



IDIA RENAISSANCE

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ACTIVITY RECORD

THIS DOCUMENT RECORDS A BRIEF OF MAJOR EVENTS, PROJECTS, VISIT OF PERSONALITIES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER IN THEIR ORDER OF SEQUENCE.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2006

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

23RD – 28TH JANUARY 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 6- days training workshop for caregivers on Palliative Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA's), People Affected by AIDS (PABA) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The workshop was organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for NGO's, FBO's CBO's and Health organizations involved in care, treatment and support for people Living with HIV/AIDS.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero, Mr. Nwoha Roland and Barr.Aigbeze Uhimwen represented Idia Renaissance at the workshop.

20TH FEBRUARY 2006

Idia Renaissance participated actively in the 3rd Edo women National conference, which was organized by the office of Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance and the Edo underprivileged children scholarship trust fund. The theme of the conference was “ WOMEN, STRENGHT OF THE NATION” This annual conference is a forum aimed at bringing together Edo daughters who have distinguished themselves in their various endeavors and to highlight and deliberate on issues relating to the overall development of Edo women to ensure they become role models for the youths.

21ST FEBRUARY 2006

The Edo State Skills Acquisition Center Evbuomodu, established by Idia Renaissance marked her 5TH Graduation ceremony. The ceremony was part of the 3rd Edo women National conference 2006.

22ND FEBRUARY 2006

Senator Mary Henry of the Irish Republic paid a curtesy visit to the Youth Resource Center established by Idia Renaissance and supported by UNICEF. The Senator praised Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion stressing that Her programmes targets and assists the most vulnerable and susceptible group of people in the society. She stressed that it is often the weak and vulnerable in the society that needs care and assistance, and that's what Idia Renaissance represents.

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1ST MARCH 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the NAPTIP Nigeria/Benin Meeting on Implementation of the CONTONOU ACCORD, the meeting was held at Wing Spring Palms, Badagry Lagos state. The Accord is an agreement applied in the

enforcement, prevention, and detection of crime of trafficking in persons, protection, repatriation and rehabilitation of victims especially women and children in the territory of both countries. The objectives of the meeting were –

- To provide update on progress made in the fight against trafficking in Benin Republic and Nigeria
- To review implementation of activities on the joint plan of action
- To update the time frame, budget and identify strategies/modalities for joint activities in the work plan.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

7TH – 8TH OF MARCH 2006

Idia Renaissance organized a 2-day training workshop for 162 (one hundred and sixty two) selected youths in Evbuomodu community in Ikpoba Okha local government area of Edo state on HIV/AIDS, entrepreneurship and Life skills. The Training workshop was aimed at empowering youths in the community on life skills such as Assertiveness, self-esteem, Negotiation skills Relationship building, Entrepreneurship skills etc and also educate them on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STI's).

- ❖ Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, who was there in dual capacity as Chairperson of the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA) and Founder/Initiator of Idia Renaissance and the Edo underprivileged children scholarship trust fund declared the Training workshop opened.

13TH MARCH 2006

An In-House training was organized for staff of the center (Idia Renaissance, Edo Underprivileged children and Youth Resource center). The training workshop was held at the instance of Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, Founder and Initiator of the center. The workshop, which was formally declared open by Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, was aimed at building the capacity of staff members to be able to represent any organ or department of the organization at any forum. Mr. Nowa Omoregbe, Special Assistant to Her Excellency and Mr. Oduebor, Head Finance and Administration; Office of Her Excellency facilitated in the training. In a Lecture Mr. Nowa Omoregbe titled “SELLING THE PRODUCT” He presented a comprehensive step-by-step approach to marketing the organization correctly to the outside public.

14TH MARCH 2006

A Norwegian Delegation on trafficking in persons led by the Deputy Head of Mission Royal Embassy of Norway, Tore Sucintei visited the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. In a letter signed by Mr. Nduka Nwanwene Esq. Senior Information Officer Benin zonal office NAPTIP, the visit is as a result of the immense contribution of Idia Renaissance in the fight against human trafficking, also, Idia renaissance has been in the fore front of rehabilitating and reintegrating victims of human trafficking to acquire skills that will enable them contribute meaningfully and positively to the development of the society.

16TH - 17TH MARCH 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the 2-days workshop on the Draft National plan of action on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor. The meeting was organized by NAPTIP and the ILO at the Dennis Hotel Abuja. Idia renaissance was represented by – Aigbeze Uhimwen, Nwoha Roland, Pastor Mike Babaniji, Courage Onaghise and Osayande Zion Okungbowa

The workshop was aimed at fine-tuning and developing a new National policy on Trafficking in persons and Child/Forced Labor in Nigeria

21ST MARCH 2006

Arthur Chika Winifred Erime of NEW BREED INTERNATIONAL OFFICE: Good Governance Award for the international world. A FEMALE FOCUS NGO BASED IN THE AMERICA AND IRELAND was at the office of Idia Renaissance on an assessment visit; she hinted that Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion is one of their Awardees for this year 2006; this she states is in appreciation of her contribution and support to womanhood. Arthur Chika Winifred Erime expressed satisfaction with the activities of Mrs. Eki Igbinedion and states “it’s a good job”.

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28TH MARCH 2006

Bruno Moens of KENT UNIVERSITY BELGUIM visited Idia Renaissance office and was conducted round the various projects and facilities in the centre (Edo State Skill Acquisition Center and the Youth Resource Center). Mr. Bruno Moens stated that he was on the study as part of his research on human trafficking in Nigeria.

30TH MARCH 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the 8th National consultative meeting of stakeholders on Anti- Human trafficking held at Rockview Hotel Abuja.

