

IRC News

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Information Resource
Center Abidjan

Tel. (225) 22-49-42-49

FAX (225) 22-49-42-19

Written by the IRC staff

Email: cca_ci@state.gov

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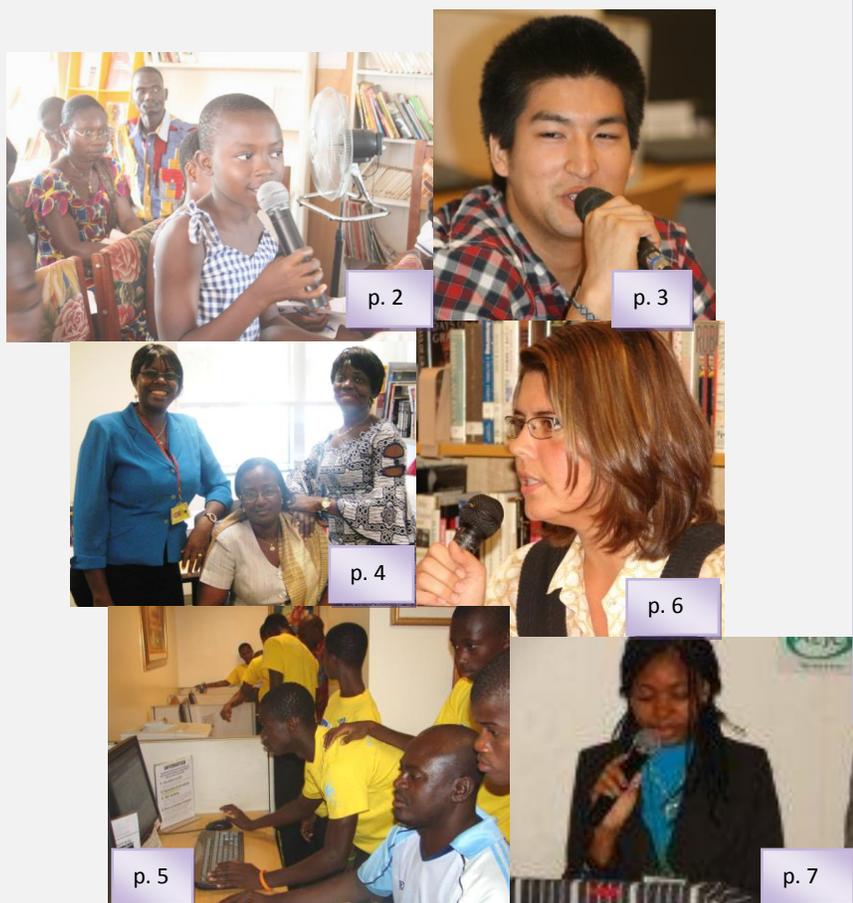
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Please join the IRC team @ cca_ci@state.gov

PAS organized two days of activities, including a conference on leadership and responsibility at San Pedro, a town located in the southwest 383 kilometers from Abidjan. About 95 participants including students, teachers, school directors, and inspectors attended the program. The adults welcomed the conference and encouraged the youth to take notes of the significant advice given by the PAO. They really appreciated the discussion but mentioned the fact that good leaders are generally not valued in the country. The PAO encouraged them to start the responsibility and leadership skills individually then apply them to the community. At the end of the program, the PAO officially proceeded to the launching of the Rotating Library project for the western region and encouraged all the participants to work with the equipment and provide constructive feedback.

The Rotating Library will remain in this region for about 6 months and will serve a community of 153,000 students.



Reaching out to San Pedro with the Rotating Library



CROSS CULTURAL DIALOG



On March 10, 2010, PAS hosted a 'Cross Cultural Dialog' between visiting American and Ivorian students. The program assembled thirty participants including American and Ivorian students, and educators. The purpose was to create a platform for youth from different cultures to communicate, share knowledge and experience, promote good practices, build cross cultural awareness, and reinforce Ivorian youth English language comprehension. The American students expressed their pleasure to discover Cote d'Ivoire, a country where they appreciated the population's hospitality and friendliness. As for their Ivorian counterparts, they underlined the significance of such a program enabling them to have a direct dialog with young Americans. Then the PAO enlarged the discussion to challenging subjects, namely *leadership and responsibility*. Citing some characteristics - honesty, competence, courage... - the participants recognized that leadership and responsibility are essential to develop a quality future generation. The participants demonstrated a real interest in the program and commented that cultural relations play a vital part in international affairs. PAS provided the participants with thirty copies of each of the E-journals '*World Youth Building a Future*' and '*American Teenagers*'. This program promoted the MSP goals of mutual understanding, tolerance, education, and youth leadership capacity building.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN THE IRC



Edna Enyeji is a Reference Librarian at the IRC James Baldwin of Yaoundé. She has a BA in Library Science from the University of Yaounde II SOA and has worked for the State Department since 2003.



IRC Accra Director, Rita Awuku has a Master of Art from the University of Ghana and joined the State Department in January 2010.



From March 8 to 18' 2010, IRC Abidjan hosted a training session for Rita Awuku, the new IRC Director from the U. S. Embassy in Ghana, and Edna Enyeji, the Reference Librarian from the U.S. Embassy in Cameroun. They were respectively trained on Information management, IRC activity programming and promotion through social Media. Our colleagues said that they were leaving Abidjan highly motivated and empowered with new skills, ideas and best practices.

Caption

1 – IRC Assistant Debora Rouamba and Rita
2 – Edna, Debora and IRC Technician Oumou
3 – Edna and IRC Director Marie-Laure

ASEC Mimosa football academy visits the IRC

The IRC organized an immersion session targeted to ASEC MIMOSA, the well-known Ivorian foot-ball club youth section on March 11, 2010. Forty-three teenagers plus their supervisors and coach attended the event. Specially designed for the target audience, the program included a conference on *leadership, responsibility*, and a presentation on James Banner *'The Elements of Learning'*, a Nouveaux Horizons title. Although these concepts cover a broad range of definitions, the participants respectively defined them as the capacity to lead a group to achieve a goal and the accountability for one's life and actions.

