



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Office of Public Affairs  
Information Resource Center (CDI)  
P. O. Box 1866 Abidjan 01  
Telephone: 2249 4170/ 2249 4249  
Fax: (225) 2249 4219  
E-mail: [cca\\_ci@state.gov](mailto:cca_ci@state.gov)  
<http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/irc.html>*

---

# IRC NEWS – 020

June 2008



## Table of Contents

Videconference on AFRICOM	02
Youth Leadership development: Crassroot Democracy	03
Immersion Session with Frantz Fanon High School	04
Book of the Month of June: Development and the Next Generation	05

Please join the IRC team @ [cca\\_ci@state.gov](mailto:cca_ci@state.gov)

## Digital Video Conference on Africom

On July 3, 2008, the US Embassy organized a Digital Video Conference on The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). The program was attended by more than fifty participants including high-level contacts such as Ministers, officers from the President's and the Prime Minister's Offices, high ranked militaries, Policemen, Diplomats, Defense attaches, Economists, and Academics. The purpose was to get the target audience acquainted with AFRICOM's role, services and activities directed toward African countries.

After the DCM, Cynthia Akuetteh welcome address, the speaker from ARS Paris, Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates explained AFRICOM's mission, the reasons of its creation. She focused on its key role which is to increase Africans capacity to provide security and respond in times of need.

She insisted that the new command would neither take a leading role in African security issues nor establish U.S. troop's bases. She also underlined that AFRICOM does not impose its views and programs to Africa, but work in full diplomatic consultation and agreement with host countries.

The participants praised this information sharing opportunity that enabled them to get the right information about such a sensitive subject. They said that they are confident about the humanitarian and war prevention support that AFRICOM would provide African countries with, to enable them to achieve a more stable environment in which political and economic growth can occur. Fraternite Matin the largest circulating newspaper in Cote d'Ivoire wrote a positive article on the Digital Video Conference.



DCM C. Akuetteh interacting with the participants



On the first row, from left to right, Minister of Defense, M. Amani N'Guessan

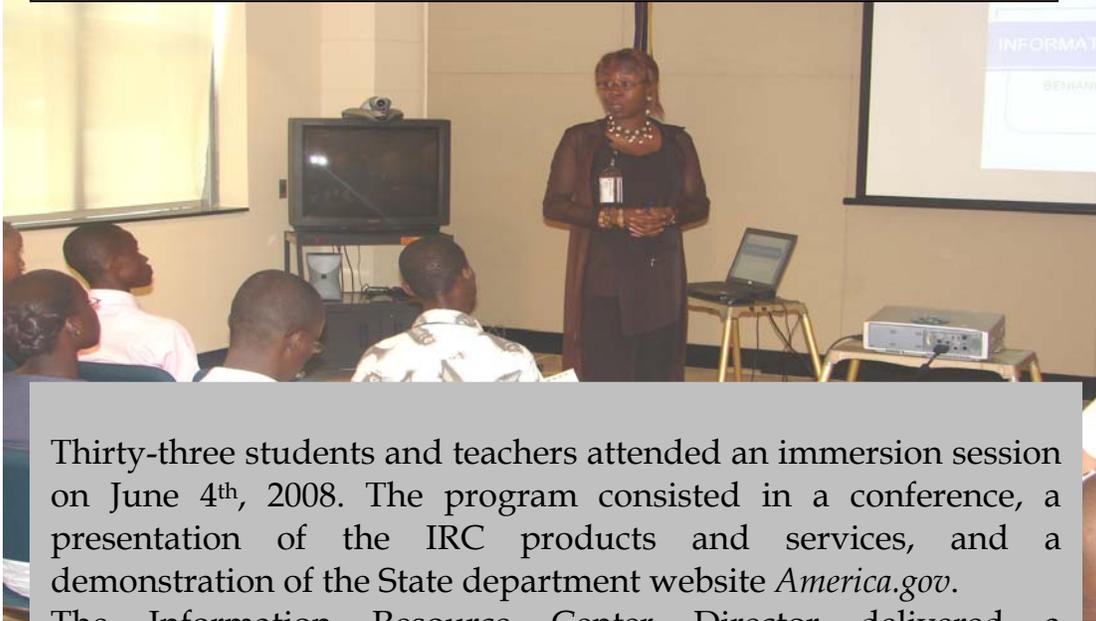


A view of the participants



PAO White and DAO Dole responding to the participants' questions after the DVC

## IMMERSSION SESSION WITH FRANTZ FANON HIGH SCHOOL



Thirty-three students and teachers attended an immersion session on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The program consisted in a conference, a presentation of the IRC products and services, and a demonstration of the State department website *America.gov*.