Idia Renaissance was represented by – Mrs. Jennifer Ero, Barr. Aigbeze Uhimwen, Pastor Mike Babaniji and Zion Okungbowa

The monthly meeting was aimed at aggregating contributions of partners working in the area of human trafficking

3RD APRIL 2006

An appointed committee of Idia Renaissance hosted a technical committee from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The meeting was to enable both committees discuss a collaborative effort for a proposed enlightenment campaign on human trafficking at grassroots in Edo state. During the meeting, a work plan was developed indicating activities, time frame and budget, it was agreed that funding for the programme would be counterpart

6TH APRIL 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the GHAIN Monitoring and Evaluation/Feedback workshop. The monthly workshop is a forum aimed at meeting with M&E focal persons in the various GHAIN supported projects in the state to share collected relevant M&E reports (data, VCT register and narrative summaries)

Miss Imose Utomwen, Nurse Counselor represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

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12TH APRIL 2006

Idia Renaissance organized an awareness campaign/rally on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking at Fugar in Etsako Central Local Government Area of Edo State. The campaign/rally was aimed at sensitizing the people on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking; and then establish a link between both issues. The special guest of honor at the occasion, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion was also at the event as chairperson of the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA), first lady of Edo State and founder/initiator of Idia Renaissance. The campaign rally attracted several important dignitaries, they include – the Chairman and Chairperson of the local government area Hon. Pascal Ugboime and his wife, the Hon. Commissioner for Women affairs and social development in the state, the Commissioner for

Education, youth organizations, students of the local government skills acquisition center and other non-governmental organizations in the state.

Dr. Tony Ehon of the University of Lagos and Barrister Okungbowa, a member of the Edo state Anti-trafficking committee were Resource persons who spoke on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking respectively.

13th APRIL 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA)-STAKEHOLDERS/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING. The stakeholders meeting discussed critical issues, challenges and shared best practice and lessons learnt in the course of implementing SACA projects by the various organizations. Mrs. Jennifer Ero represented Idia Renaissance at the workshop

18TH APRIL 2006

Michele Mildwater, of The Nest Stop Trafficking; a Denmark based non-governmental organization, visited Idia Renaissance. She stated that she was in Nigeria to access the work of NGO's in the fight against Human Trafficking and also seek ways of possible collaborations. She praised the activities of Idia Renaissance stressing that she had heard some of tremendous achievements recorded by the organization in curbing the menace in Nigeria and Edo state in particular. She pledged her support and assistance and promised to be part of Idia Renaissance future grass root programmes, so as to share experience and let the rural people in Nigeria understand the magnitude of trafficking in persons and the ordeal Nigerian children, young girls and women pass through in Europe.

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19TH – 21ST APRIL 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 3 – Day Training Workshop for officers of NAPTIP, Police, Immigration, Child Development officers and NGO's on victims support (Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration) and human right approach to programme for improved services to rescued / repatriated victims of human trafficking. The meeting was held at Lambaba Hotels limited, Ibadan the Oyo state capital.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Barr. Aigbeze Uhimwen represented Idia Renaissance

24TH – 27TH APRIL 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 5-Day State Specific Packages/Tools Development Workshop Organized by the State Action Committee on Aids (SACA) Government House Benin City. According to the Edo state SACA secretary, Dr Osamuyi Oni, the programme was aimed at looking into the issue of Advocacy in relation to mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in the state. The Objectives of the Workshop include –

1. To acquire knowledge and skills to change attitude that will enable one embark on Advocacy.
2. To acquire knowledge and skills that will help implement innovative strategies for Advocacy

Mr. Nwoha Roland represented Idia Renaissance

27TH APRIL 2006

Special Assistant to Her Excellency Mrs. O. G. Williams, Mrs. Jennifer Ero, Courage Onaghise, Mrs. Okhuasuyi and Barrister Aigbeze Uhimwen, represented Idia Renaissance at the inaugural public lecture titled “Funding opportunities for higher education in Africa. The lecture was organized by the Global Educational Initiative for Nigeria (GEIFON). Prof. Noureini Tidjani – Serpos Assistant Director General UNESCO gave the lecture presentation, the lecture was held, at the University of Benin Auditorium, Benin City, Edo State.

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4TH MAY 2006

A meeting of the State Steering Committee of the Idia Renaissance -Youth Resource center was organized, the meeting, which was held at the instance of her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance and was aimed at discussing issues affecting the center and also suggest how to move the center forward.

15TH – 16TH MAY 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) 2-day Quarterly Review meeting. The meeting is to bring together participants from all Implementing Agencies (AI's) including health facilities, NGOs and CBOs working on the GHAIN-supported projects to discuss and share experience on the progress, successes, challenges and agree on way forward for addressing

critical emerging issues. The meeting was aimed at strengthening and ensuring effective implementation and management of various components of the GHAIN-supported projects in Edo State.

The specific objectives of the meeting are –

- To review the current status as against the desired target (progress made so far) in the implementation of the GHAIN project
- To share experience, lessons learnt challenges and success stories as it relates to VCT/PMTCT/ART/OVC.
- To discuss way forward in addressing identified challenges.

Mr. Nwoha Roland represented Idia Renaissance at the forum.

18TH MAY 2006

A meeting of the State Steering Committee of the Idia Renaissance -Youth Resource Center was organized, the meeting was as a follow up to the first which was held on the 4th of April 2006, it was suggested that based on the enormous issues at hand, meetings may not be held once a month but periodically and at emergencies to accelerate quality services.

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26TH MAY 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a meeting organized by the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA) for her implementing agencies, the meeting was aimed at discussing issues concerning their various projects, share experiences, identify challenges and proffer solutions towards the effective implementation of the HAF project. Chairman State Hospital Management Board, Pharmacist Nike Odiase, represented the chairperson of SACA, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, The 28 NGOs benefiting from the HIV/AIDS fund were represented at the meeting.

Nwoha Roland represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting

30TH MAY 2006

The Edo Field office of the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) organized a 1- Day Referral Coordination meeting. The meeting was aimed at meeting with referral coordinators/focal persons in GHAIN supported facilities in the state to discuss challenges and best practices. Idia Renaissance being the

newest entrant into the GHAIN project also participated in the meeting and was represented by Nwoha Roland, Barr. Aigbeze Uhimwen and Courage Onaighise. Referral as an important aspect of the GHAIN project ensures that patients/clients/PLWHA's are given adequate and necessary assistance to ensure that they get quality and comprehensive service. Implementing Agencies participating in the meeting were, as part of strategies aimed at identifying challenges faced in various sites asked to make presentations of their referral activities.

