

Address to AFTRA Steering Committee Meeting: SACE Offices
(Centurion- South Africa)
(02 April 2014)

1. Welcome

As President of AFTRA it is a privilege to welcome our visitors, both AFTRA members and observers to our shores. It is a special honour that you bless SACE's premises with your presence. It is always assuring to have our Exec Director, Dr Steve and our Secretary General, Prof Addison with us.

It is no secret that they keep the AFTRA ship afloat with their tireless efforts, generous resources and passionate conviction. Thanks again. Let us also recognize the presence and assurance of the SACE chairperson- Mrs Veronica Hofmeester, fellow SACE Councilors and colleagues. It is heartening to see our comrades from Ghana, who will be preparing the way for the "3rd AFTRA Teaching and Learning in Africa Conference" and "5th AFTRA Round Table" to be held in ACCRA, Ghana from 9th to 15th OF June 2014.

2. Background

Let us remind ourselves of what AFTRA (African Forum for Teacher Regulatory Authorities) and IFTRA (International Forum for Teacher Regulatory Authorities) aim to do. According to Dr Steve (AFTRA – Executive Director)

"the Key aims of AFTRA and IFTRA are to:

- 1) Reposition the Teaching Profession globally;
- 2) Set international standards for the Teaching Profession;
- 3) Develop protocol and platforms that will ensure maximum benefit of international teacher mobility and guarantee fair treatment of teachers working in countries other than their own;
- 4) Establish co-operation with respect to all aspects of the teaching profession;
- 5) Exchange best practices among member countries; and
- 6) Collectively undertake any action that will raise teacher welfare, quality and status, nationally and internationally.

3. Objectives

Having outlined what we stand for, let's explore the twofold objectives of today's meeting.

On the one hand the meeting needs to be updated on progress made regarding the issues raised in the 4th Round Table, 2nd Conference and last Steering Committee, and other developments since June 2013.

On the other hand, must lay out plans, agendas and logistics for the Round Table and Conference coming up in Accra in June 2014.

The past Steering Committee has already broken ground by providing the theme "Holistic Education for Contemporary Africa." Under this banner we could try to weave in some of the following notions (which have already been raised):

- 1) Ethics, values and attitudes appropriate to Contemporary African Citizens;
- 2) Holistic Teacher & learner development;
- 3) Safety in schools;
- 4) Roles & Responsibilities of Private Schools in Africa;

- 5) Re-invoking the Philosophy of Ubuntu and humanism in our schools;
- 6) Collaboration Projects; and
- 7) Other sub themes identified in the notice for June.

In addition, the agenda(s) may accommodate;

- 1) Country progress reports;
- 2) Updates since June 2013;
- 3) IFTRA preparation; and
- 4) The way forward.

4. Declaration:

With these opening comments, which I put for your consideration, it is my pleasure to declare this AFTRA Steering Committee open.

Thank you.

Rej Brijraj (AFTRA-President)
(April 2014)