

The National Conversation on Prosperity and the Public Good

Summer Newsletter 2010

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Sondra Myers, Project
Director

New Look for *The New Rwanda: Prosperity and the Public Good*

Based on advice from a number of educators I met in Rwanda in January, I set out to prepare the second edition of the English version of the handbook, *The New Rwanda: Prosperity and the Public Good* for publication. I'm happy to report that it will be in print within the next few weeks. The second edition has a brand new look; the front and back covers feature students from The Akilah Institute, a new institution for girls focusing on education and training for the tourism industry—one of Rwanda's most promising enterprises. The students are beaming with enthusiasm about acquiring skills that will serve them well personally and will enhance the attractiveness of Rwanda to foreign tourists and entrepreneurs. The handbook's new look represents Rwanda's present and future.

Hold the Date: August 5, 2010

I return to Rwanda in early August and ask you that you please hold the date, Thursday, August 5 from 6 to 8 PM for a roundtable/reception at

the Laico Hotel. We will: introduce the second edition of *The New Rwanda* handbook; report on use of the handbook and conversation to date; explore new avenues for engagement in the conversation in schools and universities, youth and women's groups, businesses and media companies and in the orientation of international workers in the non-profit and for-profit sectors.

Order your free copy of the Kinyarwanda edition of the Handbook Now

A large shipment of copies of the Kinyarwanda edition arrived in Kigali several weeks ago. We are offering them free of charge to all schools, universities, civic clubs and other NGOs, media outlets and businesses and individuals that wish to use them to engage in discussions about the central importance of good citizenship and in Rwanda's economic and civic development. To order books and for more information, please contact my new assistant, Lilian Rutera at lyleerutera@gmail.com or by phone at +250 788359917.

"The handbook is an incredible undertaking and has so much potential to engage students in a dialogue about their future! I look forward to using it again, ideally with a Rwandan teacher leading the way." – Mary Powell, Akilah Institute

The Akilah Institute and The National Conversation

The Akilah Institute, which opened its doors in February 2010, has been using the first edition of the handbook in its English curriculum and engaging students in the National Conversation on Prosperity and the Public Good. English teacher Mary Powell has experimented with various approaches to the book and the conversation and is prepared to give some valuable advice on their effective use in preparing young people for informed and engaged citizenship.



Akilah Students

The New University of Scranton /Rwanda Partnership

Building on the New Rwanda/National Conversation project, The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pennsylvania, USA) is launching on a far more comprehensive relationship with Rwanda and its institutions.

In late July, two faculty members from Scranton, Sharon Meagher, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Latin American Studies and Women's Studies and Linda Ledford Miller, Professor and Chair of World Languages and Cultures and associate faculty member in Women's Studies and Latin American Studies will visit the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development at the Kigali Institute of Education to assist with faculty

development on infusing gender issues across the curriculum and in launching a master's degree program. Professors Meagher and Ledford-Miller will also explore other avenues for collaboration between KIE and the University of Scranton.

In August, Scott Pilarz, SJ, president of the University and Harold Baillie, its provost, will arrive to formalize the relationship and lay out plans for exchanges and consultations in the areas of science, business and other academic domains.



Farewell and Welcome

Anjuli Solanki, my assistant for the past year, has worked tirelessly and effectively to promote the use of The New Rwanda Handbook and the National Conversation. Anj is leaving Kigali for about a year to pursue a master's degree in public administration in England. We wish her the best of luck. To replace her, I'm pleased to introduce Lilian Rutera. Lily will take over from Anj as of now in handling book orders, the logistics of the project, my visit and future programs. Educated at KIST, Lily has completed the OTF intensive leadership training program and earned a Harvard certificate in Prosperity and Competitiveness. Please welcome her—and feel free to contact her regarding the handbooks, the Conversation and any questions you might have.

Best to all. I look forward to seeing you in August.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sondra Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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In my view, the most precious right that an individual can have is the right to be responsible for the public good. – Sondra Myers