

AKWA IBOMITES IN THE DIASPORA

2009 AKISAN National Convention

Business Exposition

- Participants that own or manage businesses.
- Participants that are interested in doing business in Nigeria especially in Akwa Ibom State.
- Participants that are interested in Global Business.
- Americans that are interested in doing business with Africa.

You've got to attend the business forum, on Friday August 14th 2009, 8:00am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Great lake Room) Dearborn Michigan.

Introduction

In America and Nigeria (which Akwa Ibom is a part), no one knows yet what the full scale of the global economic crisis will look like, but we do know that men, women and children in our countries will bear the brunt of the impact. What started as a financial crisis in rich countries is now deepening into a global economic crisis that is adding to the already high level of poverty and unemployment in the developing countries.

The 22nd Annual Convention of Akwa Ibom People holding in the Detroit, Michigan, USA, between August 13th – 16th 2009 (*with the theme: “**Building a Bridge to Unlimited Socio-Economic Potentials in Akwa Ibom State through Partnership and Collaboration**”*), presents us an opportunity to rally a response focused on the most effective economic agents of change: men and women of USA and Nigeria, forging together, co-operating and collaborating, partnering and/or venturing together on Trade and Investments between both continents. Trade and Investments create jobs, wealth and employment opportunities and build Nations and States. *The Time to forge successful business relations is Now.*

2.0 Establishing US Business Links With Akwa Ibom State

Listed hereunder are key areas of Trade and Investments opportunities ready for building links between USA and Akwa Ibom:

- ❖ Access (Water, Rail)
- ❖ Agriculture & Agric/Food Processing
- ❖ Aviation/Airport Services
- ❖ CAD-2D Detailing, 3D Modeling
- ❖ Construction (Homes, Office Building, Health facilities etc)
- ❖ Creating Supply chain in key businesses
- ❖ Energy/Alternative Energy (Oil and Gas, Solar, Wind)
- ❖ Exporting under AGOA
- ❖ Engineering and Hi Tech Service
- ❖ Fabrication of parts

- ❖ Health Care and Health Care Supplies
- ❖ Infrastructure Development and Management
- ❖ Logistics Management
- ❖ Manufacturers/Suppliers
- ❖ Manufacturing (machine shop, etc)
- ❖ Product Design and Development
- ❖ Tourism (Hotels, sea front cottage Homes, Recreation parks)
- ❖ Trucking
- ❖ Warehousing/Distributing

3.0 The Challenge

To all of our fellow Nigerians, brothers and sisters, particularly Akwa Ibomites in the Diaspora we make bold to inform you that the time is right for Trade and Investment between the USA and Akwa Ibom State. We believe you have heard of the ongoing massive road network throughout Akwa Ibom State, the International Hangar/Cargo Airport and Independent Power Project at advanced stage of completion, the Ultra Modern 5-Star Le Meridien Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort, the Tropicana Entertainment Centre and Galleria Complex sited in Uyo, the Seaport and Business City sited at Ibaka, Mbo Local Government Area and His Excellency's determined zeal to make Akwa Ibom a Tourist Destination. All these present enormous Trade and Investment opportunities in Akwa Ibom State.

For example, Tropicana Galleria will require large quantities of goods manufactured in Akwa Ibom State and abroad for display and marketing. The International Air and Sea ports will require intermodal services, logistics management, Import Export trade, Container freight stations, trucking, packaging, warehousing and distribution and Heavy duty trucks.

The truth, however, is that Government cannot do it alone. The challenge therefore is that, while Government puts down the necessary infrastructure, the citizens and other investors at home and abroad must join hands in the process of State building, employment generation and wealth creation through investment in industries, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and services.

Akwa Ibom State currently offers Opportunities for business minded partners to be successful, if they have dedication and have the right products or services. Akwa Ibom State is destined to be a dominant economic and political power in Nigeria and as a tourist destination is poised to significantly influence events in the country.

