

**Africa Global Sister Cities Foundation  
Africa Speaks!  
May 8-16, 2010  
Accra International Convention Center  
Accra, Ghana**

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**

**11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Registration Desk opens

Location: Accra International Convention Center (AICC)

**SUNDAY, MAY 9**

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Registration

Location: AICC

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

Orientation Session/Welcome Reception

Location: Osekan Beach Resort

**MONDAY, MAY 10**

**7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Registration

Location: AICC

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Grand Opening Ceremony of the Conference

Location: AICC

Speakers:

Prince Kwame Kludjeson, President Chair, AGSCF

Michael Hyatt, Board Chairman, Sister Cities International

Patrick Madden, President & CEO, Sister Cities International

Minister for Local Government & Rural Development

Minister for Chieftaincy and Culture

President of the National House of Chiefs

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Professor John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Trade & Exhibition open

Location: AICC

**2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Reception hosted by the King of the Ga at his palace. Buses will be provided to transport participants from the AICC.

**TUESDAY, MAY 11**

**7:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

Registration

Location: AICC

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Plenary Session

Location: AICC

**Speakers:**

Prince Kwame Kludjeson, President Chair, AGSCF

Patrick Madden, President & CEO, Sister Cities International

This session will explore three main topics:

- **The Co-Existence of the Traditional Ruler and the Local Government Authority to Strengthen Sister Cities Partnerships:** This session will highlight the difference and similarities of the traditional ruler and the local government authority. The session will expand to discuss the roles the traditional ruler and local authorities play in developing and maintaining a sister city relationship.
- **Harnessing Public-Private Relationships to Meet Public Need:** Historically, the public-private sector relationship has addressed some of the most pressing issues of our time. Join a panel of experts as they share how to create and implement a successful public-private sector relationship.
- **Elected Officials and Citizens – Partners for Growth:** Join a panel of U.S. elected officials as they share lessons learned through their own local growth process that can be applied to cities throughout Africa.

**11:00 – 11:25 a.m.**

Tea Break. Tea and refreshments will be provided.

**11:30 – 12:30 p.m.**

Inter-Country Local Government & Chieftaincy Overview

Location: TBD

This session provides an opportunity for African country representatives to give an overview of local governance and chieftaincy in their respective countries and to have an open dialogue on best practices.

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Lunch—menu and location TBD

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Workshop Sessions

Location: AICC Committee Room 1, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

- **Starting a Sister City Relationship:** How do you start a sister city relationship? Attendees of this session will learn everything they need to know about the subject.
- **Disaster & Humanitarian Response: Innovations in Preparedness:** When disaster strikes, how can lessons learned elsewhere help local communities recover? Join a panel of experts as they discuss how local communities can leverage their sister city relationships to expedite disaster recovery.
- **Africa in Search of Leaders of Hope and Inspiration:** What makes a good leader? What are leadership roles? Join a panel of experts as they define what it is to be a leader in Africa today. The panel will look at lessons learned from past leaders to inspire the next generation.

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Cross-cultural Networking—location TBD

Participants will have the opportunity to interact and share best practices of city-to-city partnerships and inter-nation projects that help sustain the sister cities program in Africa.

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

AGSCF Country Coordinators Meeting—location TBD

This session is open to all current and potential AGSCF coordinators. Attendees will discuss the implementation of AGSCF's vision of creating, strengthening and promoting sister cities partnerships in Africa.

**7:30 – 10:00 p.m.**

Welcome Reception hosted by the Mayor of Accra—location TBD

An evening reception hosted by the Mayor of Accra where event attendees will be officially welcomed to the city.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Workshop Sessions

Location: AICC Committee Room 1, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

- The Decentralization Program in Africa: Problems and Prospects: This session will discuss the political decentralization in Africa, its creation, implementation and outcomes. It will also address its prospects moving forward.
- The Co-Existence of Modern and Traditional Political Authorities in Africa: Past, Present and Future: Political leadership in cities across Africa has drastically shifted since pre-colonial times. This session will examine the challenges and opportunities that have existed between traditional and modern authorities during this evolution.
- Developing Joint Venture Partnerships in Africa: Legal Implications of International Contracts and Agreements: Attendees in this session will learn about all the challenges and opportunities of joint-venture partnerships. Participants will gain valuable information on legal agreements and contracts, the international business system, and how joint venture partnerships will help Africa meet the Millennium Development Goals.

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Discussion Forum—location TBD

A moderator will facilitate discussions on Sister Cities, chieftaincy and local government problems and prospects.

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Lunch—menu and location TBD

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

AUPAP Workshop—location TBD

Moderator: Jim Doumas, Executive Vice President, Sister Cities International

U.S.–Africa Sister City partners participating in Sister Cities International’s Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Project (AUPAP) grant will showcase their ongoing projects.

