



THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE
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SIX AFRICAN SCHOLAR/ACTIVISTS AWARDED U.S. FELLOWSHIPS

Washington, DC, July 10, 2002 – The Africa-America Institute (AAI) today announced its second round of Claude Ake Memorial Award fellows, commemorating one of Africa's leading voices for democracy by supporting six African scholar/activists in their efforts to address the continent's developmental challenges. AAI administers the Ford Foundation funded program in conjunction with the African Studies Association (ASA).

The fellows will each receive one-year, \$6,000 stipends to further their innovative and practical research into resolving Africa's developmental problems. Fellows will travel to the United States to participate in study tours tailored to their specific research interests, then present their findings at the 45th Annual Meeting annual meeting of the ASA which will be held in December in Washington, DC. AAI will publish their research and distribute it to academic and other audiences.

"Claude Ake's intellectually inspired advocacy for democracy and economic development in Africa finds its descendants in this first round of Ake Scholars. Concerned with a range of modern-day challenges, from managing the oil rich resources of the Nigerian Delta to the impact of new technologies on African political institutions, each scholar is dedicated to finding thoughtful solutions to critical problems facing the African continent," said AAI president Mora McLean.

Ake, a Nigerian scholar of global standing and activist for democracy, established the Centre for Advanced Social Studies in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Throughout his professional life, he was at the forefront of scholarship that championed social justice, economic development and democracy. He challenged African intellectuals to help construct an African conception of development that would facilitate African solutions to African problems.

THE 2002 AKE SCHOLARS ARE:

Mr. John S. Akama – Kenya
Senior Lecturer, Moi University
Research Topic: The Efficacy of Tourism as a Tool for Socio-economic Development in Kenya: A Cultural Perspective

Ms. Caroline Kihato – South Africa
Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Studies
Research Topic: Moving Beyond the Rhetoric? South Africa's Experience in Strengthening Civil Society

Mr. Samuel Nda – Nigeria
Senior Lecturer, University of Uyo
Research Topic: Theatre for Environmental Sensitization

Ms. Tendayi Mutimukuru – Zimbabwe
PAR, Researcher, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Research Topic: Managing Conflict for Sustainable Forest Management: Lessons from Mafungautsi Forest, in Gokwe Communal Area, Zimbabwe

Dr. Charles U. Ogbulogo – Nigeria
Senior Lecturer, University of Lagos
Research Topic: Igbo-English Medical Dictionary

Mr. Owen F. Ziwoya – Malawi
Reporter, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation
Research Topic: Radio as a Rendezvous for Socio-economic Development in Malawi

An award committee comprised of noted Africanists from ASA and senior AAI and ASA staff members selected the fellows from a pool of more than 100 applicants.

Allen Isaacman, ASA President noted, "One of the highest priorities of the African Studies Association is to build and expand ties with colleagues and institutions in Africa. The ASA is delighted to be a partner with AAI in this important initiative. The Claude Ake Memorial Award provides the Association's members the opportunity to work with and learn from our colleagues on the continent. The 45th Annual meeting of the ASA held in Washington this December will be an opportunity to celebrate the work of scholars and activists from Africa whose lives embody the very best for which Claude Ake stood."

The African Studies Association was founded in 1957 as a nonprofit organization open to all individuals and institutions interested in African affairs. With over 3000 individual and institutional members worldwide, ASA is the leading North American organization that promotes African studies. Its mission is to bring together people with a scholarly and professional interest in Africa. ASA is hosted by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The mission of The Africa-America Institute is to promote enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education, training and dialogue. For almost 50 years, AAI has mobilized resources and administered programs that have enabled over 20,000 Africans to pursue advanced degrees and technical training. The Institute conducts informational programs that seek to shape and inform the debate over U.S. policy toward Africa in ways that highlight African perspectives and promote American engagement. Founded in 1953, AAI is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, nonprofit organization with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., and program alumni in 50 African countries.