

**Opening Speech Presented by The President and Board Chair of the Integrated Health for All Foundation (IHAF), Cameroon, Wilfred Angie Abia, on the Occasion of the Capacity Building Workshop on Proper Project Planning and Management for Development (PPPMD II) – West Africa Region, that held at the Presbyterian Church Centre Kumba, Cameroon SW Region, Cameroon, November 11 – 15, 2009.**



The Sub Divisional Officer, Kumba I, Mr Thomas Tambe Tabot  
The Director of Commonwealth Foundation Dr Mark Collins, our sponsor  
The Director of the Commonwealth Department – MINREX; Mr Mbayu Felix  
The Director of Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa; Mrs Rosetta B. Thompson  
The Lord Mayors of Kumba Councils,  
The Director of Presbyterian Church Centre Kumba, Rev. Ngalle Simon  
The Course Coordinators and Facilitators of this Workshop  
Dear Participants from Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure today to welcome you all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity building workshop on Proper Project Planning and Management for Development for West Africa at the Presbyterian Church Centre Kumba, Kumba SWR Cameroon.

The **Integrated Health for All Foundation (IHAF), Cameroon** is a not-for-profit-making and non-political community health-based Non Governmental Organization operating under authorisation N<sup>o</sup> 000061/ADRY/J06/APPB with headquarters in Yaounde, Cameroon. Its mission is to “ensure Quality Health-for-All amongst the Poorest and Economically Disadvantaged Communities that rely Solely on Subsistence Agriculture- often with Over-crowded Households and featuring especially Young Children, Pregnant / Breastfeeding Women, Orphans and Adolescent Girls.

The services of the Integrated Health for All Foundation directed at communities are geared towards **Reducing Extreme Poverty or misery** through **Project and Development (P&D)** likewise **Fighting HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Malnutrition** through **Prevention and Control (P&C)**. These, we believe will go a long way to contributing towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 6 respectively, while cutting across MDGs 2, 4 & 5. Our strategies to target these issues rely on rendering Sustainable Capacity Building (Education), Improved Nutrition and Primary Health Care”.

Within the Education Department of the Integrated Health for All Foundation, we host four Training of Trainers Institutes (ToTi) or Divisions namely:

- Civil Society Risk Assessment of Food and environmental chemicals through our Risk Assessment Team (CSRAT-ihafcam) in progress;
- Civil Society Centre for National and International Cooperation’s’ (CSCNIC-ihafcam) in process;
- Civil Society Considered Action Now Against X (CSCAN\_X-ihafcam) in process; and
- Civil Society Capacity Building Network (CSCBNet-ihafcam) which is well established. The reason why we are here.

Distinguished Ladies and Gents,

The role of the Civil Society Capacity Building Network (CSCBNet-ihafcam) is amongst others to organize short / basic / intermediate level courses on **Peer Education** for youths; For example **Malnutrition and HIV/AIDS peer education; Personal hygiene and malaria peer education** workshops. In addition, CSCBNet organizes short / introductory / intermediate level courses on **Training of Trainers on Project management and community development; For example** the one we have here today, **Proper Project Planning and Management Workshop for Development (PPPMD).**

The goal of CSCBNet is to build capacities in Cameroonians and beyond to enable them exploit their God-given talents to make the differences in their lives, families and communities.

This goal cannot be achieved readily without the presence of IHAF cultural, socio-economic and academic diversity in membership with specialist / Generalist expertise in areas such as malnutrition, personal hygiene, infectious diseases, environmental hygiene and sanitation, project planning and management, just to name a few. In addition, we do not hesitate to source for consultants / external experts to buffer our courses during training workshops, when need be, for example PPPMD I and II: We have Mr Mbankop Simon from the Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN-Cameroon); Mbu Sylvia Abo (a community development consultant) and Professor Santosh Kumar from the Entrepreneurship and Development Institution of India – who unfortunately could not make it, this time.

Due our strength on Project Planning and Management today, is our sincere gratitude to Mrs Oluwatoyin Job, Representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat in charge of Technical Corporations and Training for West Africa, for her dynamic corporations and sponsorship of the PPM through Governance and Institutional Development Division (GIDD-COMSEC); Mr Mbayu Felix, Director of Commonwealth Department, Ministry of External Relations and point of contact of the Commonwealth in Cameroon, for the great initiative of initiating PPM course to train many Cameroonians both in the public service and in the civil society on Project Planning and Management to act as trainers with the sole goal of having them train others and come up with substantial projects for Commonwealth sponsorship amongst others; not forgetting Madam Rosetta B. Thompson, Director of the Pan-African Institute for Development-West Africa, for enhancing our capacity on Project Planning and Management in her reputable Institution PAID – WA.