Ighalo Esther O. Referral coordinator GHAIN Edo field facilitated the meeting.

2ND JUNE 2006

Dr. Mrs. R. U Obi of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology University of Benin visited Idia renaissance as part of her research work on Human Trafficking: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of trafficked victims. Dr. Mrs. Obi who was conducted round the facility and the various programmes of the center expressed delight in the project and commended Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion for her humanitarian services

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13TH JUNE 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in the GHAIN M&E meeting. The monthly Monitoring and Evaluation meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria is aimed at meeting with M&E focal persons from the various GHAIN supported projects in the state.

The objective of the meeting was -

1. To identify issues/ challenges affecting M&E services in facilities
2. To collate the monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database

Nwoha Roland represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting

16TH JUNE 2006

Laura Murphy of the Department of African studies Harvard University U.S.A visited Idia Renaissance on what she described as a fact finding mission to access and make use of the pact-breaking and success stories of Idia Renaissance in combating human trafficking in Nigeria. In her remark she says, "thank you so much for your inspiring work, very impressed of your accomplishments".

21ST JUNE 2006

Institutional Development/Training expert and coordinator Edo & Ondo states of the European Union Micro Project Programme in six states of the Niger-Delta (MPP6) Mr. Anthony Ikhide Osawe visited Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion Founder and Initiator of Idia Renaissance in response to a letter earlier written to the agency to explore areas of possible collaboration with the organization.

22ND JUNE 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a joint press briefing on Trafficking in Persons organized by the U S Government officials and the Nigeria Government officials (NAPTIP) through the United States Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. The press briefing is to enable both the U S and Nigerian government to analyze the TIP report and discuss the way forward.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Pastor Mike Babaniji represented Idia Renaissance at the press briefing.

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28TH JUNE 2006.

Mr. Cartier Simon, Snr. Counseling and Testing Advisor GHAIN Abuja was in Idia Renaissance with Mrs. Nneka Okey Amechi, Counseling and Testing officer Edo field office. They were at the center to assess facilities and level of preparedness for the GHAIN/Idia Renaissance HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing project. After been conducted round the facility, the dual expressed satisfaction at the facilities and also the level of preparation made so far by the organization.

28TH JUNE 2006

Christei Eijkholt and Sandra Claassen of Programme Bounded Labour in the Netherlands (BLINN) visited Idia Renaissance, they stated that they were in Nigeria and Edo state in particular to discuss cooperation and possibilities in the areas of rehabilitation, re-integration and return of trafficked victims back to their home countries, make contact with their friends, families and relatives, they stressed that a majority of the victims are of Edo Origin living illegally in the Netherlands and needing help. They expressed satisfaction with the programmes and facilities at the center.

30th June 2006

The Youth Resource Center established by Idia Renaissance in collaboration with UNICEF graduated students from the Fashion design and Catering Departments of the center, some of the students were victims of human trafficking who were referred to the center by the Benin Zonal Office of The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), the trafficked girls successfully graduated from the catering department of the center. Barrister (Mrs.) A.O Abiodun, Head Benin Zonal office NAPTIP and some officers of the Agency who graced the occasion were treated with sumptuous meals prepared by the girls.

6TH – 7TH JULY 2006

Idia Renaissance attended the joint ECOWAS/ECCAS conference of Minister to combat trafficking in persons at Abuja. The meeting was aimed at signing a multilateral cooperation agreement to combat trafficking in persons in the continent, Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion founder and Initiator of Idia Renaissance, Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Barrister Aigbeze Uhimwen represented Idia Renaissance at the occasion.

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10th July 2006

To sustain information gathering, monitoring and reporting of cases of child trafficking, particularly in the endemic local government areas of Edo state, a meeting of the state working Group (SWG) on Anti-human trafficking in Edo state was organized by the Edo state working group on Human Trafficking and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in person and other Related matters (NAPTIP). Mrs. Jennifer Ero represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

11th July 2006

Idia Renaissance organized an awareness/campaign rally at Okada in Ovia North-East local government area of Edo state, the campaign rally was aimed at sensitizing the community on Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS, the campaign/rally which has already been flagged up in some communities is expected to cover most rural communities in the 18 local government areas of Edo state. The awareness/campaign rally is to sensitize the rural populace who has become increasingly vulnerable to trafficking.

Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, Founder and Initiator of the programme was the Special Guest Of Honour, invited Dignitaries who graced the occasion includes

–The Chairman of the local government area Hon. Charles Igbinedion represented by his wife Mrs. Angela Igbinedion, The commissioner for Education in the state Mrs. Elizabeth Edoadagbon, Executive Secretary NAPTIP Mrs. Carol Ndaguba represented by Mr. Arinze Orakwe Head, Press and Public Relations NAPTIP. Wife of the commissioner for lands and survey Mrs. Akensuwa, Members of the Edo state committee on Human Trafficking, Members of the Edo State Action Committee on Aids (SACA), traditional rulers and chiefs of the various communities in the local government area, representatives of non-governmental organizations in the state, women groups, youth organizations, students from the Igbinedion University, primary and secondary school students, etc.

Two Resource persons, Rev. S O. Ohonba of the Edo state HIV/AIDS Programme Development Project (State Project Team) and Barrister Nduka Nwanwene of NAPTIP Benin Zonal Office spoke on HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking respectively.

The Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) Mobile Counseling and Testing was also there to afford members of the community and participants the opportunity of have free voluntary HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing.

13TH JULY 2006.

Idia Renaissance participated in the 9th NAPTIP stakeholders consultative meeting, the quarterly review meeting was aimed at meeting with all stakeholders involved in Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Labour activities and was held at Rock view Hotels in Abuja.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Barrister Aigbeze Uhimwen represented Idia Renaissance at the forum.

13TH JULY 2006

A delegation from the Youth Resource Center Sapele Delta State visited Idia Renaissance Youth Resource Center Benin. The team comprises Mr. Dafitohwo O. Augustine –Trainee Administrator, Mr. Erewa I. Godwin Assistant to the passing out Administrator and Mr. Aremngbor Frank – Accountant

The delegation stated that though the visit was unscheduled, it was however aimed at assessing the facilities at the center and also explore areas of collaboration with the Benin YRC, which as they observed also has special peculiarities which can also be stepped down to the Delta state center.

