

Announcement

Expert Meeting on “The Potential of Diaspora Participation in Peacebuilding towards Homeland”

Date: 27th August, 2015

Venue: Institute of Social Science (ISS), The Hague

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Background

There is a growing realisation that diasporas can play a remarkably important role in peace and post-reconstruction initiatives in their home countries. There are great advantages of working with the Diaspora in peacebuilding in their respective homelands. Contemporary diasporas are one of the global forces shaping the directions and trends in this 21st century. This makes it important to partner and join forces with them in the promotion of peace in their respective homelands. Diasporas can be part of the solution if they are seen as potential strategic actors and valuable bridgebuilders to be aligned within the efforts of promoting peace in their homelands in Africa. More importantly, peace is a pre-condition for development.

In May 2014, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with The Hague Academy of Local Governance (THA) and The Network University (TNU) launched a Diaspora Academy. The overall objective of the Diaspora Academy (DA) is to upgrade and strengthen professional skills and competences of diaspora organizations in Europe engaged in improving the social and economic conditions and communal harmony in their countries of origin. As part of its activities, the DA is to build capacities of diaspora organizations by providing them with requisite tools and skills towards effective peacebuilding processes.

In this light, the meeting will bring together experts in the field to discuss and offer insightful contributions that would help to achieve the effective delivery of the capacity building component and expected outcome of the DA.

The aim of the meeting is to facilitate the diaspora peace activists in the Netherlands to network among themselves, establish viable contacts, learn from each other's peace related activities, exchange valuable information, share best practices and positive experiences, etc. This is to create viable peace alliances among diaspora activists which will enable them to cooperate and act jointly on certain peace related activities across countries. The workshop will also facilitate diaspora peace-builders to come into contact with professional networks, viable strategic partners and established peace community circles at different levels.

Meeting Objectives

- To increase the voices and raise the profile and the visibility of diaspora peacebuilders in the peacebuilding community circles.
- To showcase the peacebuilding work that the diaspora peace activists have been involved in their respective home countries in the past years.
- To deepen our understanding of how viable strategic partnership between diaspora peace builders and the established peacebuilding community circles can be facilitated.

NB. The Diaspora Academy is supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of The Hague.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Gemeente Den Haag

For more information about the Diaspora Academy , see the www.diaspora-centre.org.