

Chimera™

Volume 1, Issue 4/Winter 2003©

Published by: USA/Africa Institute
Chairman/President:

Honorable Matthew J. Meadows

Secretary/President Elect: Dr. Donna Elam

Executive Director: Peter Harris

Managing Editor: Karema Tyms Harris

Circulation & Production Manager:

Amy Houston

Graphic Design: Uzzell Advertising

Circulation:

ADG Business and Governmental Consultants

Contributors:

Dr. Dorina A. Bekoe

International Peace Academy

Hernando de Soto

Institute for Liberty and Democracy

Dr. Adebowale Awosika-Olumo

Bowling Green State University

Salih Booker

Africa Action

William Minter

Africa Focus Bulletin

Address all correspondence to:

USA/Africa Institute

204 South Monroe Street, Suite 203

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Telephone: (850) 205-8723

Facsimile: (850) 224-4630

www.usafrica.org

Chimera™ is interested in original manuscripts concerning US-African relations within the following core areas: diplomacy, health, technology, economic development, education and culture.

The Institute reserves the right to select, reject or edit contributions. Contributions may be sent via e-mail to Chimera@usafrica.org. The Institute accepts no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

Chimera™ is a copyrighted publication and all rights are reserved to the USA/Africa Institute. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is strictly prohibited. The views expressed in the articles are intended to stimulate thought and exchanges. They are the sole opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the USA/Africa Institute.

ISSN Online: 1546-1122

ISSN Print: 1546-1130

Publisher's Note

As we bring the inaugural year to a close, I wish to thank the Chair and the Board for their support of Chimera™. We also thank the twenty-five contributors who provided information, analysis and wisdom; the editorial staff and review teams who created the architecture; and, our graphic design team who made Chimera™ visually appealing and easy to use.

For the upcoming year, we promise even more issues that stimulate thought and nurture discussion as well as expanded dissemination of Chimera™.

Africa, with over 800 million inhabitants and the second largest landmass in the world, has tremendous value to the world. According to the Millennium Partnership of the United Nations, Africa's rich complex of mineral deposits, oil and gas, flora and fauna and its unspoiled habitats provide an excellent basis for tourism, agriculture and mining. Further, the ecological lung provided by Africa's rainforests and dearth of hazardous emissions serves all mankind. Africa's diverse cultures and its contributions to literature, music, visual arts and other cultural forms have been well documented. Africa, ancestral home to the global African Diaspora, has excelled in all areas of human endeavor, and represents the world's best opportunity for advancement of truly global partnerships.

Necessary ingredients to successful partnerships include stability and two types of capital: human and monetary. In this issue, Dr. Dorina Bekoe of the International Peace Academy examines the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The APRM provides a tremendous tool for African leaders to manage governance issues within the continent and measure their progress towards NEPAD objectives. She makes recommendations on how to improve its inde-

pendence, financial solvency, and ability to encourage reform.

Economist Hernando DeSoto of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy advises that we must first have a means of capturing and recording transferable property rights. His proven methodology allows us to formalize the majority of the informal economy, which today represents the much of the wealth of Africa. The other wealth that is abundant in Africa, yet undervalued, is the potential of human capital. In measuring human capital, Dr. Adebowale Awosika-Olumo elucidates on an often-overlooked factor in African statistics: adults between the ages of fifteen and fifty-nine.

These people represent the producers in African economies and support both the children and the elderly. The health of adults is essential for the well being of young and old, hence, there is an urgent need to predict the trends and develop policies that deal with the causes of adult morbidity and mortality. Salih Booker of Africa Action and William Minter discuss Nigeria providing background, detailed analysis and substantive recommendations on U. S policy options that are applicable throughout the continent.

As we transition into the New Year and embark upon an ever-broadening global economic order, it is important that we work to create a sustainable governance and business environment in Africa. It is also important that we take stock of our assets and catalogue them in a manner that the global community can recognize to facilitate transactions. We must more effectively monetize intangibles. It is only in this way that we will achieve the stable economies that will in turn create a positive revenue base and stimulate foreign direct investment.