

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION OF UBIUM
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION USA, INC., JULY 11-13, COLLEGE PARK, MD, USA**

Press Release

For Immediate Release

College Park, MD

July 14, 2014

The 14th National Convention of Ubium Development Association USA, Inc. (UDA) was held under the theme, “Working Together to Make a Difference For All,” at the Clarion Inn, College Park, Maryland, July 11-13, 2014.

The convention and fundraising dinner were chaired by a senior consultant at Afren Resources USA, Inc., Professor Ekwere Peters, former holder of the Frank W. Jessen Endowed Professorship and the George H. Fancher, Jr. Endowed Professorship in Petroleum Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a faculty member for over 31 years.

The convention featured three panel discussions and a youth forum. Invited speakers with experience in community and youth development shared their perspectives and suggestions on collaboration and workable approaches in dealing with major issues facing the youth to make Ubium a better place for stakeholders.

In attendance were Mr. Udom Inoyo, Executive Director, Exxon-Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN); Honorable Obong Essien Esema, Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, on Petroleum Matters, and his wife, Mrs. Mary Esema; Dr. Etuk Samuel Idem, CEO of Mt. Zion Medical Center Calabar, Nigeria and President of Ubium National Congress Calabar, and his wife Deaconess Nkoyo Idem.

Also in attendance were Inyang Umoh, President and CEO of Solutions International, Miami, FL, who is also a former Director of Police Community Relations Department in the City of Miami; Dr. Asuquo Inyang, a York PA, based specialist in cardio-thoracic surgery and his wife, Mrs. Ekamma Inyang, DPT; Princess Imaeyen Ibanga, formerly of CNN, a digital producer for NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt; Mr. E. David Isemin, Systems Client Executive at Hewlett-Packard Financial Services; Dr. Enamidem Ibok, a Hyattsville, MD, based engineer; Elder Victor Uko, a prominent Lagos based estate surveyor and his wife, Mrs. Irene Uko; Mr. Johnson Ukpong, Head of Finance, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, HQ (FARA), Accra, Ghana; Mrs. Arit Essien, PhD, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY; and Mrs. Sandra Muller, Frankfurt, Germany.

The papers and case studies presented, as well as remarks on, “Access to Jobs and Economic Opportunities”, strategies for advancing development in Ubium, and partnership and improving community health by Obong Esema, Mr. Inoyo, Dr. Idem, Dr. Asuquo, Mr. Isemin, Princess Ibanga, and others respectively, provided the framework for most of the discussions and conclusions at the convention.

During the fundraising dinner, a presentation was made by Professor Peters, Chairman, on AFREN PLC's social investment in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria and offered as an example of a strategy for providing essential services to underserved communities through a corporate/community partnership.

After a review of the changes that have taken place in Ubium since 2009, the convention noted that, while there have been improvements in the major road network that runs through the community and advances have been made in providing safe drinking water, the vast majority of school age children do not have access to quality education.

Similarly, it was noted that some basic needs were not being met and hospital services were generally inaccessible to some because of deteriorating infrastructure at existing health institutions at Ndukpo-Ise, Akai-Ubium, and Ikot-Eyo. This situation was previously brought to the attention of the Akwa Ibom State government following an appeal by UDA to the Akwa Ibom State Governor December 2013.

Noting that the village of Ikot Akpamba has a health center that is affiliated with the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital through the efforts of Dr. Idem and the support of Exxon-Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, the convention urged Nsit-Ubium Local Government and elected officials representing Ubium to help provide the leadership that will meet the basic needs of Ubium community through partnership with UDA.

Regarding the promotion of individual and community participation in primary health care, the convention noted the contributions of Dr. Inyang through medical missions in the nations of South America and welcomed his offer of support to provide health care to vulnerable populations in Ubium in partnership with the Local Government and willing sponsors.

On food production and malnutrition, the convention noted and discussed a proposal to set up of a micro-credit scheme as part of Ubium Development Agenda to address the concern that Ubium has no form of credit institution from which the local farmers, especially the poorest women and families on subsistence living could obtain loans.

Upon naming New York City as the venue of the next UDA National Convention, the convention expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, especially the delegates from Africa and Europe.

The convention also extended thanks to Professor Peters and Afren PLC for financial support in advancing the progress of UDA on the implementation of its Micro-Finance Project (UMFIP); to the Governor of Maryland, Martin O' Malley, Senator Effiong Bob, and General Hafiz Momoh for their goodwill messages; to the above-mentioned convention guest speakers and participants for their constructive views and comments; to elected and appointed officials from Ubium, Nsit Ubium, Akwa Ibom and other states who could not make the event but promised to lend their support; and to the host chapter for providing arrangements for the event.

Signed:

Dr. Enamidem Ibok, mnse

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