



# **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 2007 TO DECEMBER 2007**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The office of Idia Renaissance, the Youth Resource Center and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund re-opened for the year 2007 after the Christmas and New Year celebration.

## **12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

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

The objectives of the meeting are:

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

Mr. Nwoha Roland, M&E focal person, Idia Renaissance represented the organization at the meeting.

## **16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

Mr. Reed Slack of the American Bar Association was at the office of Idia Renaissance. The Chief of party of the ABA in Nigeria noted that the official visit was aimed at assessing the training program for the 30 victims of human Trafficking Currently undergoing training at the Youth Resources Centre of Idia Renaissance.

## **17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

Ms Camille Dubois from France, Paris was at the Youth Resource Centre of Idia Renaissance in continuation of a documentary/film production on human trafficking in Nigerians and in France. Camille Dubois and her team had earlier visited the centre on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 for sites and shot locations for the documentary. A Victim of human trafficking currently undergoing training at the Youth Resource Center was interviewed; she narrated her experience to the film producer to be used in the documentary. It was also agreed that the victim's true identity will be concealed in the movie.

## **17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

Ms. Maryam Umar, a Batch A. 2006/2007 serving member of the National Youth Service Corp. (NYSC) attached to the Edo State Government House, Benin City donated several items which include, a sewing machine, a hair dryer and their accessories to the Youth Resource Center.

Receiving the items on behalf of Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance and Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, Lady (Mrs.) Winfred Onyeonwu who is the project coordinator of the Youth Resource Centre stated that coping with the large influx of young people who wish to access the various vocational programs at the centre is one of the biggest challenges the centre faces due to limited number of training equipments. Lady Onyeonwu assured her that the donation will certainly assist in the direction.

The Zonal inspector of Edo State NYSC Mrs. Shokpehai and other principal staff of the scheme were also present at the donation.

## **20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

Beneficiaries of the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund and the Youths Resource Center were treated to a New Year get-together party tagged “A Smile of a Child” organized by Mrs. Joy Ogiemwonyi (wife of the General Manager, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)). The Party which was held at the Land of Adventure amusement play ground G.R.A, Benin City was aimed at providing spiritual, emotional, social and health support to the children.

## **22<sup>ND</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> ANUARY 2007**

Following the 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative meeting between Nigerian/Benin Republic, where a joint plan of Action was adopted and a bilateral agreement signed in Lagos, Nigerian on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2006. Idia Renaissance participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting organized by NAPTIP and UNICEF. The meeting took place at Hotel du port, Cotonon, Benin Republic. Mrs. Pat. Adamu, Assistant to Her Excellency represented Idia Renaissance at the meeting.

## **22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2007**

“EXIT”, an Austria based Non-governmental organization in collaboration with Idia Renaissance and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) organized a film show entitled “Greener Pasture”. The film was centered on a Nigeria girl “Osas” who was trafficked into prostitution.

The film exposes the dehumanizing experience Nigerians, mostly young girls and women, encounter in the search for so-called “Greener Pasture”. The film show was held at the Oba Akensuwa cultural center. Participants at the presentation included adults while the youths were drawn from various secondary schools in the State.

### **23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The Coordinator of EXIT, Mrs. Adesuwa Joan Reiterer and the Television Network of France were at the office of Idia Renaissance. The team was conducted round the various facilities and programmes at the Center by the Public Relation Officer. Several interview sessions were held with some key staff, students and some victims of human trafficking currently undergoing training at the centre.

### **24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The Project Management Team (PMT) of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN C& T Project paid an advocacy visit of the 7up bottling company limited Oluko, Edo State. The visit was to solicit the company support towards a Mobile Counselling & Testing exercise in the company. The management of the 7up company in response acknowledge the work of Mrs Eki Igbinedion through her NGO Idia Renaissance. A date for a Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing (MVCT) in the company was eventually fixed

### **30<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The Mobile Counseling and Testing team of the Idia Renaissance / GHAIN C.T project were at the 7up bottling company Nig. Ltd Oluku, Benin City, where workers at the company were offered counseling and testing services. The exercise was to give access to staff members of the company who might test positive to HIV/AIDS access to treatment, care and support services.

7up-Bottling Company Ltd is located close to a transit and a popular commercial sex area, an outskirts Benin City, Edo State

### **31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2007**

Dr. O.B. Osadolor of the Department of History, University of Benin visited Idia Renaissance. The familiarized visit according to the university lecture is aimed at establishing a collaborative effort in educating and sensitizing members of the university community on issues around Trafficking in persons.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

Ms. Janet Dalecy, Director of Finance and Administration/Contracts and Grants; and Ms Jemila Adamu, Senior Accountant (Accounting/C&A) Abuja, in company of Mr. Adams Aigamhe and Austin Okomu both Accounting Officers of the Edo GHAIN field office, Benin City, visited Idia Renaissance. The group hinted that the purpose of the visit was to assess how the project was fairing and also how the equipments procured by GHAIN in the facility has been put into good use.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

A 1-Day Orientation programme was organized for students of the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The program was aimed at educating and sensitizing the youths on the aims and objectives and also on the various activities of the centre. This is to ensure the appreciation of the programmes offered by the organization. The orientation seminar is a routine exercise for new intakes into the various vocational and life skills training program of the centre.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the 4 Counselors and the Laboratory Scientist in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN C.T. project participated in a training program on the Modified C&T data collection tools to be adopted by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The training programme, which was facilitated by technical officers of the GHAIN Edo field office (Mr. Abiodun Adeyemi and Dr. Temitope (M&E Officer and PMMP officer) was aimed at updating the officers in Idia Renaissance who will be directly responsible for collecting and reporting C&T data in the facility.

## **13<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

The Ag. Administrator of the YRC Idia Renaissance participated in a 5-day training workshop on year 2007 FGN/UNICEF programme plan of action for Government NGO partners in “B” field states. The training programme was organized by the ministry of women Affairs, community development and social welfare Ibadan with funding from the United Nations children Education fund (UNICEF). The meeting which was held at the Samsy Hotel Benin City was aimed at:

1. To review the activities carried out in year 2006 highlighting the strengths and weaknesses and lessons learnt.
2. To prepare the proposal for year 2007 based on AWP.
3. To define strategies for improvement in programme implementation.

## **13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN counseling and testing project met for the second quarterly PAC meeting. The composition of the PAC is made up of the Project Executor (founder and president of the organization), a traditional ruler/chief, a medical director, a PLWHA, a legal practitioner, a youth and the project manager. The PAC plays an advisory role and provides the needed support the project deserves. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the meeting was aimed at briefing members on the activities carried out so far and seek their support and contributions for effective service delivery.

## **14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

Nine (9) Students from the department of Theatre Arts and Mass Communication, Ekenwan Campus, University of Benin was at the office of Idia Renaissance. The visit according to the students is in fulfillment of a branch of their study “Community Theatre” which centers on the divergent happenings within a community or an organization where a group is guided by common interest. The students stated that every community has a peculiar problem and that “Theatre for development” (community theatre) sets out a platform to dialogue through drama towards addressing the issues. The theatre arts students stated that they would involve some students of the Youth Resource Center in their proposed drama which will bring to bare the issue of Trafficking & HIV/AIDS in the society.

## **15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

Project Manager GHAIN, Edo field office, Irene Osaigbovo and the GHAIN Counseling and Testing Officer Mrs. Nneka Amechi Okey were at Idia Renaissance. The visit was aimed at addressing issues relating to emphasis on Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing (MVCT). The GHAIN officials insisted that the MVCT should be de-emphasized to achieve effective utilization of Counseling and Testing services at the facility level (Idia Renaissance).

The GHAIN officials met with the Project Manager, Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Onyeonwu, the project officer/M&E, the counselors and the laboratory scientist of Idia Renaissance. The facility was advised to explore every available means to increase facility based C&T.

Responding, Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Onyeonwu assured the GHAIN officers that the facility is already developing strategies to increase access to the facility counseling and testing especially with the youth population.

## **19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

About 23 students of the department of Social Works and Sociology, University of Benin, were posted to Idia Renaissance to undertake an 8 weeks Industrial Training (I.T) programme with the organization. 13 of them were Diploma students while 5 were Degree part time students. The 5 Degree students were deployed to The Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund which is also an arm of the organization. The students are expected to acquire practical experience on the working of NGOs, which provides only humanitarian services. The 8 weeks training is also a partial fulfillment of their course of study.

