

IAYSP Ghana's Annual Peace Legacy Summit on Nelson Mandela Day

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IAYSP Ghana organized the annual Peace Legacy Summit to Mark the International Day of Nelson Mandela in collaboration with: The Mandela Legacy Foundation of South Africa, Ghana National Scout Association (Greater Accra) and The Pan African Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development Centre of Nigeria to underscore Mandela's legacy as an asset in the quest for sustainable solutions to peace and reconciliation during this period of global uncertainty.

The event featured great personalities, like: CEO of Crypto Launchpad – Adiraj Gupta (New Zealand), CEO of Success World 1 – HRH. Queen Nadia Harihiri (France), Osun State Assemblyman and Chief Whip– Hon. Tunde Olatunji (Nigeria), 1st Face of Guns Down Africa – Amb. Marcus Love Anafu N. (Ghana), Winner of TV3 Most Talented Kid – Nakeeyat Dramani Sam (Ghana), The Winner of the Most Beautiful Girl in the World – Jared Ijalana (Nigeria), Secretary General of SACONO – Tintswalo Cassandra Makhubele (South Africa), Alhaji Dr. Ahmed Vanderpuije – Nigeria Balogun and Baba Adini of Yorubas in Ghana and the International President of IAYSP – Koji Matsuda from Japan. Worthy of note is the fact that the 2018 Peace Legacy Summit for Nelson Mandela was held under the auspices of His Excellency John Jerry Rawlings – the former President of Ghana.

The recent Summit was held on July 18, 2020, in celebration of Nelson Mandela's 102nd birthday under the theme, "A Peace Legacy with Universally Shared Values: The Model for the African Youth". The event was a two hour webinar on Zoom, chaired by Tegha King; President of IAYSP Ghana. Rev. King set the tone of the gathering by craving the indulgence of the speakers, to give a minute of silence to the memories of Zindzi Mandela – South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark, and last Child of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, who had died a few days before the event.

Speakers during the Summit delved on various topics including: themes on, Agriculture, the bearing of good Character on Leadership, the impact of Mandela on youths, Covid 19 and the Black Lives Matter sensation. H.R.H Queen Nadia Harihiri, a woman leader from France and a great friend of Africa, stressed on the importance of human impartiality and said, Humanity's equality is judged by the color of her blood and the belief of superiority is an illusion. She also underscored the importance of the feminine touch on leadership, in bringing about a world of sustainable peace. She lit a candle and referred to the act as a ceremony of respect to the Legacy of Mandela and her sincere love for humanity. The Chief of the Yorubas ethnic group in Ghana, Alhaji Dr. Ahmed Vanderpuije used the occasion to underline the socioeconomic and political imbalances on the globe and how these will impact Peacebuilding activities, if the incongruities are timely regulated during this covid 19 crisis.

Mrs. Tintswalo Cassandra Makhubele, from South Africa and Secretary General of the SACONO who conspicuously represented Nelson Mandela's nation, spoke on the topic, "Peace Legacy, Shared values in Agribusinesses, Indigenous foods, health and healing for Africa." She stressed that, no matter how much the covid 19 pandemic would wrought the earth, Africa can survive thanks to her vast and rich landscape. In her picture presentation, she cited that it only takes a few grains into the soil to start harvesting abundance after a few months of patience. She encouraged the African youth to massively adventure into

Agribusiness which she considers as the Main Legacy of Africans' forefathers and heroes.

The chief whip of Osun State in Nigeria, Honorable Tunde Olatunji emphasized that, the trajectory of Africa's development resided within the youths and therefore education of the young people has to be prioritized by African governments. A young Entrepreneur from New Zealand and CEO of Crypto Launchpad, Adiraj Gupta employed the youths in the summit to take advantage of the times and connect with other youths to antedate and solidify global interrelations.

Marcus Love Anaful, a youth leader from Ghana, who was once a street boy; selling kerosene to survive, expressed how it is important for the African youth to tape on the words of Nelson Mandela and be guided to empathy and good leadership. He said education is the fulcrum on which a child of a farmer can become a head of state, and pointed out that Mandela himself came from such a humble Agricultural background. Mr. Marcus posited that, without education, Mandela's imprisonment would not have meant much for the world; a fact that needs no further explanation.

The international president of Youth and Students for Peace, Mr. Koji Matsuda, all the way from Japan, highlighted the works of YSP Japan and other chapters. He indicated that, the service projects and Character Education Curricular that have been applied in various nations by the organization have chalked a great amount of transformation in youths' behavior to the commendation of several state leaders. Mr. Koji emphasized that the IAYSP formulates and implements programs directed toward supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

President Koji Matsuda read out the citations of two young people who were conferred with the Ambassador for Peace Award namely: Mr. Adebayo Ezekiel Ogunjobi; a peace Activist from Nigeria and Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, a kid legend in the arena of Ghanaian poetry and an environmental advocate. The occasion also witnessed a poem from Jare Ijalana, winner of Yahoo Lifestyle's "Most Beautiful Girl in the World" beauty pageant.

Hon. Samia Nkrumah, the Chair of Convention People's Party, and daughter of the first president of Ghana – Kwame Nkrumah, made remarks underscoring the importance of the Unity of the African. She said the Development of the continent, even in a post Covid 19 atmosphere will depend on how the leaders of Africa harness Africa's human resources and encourage trade within the fringes of the continent. The closing remarks were made by the chair of the event who also crowned the program with a closing prayer. Comments on Facebook and other social media outlets testify to the success of the venture.

About two thousand people were reached on social media and an average of a thousand views were observed while six hundred and more engagements were noticed within the first few days after the live relay on Facebook. The summit has been appreciated by many including conventional media outlets such as TV3. The Station extended an invitation to the leadership of IAYSP – Ghana to espouse the vision of the Summit on Television.

The sociocultural, economic and political instability around the globe nowadays, particularly the Covid 19 and the tragedy that surrounded the death of George Floyd in America; inciting the Black Lives Matter movement, and their global impacts, inspired the International Association of Youths and Students for Peace in Ghana to formulate the theme for the summit of this year; drawing attention to the fact that, Mandela's Legacy is one of the biggest Social Capital Africa possesses, and that it can serve as a great tool for humanity's cohesion.