13TH JULY 2006

Mrs. Dayo Keshi, President Afri-Growth Foundation, an Abuja based non-governmental organization was in Benin City, the Edo state capital for the formal launch of the Idia Renaissance/AfriGrowth foundation Mentoring programme. The mentoring programme is aimed at exposing youths to the principles of personalities who have distinguished themselves in their respective endeavors through hard work, honesty, diligence and dedication.

14TH JULY 2006

Sequel to the sub agreement entered into by Idia Renaissance and Family Health International (FHI)/Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) to establish counseling and testing project with Idia Renaissance, a start-up workshop /orientation seminar was organized to provide information about the GHAIN programme, expected deliverables in addition to presenting a technical overview of the CT component. Members of the Idia Renaissance Project Management Team (PMT) and some members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by GHAIN officials.

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17TH – 18TH JULY 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 2-day NAPTIP Anti-Human Trafficking geopolitical zone workshop at yenagoa, Balyelsa state.

The workshop was aimed at meeting with stakeholders from the zone to deliberate and discuss issues and trends of human trafficking within the zone and suggest ways forward.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Barrister Aigbeze Uhimwen represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

18TH JULY 2006

Roseleen Akonyire of the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) Lagos was in the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance on a working visit. She hinted that the visit was to discuss activities at the Youth Resource Center Benin City.

19TH APRIL 2006

Mr. Geoffrey Njokwu of the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) Abuja visited the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance; he stated that the purpose of the visit was to document activities, success stories and challenges of center for reference purpose.

19TH JULY 2006

Jessica Sewall from the United States of America, a member of a Washington D.C based Advocacy project working with WOCOW a Lagos based non-governmental organization visited Idia Renaissance, she states that the purpose of the visit was to gather information on activities, efforts and achievements of the organization in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria she was accompanied by Mrs. Blessing Ehiguima of Girls Power Initiative (GPI) Edo state.

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24TH JULY 2006

A team of 3 led by Camille Dubas from Paris- France was in Idia Renaissance, they stated that the visit was to gather information that will enable them put up a documentary which according to them will assist victims of trafficking and help in the fight against human trafficking world over. Idia Renaissance being a nerve center for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victims in Nigeria had so much to contribute in the project, which will involve interviews with victims of trafficking.

4TH AUGUST 2006

A delegation from the Institute of Continuing Education (I.C.E) Benin City, led by Mr. G. O Osaghae was at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance in response of to an earlier visit of the State Steering Committee of the YRC to seek ways of upgrading and accrediting some of the programmes offered at the YRC. They stated that the committee was set up by the institute to work out modalities to enable the YRC affiliate some of its programmes with the Institute. They hinted that the visit is to enable them look at the various programmes offered at the center and then determine how best they can come in.

10TH AUGUST 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in an awareness seminar on HIV/AIDS organized by the Edo State House Committee on Health and the Ministry of Health Benin City with the theme: HIV/AIDS: everybody's issue. The seminar seeks to sensitize adolescents, youths, traditional rulers and local government council health officials on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country and Edo state in particular. It also aims at educating participants on the importance of the Bill currently in the Edo state House of Assembly which will protect People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) against stigmatization and discrimination.

10TH AUGUST 2006

Mr. A. A. Imandojemu (Director, Test Development) National Board for Technical Education (NABTEB) Benin City, Edo state visited Idia Renaissance's Youth Resource Center to assess the state and readiness for modular certification of the center's programmes. This is in response to a visit made by the sub-committee set up by the state steering committee of the Youth Resource Center to see to the accreditation of the programmes of the center.

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16TH AUGUST 2006

To review and exchange information among the Zonal Working Group (ZWG), create further and better harmonious network on Anti-Trafficking issues, intimate participants on the emerging issues in NAP TIP, particularly the TIP (prohibition) Law Enforcement And Administrative (Amendment) Act 2005. Idia Renaissance participated in meeting of the Zonal Working Group (ZWG) on Anti-Human Trafficking held at the FSP Hall, Ministry of Women Affairs, Okpanam Road Asaba.

21ST AUGUST 2006

Babajide Lolade-Otitoju, Editor – The News Magazine and his crew visited Idia Renaissance. The group accompanied by the Communication Officer of the Edo State HIV/AIDS Programme Development Project (SPT) Mr. Omoregie said they were in Edo state and in the center for a familiarization and story generation visit. The group expressed satisfaction at the project and states "it's an Excellent Initiative".

21ST AUGUST 2006

The Lab. Scientist in the Idia Renaissance /GHAIN Counseling and Testing project participated in a one-day training workshop for Laboratory Scientists working in Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) supported facilities in Edo state. The workshop was aimed at training the Lab. Scientist on the new Non-Cold Chain HIV/AIDS testing kits approved by the federal government of Nigeria.

21ST AUGUST - 2ND SEPTEMBER 2006

The four (4) Counselors in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN HIV/AIDS counseling and testing project participated in a 2 – weeks counselor’s central training programme in Lagos. The programme was organized by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) Lagos state in collaboration with GHAIN and was aimed at enabling the facility carry out quality counseling and Testing service.

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1ST SEPTEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a workshop on “Coalition Building for Health sector reforms”. The meeting was organized by the Health Reforms foundation of Nigeria with support from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British council and was aimed at developing a work plan for Edo state health sector reform. The workshop was particularly directed at professional associations, civil society organization, faith based organizations and other NGO’s active in the Health sector. The meeting was held at the sickle cell center G.R.A Benin City.

5TH – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2006

As part of efforts aimed at exposing parents and young people to handle health and social issues affecting the family and society in general, in a way of making right decisions, coping with the influence of societal degradation and vices such as human trafficking, youths restiveness, cultism and HIV/AIDS with a view to help reduce crises situations, stigma and discrimination, tricks of persons with malicious and dubious tendencies such as traffickers.