## **21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

A general staff meeting of the center was held. The meeting was the first major and formal one in the year to embrace all the staff of the organization (the Idia administrative staff, staff of the youth resource centre and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund). The meeting also involved both the NYSC and I.T students' currently serving at the Center and afforded staff members the opportunity to discuss their jobs and roles in the Center; and how to apply best practices in their respective departments. More importantly, the meeting aimed at developing better approach when interacting with visitors and clients.

## **22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

Dr. Rosanna Paradise and Daniel Agbor Ressem both of TAMPEP – Torino, Italy were at Idia Renaissance. The visit was aimed at exploring areas of collaboration. TAMPEP has in the past collaborated with Idia Renaissance in the execution of the ALIGMA Project. The new collaboration with TAMPED will however aim at putting in place a referral system for the training of victims of Human Trafficking at the Idia Renaissance Youth Resource Center.

## **20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

A 1-day orientation seminar was organized for the 23 Industrial Training (IT) students recently posted to the center from the University of Benin. The training program which was facilitated by the P.R.O and the Ag Administrator was an opportunity for the I.T. students to get acquainted with the staff and the working of the organization.

## **23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

About 15 Youth Corp. members serving in the states who are also members of the Youth Against AIDS & Prostitution (YARP) carried out a training programme on HIV/AIDS for youths at the Youth Resource Center. The training programme focused on:

- ❖ Basic information on HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Building positive moral values on youths.
- ❖ Reducing youth's vulnerability to human trafficking sexual exploitation and child abuse.

## **23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

Officials of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Edo state office led by Mrs. A. Orgi paid an unscheduled visit to the centre. The visit according to the officials was to inspect and assess the performance of the youth corpsers who are UNICEF trained peers educators posted to the organization. The group expressed satisfaction at the various activities going on at the centre and pledged the continue support of the scheme to the center.

## **12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

The Skills Acquisition Center, Evbuomodu, established by Idia Renaissance held the 6th Graduation ceremony. The center which graduated about 185 students from the catering and hotel management, hair dressing and cosmetology, computer and secretariat fashion design and tailoring departments

## **5<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the 3-Day State HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (SSP) development workshop. The workshop, which took place at the Bishop Kelly's pastoral center, Benin City had the following objectives:

- ❖ Harmonize inputs into the reviewed response draft
- ❖ Identify gaps in the state response arising from the strategic plan.
- ❖ Identify state priorities for inclusion in the state strategic plan.
- ❖ Identify gaps to be addressed in the SSP and chart the way forward in addressing the gaps.



❖ Develop the strategic plan draft.

Mr. Nwoha Roland and Mrs. Elizabeth Osas, Ito represented Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged children scholarship trust fund respectively.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

As part of strategies aimed at increasing awareness on HIV/AIDS and the importance of Counseling and Testing among Staff/Youths in Idia Renaissance and some of the residents in the G.R.A environs

The Counselors in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN Counseling and testing project and serving Youth Corpers who are trained peer educators in the organization organized a 1-Day sensitization/rally. The sensitization seminar targeted Staff/Youths at the center; the youths and counselors later went out for a rally around the G.R.A environs which is the immediate community of the center. Several youths and members of the public were reached and also opted in for the counseling and testing exercise.

## **19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

A delegation of the National Union of Cameroon students in Accra Ghana, led by the President, Mr. Song Steven paid a familiarity visit to Idia Renaissance. The group hinted that the visit is in recognition of Her Excellency's contribution to the development of youths in the society and in the continent. Her Excellency being a recipient of the African leaders and elites award, the visit therefore is to enable the group see and inspect some of the programmes and facilities at the organization initiated by the first Lady of Edo State. They expressed satisfaction at the programmes and commended Mrs. Eki Igbinedion for such humanitarian services.

## **20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

The Benin Zonal office of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other Related Matter (NAPTIP) organized a meeting for the NGO Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons in Edo State. The meeting was aimed at discussing arrangements for the hosting of 1<sup>st</sup> International conference on Prostitution and Human Trafficking taking place from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The conference is organized by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) and Idia Renaissance in collaboration with Iroko Association Torino, Italy.

## **21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2007**

In order to straighten the existing capacity to re-integrate and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking and provide direct assistance, protection and monitoring of 20 (twenty) victims of human trafficking, who are of Edo State extract repatriated from Norway. Idia Renaissance was invited to meet with Officials of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) from Abuja and the Norwegian contingents who are paying official visit to the Benin Zonal office of NAPTIP. The meeting, which was attended by members of the Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Edo State and other NGOs, was aimed at suggesting suitable means of rehabilitating and reintegrating the newly repatriated victims.

## **26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Prostitution and Human Trafficking was organized by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) and Idia Renaissance in collaboration with Association Iroko, an Italian based Non-governmental organization. The Conference, which featured delegates from different part of the world, discussed issues relating to legislations and policies on Prostitution and Human Trafficking as practiced in different parts of Europe and Nigeria. The delegates were unanimous in the condemnation of the practice stressing that while it may be argue that people should have a right to do whatever they want for themselves, beneficiaries of prostitution are often the poor, marginalized and vulnerable people in the society.

## **4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

Students of the department of Mass Communication and Theater Art University of Benin presented a drama series title “SCARE CROW”. The story laced with songs and actions through gesture and blunt languages highlighted the ills behind human trafficking, child labour and HIV/AIDS and the attendant consequences in the society. The drama, which was based on what the organization stands for and what the programmes offered by the organization aimed at achieving was co-written produced and acted by the University students and youths at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance, who are mostly victims of human trafficking.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

Alhaji, Nassarawa S. Abdullahi of the, National Library, Abuja and Mrs. P.G Otoide, of the National Library of Nigeria, Benin City, paid a curtsey visit to Idia Renaissance. The delegates who were at the center on the invitation of Lady (Mrs.)

Winifred Onyeonwu, Project Coordinator of the Youth Resource Center were taken on a guided visit around the facilities and programmes offered by the organization. The group also went through the library department of the Youth Resource Center established in collaboration with UNICEF. Satisfied with the programmes of the organizations, Alhaji Nassarawa promised a year supply of a National daily Newspaper (Guardian) to the centre to increase access to information for youth, researchers and staff of the centre.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

The Project Officer/M&E in the Idia Renaissance / GHAIN Counseling and Testing project attended the monthly M&E meeting organized by GHAIN in the state for facilities working in the GHAIN supported projects in the state. The objective of the workshop includes:

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

## **12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion J.P founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance met with some staff of the office of the first lady, Government House, staff of Idia Renaissance/Youth Resource Center and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund to discuss modalities for the transfer of all documents and other valuable belonging to Idia Renaissance which may still be in the custody of staff and other officers of Her Excellency who may have represented the organization at different forum. The meeting became necessary as the government prepares to wind up for another dispensation. A sub-committee was subsequently appointed to see to the successful transfer of the items, which includes, files, still and motion pictures and other relevant documents relating to the organization for proper keeping in the administrative office of the organization. The 6-Man committee headed by Mr. Nwoha Roland, had 2 weeks to submit the out come of the committee. The meeting was also an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of every staff that has contributed to the project of Mrs. Eki Igbinedion.

## **19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007**

The sub-committee which emerged as a fallout of the meeting for the transfer of Idia Renaissance documents met to discuss strategies of achieving the mandate set for of the committee.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2007**

The 23 students of the department of Social Works and Sociology of the University of Benin undergoing an 8-weeks Industrial Training programme with Idia Renaissance rounded off the (I.T) programme. At the sent-off ceremony organized for the outgoing students by the management and staff of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Nwoha Roland, Public Relations Officer of the organization commended the students for their selfless contributions and diligence during their stay at the center. He urged the students to put to good use the knowledge they have acquired in the course of the training programme. Mrs. Emede Blessing, Ag. Administrator of the Youth Resource Center who spoke in the same vain charged the students to be good ambassadors of the center in their school. The IT programme was an opportunity for the students to acquire practical knowledge on the working of NGOs and other social centers in State.

## **4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

The Project Officer/M&E in the Idia Renaissance / GHAIN Counseling and Testing project attended the April edition of the monthly M&E meeting organized by GHAIN in the state for facilities working in the GHAIN supported projects in the state. The objective of the workshop includes:

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

## **5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

The Management of Hexagon Network limited organized its maiden edition of “Black and White Charity Ball” in honor of Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, J.P. The event which was fun filled, showcased African traditions and attires at its best. Several music group and comedians who entertained guest added colour to the event. Highlight of the event was the presentation of an award to Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund for her outstanding contributions to charity in Edo state and Nigeria. The Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty Omon N’Oba Erediawa represented by a high powered delegation of palace chiefs also presented an award to Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion for her undeterred commitment in the struggle to restore the dignity of women and children in the society.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

Members of the monitoring committee of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) met for the second meeting in the year 2007. The meeting like the first was also marred by low turnout of members. A Director in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mr. Ukpokodu who represented the Commissioner of Women Affairs in the State and chairperson of the committee briefed the house on activities carried out so far by the committee, he stated that as the Government is winding up, the new commissioner who will take over will have to continue from where the present has stopped and noted that members will be informed on any latest step.

