

ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change
www.sfu.ca/diasporas



Photo courtesy of: VanLanka Community Foundation

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Dialogue Program Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development

Moderated by: **Margaret Gallagher, CBC Radio**

January 19, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, followed by a reception

SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings Street

Dialogue Purpose

This dialogue is part of an ongoing public engagement series that examines the unique role of the diaspora resident in Vancouver who are committed financially and personally to development activities in the global south. Diaspora-driven development efforts have a powerful impact in the global south that reverberates here in Metro Vancouver. While often informal or grassroots, these initiatives demonstrate the benefits and unique strengths of the diaspora – cultural awareness of communities of origin and residence, fluency working in dual cultures, awareness of local issues and concerns (trans-local), and long-term personal commitment to projects and communities.

This dialogue foregrounds the innovative ways diaspora-driven initiatives are contributing to poverty reduction and economic development.

Program

6:30 pm Welcome, Setting the Stage for Dialogue on Diaspora in Development

- **Margaret Gallagher**, CBC Radio Moderator
- **James Busumtwi-Sam**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Simon Fraser University
- **Joanna Ashworth & Shaheen Nanji**, Project Co-Directors, Simon Fraser University

Dialogue: What brings you here?

Responding to Basic Needs Through Grassroots Mobilization

- **Kaye Kerlande**, Hearts Hands Minds for Haiti – Emergency Response in Haiti
- **Sumana Wijeratna**, VanLanka Community Foundation – Grassroots Community Development in Sri Lanka
- **Lorie Corcuera**, Enspire Foundation – Housing in the Philippines

Dialogue: Sharing Experiences of Diaspora in Development; What is the unique position of the diaspora to engage in innovative poverty reduction initiatives?

Respondent: **June Francis**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business Administration, Simon Fraser University

Business as Economic Development

- **Miriam Megwalu**, Investing in Small Business in Northern Uganda
- **Antonio Arreaga**, Connecting Across Sectors and Networks in Latin America

Dialogue: What are the potential benefits of diaspora business ventures in the economic well-being of Canada and communities in the Global South?

Final Reflections: Tapping the Potential: Learning from the Diaspora

Respondent: **Alexander Dawson**, Associate Professor, Department of History and Director, Latin American Studies, Simon Fraser University

8:30 pm Adjourn/Reception in Atrium

Note: This program is being photographed and videotaped. Please notify one of our organizers if you do not wish to be photographed or/and videotaped.

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Project partners:



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MORRIS J. WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE **



BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



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Speakers

ANTONIO ARREAGA is a founding member of the Ethno Business Council of BC and the Canadian Latin American Business Association. He is also the Director of Grupo Latino Americano de Exportaciones (GRULEX), Director of the Canadian Council for the Americas BC Chapter, Honorary Consul of Costa Rica in BC, and recipient of the Capilano University Service President's Award 2010.

JOANNA ASHWORTH is Associate Director for the Bolivia Community Economic Development project and advises community organizations throughout BC on multicultural dialogue planning. She is a senior research associate at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development. Joanna is also co-director of the Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping our Trans-local Potential for Change project.

JAMES BUSUMTWI-SAM is an Associate Professor specializing in International Relations and Comparative Development in the Department of Political Science at SFU. His primary interests include International Organization, the Political Economy of Development and Security, and International Relations theory. His regional specialization is African politics and development. He has published on international organizations and regional security, the political economy of macroeconomic policy reform and financial liberalization in developing countries, and international financial institutions.

LORIE CORCUERA is a Co-Founder and Director of Enspire Foundation and has been an active member since its inception in 1999. She earned a BA in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of British Columbia, where she served as the President of the Filipino Students Association and Vice President of the Industrial Relations Management Club. She currently manages the Human Resources operations of a Vancouver based mobile entertainment company. Through Enspire's initiatives, individuals have the opportunity to grow themselves, whether through education, travel, or volunteer work. For more details, please visit <http://enspireme.org/>

ALEXANDER DAWSON is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and Latin American Studies program at SFU. He earned a PhD in Latin American History from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1997 and came to SFU in 2003 after spending five years at Montana State University. During his time teaching in the US he also spent periods at the University of Florida and Yale University.

JUNE FRANCIS is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration and an Associate of the Latin American Studies program at SFU. Her interest include the determinants of export success for information technology and high technology firms, the role of cultural values stereotyping and intergroup relations in business activities, and the policies that undermine the development of business in the global south, particularly in countries affected by security issues. Originally from Jamaica, June moved to Canada to earn her MBA at York University and to the United States to earn her PhD at University of Washington.

MARGARET GALLAGHER is an award-winning writer and broadcaster. Her search for stories has taken her over mountains, down back alleys, and through the heart of the city. She has been a regular part of CBC Radio One's the Early edition since 2001. Last year, Margaret also took over the reins as the host of Hot Air, Canada's longest running jazz program. Margaret graduated from SFU in 1990 with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. She has a keen interest in community and development issues.

KAYE KERLANDE was born and raised in Montreal and moved to Vancouver 10 years ago. Her parents are Haitians and she has learned her cultural heritage from her family. Kaye founded Hearts Hands Minds for Haiti to raise funds and awareness for the people suffering in Haiti following the earthquake one year ago. For more details, please contact kerlandes@gmail.com.

MIRIAM MEGWALU emigrated from Uganda to Canada in 1996. She is the mother of three girls and very passionate about the care, nutrition and upbringing of children. She works in a pharmaceutical firm that specializes in natural vitamins and minerals as a senior quality assurance inspector. After visiting her village in Northern Uganda in 2005 for the first time since settling in Canada, she saw many mothers and grandmothers taking care of young children with no resources and much adversity. She found a way to help.

SHAHEEN NANJI is Director of International Development and Faculty Engagement at SFU. She co-directs Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping our Trans-local Potential for Change and oversees CIDA projects in China and Kenya. Shaheen is working on a Masters of Arts in International Studies, with a focus on diasporic influences on development. Born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, Shaheen moved to Vancouver in 1989 and has firsthand understanding of the ways diaspora communities seek to give back to their birth nations.

SUMANA WIJERATNA is an urban planner from Sri Lanka. She has been the Project Manager at the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) and has worked as a project specialist in sustainable community development projects for many years in Sri Lanka. She recently founded the VanLanka Community Foundation as a way to involve the larger community in her activities. For more details, please visit <http://vanlanka.com/index.html>

Next dialogue in the series:

Improving Health

March 16, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

Upcoming Diaspora Leaders Workshop:

March – July 2011

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