

Biographical Statement

Eric Chinje is the Director for Strategic Communications at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, a position he took up at the start of 2012. Prior to that he led the Global Media Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) and, in that capacity, launched the IMAGE (Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment) capacity building program and Network to create a corps of development journalists in the Bank's client countries. He moved to the WBI from his position as External Affairs and Communications Manager in the Bank's Africa Region and the institution's spokesperson on Africa. He returned to the World Bank in 2008 after four years at the African Development Bank in Tunis where he was head of that institution's External Affairs and Communications Unit. He is on the Board of the African Media Initiative (AMI) which he was instrumental in establishing, and is a Founding Co-Convenor of the African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF). He is Vice President of the African Advisory Board of the National Museum of African Art of the prestigious Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. Mr. Chinje organized the first ever Africa Business Forum at the World Bank in 1998 and went on to work on the first Africa-Asia Business Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2002.

Mr. Chinje is fluent in English and French, He studied in the universities of Yaounde (Cameroon), Syracuse (New York) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts). He lectured in the Yaounde University School of Mass Communication in Cameroon during the 1984/85 academic year. He served as Vice Chair of the World Bank/IMF Africa Club from 1996 – 2002. He was Editor in Chief of Cameroon Television and, at various times from 1984 - 1991, a contributing correspondent for CNN World Report, and a stringer for the BBC World Service, Voice of America, and Deutschewelle Radio.

Mr. Chinje is an Officer of the Cameroon Order of Merit and an Officer of the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau. He is a founding member of the Women's Economic Empowerment Network (WEEN), a non-governmental organization in Cameroon, and Chair of the Zambia Orphans AID (ZOA-US) organization. He serves on the boards of the Talo Michael Chinje Foundation in Cameroon, and the "ARK Jammers Connection" – a not-for-profit musical organization in the US that engages in Acts of Random Kindness (ARK). In this capacity, he co-conceived and oversaw the implementation of the Ancestry Reconnection Program (ARP) – a journey back to the land of their ancestors by DNA-certified African Americans. Mr. Chinje has written and lectured extensively on Communication and Development in Africa.



Sorious Samura Biography

Sierra Leonean Sorious Samura is a filmmaker of international renown whose documentaries have been recognised worldwide, both for the courage of their photographic journalism and the impact of their message. Having made documentaries and programmes for various media outlets, he now resides in the UK and is a board member of Insight News Television. In 2003 Samura received an honorary doctorate from the University of East Anglia, England.

Samura's debut documentary "Cry Freetown" was first broadcast in January 2000. It is a brutal and gripping portrayal of atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war. Risking his life to film the systematic murder of his fellow countrymen, Samura describes what he calls "a nation that was being murdered, a country that was dying, that was being left to die by the western world, by the so called developed world."

Samura received wide acclaim for "Cry Freetown". When the film created a stir at the United Nations headquarters in New York, London's Daily Express described him as "The Man Who Saved a Nation". Within four weeks of the film's transmission, plans were underway for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone.

In "Exodus" Samura traveled to Nigeria, Mali, The Sahara, Morocco and Spain as he followed African exiles in their attempt to make their way to the 'promised land' of Europe. The film saw Samura meet some of those trying to make the journey and follows their progress, whilst hearing of the hardships compelling them to leave their native lands.

"Return to Freetown" represents Samura's return to his homeland to escort three brutalised child soldiers back to their civilian lives. "I have come back to find out what really happened to these children and to try to understand how and why so many of them were driven to kill," he says.

In 2002 Samura first reported on the plight of refugees being sexually abused by aid workers in Guinea. The news feature which went out on broadcasters such as CNN, CBC and Channel 4 caused a stir amongst the international aid community and contributed to the implementation of a new code of conduct.

Later in 2002 in the aftermath of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, Samura took on a 2 part series entitled "21st Century War", a documentary that examined the future of warfare. The film, which was nominated for last year's One World Media Award, brought Sorious to Afghanistan, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Indonesia.

In his latest film, "Living With Hunger" Samura set out to understand the real stories of people living on the edge of starvation. He moved into a remote village in Ethiopia far away from the range of the UN and most NGO's. Between August and September 2003 Sorious lived in a hut

and survived on the same meagre diet as the rest of the villagers.

Samura's films have won many prestigious awards including: a BAFTA (British Oscar), the Rory Peck and Mohamed Amin Awards, two Emmy Awards, two One World Media Awards, three Amnesty International Media Awards, a Columbia-DuPont Award, a Peabody Award, the Prix Europa, the Japan Prize, the Harry Chapin Media Award, three Overseas Press Club of America Awards, a Golden Nymph at the Monte Carlo Television Festival and a Bronze World Medal at the New York Festivals. Columbia University's graduate school of journalism has honoured Samura with a lifetime achievement award at its annual "Let's Do It Better" workshop on race relations.



SYLVIE ABOA-BRADWELL/ CHANTAL ABOA

Executive Director

African Peoples Advocacy (APA) www.apadvocacy.org

Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell is the Founder and Executive Director of the think tank African Peoples Advocacy (APA). APA is a platform for the engagement and education of African communities and key stakeholders. Sylvie has an MPhil in Post-Colonial Studies and an MA in English from the Complutense University of Madrid. Before founding APA in 2008, she served as UK Co-ordinator of the Centre for Democracy and Development, a non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainable development and democracy in Africa. Sylvie also worked for several organisations catering to African communities in Spain first and, subsequently, in the UK. She is a Board Member of the Association for African Owned Enterprises.

In addition, Sylvie writes fiction and non-fiction under the pseudonyms Susan Akono and Chantal Aboa. Her book, *Cuentos africanos*, was the first collection of stories by an African writer released by the Spanish publishers Laberinto in 2007. Her short story, 'Letter to Clara' was included in the anthology *African Women Writing Resistance: Contemporary Voices* published by the University of Wisconsin in 2010. Her latest creative writing projects include an historical African fiction series dubbed the "African Dr Who", whose first book, *Bala in the Mali Kingdom*, was published in October 2012. Through her work, writings, lectures, television and radio interventions, Sylvie has long been a strong advocate of development, education, human rights and good governance in Africa, the UK, and elsewhere in the world.



Sam Onigbanjo

Sam Onigbanjo is an experienced Fundraiser and Excellent Speaker with over 17 years commercial experience Strategic business planning, fundraising and Total quality (EFQM). In addition Sam specialises in assisting African-owned businesses and social enterprises defining their financial and corporate strategy and in obtaining appropriate forms of commercial and/or grant initiatives.

He has a keen interest in Entertainment and fashion recently with his 2 business partners he pulled off the first and ever successful Africa fashion Week London, he is also involved in numerous other initiatives as a funding specialist.

Sam is also the Co-founder of Women4Africa and Vice-Chairman of Nigerians in the Diaspora.

He can be reached at www.samonigbanjo.com www.consulting4london.com

Samara Hammond



Samara Hammond, CEO of AMREF UK, is a clinician, a Nurse Practitioner and Public Health specialist with over 20 years experience as a manager in the public health sector. She has worked both in the UK and in Africa including Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. Most recently, she has been Associate Director of Quality Innovation and Clinical Governance at NHS Wandsworth, London. Samara is well known to AMREF, having served as a UK Board member from 2003 to 2009, and regularly spent time in programmes working clinically and providing public health evaluations.