## **9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in a meeting organized by the Edo State Action Committee on AIDS project team for the 28 NGO's benefiting from the World Bank HIV/AIDS Fund (HAF). The meeting was aimed at discussing progress report and also to develop best practices in line with project guideline. Project reports were also submitted by the NGOs to facilitate the release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche of the fund.

## **9<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

As part of efforts to ensure that project implementation is in line with the stated goal and objectives of the project. GHAIN, Edo Field office organized a 3-day quarterly Review meeting for the first quarter 2007 (January – March)

The Project Manager, Project Officer and Head Counselor in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN counseling and testing project participated in the meeting. The meeting was aimed at:

- ❖ Assessing performance in the last quarter
- ❖ Share experience and learn from one another
- ❖ Identify challenges to project implementation and prefer workable solutions.
- ❖ Documents achievement and success stories in the last quarter and,
- ❖ Plan for the next quarter

The meeting was also an opportunity to build the capacity of participants on report writing, documentation and capturing success stories.

## **15<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

The United Nation Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in collaboration with the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters in Nigeria

(NAPTIP) organized a 3-day workshop on **ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**. The workshop which took place at the United Nations (UN) House, Abuja was designed to give stakeholders the opportunity to deliberate, consult and share their experience on challenges that arise when going through the legal process and trying to provide assistance for the victims of human trafficking. The participants at the workshop comprise of NAPTIP, the Ministry of justice, prosecutors, judges and NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking, private law firms and survivors of human trafficking. Idia Renaissance participated at the workshop.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

The Federal Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with NAPTIP organized the 1<sup>st</sup> international conference on human Trafficking. The conference which was held at the conflict and resolution centre, Abuja was graced by personalities and institutions and government agencies involved in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria and the international community. Her Excellency, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance who was a special guest chaired the second session of the programme.

### **22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2007**

The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Benin Network Centre presenter; Benedith Ehanire was at the office of Idia Renaissance. The visit was to elicit information on the current situation of child trafficking in Nigeria particularly in Edo State. The Public Relation Officer of the organization, Mr. Nwoha Roland who was interviewed spoke on the activities of Idia Renaissance through the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund and the UNICEF supported Youth Resource Center towards protecting and assisting indigent and trafficked children to acquiring basic education from primary to secondary school level. He stated that the 12 years scholarship programme has enrolled over 250 indigent Edo children noting also that some of the children who have distinguished themselves have also been sponsored up to the university level. The programme was shown on the NTA network news on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> may 2007.

### **23<sup>RD</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

Sequel to the developed National Draft Policy on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking in Nigeria, the counseling and Rehabilitation department of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) with key ministries of the federal government of Nigeria through a technical committee set-up by the sectoral partners organized a 2-day

review meeting on the policy. The policy document is anticipated to be a standard operating procedure to be adopted by all person involved in the rehabilitation of trafficked victims. Idia renaissance as a key organization involved in the rehabilitation of victim of Trafficking was invited to the 2-day meeting with NGOs and other stakeholders in the rehabilitation of victims to share the existing first draft of the policy for their substantial input, and to develop a common NGOs forum.

### **24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007:**

Mrs. Roseleen Akunyele of the B' Office, Protection and Participation, UNICEF, Lagos, paid a workings visit to the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance, Benin City. The UNICEF representative making a presentation of a 'public address system' stated that it is a gesture to assist the organization in her various awareness campaign/rally targeted especially in rural communities of the different Local Government Areas in Edo state. Receiving the item on behalf of the organization, the Head counselors in the organization, Ms Imose Utomwen thanked UNICEF for the gesture and promised that the item will be put to good use.

### **28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

An Italian based Non-governmental Organization, TAMPEP Onlus, Italy; currently executing the "TURNAROUND PROJECT" in Nigeria referred 3 victims of human trafficking for rehabilitation and reintegration at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The 3 victims on graduation from the vocational, Counseling and Life Skills training of the center will also be empowered to set up their own small scale business by the project. Receiving the victims, the Public Relations Officer of Idia Renaissance advised them to take advantage of the youth friendly center free from all forms of stigmatization. He noted that one remarkable achievement of the Youth Resource Center is that graduates are adequately trained to be able to compete favourably with their counterparts anywhere in the world.

### **31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007**

The Referral Focal person in the Idia Renaissance / GHAIN Counseling and Testing project was invited to participate in the Bi-monthly referral coordination meeting and feedback session. The meeting which is aimed at providing a platform for all referral focal persons from the different GHAIN supported facilities and stakeholders in the state is to discuss and share experience; lessons learnt and proffer solutions for identified challenges with a view adopting best practices in the execution of the FHI/GHAIN project. The referral meetings also aim at strengthening referral linkages and networking in the delivery of HIV/AIDS programmes.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2007

Following the re-organization of staff / structure of the various arms of Idia Renaissance by the Management Board, a general staff meeting was held. The meeting which was chaired by Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Osaru Onyeonwu, JP, FNLA, now the Head of Center and expected to provide advisory support to the new administration informed the general house that following the due resignation of Mrs. Emede Blessing who was the acting Administrator of the Youth Resource Center. Mr. Roland Nwoha, the P.R.O has emerged as the substantive Administrator and Project Coordinator of the Youth Resource Center and Idia Renaissance as the umbrella organization. She expressed confidence in the new Administrator noting that Mr. Roland Nwoha has been a reliable and dedicated staff of the center and sued for the support and cooperation of all staff to sustain the laudable Programmes of the center.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007

A general staff meeting was held. The new Administrator/Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Roland Nwoha stated that the meeting is aimed at drawing up a plan of action and modalities which will guide the operations of the center. He stated that every staff is a co-pilot and that as a team; there must also be a team leader. The Administrator noted that the new regime will run a collective administration and that every meaningful suggestion aimed at moving the center forward will be welcomed. A committee comprising of the various instructors in the vocational training departments and the Games Master was set up to draw up a unified time-table for the Youth Resource Center considering Life Skills Lectures and play time for the youths. The committee is also expected to complete and submit the work 3hours after the meeting. He solicited for the support and cooperation of all staff to move the center forward.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007

The Idia Renaissance/Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) Counseling and Testing project “Heart To Heart” gave birth to a pet project – **IDIA RENAISSANCE SUPPORT GROUP**. Members of the support group met for the inaugural Support Group Meeting. The Support Group project was set up to bring smile on the faces of persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through palliative, psychosocial, moral and economic support. The members of the group were identified through the various counseling and testing exercise (facility based and Mobile Voluntary Counseling and Testing) carried out by the organization since the inception of the “Heart to Heart” project in collaboration with the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN). The idea is also to form a forum where persons living with HIV can meet to discuss issues of common interest.



## **7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the May edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for facilities working in the various GHAIN supported project in Edo state. The objective of the workshop includes: (a) to receive and review the Implementing Agencies May M&E report (b) to identify gaps and effect corrections (c) to identify challenges in project execution and proffer solutions affecting M&E services in the various GHAIN supported facilities in the state (d) to collate the various monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database. The Project Manager of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN Counseling and Testing project represented the M&E Officer at the meeting.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

The Catering Department of Youth Resource Center had their final examination as a requirement for the award of a certificate in catering from the institution. The practical examination showcased a variety of African and continental dishes prepared by the students. A total of 27 students including the 17 victims of human trafficking referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) to the department participated in the final examination.

Ms. Alemoh Joan and Ms Linda Nwaeze, both Senior Development Welfare Officers in the counseling and rehabilitation department NAPTIP, Benin Zonal Office witnessed and also participated in the assessment of the students. Ms. Alemoh Joan, who spoke on behalf of the agency, praised the management of Idia Renaissance /Youth Resource Center for their untiring effort in empowering young people who have become increasingly vulnerable to social problems in the society and urged the students to make good use the knowledge they have acquired. Also speaking, the Administrator of the center, Mr. Nwoha Roland noted the good manner the students conducted themselves while in training and urged them to be good ambassadors of Idia Renaissance and the Youth Resource Center. He noted that one remarkable achievement of the center is that graduates do not have problems securing jobs anywhere because they are well trained to compete with their counterpart anywhere in the world, stressing that most of the students who graduated from the catering department in particular are all engaged in fast food centers scattered all over the city.

