

AFRICA NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ANEEJ. NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice

BREAD FOR THE WORLD VISITS ANEEJ

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Jan Papendieck, Bread for the World Programme Officer for West and Central Africa visited headquarters of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice, ANEEJ, as part of monitoring tour of major beneficiaries for capacity building, May 6-9, 2015.

Part of his itinerary included visits to key government functionaries like the Edo State Commissioner for Special Duties, public and private partnerships, Hon Kenneth Edebiri. Prior to this visit. Jan met with ANEEJ project beneficiaries in Cross River, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom States via Skype. Also, before he met with the Catholic Youth of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Benin City, he visited the Orovie Commu-

nity and took time out to inspect the proposed ANEEJ permanent site, and met with prominent leaders of the community.

On hand to meet with him was ANEEJ deputy executive director, Leo Atakpu, who discussed issues related with ongoing projects being funded by Bread for the World. Three journalists from The Guardian of Nigeria, The Nigerian Observer and Daily Independent had a media parley with Mr. Papendieck.

Before departing Benin City for Lagos on May 9, Mr. Papendieck had discussions with key staff of ANEEJ—Leo Atakpu, Innocent Edemhanria, Ramat Idiakhe, Sandra Eguagie, Charles Iyare and



Right to Left: Atakpu, Papendieck, Edemhanria and Thomas Okojie of St Patricks

Kelly Umukoro.

'This is my first visit to Benin City. Even though I was a little disappointed that the airport had broken down air-conditioning, I think the work you are doing here is encouraging and deserves support', Papendieck said before he left.

EDITORIAL

- David Ugolor, *executive editor*
- Leo Atakpu, *managing editor*
- Innocent Edemhanria, *editorial consultant*
- Ramat Idiakhe, *head admin*
- Charles Iyare, *monitoring & evaluation*
- Kelly Umukoro, *correspondent*
- Sandra Eguagie, *programmes development*
- Mary Igharo, *reporter*
- Ken Okocha, *photo Unit*
- Bob MajiriOghene Etemiku, *reporter*

ANEEJ LAUDS FG STANCE ON LOOT RECOVERY

Recent reports with the Nigeria Observer, and www.alltimepost.com, has it that ANEEJ has commended the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari, for taking a stand on funds stolen from Nigeria and stashed abroad. According to the report, the President solic-

ited and got the support of international partners mostly in the United States, to help with the loot recovery effort.

But ANEEJ was quick to add as well that local laws like the Proceeds of Crime Act, POCA, and the Mutual Legal Assistant Acts, MLA, should be

passed into law by the 8th National Assembly to help with the effort to combat graft and corruption. Fuller reports can be found here: <http://www.nigerianobservernews.com/2015/06/26/aneej-lauds-fgs-asset-recovery-stance/#sthash.3vRHh7in.dpbs>



Left–right : Emosairue, Idiake and Edemhanria, re-aligning work plan for SACE at ANEEJ office, 25th June 2015.

ANEEJ RECEIVES USAID DELTA ADVISOR

Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement Empowerment, SACE, is a 5-year project dear to the United States Agency for International Development Project, USAID . In the course of several workshops, USAID has put together a programme aimed at building the capacity of civil society to engage with policy makers in the oil producing areas of Nigeria towards good governance, accountability and prudence in the management of oil revenues in the Niger Delta. As

precursor to the workshop billed for Port-Harcourt, 6-10, 'Public Awareness & Innovation', Delta Advisor to USAID, Monica Emosairue, paid a one-day visit to ANEEJ headquarters to carry out a work plan re-alignment with ANEEJ Innocent Edemhanria and Ramat Idiake.

The SACE Project is being implemented by Chemonics International, and employs innovative approaches to include a STAR (System for Transformation and Results) to promote sustainable

organizational development.

ANEEJ has been engaging, monitoring and reporting the budget and activities of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NNDC, the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission, EDSOGPADEC, and the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission, DESOPADEC to improve transparency in the conduct of these agencies.