A 2–day training workshop was organized for selected youths and parents from the various wards of Orhionmwon local government area of Edo state. The training workshop which was on – life management skills, Human Trafficking and

HIV/AIDS exposed participants to basic knowledge of the issues and how to deal with them to effect positive behaviour change. The workshop was participatory and it saw parents and young people working together to identify causes, effects and solutions to issues affecting negatively the family and society.

7TH SEPTEMBER 2006

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN C.T project participated in the GHAIN monthly M&E meeting for the month of August 2006. The meeting was aimed at bringing together M&E focal persons in all the GHAIN supported facilities and key stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS sector in the state to present reports of activities carried out so far, review activities and discuss best practices.

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12TH SEPTEMBER 2006

As part of effort aimed at equipping students at the Youth Resource Center with latest in the computer world, the computer Department of the center is to have access to the internet. Engr. A. O Agbontean, Procurement Officer of the Edo State HIV/AIDS Project Development Programme (SPT) disclosed this when he visited the office of Idia Renaissance. The internet facility is made possible through the World Bank fund on HIV/AIDS in Edo state. The procurement officer was accompanied by Engr. Nosa Orhue of SKYLYT communication, contractor for the project. The overall aim of the project is to empower youths and occupy their young minds to creativity through vocational training to reduce their vulnerability to social and health problems such as human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, cultism and restiveness prevalent among youths in the society.

13TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance embarked on an Awareness Campaign Rally in Abudu, Orhionmwon local government area of Edo state; this is in continuation of the campaign against human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in rural communities in the state. The campaign/rally which has already been flagged off in some endemic communities in the state is to spread over various communities in the 18 local government areas of the state. The programme is to sensitize rural dwellers who have become increasingly vulnerable to trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, Founder and Initiator of the programme was represented by Pharmacist Nike Odiase, Chairman Edo state Hospital Management Board. The programme targets political leaders, traditional rulers and their chiefs, representatives of the different wards in the local government area, women groups, market associations, youth organizations, stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS and human trafficking sector in Edo state and Nigeria.

14TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Mr. Reed Slack, Chief of Party, American Bar Association visited Idia Renaissance; he was conducted round the Skills Acquisition Center and the Youth Resource Center of the organization of the organization to assess the programmes and facilities at the center. Mr. Reed Slack expressed delight at the programme and facilities and pledged the commitment of his organization to assist Idia Renaissance in empowering vulnerable people and victims of human trafficking in Edo state. Several areas of collaboration and partnership were identified.

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15TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Thirty (30) victims of human trafficking were registered with the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The victims who were referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) are to be reintegrated through the various empowerment programmes of the center. Seven (7) of the victims were registered with the computer department, Fashion and design department nine (9) and the Catering and hotel management department fourteen (14)

18TH - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 3 – day CSO capacity building workshop for NACTAL leaders. The objectives of the workshop includes –
To adopt the NAPTIP Uniform Monitoring Format on Trafficking for use by CSO Members of NACTAL, to review the NACTAL Strategic Plan in line with the ECOWAS Plan of Action and to adopt Information Matrix for CSO Directory.
The programme was held in Minna, the Niger state capital. Aigbeze Uhimwen and courage Onaghise represented Idia Renaissance at the workshop.

20TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance attended the meeting of the Zonal Working Group (ZWG) on Anti- Human Trafficking and child labour. The meeting is aimed at sustaining and improving the tempo of data gathering, monitoring and reporting of cases of human trafficking, child abuse and forced labour.

The focus of the month edition was to examine salient provisions of the child rights' Act, 2003. The meeting was held at Royal Regent Hotel, Adesuwa Road, G.R.A Benin City, Edo state.

22TH SEPTEMBER 2006

As part of effort aimed at gathering support from the various organs of Idia Renaissance (Skills Acquisition Center and the Youth Resource Center) and also creates understanding and the appreciation of the Counseling and Testing (C.T) and referral for comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, a 1 – day sensitization seminar was organized by Idia Renaissance. Members of the Idia Renaissance Project Management Team (PMT), 2 technical officials from the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN), Lady Mrs. Winifred Onyeonwu, Project Coordinator, Youth Resource Center, Mr. J. I. O Uduebor, Head of Administration, office of Her Excellency, staff and selected students from the Skills Acquisition Center and the Youth Resource Center participated in the seminar.

28TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a one-day workshop on the theme: “Towards the Elimination of Human Trafficking” organized by the Network for Justice and Democracy and sponsored by the U.S department of state office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons. Relevant stakeholders in the state involved in the fight against human trafficking in Edo state. Ms Sherifat Adams, the fashion design department and other selected youths from the youth resource center participated in the programme.

9TH OCTOBER 2006

Ameze Igiebor of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Abuja was in Idia Renaissance to gather news and other relevant information for the production of a documentary on Idia Renaissance. Several interview sessions were held with Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion, Founder and Initiator of the programme, the Oba of Benin, Omon – Oba Eradiuwa and other key staff of Idia Renaissance.

17TH OCTOBER 2006

An advocacy visit was paid to the chairman of Oredo local government area, Hon. Victor Edos Ebomoyi. The visit was to intimate the council boss on the HIV/AIDS counseling and testing project (“Heart to Heart”) established in collaboration with Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN); the visit aim at soliciting the support of the local government areas to the sustainability of the project in the community.

The advocacy visit was also extended to the palace of the Enogie of Evbuomodu community in Ikpoba Okha local government area. The visit was aimed at informing the chief who is also the nominated traditional member of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) about the proposed Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing (MVCT) in the community on the 20th of October 2006.

IDIA RENAISSANCE

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

18TH OCTOBER 2006

A 1 – day Gender Self Assessment meeting was organized by the National Coalition on Affirmative Action. The meeting was aimed at articulating ideas towards domesticating the document on the convention on the “Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women”. The convention which was adopted by the United National General Assembly in 1979 came into force on the 3rd of September 1981; it dwells on equity as regards human rights between men and women. The convention makes provision for measures to ensure equality. Though Nigeria has ratified the convention since 1986, it has however not been domesticated at our local level. Nwoha Roland represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting which was held at the INCO chambers, office of Head of Service (HOS) government house, Benin City.