## **12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

The Project Manager, Project Officer/Monitoring & Evaluation and Head Counselor of the Idia Renaissance/ GHAIN counseling and testing project “Heart to Heart” paid an advocacy visit to the Edo Broadcasting service (EBS) Benin. The visit was aimed at intimating the management of the broadcasting station on the existence of the “Heart to Heart” center established in collaboration with the Global HIV/AIDS

Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN). The group informed the management that the center which offers free voluntary HIV/AIDS counseling and testing targets especially the youth population in the state who are most vulnerable to the HIV/AIDS pandemic stressing that the project will particularly aim at increasing access to treatment, care and other support services for persons testing positives to the virus. The visit which was consequently aired during the station television and radio news broadcast same day and in the next morning led to increased patronage to the project.

### **14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Idia Renaissance featured in an Independent Television (ITV) Benin breakfast programme “Day Break”. The special edition of the programme was aired to commemorate the day of “The African Child. The Administrator/Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Nwoha Roland spoke on the significance of the day and also programmes the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, which is an arm of Idia Renaissance is putting together to commemorate the day.

### **14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Idia Renaissance hosted the inaugural South-South National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations working on Child Trafficking, Labour and Abuse (NACTAL) meeting. The South-South geo-political zone of NACTAL in Nigeria is been coordinated by Idia Renaissance who is a major player in the fight against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour in the zone. Representatives of various Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Non governmental Organizations in the zone participated in the meeting held at the conference hall, Idia Renaissance secretariat, Benin City.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Sequel to deliberations arising from the inaugural Network of Civil Society Organizations working on Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007. The project coordinator and legal officer of Idia Renaissance, project coordinator of IRRAG and the project officer of FONWIP on behalf of the coalition paid a familiarization visit to the Chief Whip of the Edo State House of Assembly who is also the Chairperson House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development. The Chief Whip, who also heads the committee for the domestication of the Child Right Act Bill currently before the Edo state House of Assembly informed the NACTAL members that the second reading of the bill will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2007. An advocacy visit was also schedule for the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 to enable the south-south NACTAL body meet with the Speaker of the House of Assembly on the Child Rights Act. The body also met with the

representative of Orhionmwon L.G.A. in the house who was among those antagonistic to the Bill to sensitize him on the need to domesticate it.

### **18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Idia Renaissance led the NACTAL to the Edo State House of Assembly to observed proceedings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Child Right Act Bill currently before the House. The Hon. Members of the House were unanimous in their support for the passage of the Bill. Some members however were of the opinion that critical issues which will lead to the effectiveness of the bill when passed into law such as the establishment of juvenile police, courts, provision of basic educational infrastructure etc must be looked into before the bill is passed. About 8 NGOs in the South-South zone of the country were present at the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Bill.

### **19<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2007**

Consequent upon the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2007 at the Benin Zonal Office of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) under the auspices of the Norwegian project – “Direct Assistance, Protection and Monitoring of trafficked women repatriated from Norway to Edo state, Nigeria. A 3day training workshop on Direct Assistance, Return and Reintegration of trafficked persons was organized for NGOs, government agencies and rehabilitation workers of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP). The workshop was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NAPTIP. The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of participating organizations and agencies to respond effectively to cases of trafficking especially for the 20 Nigerian women of Edo extract recently repatriated from Norway.

### **20<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

The Head Nurse and Counselor in Idia Renaissance, Ms Imose Utomwen was invited to represent the organization at the training of HIV/AIDS counselors to participate in the Integrated BIO Behavioral Surveillance Survey (IBBSS) among high risk groups in the state. The survey which commence immediately after the training targeted female sex workers, injection drug users, transport workers, Armed forces, police and Men having sex with men (Homosexuals).

## **26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Idia Renaissance/Global HIV/Aids Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) counseling and testing project met for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly PAC meeting. The composition of the PAC consists of the Project Executor (president and founder of Idia Renaissance), the project manager, a Traditional ruler/chief, a Medical Doctor, a Person Living Positively With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), a Legal practitioner and a youth. The PAC plays an advisory role and provides the needed support the project deserves. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the meeting was aimed at briefing members on the various activities carried out so far and seek their support and contributions for effective service delivery

## **29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

Idia Renaissance was among the 22 Female & Youth focused NGOs invited for the inauguration of the Edo State House of Assembly Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development. The programme which took place at House of Assembly complex, Benin City was chaired by the speaker of the House Hon. Zakawanu I. Garuba inaugurated the committee. The only female member of the House, Hon. Mrs. E. O Ativie emerged as the chairman of the committee and was vested with the responsibility of looking into the oversight functions of the ministry of women affairs and social development Edo state.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2007**

The Project Coordinator/Administrator of Idia Renaissance met with members of the Youth Empowerment Initiative. The Y.E.I being a club and an integral part of the Idia Renaissance Youth Resource Center has in the past not been properly integrated into the programmes of the organization. The meeting with members of the club according to the Administrator is to look at their activities, identify gaps and challenges so as to incorporate them properly into the programmes of the organization. A total of 11 members of the club attended the meeting.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. The bi-weekly staff meeting which was anchored by the Administrator was aimed at reviewing activities carried out in the center within the period. The meeting led to the formation of 4 working committees to see to the effective working of all the aspect of operation in the organization. The committees which emerged include: (1) Security and Sanitation (2) Maintenance (3) Discipline and staff welfare (4) Events and Planning. The various committees were to work out modalities for carrying out the various activities effectively at the center. The Administrator also announced the concluding plans to set up a hairdressing department for the Youth Resource Center.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

An in-house orientation programme was organized for students of the Youth Resource Center. Staff members of the various arms of the organization (Idia Renaissance, Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund and the Heart to Heart Unit also participated in the orientation programme. The routine programme for new students of the center is aimed at educating and sensitizing the youths on the aim and objectives of the organization.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the June edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for facilities working in the various GHAIN supported project in Edo state. The objective of the workshop includes: (a) to receive and review the Implementing Agencies May M&E report (b) to identify gaps and effect corrections (c) to identify challenges in project execution and proffer solutions affecting M&E services in the various GHAIN supported facilities in the state (d) to collate the various monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database. The Project Manager of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN Counseling and Testing project represented the M&E Officer at the meeting

## **12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

Idia Renaissance was a guest speaker at a symposium organized by the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) UN-Millennium Development Goal Club. The symposium which was titled “Development in my community” was held at the Oba Akensuwa cultural center, Benin city and had the following objectives (i) Introduce to participant the development agendas of their country particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) (ii) Help participant discover how they can contribute to attaining the goals outlined in the MDGs and NEEDS through engaging with local development organizations and programmes. The Palliative care officer of the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) alongside the Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Nwoha Roland presented a paper on HIV/AIDS and Women trafficking and Child Labour in Nigeria” respectively at the programme.

## **16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the meeting of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) network in Edo state. The meeting which was hosted by the Forum of Nigerian Women in Politics (FONWIP) was aimed at forging a common front for the passage of the Bill to domesticate the CEDAW in Edo state. The Bill is currently before the new Edo State House of Assembly had already gone through the first reading and was to go through the second reading on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. It was however postponed to allow members of the house to study the Bill before it is been deliberated upon.

## **27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

Idia Renaissance led the South-South zone of the Network of Civil Society Organizations Involved in the Fight Against Child Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) to a curtsey visit to Hon. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Ativie, Chief Whip of the Edo state House of Assembly. The leader of the delegation, Mr. Nwoha Roland, Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance declared that the visit was to officially congratulate the member of the Edo state legislative House on her victory at the elections and her subsequent inauguration as the Chairperson, House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development. He noted that NACTAL has been following carefully proceedings and deliberations on the Child Rights Act Bill which is currently before the House of Assembly and affirmed the determination of the House to pass the Bill into law. He assured Hon. Ativie of the group's support and decision to also participate and contribute in every process of the Bill to ensure that the rights and privileges of children in our society are protected.

Responding, Hon. Ativie thanked the group for the visit, she explained that the Bill which has already passed the second reading will soon appear for public hearing. She noted and appreciated the contributions of some child-focused NGOs in the state such as Idia Renaissance that has sent several materials to support the debate on the Bill.

