

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF PAID-WA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 3RD IN-COUNTRY TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR
PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR
PRACTITIONERS IN CAMEROON HOLDING AT THE PAN
AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT-
WEST AFRICA (PAID-WA)
FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST – 12TH, 2008**

The Representative of the Commonwealth POC, Chief Fonju Joseph,
Depute Director Economics, Technical, Sports and Cultural Cooperation,
The Course Coordinator and Facilitators for the Program,
Participants in the PPM Workshop
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director of the Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa (PAID-WA) and the staff, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Institute within the framework of this capacity building workshop on Project Planning and Management for Public Service Practitioners in Cameroon. It is a workshop organized by PAID-WA in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon and the Commonwealth Secretariat, Governance and Institutional Development Division (GIDD).

PAID-WA is one of four regional Institutes established under Swiss Law as a private non-profit making international association with headquarters in Geneva. Its mission is to promote sustainable development through capacity building, practical field studies, research and advisory services at country, organizational and community level, and working in collaboration with governments, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and International Communities.

A project is an intervention that addresses a problem. It is commonly defined as a development activity that innovatively invests scarce resources in order to increase the capacity of society to produce additional goods and services.

One of the most serious problems in project management as an instrument for effecting development is the inadequate absorptive capacity in developing countries to plan and execute development projects. Albert Waterson, a noted World Bank expert in development project management once observed that a major limitation in implementing development projects and programs is not financial resources but lack of administrative capacity. Developing and nurturing this capacity requires training in project planning and management.

This is where PAID and GIDD come in. For close to three decades, PAID has played a leading role in this domain and has, in the process, accumulated a repertoire of experience and skill on how to plan, implement and evaluate development projects. Therefore, GIDD made the right choice in selecting PAID to implement the training project on Project Planning and Management for Cameroon.

You shall in the next two weeks be systematically intimated into the arts of project planning and management. I look forward to getting a feedback from you then on what impact you felt the course has made on your ability to effectively and efficiently manage and monitor projects as requirements in the Service. While here, please find time to visit our library and our sporting facility on campus.

We wish you a nice and happy stay with us.