

Special guests in attendance were exhibitors from various African nations and African ambassadors to the United States.

Souvenir page



President Rawlings attends African World Expo in Detroit

Ghana's president visits to promote trade, economic cooperation

The president of Ghana, Flight-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, visited Michigan last month at the invitation of Gov. John Engler to promote economic cooperation between Michigan and Ghana, and to promote the opening of the African World Expo in Detroit, Nov. 3-5. First Lady Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings accompanied President Rawlings.

As head of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Rawlings met with the press in the Dykema Gossett Conference Center in Detroit for a ceremonial opening of the African World Expo and to discuss economic growth and development in his country.

In his welcoming address at the African World Expo, Gov. Engler said, "I am proud that Michigan has the

honor of hosting the world's largest event promoting trade investment between Africa and North America. It will further enhance the strong cultural and commercialities that Michigan has fostered with the nations of Africa over many years."

Detroit's Mayor Dennis Archer noted that "This conference, designed to open the doors of opportunity for international business enterprises, will achieve its goal to showcase and introduce the growing industry of Afrocentric products and services."

Ghana has made tremendous economic strides under President Rawlings' leadership, including an average 5 percent GDP growth over the past 10 years and a stock market return of more than 70 percent per year in U.S. dollar

terms in the last three years.

In addition to the press conference (also attended by the governor and by Rep. Alma Stallworth), President Rawlings' itinerary included a business leaders' lunch, hosted by Gov. Engler for the Ghanaian delegation, and the signing of a joint declaration of economic and cultural cooperation between Ghana and Michigan.

President Rawlings arrived in the United States on Oct. 21 to take part in the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations. In addition to New York City and Detroit, President Rawlings is visiting Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and Washington D.C., on his nationwide tour, the first ever undertaken by a Ghanaian head of state.

Photos by Joan & Stanley Fields