

AfricaTown, USA

*International Festival of Reconciliation
Prichard, Alabama USA*



"From Africa to AfricaTown, USA"

John H. Smith

"From Home To AfricaTown USA"

The AfricaTown,USA Reconciliation Renaissance

*Religious and Cultural Exchanges, Trade, Investment and
Development Opportunities historic and cultural tours-
Entertainment*

Prichard, Alabama

October 25-31 2006

" Home To AfricaTown USA"

The AfricaTown, USA 2006 Festival of Reconciliation is the continuation of a series of International meetings in the United States which began in 1982 between the City of Prichard, Alabama and Ouidah, Benin. The 2006 Festival is organized within the original spirit to achieve "Healing and Building" between Africa and its Diaspora. The 2006 Festival brings together the Republic of Benin with its Diaspora in the United States in a new spirit of reconciliation and international cooperation. Led by the City of Prichard, Alabama, the State of Alabama USA, The World Conference of Mayors, the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors, and descendants of the Clotilde, the People of Benin will journey to AfricaTown, USA to open a new era of democracy and economic freedom. The occasion provides the Alabama Benin Forum with the backdrop to introduce the Alabama Benin Millennium Challenge Model as its tool to cooperate with the administration of President Yayi Boni and to serve as a demonstration pilot for the African Growth and Opportunities Act. The Cities of Prichard and Tuskegee are highlights of the model integrated with the Republic of Benin's Millennium Challenge program and its Agency for Reconciliation and Development.

The apology issued by President Mathieu Kerekou to the Diaspora in 1999 for the role of Dahomey in the international slave trade introduced to the world a spirit of "renaissance" for democracy, religious tolerance, cultural advancement and economic cooperation. More importantly the apology developed in the spirit of the Diaspora a

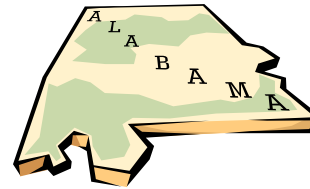
feeling of Africa as “Home” a place of common connections, belonging, history, pride and thoughts of Africa’s contribution to the 21st century global community. A true connection to the motherland through Benin and AfricaTown, USA engenders the feeling that Africans dispersed throughout the world no longer feel like a “motherless child a long way from home”. The leadership of President Yayi provides the transitions from reconciliation to development.

Under the leadership of the City of Prichard and the People of AfricaTown, USA the American Diaspora introduced a new model of economic freedom and democracy. The **Prichard New School of political economy** and the **Tuskegee Foreign Trade and Investment Zone** provides the hope and promise for providing the Republic of Benin access to the Commerce of the United States and support for its economic policies, which demonstrates Africa’s human and economic advancement in the world. Along with its apology Benin summoned the Diaspora to reconcile and to seek positive developments for the world of the 21st century. “*From Africa to AfricaTown USA*” is a response by the energized, the optimistic, the morally driven, and the committed to a new perhaps for economic freedom and world democracy. An Africa where “the whips and chains are no more” and an America where “economic emancipation” is complete. Benin’s new economy under President Yayi Boni and its link to the State of Alabama under the African Growth and opportunities Act provide the foundation for the Africa you will come to know.

Why Alabama? Why Benin? The City of Prichard, Alabama USA is the place where the last Africans to leave the Port of Ouidah in the Republic of Benin for the United States for the Purpose of slavery landed in 1859. The State of Alabama has also taken the lead in the United States to advance the African Growth and Opportunities Act. The Republic of Benin is also the undisputed leader of Africa's Democracy movement. Descendants of the voyage of the Clotilde, will retrace the steps of their ancestors from Abomey to Ouidah to AfricaTown, USA, recognize the Apology of Benin, advance a new economic and social model of cooperation with President Yayi Boni and celebrate Africa's "Reconciliation Renaissance". The only location in the world where this is possible is "Prichard, Alabama"

"God Builds and Blesses all Destinies,"
A Prayer for Economic Renewal

President Yayi Boni Republic of Benin, 2006



"The Benin and Alabama You Will Come to Know"

"When The Reconciliation Comes"

When the Reconciliation Comes Muslims, Christians, Hebrews, Traditional People are one.... Sabaquin, the Covenant and the showers of the rain falls equally on us all... When the Reconciliation Comes!

