AFRICAN HUMANITIES PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE
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Wole Soyinka to deliver keynote address at African Humanities Assembly

Wole Soyinka, 1986 Nobel laureate in literature, will deliver the keynote address at the Fourth Regional Assembly of the African Humanities Program (AHP). Opening the three-day Assembly, the address will take place at the Auditorium of the National Universities Commission in Abuja on February 11, 2020 at 5pm. The public is cordially invited.

A passionate promoter of the role of the humanities in contemporary life, Professor Soyinka has throughout his distinguished career championed writing that inspires individual self-examination and collective self-understanding. He has called for the retrieval of suppressed, misconstrued, or forgotten African histories and cultures.

Since 2008 the African Humanities Program has responded to Professor Soyinka's call by encouraging and enabling African scholars to retrieve the record of the past and to trace the sinuosities of linguistic diversity and cultural creation in the present. In Nigeria and throughout the continent, over 400 AHP Fellows along with their mentors, colleagues, and students have built a scholarly infrastructure for the humanities and arts that sustains and ties together dozens of world-class institutions of higher education.

Professor Soyinka comments, "The publications of the African Humanities Program have greatly expanded and deepened a continent's knowledge of herself, and her place in a rapidly evolving world. We have genuine cause to applaud the work of a new generation of African humanist scholars."

Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has funded the African Humanities Program working closely with the American Council of Learned Societies, offers this appreciation: "The work of AHP Fellows re-collects the past, clarifies the present, and lays the foundation for flourishing humanities research and writing in the future. Their work is an inspiration to scholars everywhere."

The address will be the highpoint of the opening ceremony of the three-day Assembly. The opening ceremony will begin at 4pm. For information on the Regional Assembly of the African Humanities Program and the keynote address by Professor Wole Soyinka, please contact the AHP Local Organizing Committee –

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