



100 CEOs For Girl Education

African Development Bank; KPMG; Shoreline Group, Access Bank UK and Oando join global leaders in international development to take action for the Girl Child in Nigeria at the 2nd Annual CEO Forum on Children's Rights held in London by the Foundation for CSR & Children's Rights. #IDG2014 #GirlDividendNG



[Back Row from Left to Right]: Charles Adeogun Phillips; Dr Showunmi (IOE); Roger McCormick (CCP Research); Christianne Cavaliere (GBC Education); Ebele Ogbue; Zane Lababidi (Pisces Power); Kola Karim (Shoreline Group); Dr Femi Aynatuga; Mr Ememandu (Access Bank); [Middle Row from Left to Right]: Dame Abbot MP - UK Parliament; Dr Nazma Kabir (Plan UK); Professor Pauline Rose (Cambridge University); Chris Yates (IOE); Alkasim Abdulkabir; Mr Okunfulure. [Front Row from Left to Right]: Toyin Olakanpo (CSR Children), Lord Hastings (KPMG) ; Cecilia Akintomide (African Development Bank)

On October 8, 2014 global leaders in International development and top Nigerian CEOs gathered to discuss the Girl Dividend and take action for the Girl Child in Nigeria, to implement new interventions that will help Nigeria achieve more success in the Millennium Development Goals at the 2nd Annual CEO Forum on Children's Rights held by the Foundation for CSR & Children's Rights ("CSR Children") at the offices of KPMG in London.

Lord Michael Hastings of KPMG delivered the Opening Address and was the host of the day; and Cecilia Akintomide of the African Development Bank was the Keynote Speaker. Diane Abbot, Member of the UK Parliament was also a special guest.

The event was described by Geoff Thompson of the Kola Aluko Foundation as "a gathering of extraordinary Nigerians, contributing to the historic debate, dialogue and discussion on the economic and social opportunities empowering young girls through education can bring" and was attended by NGO and international development giants like Save The Children; Plan UK and the Global Business Coalition.

Toyin Olakanpo, the President of the Foundation tasked the audience in her Welcome Address to consider how Nigeria's impressive economic gains and GDP performance could be converted into real gains in human development and children's rights. She highlighted the 10.5 million out of school children population that Nigeria had - the largest in the world; and further identified that the key to Nigeria's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was tied to a serious commitment to make a social investment in children's rights; and that a commitment to promote the education of girls was a vital piece of the puzzle. New interventions were needed to achieve sustainable results and Lord Hastings in his Opening Address referred to the success of Nigeria in containing Ebola to emphasise that the country was up to the task of tackling the Education crisis.

The first panel session entitled "the Statistics Don't Lie" was moderated by Chris Yates of the Institute of Education, University of London; and had the participation of leading authorities in international development like Professor Pauline Rose, former Director of the UNESCO EFA Report and the Current Professor of International Education at Cambridge University; Alkasim Abdulkabir of the Presidential Victim Support Fund Committee (Nigeria); Dr Nazma Kabir of Plan UK and Dr Victoria Showunmi of the IOE.

The panel concluded that CEOs can yield their influence on the government in Nigeria to increase their GDP spend on education which was currently 1.5% and inadequate to deal with the education crisis. The panel also encouraged a shift from the emphasized interventions of the past on infrastructure and resources to interventions which sought to change social norms and cultural attitudes. Diane Abbot MP who was in attendance reminded the audience that: *"100 years ago the British Working Class didn't believe in educating girls. Now they do. Culture can change. It just takes time"*

The second panel session was moderated by Roger McCormick, former visiting Professor at London School of Economics and current Managing Director of CCP Research Foundation CIC. The panel were asked to look at strategy to secure the executive buy-in of senior executives to adopt child rights policies and to see which other stockholders could be engaged. Christianne Cavaliere of the Global Business Coalition joined this panel and shared the work of GBC Education especially in regard to the Safe School Initiative launched in Nigeria this year; and Lord Hastings also joined this panel sharing his experience as a Trustee of Vodafone Group Foundation and his existing senior executive position at KPMG.

The Nigeria CEOs and Executives in attendance from Shoreline Group, Access Bank UK and Oando represented over N500 billion naira in turnover for the year 2013. It was evident that the private sector wanted to work with agencies to put Nigeria on the development track for success in the MDGs but they expressed frustration in dealing with the bureaucracy of government. Mr Kola Karim, GMD for Shoreline Group also called for more impact assessment on CSR spend.

Cecilia Akintomide in her Keynote Address highlighted that the Girl Dividend is a critical part of the work force of the future. Realizing this dividend will require effective partnerships between the public and private sector, facilitated by non-governmental organizations such as CSR Children.

Akintomide revealed that an estimated 43% of Nigeria's 177 million population are children; with 48% of these children (37 million) being girls. She said that our commitment to invest in the children would be a major determinant for the future of Nigeria. The children are the pipeline of the future and our actions will determine whether they become a dividend, tax or burden.

To conclude the forum and to meet the feedback of those present that action was needed beyond dialogue, the **100 CEOs For Girls Education initiative was launched** tasking CEOs to support girl child education both financially and personally, “transforming Nigeria one girl at a time.”

A robust framework is being developed for the **100 CEOs for Girls Education** by CSR Children in consultation with the African Development Bank and other stakeholders, with a Congress being held in Nigeria, in October 2015, to cement all commitments.

Olakanpo said that the commitment being sought from the CEOs will focus on the financial support of mentoring programs; education and awareness programs on a national scale in line with the Girl Education Project launched by CSR Children in June 2014; School Assistance Funding; Research and Impact Assessment and the adoption of a Children's Rights Policy Statement. She said that the 100 CEOs will comprise of 100 CEOs from across Africa and not just Nigeria.

Other attendees included Mercy Corps; Save The Children; Members of the London School of Economics Africa Summit; Representative from TEDxEuston and the Kola Aluko Foundation.

Another guest commented that “It was inspiring to see highly successful black professionals coming together in a spirit of mutual co-operation and benefit for the future of Nigeria and Africa - our youth.”

(A full list of attendee can be found here)!

http://csr-ceoforum.com/2014/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/guest-list-print_v1.pdf.

Videos: YouTube Channel “CSR Children”

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