Stating that the values of leadership and responsibility need to be developed on a daily basis, the PAO advised the young people that if the team wants to reach its potential, each player must be willing to subordinate his personal goals to the good of the team. The expose on the Elements of learning provided the participants with fundamentals and principles of an award-winning educational career. These key qualities include enthusiasm, pleasure, curiosity, aspiration, imagination, self-discipline, civility, cooperation, honesty, and initiative. The participants appreciated the session and seized the

opportunity to register for the IRC Facebook and apply for membership cards. The result was excellent. The team's coach approved the program saying that it supported their efforts in making the young people not only successful as a foot-ball team but also top-quality and responsible citizens in the society. PAS presented to the institution a set of the IIP outline series and forty-five copies of each of the E-journals *'American Teenagers'* and *'Dynamic English.'* The program matched the MSP goals of promoting education, youth leadership, and mutual understanding.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION FEMMES REMARQUABLES AU COEUR DE LA REVOLUTION AMERICAINE

On March 18, 2010, PAS Abidjan organized a conference based on the French version of the Nouveaux Horizons book '*Femmes remarquables au coeur de la Revolution Americaine*' by Melissa Lukeman Bohrer. The event was also held to celebrate the Women's History Month. More than one hundred people including former women ministers and government officials, women's organizations, human rights activists, parliamentarians, youth, and media professionals attended the program. The panelists, Elizabeth Ballow, the RSO Office Management Specialist and Mrs. Mariame Bamba, a vocational school teacher, depicted the unnoticed stories of influential females who risked their lives struggling for freedom for their country, the United States. According to them, the book revealed that these women from different colonial origins acted as political leaders' advisors, writers, or warriors going beyond the limitations imposed upon them by

society. Like the forefathers, they significantly contributed to the creation of the American nation. The participants agreed that the book is compelling and inspiring for women nowadays and for the future generations. Regardless of their origins, these heroines shared similar qualities such as courage, determination, personal accountability, and advocacy for change, virtues which are vital for any successful enterprise. A female journalist congratulated the author for writing the untold history of heroic women of the American Revolution forgotten by past generations. She challenged the Ivorian women to implement a project to produce a book in honor of brave Ivorian females' contributions to the growth of their country. Participants concluded that this timely designed program revealed the unlimited role of women, contrary to what society tries to impose upon her.



Partial view of the participants



View of the panelists and the moderator

Outreach program with Law Students from the University of Cocody

On March 19, 2010, PAS reached out to over three hundred students and professors from the Department of Law of Cocody University through a conference on *learning skills, Leadership, and responsibility*. The program started with the welcome address of the representative of the Dean of the Law Department who, on behalf of the Department heads, expressed his gratitude to the US Mission for its significant and constant support to improve the Ivorian educational system in general and particularly the Law Department of the University of Cocody. The IRC Director highlighted successful learning strategies and responsible behavior drawn from the Nouveaux Horizons titles '*L'art d'apprendre*' by James Banner and '*Le petit elege de la responsabilite*' by Sophie Chiche. These books that encourage students to be actors in their own education and destiny, describe the following key elements: hard work, enthusiasm,

pleasure, curiosity, aspiration, imagination, self-discipline, civility, cooperation, honesty, initiative, forgiveness, practicing the art of self-examination, and taking action. PAO Sita Liane Charkrawarti's presentation enhanced leadership and responsibility abilities as vital elements for students, seen as prospective leaders. She advised that these qualities should be developed and nurtured on a daily basis. The program generated a positive impact on the participants. They acknowledged the US Mission's commitment to strengthen Ivorian youth leadership competence through educational programs and its IRC services. They promised to take advantage of such conveniences to build quality educational and professional careers. PAS presented to the institution a set of documents including Nouveaux Horizons books, IIP outline series, and E-journals '*The U.S. Supreme Court: Equal Justice under Law*', and '*Anatomy of a Jury Trial*





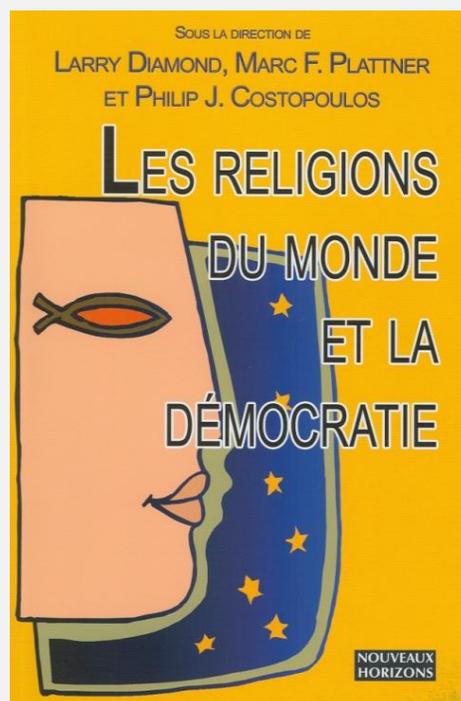
COMING SOON!!!

April 14 – Immersion Session with Alfred Nobel – Secondary school students

April 15 – Immersion Session with Alfred Nobel – Primary school students

April 22 – Book of the Month of April ‘Les Religions du monde et la democratie’.

You are invited to share your comments and analysis either in English or in French on the IRC Facebook page. Just click on this icon.



Please join the IRC community @:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Abidjan/Information-Resource-Center-Abidjan/78472454205?ref=ts>