

Global Visions

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The International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

BPIA's Biennial Conference, "Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges for the African Diaspora"

Special points of interest:

- *Highlights from BPIA's Biennial Conference*
- *BPIA receives two-year grant*
- *BPIA launches new site*
- *BPIA Forum: Millennium Challenge Awards*

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Every two years BPIA sponsors an international conference designed to make a vital contribution to creative thinking, informed policy development and action in international affairs. This issue of *Global Visions* highlights the panels, events and findings of our latest conference.

Our theme for this year's conference was "Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges for the African Diaspora." Throughout the conference we examined the enormous effects of globalization on the African Diaspora as well as the effects of the Diaspora on the globalization process.

Keynote Speaker

The opening keynote address was delivered by George Dalley, longtime expert and activist in international affairs, former Assistant Secretary of

State for International Organizations and the current counsel and chief of staff for Congressman Charles Rangel. In brief, his message was that (1) there are increasing numbers of blacks working in international affairs, especially in the corporate, non-profit, and congressional communities; (2) at the same time, black institutions focused on international affairs are struggling to survive and need strong support (organizations such as BPIA, The Africa Society, The Constituency for Africa, TransAfrica, and the Thursday Luncheon Group); (3) there is an unprecedented visibility of blacks in international affairs with former and current Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice; however, their policies do not necessarily reflect those of the majority of black Americans;

BPIA Receives Two Year Grant from Ford Foundation

BPIA plans to strengthen its membership base and its organizational structure using a two-year grant for \$120,000 recently awarded from the Ford Foundation. This is the second grant received from the foundation; the first was a one-year grant for \$58,000.

The specific objectives of the grant are to expand the organizational and individual membership base, implement BPIA's development program and secure additional financial and other support for organizational sustainability partnership. We plan to use this funding to continue to move



C. Payne Lucas, Freddie Hill Lucas, Connie Newman and Colbert King

and (4) the foreign policy preferences of black Americans can often be detected through the voting patterns of Congressional Black Caucus members, for example, preference for diplomacy over war, increased support for a reduction in global poverty, and an increase in socio-economic development assistance, and strong support for human rights.

More details about the conference can be found on pages 4-7.

forward on our mission to increase and enhance the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs.

BPIA's Launches International Affairs Television Program

BPIA is coming to a television station near you! We are planning an exciting initiative to produce a TV series focusing on international affairs. The bi-weekly series will use both the face-to-face interview and the panel discussion format.



The television program is being planned in conjunction with UDC's Department of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences and Social Work and UDC's Cable TV-19. This station is operated by the University of the District of Columbia for the purpose of broadcasting community-based programming as part of its mission as the Land Grant University for the District of Columbia.

At present, the station is upgrading its technology and equipment in order to broadcast in a digital format. As soon as the work is completed, videotaping will commence.

BPIA's upcoming television initiative is being coupled to UDC's initiative to start a speaker's series in DC's public and charter schools. It is envisioned that a portion of the recording will be done in the field, where the featured speaker is interviewed and videotaped at the student assembly; the lecture will then be aired on Cable TV. This would allow both BPIA and UDC to share the experience with two distinct audiences.

BPIA intends to pursue public and private funding to assist in the development and support of the project.

Visit our new site: www.iabpia.net

**"JOIN OR
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE"**

Our recently redesigned website is available online and worldwide at: www.iabpia.net. The BPIA website is an information content portal that provides current news and relevant

information in international affairs.

The site allows members to upload publications that can be published on demand. It also features a calendar of activities in international affairs hosted by BPIA, its partners or others in the international community. Captured video events are placed on the site and can be viewed over the internet. We plan to use the website during membership drives, allowing individuals to

join or renew their membership online. The website's polling features allow rapid polling of our membership on new developmental issues in international affairs. BPIA recognizes the impact of the Internet in mobilizing, educating and informing people throughout the globe and has committed resources to increasing its online capacity and effectiveness.