When the Reconciliation Comes the creature called human will find its place in the world of the free, the living without stealing from themselves by robbing others of the inheritance provided by God in creation.. When the Reconciliation Comes All! Are equal heirs of the creation endowed by the creator with certain unalienable rights. When the Reconciliation Comes.

When the Reconciliation Comes.. The First.. The Last.. The Everything.. When the Reconciliation Comes! I am on the mountain top I have overcome.. When the Reconciliation comes!

When the Reconciliation Comes "Aint no Stopping us Now! When the Reconciliation Comes.

When the Reconciliation Comes the memories of the whips and the chains are no more. When the Reconciliation Comes! No civil rights God is right. when the Reconciliation Comes!

When the Reconciliation Comes God's A-Gonna Trouble the Water.. When the Reconciliation Comes! Free at last, Free at last. When the Reconciliation Comes! The crooked places are made straight. When the Reconciliation Comes!

When the Reconciliation come to God be the glory. When the Reconciliation comes!

When the Reconciliation Comes There's A Great Camp Meeting in the Promised Land. A Golden Lady when the Reconciliation Comes! The wind is at my back and the road comes up to meet me.. When the Reconciliation Comes!

When the Reconciliation Comes my peace and my heart are buried at Ouidah. When the Reconciliation Comes.

"The Reconciliation Renaissance"

The "Reconciliation Renaissance" originating in the Republic of Benin and City of Prichard, State of Alabama is a new form of human expression of regard by civilization for God's creation, the natural world and all of life. It is the articulation of a new spirit of action and cooperation respecting the endowed natural right to self-expression in work and the receipt of its benefits, the fruits of labor. It is the awareness, recognition, and acceptance of each living sole as an equal heir to the creation entitled to the natural wealth provided in abundance for life's security and happiness. In its highest form the Reconciliation Renaissance is the expression of sorrow and shame for any wrongful acts of the past and joy at the possibilities for future world developments, which correct past misdeeds. This act of shame by those responsible for past acts of robbing individuals and groups of their labor in order to be complete must be accepted by those who were and are victims. The act of apology is given freely without coercion and accepted without conditions. This then is a complete reconciliation between perpetrator and victim and the first step to a world with a "Zero Tolerance for Poverty"

The Reconciliation Renaissance is a movement by artist, politicians, scientist and religious leaders to bring awareness to the issue of hunger and poverty not as an issue of scarcity but one of contempt for the human right to access land so that all persons may labor freely for their daily bread. It is a movement of morals and

spiritual persuasion to freely and without government intervention induce those with more than enough to share their wealth with those without enough. The movement promotes “Zero Tolerance for Poverty” as a policy to be adopted by the world. It is a new universe for human creativity.

The Reconciliation Renaissance recognizes the special role of artist in society to provide insight, provoke thought, and induce new energies for action. The Reconciliation Renaissance artist through song, dance, writing, theatre, sculpture and painting arrives at deeper insights long before the politician, engineer or business entrepreneur.

The “*Alabama Benin Reconciliation Renaissance*” symbolizes a global effort to achieve economic freedom and Democracy in the 21st century. Led by the people of Alabama and Benin and supported by scientific, religious, Political and artistic leaders throughout the world a new covenant with God has been formed for human betterment. The Reconciliation Renaissance brings attention to the reconciliation process as a method and strategy other than war and promotes reliance on the “Diasjazzpora art form. This combined artistic, spiritual and technical realm advances the ideal for a new human condition of freedom and democracy. The “*Alabama Benin Reconciliation Renaissance*” is not simply a movement to dramatize the plight of the poor and condemnation of the wealthy. Instead the renaissance organizes artist into action guilds, politicians into citizen

advocates, and scientist into discoverers and interpreters of the will of the creation. Each person in the reconciliation is called to seek forgiveness, and to add value to life. Each person must contribute to the lives of others through their mediums of work, persuade for greater fairness and justice, reconciliation, and moral considerations for equal access to the natural wealth provided by God to all and for equitable distributions of that wealth through non government intervention and processes. The Reconciliation Renaissance has given Africa's Dispersed its soul and that "soul" is Diasjazzpora.