## **30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

As part of effort aimed at gathering support from the various organs of Idia Renaissance (Youth Resource Center, Edo State Skills Acquisition Center and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund) and also create understanding and the appreciation of HIV counseling and Testing (C.T) and referral for comprehensive HIV/AIDS care. A 1 – day sensitization seminar was organized by Idia Renaissance. A total of 98 people participated in the seminar, they includes members of the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN Project Management Team (PMT), members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), technical officials from the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN), members of the Idia Renaissance Support Group, staff and students of the Youth Resource Center and staff and students representatives from the Edo State Skills Acquisition Center Evbuomodu.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. The bi-weekly staff meeting which was anchored by the Administrator was aimed at reviewing activities carried out in the center within the period. The meeting was also aimed at assessing the impact the various activities carried out within the period, identify challenges and proffer solutions to the problems. Some of the committees earlier inaugurated in the last meeting submitted their reports to the house.

## **4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A Birthday party in honour of Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, president and founder of Idia Renaissance was organized by the management of the organization. The sponsor of the birthday party Mr. Nowa Omorogbe, a former aide of the erstwhile first lady of Edo state hinted that great people like Mrs. Eki Igbinedion deserves to be honored in every special way stressing that the projects and programmes executed by Mrs. Eki Igbinedion impacted positively in the life of the underprivileged, the exploited and the general society. Several friends, partners, well wishers, representatives of some NGOs, staff, students and beneficiaries of Idia Renaissance, the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, Youth Resource Center and the Idia Renaissance Support Group were in attendance.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the July edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for facilities working in the various GHAIN supported project in Edo state. The objective of the workshop includes: (a) to receive and review the Implementing Agencies July M&E report (b) to identify gaps and effect corrections (c) to identify challenges in project execution and proffer solutions affecting M&E services in the various GHAIN supported facilities in the state (d) to collate the various monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A Mobile Voluntary HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing (MVCT) was carried out at the Edo State Skills Acquisition Center at Evbuomodu community in Ikpoba Okha local government area of Edo state by the Idia Renaissance counseling and testing team. The HIV/AIDS counseling and testing was targeted at members of the Evbuomodu community and students of the Skills Acquisition Center, which is also a project initiated by Idia Renaissance in collaboration with the Edo state government. A total of 105 (One hundred and five) 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 giving those who may test positive to the virus access to treatment, care and other support services.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) in conjunction with UNICEF organized a 2-day sensitization workshop for selected media practitioners in Nigeria. The workshop which featured lectures, victim's story, interactive sessions and speeches from stakeholders had the following objectives –

1. To educate and enlighten the media on issues of trafficking in persons from arrest, investigation, prosecution and rehabilitation of victims
2. To impact positively in the injection of sustained anti-human trafficking issues in the media
3. To generate new sensibility with regards to the plights and trauma of victims
4. Establish an in-depth appreciation of the rights of TIP amongst media persons
5. to equip the media with information and knowledge with reference to acceptable and appropriate register in the reportage of TIP cases
6. Strengthen the relationship with editors and gatekeepers in the media to develop strategies, fast track anti human campaign
7. Create a better networking strategy for information sharing and sensitization on TIP issues.

The Head of Investigation and Prosecution NAPTIP Abuja, Alhaji Mohammed Babandede, a mass communication lecturer at the University of Abuja and Mr. Nwoha Roland of Idia Renaissance presented papers on NAPTIP Investigation and prosecution processes, media reporting of crime stories and victim's rehabilitation respectively at the workshop.

## **10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

Dr. Peter Odemwingie, Head of the Idia Renaissance medical unit organized a “Role Model” party for the youths and beneficiaries of the Youth Resource Center, the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund and members of the Idia Renaissance Support Group. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Peter Odemwingie who is the father of the Nigerian ace international footballer, Osazee Odemwingie currently playing professional football in Europe urged the youths to be focused and strive to become the best and excel in their respective field. Continuing, he advised the youths not to be deterred by education, finance, family, peers or anything. Recounting his experience, he noted that being a medical doctor trained abroad, he also had a lot of pressure from both his friends and family members who queried why a professional like him would allow his only son for that matter to play football rather than pursuing an educational career. He however noted that his son's determination and love for the



game prevailed. Dr. Odemwingie stated that “today Osazee’s choice to play footballer has made him an international star. Also speaking the Administrator of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Nwoha Roland noted that youths in today’s society has become so money conscious that they forget their hidden talents which when explored will bring them wealth and also fame to affect their society positively. The party which was attended by staff, friends of the center and some youth organizations featured several side attractions from students of the Youth Resource Center to spice up the event.

## **15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A Sent-forth party was organized for the 5 Batch B, 2006/2007 Youth Corp. members posted to serve in Idia Renaissance. The youth coppers who are UNICEF trained peer educators facilitated in the Life skills training for students at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. In his opening remark at the ceremony, the Administrator of the organization, Mr. Nwoha Roland thanked the corp. members for the services they have rendered to the organization while in service. He noted that they have done very well to have gone to higher schools to obtain Degrees and Higher National Diploma which is a prerequisite to participate in the National Youth Service scheme in Nigeria which has also afforded them the opportunity to contribute their quota in the development of the communities they found themselves during the one year programme. He however noted that the process is to prepare them for the future, stressing that the world ahead is one full of challenges and also prospects. He advised them to take job offers no matter how small it may look rather than just sitting at home waiting for bigger offers, he noted that most employers who actually pay very well are not really concerned about degrees or certificates but what you can offer to their organizations in terms of experience obtained by doing something similar no matter how small. On behalf of the president and founder of the organization, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, he wished them the best in their future endeavors. Dr. Peter Odemwingie and others who responded also spoke copiously. Highlight of the event was the presentation of gifts to the outgoing youth coppers.

## **16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

Idia Renaissance attended a meeting of the Social Work in Nigeria Project (SWINP). The meeting which was held at the Boardroom of the faculty of Education, University of Benin was attended by members of the project advisory board of SWINP and was aimed at meeting with principal officers of the University of Benin to look at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) activities and work plan for SWINP. Present at the meeting includes some Professors and lecturers from the department of Sociology and Social Works, UNIBEN, a representative of CIDA, the NGO Coalition against Human Trafficking in Edo state and a representative of the ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Edo state. The SWINP has as

one of its plans to build the capacity of participating members academically in the field of social work and also to establish a social center in Edo state where social services will be offered to the society. Degree and Diploma Students from the department of Sociology and Social Works, University of Benin are usually posted to undergo internship programmes of varying duration in Idia Renaissance and other social institutions in the state. The capacity of Idia Renaissance and other benefiting organizations will be better built to further train the university students on social projects locally and internationally. Modalities for achieving the plans were outlined in the meeting.

### **16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. As usual, the bi-weekly staff meeting was aimed at reviewing the weekly reports submitted by the various unit and staff, assess the impact of activities already implemented, identify challenges, suggest solutions and plan for the weeks ahead. All the staff of the center including the Cleaner, Gardner and the security man were present at the meeting.

### **16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. As usual, the bi-weekly staff meeting was aimed at reviewing the weekly reports submitted by various unit and staff, asses the impact of activities already implemented, identify challenges, suggest solution and plan for the week ahead. All the staff of the center including the Cleaner, Gardner and the Security man was present at the meeting.

### **20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2007**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E) and the Lead Counselor in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN C&T project were invited by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) to participate in the capacity of a Consultant Supervisor and a Support data reviewer in the Data Verification and Separation Exercise carried out by the Edo Field Office of GHAIN. The data verification and separation exercise was aimed at collating HIV/AIDS counseling and testing data in all the GHAIN supported facilities in the state from the month of July 2007 into the new reporting format.

### **28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2007**

The Project Officer/M&E, the Head Counselor and Project Accountant of the Idia Renaissance / GHAIN C&T Project paid an Advocacy Visit to the palace of the Enogie of Etete Community in Oredo L G. A. of Edo State. The team which met with the Chiefs, Elders and Youths Leaders of the community hinted that the visit was to intimate the palace on the “Heart and Heart” project, the importance of HIV/AIDS

Counseling And Testing and the need to sensitize members of the community which has been cited at the Youth Resource Center, Office of Idia Renaissance, Benin city.

## **29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2007**

Idia Renaissance participates in a 2 - day training workshop organized by TAMPEP association in collaboration with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The workshop which was held at the Samsy Hotel GRA Benin City was aimed at

1. Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in the management of migrant women.
2. To exchange ideas between the stakeholders and drawing the line between migration and trafficked.
3. To build up stakeholder capacity to meet up with the challenges involved both in Nigeria and Europe. The theme of the workshop was “Migrant Women: the hopes upon departure and unexpected obstacles faced upon arrival”.

