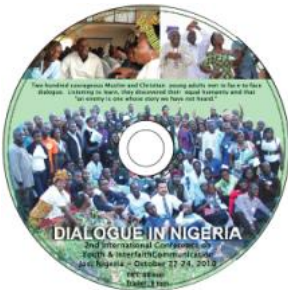


DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA ~ Model of engagement replicated in Ivory Coast (Step #2)

In August 2012, inspired by a powerful 2010 model of face-to-face communication by Nigerian "enemies" and the 2012 documentary film about it, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#), a small group duplicated that [success, among diverse women and men in Cote d'Ivoire](#), facilitated by Offuh James OFFUH, president and founder of the NGO -- **ONG United for Peace Against Conflict International (UFPACI)** in Abidjan.



By 15 November 2012, Step #2 in Akoudo Village, Cote d'Ivoire, similarly gathered women, men, and youth of the alienated Ebrie people and Attie people for a day of healing and communication excellence with UFPACI.

MORNING

Gathering at the Ecole Primaire Publique d'Akoudo



Diro Danho PAUL, chief of Ebrie people (with hat) and other participant-leaders sing the national anthem.



Welcome by Offuh James OFFUH speaking about HUMAN RELATIONSHIP –DEFICIENCY VIRUS (HRV) that leads to Acute Intentional Devastation of Society (HIV), as Akoudo village youth listen.



Police security was deployed by the Ministry of Interior via commissariat du 18eme ARRONDISSEMENT to deployed insure conference safety in the Akoudo village, at the request of UFPACI.



Akoudo Ebrie village Women's Association in charge of the village market, listening with others to the opening messages of Offuh James OFFUH, and of Dr, Atcho Albert DAGO speaking on conflict management.



Ochee OGWA, a journalist working with Nigeria News Agency *Mission Cote d'Ivoire*, encourages you to become artisans of peace by describing his personal experiences of community building, supported by Offuh James OFFUH inspiring toward social cohesion.

REFRESHMENT BREAK



Offuh James OFFUH, ONG UFPACI, and Chief of Akoudo Ebrie village, leadership, and youth club members.



At break time, elders then other participants move toward the stewards for their share of fast food and juices.



Djete ORY and Gnamien Louis PATRICE of ONG UFPACI reminded the peacemakers to have personal courage, love at the heart toward others, for creating building relationships and community. Hired technicians provided event the audio system for wireless microphones and music.

WORKSHOPS



The **Perspective Squares** exercise showed how diverse individuals perceive the same situation differently.



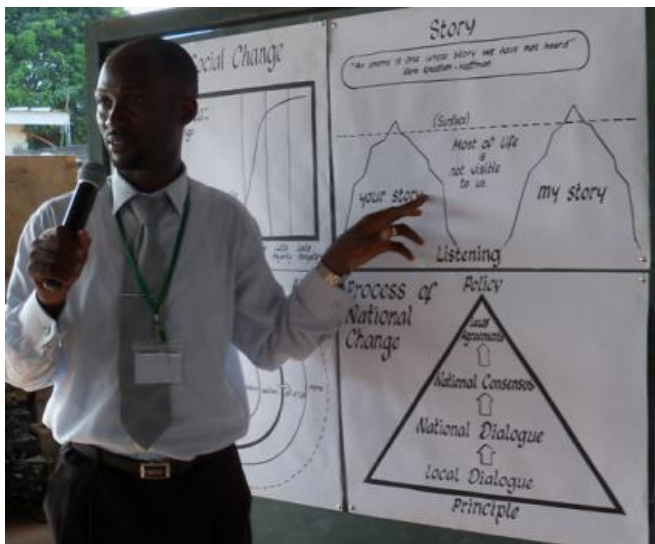
With **Hand Outlines**, a Muslim and Christian (left) and an Attie Akouodo woman and Ebria Akouodo man (right) are from peoples in conflict yet growing closer during workshops to discover similarities, while dignifying and honouring each other.



Akouodo Ebrie and Attie village leadership sitting close together for the first time, for the Hand Outline exercise. They often shared the similarity: "One Country - Cote d'Ivoire."



Kouame N'GUESSAN ZITA, among the leadership of ONG UFPACI, invites the religious communities to cooperate with schools, media, and government institutions to motivate more organized young people to engage in community-based inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. One example of cooperation is this workshop co-sponsored by the non-profit UFPACI and the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue in California, USA.



Offuh James OFFUH prepares people to tell their **Personal Life Narratives** while their partners become good listeners, discovering each other's equal humanity and releasing unprecedented creativity for community-hood.



