



UNIVERSITY OF UYO

&

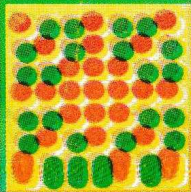
**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
LINK**



**EVALUATION
WORKSHOP**

ON

**GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE
NIGER DELTA REGION**



The
British
Council

Date: Tuesday 29th March, 2005
Venue: Community Centre, University of Uyo

Introduction

The Higher Education Links Steering Committee (HELSC) and subjects/Gender Advisers of the British Council approved the University of Uyo (Nigeria)/Lancaster University (UK) Link in November 2002 with an end date in March 2008. The theme of the Link was Governance Environment and Development in the Niger Delta Region, Nigeria (GED). The subject category for the GED Link research project was geography although the linkage itself was broad-based and interdisciplinary. Link activity commenced once the comments made by the HELSC were noted.

As a fall-out of the GED Link project, the University of Uyo and Lancaster University in February, 2003 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the intention of furthering link activities in more subject categories including engineering, communication, business and entrepreneurial studies and economics, with the overall view of enhancing capacity building in the University of Uyo. The initial link is currently generating further linkages with the University of Uyo as the focal point for reaching out to potential link partners in South-East Asia and other continents. The University of Uyo is however Lancaster's first link partner in the continent of Africa.

To the larger society, a fall-out of the link is to improve the capacity of civil society with a view to influencing social and environmental policies in the Niger Delta on behalf of the diverse and vulnerable communities, especially women, the youth and the rural poor. The pivot aim of the link in this aspect is to contribute to the current capacity building initiatives including social and environmental sustainability in the Niger Delta through requests for good governance and better management of the environment and its natural resources.

The GED link research project has already been facilitated by four research team visits to Lancaster and Uyo, two field research activities and three workshops.

We are gathered here today, mid-term in 2005, to evaluate our previous activities and to chart a sustainable course for the GED link project in the next three years.

Prof Imoh Ukpong (Nigerian Coordinator)

Dr. Uwem Ite (UK Coordinator)

Uniuyo/Lancaster link on Governance, Environment and Development in the Niger Delta Region.

The Statement

Environmental degradation resulting from natural resources exploitation is a common and characteristic feature of the landscape in many developing countries. In Nigeria, oil exploitation in the Niger Delta has resulted in various forms of negative impacts on the environmental infrastructure including water resources. Atmospheric and soil pollution are also noticeable. On the other hand, there has been a marked increase in the number of stakeholders genuinely interested in social sustainability and environmental management. In Nigeria however the majority of these stakeholders lack the critical professional expertise, skills, institutional capacity and empowerment to proceed. Such stakeholders include pressure groups, NGO'S and voluntary community based organizations. It is evident that the current campaign and agitation for resource control in Nigeria is partly a reflection of the perceptions of lack of equity and environmental security. It also reflects the quality, sources and interpretation of information on the complexity of environment issues in Nigeria. These have significant implication for environmental management, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in the Niger Delta.

There is therefore a need to develop the capacity of civil society organizations to contribute to democratic governance in Nigeria, through a better understanding of the complexity of environment and development problems resulting from the exploitation of natural resources. This is particularly the case as the civil society organizations play a significant role in challenging systems and structures of power and control that perpetuate inequality as well as contribute to reduce social exclusion and poverty.

Programme

PART 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. Arrival of participants and recognition of personalities
2. Opening prayer by the Director, International Programmes, Professor Udo Etuk
3. Opening Remarks by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo, Prof Akpan H. Ekpo
4. Comments by Representative of British Council
5. Further recognition of personalities

PART II EVALUATION OF THE LINK (2002-2005)

1. Lancaster Uyo Link: A General Overview (Dr Uwem Ite, UK Link Coordinator)
2. Impact on Development in Nigeria (Prof Imoh Ukpong, Nigeria, Nigeria Link Coordinator)
3. Contribution to Staff Development in the University of Uyo (Mr Emmanuel Akpabio and Mr Ekong Daniel)
4. Impact on the Collaborative Research Culture in Lancaster University (Dr Uwem Ite, UK Link Coordinator)
5. The Link and Postgraduate Research in Lancaster (Engr. David Oni Management School and Mr. Uwafiokun Idemudia Geography Department)
6. Role of Women (Prof. Queen Obinaju)

7. Relevance of the Link of Local Community Development Representative from (a) Manta (b) Ikot Okpudo
 8. Media Perceptions of the Link (Representative of the Media/Dr Nkereuwem Udoka)
 9. Lessons learnt by the University of Uyo (Prof Imoh Ukpong, Nigerian Link Coordinator)
 10. Open Discussion/Comments (All Participants)
- Break for Refreshment

