

## AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – MAY 2018 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: COMBINED INPUTS

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## Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes" MA YEM, MA BO":

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria
  (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination

Anti worms medicin

"Women's economic autonomy"through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence. The last five years have been characterized by AAA active involvement with partners – local and global, in activities that would lead to Sustainable Development. As we intensely got involved in these activities, we were, at the same time, troubled by the fact that, debates and evaluations were mostly based on "QUANTIFICATION" (data, statistics, etc...). The global idea behind quantification tended to place less value

on local methods to measure evidence or understand phenomena. Consequently they ignore / dismiss/minimize local perceptions and inputs that could enrich a worldwide understanding of sustainable development.

This frustration took me back to the BRAVE NEW WORLD (Le Meilleur des Mondes), where Aldous Huxley, in 1932 was visualizing the setting of the future. In Huxley's vision, everyone is happy. However they lead lives of most simple pleasures, lives without deeper meanings. Although people are expected to work hard and efficiently during working hours, during their off times, they live in an infantile way, never engaging their minds ....conditioned by the intellectual production of a "Higher Thinker"! Instead of explaining the source of knowledge, Huxley presents "the Savage", an individual who has grown in or chosen to live outside a "Controlled Civilization". The savage is presented as lacking education and/or intellectual power to navigate the civilized world. Is not taking into account local perceptions and inputs across the planet a wise way to create a global peaceful model?



President, African Action on AIDS

In the words of Irenée Guilane Dioh of Senegal:" Every word and every being come knocking at your door, bringing you their mystery. If you are open to them, they will flood you with their riches." Ruth Bamela Engo,

HAPPY LABOUR DAY!

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