

~12th ANNUAL U.S. AFRICA SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE~

The U.S. Africa Sister Cities Foundation wishes to cordially invite you to the 12th Annual U.S. Africa Sister Cities Conference scheduled for June 29 to July 5, 2003 in Accra, Ghana-West Africa. The theme is: **“Strengthen Sister Cities in Africa: A Focus on HIV/AIDS Crisis, Democratic Governance, Exploring Business, Trade and Investment”**. It is intended to provide a common platform for experts in various fields from different parts of the world to address pertinent issues that the theme raises. It will also showcase a side of Africa hitherto neglected; its huge untapped potential for business, trade and investment, the uniqueness of the venue, Ghana, makes attendance compelling. Ghana with its rich and diverse culture, vast tourist attractions and unrivaled hospitality is a place you would want to visit. In addition to the holiday atmosphere to enjoy, there are numerous business and economic potentials to explore in this peaceful gateway country in West Africa. Come and promote Sister Cities ideals and explore social and economic prospects.

~CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION~

The conference registration fee is **\$950 per person**. This is the full conference participation fee for both adult and youth. The fee includes hotel accommodations (double) workshops, sessions, conference souvenirs, and other conference materials. It also includes luncheons, receptions, banquets, ground transportation to and from Kotoka International Airport and conference center, a historical tour of Accra, the nation’s capital and a (shopping) visit to an African Art and Craft market, side trips to Cape Coast or Kumasi, and Akuapim South District. Registration fee of **\$400 per person** will include everything above **except hotel accommodations and some ground transportation**.

~TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT~

Individuals and groups are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Ghana. Air travel will be provided through Ghana Airways. Henderson Travel in the Washington, DC is our official travel company. Their number is 1-800-327-2309, ext. 506.

~HOTEL~

Lodging will be provided at several hotels: Labadi Beach, La Palm Royal Beach, M-Plaza, and Novotel. Each of these beautiful hotels has excellent facilities and services. Conference lodging is based on double occupancy. The single room rate is an additional **\$50.00** for each night’s lodging. Transportation will be provided from each hotel to the conference center, and other conference events throughout the city.

~YOUTH PROGRAM~

All youth, ages 12 to 18, are invited to participate in the youth portion of the Annual Conference. The program is designed to give youth an educational as well as a fun experience in Ghana. Highlights will include: sessions on HIV/AIDS, cross cultural relations, some exciting tours, recreational activities and much more. An adult must accompany youth under the age of 18. **Take advantage and introduce your youth to the experience of networking and associating with other youth from across the United States and Africa.**

~CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2003~

Registration cancellation policy: all requests for cancellation/substitution (if any) must be communicated to DC-Dakar Ghana 2003 by May 15, 2003. Conference cancellation is subject to the payment fee of \$100 after March 1, 2003. **No refund will be made after May 15, 2003.** Please note that the registration deadline is to allow us enough time for arrangements to be concluded for your comfort.

VISA: Entry visa to Ghana is a must for all foreign travelers; it can be acquired at the nearest Ghana consulate. Participants are reminded that it may take up to two weeks to process the visa and are advised to make your arrangements early. DC-Dakar in Washington, DC has agreed to handle the process for your visa at the Ghana Embassy. If you would like for DC-Dakar to handle your visa please send application for a visa, four (4) passport ID pictures, your passport and \$20 by **May 15, 2003.** Send a stamped addressed envelope so we can return your passport and visa. For additional information on Ghana, check the State Department website at [www:state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

IMMUNIZATIONS: It is mandatory to obtain Yellow Fever and medication for Malaria. Most health insurance, HMO's etc have international travel services to assist in obtaining your immunizations. Schedule these appointments at least 30 days before your travel. Records of immunizations should be attached to your passport during travel. For additional information, check www.state.gov