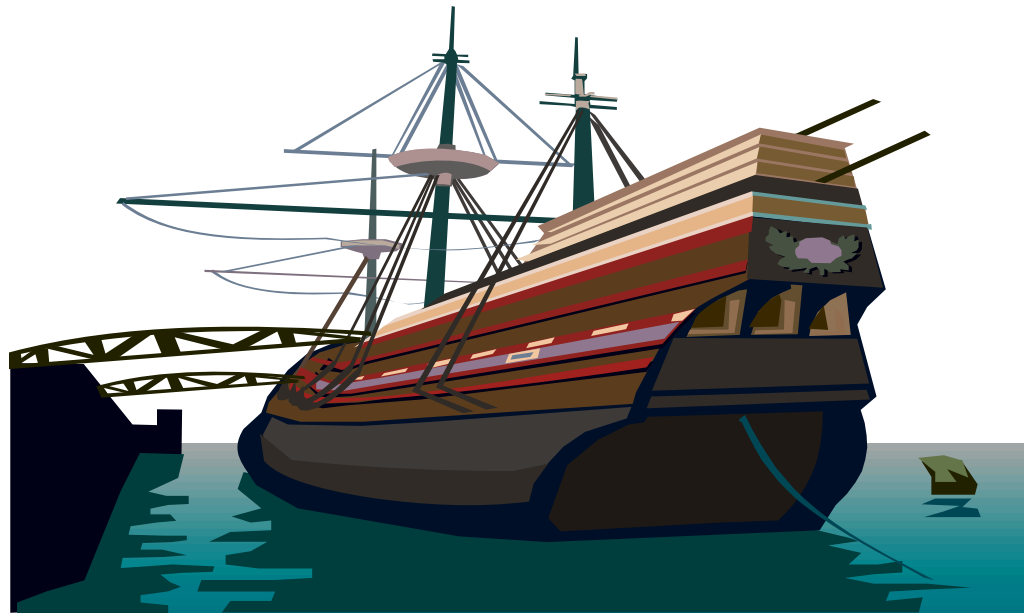
"We owe to ourselves never to forget these absent ones standing among us who did not die of their own death, to acknowledge our share of responsibility in the humiliation and opprobrium, to feel shame for what our other absent ones did, to look differently at the false images, to surrender to forgiveness in order to start afresh and pursue our goal towards progress, and free ourselves from misery without succumbing to vanity of material possession. For Africans, this awareness opens the way to forgiveness and reconciliation".

***President Mathieu Kerekou 1999
Republic of Benin***



***Benin** She's Calling your Name in the Wind!
"Come Back Home"*

Voyage of the Clotilde from Ouidah and the Settlement of AfricaTown, USA



Benin and Alabama: The Historical Context

The current possibilities for economic cooperation between Alabama and Benin are founded on historic ties from ending in 1859 the Trans Atlantic slave trade at Mobile and modern legal actions by the United States Africa Growth and Opportunities Act and the Alabama State Legislature to assist the implementation of the Act. The possibilities are also founded on the new history to be written under the leadership of President Yayi Boni.

The Republic of Benin's history with the State of Alabama is part of a major effort to establish the AfricaTown, USA National Historic Site and Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Trade Center at Prichard, Alabama and the Tuskegee Foreign Trade and Investment Zone. According to historical accounts the last recorded attempt to import Africans into the United States for the Purpose of Slavery ended at the Cities of Prichard and Mobile in 1859. The voyage of the schooner Clotilde to Dahomey, now the Republic of Benin, and its return to Alabama is one of the most documented events in African American history. AfricaTown, USA, the placed settled by the people on the schooner Clotilde is currently documented for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and for participation in the African Growth and Opportunities Act programs.

In 1982 the United States Information Agency sponsored the tour of Republican Mayor John H. Smith of the City of Prichard, Alabama to the Republic of Benin to give lectures on the rise of African American elected officials in the United States and its

implications for greater economic and cultural ties with Africa. During this period Mayor Smith formed a friendship with President Mathieu Kerekou of the Republic of Benin and established a twinning agreement between the Cities of Ouidah, the port city utilized by the Clotilde, and the City of Prichard. It was from this friendship and agreement between these two leaders that a movement to unite the African Diaspora emerged and forms the base for current modern ties between Benin and Alabama.

