



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 22 March 2011

Room 8, Humanitarian Centre, Cambridge

7.00pm – 8.00pm

### Attendees:

- Sacha DeVelle (SDV) Founder and Managing Director
- Jenny Grewcock (JG) Director and Trustee
- Alim Abubakre (AA) Trustee
- Hugo Bovill (HB) Member
- Farooq Usmani Member
- Katarina Vielland
- Leonora Dowley Member
- Marcello Consonni (MC) Member
- Zak Hulstrom (ZH) Member
- Sundeep Athwal (SA) – Meeting Minutes Member

### Apologies:

- Chris Andreou (CA) Trustee

## 1. Cambridge to Africa Board

In the absence of CA, each trustee introduced themselves. JG explained that her background was in marketing, communications, and education. Her expertise lies in strategic decision-making. AA told the meeting that he has previously worked in the engineering sector and has professional experience of development work. He has also set up a small social enterprise. SDV introduced herself as the Founder of C2A, and stated her intention to step down as a Trustee once 2 more members are added to the Board.

## 2. Reports and accounts

SDV explained the accounts period as a community organisation and then from 22 September, 2009 as a registered UK charity and Company limited by guarantee.

JG delivered an update on the future direction of C2A:

- a. The Dalke Mena Higher Education Programme in Ethiopia will be expanded, as long as funding allows this. However, SDV explained that a recent Ethiopian charity law has prevented C2A from establishing an office in Ethiopia.
- b. C2A will continue to work in Uganda by developing a stronger partnership with UNAD and using this to develop links with additional institutions.
- c. The Itupale Online Journal of African Studies is increasingly receiving submissions co-authored by Cambridge academics and African scholars. C2A is hoping to eventually turn Itupale into a printed journal.
- d. C2A will continue a working relationship with the Ugandan artist Enoch Mukiibi
- e. C2A will look to launch a new UK-based project in 2011 – see point 4



- f. C2A hopes to organise one or two fundraising events for 2011 to celebrate Black History Month. SDV stated that suggestions for fundraisers are always welcome.
- g. C2A will continue to expand its board and team of volunteers – see point 4. The appointment of AA as a Trustee (see point 5) has raised the possibility of a future expansion of activities into Nigeria.

HB pointed out that corruption within the Ethiopian education system presented dangers, and asked what safety procedures C2A were taking with regard to this. SDV answered that C2A's work in Ethiopia stemmed from her work with the British Council in Addis Ababa and advisory links would continue with them.

ZH asked how C2A will strengthen its relationship with UNAD. JG explained that C2A will have greater contact with UNAD, and use UNAD's expertise to extend workshops and other projects to more Ugandan schools that seek to integrate deaf children into education and the wider community.

### **3. Review of key highlights of 2010**

In 2010 C2A produced a new promotional video, that is available to view on the website, and organised the Celebrating Diversity: Voices from Africa event. SDV felt that a very successful highlight was Isaac Twesiime's visit from Uganda, which encompassed a round table event at the Mayfield School, a working lunch with other NGOs at the Humanitarian Centre, and a Ugandan Dance Workshop.

### **4. Plans for 2011**

SDV explained that C2A is looking to expand the Board of Trustees by recruiting two more trustees for minimum terms of two years. C2A would also like to appoint a full-time project manager who would be supported by interns. The project manager will be responsible for concentrating on funding research and applying for the grants that are needed for C2A to continue its growth.

SDV felt that C2A's recent projects have shifted attention away from membership growth. Membership could potentially be an important source of funding, so recruiting new members should be an immediate priority.

Volume III of the Itupale Online Journal of African Studies will be published online May 2011. An Academic Writing Workshop linked to Volume IV (to be published in 2012) will be held in May 2011. SDV detailed the structure of the event, and explained that DFID funding clauses meant that African students would be offered first choice to the available 25 places.

C2A is looking to launch a new UK-based project in 2011. A potential theme would be to support African communities in London by focusing on cultural and educational integration. Further research is currently being conducted into the potential for such a project.



## 5. Appointment of charity trustees

Everyone present voted in favour of AA being appointed as a C2A trustee from 1 May 2011.

## 6. Any other business

MC raised the possibility of holding an art exhibition at the Michaelhouse Centre, at a cost of £160 for two weeks and an open night. SDV thought that this might be possible if the work of several African artists were to be displayed. SA will ask all trustees for their opinions.