## **5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

The Chief of party of the American Bar Association in Nigeria, Mr. Reed Slack in Company of the Accountant (ABA) Ms Ramatu Salihu was at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The visit was in connection with the 30 victims of human trafficking referred by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Benin zonal office who recently graduated from the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes of Idia Renaissance. The visit was to finalize the disbursement of fund for the training of the girls which was sponsored by the ABA. In this appreciation remark, the Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance Mr. Roland Nwoha who spoke on behalf of the Founder and Initiator of Idia Renaissance Mrs. Eki Igbinedion thanked the ABA for their support in empowering victims of human trafficking in Edo State. The Project Coordinator also solicited for the support of the ABA in the training of another batch of 50 victims that will also be referred by NAPTIP to the center. Responding, Mr. Reed Slack thanked Idia Renaissance for their untiring effort in the training of victims of human trafficking including the most at risk people. He also noted the remarkable improvement in the Center and promised to work to assist in the training of the 50 victims awaiting rehabilitation at the centre.

## **6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

The Project Manager of Edo State Action Committee on the Control of AIDS (SACA) State Project Team (SPT), Mrs. Igbinoba and the Community Mobilization Officer, Rev. Solomon Ohonba was at Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund. The visit according to the dual was to examine reports the

two NGOs submitted on the execution of the Edo State World Bank Fund on HIV/AIDS (HAF). Idia Renaissance and the EUCSTF benefited from the fund which was expended on HIV/AIDS interventions. Idia Renaissance focused on HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and trainings in various communities in the state, while the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund gave out scholarships to about 185 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in the state.

### **13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

An European delegation made up of a mission from the Netherlands, UK and the Danish Governments in Nigerian on a fact finding mission visited Idia Renaissance. The visitors Jen Weise Olesen – Documentation and Project division, Jan Olsen, Documentation and Research division, both of the Danish immigration service and Daniel M. Kooij, Policy Officer, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Netherlands stated that the mission will be expected to write a report on the security and human right situation in Nigeria. Asylum requests from Nigerians in Europe will also be considered based on the report. They stated that the report will be looking for information on all kinds of human right related topics, like cult, the situation in prisons, women's right, medical facilities, death penalty, human trafficking etc. They further state that their research-visit to Idia Renaissance will focus on human trafficking and initiatives aimed to counter the phenomenon. The Administrator/Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance, Mr. Nwoha Roland who conducted the guest around the facilities offered by the center noted that prevention and protection of vulnerable people and victims of human trafficking was the thrust of the center's Programmes. He however noted the limited number of training facilities at the centre considering the influx of young people and victims of human trafficking accessing the facility. Commenting, the leader of the delegation, Jen Weise Olesen expressed his appreciation on the quality of training at the centre. Highlight of the visit was the purchase of some works exhibited by the Fashion Design Department by the visitors.

### **17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. A 6-man committee which will work out plan for the commemoration to the Idia Renaissance anniversary was inaugurated. The committee which is expected to draw up a comprehensive plan of action will also workout a detailed budget for the programme and submits report and recommendations to the management in 8 days. Departmental reports submitted by the various head instructors and units were reviewed with a view to proffering solutions to challenges identified.

## **24<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

As the South-South Coordinator of the Network of Civil Society Organizations against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL), Idia Renaissance participated in a 2-day training workshop organized for members of the coalition with the support of UNICEF. The workshop which was organized for members from all the geo-political zones of the country was a follow up to the NACTAL work plan to: Develop and build the capacity of its member organizations to access fund, build the capacity of NACTAL members in the area of monitoring and evaluation and to improve their capacity in care and support to victims of trafficking. The meeting was held at the Gateway Hotel Abeokuta, Ogun state.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the September 2007 edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for facilities working in the various GHAIN supported projects in Edo state. The objective of the workshop includes (a) To receive and review the Implementing Agencies September M&E report (b) To identify gaps and effect corrections (c) To identify challenges in project execution and proffer solutions affecting M&E services in the various GHAIN supported facilities in the state (d) To collate the various monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database.

## **15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

Mrs. Msurshima Kighir of the Federal Radio cooperation of Nigeria (FRCN) was at the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance. The manager programmes development stated that the visit was to gather information for a radio programme on child trafficking being developed in collaboration with UNICEF. She noted that Idia Renaissance was foremost in the fight against trafficking in persons and also in the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons in Edo state where the trend is high and in Nigeria at large. Several interview sessions was conducted with principle staff of the center including a victim of human trafficking currently undergoing training at the center

## **26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

The Youth Against AIDS, Abortion and Prostitution (YAAP) club of the National Youth Service Corp. (NYSC) Benin, Oredo zonal office invited Idia Renaissance to facilitate as a resource person in a lecture organized for selected secondary schools in the local government area. The laboratory scientist in the Idia Renaissance HIV/AIDS

project represented the organization at the programme and presented a lecture on HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling and testing, care and support.

## **30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Administrator of the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance was invited by the Edo State Planning Commission to attend the State Level Annual Review of Federal Government of Nigeria /UNICEF programme of cooperation. As part of the review process, programme partners were expected to undertake a comprehensive review of programme during the year 2007 and to suggest ways of improving its performance and impact for the one year extension programme in 2008. The objectives of the review exercise were:

- i. To review the performance of project during the year and identify major challenges/constraints including lesson learned
- ii. To explore ways of further consolidating the gains of the programmes and linkages with MDGS/State Economic and Development Strategy (SEEDS)/Local/Community Economic Empowerment And Development Strategy (LEEDS/CEEDS)
- iii. To provide a forum for collective understanding of critical perspectives that affect key areas of programme action, incorporate lessons learned so far, share information and processes and structures that will impact on the focus of UNICEF and
- iv. To agree on the programme focus in 2008 and outline the key results to be achieved during the year.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund participated in the meeting of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) stakeholders' forum. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen OVC in the state and also to know the background information on OVC. The Hon. Commissioner for Women Affair and Social Development in Edo state, Mrs. Sabikat Kassim – Momodu who chaired the meeting further stated that the meeting was to get information from the various NGOs, FBOs and CBOs concerning their activities as it relates to OVC in the state. The Hon. Commissioner noted that the meeting will particularly aim at establishing networks between NGOs, FBOs and CBOs and to further strengthen collaborations with the government to improve OVC in the state

Key issues discussed in the meeting include:

- Inauguration of the OVC steering committee in the state.
- A 3-day orientation workshop for the newly inaugural members of the OVC steering committee.
- Inauguration of OVC stakeholder's forum.
- Preparation of the OVC action plan after the 3-days orientation workshop by the steering committee

## **1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

50 young girls who are vulnerable and victims of human trafficking referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Benin zonal office started registration into the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance, Benin City. The girls who are expected to commence vocational training at the center will also benefit from the life skills and Anti-human trafficking training, free, voluntary, confidential HIV counseling and testing and recreational facilities at the center.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund participated in a 2-day meeting on report writing organized by the Edo State HIV/AIDS Programme Development Project (State Project Team) for the 28 NGOs benefiting from the World Bank Fund on HIV/AIDS (HAF). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress and appraise the activities of participating NGOs with regards to the 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche grant and to also acquaint the NGOs with the pattern of the final report writing. 2 representatives from each NGO participated in the meeting.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Referral focal person in the Idia Renaissance/GHAIN counseling and testing project participated in the bi-monthly referral coordination meeting and feedback session, the meeting was aimed at providing a platform for all referral focal persons from the different GHAIN supported facilities and other stakeholders to discuss and share experience, lessons learnt and proffer solutions for identified challenges with a view to adopting best practices to strengthen referral linkages and networking in the delivery of HIV/AIDS and its related services in Edo state

## **1<sup>ST</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Founder and Initiator of Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund, Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion received a Gold Plaque and the prestigious National Center for Women Development (NCWD) leader's Award certificate. The award is in line with the NCWD's mandate of gender documentation, which set up the Nigerian Women Hall of Fame to honor Nigerian women as tributes to their effort and contributions to national development. The Hall of Fame provides the profiles of role models for younger women and the society at large on the unlimited potentials of women in the Nigerian society.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

A 1-day training on “Referral Procedures in the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of trafficked persons was organized for staff members of Idia Renaissance’s Youth Resource Center. The training which adopted a paper presented by the Director, Counseling and Rehabilitation Department, NAPTIP was part of effort to build the capacity of staff members of the organization who will be directly responsible in the training and care for the 50 victims of human trafficking and vulnerable young girls referred from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Benin zonal office to the center. The training was facilitated by the Administrator / Project Coordinator of Idia Renaissance and had the various vocational instructors and a counselor in attendance.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The monthly meeting of members of the Idia Renaissance Support Group was held. The meeting is a forum and an opportunity for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) identified in the organization’s various HIV counseling and testing services to share experiences, develop strategies to deal with stigma and discrimination, have access to psychological counseling, palliative care etc. The November edition of the meeting was attended and facilitated by the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Edo state. Palliative care materials such as mosquito nets and water guide were presented to the support group members.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Mrs. Roselyn Akinroye- B, Field Office, UNICEF, Ingunn Bjorkhaug, Researcher, Institute for Applied International Studies, Oslo, Norway, UNICEF Consultant, Nneka Ofoegbu-McCourt. Women Social Economic Rights Agenda - UNICEF Consultant, visited the youth resource center piloted by Idia Renaissance with support from UNICEF and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The visit was to: Ascertain the impact of the centre’s programmes and activities to the immediate community, examine whether the objectives of establishing the centre has been met, asses the needs of the centre and make recommendations.