Attie village group face to face with Ebrie group narrating their stories for each other, dignifying each other, discovering a new quality of listening-to-learn and their equal humanity, experiencing that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard."



Face-to-face for the first time, an Attie woman and Ebrie woman (left) hear each other's Personal Life Narratives, experiencing that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard." And an Attie woman (right) begins first, paired with an Ebrie man who is listening-to-learn.



Participants take important time for thoughtful **Assimilation** of what they have experienced and learned.



The **Masks and Culture Exercise** helps familiarity and trust grow, as Ebrie and Attie leadership and community members -- women, men youth -- discover and reveal what masks they wear in public, and how they can become more human and their true, better selves.



The **Broom Exercise** illustrates strength in unity. A strong person was not able to break the broom in bunch. The woman easily broke a singled out broom stick. When we exclude anyone or compete excessively, we are vulnerable and cannot complete important tasks that benefit all. But in unity we are stronger.



A **Candle Lighting** among the Ebrie people together with the Attie people marked their first time together after many years of inter-community conflicts.





Music and Dance also marked the day of face-to-face healing. An Ebrie man and woman dance with the Attie musician. Then the Ebrie woman and an Attie woman created a dramatic dance they called "Reconciliation - Stop Fighting."



Organizer Offuh James OFFUH of ONG UFPACI appreciated the importance of this breakthrough-day -- a hopeful step into the future.

Djro Danho PAUL – chief of Ebrie, sitting near the Attie chief, expresses thanks to God and UFPACI for initiating the workshop and bringing insight and light to the two villages. He asked all participants to practice all they learned from this conference. The chief proposed that UFPACI re-create this experience again in partnership with them in the near future, so the whole village to benefit from the light. He said they will invite UFPACI to deepen the conversation on this project on how it will reach to all villages that are not privileged to be here .





Ambassador of Peace is bestowed by Offuh James OFFUH, president and founder ONG UFPACI, to distinguish Djro Danho PAUL, chief of Ebrie Akoudo village. Equally honored is Guiako Obin HERVE, chief of the Attie Akoudo village. The certificate is received by his notable on behalf of HERVE.



FAMILY PHOTO -- The UFPACI staff with participants. The police asked permission to join the conference as participants, and they were also issued certificates.

CONTACT:

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End of Seminar

Documents & Conclusions



Certificates given to the villages chiefs (left) and all participants (right).

Conference Program

PROGRAMME DU SEMINAIRE DE FORMATION TRAINING SEMINAR PROGRAM

JEUDI 15 NOVEMBRE 2012 ~ THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2012

- 07h00 :** Mise en place et accueil des invités
Guest Reception
- 08h00 :** Cérémonie d'ouverture, Salut aux couleurs.
Opening Ceremony. Persentation of the colors.
- 08h05 :** Début des Allocutions
Opening Talks
- 08h30-08h45 :** ***Thème Général*** « Bâtir des relations intercommunautaires à travers le dialogue interculturel avec la participation de la jeunesse ».
General Theme: "Building relations through intercultural dialogue with the participation of the youth."
- Intervenant 1 :** **Mr. Offuh James Offuh** Président Fondateur de l'ONG UFPACI
Spécialiste en étude de paix et transformation de conflits.
- Presenter 1:** **Mr Offuh James Offuh** President and Founder of the NGO UFPACI
Specialist in the study of peace and conflict transformation.
- Intervenant2 :** **Dr Dago** Professeur de Sociologie, Communicateur, Gestionnaire des ressources humaines, Sociologue, indicatif et gestion des conflits.
- Presenter 2:** **Dr. Dago** Professor of Sociology, Communicator, Human Resources Manager, Sociologist, demonstration of conflict management.
- 08h45-09h10 :** **Sous thème 1: Dynamique du dialogue dans la prévention du conflit.**
Subtheme 1: Dynamics of dialogue in conflict prevention
- Intervenant :** Des différents membres de l'ONG UFPACI
Presenters: Various members of the NGO UFPACI
- 09h10-09h35 :** **Sous thème 2: Dynamique du dialogue dans la transformation des conflits et la reconstruction des relations intercommunautaires.**
Sub-theme 2: Dynamics of dialogue in conflict transformation and reconstruction of relations.