Making Connections: Job Opportunities in International Affairs

Brookings Institution—Vice President and Director of its Foreign Policy Studies Program—Function: This position has overall responsibility for the full range of Brookings's research in national security and diplomatic policy areas. *For more information see: www.brookings.edu.*

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) is seeking to fill the position of International Program Assistant to work full-time in the Washing-

ton, DC office. The International Program Assistant (IPA) will provide operational and research support to EQUIP3 / Youth Trust, a global youth development initiative with staff both in the US and abroad (www.equip123.net, EQUIP3). *For more information visit, www.edc.org.*

Women for Women International is seeking a Senior Business Development Officer. The Senior Business Development Officer is responsible

for identifying, developing and expanding income generation opportunities for Chapter offices, program participants and graduates. *For more information visit: www.womenforwomen.org.*

Meet BPIA's New Board of Directors, 2005-2007

BPIA has elected its new board of directors to serve for the next two years. We are confident that this new board will guide us as we continue to grow as an organization.

President:

Percy Wilson

VP Professional Development:

Earl Yates

VP Economic Development

John Calvin Williams

VP Education and Exchange

Louis McCall

Secretary

Richard Lowery

Assistant Secretary/Web Master

Luigi Leblanc

Treasurer

Irvin Coker

Assistant Treasurer

Gale Hansberry

Historian

Cynthia Johnson

Members-at-Large

Claire Nelson

Paul Abudu

Gregory Simpkins

Melissa Clark

Ambassador-at-Large

Harriet Elam-Thomas

Ambassador to the HBCUs

Joseph Edsel Edmunds

Founder and President Emerita

Barbara Patterson

Past President

Carole Henderson Tyson

Millennium Challenge Corporation: Experts Weigh in on Successes and Challenges of New Program

BPIA organized a public forum hosted at the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University on July 28th to discuss: *Is the Millennium Challenge Corporation the Most Appropriate Response by the US Government to the Development Challenges Currently Facing Africa?*

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is President Bush's program established in 2004, that encourages a "new compact for global development," linking billions of dollars of development assistance to evidence that countries rule justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. The forum was attended by over 50 people from various non-profit, governmental and educational institutions.



Forum Speakers: *Amb. Dawson, Amb. Narisoa, Mr. Washington, Mr. Williams, Dr. Courville, Dr. Thomas*

After welcoming remarks by Ambassador Horace G. Dawson, Jr., Director of the Bunche Center and Mr. James R. Washington, interim president of BPIA, the forum began with a keynote speech by Dr. Cindy Courville, Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs, National Security Council, The White House. Dr. Courville outlined some of the successes and challenges of the program. In her presentation she emphasized that the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) was "not another aid program," but rather a program that provides incentives for countries to change. She explained that only two African countries had signed a compact (at the time of the forum). This slow pace, she admitted, was partly due to the fact that the Bush administration created the MCC from scratch, but she also pointed out that the response by some countries that are currently eligible to participate had been slow.

Ambassador Rajaonarionny Narisoa from Madagascar spoke as a representative from one of the only two countries in Africa that successfully signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact. Ambassador Narisoa de-

scribed some of the difficulties facing his country, especially the impact of rural poverty. He explained that the MCC pact with Madagascar will focus on "raising incomes in rural areas by enabling better land use, expansion of the financial sector and increased investment in farms and other rural businesses." Ambassador Narisoa agreed that the MCA initiative was an innovative approach to development, agreeing that countries must often reform before foreign aid is given.

The British perspective was expressed by Dr. Clare Thomas, First Secretary for Africa, British Embassy, and on the Blair Commission for Africa and the G8 Meeting. She described England's role in development issues related to Africa and the British decision to place Africa at the top of the agenda at the recent G8 meeting.

After a lively question-and-answer session, in which the audience asked numerous questions, including querying the reasons for the limited participation by African countries, Mr. Washington summarized key points of the forum, emphasizing the importance of such events to educate the public about new initiatives for Africa.