On the other hand, the United States has significant economic interest in Nigeria, which Akwa Ibom State is a part, particularly considering Exxon Mobil investments in the State. Therefore, Akwa Ibom is:-

- Supplier of petroleum to the US.
- Part of a large market for US products in Nigeria.
- International Oil Company, operating in Akwa Ibom State, spends billions of dollars annually in exploration, production and new capital

investments. Oil accounts for 90% of Nigeria exports in which Akwa Ibom State plays a major role.

- With the current economic situation globally, US Companies particularly those owned by African Americans and Akwa Ibomites in the USA, should be in position to compete for major opportunities, market share increase, and growth in Nigeria.
- The US Government, through her Agencies like The US EXIMBANK, The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), The United States International Development Agency (USAID), African Development Fund (ADF), Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), The Small Business Administration (SBA), The US Trade Development Agency (USTDA), and many States Agencies in the USA, offer advise, loans, finance, grants, insurance and guarantee programs to give Americans the opportunity for trade and Investment in developing countries, including Nigeria. The TIME IS RIGHT TO ACCESS THESE PROGRAMS FOR TRADE WITH AND INVESTMENT IN AKWA IBOM STATE.
- It is therefore our collective duty to make sure Akwa Ibom and her people at Home and Diaspora are positioned to take advantage of the opportunities

4.0 Plan Of Action

As mentioned earlier, the 22nd Annual Convention of Akwa Ibom People holding in Detroit, Michigan, USA, between August 13th – 16th, 2009, presents us an opportunity to rally a response focused on the most effective economic agents of change: men and women of USA and Nigeria, Akwa Ibom, forging together, co-operating and collaborating, partnering and/or venturing together on Trade and Investments between both continents.

The Asian Tigers have done it. It is time for African Lions to do it.

In light of this therefore, we are working with the Organizing Committee of the Business Forum scheduled for Friday August 14th 2009 from 9am – 5pm at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn, Michigan, on the following plan of action:

1. Akwa Ibom State delegation (Public and Private sector) led by the Governor, has been invited to attend and make presentation based on some of the suggestions outlined above.
2. Akwa Ibom State delegation meets with key manufacturers and suppliers to establish business links and partnerships.
3. Companies and Government officials in the US will be invited to meet and discuss action plan and implementation strategies.
4. Trade mission to Akwa Ibom State should be arranged.

5. Lead efforts to build a sustainable community for Akwa Ibomites at Home and Diaspora and African American in US to provide mutually beneficial opportunities for Trade and Investment.
6. Enhance communication and dialogue to develop relationship, inform and educate Americans especially African Americans about Akwa Ibom State and its potential business opportunities.
7. Invite the Michigan Suppliers and Business Development Council to host their Annual Invitational Golf Tournament in Akwa Ibom State. May 2009 was the 25th Annual Golf Tournament of the Association. The Michigan Suppliers and Business Development Council has over 3,500 corporate members.
8. Visit to "FOCUS HOPE", a high-tech Design: CAD-2D Detailing, 3D Modeling Skills Development Facility and other manufacturing, Aviation/Airport Support and Supply Chain Service companies.

5.0 Prayer

His Excellency is requested to please consider:-

- (i) The benefits of the above plan of action to business development and job creation in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

The need exist for Americans and Akwa Ibomites in the Diaspora to establish business links with their counterparts in Akwa Ibom.

We are requesting that all interested participants should meet at the Great Lakes Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 6:00pm Friday August 13th (just before the Governor's Ball), for a short brain storming session, before the

Forum. You should also pre-register for the forum by emailing your name, and profile of your company to: otwinehenry@sbcglobal.net or awe20045@hotmail.com.

Companies interested in participating as presenter, should indicated so in their profile. For additional information please call 313-683-5573.

Sincerely,

Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria U.S.A Inc.,

African World EXPO,

Anieno Associates

Members of the business committee.