Several documents such as: Guidelines for the establishment of the Youth Resource Center, Quarterly reports of activities at the centre, Annual reports of activities, Account books, bank statements, Monthly/Annual budget/ work plans, Documented evidence of activities, Minutes of the State Steering Committee meetings held, Minutes of Staff bi- weekly meetings, Evidence of referrals/collaborations with agencies/NGOs/donors (Local and international), Policies and procedures — Constitution, Structure, hierarchy of the center, etc. activities carried out by the team during the 2-day visit include: Interview with Administrator, vocational instructors in their respective departments and interviews with other staff of the center. Focus group



discussions were also held with old and new students of the center, a member of the Youth Club of the Youth Resource Centre, visitors to the centre and also with youths outside the centre.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

An orientation seminar was organized for newly registered youths into the Youth Resource Center, the new entrants included 50 vulnerable young girls and victims of human trafficking referred from the Benin zonal office of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The Administrator/Project Coordinator of the Youth Resource Center facilitated at the seminar which was aimed at educating the youths on the overall concept of the organization; – the mission, vision, aims and objectives. The various programmes offered by the organization were also highlighted at the seminar. The staff and management of the organization were also introduced to the newly registered students. The Administrator advised them to adhere strictly by the rules and regulations of the center and to also take the training programme seriously to acquire information and skills necessary to overcome social, health and economic problems prevalent among young people in the society.

## **19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Laura Saporta of TAMPEP, Italy, visited the Idia Renaissance office. Laura who came in company of Dr. Daniel Agbor, the Nigerian coordinator of TAMPEP stated that the visit was to get information on the turnaround project executed by the organization in Nigeria. She hinted that an external evaluator will be arriving on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November and will be expected to meet with a representative of Idia Renaissance to discuss issues which will help them determine and ascertain the impact of the turnaround project in Nigeria and also make recommendations on ways to assess and improve subsequent projects by the organization

## **12<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN) Edo state chapter organized a 5-day Palliative/Home Based Care Training for member organization as part of the network's effort to build the capacity of its members.

The training was facilitated by the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA). The Head counselor and referral coordinator of Idia Renaissance participated in the 5-day training. Proposals which will fund projects on palliative and home based care for persons living positively was solicited from participating organizations by the organizers of the programme.

## **16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Real Information International, a non-denominational youth Christian organization organized a seminar titled ‘MAKING IT COUNT’ for youths at the Youth Resource Center, Benin city. The seminar which featured other youth pastors like Pastor Osere Daniel, Ezomoghene Isaac and Ayinde Isreal, was aimed basically to inspire the youth to, irrespective of the circumstances which they may have found themselves to have a positive approach to life. This they asserted was the panacea for a fulfilled and happy living in a world of uncertainties. Over 120 youths including the 50 victims of human trafficking referred from NAPTIP Benin zonal office participated in the seminar which also featured drama and music by the youths.

## **22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance (South-South Coordinator of NACTAL) hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Network of Civil Society Organizations against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour, (NACTAL) South-South zonal meeting. The meeting which was attended by over 15 civil society organizations in the zone was aimed at discussing issues aimed at forging a common front in the fight against child trafficking, abuse and labour in the zone. The Project coordinator of Idia Renaissance Mr. Nwoha Roland who chaired the meeting noted that the vice is most prevalent in the zone and as such civil society organizations working in the zone must brace up to combat the trend.

## **26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

TAMPEP Onlus, Italy organized a meeting for NGOs participating in her turnaround project. The meeting according to the organization was to solicit information which may be useful in the evaluation of the impact of the turnaround project. An external evaluator Mr. Daniel Colonial (an independent evaluator) met with the NGOs and will be expected to gather information elicited from the participants in order to amend or improve on subsequent projects in Nigeria. The meeting was held at the premises of AWEK Benin city.

## **26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Center for Research and Preventive Health Care (CERPHEC) commenced training for peer educators who will carryout a comprehensive HIV/AIDS initiative amongst most at risk persons in Edo state. The 2 weeks training which commenced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2007 took place at the premises of Idia Renaissance, Benin City. Some members in the Idia Renaissance HIV/AIDS project also benefited from the

training and will apply knowledge acquired in the training to work with most at risk groups in the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the state.

## **27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund were nominated as members of the Edo State OVC stakeholder's forum. The formal inauguration ceremony of the OVC stakeholder's forum was declared open by the Hon. Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Edo state, Mrs. Sabikat Kassim-Momodu and was attended by the wife of the executive Governor of Edo State Lady (Mrs.) Osien Osunbor, the Hon. Commissioner for Health, Dr. Peter Imogan and representatives of International Development partners; the formal inauguration ceremony of the stakeholders forum which was held at the festival hall, Government house Benin city, Edo state, had the following terms of reference To: develop a co-ordination mechanism that has defined mandate and reporting processes with a secretariat that supports programme implementers, publicize, interpret, advocate and popularize the national guidelines and standards of practice among the various duty bearers, sensitize and train state and LGA leaders and technical persons in provision of services that target orphans and other vulnerable children, mobilize collaborative action involving government bodies, CSOs and other development partners to ensure effective and efficient resource allocation and use in conformity with government policies and strategies, build capacity of service providers and key actors in programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, monitor and assess the effectiveness and cost of interventions intended to benefit orphans and other vulnerable children, carry out research, disseminate findings on best practices and lessons learned for increasing programme planning and implementation effectiveness, demonstrate and encourage all duty bearers to institute a level of transparency regarding information, intervention methodologies (including a review of what works and what does not), resource, cost of interventions, numbers of beneficiaries of interventions, feasibility of implementing and sustaining interventions at scale, ensure that orphans and vulnerable children and their care givers participate substantively in the planning intended to benefit them.

## **29<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The Administrator of the Youth Resource Center Benin was invited to participate in the 2007 federal government of Nigeria/UNICEF FGN/UNICEF protection and participation programme review and planning meeting. The meeting aim Abuja review meeting. The meeting aimed at reviewing the progress and challenges of programme implementation in 2007 and also highlighted key areas for the 2008 Annual Work Plan. Also, in view of the fact that the FGN/UNICEF country programme of cooperation is coming to an end at the end of the year (2007), the UN and the Federal Government of Nigeria have jointly agreed that pending the

development of a five-year country programme of support by the UN, 2008 is declared a bridging year. Therefore the meeting also aimed at discussing, formulating and fine-tuning recommendations for 2008. The meeting which was held at the Sharon Ultimate Hotel, Abuja Nigeria was also an opportunity to build the capacity of participants drawn from Federal/States Ministry of Women Affairs, NGOs the National Youth Service Corp. and other partners working with UNICEF.

