



UN AGENCIES

- FAO
- IFAD
- ILO
- IOM
- UNAIDS
- UNDP
- UNDSS
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- UN-HABITAT
- UNHCR
- UNIC
- UNICEF
- UNIDO
- UNIFEM
- UNODC
- WHO
- WMO

International Day of Peace commemorated in Lagos

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2008, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), non-governmental organisations, schools in Lagos and the media held an open-air ceremony on 23 September 2008 consisting of presentations of arts, cultural displays and brief speeches on how the United Nations, the government, civil society and other stakeholders promote a culture of peace, non-violence, human rights and tolerance in Nigeria.

The International Day of Peace as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 is observed each year on 21 September. It is a day set aside by the Organisation and its Member States to work together for the promotion of the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples of the world. The International Day of Peace is also observed as a day of global cease-fire and non-violence. All nations and people are expected to honour the cessation of hostilities for at least the duration of the observance.

The event that took place at the United Nations Information Centre was chaired by Ms Yemisi Ransome-Kuti, Executive Director of the Nigerian Network of NGOs



School children performing in the Peace Day celebration held at UNIC Lagos.

(NNGO). It also drew high profile participants from a cross section of the civil society, media, government and schools in Lagos, including Mr Dapo Rotifa, former President of the United Nations Association of Nigeria and Mrs Edna Dafe of Women's Board, Lagos.

The major feature of the celebration was cultural and art performances featuring traditional dances, drama and art exhibition by the Charity Care Network Initiatives, Advocates for Human Rights through Arts, pupils of the Holy Child College in Ikoyi, Nigerian

Model High School Mushin, Olive Field International School, Itire Community School of Surulere, and members of the Citizenship and Leadership Training Organisation (MAN 'O War) of

Continued on page 2

IN THIS EDITION

- ◆ International Day of Peace commemorated in Lagos
- ◆ Top policy makers make commitment to improve lives of children and women in Northern Nigeria
- ◆ UNIDO, partners discuss ways of scaling up SHP for Africa's industrialisation



Continued from page 1

International Day of Peace commemorated in Lagos

the University of Lagos. There was also a musical performance on peace by Mr Lucky Silas (BDS) who

is a musical artist and human rights activist.

During the ceremony, a minute of

silence was observed to pay respect to peace keepers and those who have died for peace keeping.

Top policy makers make commitment to improve lives of children and women in Northern Nigeria

On 17 September 2008, the Governor of Gombe State, Dr Mohammed Danjuma Goje, and policy makers made the commitment to improving lives of children and women in Northern Nigeria following an appraisal of the situation in the zone at a meeting held at Gombe and attended by traditional and religious leaders, state coordinators of UNICEF-assisted programmes, and UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative, Dr Suomi Sakai.



■ Gombe State Governor, Dr Mohammed Goje, UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative, Dr Suomi Sakai, and Chief of UNICEF Field Office Bauchi Mohammad Jalloh at the Top Policy Makers' Meeting in Gombe.

The top policy makers who attended the meeting comprised of Secretaries to the state governments and Commissioners of line ministries from ten out of the 36 states supported by UNICEF Nigeria. They gave firm commitment to enunciate policies, set up systems, and make adequate budgetary allocations to the relevant sectors so as to actualise children and women rights.

Following an appraisal of the situation of children and women in the zone, based on indicators from the 2007 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3 (MICS 3), the policy makers resolved to take concrete actions in the areas of health,

education and programme sustainability.

“The third world experience clearly indicates that women and children remain the most neglected and vulnerable segments of the society,” said Governor Goje while declaring the meeting open. The Gombe State Governor praised UNICEF for its partnership with the government. “Our pre-occupation has always been the welfare of our citizens that is why we wholly subscribe to the lofty objectives of UNICEF.

Currently a number of rural healthcare, primary school infrastructure and water supply projects are being executed through collaboration with UNICEF, the state and local governments and the communities where the projects are

located,” Governor Goje added.

The governor, who had earlier signed the 2007/2008 Gombe State / UNICEF implementation agreement, as part of the overall programme for the top policy makers' meeting, assured that his government would continue to release its counterpart fund of 43 million(\$372,069) Naira for the execution of UNICEF- supported

projects in the state.

The Governor expressed happiness at the reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the state from 8.2% in 2004 to 4.2% in 2008, a development which he attributed to the sustained efforts of the government to combat the pandemic, and said his government would continue to intensify efforts through awareness campaigns to sensitise the people on the dangers posed on the disease and polio, with emphasis placed on preventive strategies for the eradication of the two diseases.

In her statement, UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative Suomi Sakai called on the policy makers to take definite actions to address the health issues impinging on child

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Top policy makers make commitment to improve lives of children and women in Northern Nigeria

survival in the zone. She identified these issues as immunisation, basic education, passage of the child rights law and the need for explicit state governments' strategies on children.