PART III: FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LINK

1. Challenges and Indicators of Sustainability for the Link (Dr Uwem Item, UK Link Coordinator)
2. Future Plan and Initiatives: University of Uyo Perspective (Prof Imoh Ukpong, Nigeria Link Coordinator).
3. Future Partnerships with the State Government (Prof. Ekaette Etuk, Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Women and Social Welfare)
4. Partnership with the Private Sector (Representative from ExxonMobil/ALSCON)
5. Future Link Partners and Strategies for Moving the Link Forward (Representative of NDDC)
6. Open Discussion/Comments (All Participants)
7. Vote of Thanks by Prof. P. A. Akpan, Head, Department of Geography & Regional Planning.
8. Closing Prayer by Professor Idorenyin Inyang

The Link

FUNDS

- DFID Higher Education Links
- The British Council

LINK TITLE

- Governance, Environment and Development in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.

SUBJECT CATEGORY: Geography

HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS:

- OVERSEAS - Prof. Akpan H. Ekpo, Vice-chancellor, University of Uyo, Nigeria
- U.K. - Prof. Paul Wellings, Vice-chancellor, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

OVERSEAS LINK COORDINATOR:

- Prof. Imoh Ukpong, Dept. of Geography & Regional Planning, University of Uyo, Nigeria.

HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

- Prof. P. A. Akpan, Dept. of Geography & Regional Planning, University of Uyo, Nigeria

U. K. LINK COORDINATOR:

- Dr. Uwem Ite, Dept. of Geography, Lancaster University, U. K.

HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

- Prof. Barbara Maher, Dept. of Geography, Lancaster University

GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP (UNIVERSITY OF UYO):

Research Team Leader:

- Prof. Imoh Ukpong (Conflict impact assessment, coastal zone management, pollution)

Team Members:

- Dr Ukan Ikpe (Civil Society and Governance)
- Mr. Ubong Nda (Government Community relations, theatre for development)
- Dr. Nseabasi Akpan (Rural Sociology)
- Dr. Ini Uko (Youth, violence and conflict management)
- Dr. Nkereuwem Udoakah (Media studies, development communication)
- Dr. Ekanem M. Ekanem (Environmental Pollution)
- Mr. Emmanuel Akpabio (Environmental Change and Analysis)
- Prof. Ekaette Etuk (Gender issues, ecotoxicology)
- Prof. Richard King (Wetlands management)
- Mr. Robert Ekpenyong (GIS, poverty alleviation)
- Prof. Queen Obinaju (Link Associate)
- Prof. Comfort Ekpo (Link Associate)

GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (LANCASTER UNIVERSITY)

Research Team Leader:

- Dr. Uwem Ite (Social Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGO'S)

Team Members:

- Prof. Graham Chapman (Media development, tropical agriculture, irrigation)
- Dr Lenny Baer (Poverty and Health)
- Dr. Nigel Watson (Conflict resolution and management, water resources)
- Dr. Alan Blackburn (Environmental Remote Sensing)
- Dr. Duncan Whyatt (GIS, pollution modeling)
- Prof. Rick Auty (Economic and resource development)
- Miss Gemma Davis (Geographic Information System)
- Dr. David Pratten (Co-opted from University of Sussex Youth and Conflict Vigilantes, Youth Associations and Social Equity)
- Prof. Colin Pooley (Health and Migration)
- Dr Peter Vincent (Biogeography).

WORKSHOP REPRESENTATIONS

1. Prof. Imoh Ukpong (Nigerian Link Coordinator)
2. Dr. Uwem Ite Uk Link coordinator)
3. Mr. Ekong Daniel (Link Associated)
4. Mr. David Oni (Management School, Lancaster University)
5. Prof. Ekaette Etuk (GED Team Member)
6. Dr. Nkereuwem Udoakah (GED, Team Member)

7. Mr. Uwakfiokun Idemudia (PG Student, Lancaster University)
8. Representative of Exxon Mobil/ALSCON
9. Mr. Emmanuel Akpabio (GED Team Member)
10. Representative of the Media
11. Dr. Queen Obinaji (Link Associate)
12. Representative of Manta/Ikot Okpudo
13. Representative of NDDC

REPERTOIRE FOR THE WORKSHOP

- Mr Joseph Udoh
- Mr Uwem Ituen
- Mr. Ubong Usoro

HALL AND LOGISTICS

- Mr. Ekong Daniel
- Mr Kufre Udi

RECEPTION:

Ms Eme Akpan