The Information Resource Center Director delivered a PowerPoint conference based on the Nouveaux Horizons collection '*The Elements of Learning*'. It provided the participants with useful tips and strategies for a successful education and career. Participants followed the presentation of the IRC online and print resources including books, periodicals, and databases. They were amazed to discover the valuable and authoritative information available through the State Department website. During the IRC guided tour, they seized the opportunity to visit the webchat station and practice online research [www.america.gov](http://www.america.gov).

The IRC staff presented 35 copies of the IIP publications '*America Is*' and the E-journal '*World Youth Building a Future*' to the participants.

Please contact the IRC staff @ (225) 22-49-42-49 or [cca\\_ci@state.gov](mailto:cca_ci@state.gov), to schedule an Immersion session to the IRC services for members of your institution.

## Youth Leadership Development Program

### Conference on 'Grassroots Democracy and Youth'

Within the context of youth leadership capacity building, PAS held a conference on 'Grassroots Democracy and Youth' on Wednesday June 11, 2008. This conference, designed for young girls from 10 to 18 years old particularly top of their grade levels, gathered together 95 participants including students, teachers, and educators from 16 public, private and confessional High Schools in Abidjan. The purpose was to provide grassroots information on democratic procedures to enhance youth political participation, as potential leaders and citizens. The panelists included the US Ambassador Wanda Nesbitt and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Country Resident, Mr. Charles Djrekpo. After the welcome address from the DPAO Etta Toure, the Ambassador introduced the program. Mr. Djrekpo took the floor to briefly explain the purpose of the NDI, an American Non-Governmental Organization committed to the advancement of democracy and peace in the world. He went on by deciphering the democratic system and outlining the voting procedures and regulations. He quoted the

former US president Abraham Lincoln who in a speech defined democracy as a government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.' He exhorted the young audience to cultivate and promote core democratic values that include liberty, diversity, equality, justice, human rights, and non-violence. In her lecture, Ambassador Nesbitt encouraged the young girls to take actions to contribute to the advancement of democratic elections in Cote d'Ivoire, to volunteer in social and political activities. She cited the example of the League of Women Voters in the US, a non-partisan political organization, who encourages active participation of citizens in government. The result was satisfactory. The young girls showed a great interest in the subject and raised accurate concerns regarding women leadership. They unanimously suggested the arrangement of follow-up activities to reach out wider young audiences in order to build up their leadership capacity as future decision-makers. PAS distributed 95 copies of the E-journal 'The Long Campaign: US Elections 2008'.



Partial View of the participants



Ambassador Nesbitt explaining democratic practices to young girls



Mr. Charles Djrekpo explaining the purpose of NDI

## **Book of the Month of June**

### **‘Development and the Next Generation’**

PAS organized a conference based on the Nouveaux Horizons book, ‘World Bank Report *Development and the Next Generation*’ on June 12, 2008. The 84 participants included students, educators, teachers, School principals, NGO leaders, decision makers and media professionals.

The Deputy Public Affairs Officer Etta Toure in her welcome words insisted on the emergency of addressing this global youth and development issue about the future generations. The panel included Mrs. Tanya Salseth, US Embassy Political Officer, Mrs. Ida Fiadjoe, President of an NGO committed to life quality and personal development issues, and Mr. Mamadou Kone, a former Minister and secondary school Executive Manager. Mrs. Ida Fiadjoe provided comprehensive insights into the challenging issue of youth and development that the book conveys. She mainly put out the government responsibility in investing in youth through three core elements: expanding opportunities, improving capabilities, and offering second chances for young people. This should be supported by policies enhancing better education, labour targeted training, and post education opportunities. Mrs. Fiadjoe also focused on citizenship which is a decisive aspect of a sustainable youth development. Mrs. Salseth made an expressive slide presentation to focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and to illustrate how the ...



The panelists from left to right: Ms. Tanya Salseth, Mr. Mamadou Kone, and Mrs. Ida Fiadjoe

---

awareness of being a citizen should shape people’s behavior. An important aspect of exercising citizenship is through voluntarism which is widely spread among young people in the United States. Contributions and reactions from the audience proved the program to be successful and enriching. Minister Koné Mamadou the moderator recommended the different strategies discussed in the World Bank report as appropriate solution to Cote d’Ivoire post-crises reconstruction...

The students particularly suggested that the Ministry of National Education include and reinforce civic education at any level, because they believe that it would undoubtedly improve the attitudes, knowledge and engagement of young people. They went further stating that they would like this kind of programs designed

for youth to be regularly organized at their school level in order to reach out larger young audiences. They also promised to be spokesmen to their fellow students who didn't get the opportunity to participate to this tangible conference. The event was positively covered by local media.



Caption

1 – Mrs. Ida Fiadjoe, President of the Fiadjoe Foundation  
 2 & 6 Mrs. Tania Salseth, Political Officer US Embassy  
 2, 3 & 5 – Partial view of the participants