Decrying the reversal of the gains made in immunisation in the zone with increase in the number of children paralysed by polio rising from 143 in 2007 to 368 in 2008, Sakai while describing the situation as unacceptable called for action to halt the trend, "especially in the key

states of Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Borno and Yobe".

"Enhanced commitment and programme ownership by political, local, traditional and religious leaders to primary health care and to the immunisation plus days through sustained advocacy are required to improve visibility and acceptance," said the UNICEF Country Representative. "Strengthening of the health systems with the integration of services under the integrated Maternal, Neo-natal and

Child Health Strategy also provides a solid base for eradicating polio in addition to ensuring better health for children and women," she added. Describing immunisation as one of the corner stones for good primary health care, Dr Sakai joined the Government of Nigeria that appointed an Expert Review Committee on polio in advocating that a task force on immunisation be established and made operational at all states and LGA levels nationally.

UNIDO, partners discuss ways of scaling up SHP for Africa 's industrialisation

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) sponsored the 4th International Conference on Hydro Power in Abuja from 16 to 18 September 2008, where international experts came together to discuss ways of scaling up Small Hydro Power (SHP) development in Africa.

The conference, which was the first to be organised in Nigeria, was held in collaboration with the UNIDO Regional Centre for SHP (UNIDO-RC-SHP), the African Energy Commission (AFREC) which is a subsidiary of the African Union, and the International Centre on Small Hydro Power (IC-SHP) based in China.

In Nigeria, UNIDO has identified 250 potential SHP sites that could be developed in cooperation with the Federal and States governments. Already, UNIDO has three SHP projects. They are: 1) Waya

Dam Bauchi, under Benue River Basin; 2) Ezioha Mgbowo in Enugu, under the Anambra-Imo River Basin; and 3) Taraba.

In his keynote address, the Managing Director and Deputy to the UNIDO Director General, Mr Yoshiteru Uramoto, observed that the current scale of small hydro power (SHP) was too small to make any significant impact in the industrialisation and eradication of poverty in Africa. He said that SHP

projects in Africa required new thinking and approaches in resource mobilisation, planning and management in order to make it significant to energy supply and impact.

According to him, UNIDO, as the UN specialised agency whose mandate is to assist industrial development, along with international development finance institutions has a key role to play in the development of SHP in developing countries. "Industrial development is crucial for poverty eradication, but it will only be possible with increased access to energy and greater attention to industrial energy efficiency", he argued. "We have heard many times that currently some 1.6 billion people lack access to electricity and that some 2.4 billion people rely on traditional biomass for their cooking and heating needs. Only



■ Minister of State for Energy Hajia Fatima Balarabe Ibrahim (middle) presenting a certificate to Mr Tian Zhongxing, Director-General of the Ministry of Water Resource, China. On the left is Professor Liu Heng, Director-General, International Small Hydro Power, China, and on the right is Mr Masayoshi Matsushita, UNIDO Representative in Nigeria.

Continued on page 4



Continued from page 3

UNIDO, partners discuss ways of scaling up SHP for Africa 's industrialisation

one in four in Africa has access to electricity and the number of people relying on traditional biomass in Sub-Saharan Africa is likely to increase from 575 million in 2004 to 720 million in 2030," he said.

On the UNIDO Regional Centre, Uramoto said the mandate was to provide technical assistance to African countries in developing and implementing their SHP projects targeted at accessing clean energy to rural areas and contributing to advancing manufacturing sector.

In his opening address, Mr Liu Heng of the IC-SHP said that being a mature technology the SHP with small investment, fast payback, minor impact to the environment and easy for decentralisation development of small hydro had developed in many developing countries. In Africa , he said, where people have no access to electricity service in the rural areas, the local

people have strong desires to develop the SHP so as to promote local economic development.

Heng, who expressed appreciation that the 4th edition of the conference could be held in Abuja for the first time outside China, pledged that the IC-SHP and the host country, China , were ready to work with other member countries, especially African developing countries, in promoting small hydropower development. "The goal is clear and the prospect holds great promises. I hope that the forum will mark a brilliant stage of promoting SHP cooperation in African countries and the participants will find it rewarding", he said.

The recommendations put forward at the end of the conference included the building up capacity both at institutional and individual levels for acquiring technical, organisational and managerial skills

required for increased development of SHP projects. Furthermore, the strengthening of the UNIDO Regional Centre for SHP in Africa and other existing Research and Documentation Centres (RDCs) related government agencies, technological development institutions and other stakeholders in the private sector are to support a paradigm shift towards increased use of renewable energy, especially SHP, was recommended.

Others recommendations are the development of cost-effective SHP technology, promoting local manufacture of SHP equipment and components through investment promotion strategies and fiscal incentives, and the need to increase collaboration with IC-SHP, Hangzhou in China and similar organisations within the framework of South-South Cooperation to achieve the objectives.

