Conference Report

3rd Annual | Issue #03 | Dignity of Rural

Announcement

October 15th, 2019, the Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, New York, hosted a high-level conference with royalties, diplomats, corporate leaders, and academics to observe and assess the state of Global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as they coincide with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event was conducted as an official observance of the International Day of Rural Women.

In picture above: His Royal Majesty King Adedapo Adeen Aderemi (right) and Jing Zhao Cesarone, the Executive Chairperson of the Conference and CEO of Global CSR Foundation (left) listening to the speakers.

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

The 2019 edition of the Grand Global Corporate Social Responsibility Conference has surpassed even the wildest expectations of the supporters of the Global CSR Foundation's initiative.

PG. 3

Conference Sessions and participants

PG. 4

Pictures Summary

A Record-Setting CSR Conference

October 15th, 2019, the Permanent Mission of the **African Union to the United Nation**, New York, hosted a high-level conference with royalties, diplomats, corporate leaders, and academics to observe and assess the state of Global Corporate Social Responsibility to the Sustainable Development Goals. The event was conducted as an official observance of **the International Day of Rural Women**, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007; and was first observed on 15 October 2008. The Conference, titled, **Dignity of Rural Women and the Social Responsibility of Global Corporations** took place from 12pm-6pm inside the Nelson Mandela Conference Room at the auspice of the **Mission of the Federal Republic of Sierra Leone**. The purpose of the conference was to recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in enhancing educational, cultural, rural community development, improving food security, and eradicating rural poverty. The conference was structured to assess and recognize the contributions made by Global Corporations towards this goal. The **Dignity of Rural Women and the Social Responsibility of Global Corporations** conference was organized by **Global Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation** in partnership with **African Views Organization**. The Executive Chair of the event was **Ms. Jing Zhao Cesarone, CEO of Global Corporate Responsibility Foundation.** The Executive director and producer of the event was **Dr. Wale Idris Ajibade, Executive Director of African Views Organization.**

29 speakers shared first-hand experiences and perspectives on how businesses and institutions worldwide can effectively continue to contribute to the achievement of **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** Among the speakers are **His Royal Majesty King Adedapo Adeen Aderemi, the Convener General of Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA)**, which is under a mandate of the **UN Women** to eliminate violence of Female Genital Mutilation and Early Child Marriage practices in Rural Communities. Mr. **Brad Smith**, the President of Microsoft, who leads a team of more than 1,400 business, legal and corporate affairs professionals in 56 countries, and had just written a book titled Tools and Weapons, which talks about Rural Communities, and foreword by **Bill Gates**, was adequately represented by Mary Snapp, Vice President and Strategic Advisor of **Microsoft**. In picture below: Dr. Wale Idris Ajibade of African Views Organization.

Dr. Wale Idris

The Highlights

The event opened with a blended medley rendition of the of the African Union anthem, "Let us all unite and celebrate together" with the notable "N'Kosi Sikeleli Africa" (God Bless Africa) performed by Florence Troutman (Floxy Bee) the Queen of Hikosso Music. Floxy Bee also performed the United States National anthem. Mr. Hongkai Zhang performed the anthem of the People's Republic of China. China's anthem was observed in honor of the trend of development support rendered to Africa and the rest of the world by the Chinese private and State-run corporations.

"Corporations that are actively engaged in sustainability efforts are setting a good example for how to integrate the triple bottom-line of people, planet, profit." – Jing Zhao Cesarone

China & Africa Shoulder to Shoulder

In picture above: King Adedapo and Jing Cesarone. King Adedapo gave the keynote speech at the dinner gala. He said: "China's presence in Africa is timely and investors have the assurance of cooperation with African traditional rulers. China has made tremendous progress in furthering the world economy, and a great deal of value could be at stake depending on whether Businesses can adjust their approach to corporate social responsibility and attain sustainable development of Africa in line with the United Nations 2030 agenda and the AU Vision 2063."

Global CSR Foundation — The Global CSR Foundation (GCSRF)

AFRICAN VIEWS — African Views Organization

Zunroyal NY Celebrities Inc

Global CSR Summit — Global CSR Council

All Day Session

The first panel "Empowering Rural Women and Girls moderated by Dr. Linda Stillman, Founder of Young Global Leadership Foundation. Keynoted by Leng Jing, CEO of Aikucun. Panelists: Tara Abrahams, Senior Advisor at Arabella Advisors, He Daofeng, Former President of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, and Antoinette Ashong, Founder and Chairwoman of the Montessori Foundation of Ghana.

The second panel "Health and Natural Resources" moderated by Padmini Murthy MD, Professor and Global Health Director at New York Medical College. Keynote by Charles Bao, the General Manager of BGI Americas. Panelists include Merav Cohen, Manager at Hazon Seal of Sustainability, Peter Fusaro, Chair of Global Change, Master Hengshun, President of China Temple Fair Culture Association, and Stephen Markscheid, Board Member of Global CSR Foundation.

See the official Press Release: http://bit.ly/Dignity-GCSRF

The third panel "CSR" moderated by William Verdone, Chair of African Views Board. Keynote by Wang Xiaoguang, Director of the CSR Promotion Center of the China Federation of Industrial Economics. Panelists include Chris Deri, President of TENEO Digital Advisory, Dr. Mao Daqing, Founder & Chairman of Ucommune, Mary Snapp, Vice President and Strategic Advisor of Microsoft, Paul Washington, Executive Director of ESG Center at The Conference Board, and Wu Ting, Founder of Jiabin University.

The fourth panel "Facilitating Global Partnerships in Sustainable Development" moderated by Bruce Knotts, Board of Directors of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. Keynote by John Allen, Founder of China Investment Group. Panelists include Professor Dwight Hopkins, Professor at the University of Chicago, Reta Jo Lewis, Director of Congressional Affairs at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Priscilla Lu, Head of Sustainable Investment Funds-Asia for DWS, Wang Maolin, Founder & CEO of Kim Dai Intelligent Innovation Tech and Yan Wanchun, Vice Director of Creative Cities Assessment Center in China.

Below are pictures of the conference at the Permanent Mission of the African Union to the United Nations and Dinner Gala at One UN Plaza.