Intervenant: Monsieur Offuh James Offuh
Presenter: Mr. Offuh James Offuh

09h35-10h00 : *Sous thème 3: Jeunesse Artisan de Paix et de Cohésion sociale.*
Subtheme 3: Youth Artisan of Peace and Social Cohesion

Intervenant: **Ochee Ogwa**, Journaliste international auprès de l'agence de la presse
 Nigéria Mission Côte d'Ivoire
Presenter: **Ochee Ogwa**, Journalist with the international press agency Mission Nigeria
 Côte d'Ivoire

10H PAUSE CAFE ~ COFFEE BREAK

10h30: DEBUT DES ATELIERS BEGINNING OF WORKSHOPS

10h30-10h50: Déglacage (Introduction)
 Ice Breaking (Introduction)

10h50-11h50: Carrés Perspective
 Perspective Squares

12h00-12h30: PAUSE DEJEUNER ~ LUNCH

13h00-13h45: Contours Main
 Hand Outlines

13h45-14h45: Exercice du Masque et de la Culture
 Mask and Culture Exercise

14h45-15h45: Graphiques utiles sur la Communication et le Changement
 Useful graphics about Communication and Change

15h45-16h00: Exercice de Démonstration Broom
 Broom Demonstration Exercise

16h00-16h15: Exercice Lumière de Bougie
 Candle Light Exercise

16h15-17h15: Remise de Diplôme
 Diploma Presentation

17h15-17h30: Séance Photo
 Photo Shoot

17h 45 : FIN DU SEMINAIRE ~ END OF SEMINAR

Facilitator's Assimilation

1. What are your strongest memories of the people and moments?

Doubt and mistrust at first marked my several, early meetings and consultations with the different ethnic groups' leadership. For instance, the Attie Akoudo leaders declined the idea of coming together with the Ebrie Akoudo ethnic group. This rejection delayed the planning. With time and trust-building came the eventual collective agreement and decision for the conference date.

Hour by hour in the conference, with listening-to learn and hearing personal narratives, Attie Akoudo participants grew closer to Ebrie Akoudo women and men. In this safe atmosphere, they increasingly discovered their equivalent humanity via each other's personal stories. The Ebrie Akoudo participants started feeling the hurts and pains the "others" suffered in their hearts for so many years without being expressed or heard. An Attie participant offered his gratitude to God and ONG UFPACI for offering opportunities for them to express themselves before the leadership of Ebrie Akoudo in face-to-face communication.

Realizing their equal humanity is a basic, first step toward hopefully reconciling their serious conflicts like unequal sharing of community resources. During successful face-to-face personal engagement, they temporarily set aside specific disputes to gain intimacy and communication skills. They truly experienced the start of rebuilding broken relationships by dignifying and humanising each other while discovering that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard." They discover an unprecedented collaboration and zeal of working together as ONG UFPACI Ebrie-Attie living room dialogue group to create a new, better community that will benefit all.

We propose continuing an ONG UFPACI Ebrie-Attie Living Room Dialogue. With this initiative, little by little broken relationships are getting healed through determined and committed Ebrie-Attie participants beginning with this conference.

2. What happened?

Divisive questions or problems were minimised for the moment, while individual participants of both ethnic groups began rebuilding broken relationships.

3. What did not happen?

There was no blame, fighting, or critiques from any side.

4. What seemed to mean the most to the people?

They were grateful for the opportunity of gathering together with each other (enemies) for the first time, and the privilege of expressing their pains and hurts without being criticized -- feeling safe and being dignified and honoured in the room.

5. What did they imagine doing next?

Both participating groups showed determination to continue to practice sustainable dialogue by coming together always. The Ebrie –Attie chiefs and leadership proposed that ONG UFPACI repeat of the conference in a more open village square, where others from both villages can have the same experiences and skill-building. The

chief of Ebrie Akouido during his speech directed all participants to practice what they learned. With his new honor as Ambassador of Peace, he said his leadership will be an example as a peace worker.

6. What can you imagine?

Confidence and tolerance have started sprouting up little by little. ONG UFPACI will continue to encourage the living room dialogue cell and serve as a link to bring others to continue in the practice of sustainable dialogue within and between both villages.

7. Did any women or men emerge with unusual excitement for taking responsibility for future activities?

Yes, of course, different women and men belonging to different associations express excitement and request working in collaboration with ONG UFPACI in popularizing the practice of sustained dialogue for community peace building.

8. Who in your own team -- or others in Abidjan -- are exhibiting deepening dedication to this citizen-to-citizen communication and public peace process?

All my team are dedicated in this mission. The representatives of political parties (RDR, PDCI, and FPI) that were present in the conference suggested to us expanding our conference toward the military, police, and all law enforcement agency barracks, PDCI, RDR, and FPI political headquarters to experience skills of civil engagement. They said for all this social stratum are divided in political partisans. As one of them said, *"We have seen that ONG UFPACI now has the methodology to make reconciliation possible in all social strata."*

~ Offuh James Offuh