

**A report from the African Youth Panel (AYP) Steering Committee (SC) meetings
in Copenhagen, 24th January – 2nd February 2010.**

Members present:

1. Malauene, Helder
2. Ceesay, Ibrahim
3. Nkwangu, Robert
4. Zaghlool, Shaymaa Rayed Saleh
5. Kamga Kam, Christian
6. Tarsaw, Saba Badi.

Absent with apology:

1. Auerbach, Jess

In attendance:

- 1) Ravn – Pedersen, Thomas
- 2) Skov, Anni

A. Introduction:

The Board and Management of Roskilde Festival granted the AYP up to 1.5 Million DKK (over 250,000 USD) for the AYP. The grant is mainly aimed at bridging the AYP to other stakeholders such as DANIDA, Danish Youth Council etc. The grant was also given with an intention that DANIDA shall commit herself to sustain the work of the AYP. The grant was also to be used to fund the AYP general Assembly, attendance / participation in Roskilde Festival activities and other key programs as may be decided by the AYP. The Festival Management further pledged to promote AYP during the annual Danish National Collection Day (Danmarksindsamling) whose theme for 2011 was “African Youth”.

Having received the grant from the Roskilde Festival Foundation, members of the AYPSC gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark to work on deliberations for utilization of the grant and also make plans for the future of the AYP. During this period, members also used the opportunity to engage in meetings with various stakeholders to discuss possibilities of future partnership with the AYP in attempts to find long term strategies for Africa’s development.

This report therefore reports in detail on the activities carried out in this period, the success / achievements registered, challenges encountered and the resolutions made / way forward for the AYP.

List of stakeholders visited:

The AYPSC together with advisors / partners engaged a number of stakeholders by way of meetings with them / engaging in their activities. These among others included the following:

1. Danish Radio / TV DR P3.
2. Roskilde Festival Foundation.
3. Danish Africa Commission.
4. Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
5. Danish Ministry of Development Cooperation.
6. Danish Youth Council.
7. Danish Parliament.

An account of the key results from these activities can be summarized as below:

B. Visit to the Roskilde Festival Headquarters:

Members had the opportunity of an informal visit to the Roskilde Festival Headquarters in Roskilde; Dk. Media interviews were also carried out in both video and audio. Members gave detailed information on how they feel having secured the Roskilde

Festival Grant and how we plan to utilize it. The ideas for its utilization are as stated in the concept note that was submitted for support by Roskilde Foundation.

The Roskilde Festival Foundation is a non-profit organization and works with over 25,000 volunteers and a few staff. The Charity society formed the festival. Proceeds from the festival are donated to humanitarian work. The organizers plan to involve more artists from Africa in order to raise awareness and get more support for Africa. They informed us about the national collection day and that our input would be valuable to the success of the collection day. The theme of the day was “New Africa”. The money collected will be shared amongst 12 Danish organizations including DanChurchAid our host in Denmark. They also want to support African youth to among other activities participate in politics, promote education etc. messages will be sent via phones, sleeping in tents to raise awareness and other activities. The money collected will be doubled by the Roskilde festival. Members were then given a guided tour of the different offices.

Results from the visit to Rockslide Festival Headquarters:

1. The AYP should try its best to volunteer for the Roskilde festival. This should be in terms of participating and helping in their various programs / activities like awareness raising, fundraising, planning, etc.
2. We need to internalize / clearly get to know about the festival, its aims and objectives, areas of interest and the work of the Roskilde Festival Foundation in order to be able to strengthen networking with them and respond to any issues which may arise as a result of our partnership with them.
3. The AYP should always update the Roskilde Festival Management on the progress we are making in utilizing their generous grant.

C. Meeting with officials of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DAC:

The objectives of this meeting were twofold:

- i. To discuss Africa’s development and utilization of foreign aid.
- ii. To discuss issues related to growth and employment / private sector led growth as per recommendations from the Danish Africa Commission (DAC) and the role of African youth in this process.

The Steering Committee of the AYP had a meeting with officials working in the International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Winnie Estrup Petersen, The Head of Secretariat of The Danish Africa Commission and the Deputy Head of Department for Africa at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Anders Friberg. Members had a brief discussion on strategies of how to effectively influence issues which have to do with Africa’s development.