The formal effort between Benin and Alabama initiated with signing a twinning agreement between the Cities of Ouidah and Prichard in 1982. This introduced a new era of cooperation between Africa and its Diaspora. Foreign Minister Frederick Affo of Benin and Mayor John H. Smith entered into an understanding to promote the mutual interest of each party.

With a twinning agreement the people of Ouidah and the people of Prichard held the first international conference on origins in the Republic of Benin in 1984 and an International festival on origins in the City of Prichard in 1986. Following this signing Congressman Jack Edwards and Senator Howell Heflin introduced into the Congress of the United States a Bill in 1983 to establish the AfricaTown, USA National Historic Park and Landmarks District. This was the first legal attempt in the United States to officially recognize the history between Benin and the State of Alabama. In 1986 the State of Alabama passed into law the AfricaTown, USA Act establishing the AfricaTown USA State Park. It was the first for a State in America to recognize the relationship between a

Nation State in Africa and its Diaspora. Benin and its Diaspora at AfricaTown USA and Prichard, Alabama were now historically and legally bonded by the legal actions of the State of Alabama. It is the only State to initiate such actions.

Supporting the concept of the Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Trade Center at Prichard the State Department of the United States hosted a delegation of twenty-six African ambassadors in 1986 and 1987 to the City of Prichard to provide for greater awareness by the Ambassadors of the operation of the American economy at the local level. It was from this meeting that the African Ambassadors supported the concept for AfricaTown, USA as an international trade center and the proposal of Mayor Johnny Ford of Tuskegee to form the World Conference of Mayors at St. Louis Missouri.

President Kerekou continued the spirit of the original conferences between Ouidah and Prichard by establishing a reconciliation and development program to narrow the historical gap between Africans and African Americans. This political leader of Benin publicly apologized for the role of his country in the slave trade, organized a conference on reconciliation and created a permanent agency for Reconciliation and Development. In 2000 Ambassador Cyril OGUIN was the key note speaker for the City of Mobile Tri-Centennial Celebration and delivered the message of reconciliation to the State of Alabama. President Kerekou received the Chairman's Eagles Prize from the Alabama Republican Council in 2003 for his accomplishment in freedom and democracy, the Alabama Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Martin Luther King's Dreamer

Award for reconciliation and non-violence strategies in 2004 and The National Policy Alliance will award President Kerekou at the 2006 Forum its Chairman's Prize as the "Father of Reconciliation, Freedom and Democratic Foundations for the 21st Century".

With Passage of the African Growth and Opportunities Act by the United States Congress in 2000 the State of Alabama in 2004 created its own implementation strategy by State Resolution HJR25 establishing the Alabama Benin Trade and Economic Cooperative Forum and amending the State Constitution through HB449 permitting the City of Tuskegee to establish a Foreign Trade Zone and Experimental Tax District. Resolution HJR25 was signed by the Governor of the State of Alabama who then appointed John H. Smith, former Mayor of the City of Prichard, Chairman of the Forum. These State actions were instituted to take advantage of the facilities of the African Growth and Opportunities Act and to build a cooperative relations strategy with the Republic of Benin as a demonstration pilot. By 2001 the Director of the Benin Agency for Reconciliation and Development Simon Pierre Adovelande and Ambassador OGUIN were participating in consultation meetings with the AfricaTown USA Reconciliation and Development Committee and the City of Prichard to build awareness of the Alabama Benin Reconciliation Renaissance. In 2005 Diane Cameron of Alabama was appointed USA Artist in Resident to the Benin International Gospel and Roots Festival and was nominated for the African Grammy in 2006 for her CD "Come Back Home to Africa".

The Alabama Legislature twice passed congratulatory Resolution recognizing the achievements of this artist.

Under the new Leadership of President Yayi Boni transition to economic development has occurred and the Alabama Benin Millennium Challenge Model has momentum to be installed. Also, City of Prichard Mayor Ron Davis continued the Prichard New School of political economy instituted as a comprehensive strategic plan, which includes AfricaTown, USA and the Sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean Trade Center as development goals.

Walk Together Children

Walk together children,
Don't you get weary
Walk together children,
Oh, talk together children
Don't you get weary,
There's a great camp meeting in the Promised Land.

Sing together children,
Don't you get weary,
Sing together children
Don't you get weary,
Oh, shout together children,
Don't you get weary
There's a great camp meeting in the Promised Land.