LA MONDE & L'HEBDO SWISS NEWSMAGAZINES INTERVIEWS WITH DAVID UGOLOR

'Absolutely not, since that information was not mediated by Abuja. Switzerland must suspend that refund and open an investigation on the subject. Joining the Abacha family in a secret agreement was unacceptable. This violates the rights of the Nigerian people and encourages dictators to run their countries with impunity'

As part of his international campaign against the agreement between the Nigeria government and the Abacha family over stolen funds stashed abroad, ANEEJ executive director, David Ugolor has had meetings with international journalists to highlight the need for the agreement to be repudiated. Under a broad coalition, Nigeria Network on Stolen Assets,

NNSA, the Reverend David Ugolor, mobilized civil society groups in Nigeria to speak with one voice on the inconsistencies inherent in the agreement.

Excerpts of both interviews can be found on the following sites:

<http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2015/05/08/nigeria-il-faut-que-la-suisse-suspende-la->

[restitution-de-l-argent-vole-par-abacha_4630294_3212.html](http://www.hebdo.ch/les-blogs/la-r%C3%A9daction-en-ligne/fonds-abacha-%C2%AB-il-faut-que-la-suisse-suspende-cette-restitution-%C2%BB)

<http://www.hebdo.ch/les-blogs/la-r%C3%A9daction-en-ligne/fonds-abacha-%C2%AB-il-faut-que-la-suisse-suspende-cette-restitution-%C2%BB>

RADIO NIGERIA INTERVIEWS EGUAGIE



Eguagie Sandra engages reporters from Radio Nigeria

After the publication of Sandra Eguagie's article on Child Labour and their rights in a national newspaper, Daily Independent, <http://dailyindependentnig.com/2015/04/hiccups-draft-policy-child-labour/> two reporters from Radio Nigeria, Henry Onowweghware and Kevin Nwabueze, who were anchoring a programme on World Child Labour Day,

June 12 gave ANEEJ a call. They said they were interested in speaking with our programme assistant, Sandra Eguagie, because of the depth of the article and the issues which it raised locally at the National and state assemblies. During the chat, Sandra said that she did a lot of research, spoke with some of the affected children and their families

before bringing her ideas to the media team of ANEEJ. According to Sandra, 'It is true that God gives children, but is also true that if God gives you children, parents must strive to ensure that they have good education, health and a good home...'

ANEEJ PARLEYS EDSOGPADEC

ANEEJ is a Niger Delta Civil Society and Business Membership Organizational partner with the USAID programme on Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement, SACE. A core part of ANEEJ brief involves the engagement, monitoring and reporting on the budget and activities of the Niger Delta Development Commission and the EDSOG-PADEC.

While working on these projects,

ANEEJ constantly meets with key policy drivers and stakeholders to achieve the mandates of the USAID project.

To this end, the meeting of 22nd June 2015 with the EDSOGPADEC management team was in line with the ANEEJ budget monitoring and engagement process.

ANEEJ's activities have had direct impact not only in Edo State but in other oil-producing states like Rivers, Delta, and

Cross Rivers.

Together with top National Level Civil Society anchors, ANEEJ has carved a niche for itself as key to hosting the Publish What You Pay, PWYPCampaign, the Nigeria Network on Stolen Assets, NNSA, from 2004-2008 and is actively involved with the Public Expenditure Management and Financial Accountability Review, PEMFAR.



Members of ANEEJ team with EDOSOG-PADEC Public relations officer, Osagie Asabor [middle]

STOP OIL SWAP! BY INNOCENT EDEMHANRIA

On May 14, 2015 *The Guardian* of Nigeria carried an op/ed article by ANEEJ Programme Officer, titled *WHY GOVT SHOULD STOP OIL SWAP*. It was a product of painstaking research occasioned by the rot in the oil industry of Nigeria, and elucidated by two reports: the Bern and Price-WaterHouse Audit Reports on the unaudited NNPC Accounts. That article has since produced results like the renewed interest in

the anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC and ICPC in the cases of corruption leveled against major oil marketers in Nigeria. The newspaper report also renewed national and international interest in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI, the renewal and validation of the Nigerian version of the EITI, the NEITI.