Biennial Conference Highlights: *Globalization Opportunities and Challenges*

According to organizers and the attendees, this year's Biennial Conference was superb and addressed the most salient issues of today for Black Americans while generating attractive and innovative ideas for future programming.

Highlights of the conference included the session on Alternative Global Futures, which compelled attendees to

look ahead to see where the world, the nation and BPIA are going or could go. The real-time teleconference between business students, professors and young entrepreneurs in Washington, DC and their counterparts in Ghana and Nigeria was thrilling for the useful connections it made and for possibilities shown for similar teleconferences in the near future.



Carole Tyson, Barbara Patterson, Earl Yates



Cynthia Johnson, Bertha Jackson, LeAnne Manago

The highly inspirational awards dinner and honored four long-time achievers: Assistant Secretary of State Constance Newman Berry; Africare founder C. Payne Lucas; his wife, Freddie Lucas, President of Lodestar, Inc; and Dr. Bart O. Nnaji, Alcoa Professor of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh

and Director of the National Science Foundation's E-Design Center.

During this conference, the board was again reminded of this organization's significance as the only organization dedicated to supporting and encouraging African Americans in International Affairs.

The State of Regional Economies Panel Discussion —Led by the Association of Black American Ambassadors (ABAA)

BLACK AMBASSADORS PROVIDE THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF CONDITIONS AND POLICIES

A panel made up of black American ambassadors who had served as chiefs of mission in various regions of the world provided their assessments of conditions and policies regarding these regions. Speakers for the panel included:

Ambassador Howard Jeter, former US ambassador to Nigeria (currently Senior Vice President, Goodworks International)

Ambassador Terence Todman, former US ambassador to Denmark, Argentina, Spain, Costa Rica, Guinea and Chad

Ambassador Ronald Palmer, former US ambassador to Malaysia, Mauritius and Togo

Ambassador Kenton Keith, former US ambassador to Qatar (currently Senior Vice President, Meridian International Center)

Ambassador Jeter spoke of the global, regional and African significance of Nigeria. He provided an internal assessment of the political, economic, security and religious challenges and opportunities, including reports on the New African Partnership for Africa's Development, the role of the African Union and the role of the African Diaspora in Nigeria's development

Ambassador Keith gave an assessment of countries of the Middle East with particular focus on Egypt. He noted the regional instability, the effect of predominance of a single commodity (oil), despair among the youth, effects of high population growth combined with low economic growth, the role of the madrases and Islam, and the relationship between the Arab world and Africa.

Ambassador Todman focused his presentation on the Americas and the 150 million people of African descent living in this region. He noted their lack of full economic and political participation in these countries, their growing organizational skills and the US organizations now moving to become more involved with this population group, including non-profit organizations and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Ambassador Palmer discussed Asia and its current and accelerating economic growth and the impact of this growth on America and Africa. He particularly focused on India and China. He also reported on the role of Islam and religion in this part of the world, with special attention to south-east Asia.

Conference Panels: International Trade and Economics and Corporate Social Responsibility

International Trade and Economics

Strategic alliances, bilateral trade relations and organized labor were just some of the highlights of the workshop on "International Trade and Economics." Presenters reflected on how African-Americans and Africans throughout the Diaspora impact and are impacted by the current rules and facts of international commerce, the nature of their participation and their under-representation in select areas of international trade.

Key findings included the need to recognize and then act on a more complete understanding of the role of interest groups and intermediaries as actors in international trade.

Moderator: Richard Lowery, Professor, Management and Small Business, Bowie State University

"Globalization: Opportunity for Some, Challenge for Others" John Calvin Williams, President, Africa Vision consulting, Former IMF Representative

"Creating Strategic Alliances: Business Bottom Lines" Dr. Sharon Freeman, President, Lark-Horton Global Consulting

"Bilateral Trade Relations in the Global Economy" Deputy Assistant Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the US Trade Representative,

"Organized Labor in the Global Economy" Steve Beckman, Director of Governmental and International Relations, United Auto Workers

Corporate Social Responsibility

A panel of leaders from organizations that mediate the various interests of economics and politics examined difficulties and tensions facing companies and organizations who work overseas. Often these institutions are faced with conflicting interests and are forced to determine whether their work is "socially responsible."

