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Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010

FAO: Head of Key Stage Three

**\*ESSAY WRITING AND PICTURE COMPETITION (IMAGES AND MESSAGES OF AFRICA)\***

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to inform you of our “**Essay Writing and Picture Competition**”, which is part of an European Union funded programme entitled “*Images and Messages of Africa from and African Perspective*”. ACSONI is running an essay and picture/ photograph competition to raise awareness of the African continent.

The Afro-Community Support Organisation (ACSONI) was formed in 2003 as an independent regional community organisation to address the needs and aspirations of people who are from the continent of Africa and African descendent nations across Northern Ireland. This includes people who are of African Caribbean, African American, and African European heritage (an estimated 4,000 – 6,000 people in Northern Ireland today). ACSONI’s vision is of a society that enables fair and equal treatment of all individuals, where equality, inter-culturalism and human rights are valued and embraced; a society that is inclusive, shared and free from all forms of discrimination.

The EU-funded programme is in partnership with the Africa Centre Dublin and the Africa Centre, Slovenia.

The programme focuses on building capacity within the Afro-Community in Northern Ireland, and policy development on “*Images and Messages of Africa from an African Perspective*”.

A key part of the project involves building public awareness of the main issues affecting the continent of Africa today. In particular, the project will strive to raise awareness of the diversity and richness of Africa’s culture. It will endeavour to promote understanding of the truth about Africa (that whilst poverty, disease and war are the reality of some parts of Africa, there are also areas of tremendous development, business potential and investment opportunities).

We are running two competitions relating to this theme between now and the Christmas Holidays. The competitions are open to all students at schools in Northern Ireland and aged between 12 and 14 (Years 8 and 9).

**1. An essay writing competition**

- Students will need to research and write an essay of up to 500 words (it may be hand written or typed) on the subject: “*Some positive things about Africa and Africans I think everyone should know*”. An additional information sheet is enclosed.

**2. A picture/ photograph competition**

- Students can use their own photographic skills or take pictures from websites and magazines to produce a piece of art on the theme: “*Positive Images of Africa and Africans*”. The artwork can take

the form of a collage or a single picture and should be no larger than A4. Further information is available on the enclosed sheet.

First prize for each competition is a laptop computer, whilst two runners up in each competition will each receive a digital camera!

**How should the essay be written?**

Submissions can be typed or hand written. Only submissions written in English will be eligible. The name and contact information should be printed on a cover page.

**How can I submit my essay?**

All submissions must be sent electronically to [essay\\_competition@acsoni.org](mailto:essay_competition@acsoni.org) or posted to ACSONI Competition, First Floor, 9 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR

**When is the deadline for the contest?**

All submissions must be received by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 5:00 pm.

**When will the winner be notified?**

The winner of the competition will be notified by February 2010. The winning entries from both competitions will be published in the project's quarterly e-bulletin, which is distributed by ACSONI and the Africa Centres in Dublin and Slovenia. They will also be displayed at ACSONI's prestigious Annual Conference in June next year.

**Will my essay be published or used in any other way?**

The winning contestant(s) will be credited as the author when their work is published. All winning essays submitted and awarded with a prize will become the property of ACSONI. Please note that original pictures and essays cannot be returned. Please make sure that copies have been taken before the originals are submitted to ACSONI.

**What are the criteria for a winning essay?**

The judges of the essay writing competition will not be looking for perfect grammar, spelling and presentation but for evidence of original ideas and great research.

If you would like more information about this competition please contact Catherine Parkes, on 028 90 434 090 or by email on [programme\\_officer@acsoni.org](mailto:programme_officer@acsoni.org)

Yours Faithfully,

Alfred Abolarin

Programme Manager, ACSONI