

THE WEST AFRICA PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE (WAPI) 2006

The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) 2006 which was held during the first three weeks of September has concluded with great success. This year, WAPI brought together participants from the 15 countries of the West African sub-region, as well as from the Central region of Africa such as Chad and the Central African Republic. WAPI 2006 mobilised and trained women monitors from all over West Africa in conflict prevention, early warning and early responses because WANEP believes that women are central to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and transformation processes; as such, their experiences and contributions should be fully integrated in peacebuilding processes.

WAPI uses unique methodology that combines local knowledge of peacebuilding with case studies from the sub-region, drawing on specific experiences and expertise. WAPI is essentially a forum for peacebuilding practitioners from all over West Africa and beyond, to network, coordinate, and share experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

One of the highlights of WAPI 2006 was the celebration of the International Peace Day. A symposium was organized to celebrate the day and create awareness on the United Nations Security Council, its potential reform and the implications of such reform on peace and security in Africa. The symposium could not be timelier, as it coincided with Ghana's Presidency on the Security Council. Issues such as the African Union Road map for the Security Council Reform; the Ghana Presidency of the Security Council and its implications for Africa and the much needed voice of NGOs in the SC were discussed by eminent panellists including the Ghana Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Akwasi Osei Adjei; Prof. Gilbert Bluwey of the Legon Centre for International (LECIA), University of Ghana, Legon, and Miss Oury Traoré, Program Manager of WANEP.

WAPI 2006 always attempts to address emerging and pertinent issues on human security in the sub-region. As usual, the courses were multidisciplinary, timing and context specific. Faculty were drawn from various fields such as Peacebuilding, Human Rights, and Development. (Please see table below for courses offered).

WAPI 2006 concluded positively, with participants eager to apply the skills they acquired to their respective countries, in order to create an environment conducive to fostering sustainable peace, development, and human security. During the closing ceremony, the Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC) and the Executive Director of WANEP both urged the participants to continue their struggles for the eradication of violent conflict and stressed the need for a strong civil society to foster peace and security in our sub-region and in the entire continent.

| Courses | Faculty | Country | Organisation |
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| Introduction to Peacebuilding Paradigms | Mr. Emmanuel Bombande | Ghana | WANEP |
| | Mr. George Wachira | Kenya | Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa |

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| Justice Building & Conflict Resolution | Miss Oury Traore | Mali | WANEP Program Manager |
| | Dr. Paul Kuruk | USA | Stanford University |
| Youth & Peace Education | Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah | Botswana | Independent Consultant on conflict, Peace & Security |
| | Mr. Austin Onuoha | Nigeria | |
| Conflict, Population Movement & Development | Dr. Isaac Albert | Nigeria | University of Ibadan |
| “Proventive” Peacebuilding: Early Warning and Early Response | Mr. Takwa Zebulon Suifon | Cameroon | WANEP |
| Women in Peacebuilding | Mrs. Naomi Akpan-Ita | Nigeria | Impact for Change & Development (IMPACT) |