The panelists and audience participants engaged in a spirited dialogue regarding what is considered socially responsible. A major focus of the discussion was how various perspectives of what is "socially responsible" are applied, embraced or overridden by corporations and other actors, including governments.

Suggestions and counter-suggestions were examined addressing how different kinds of organizations, especially global corporations, might pursue socially responsible practices or serve

such purposes effectively while remaining profitable. Several panelists and participants offered examples of organizations considered responsible and exemplary while being functionally effective with respect to pursuing their own stockholder interests. These organizations had found ways to serve, or at least not violate, common conceptions of corporate social responsibility.

Moderator: Phyllis Shearer Jones, CEO, Elan International LLC

Ralph A. Perkins, Senior VP for Programs and Operations, Leon H. Sullivan Foundation

Mesfin Ayenen, Co-COO and Chairman, Worldspace Foundation

Dr. William White, Prof. of Law and Accounting, School of Business, University of the District of Columbia



Schedule of Events

- 10/25/05 at 2:00pm—Georgetown University Leavey Center Bookstore, 2nd Floor—Human Rights Book Signing & Lecture - Richard White, author of *Breaking Silence: The Case that Changed the Face of Human Rights*.
- 10/ 26/05, 12:30 - 2:00 pm—Women in International Security Lecture - Challenges for Russia: At Home, in Eurasia, and Beyond, Lilia Shevtsova, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Moscow Location: Root Room - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
- 11/ 29 to 12/1/05- Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) Conference - 2005 Africa Oil & Gas Forum 1100 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 835-1115 Fax: (202) 835-1117 E-mail: cca@africaconcl.org
- 11/11/05, 12:00pm - Georgetown University Intercultural Center 241 ICC, A Well Gone Dry: The Two-State Solution in Israel-Palestine, Lecturer - Virginia Tilley, author of *The One-State Solution: A Breakthrough for Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Deadlock*.

Alternative Global Futures Dialogue

A major objective of BPIA is to promote the participation of people of African descent in the dialogue on international affairs in order to ensure that their perspectives are included in these processes. Giving thought and voice to the strategic role that BPIA may play in shaping the global commons in the future is part of the execution of this objective. But what will the future look like? Will indicators of good healthcare in 2025 include the number of heart pacemakers implanted? Will HIV/AIDS have a cure? Will organ cloning be standard procedure? Will terrorism escalate? Will China take over as the world superpower? Success for BPIA will require that BPIA stakeholders develop the capacity to think strategically about critical aspects of the future.

With this in mind, the conference included a facilitated dialogue to engage conference participants in social

development issues in the future: What will the world look like in 2015; what will be the relative social and economic well being of people of African descent; and what would BPIA's role be in helping to shape a desired future?

Approximately twenty-five people participated in this dialogue, which addressed the process of future-casting. Dr. Claire Nelson, BPIA Board member, facilitated the workshop. The group was asked to think about their desired futures and to consider critical uncertainties facing the region, along with predetermined factors. Participants were asked to create two future casts of 2015. The future casts, ranging from extremely optimistic to pessimistic, revealed some interesting assumptions about how current trends, such as the "digitalization" of society, may affect marginalized communities.

One key lesson learned is that BPIA must engage youth in thinking critically about the future. This finding may help shape the work program for Education and Professional Development objectives of the organization. Another finding is that visualizing the future is useful as a means to clarify our assumptions, which could help to improve the quality of decision-making and thus improve the effectiveness of development assistance. This finding will help BPIA create programs in the area of economic development, particularly with respect to dialogues with the small and corporate business sector.