Oh, get you ready children,
Don't you get weary,
Get you ready children,
Don't you get weary
We'll enter there, oh children,
Don't you get weary,
There's a great Camp meeting in the Promised Land

The Program

The 2006 AfricaTown USA International Reconciliation Festival provides a range of experiences for tourist, businessmen, students, historians, religious leaders and delegates. 1). The Apology Recognition Ceremony and dedication of the permanent reconciliation monument in AfricaTown. 2). Cultural and Educational Tours of the Slave Route and Other AfricaTown, USA Historic Landmarks including a re-enactment of the arrival of the Clotilde. 3). The Alabama Benin Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum promoting trade investment and development cooperation with the Administration of President Boni 4) Meeting of the World Conference of Mayors, 5). Entertainment including Music, Theatre, Gospel, Jazz, Traditional folk exhibitions and art displays and 6). Business and Industrial exhibits are available for participants and their range of interest. The program is structured as a home coming and family re-union for the American Diaspora with Benin. The people of AfricaTown, USA their churches, mosques, students, the Prichard, Tuskegee and Mobile Chambers of Commerce, artist, businessmen and political leaders are poised to welcome Benin, the US Diaspora and business leaders of Alabama to install a new era of economic cooperation and success for the Republic of Benin, Africa and the State of Alabama.

The program demonstrates Benin's transition from reconciliation to development. The Fruits of Reconciliation organized since 1982 by the City of Prichard are unveiled during the course of the Festival in the form of trade, investment and development

projects. The Festival demonstrates how business, tourism and trade relations between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Benin are occurring. The Alabama Port is promoted as a gate way to the commerce of the United States. Correspondingly, the Republic of Benin is advertised as the gateway to West Africa. The programs are offered concurrently to match interest of each visitor for tourism, business, cultural education, religious interest or a combination of all that is available.

“What ever your interest you will find it “From Africa to AfricaTown, USA.””



Program Descriptions

Arrival of Advance Teams and exhibit Set-up- Monday Oct 25-26

Preliminary activities, arrival of advance team from the Republic of Benin, Conference Managers, security, participating hotels, transportation and tour operators should meet during this period. The exhibit from the Republic of Benin is in place and the local public, students etc are allowed to view the set-up.

Thursday October 26, 2006 6:00 PM International Press Briefing- Opening Reception: Food Ways of Alabama

The opening reception consists of an Exhibit of foods from Alabama and Benin Food ways of Alabama and Benin provides invited guest from Benin and visitors to the Forum the opportunity to participate in sampling Alabama and Benin cuisine while getting to know other delegates and visitors who have arrived for the Festival and Forum events. Alabama and Benin Cuisine will be offered within an environment of art and music.

Friday October 27, 2006 Voyage of the Clotilde AfricaTown Tour

9:00 AM: Voyage of the Clotilde: From Africa to AfricaTown, USA.

Participants are given the opportunity to experience the path taken by the Clotilde entering the Mobile Bay from the Port of Ouidah and settling AfricaTown, USA. Voyage of the Clotilde will be one of the great moments of the Festival. Here Descendants from the Ship Clotilde who left Dahomey will return to the site of the arrival of their families in the United States and religious ceremony at the AfricaTown Cemetery. The Slave route from Ouidah to AfricaTown is traced. Starting from Mobile to Ouidah and back through the Mobile Bay and Landing at Three Mile Island. Participants will experience the scene and settings of the Clotilde's arrival to present day

AfricaTown, USA. Participants are exposed to the history of Dahomey and its connection to AfricaTown, USA. Participants will experience the settings and scenes of the slave experience from Ouidah to AfricaTown along with a welcoming ceremony by the people of AfricaTown at the end of the Voyage. One of the families of Abomey whose ancestors were aboard the last slave ship to leave Ouidah for the United States for the Purpose of slavery will serve as the tour host. The tour ends at the AfricaTown, USA Cemetery