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Trade & Exhibition open

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Cross-cultural Networking—location TBD

Participants will have the opportunity to interact and share best practices of their sister cities partnerships and inter-nation projects that have sustained the sister cities program in Africa.

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Workshop Sessions

Location: AICC Committee Room 1, Meeting Room 1&2

- The Recognition of the Traditional Ruler in Modern African Societies: The role of traditional leaders in modern Africa is complex and multifaceted. This session will address how a role often viewed as antiquated can exist in a modern African democratic society.

- The Role of the African Traditional Ruler in Local Governance and Development: A Tool to Conquer Poverty in Africa: Traditional rulers can play a key role in reducing poverty in their district through partnering. This session will provide traditional rulers with tips and tools to engage development partners. Attendees will also hear about one traditional ruler's successful development project.
- The Contribution of the Chief in Conquering African Poverty

**7:30 – 10:00 p.m.**

African Cultural Night

Location: National Theater, Cantonments Road, Accra

Prepare for an African cultural experience like none other! This evening event will highlight music and dance from around Africa.

**THURSDAY, MAY 13**

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

Plenary Session—location TBD

- How Can the Chief/Traditional Ruler Raise Funds to Support Community Projects?: This session will provide chiefs/traditional rulers with resources for supporting community projects. Attendees will receive information on fund-raising, outreach and financial strategies.
- Land Litigation Instead of Economic Development: This session will address the direct impact of economic development on land litigation. Attendees will learn the causes and consequences of land litigation and how African can benefit from strategic economic development.

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Workshop Sessions

Location: AICC Committee Room 1, Meeting Room 1&2

- The Perspectives of Decentralization of Political Authority in Francophone Africa - Experience Sharing: This session will highlight the issues related to political decentralization in Francophone Africa. The session will also examine possible solutions for moving forward.
- The Perspectives of the Role of the Chief in Francophone Africa's Politics: A chief in Francophone Africa plays a unique role. This session will discuss that role and its impact on local governance and overall development.
- The Chief and the Mayor: Partners in Peace and Development of the Local Community: Join a panel of traditional leaders and mayors as they discuss the challenges and opportunities of collaborating across governing lines.

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

AUPAP Workshop—location TBD

Moderator: Jim Dumas, Executive Vice President, Sister Cities International

U.S.–Africa Sister City partners participating in Sister Cities International's Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Project (AUPAP) grant will showcase their ongoing projects.

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Trade & Exhibition Open

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Lunch—menu and location TBD

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Mayoral Conference (Mayors and Invited Attendees only)—location TBD

- Opportunities and Challenges of Extending Telecommunication Networks to Rural Communities in Africa (Rural Telephony)

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Women's Forum—location TBD

- Making Their Mark: Women's Empowerment in the New Millennium: This session is open to all attendees. Join your peers as they discuss how women around the world can play roles in their communities to improve health, education, the economy and political equality for all. Come learn how long-term peace and sustainable development can be achieved through the education and empowerment of women.

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

Cross-cultural Networking—location TBD

Participants will have the opportunity to interact and share best practices of their sister cities partnerships and inter-nation projects that have sustained the sister cities program in Africa.

**9:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

Courtesy Calls (strictly reserved)

**7:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

AGSCF – Little Rock, AR 2010 Conference Reception—location TBD

Join your sister cities peers from Little Rock, Arkansas, as they host a reception to launch AGSCF's 2010 AGRIC Conference to be held in their city.

**FRIDAY, MAY 14**

**8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

Presentation of Awards—location TBD

Join us as we honor trailblazers of the sister cities movement as well as local and national dignitaries who have conscientiously supported the cause of AGSCF.

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Close Deals

This session gives conference participants the opportunity to meet, be it as individuals or corporations, to deliberate their own agendas.

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Photo Opportunities

**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.**

Announcements

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Lunch—menu and location TBD

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Grand Closing Ceremony

Speakers:

H. E. John D. Mahama, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

Patrick M. Madden, President & CEO, Sister Cities International

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Trade & Exhibition

**3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

One on One/Musical Interlude—location TBD

**SATURDAY, MAY 15**

**8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Sports Event/Grand Durbar

This session is optional. Additional information forthcoming.

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

AUPAP Training—location TBD

This training session will be for the seven Phase 1 U.S. cities and their African counterparts in Sister Cities International's Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program.

**7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.**

Closing Banquet

Location: Banquet Hall, State House

This dinner session will bring together conference attendees with sponsors and key organizers to close the conference in style. Special thanks will be given to sponsors and corporate partners that have made the conference possible.

**May 16, 2010**

Departure & Tour