### **30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) Benin zonal office and Idia Renaissance organized a formal inauguration ceremony for the 50 victims of human trafficking and vulnerable young girls referred by the agency to the Youth Resource Center of Idia Renaissance, Benin City. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the founder and initiator of Idia Renaissance, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion represented by Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Onyeonwu, representative of Mrs. Carol Ndaguba – Executive Secretary of NAPTIP Mrs. Olufunmiladun Aiyegbusi – Director (Public Enlightenment), officials from the Embassy of Switzerland present includes: Patricia Dvoracek – Migration Advisor. Andre Kunzi – Head for Central and East Africa, Repatriation Division. Urs Von Arb. Gregoire Crettaz – Deputy Head of section Return Assistance section all of the Federal Office for Migration, Embassy of Switzerland and the Head of the Benin zonal Office NAPTIP Mrs. F. Abiodun. In his opening remark, the Administrator of Idia Renaissance noted the remarkable improvement in the training of victims of human trafficking and vulnerable young people and also the services offered by the center, he however noted the huge cost of running the services as a charity organization and called for the support and funding of the international organizations such as the Swedish government. The representative of Mrs. Eki Igbinedion, representative of the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP and the Swedish delegation spoke copiously and commended the work of both NAPTIP and Idia Renaissance and sued for the support of all in the quest to combat trafficking in persons in Nigeria.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

As part of activities to commemorate the year 2007 World Aids Day, Idia Renaissance embarked on a rally in Benin City. Staff of the organization and youth beneficiaries of the Youth Resource Center took to the streets distributing flyers, handbill and other information, education and communication materials to residents and passersby creating awareness on the dreaded HIV/AIDS virus. Bike riders, brigade boys and some street boys also joined in the rally around major streets in the metropolis. The rally team joined with the Oredo local government council at the Urokpota hall where the Local government action committee on aids LACA were had a formal event to commemorate the world aids day.

## **4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

Joana Reiterer of Exit, Mary Kreutzer of WADI and Corinna Milborm a researcher all based in Austral visited Nigeria and the office of Idia Renaissance Benin city. The group hinted that the visit was aimed at getting information and to acquaint themselves on the situation of human trafficking in Nigeria and Edo state as part of a research work on the trends of human trafficking globally. They noted that Idia Renaissance was foremost in the campaign against human trafficking in Nigeria and as such strategic in the research work. The group had several discussions with staff and some beneficiaries of the center and commended the work of Idia Renaissance describing it as a wonderful and impressive project aimed at bringing succor to victims and vulnerable persons in the society.

## **5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. As usual, the bi-weekly staff meeting was aimed at reviewing the weekly reports submitted by various unit and staff, asses the impact of activities already implemented, identify challenges, suggest solution and plan for the week ahead. All the staff of the center including the Cleaner, Gardner and the Security man was present at the meeting.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

Idia Renaissance participated in the November 2007 edition of the monthly Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) meeting organized by the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) for facilities working in the various GHAIN supported projects in Edo state. The objective of the workshop includes (a) To receive and review the Implementing Agencies September M&E report (b) To identify gaps and effect corrections (c) To identify challenges in project execution and proffer solutions affecting M&E services in the various GHAIN supported facilities in the state (d) To collate the various monthly M&E data from M&E focal persons for compilation into the monthly Edo GHAIN database. M&E meeting for November

## **10<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

The Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) in partnership with Keep Hope Alive Support Group organized a 5-Day training workshop for Support Group members, home based care providers and peer health educators in Edo state. The workshop which was organized under the Positive Living Project was aimed at building the capacity of health care providers on palliative and home based care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, provide cheap and accessible health care for persons living with HIV and to reduce stigmatization by individuals, families and the community in general. Selected support groups including the Idia Renaissance Support Group participated in the training which was held at the premises of Idia Renaissance, Benin City, Edo state.

## **14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

Diana Sitt, of the United States Consulate General, Lagos, Nigeria visited Idia Renaissance. The Political Officer in the consulate noted that the visit was to explore areas of collaboration with the organization by identifying areas of weakness in the fight against human trafficking in Nigeria particularly in Edo state. A request for proposal was presented to the organization to submit proposal on identified intervention gaps. Diana Sitt was in company of Gbenga Amusan, a staff of the embassy was conducted round the facilities at the center. The visitors who expressed appreciation on the kind of programme at the center noted that they would like to work with the organization to further consolidate on its achievements. The visit coincided with the exhibition programme of the beneficiaries of the Youth Resource Center.

## **14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

As part of activities to conclude the year 2007 academic session of the Youth Resource Center, an exhibition was organized by the various vocational departments. The colorful exhibition showcased artistic craft of work designed by youths who are concluding their vocational training programme at the center. A fashion parade and display of various designs of wears by the Fashion Design and Tailoring department, display of hairstyles of different types, beads and costumes for traditional marriages for both men and women by the Hairdressing department, handbills, postal with information on HIV/AIDS and other youth related issues designed by the computer department students were also on display to the admiration of invited guests, parents and guardians of the youths. Invited guests at the exhibition include; a representative of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) Benin zonal office and the representative of the Center for Development And Population Activities (CEDPA). Highlight of the event was a luncheon organized by the Catering and Hotel Management Department for staff, parents and invited guests. Speaking at the event, the Administrator of the Youth Resource Center, Mr. Nwoha Roland on behalf of the president and founder Mrs. Eki Igbiniedion welcomed guests to the programme, he noted that the exhibition was the first of its kind and stated that it was an opportunity for parents and guardians of the youths to see the handwork of their children and wards and also to prove to collaborating partners and the general public our continued commitment and effort in empowering young people who are most vulnerable in the society. He stated that already some companies are in touch with the center to hire some of the graduating beneficiaries for paid jobs. He added that one of the greatest assets of the center is that beneficiaries are well grounded on the rudiments of any vocational skill taught in the center. The representatives of the parents and partners invited spoke copiously on the laudable programmes of the organization and sued for sustenance.

## **17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

Despite the fact that Nigeria has one of the highest burdens of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the world, lack of empirical data on their conditions has hampered the development of effective policy and programmes to address the specific needs of OVC in the country. To meet the need for reliable data on prevalence, pattern, conditions and severity of OVC as well as to provide benchmarks for scaling up of the Nigerian Faith Based Care and support for Orphans /Vulnerable Children (SUN/OVC) project. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS/ Nigeria program in collaboration with 8 Arch/Diocese conducted a situation analysis of OVC in 8 states of Nigeria between January and March 2007. To this end, the Catholic Archdiocese of Benin, Department of Health Services Provider, (DHSP) in collaboration with CRS invited Idia Renaissance and the Edo Underprivileged Children Scholarship Trust Fund to the stakeholders meeting for the purpose of disseminating the result of the OVC situation analysis carried out in Edo state.

## **18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

A general staff meeting was held. The meeting which was the last for the year 2007 was aimed at reviewing the activities of the outgoing working year. Mr. Nwoha Roland, the Administrator of the organization highlighted some of the major achievements for 2007 to include:

(A) The inauguration of a Support Group project. (B) Establishment an additional vocational department (Hairdressing) which subsequently led an increase in youth enrolment into the center. (C) Successfully completed training for 30 victims of human trafficking referred by NAPTIP with support from the American Bar Association (D) Successfully completed training for 3 victims of human trafficking referred by TAMPEP, Italy (E) Successfully registered with the Civil Society on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN) (F) Idia Renaissance maintained leadership in the core of CSOs working in the area of child trafficking, abuse and labour by becoming the South-South Coordinator of the Network of Civil Society Organizations against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) in Edo State. (G) Led Civil Society Organizations in the South-South zone to pay an advocacy visit to Hon. (Mrs.) Ativie who is the House committee chairperson on Women Affairs and Social Development in the Edo State House of Assembly on the passage of the Child Rights Act.

(H) Developed a colorful television jingle for the entire centre (I) Strengthened our collaboration with partners (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of GHIAN project, TAMPEP, UNICEF, United State Embassy, etc) (J) Developed an Anthem for the Youth Resource Centre (K) For the first time had an exhibition to show-case the works produced by various department. (L) The programme was attended by representatives of NAPTIP, Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) (M) New collaboration with CEDPA to build our Support Group project.

He also noted some of the challenges and constraints which hindered the smooth operations at the center to include: The lack of official utility vehicle at the center,

need to improve on remuneration for staff, Inability to air the developed jingle, Redeployment of the Nurse who is also a counseling and testing staff in the GHAIN project and the medical doctor back to the ministry of Health leading to short fall in medical unit and staff strength, Slow response in approving the second phase of the GHAIN project from Abuja after it has been approved and forwarded by the Edo office. He appreciated all staff collective effort and noted that several proposals have been sent to partners for collaborations and expressed optimism that the year 2008 will see to fruitful relationships, sponsorships and partnerships with donors. The Administrator also conveyed the season's greetings on behalf of the president and founder (Mrs.) Eki Igbinedion to all the staff and wished them a prosperous 2008

## **21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

The center officially rounded up her activities and programmes for the year 2007 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The center is expected to resume for the year 2008 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2008.