Edemhanria has written a sequel

to this story on NEITI validation, and both stories which have generated intense public interest can be found here: <http://www.ngguardiannews.com/2015/05/why-government-should-stop-oil-swap/>

and

<http://newsdiaryonline.com/emerging-issues-as-nigeria-faces-eiti-re-validation-test-in-2016by-innocent-edemhanria/>

The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) had in an advocacy position paper to the House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum (Downstream) in October, 2015, over the on-going inquiry on massive corruption around oil swap deals involving some Swiss oil firms with roots in Nigeria, called on the National Assembly to do all in its powers to end oil swaps in Nigeria.

BLISS JOINS ANEEJ!

Newly weds Charles and Anita Iyare, ANEEJ Monitoring and Evaluation officer, M&E, were recently blessed with the gift of a bouncing baby boy named Bliss.

At the christening ceremony for the new-born, the Iyare's

said they had every reason to be happy to be parents to little Osaretin.

Members of Staff present at the christening included Innocent Edemhanria, Mary Igharo, Ramat Idiake, Sandra Eguagie and Bob Ma-

jiriOghene Etemiku.

Other members of Staff who could not make it to the ceremony sent their best wishes to the Iyares and to little Bliss.

Welcome aboard the ANEEJ team Bliss Osaretin Iyare.



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The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental organization based in Benin City, Edo State, with an advocacy office in Abuja. ANEEJ was founded in Benin City, in 1995 by people from a wide range of professional backgrounds who, for many years had participated in other civil society initiatives. ANEEJ was integrated as a corporate body with Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on 22nd September, 2006, and registered with the Edo State Government (2006) and has applied for registration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The goal of ANEEJ is to amplify the voice of the weak, less privilege and the marginalized groups as well as women and youths, in order to bring about their participation in democratic decision-making process.

ANEEJ purpose:

- ✦ Create platforms where civil society voices connect into critical masses on key national issues and where/when necessary, advance civil society interest on socio-economic and environmental rights protection;
- ✦ Build the capacity of civil society actors to better appreciate local, national and international economic governance issues and their connection to poverty incidence, resource conflict and the overarching people's economic rights;

WILL NIGERIA SURVIVE EUROPEAN ENERGY UNION?

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Therefore, arising from that meeting, the European Union plans that by 2030 – about 15 years from today – they will cut green house gas, GHG, emissions by at least 40%. They will also boost renewable energy and improve energy efficiency by at least 27%. As we have this discussion, a Southern Gas Corridor intended to develop the establishment of liquid gas hubs with multiple suppliers in Central and Eastern Europe is already being developed. Since most of Europe would soon depend absolutely on renewable energy – solar, biomass, wind and hydro power for their electricity needs, part of the plan of the EU Energy Union includes a full implementation of existing legislation and market rules to integrate these renewable into all European markets, and a promotion

of more research into renewable energy production and the decarbonisation of the transport sector. I have read two documents indirectly related to this plan by the EU to start an Energy union. One is an ongoing, unfinished 324-page research thesis by Maruf Mallick, a Bangladeshi doctorate student from the University of Bonn, Germany, titled *Politics of Climate Change*. Mallick and I go way back in Germany on a training tour of the environment and how to report on it as journalists. In that document of his, I find that there is a certain concerted effort by Europe and Asia to form alliances, the BRICS, the BASIC, LMDC and etcetera, all geared towards one goal – to jettison the old political alliances based on military and economic might for the new ones that will en-

sure that they would no longer rely on oil for their economic and military power. Presiding over this new balance of power and world order of new alliances to which the US has already been supplanted is the behemoth itself – China. More than any other country of the world, China, once known to be one of the highest green house gas emitter, has nearly completed a domestic programme of renewable energy that would make it impossible for it to ever buy oil again from Nigeria, Venezuela or from Iran. When that happens, Mallick says in his thesis that those who would hurt the most are the countries in the Middle East, and Nigeria, that depend on oil for her income.

Full story can be read here:
<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/will-nigeria-survive-eu-energy-union/>