Title: The Women In Public Service Project Report (March, 2015)

Introduction

The Women In Public Service Project (WPSP) Institute: Leadership for Transparent and Accountable Governance was held at Entusi Resort and Retreat Center – Lake Bunyonyi March 6th-9th, 2015.

WPSP was founded by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011, in partnership with U.S. Department of State and seven sister colleges. The WPSP is committed to a new global partnership aimed at reaching a minimum of 50 percent representation of women in public service by 2050 (“50 × 50”).

Background

The WPSP Uganda institute was organized in line with the mission of WPSP, empowering a new generation of women globally through dynamic learning institutes, strategic peer-to-peer and two way mentoring, and mobilizing women on issues of critical importance in public service.

The WPSP Uganda institute was also inspired by the 2013 WPSP Institute Delegate Declaration, where 43 Women delegates (including WPSP Uganda Coordinator Agnes Igoye), representing 35 countries from Asia, Africa, America, Europe and the Middle East from diverse sectors, ethnicities, ages, cultures and religions pledged among other things, to engage in mentoring, sponsoring and supporting other women in their communities and organizations in developing their full potential, as well as to commit to both individual and collective acts that support the role of women in public service.

The delegates also resolved to contribute to the aforementioned commitments by engaging in networks, partnerships and creating synergies with their respective governments, civil society and media as well as through regional and international forums.

It is in that spirit of achieving 50×50 that WPSP alumni from the 2013 (at Bryn Mawr college) and 2014 institutes united to help plan the WPSP institute in Uganda (http://wpsuganda.com/), some of whom participated as speakers.

The WPSP activities carried out included development and designing of program/curriculum in collaboration with WPSP at the Wilson Center, website designing and hosting, a call for online applications, vetting, selection of participants, and speakers. As a voluntary activity, participants and speakers distributed text books to Burimba primary school.
Implementation/Activities Carried Out

The institute which attracted 25 Delegates selected through a competitive online application process not only benefited from the expertise of delegates, but also from practitioners, policymakers, and scholars who participated as speakers, panelists, and trainers (http://wpsuganda.com/speakers/).

Having a diversity of delegates and speakers from various countries including Burundi, USA, South Africa, The Gambia, Kenya, Syria, Uganda, Liberia and Pakistan; from diverse sectors, ethnicities, ages, cultures and religion, enriched discussions.

The topics discussed included:

- Transformational leadership and its relevance to public service
- Engaging women in political leadership and public service
- UN Resolution 1325 Uganda’s commitments and implementation status.
- Gender gap in public service and how it can be overcome
- Women as a parameter for effective governance/the civil society in Syria experience
- Alternative approaches to women’s leadership in transitional settings
- Technology as a development and empowerment tool
- Effective use of media for social change
- Violence against women including human trafficking
- Embracing women emancipation: the role of men
The WPSP Uganda institute was honored by remarks from Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO of the Wilson Center in Washington, DC, who spoke to participants and congratulated WPSP alumni while highlighting the importance of the WPSP agenda. [http://youtu.be/PLqeZ_cRho](http://youtu.be/PLqeZ_cRho)

The participants also had the opportunity to interact with a Kabale area woman member of parliament who shared her insight on women’s participation in Uganda’s parliament.
The participants took part in educative tours. They had the opportunity to tour Punishment Island at Lake Bunyonyi where several years ago girls who became pregnant out of wedlock were thrown and left to die in this isolated uninhabitable island pictured below.

To celebrate International Women’s day, delegates and speakers engaged in a volunteer activity distributing donated text books and maps (from Books For Africa USA and Sir Emeka Offor Foundation) at Burimba primary school. They had to travel twenty minutes by boat and hike for over 45 minutes to reach the school. It is the first time the school has
had a library since its establishment in 1985.

This volunteer activity brought together members of the community, parents, teachers and pupils who participated in the making of book shelves for the library and in carrying books uphill. We took the opportunity to speak with the community about the importance of keeping especially the girl child in school. During the de-brief, WPSP participants appreciated the voluntary activity which helped them see first-hand the needs of the communities we serve, and the importance of education if we are to achieve 50x50.

OUR VALUABLE SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

The institute was energized by various supporters and partners who supported the activities of the WPSP Uganda institute. Special thanks go to the American Embassy for providing the financial support as well as participating at the institute, making valuable contributions to discussions on critical issues of Leadership for Transparent and Accountable Governance.
WPSP at the Wilson Center provided technical support in the development of the curriculum and provided publicity of the institute on its website and social media outlets. Special remarks to the participants and speakers were given by the Director, President and CEO of the Wilson Center. And a WPSP/Wilson Center women’s day article was dedicated to WPSP Uganda institute activities including quotations from our delegates, celebrating the achievements of women while reflecting on the barriers that women have overcome economically, politically, and socially.

http://womeninpublicservice.wilsoncenter.org/2015/03/07/international-wo...

Global Livingstone Institute/ Entusi Resort and Retreat Center hosted the WPSP Uganda institute.

Entusi Resort and Retreat Center, one of the projects to activate the GLI’s initiatives, acts as a forum for the growing dialogue in social and economic progress within the local and international community at large while providing the space for everyone to experience the natural beauties of Uganda. Consistent with the GLI Mission to positively impact the health and vitality of communities in East Africa and inform GLI participants through research, exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing, Entusi creates a space for this to happen for both the local and international community that it serves.

Entusi also acts as a forum for innovation, collaboration, and strategic partnerships.
Books For Africa and Sir Emeka Offor Foundation provided books donated to Burimba primary school which was selected by delegates and speakers from a total of nine schools, to ensure the books went to the most deserving school. Burimba has a total of 402 students (186 males and 216 females) and it is the first time the school has had a library since its establishment in 1985.

Other partners included UN Women, Ultimate media which provided voluntary live stream services, and Nile breweries donated 10 boxes of water and 10 boxes of assorted drinks.

Former Peace Corps volunteer Kevin Gibbons volunteered by providing photography services and delegates/speaker video interviews. Photographs of the institute can be found here [https://www.flickr.com/groups/wpsug/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/wpsug/)
Action plans
One of the deliverables of the institute was delegate’s action plans. We are happy to note that some of the delegates have already started implementing their action plans, including Caroline Ariokot who is training youth groups on financial management. She held her first training of the Young and Powerful youth group on March 21st, 2015 at Kalangala Islands in Uganda.
The WPSP has provided increased networking abilities as well as mentorship opportunities to delegates who have joined a network of WPSP alumni across the world. There were equally various partnerships created between different participants and with speakers during the institute.

**Way Forward**

The website for WPSUganda will be maintained and updated with two volunteers as administrators. All the commitments made by the participants are documented and will be followed up. The WPSP will be an annual event in Uganda to continue to reach out and expand the Women in Public service Vision and mission.

WPSP Uganda will be monitoring how the students of Burimba primary school are utilizing the donated books as well as their academic performance.