20TH OCTOBER 2006

A Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing (MVCT) was carried out at Evbuomodu community in Ikpoba Okha local government area of Edo state. The counseling and testing was targeted at students of the Edo state skills acquisition center, which is also a project of Idia Renaissance. A total of one hundred people were counseled and tested in the exercise, which was aimed at giving the students of the center and members of the community the opportunity of

knowing their HIV/AIDS status and also having access to treatment, care and support services.

26TH – 27TH OCTOBER 2006

In view of the unpleasant prevailing circumstances regarding the illegal migration of people within the ECOWAS sub-region such as human trafficking, the transfer of fire arms leading to the escalation of conflicts in some part of the region, trans-border crimes and acts of terrorism. A two day conference was organized by the Nigerian immigration services for all heads of immigration services in the ECOWAS sub-region. The theme of the conference is: **“Regional Integration: challenges for the 24th century.”**

The objectives of the conference include:

- ❖ To Set tone and agenda for the future of immigration services in the ECOWAS sub-region
- ❖ To harmonize all forms of migration legislation in the sub-region
- ❖ Develop a sustainable national cooperation
- ❖ See how the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of people, goods and services can become a veritable tool to regional cooperation

Stakeholders from the ECOWAS sub-region were represented at the conference includes, Heads of immigration services from all the ECOWAS states, the Nigerian police force, the army, the prison services, international organizations and some NGOs in Nigeria participated in the conference.

27TH OCTOBER 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in a 1- Day Referral Coordination meeting organized by the Edo Field office of the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN). The meeting was aimed at meeting with referral coordinators/focal persons in the GHAIN supported facilities in the state to discuss challenges and best practices.

Referral as an important aspect of the GHAIN project ensures that patients/clients/PLWHA's gets all necessary assistance to ensure that they get quality and comprehensive service. Implementing Agencies participating in the meeting were, as part of strategies aimed at identifying challenges faced in various sites asked to make presentations on referral activities.

Mrs. Blessing Emede counselor 2 represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

8TH NOVEMBER 2006

Mr. Larry Boms, country representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Nigeria office – Port Harcourt visited Idia Renaissance office, he was accompanied by the Hon. Commissioner; in the ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Edo state. Mr. Boms stated that the visit was to explore areas of collaboration with the organization. He noted that Idia Renaissance is a reputable and focused NGO in the county and from the programmes and facilities on ground; the center still has a lot more to contribute to the society. He pledged his readiness to assist the organization in manpower development to effectively execute project in the organization.

2ND NOVEMBER 2006

Thirty (30) medical students of the Igbinedion University Okada, Edo state paid a study visit to Idia Renaissance. The 500 level students stated that the visit was part of their practical training in public health and will enable them gain further knowledge on the health environment, processes, challenges, and achievements of the institution and also make recommendations for improvements. After a brief session with the Public Relations Officer, the students were conducted round the facility. The leader of the group Miss Ojomo M. Eyortor thanked the organization for the various services offered at the center stressing that they have had a good grasp of the contributions of the center to public health services in the state.

2ND NOVEMBER 2006

Hon. Shirley Hasting, Representative of the minister of health, Ireland visited the office of Idia Renaissance. The representative of the cabinet minister, who had earlier paid a visit to Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, stated that the visit was aimed at exploring areas of assistance in the educational programmes of the center.

7TH NOVEMBER 2006

Irene Peono, a student from the University of Cambridge UK, visited Idia Renaissance office. The PhD student of Sociology and Anthropology stated that she was in Nigeria on a research work on women reproductive health and human trafficking. She expressed satisfaction with the programmes and facilities at Idia Renaissance stressing that her experience working with TAMPAD – a Non Governmental Organization based in Italy gave her a huge idea about sex traffic in Edo state.

8TH NOVEMBER 2006

The Monitoring and Evaluation officer in the Idia Renaissance /GHAIN counseling and testing project attended the monthly M&E meeting organized by the Edo GHAIN office for M&E focal persons in all GHAIN supported facilities in the state. The M&E monthly meeting is aimed at presenting collected Counseling and Testing C.T data's from the various I.A's in the state.

9TH NOVEMBER 2006

“Heart to Heart”, a brand name for all the GHAIN HIV/AIDS counseling and testing sites in Nigeria was formally launched and unveiled at Idia Renaissance. The organization therefore becomes the first non-hospital facility to partner with Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) in the establishment of the “Heart to Heart” center in Edo state. The “Heart to Heart” concept from GHAIN is aimed at increasing unhindered access to quality HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services to the public. The event was attended by some executive members of the Edo state government – The Hon. Commissioners for Health and Education, the Hon. Chairman of Oredo local government area represented by his vice, Mrs. Regina Oviasu, the Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the State Project Manager of GHAIN Edo field office, members of the Edo State Action Committee On AIDS, representatives of various non-governmental organizations within and outside the state.

10TH NOVEMBER 2006

The Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) organized a one-day counselor's support meeting for counselors working in GHAIN supported facilities in Edo state. The workshop discussed issues relating to documentations, how to reach set target in facilities, the up-coming “Heart to Heart” week in the state and counseling and testing reports from the various sites. Mrs. Tega Aharia represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

18TH NOVEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance featured in the Independent Television (ITV) Saturday breakfast programme (SUNRISE) with Ferdinand Osakwe. The live television programme was aimed at educating and sensitizing the general public on the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN HIV/AIDS counseling and testing project (“Heart to Heart” center).

Mrs. Jennifer Ero, project Manager and Mr. Nwoha Roland, Project Officer and the State Project Manager of the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) Irene Osaigbovo featured in the programme.

20TH – 21ST NOVEMBER 2006

The Federal Ministry of Inter-Governmental Affairs (youth development and special duties) in collaboration with the ministry of youth and sports organized a 2-day training workshop for representatives of youths in the various local government area of Edo state. The theme of the programme was: Youths in agriculture and empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In recognition of the contributions of the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance to the development of youths in Edo state. Miss. Justina Ehiwarior, Head instructor, catering department, was invited to facilitate in the training of participants on how to prepare and bake simple money generating snacks.

