

Katchi International restores hope with global connections from the US to Gabon



Pictured L-R; Adou Assemien (Katchi), Jean Alexis Bourobo - Chief of staff, minister of water & Forestry, Larry Williams - LW Associates, Dr. Kouadio (Katchi), Tchango Gabriel - Ministry Water & Forestry - Gabon, Robert Stein - LW Associates, Jim Touba - LW Associates, Avaro Gilbert - PGRIE - Gabon, and Dr. Marcellin Nziengui - Director of Academy of Water & Forestry.

A diverse group of individuals, led by Katchi International, have formed a partnership to assist in a government plan to develop strategic sectors of the country of Gabon. Gabon, officially known as the Gabonese Republic, is located in Central Africa and is represented by a centralized government.

President Mr. Ali Bongo has created a plan of development that includes 'Industrial Gabon', 'Green Gabon' and 'Gabon Services.' Recently, Katchi International hosted top level Gabon government officials led by Gabriel Tchango, the Minister of Water and Forestry. Forestry in Gabon has been a huge source for its economy. The goal is to improve the performance of the forest based sector to create jobs, food resources and tax revenue.

The group attended several workshops at the University Hilton and made site visits to Metrolina Greenhouses, Metrolina Recycling Facility, Charlotte Douglas International Airport's Recycling Facility, Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Education Exchange program.

Katchi International, a non-governmental and non-profit organization, promotes change by restoring hope to people through its programs and projects for sustainable development. According to Katchi International President Dr. Koffi Kouadio, "the May workshops brought together private and public businesses and government entities to help foster economical and educational ties between the US and Gabon. The two countries working together will translate into practical projects in the sector of Water and Forestry with cutting edge technology."

As for cutting edge technology, web developer Matt Kushner of Varrow says he is excited about the

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ner describes the process, once developed, as one that will provide important data from the forest to the government and it will create a reliable, tracking, shipping method to connect everyone involved in the process.

The plan of bringing economic and infrastructure development projects to Gabon will take some time. Larry Williams of L.W. Associates says the catch phrase for the project is Gabon '23'. Williams described Gabon '23' as a plan that focuses on how to take specific, practical steps in strategic sectors to create transformative derivatives that can help Gabon leapfrog into the 23rd century. Some of the projects include: Wood Pellets and Briquette Plant, Information and Communication Systems, Water and Eco-System Technology Transfers and Carbon Emission Reduction Plans.

The site visits were described by everyone involved as positive and encouraging. Dr. Ted Whitwell, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Clemson University, felt that the visit with the Gabonese delegation was "a good visit with great potential." Whitwell says "there is interest in collaborating on Forestry and Water resources as well as a faculty and student exchange program."

Alexis Gordon, Charlotte International Cabinet Program Director, says that she was excited to hear that the delegation was concerned about the environmental aspects and about environmental management. According to Gordon, Gabonese officials placed emphasis on the forest, not just jobs, as well

as protecting resources while improving the lifestyle of the Gabonese people.

(The Charlotte International Cabinet promotes Charlotte as an international city, serves as a resource to foster international relationships and assisted in setting up some meetings for the delegation.)

Katchi will continue to build the global connection with the US and Gabon with an International Workshop for program exchanges and for the development of private and public partnerships involving Bio-resources, the Timber industry, Information technology systems and sustainable development strategies. Training and research in Gabon on August 13-15. The focus will be on the 'Revitalization of the Pillar, Green Gabon, by the Implementation of Related Sustainable Projects'. Investors and entrepreneurs are invited to learn more.

For additional information about investment opportunities in Gabon, contact Katchi International, 828-275-0840 (katchi.org)
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