

How DiasporaEngager, the international diaspora engagement platform, was invented and how it may help you and your country



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DiasporaEngager, www.DiasporaEngager.com, was invented by Dr Roland Holou. Roland was born and raised in Benin Republic (West Africa) where he learned that, to succeed in life, he had to work very hard and count on God who is able to provide the daily bread to the poor, the needy, and the afflicted. Since he was a teenager, Roland was continually exploring ways to succeed in school to better his life in the future. Because of that early determination, he was very brilliant in school. However, the more education he received, the more he realized that the education system in his home country was not adequate to the needs of the country. By the time he graduated from high school, he began writing his first book to address some of the educational problems in Africa. Before completing his Bachelor Degree, he had finished writing that book; but due to some limitations, he had to wait for 6 years before being able to publish it.

In addition to what he believes is destiny, his desire to get a greater education and a better life compelled him to move to the USA a few months after finishing his Bachelor Degree in Agronomy and Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Abomey Calavi in Benin, where he graduated as first of his class. Later, he obtained his Ph.D. in Plant, Insect and Microbial Sciences at the University of Missouri (USA) where he also graduated as the Doctoral Marshal (first of his class). While he was finishing his doctorate degree in the USA, Roland managed to translate his second book into English and published it in the USA under the title of “*A Continent in Tears: The origin of Africa’s collapse and How to Reverse It*”. By that time, he was naturalized as a US citizen.

Roland served as the International Chair of the “Sweet Sorghum Ethanol Association”. He also chaired the “International Service in Agronomy Award Committee” at the American Society of Agronomy. In addition, he worked as a Plant Biotechnology Research Scientist in the USA.

During all those times, he witnessed the challenges of the global Diaspora. He kept thinking about strategies to succeed and to help others. Meanwhile, he kept working on the development of Africa, and found that in order for Africa to fully develop, it must capitalize on the potential of its diasporas by treating them not just as people who must help Africa, but also as people who need help from Africa as well as their host countries which are not a paradise as many people in the home country of the diaspora usually think. Since then, Roland kept thinking over and over about how to bring the African countries together with their diasporas in a way that can be beneficial for all.

As he continued to capitalize on what he had experienced in the U.S. and with his own people, and what he had learned from other Africans living in the diaspora and in Africa, Roland concluded that a platform must be created to bring the diasporas and its people together around

problems and solutions that concern both. He then began writing the project to develop Africa based on its diasporas and vice versa.

During his review of the literature, Roland decided to learn more about the diasporas of the other continents. Amazingly, he discovered that, in spite of the development levels, all continents (including Asia, North and South America, Europe, and Australia) are encountering the same problems that Africa has had to cooperatively work with their diasporas to develop themselves, particularly in the context of brain drain and the international laws and strategies that encourage it.

According to Roland's diagnostic, to sustainably solve the problems of the global diaspora and their home/host country, a system must be built where the diasporas, the people and organizations in their country of origin and in their host countries, can work together to help each other in a win-win framework. Unfortunately, that is the equation many countries failed to solve, and many migratory problems including brain drain have never been sustainably solved.

Therefore, Roland understood that instead of developing a platform that will only work for Africa, he would rather work on a global platform that will address the main needs of all nations and their international diasporas in a win-win framework. Consequently, based on his research and life experience, he extensively studied the diasporas of all continents and then created DiasporaEngager, which is the premier and world's largest website platform to locate, engage, and network with the global diasporas and with the people and organizations in their home country and/or in their country of residence.

Although the name sounds like something just for the international people, I would like to inform you that it is a platform that helps everybody and engages the partnership of entities such as: Associations or Networks, Businesses, Governmental Agencies, the International Diaspora, Institutes of Research, Laboratories, Nonprofit Organizations, Philanthropists/Donors, Recruiting Agencies, Professionals, Schools/Educational Institutions, Students, Faculty, and much more.

All it takes to start benefiting from this platform is to register an account at www.DiasporaEngager.com. It is free!

Roland Holou is available for interviews or conferences related to his area of expertise, including the international diaspora engagement and brain drain management.

For any questions or suggestions, please contact DiasporaEngager at contact@DiasporaEngager.com