Friday October 27, 2006 The Fi Fa Wue

7:30 PM The Fi Fa Wue celebrates the reconciliation between Africa and its Diaspora and honors the work and leadership of the People of Benin in the Reconciliation Renaissance. Fi fa Wue is a Fon word which means to celebrate joyously. The Fon people are descendants of the Kingdom of Dahomey, the government in place during the voyage of the Clotilde to Benin and its return to AfricaTown, USA. in 1859. In 1982 Mayor John H. Smith of the City of Prichard Alabama was sponsored by the United States Information Agency to tour the Republic of Benin to give lectures and to make the People of Benin and the City of Ouidah aware of the place AfricaTown, USA where the last group of Africans were brought from Ouidah to the United States for the purpose of slavery. From this visit the first festival on origins was held in the City of Ouidah and the City of Prichard held a similar event in 1986. These events launched the Reconciliation Renaissance and brought international attention to Benin's slave route at UNESCO and the Congress of the United States. The State of Alabama also brought similar recognition by passage of the AfricaTown, USA Act creating the AfricaTown, USA State Park which commemorates the relationship between Benin and Alabama. In 2000 President Kerekou issued a formal Decree and held a formal reconciliation conference led by Pastor Jack Gaines of Virginia and others from the United States. The Fi fa Wue is held to recognize the many contributors to the Reconciliation Renaissance and to celebrate Africa's healing with its Diaspora. African Attire is required.

Saturday October 28, 2006 Path to Freedom 7:00 Theatre
Production "Path to Freedom": From Slavery to
Reconciliation July 31, 2005 6:00 PM

Alabama artist and Benin artist will present the tragedy and drama associated with the African American experience from 1555, when African people were declared by the Virginia colony of the United States to be perpetually held as slaves, to the Reconciliation Decree of President Mathieu Kerekou. Path to Freedom is a play written to represent a new art form which presents the positive meaning of life for Africa in the 21st century. Path to Freedom is a docu-celebration of reconciliation, freedom and democracy combined with an artist's vision of the future. The history of the past and the future breakthrough for the African Diaspora represented by the Reconciliation Decree are presented in music, song, dance and acting.

Sunday October 29, 2006 Season of Prayers & Feast of Friends and
Relatives

The Festival and Forum officially opens with a religious program dedicated to prayers of thanksgiving and forgiveness. Statements by Pastors and Imams from the United States are given in an ecumenical service of prayer and thanksgiving with Imams and Pastors from the Republic of Benin. The program is also the occasion for The Reconciliation: The forgiveness program in which families of descendants of the Clotilde who left Ouidah in 1859 accept the apology of Benin along with Leaders of the American Diaspora. The program also recognizes individuals and who have made exceptional and superior contributions to the Reconciliation Renaissance. The program brings together Hebrews, Christians, Muslims, and traditional religious leaders from Benin with religious-spiritual leaders of the Diaspora in a Season of prayer and reconciliation

The Feast of Relatives and Friends will follow the Season of Prayers.

Monday October 30, 2006 Alabama Benin Forum

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Opening The Plenary Session

11:00 AM Alabama Benin Forum: The Legal Framework

12:30 Lunch: BenAm Tex Fashion Forum

2:00 PM Alabama-Benin Trade, Investment & Development Model

**The Alabama Benin Millennium Challenge: Report on
Accomplishments 2006 Plan of Development**

3:15 PM

Alabama: Gate Way to the Commerce of the United States: A Joint Seminar of the State of Alabama International Trade Division, Port of Alabama, Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Cities of Prichard, Mobile and Tuskegee Chambers of Commerce

The Joint Seminar of the Chambers of Commerce of Benin, City of Prichard, City of Tuskegee, City of Mobile, Alabama Department of Development and the Port of Alabama is organized as a capacity building session for small and medium enterprises. The session provides information and knowledge related to Alabama's transport and trade system as a gate way to the commerce of the United States along with trade support programs provided by the State of Alabama for businesses who locate and operate within its borders. The Tom Big Bee Water Way System, which connects the Port of Alabama to the interior of the United States including ports in the States of Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio, is the gate way that provides Benin entrepreneurs with access to a transportation corridor connecting to the major industrial and commercial centers in the United States. Utilizing the Port of Alabama along cooperating with joint venture Alabama partners Benin businesses can achieve a competitive advantage in expanded US markets for their products. Alabama incentives for businesses which locate and operate in the State of Alabama will also be discussed along with implications for AGOA eligible products. The session

will be presented by the International Trade Division of the State of Alabama, the Port of Alabama and the Chambers of Commerce of Prichard, Tuskegee and Mobile.

