

PPCD On-Boards New Ilaje RDC and AICECUM Members



Participants at the AICECUM Onboarding Training

Twenty four members of the Ilaje Regional Development Committee (IRDC) and 37 members of Ilaje Actual Indigenous Concessional Eight Core Ultimate Major communities (AICECUM) were on-boarded at a training on April 13 and 14, 2016 at Royal Bird Hotel, Ijapo, Akure, Ondo State. It was facilitated by representatives of CNL, PPCD, New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) and Morgan Smart Development Foundation (MSDF).

The training was to prepare participants for effective implementation of the Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU) and the Offshore Memorandum of Understanding (OMoU) by: Creating awareness about among the critical stakeholders, building capacities of the new members and other stakeholders, aligning stakeholders with the objectives and implementation process and creating awareness on their roles and responsibilities in the GMoU/OMoU process.

Mr. Oluwole Agunbiade, Superintendent, Policy, Government and Public Affairs (PGPA) CNL, Warri commended the efforts of the stakeholders on successful constitution of the executives and members of the RDC and AICECUM. He said the

NNPC/Chevron Joint Venture believed in capacity building in order to gain the requisite knowledge, skills and ideas that would help stakeholders in the creditable discharge of their responsibilities. He assured the new members of both RDC and AICECUM that funds would be duly approved and released to them to deliver on their developmental activities. He emphasized that communication between the community members and the two bodies was critical to their success and urged the leaders not to neglect it.

The onboarding was conducted independently for the RDC and AICECUM. The training covered: History of CNL's Community Engagement process, GMoU+, Structure of RDC/AICECUM, GMoU/OMoU



Group picture of Ilaje RDC members and other participants at the Onboarding Training

Committee and their roles, Communication, Gender mainstreaming, Project selection/management process, Participatory Approaches in sustainable development and Principles of Team building. The AICECUM training was concluded with the inauguration of the committees' members by the Chairman of the Community Management Board (CMB) Prof. Obafemi Ajibola on April 15, 2016 in the presence of CNL and Ondo State Government's representatives.

New Nigeria Foundation Celebrates 15th Year Anniversary

New Nigeria Foundation celebrated her 15th anniversary on 6th April, 2016 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Lagos. Two events were held to commemorate the anniversary - a symposium with the theme “Making Secondary School Education Relevant for the 21st Century Student” and a Dinner. The events were attended by over two hundred persons from government, private sector, civil society organizations and the media. The resource persons at the symposium were Prof. Abiola Awosika, Dr. Tunji Abimbola, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo, Dr. Muyiwa Bamgbose, Ms. Pearl Igho Ugbobor and Prof. Francis Adesina. A Dinner speech was delivered by Prof. Akin Oyeboode on “ Building a New Nigeria that Works”.

Highlights of the symposium include a Keynote Address titled “Teachers and Technology as Critical Resources for Teaching and Learning in Secondary School in the 21st Century” and a panel discussion on the theme of the symposium, which focused on the role of critical stakeholders in making secondary education effective; integrating technology



New Nigeria Foundation Board of Trustee cutting the anniversary cake

in secondary education - barriers, opportunities and strategies; the place of private sector investment in advancing secondary education towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals; and mainstreaming entrepreneurial training in secondary education. Through this celebration, NNF was able to contribute to public discourse on issues related to secondary school education and building a new Nigeria that works. NNF was also able to establish new partnerships and achieve greater visibility for the Foundation.

EGCDF Partners with NGO on Free Eye Treatment



Some beneficiaries registering at the venue

The Egbema Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF) partnered with Africa Eye & Cataract Foundation to provide free medical care, notably on eye care for community dwellers. No fewer than 605 benefited from cataract surgery, treatment of minor ailments and provision of reading glasses. The first phase of the program took place at Benikrukru in Gbaramatu kingdom from November 23-27, 2015 and at Opuama in Egbema kingdom from November 30 – December 4, 2015.



Some community members being attended to by the medical team

A total of 248 people registered at Benikrukru for Gbaramatu kingdom out of which 42 people were operated for cataracts, while 43 people received free reading glasses. The programme witnessed a greater influx of participants at the Egbema kingdom with the registration of 455 people. 70 were operated for cataract and another 70 received reading glasses. Over 380 people with various ailments such as high blood pressure, diabetes, malaria, typhoid, bacterial infections etc. were also

treated. The program was a great success and the Foundation received several testimonies from community members who expressed appreciation for the kind gesture. The Foundation says it plans to extend the

programme to other constituent communities

ACCORD Promotes Peace and Conflict Management in Niger Delta Region



Peace Committee Members in a group photograph

Accord for Community Development has established Participatory Peace Platforms (PPP), otherwise known as Peace Committees in five Local Government Areas within the Niger Delta region. The committees are to promote peaceful cohabitation in the region for sustainable development. The initiative which is supported by the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) has been working closely with community stakeholders, security agencies, faith-based organisation and Local Government Authorities. It provides a proactive and participatory platform which serves as a veritable vehicle for the promotion, building,

maintenance of peace and security in the Niger Delta as it seeks to broaden societal participation in conflict management mechanisms at the Local Government levels.