The Officials appreciated the contribution of the AYP to the DAC. They also reiterated their commitment to support the private sector as a strategy for Africa’s development.

Among the following are some of the ways in which the AYP could drive forward the initiatives of the DAC:

- i. Identification of projects related to the concrete initiatives and recommendations of the DAC.
- ii. Monitoring and evaluation of activities carried out as a result of the recommendations by the DAC.

The officials pledged to discuss further with the Minister on how to continue working with the AYP in this process.

D. Meeting with the Minister of Development Cooperation, Mr. Søren Pind:

At this meeting, the Hon. Minister was briefed about the progress of the AYP since 2008 to date.

The minister appreciated the work of the AYP. He explained that their priority now is private sector support. He mentioned that the private sector is key to Africa's development. Among the issues agreed upon during the meeting are:

- i. The Ministry will connect the AYP to Danish Embassies and Consulates in respective countries.
- ii. The Ministry pledged a sum of 1,500,000 DKK on a condition that the AYP develops a concept paper on how to utilize that grant.

E. Participation in the Danish Collection Day:

The AYP participated in the Danish Collection day in a number of ways which among others included the following:

- Giving out loaves of bread to pedestrians and in turn collecting money for humanitarian work.
- Recording a song to be used as ringtone on mobile phones at a fee. Proceeds will go to humanitarian work.
- Engaging in TV and radio interviews to encourage the public / audience to contribute to the collection day.

By the time the AYP departed from Denmark, a sum of over 80 million DKK was collected which is a great achievement.

F. Meeting with the Danish Youth Council (DUF):

The members of the Steering Committee had a meeting with DUF at their headquarters led by Ms. Julie Koch, the International Director at DUF. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss possibilities of partnership between DUF and the AYP.

A brief about DUF was provided to members and their priorities of operation. DUF is an umbrella organization having 70 members, DUF was established in 1970 and includes independent youth political parties, and faith based organizations and other civil society organizations. DUF receives most of its funding from the Danish Lottery.

By the end of the meeting, the following were the main issues which arose:

- i. That the AYP could consider linking local organizations in Africa to Danish organizations for possible support.
- ii. Linking up all projects supported by DUF for networking and information sharing.
- iii. Carrying out exchange visits among countries to share experiences and best practices.
- iv. Popularization and advocacy / lobbying for ratification and domestication of the African Youth Charter.
- v. Hosting of a seminar for DUF's member organizations and forming of a pool of supported projects.

G. Follow-up meeting with the Danish African Commission:

This meeting was arranged with Ms. Winnie Estrup Petersen of the DAC secretariat. The objective of the meeting was to agree on how the pledged grant from the Minister could be utilized in relation to agreed time frames. The AYP also wanted to know its role in ensuring that the DAC recommendations are implemented in mother countries, how we can be linked to the Danish Embassies and the advocacy initiatives we can work on including a pool for peer to peer review and exchange.

The issues agreed upon include the following:

- i. Lobbying and monitoring to ensure that the recommendations of the DAC are implemented in our countries. This is in line with recommendation 9 of the DAC report.
- ii. The AYP can utilize the grant for regional exchange programs and experience sharing.
- iii. Carry out networking activities with different organizations.
- iv. Website updating and upgrading as well as popularization of the website.
- v. Mobilization of more members to join and network with the AYP.
- vi. Carrying out online discussions / debates by youth on Africa's development.
- vii. Popularization of the African youth Charter and lobbying and advocating for its enforcement in the countries where is ratified.
- viii. Establishment of linkages / alliances with different stakeholders / partners.
- ix. The grant from the ministry could either be managed by DUF or DCA on behalf of the AYP.

A project proposal should be developed taking into consideration the above issues. It was further agreed that Danish Embassies in respective countries will be notified of the AYP and request them to involve members in their programs / activities.

H. Meeting with the Principal of the Roskilde Festival Folk High School:

Members had a meeting with the above mentioned people. The meeting was also attended by Nikolai Lang of The Danish NGO Forum. Two main issues were on table for discussion and included:

- a) How the AYP will participate in the Roskilde festival.
- b) Training activities at the high school and what role AYP can play in the high school programs.