6:30 Jazz and Blues Forum- Diasjazzpora The Music of Reconciliation: Alabama Artist Tribute to Benin

The Forum presents Diasjazzpora, the music of reconciliation. Diasjazzpora represent the new art form developing from the combined musical talents and experiences of African artist and African American artist expressing their moods in music and song related to the reconciliation. The Forum presents in concert the talents of Africa and those of African Americans as the integrating background to demonstrate this new artistic expression evolving from the reconciliation experience.

Tuesday October 31, 2006 9:00 AM

Alabama Benin Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum:

Forum Break Out Sessions: Implementing the Alabama Benin Millennium

Challenge Model

The Alabama Benin Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum is a one day working meeting between Alabama and Benin leaders to set the agenda and to present proposals for accomplishing trade investment and development programs between Alabama and the Republic of Benin. The leaders of the various sub-forums will meet to evaluate the accomplishment from the 2005 1st Session and the agreed upon Plan of development. The meeting will result in establishing improvements to the Alabama Benin Millennium Challenge Model within the context of the African Growth and Opportunities Act and seeking new opportunities for 2007. The Forum defines the competitive advantage for Benin and Alabama utilizing the model and presents the details to emerge from the sub-meetings of the Forum. The plan established by the forum will be implemented and reviewed by the Forum at the 2007 3rd Session in the Republic of Benin.

The entire body of the World Conference of Mayors will convene in Prichard during the Forum on Municipalities to review the Benin Institute of Politics established in conjunction with the Benin Association of Mayors at the 1st Session of in Cotonou. Founder of The Conference Mayor Johnny Ford of Tuskegee Alabama will convene more than 200 Mayors from around the world and African American Leaders of national organizations in the United States to celebrate the cause of reconciliation and the accomplishments since 2005. The Conference is designed to emphasize to Mayors of Benin their important role in the development process. The meeting in Prichard is the 22nd since the Mayors of Africa and African American Mayors organized the World Conference in St. Louis Missouri. The meeting is devoted to presentation of programs for trade, twinning cities, building trust, financing projects, and tourism promotion which may be formed between Mayors of Benin and the World. The relationship between Ouidah and the City of Prichard are cited as a model of the work of the World Conference of Mayors and its principles.

Meeting General Union for the Development of Ouidah and Prichard

The organizational Meeting of the General Union for the Development of Ouidah and Prichard will occur with agreement on a framework for cooperation. The 1980's twinning agreement between the two cities will be confirmed along with projects to promote the mutual interest in tourism between Ouidah and the AfricaTown, USA Park in the City of Prichard. The meeting will open with Methods to Protect and Enhance the Historic and Cultural Resources of Ouidah and AfricaTown, USA. followed by discussions on support for the petition by AfricaTown USA through the City of Prichard to be listed by UNESCO as an historic element of the Slave Route. The meeting will also focus on adoption of a proposal to hold the Worlds Exhibition of the Slave Route: Worlds Fair.

Official Closing Ceremony

7:30 PM The Gospel and Roots Forum

The Gospel and Roots Forum provide the history of African Americans in songs. Religious music in history provides evidence of the character of the instinct of African people toward reconciliation. Gospel music is at the heart of African American motivation, behavior and thinking. The essence of being a human being and feelings as an African American is rooted in singing about experiences with God. The Gospel and Roots Forum trace Negro Spirituals and gospel from their beginnings to their present form. The music is interpreted for the audience for its cultural, religious and spiritual meaning within the context of the time it appeared in history. Each song is presented for meaning and historical significance. The Gospel and Roots Forum is the final exhibit of the 2006 2nd Session.

Travel, Lodging and Ground Transportation Details

RIVERVIEW
PLAZA HOTEL

Mobile, Alabama

251-4153095
www.riverviewmobile.com

Together we rise and fall
Return to the land of our ancestors
Africa dawn of humanity
Welcome your children back home

Together to build a tolerant Africa
Together to build an Africa of peace
Together to build a free Africa

Blacks of the Diaspora, Blacks of Africa
Assemble for reconciliation
Blacks of the Diaspora, Blacks of Africa
Assemble for forgiveness

To the glory of the zenith of the sun
Praise the spirit of Tamango
At the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro
We are a united people

Together to build a tolerant Africa
Together to build an Africa of peace
Together to build a free Africa
Prometra Anthem



City of Ouidah
Gate of Return