Distinguished guest, distinguished participants, Ladies and Gents,

Having mentioned the above, we could never have been in Kumba Cameroon today if not of the Commonwealth Foundation, Marlborough House London. I am elated to formally inform you all that the MAIN SPONSORS of this capacity building workshop is the Commonwealth Foundation through its Governance and Democracy programme. The Foundation through its civil society responsive grants awarded IHAF £7,000 GBP Sterling which is an equivalent of 5,312,545Fcfa, to organise this workshop and to cover cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence for all

participants and also registration amongst others for Internationals. Facilitators are also motivated through this great gesture. I do believe you would find it necessary to also thank our sponsors well.

Distinguish Guest, Ladies and Gents, Let me now come back to Project planning, designing and management; which is why we are going to be in Kumba - Cameroon for the next five days.

The cream of the workshop is the coming together of many people from different socio – cultural backgrounds pulled from civil society, government or public sector, local government and the private sector from over three countries in West Africa and Cameroon. Amongst the participants are Grants Administrators, Journalist, Programme Heads, Executive Directors, Project Officers, Veterinary and Medical Doctors, Students at Post Graduate levels in Sciences and the Arts / Social Sciences, Teachers / Lecturers, Council members, NGO leaders, amongst others. We believe this workshop shall bring together a wealth of experience sharing, which will be very enjoyable and enlightening. It remains the most distinguished experience sharing platform ever held in this locality, if not, the country.

Dear participants, IHAF want this exercise to be a continuous learning process, one in which your weaknesses can be turned into strengths and your capacity be improved. I urge you to endeavour to develop your “Action Plans” that you will use to translate the training into action when you return to your respective offices to derive benefits for yourself and your institutions / organizations / CIGs / councils / your country and the region as a whole.

Another area where we value your input is the feedbacks; you are urged to provide us with your feedbacks during the workshop and at the end in the evaluation process.

Proper Project Planning and Management is one of the critical needs for ensuring that we attain our developmental aspirations. As the old saying goes **“If you fail to plan, then you have plan to fail”**; . May I also encourage you to **“try and then fail, rather that fail to try”** .

Project planning and management allows you to avoid failure in your projects. It gives you the chance to understand why you are going into what you want to do and hence articulate where you want to go more clearly and how better or best you can get there. Several projects have consumed millions in this country but yet are today uncompleted. Many more high valued projects have been formulated / planned by you and others, but yet are not presented in a feasible and convincing manner, thus have not been funded despite the numerous proud sponsors in the South-to-South and North-to-South relationships. Our ability to design projects that will add value to the social and development needs of our people both in the short and long run through effective project follow-up / sustainability after the implementation of such projects have proven critical and essential in a new era of prudent and resourceful management.

My hope is that these five days ahead of us will provide opportunities to share our experiences and enhance our knowledge in project planning and management, so that when next we are embarking on a new project we will **always remember those crucial questions of “why” are we doing this? “Why” this particular project? “What” are the specific outputs of this project? And “how” do we go about it. Combining these with the indicators of success and means of verification and making sure we have all these in place will move us closer to having a project that contributes to its ultimate goal. The next step is to implement and to monitor the implementation to its completion.**

Studies and evaluations have attested that a well planned and designed project has a better chance of successful completion and fulfilment of the intended purpose(s) within the triple constrain of requirements, time and budget. The time invested upfront in carrying out good appraisal and feasibility studies is a worthwhile investment in the long run.

Looking around the country, we have so many abandoned projects and these are clear evidence of lack of adequate planning and / or management skills. Be it lack of proper consultation with the different stakeholders and non acceptance or owning of such projects.

My sincere hope is that these five days do equip you with basic tools that you will use to plan, design, implement and monitor and evaluate good projects that will attain their intended purposes and contribute to the greater goals of developing our great countries.

Do not also forget that a good project document also helps in securing funding where such is the intended purpose of source of funding.