The project has also led to the creation of Early Warning System (EWS) and has built the capacity of stakeholders to be peace promoters and peace agents in their communities. As a result, individuals in most communities now have access to alternative dispute resolution platform that assist in resolving their conflicts rather than the usual reliance on security agencies to arbitrate on civil cases. Among the notable achievements of the project is the record breaking violent free elections experienced for the first time since 1999 by communities within the project impacted areas such as Abuloma community (in Rivers State). The programs implemented by the committees included engagement of the community stakeholders through Town Hall Meetings and seminars by Port Harcourt City Local Government Area (PHALGA) Peace Initiative Committee (PPIC) set up by this initiative.

My Perspectives on the GMoU

RDCs Should Invest More in the Livelihoods of Community Members--Mene



Florence Mene , Itsekiri RDC's GFP

Question: Can you introduce yourself and your role (s) in the GMoU process?

Answer: Answer: I am a Gender Focal person (GFP) in Itsekiri RDC. Women are not represented in the present GMoU in Itsekiri RDC so there is no way a woman can contribute to the process. I communicate with my community women on relevant issues, for example, immediately after the PPCD Gender Sub-committee and GFPs' meetings I informed them about what was discussed at the meeting and when there are opportunities for contracts to supply food stuffs I inform the women cooperatives to organize themselves and apply.

Question: Can you assess the GMoU process and tell us how it has impacted your RDC and its communities?

Answer: Everything that has advantages also has its disadvantages. Initially when GMoU process started, it was useful because of the then Chairman, Chief Mofe Pirah but since he left, nothing has been done, not even in the RDC office, no one to talk to.

Question: How do you think that the community projects should be sustained?

Answer: Since the inception of GMoU in Itsekiri RDC, it is only the construction of low cost housing estates that has been done and most of the houses were built on family lands and such families see these houses as their birth rights. I will suggest that neutral lands for construction of such houses be requested from the benefiting communities after which houses should be allotted to community members either individually or to members of different quarters. The maintenance of allotted houses should be the responsibility of occupants of such houses and there should be regular inspection by a committee setup in the communities.

Question: What new areas of development would you want your RDC and even the GMoU to focus on in the future?

Answer: There is sufficient infrastructure in the RDC communities but sadly community members do not have source of income. I will suggest the RDC invest in commercial fishing through the use of fishing trawlers. The RDC can bring four or five communities together like a cooperative and invest in the fishing business such that many community members will be busy and generate income for their benefits. Those buying fish at wholesale level, fish smokers even fire wood sellers will be financially engaged one way or the other. Also the provision of potable drinking water and electricity is vital and with these utilities available business like hair dressing, welding will flourish and income will be generated by community members.

Question: How would you assess your RDC projects implementation strategy in the light of the new GMoU focus on human development and livelihood?

Answer: It has been relatively encouraging. Skills acquisition training school for both male and female was established by the RDC in Warri but the programme did not end well. Also in the past there was micro credit scheme where about Fifteen Million Naira was disbursed to Itsekiri women by the RDC.

Question: How is your RDC faring in soliciting and securing third party and sponsorship support?

Answer: I'm not a member of the RDC so I cannot really answer how they are faring.

Question: What are the major problems confronting your RDC?

Answer: No one to discuss with or complain to. When the last Chairman resumed in Itsekiri RDC several letters were written to see him but sadly till date there is no response.

Question: What is the future of the GMoU and what should key stakeholders do to ensure sustainability of the process?

Answer: To CNL the GMoU is good and they will do everything to make it continue but to the community it is bondage. In the past, CNL held discussions with communities on projects to be implemented and their opinions were heard but today no RDC member goes to the community for such discussions.

Question: PPCD and NGOs have conducted some activities in your RDC. What do you want included in their programmes and what other ways can PPCD and other NGOs support your RDC?

Answer: Efforts of PPCD and other NGOs have been data gathering, discussion forum and so much have been complained about with no results. PPCD and NGO should hold meeting with CNL and strategize on ways RDC can provide answers to complaints of the community members.

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