**WHAT WILL BE
THE RELATIVE
SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC WELL-
BEING OF PEOPLE
OF AFRICAN
DESCENT IN
2005?**

Mentoring Young Professionals in International Affairs

The Mentors Breakfast took place on Saturday the 11th of December. This event was chaired by BPIA's Vice President for Professional Development, Irvin D. Coker. The Presenter was Ambassador Kevin McGuire, former ambassador to Namibia and current manager of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program at Howard University. During breakfast, Ambassador McGuire gave a summary of the Rangel Program, whose purpose is to encourage and support the entry of young people from diverse backgrounds into the Foreign Service of the United States. This program includes a two-year fellowship for study toward a relevant masters degree, a summer enrichment program, an internship at a US embassy during one summer and entry into the State Department without having to pass the Foreign Service Written Exam. A high degree of interest was demonstrated by the many

students and young professionals in attendance. Written materials and application forms were also provided to the attendees so that they could follow up on their interest in the Rangel Program and in foreign affairs in general.

Mentoring and Professional Networking

The highlight of BPIA's youth involvement initiatives came near the end of this reporting period: Saturday, December 11, was largely devoted to youth mentoring. The day began with a Mentors' Breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. This event afforded an opportunity for students and entry-level and mid-level professionals to be introduced to working international professionals and to meet and interact with each other. This was followed, from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m., by a Youth Networking Workshop sponsored and facilitated by The African Futures Forum. It consisted of an interna-

tional teleconference between BPIA and AFF participants at the conference in Washington and AFF's affiliate organizations in Accra, Ghana, and Abuja, Nigeria. The video-conference took place at the video theater of the Howard University Continuing Education Center, a few blocks from the conference hotel site. The international teleconference was followed, from 11:15 to 12:30, by the "Mentoring and Professional Networking" session, in which a panel of speakers described career opportunities at their organizations. Speakers represented the State Department, United States Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, Chemonics International, the Institute for International Public Policy, and the Charles Rangel International Affairs Program at the Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University.

Awards Dinner

The Awards Banquet on Friday evening was an inspiring celebration of the achievements of several individuals who have made a significant impact on the domestic and international communities. The evening began with the keynote address by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Colbert I. King. Mr. King joined the Editorial Board of the Washington Post in 1990. Prior to joining the Post, he served as Deputy Director to the Editorial Page and as Executive Vice President for Riggs National Bank. In 1979, President Carter nominated him to serve as the United States Executive Director to the World Bank. A prominent columnist, he appears weekly on WTOP news radio in Washington and is a recurring guest on the weekend television talk show *Inside Washington*. Mr. King, who shared his experiences as a journalist and international financier, challenged the audience to become a strong and unified voice on issues that impact the African Diaspora. He encouraged the audience to contribute actively to the dialogue and direction of our county's international policy and to make a positive impact on the future direction of world events.

The highlight of the evening was the biennial award ceremony celebrating the four distinguished awardees: Mr. C. Payne Lucas, Mrs. Freddie Hill Lucas, Mrs. Constance Berry Newman, and Dr. Bart O. Nnaji. The BPIA Board of Directors was also pleased to acknowledge several individuals who have set an example of personal commitment, provided sustained

Colbert King, Journalist and Keynote Speaker (right)



Photo by: Gail Hansberry

leadership and made outstanding contributions in international affairs.

C. Payne Lucas, the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, is the founder and former President of Africare, serving from 1971 to 2002. He was acknowledged for his unique blend of passion and steadfast commitment to his 40-year career in African development. Over the years, he has been honored by several U.S. Presidents and the leaders of more than two dozen African nations. Africare is the oldest and largest African American non-profit organization specializing in aid to Africa. With its more than one hundred fifty programs, it assists families and communities in twenty-six nations — from Egypt to South Africa and Nigeria to Mozambique.

Freddie Lucas, the second recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, has an outstanding record of accomplishment as an international educator, businesswoman and social activist. Since 1997, she has been President of Lodstar, LLC, a consulting firm that operates both in the US and abroad, providing services to public and private sector clients in education and workforce training, public affairs and government relations. Ms Lucas served as the Washington representative for industry and government relations for General Motors and as representative for urban affairs and public relations for JC Penney Co.