The organization also, as part of effort aimed at increasing access to treatment, care and support services to persons who may be living with HIV/AIDS also carried out a mobile counseling and testing services (MVCT) to participating youths, a total of 70 youths voluntarily participated in the counseling and testing exercise.

20TH – 21ST NOVEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance facilitated in a youth training workshop organized by Oredo local government area – Local Action Committee on Aids (LACA) in Edo state. The training workshop was aimed at empowering youths in the locality with basic information on the dreaded HIV/AIDS pandemic, effects of human trafficking, life skills management and conflict resolution / management. The workshop which was declared open by the Executive Chairman of the local government council, Hon. Victor Ebos Ebomoyi, in his speech, he enjoined participants to take advantage of the programme to acquire skills necessary to live a healthy life stressing that the future leaders of our country must be protected and empowered.

22ND – 23RD NOVEMBER 2006

The Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing (MVCT) Unit of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN counseling and testing project embarked on a Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing at the Benson Idahosa University, Ugbor, Benin City. The counseling and testing is part of effort aimed at increasing access to HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services. The university authority lauded the exercise and pleaded that the exercise be extended to afford all the students who wish to know their status to do so. A total of 222 people participated in the MVCT.

22ND – 23RD NOVEMBER 2006

The Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, a project of Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion participated in a two day sensitization and review meeting of OVC intervention programme with OVC focused Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the south-south zone of the country. The meeting was organized by the federal ministry of women affairs.

Issues discussed at the workshop includes –

- Programming for OVC interventions: prospects and challenges
- Confronting the OVC crisis in Nigeria – emergence of the national plan of action
- Situation reports from NGOs on their intervention programmes in relation to prospects and challenges / Reports from OVC desk officers from states ministry of women affairs
- communiqué drafting by NGOs CBOs, FMWA &OVC desk officers from SMWAs

Mrs. Osas Elizabeth Ito represented the organization at the meeting which was held at Thailand place, Port Harcourt

27TH NOVEMBER 2006

Mr. Cartier Simon, Snr. Counseling and Testing Advisor, GHAIN Abuja, for the second time visited Idia Renaissance with Mrs. Nneka Okey Amechi, C&T officer GHAIN, Edo field office. They stated that the unscheduled visit was aimed at assessing how the project was faring and also advice on how to effectively ensure compliance to achieve project objectives. They expressed appreciation for the job done so far by the facility but noted that the facility should improve on strategies aimed at attracting young people from all part of the state to make use of the facility.

28TH NOVEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance participated in an advocacy workshop on trafficking in persons organized by the international press center and the U.S embassy. The workshop which was aimed at identifying challenges of advocacy against trafficking in persons and strengthening media role and responsibility was held at the international press center Lagos. A victim of human trafficking currently in the rehabilitation center of Idia Renaissance, Benin City, shared her traumatizing experience bringing to reality the monstrous nature of human trafficking.

Mrs. Jennifer Ero and Osayande Okungbowa represented Idia Renaissance at the workshop.

IDIA RENAISSANCE

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

29TH NOVEMBER 2006

Ms. Aney Lemar and a staff of the State Department, Washington DC visited Idia Renaissance to access the facilities and programmes at the center. The dual was conducted round the skills acquisition center, Evbuomodu and the Youth Resource center of the organization and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the organization. They explained that the visit was to explore areas of collaboration with the organization towards the fight against human trafficking and to also assist victims of trafficking in the country.

5TH DECEMBER 2006

Mr. Fyne Ugbo of the Industrial and Educational Resource center Abuja was at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The visit, according to him was to train the youths at the center on; Ice cream making, making of Dandruff repellants, household insecticides and other products. Mr. Ugbo noted that his NGO is currently in liaison with the Edo state Ministry of Education to train youths at various skills acquisition center in the state; this he explained is to enable young people engage in small income generating activities, especially in this era of self reliance.

8TH DECEMBER 2006

The November Edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation meeting for all M&E focal persons in all the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) supported facilities in the state was held at GHAIN Edo field office Benin City. As usual the monthly M&E meeting is aimed at presenting collected Counseling and Testing (C.T) data's from the various Implementing Agencies in the state. The M&E officer in the Idia Renaissance /GHAIN C.T project, Mr. Nwoha Roland represented the organization at the meeting.

IDIA RENAISSANCE

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

11th DECEMBER 2006

Idia Renaissance embarked on an Awareness Campaign/Rally in Oredo local government area of Edo state. The rally is in continuation of the organization's campaign against human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in rural communities in the state. Oredo local government area strategically located in the heart of Benin City, the Edo state capital has in recent times become endemic as a result of problems of urbanization. Statistics of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the community suggests that the people are increasingly vulnerable and susceptible to social and health problems such as human trafficking and HIV/AIDS. The campaign/rally is aimed at sensitizing the community members on the ills of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in the society. Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion who flagged off the rally stressed that Idia Renaissance is ever committed towards restoring human dignity.

12th DECEMBER 2006

Over 320 students of the Youth Resource Center – Idia Renaissance were presented with certificates at the first graduation ceremony of the center. The graduation ceremony was witnessed by well-meaning individuals within and outside the state, they includes, the Deputy Governor of Edo state, His Excellency, Chief Mike Ogiadomhe, Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, the Oba of Benin represented by Chief Esosa Eghobamiea, the Commissioner of women affairs in

the state, Mrs. Florence Igbinigie Erabhor, state project manager, Edo field office GHAIN, Irene Osaigbovo, Mrs. A. O Abiodun, Head Benin zonal office, NAPTIP, Benin City. Also present were representatives of several non-governmental organizations in and outside the state.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF IDIA RENAISSANCE IN THE YEAR 2006

As part of Idia Renaissance effort towards consolidating and sustaining the laudable objectives of the organization, which includes;

- To eradicate human trafficking
- Increase positive cultural practices and eradicate harmful traditional practices against women and children
- Protect the fundamental human rights of women and children to develop their capacities
- Advocacy and mobilization of relevant organist to promote gender equity and equality
- Sponsor and lobby for legislative framework to fight human trafficking
- Rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of human trafficking into society
- Sensitize youths on the ills and consequence on cultism
- Equip the youths with information to guild against drug abuse and trafficking.