By the end of the meeting, members agreed on the following:

- ✓ The AYP can have a role in the radio and cultural programs of the Roskilde festival. Members were asked to share our vision during the festival.
- ✓ Members to volunteer in the various activities during and after the festival.
- ✓ Members to be involved in supporting the fundraising that is currently taking place and its believed it will go until the festival, for the establishment of the Roskilde Festival Folk High School;

I. Meeting with the Hon Johanne Schmidt-Nielsen, Member of the Danish Parliament:

Members had a brief meeting with a youth member of Parliament of Denmark, Hon. Johanne Nielsen. She was mostly interested in politics and governance and how the AYP could play a role in democracy and good governance in respective countries. Members also discussed about the Danish development policy, the Roskilde grant and how we can work with the Danish Parliament. It was agreed that the Steering Committee members will be used as focal points of their international department in Africa. She also proposed to link us with the Nordic council which is working on the issues of youth participation.

J. AYP Steering Committee meetings:

During the course of the activities in this period, members of the AYP steering Committee further conducted meetings to agree among others on the following:

- i. Administrative issues in relation to the Roskilde festival grant.
- ii. Agreeing on the key activities / programs to be funded by the grant.
- iii. Sharing of roles and responsibilities.
- iv. Plans for the way forward.

The following were the resolutions arising out of the meetings:

- i. Mr. Malauene Helder and Mr. Ceesay Ibrahim were mandated with the role of working Chairman and secretary for a period of 6 months. This was subject to the Terms and Conditions of service which were duly signed by members.
- ii. Mr. Ravn – Pedersen Thomas agreed to be the chief advisor to the AYP and Ms. Skov Anni agreed to administer the grant on behalf of the AYP.
- iii. That we should try our best to follow internationally recognized rates for per diem according to level of expenditure in a given country in line with any given activity.
- iv. That a honorarium for an agreed piece of work can be provided to members depending on the nature of work done and subject to specified terms of reference..
- v. That guidelines for selecting pilot projects should be drafted to be used in this process.
- vi. A budget breakdown of the grant should be developed and approved by the AYP Steering Committee.
- vii. Letters of thanksgiving should be drafted and sent to all those partners whom we meet in this period.
- viii. There is an urgent need to update the AYP website. A password be got and provided to those who will be updating it from time to time. This is important for information sharing with the rest of the AYP and partners.
- ix. Members should be provided with official emails linking them to the AYP e.g. (xxx@africanyouth.org)
- x. It was agreed that the next AYP Steering Committee meeting will take place in Accra, Ghana during the first week of May 2011 This will be followed by another meeting in Cairo, Egypt in August 2011.
- xi. The Next AYP Summit / General Assembly will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroun in November 2011.

The Chairperson as the leader of the Steering Committee will spearhead the process of implementation of the above resolutions.

K. Summary of the key achievements from the Copenhagen activities:

- 1) The AYP managed to secure another grant amounting to 1.5 million DKK from the Ministry of development cooperation. Effort will be made to utilize the grant efficiently and effectively.
- 2) As a result of the role of AYP, by the time members departed from Denmark, a total of 80 million DKK was got from the Danish collection day for 12 Danish NGO's and their pre-identified Youth Projects in Africa (www.danmarksindsamling.dk)
- 3) . Its hoped that more contributions will be got from time to time.
- 4) The AYP managed to convince all the stakeholders met to recognize and partner with the AYP. It is hoped that in future, the AYP will strengthen cooperation with these stakeholders and strategies for partnership finalized.

- 5) Administrative mechanisms for grant utilization were agreed upon. Its hoped that transparency and accountability will be exhibited in utilizing the grant to the pleasure of the funders.

L. Summary of the main challenges during this period:

- 1) Some of the stakeholders still not convinced on how to partner with the AYP. A lot needs to be done to convince them of the potential and capability of the AYP in meeting their expectations.
- 2) Tiresome working periods coupled with the winter freezing conditions necessitates the need to have some days off duty to enable members refresh their minds.

M. Conclusion and recommendations:

Despite the few challenges encountered, the AYP's influence during this period was greatly felt by those concerned. The objectives of the trip to Denmark were met and a number of achievements realized as indicated above. The Chairperson (with assistance from members) will be in position to follow-up with the key action points in this report with those responsible. The AYP would wish to use this opportunity to express its sincere gratitude to all those individuals and organizations without which this visit could not have been successful.
