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Liberia: New Website, Blog, and Journal for Liberian Scientists!

Jul 31, 2009

by Clara Mallah / Liberian Daily Observer



Gillian Collins, Adam Cohen, Benjamin Rapoport, Asumana Jabateh Randolph, and Lynn Yi

This week, American scientists and students launched a new online journal The Liberian Scientist. The journal, which is accessible at www.limany.org, is

a venue for Liberian scientists to share their work with local peers and the international community. In addition to reliable digital archives of science papers, the site features a blog, which serves as a discussion forum for science and health issues. The Liberian Scientist site also includes resources for science educators, including curriculum suggestions and discussion groups. Clearly, The Liberian Scientist website is an exciting new resource for aspiring Liberian academics.

Dr. Adam Cohen, a scientist at Harvard University, and Gillian Collins, a student at Hunter College High School, designed The Liberian Scientist's website. Dr. Cohen is a former student of Mr. Asumana Jabateh Randolph, who is also Ms. Collins current laboratory science teacher. Inspired by Mr. Randolph's ongoing commitment to Liberian service, Dr. Cohen and Ms. Collins both visited the region this spring in connection with I-HELP Liberia organization. Their experiences teaching science workshops in the area compelled them to create the online journal, which they hope will contribute to the development of a strong and adaptable Liberian scientific culture.

We believe Liberia's sustainable post-Civil War rehabilitation is contingent on a revival of science. Ms. Collins says, "Science is a mechanism for progress—the way we learn about the world and decide how to make it better." Indeed, science education will prepare the Liberian population to successfully compete in local and global economies. A strong science culture may also improve the accessibility of effective healthcare and promote an environmentally sustainable approach to modernization. Research programs have the capacity to yield profitable innovations and establish Liberia as a productive member of the worldwide science community.

In order maximize journal's potential, it is important that the website be incorporated into classroom curriculums and mainstreamed throughout

Liberian intellectual community. Ms. Collins encourages science students, teachers, and enthusiasts to "publicize the website, including the blog, as a means of supplementing classroom curriculum."

With an eye towards these ambitions, The Liberian Scientist will be governed by an editing delegation in Liberia, which coordinates regularly with a management team in the United States. Alaskai Johnson and Clara Mallah have already graciously volunteered to help spearhead the initiative on a local level. Science students at Hunter College High School will maintain the archives and manage the blog.

The Liberian Scientist is already accepting submissions to be considered for publication. Papers should be the original work of Liberian science students, teachers, professionals, or enthusiasts. To submit a paper, please follow the directions on The Liberian Scientist's website and send an email to theliberianscientist@gmail.com. Selected papers are published on a monthly basis, so the archives remain abreast of current Liberian research. The winning papers of science theses contests at the University of Liberia and Cuttington University will be awarded featured presentation in The Liberian Scientist journal.

www.theliberianscientist.com is an exciting new tool available to the Liberian scholarly community. Ms. Collins is optimistic: "We encourage you to visit the site, contribute to the blog, and participate in Liberia's science revolution! Indeed, it is now the responsibility of Liberian scientists to embrace The Liberian Scientist as a mechanism for intellectual and societal progress."



Gillian Collins, Adam Cohen, Benjamin Rapoport, Asumana Jabateh Randolph, and Lynn Yi



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