On behalf of IHAF Secretariat and the organising committee for PPPMD II, some of whom I present to you now:

**Mr Jato Denis** – Director of Scientific Affairs,

**Mrs Eucharia Abia** – Director of Socio-Cultural Affairs, and

**Mr Agejo Patrick** – Director of Communications.

In addition we have:

**Mr Akebe Luther King** – Coordinator IHAF SWR

**Mr Aterechim Gurgen** – PPPMD I participant and today, Local Coordinator for PPPMD II

**Mr Njuacha George E.** – Coordinator IHAF Abroad and webmaster

I wish you a highly benefiting and enriching stay in Kumba - Cameroon during this training workshop and above all a good forum for intellectual interaction, one that indeed fosters and provides good basis for networking among all of you as officials and practitioners in your various fields.

Once more we thank our Chief host; the sub-divisional officer for Kumba centre, the Mayors and our landlord the Management of PCCK for collaborating with us to enable us to carry out this programme.

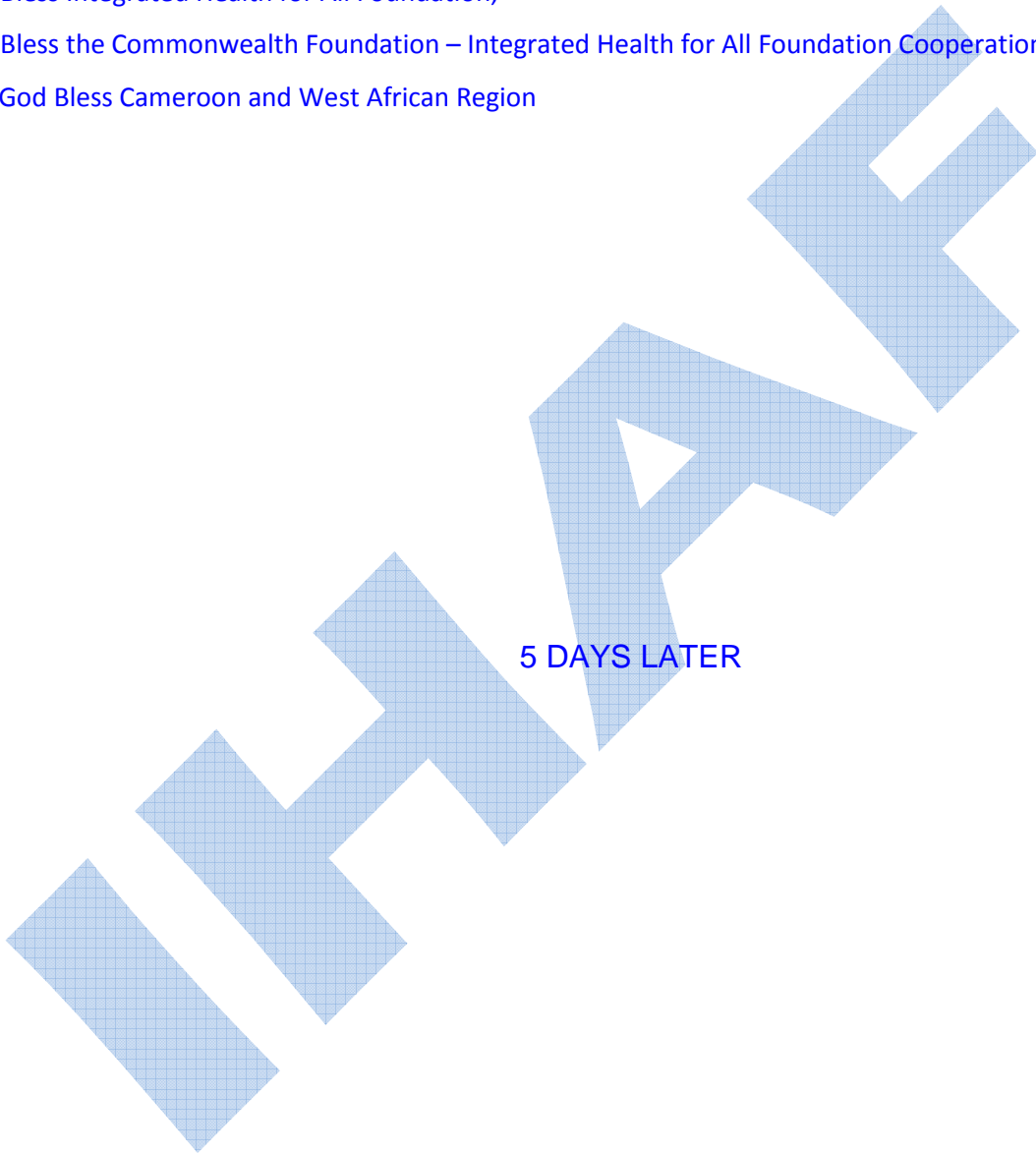
Thank you.

