

ADF Founders Day Celebration

Washington, DC -- Vintage pictures had been carefully placed on the wall alongside copies of defining documents as new faces mixed with familiar friends at the African Development Foundation's celebration of its founding on Tuesday, May 6th. The celebration commemorated the founding of ADF in 1980 and honored some very special people who were important to that effort.



ADF Board Vice Chair Jack Leslie (far right) with ADF honorees (from l to r) Douglas Hellinger, Fred O'Regan and Stephen Hellinger

ADF Board Vice Chair Jack Leslie presented commemorative plaques to Stephen Hellinger, Douglas Hellinger, and Fred O'Regan, on behalf of the Foundation, recognizing each for their "extraordinary contributions toward the establishment of the Foundation and continuing support". The Hellinger's and Mr. O'Regan were instrumental in helping to establish the Foundation during the late 1970's and early 1980's.

The honorees were joined by a number of other long-term friends and former staff members of the Foundation at this first-of-its-kind event held at the Foundation's offices in downtown Washington, DC. One guest, Ambassador Johnnie Carson, National Intelligence Officer for Africa at the National Intelligence Council, praised Foundation President Lloyd O. Pierson for hosting such an "extraordinary gathering" of people important to the African Development Foundation.



ADF President Lloyd Pierson (left) with Ambassador Carson (center) and former ADF Vice President Carroll Bouchard.

The Founders Day celebration was also the official launch of History Hall. Housed in the main conference room of the Foundation, History Hall is to be a permanently displayed compendium of major events in the life of the Foundation, to include copies of significant documents such as the Act of Congress that authorized its establishment as well as photographs of the people who have been instrumental to the life of the organization.



Steve Hellinger with Janis McCollum (former ADF Staff) and Lois Hobson (former colleague from USAID)

The event also marked a renewed interest in extending the awareness and understanding of the original mission of the agency and its focus on participatory development. As the celebration ended, current ADF-Washington employees had the opportunity to sit down with Fred O'Regan, Stephen Hellinger and Douglas Hellinger and have a discussion on the Foundation's purpose, mission and methods.