media monitoring agencies was a reflection of orchestrated western attempt to portray the continent in negative light. But, Ms. Dunham came to the defense of Freedom House and argued that their reports are compiled by analysts and different scholars from different regions of the world using standard metrics. She rejected any notion that the reports are skewed to denigrate the continent and its peoples.

Veteran journalist, Gloria Starr KINS, Editor of *Society & Diplomatic Review* who claimed to have covered the UN since 1957 had some suggestions on how the media could support economic development of Africa.

“It depends on what the press wants to cover. The press has to determine what is important to countries in reporting issues and events of that country. In my opinion, reporting economic development in Africa, the press should have the knowledge as to which prominent business men and women are positioned to connect to important corporate leaders in advanced economies. Economic development and credible press are necessary for Africa’s growth in the future”.

“I have covered the entry of most African states into UN citizenship so to speak. I think what the press has to do is decide; what do they want to cover; do you want to cover sensationalism or you want to examine what you can do with a particular country”.

As a member of the press, very often do I have business people and very important American business people who want to go to Africa to do business but some of them lack adequate information about the top business people in Africa. Who are the top business people in the continent?

Diplomats and ambassadors can be very helpful but sometimes they do not get committed to this effort because they don’t want to seem to favor one businessman over another and so on.

Complete integration of Africa was the focus of the discussion by Dr. Kwame Akonor of Seton Hall University, New Jersey. In his view, the lack of political and economic integration in the continent is not for not or trying by African States. In fact, he said Africa has a history of experiments at integration; the continent can boast of having more regional and inter-regional integration than any other continent in the world. More than 25 countries in Africa, he pointed out, belonged to two or more regional blocks. The challenge for Africa's integration is the removal of trade barriers that stifle cooperation and economic growth across the different countries in the continent.

Conclusion:

The conference sought to examine the role of the African media in the fifty years of the continent's attempt to unite. As was discussed, the media landscape in Africa during the 50 years of the OAU/AU has been largely intolerant, to put it mildly. Pre-independence media in Africa, led mostly by then aspiring leaders as Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta continued to pursue the cause of the ruling parties that they [the leaders] led to independence ignoring the development of a vibrant independent press. If there is any change it has been sporadic and inconsequential.

The message at the summit was clear: the African media for the past 50 years need a lot more room to operate. The impact of the media in Africa could certainly be positive not only for the image of the continent, but for its socio-political and economic development, but it still remains quixotic. Freedom of expression is not only the main strand of democracy; it makes for healthy development and exploitation of human and natural resources for national development.

The array of intellectual power of Africans in the Diaspora and the willingness expressed demonstrated at the summit on Tuesday is more than tangible; it is real and available. The energy and passion among participants for social change were palpable. The status quo was unsustainable, conference participants appeared to have said in numerous comments.

CMPI is committed to the growth of an African media dedicated to the democratization process. We have several programs and services that include training and research all aimed at ensuring the development of a responsible and knowledgeable African media.

1. What was achieved at the Summit?

The summit achieved the creation of the awareness and acknowledgment of the nexus between unfettered media and democratization and how Africa can benefit from both virile media system and strong democratic institutions.

2. What tangible benefits if any could Africa gain from the Summit?

The summit is an awakening for Africans especially those in Diaspora that are better positioned to put pressure on home governments and therefore orchestrate change.

3. Is there a follow up Summit or what's next for CMPI on media impact in the democratization process of Africa?

The CMPI will build on the passion and interest demonstrated at the summit by building strong coalition among conference participants with the intention of extending the energy beyond the conference hall of AU. We hope to establish a forum called Africa Dialogue that will x-ray different challenges and opportunities in Africa. As the summit acknowledged, Africa needs a global media channel. To this

end, CMPI will exploit its international clout to persuade influential business leaders to think about investing in media development focused on Africa – a continent that represents the future of the world.



Africa @ 50 Summit

“Media’s Impact on Africa’s Waves of Democracy”

Theme:

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Date:

Time:

9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Venue:

Conference Hall, African Union Mission to the United Nations
305 East 47th Street 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017

**From Cairo to Cape Town; Sahel to the Horn Of Africa
The Continent is on the march again**



Join

Center for Media & Peace Initiatives

&

Celebrate 50th anniversary of African Union (formerly OAU)

The event is free and open to the public, however registration is required
For further information, please contact Dr. Uchenna Ekwo (917-803-5540) or uchenna@cmpimedia.org

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