Constance Berry Newman, recipient of the International Professional Role Model Award, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs on June 24, 2004. Prior to her appointment, she served as Assistant Administrator for Africa with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Mrs. Newman has extensive experience managing public and private organizations as well as international experience throughout the world. She participated in elections and other monitoring activities in Nigeria, Ukraine and China. She

served as a consultant to South African leaders on affirmative action and diversity and to the World Bank as



liaison to representatives of the South African National Congress, Pan African Congress, Inkatha and the National Union of Mineworkers. She also worked as a consultant on a World Bank project in Lesotho to merge existing housing corporations into one that was structured to receive World Bank funding.

THE AWARDS DINNER

Dr. Bart O. Nnaji, recipient of the Special Achievement Award, is considered one of America's foremost robotics engineers as well as a courageous and accomplished proponent of democratic governance. He is the Alcoa Foundation Professor in Manufacturing Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Industrial Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also the Director of the US National Science Foundation Center for E-design - a consortium of universities jointly sponsored by NASA, Ford Motor Co., US Department of Defense, Lockheed Martin, General Electric Aircraft Engine and others. He has received numerous awards including the Distinguished Scientist Award by the World Bank - IMF Africa Group, and the Baker Distinguished Research Award (the highest research award given by the International Institute of Industrial Engineers). He was awarded the national honor - Officer of the Order of Niger (OON) - by Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria.



The International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

Black Professionals In International Affairs
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Washington, DC 20012

BPIA is a charitable and educational membership association established in 1989 to increase and enhance the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs. Founded and operated for purposes of public education and charity, BPIA is a 501 (c)(3) organization, exempt from federal income taxes in the United States.

The association pursues program objectives in education, cultural exchange, human resources development, and economic development. Its activities include public information conferences and seminars, a periodic newsletter, professional networking activities, a mentors' forum, academic scholarships, and travel grants.

Membership in BPIA is open to all who support its purposes and objectives. Men and women of all nationalities, races, religions and cultures are encouraged to join the organization and bring to it the wealth of their life experiences and their individual abilities and talents.

BPIA was founded under the leadership of President Emerita Barbara C. Patterson, an international educator whose vision and energy have sustained the organization since its establishment in 1989.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

WWW.IABPIA.NET

BPIA Members—In the News

Congressman Robert Wexler issued a statement on July 13, 2005 recognizing **Carole Tyson** and **BPIA** for taking part in a bipartisan demonstration of support for the *National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur*. In addition to Dr. Tyson the congressman acknowledged other senators, congresspeople and leaders of organizations for their support. In Congressman Wexler's words, "Humanity has a moral obligation to ensure that the darkest moments in history are not repeated and the National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection is an opportunity for people of all religions and ethnicities to



speak out against these atrocities and pray for a future of peace."

BPIA past President **Dr. Carole H. Tyson** now heads Henderson's Global Voices, LLC, a bureau of speakers and experts on International and Global Affairs. Our global world is quickly changing. In the past few years, we have witnessed enormous shifts in political, economic, social and religious relations. These changes affect us from the broadest to the most personal levels. Henderson's Global Voices provides key information and helps make sense of the new global world. It offers experienced speakers and experts on a range of subjects for conferences, conventions, seminars, commencements, Black History

Month, Women's History Month, board meetings and other venues. View its website at www.hendersonsglobalvoices.com.

Ronald Palmer recently published "Terrorism in Southeast Asia: Malaysia, Singapore, The Philippines and Indonesia," an essay in *Global Terrorism: Assessing the American Response*. His article "China's Global Ascent" was published at americandiplomacy.org, and an article on William Paul Quinn, AME Senior Bishop, 1849-1872, was published in the September 2004 issue of the "AME Church Review." Palmer also made presentations at the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Annual Conference and the Asia Pacific Roundtable.