The organization has continued to initiate and embark on human development programmes and activities specifically aimed at empowering children, the youths, and woman who have become increasingly vulnerable to social and health problems prevalent in the society.

In the year 2006, the organization carried out sensitization programmes in selected prone communities and local government areas in Edo state.

The strategy adopted targeted relevant stakeholders, especially the gatekeepers in the various communities; traditional rulers, political leaders, women groups, youths associations, professionals, Student Union Governments in higher institutions of learning, Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Okada riders association and research and learning institutions.

The second tranche of the Edo State HIV/AIDS World Bank fund (HAF) was expended on some of the sensitization and youth training programmes executed.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT

The following communities were mobilized in the HIV/AIDS and human trafficking sensitization campaigns.

The campaign team of Idia Renaissance led by the founder and initiator of the organization, Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion flagged off the Fugar, Etsako central local government area rally. The event which took place on the 12th of April 2006 was witnessed by a mammoth crowd of people within and outside the local government area. The Executive Chairman of the local government, Chairperson of Women Development Programme (WDP) in the local government area, Hon. Pascal Ugbome and Mrs. Betty Ugbome, the traditional ruler of the community and his Chiefs, women and youth organizations, students, and non-governmental organization and support groups in the state were in attendance.

Okada, the administrative headquarters of Ovia North East local government area also witnessed the sensitization rally of Idia Renaissance. The event took place on the 11th of July 2006 and was witnessed by a large turnout of members of the community, traditional rulers from the community stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS and human trafficking sector within and outside the state. Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion who led the campaign rally around the various streets of the community before converging at the community hall, venue of the programme tasked the people to protect themselves and their families from the HIV/AIDS scourge. She particularly advised young girls and women not to allow themselves to be used by selfish individuals in the society in the name of sponsoring them aboard to make money. Resource persons versed in the field of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS delivered papers at the event.

The same strategy was adopted at the Abudu, Orhionmwon local government area rally. The event took place on the 13th of September 2006.

On the 12th of December 2006, the awareness campaign rally was extended to Oredo local government area, to sensitize the people on the ills and consequences of social and health problems in the communities.

YOUTH TRAININGS

Youths in communities in selected local government areas of the state benefited from various training workshops organized in collaboration with the local government councils

EVBOUMODU, IKPOBA OKHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

About 162 youths from Evboumodu community in Ikpoba Okha local government area including the students of the Edo State Skills Acquisition Centre in the community were the first to benefit from the 2day training programme which took place on the 7th – 8th March 2006.

ABUDU, ORHIONMWON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The youth training programme at Abudu community in Orhionmwon local government area also included some parents in the community. The programme afforded Parents and young people the opportunity of highlighting and discussing issues affecting the family vis-à-vis young people. The programme took place on the 5th - 6th September 2006.

OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Oredo local government area youth training programme took place on the 20th – 21st November 2006 at the Urohkpota hall, Benin City. Idia Renaissance facilitated the training workshop organized by the local government area – Local Action Committee on Aids (LACA) in Edo state.

The youth programmes were carried out along side with the campaign rallies which focused on human trafficking, HIV/AIDS and life skills education

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

- ❖ In the year 2006, Idia Renaissance signed the sub agreement with Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) to commence HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services.

It is worthy to note that barley six months into the project, the facility has counseled and tested over one thousand and twenty eight (1028) people in the free and voluntary counseling and testing exercise. Those testing HIV positive have also been referred to the appropriate facilities for treatment, care and support services. The “Heart to Heart” HIV/AIDS counseling and testing project was officially launched on the 9th of November 2006 in an auspicious event graced by the commissioner for health in the state pharmacist, Godwin Oviaghele, representative of SACA, pharmacist Nike Odiase, stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS and human trafficking sector in the state including civil society organizations. The “Heart to Heart” project is in line with the presidential

directive to treat at least two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) people living with HIV/AIDS before September 2007.

Her Excellency Mrs. Eki Igbinedion who unveiled the “Heart to Heart” at Idia Renaissance stated that the project is a show of the organization’s unflinching commitment to prevent new HIV/AIDS infection and give help and support to people infected with the virus.

- ❖ Also in the year 2006, Idia Renaissance secured a partnership with the American Bar Association (ABA) and is currently training about 30 victims of human trafficking referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The victims are currently being trained at the Youth Resource Center established in collaboration with UNICEF.

- ❖ Idia Renaissance was also in partnership with an Abuja based non-governmental organization – Afri-Growth foundation; launched the youth mentoring programme. The programme which is aimed at exposing serving youth corp. members or those who has just recently concluded the National Youth Service Scheme, to basic principles of individuals in the society who distinguished themselves in their various fields of endeavor.

- ❖ Idia Renaissance also collaborated with several local and international organizations to empower youths at the resource center on; income generating skills such as, ice cream making, soap making, anti dandruff creams, making of insect repellents, shampoos etc

This is to de-emphasize the dependency on the government for job creation and enhances the concept of self reliance.

Youth at the center were also trained on life skills, entrepreneurship, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS and reproductive health information

SUCSESSES

- ✓ The Youth Resource Center established in collaboration with UNICEF held the first graduation ceremony, on the 12th of December 2006. Three hundred and twenty (320) students of the centre successfully graduated from the various vocational programmes.

- ✓ As a way of upgrading the programmes in the computer department of the center. The centre currently enjoys internet connectivity. This was made possible through the Edo state World Bank fund on HIV/AIDS in the state. The gesture is also to enable the students compete favorably with their counterparts anywhere in the world.

- ✓ Four (4) victims of human trafficking who graduated from the catering department of the Youth Resource Center, Idia Renaissance were economically empowered by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) with support from UNICEF. Shops were rented and various kitchen equipments purchased for the girls to enable them start up their own businesses. The victims were referred from NAPTIP to undergo training at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance.

- ✓ Thirty (30) victims of human trafficking referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) are currently undergoing training at the youth resource center of the organization

Staff of Idia Renaissance also participated in several capacity building workshops and trainings to equip them with information and trends in their respective specialized areas.

Within the period under review, about 80 students and researchers from various training and research institutions from within and outside the country visited the center to assess information for research and other studies.

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