God Bless you,

God Bless Integrated Health for All Foundation,

God Bless the Commonwealth Foundation – Integrated Health for All Foundation Cooperation

And God Bless Cameroon and West African Region



**Closing Speech Presented by The President and Board Chair of the Integrated Health for All Foundation (IHAF), Cameroon, Wilfred Angie Abia, on the Occasion of the Capacity Building Workshop on Proper Project Planning and Management for Development (PPPMD II) – West Africa Region, that held at the Presbyterian Church Centre Kumba, Cameroon SW Region, Cameroon, November 11 – 15, 2009.**



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Dear Participants from Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have finally come to the end of our 5-days training workshop on Proper Project Planning and Management for Development here in the Presbyterian Church Centre Kumba, Cameroon, mainly sponsored by Commonwealth Foundation, Marlborough House London.

It is our fervent hope and wish that you did not only have an enjoyable moment here but most especially that every one of you will like to remember this workshop for what you will be carrying home intellectually. In other words, on behalf of the organizers: Integrated Health for All Foundation (IHAF) and our sponsor: Commonwealth Foundation, I wish to thank you all sincerely, first for the discipline and the sense of consciousness you exercised all through this concise intellectual forum. It is our great hope and wishes that you acquired ample if not superfluous knowledge on the methodology of effective and result oriented project planning and management. It is all the more so our wish that it will not only end here but that you will get on to identify, plan, implement and successfully monitor and evaluate benefiting projects in your various locality.

It might not also have been very perfect all through your stay here due to one or more organizational lapses or short comings that one or two of you might not have appreciated at one point or another. We apologize for any short comings, hoping and promising that in subsequent workshops as we plan having many more, both here and in other cities around this country and region (West African Region), it will be a far better story to tell. We all agree that no human organization can be so perfect as to escape the slightest fault, we thus crave your indulgence to that regard and do welcome criticisms that will enable us to better plan and manage similar workshops since it is all about that, in the near and far future.

We also want to thank in a special way our host, for the serene and conducive atmosphere that prevailed all through and for the comfort we enjoyed in their premises including the good rooms, water, and the lighting which did not failed us. We also appreciate the kitchen services for the wonderful meals we were treated to. I am sure others will bear with me that they actually enjoyed the typical Cameroonian dishes like the “waterfufu & eru” (which I personally scientifically reported its nutritive value), the “ndole”, “peper soup” and so on which were so delicious and mouth watering. Similarly, we wish to sincerely thank the media houses especially CRTV Cameroon National

Station, The Post Newspapers, Eden Newspapers, Arian TV, BBC Cameroon and Independent TV Nigeria stations for their making the entire public more aware of this event. We hope that we would continue to enjoy such interest and support from such and other media houses.

We want to thank in a very special way the authorities of the Kumba city including the Mayors; the Sub Divisional Officer for Kumba Central and the Government Delegate to the Kumba City Council whose participation in person or through their representatives graced this event in a special way and contributed in making it the success it has been.

All in all, we thank all who contributed in various ways either financially, morally or otherwise in making this a great event, and taking us to the level where we are now. *We especially earnestly thank the Commonwealth Foundation, Marlborough House, London, for their magnanimous financial and material support to making this occasion a success. They are the main sponsors and success catalyst behind this event. We do hope that we have and will continue to use the funds judiciously with public accountability to satisfy your desires in development, governance, culture, human resources and gender related issues. It is also our fervent wish that through our diversity in nationality of participants, the impact of the event will continue to grow in different West African nations. May I use this opportunity to plead for continues support to the events / projects of IHAF in the future, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Civil Society Organisations in Cameroon [to endorse the “Civil Society Centre for National and International Cooperation’s (CSCNIC)” on the theme: “Promoting networking, good governance, accountability and transparency”, coming up sometimes in 2010. May the Almighty replenish your sources that we and others can continue to benefit from them.*

Former participants, now good friends and prospective project managers, we will like to make a special appeal to you to maintain contacts with us to give us further feedbacks to this workshop when you would have arrived home and have time to fully re-appraise / post-mortem analysis, and properly digest the handouts of this workshop.

Good Friends, prospective managers and experienced project managers, on behalf of the secretariat of the Integrated Health for All Foundation and the entire goodwill authorities of Kumba city, especially the Divisional Officer for Kumba I, Mr Thomas Tambe Tabot, I wish you all a smooth and safe ride back to your various domiciles.

Thank you.

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