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**Teleconference Agenda**  
**Sunday, April 9, 2011**

**8:00 - 9:00 pm**

**PHONE NUMBER: (218) 862-6420 ACCESS CODE 971607**

<b>1. Welcome Remarks/Update:</b>	Dr. Lawrence Zumo, Chairman of the Boards/ Mr. Siah Nyanseor, Acting ED (LIHEDE)	8:00
<b>2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda:</b>	Group/LIHEDEANS	8:05
<b>3. Teleconference Etiquette Discussion:</b>	Mrs. Labeth Varh, LIHEDE DOL, Chairlady	8:07
<b>4. Update on Fulbright Scholarship in India</b>		
<b>a. Update on NHP2010 and other projects:</b>	Dr. Syrulwa Somah,	8: 09
<b>b. LIHEDE 2011 Liberian Literature Project/Conference</b>	LIHEDE, Executive Director	
<b>5. Startup Update/Location for LIHEDE Next Conference:</b>	Group/LIHEDEANS	8:25
<b>6. General Discussion/Questions/Answers:</b>	Friends of LIHEDE/LIHEDEANS	8:35
<b>7. Next Meeting Date &amp; Agenda Items:</b>	Friends of LIHEDE/LIHEDEANS	8:55
<b>8. Adjourn:</b>	Friends of LIHEDE/LIHEDEANS	9:00

**Background for Discussions**

LIHEDE Liberian Literature Project, which builds on the ongoing National History Project, will be on the agenda. By National History Project, we mean the expression of a nation's citizens' intellectual minds in writing that is profound and organic and elaborated by the toil of composition, and compiled and made eternal literary books. As a nation, we have no national literature, except few individual efforts. If we, as Liberians, hope to live together in peace as one people then it's time that we know something about the different literatures that make up this so-called Land of Liberty. How have we helped ourselves by advancing the European agenda and by teaching our children to read books like "Don and Peggy," "Snow White," at the elementary level; Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn (most famous was Tom Sawyer); Romeo and Juliet and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales; Rip Van Winkle, King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table and Jonathan Swift on junior high and high school levels? Liberians barely read about any tribal heroes, folktales and legends of our culture. How have Beowulf and Hercules who became our heroes and stories about the Trojan War that saturated our thinking helped us? How does knowing and teaching about American, Chinese, and Western literature, instead of those of our own country build lasting peace for all of us? For the most part, the fundamental philosophies of western-style education are rooted in cultural supremacy, exploitation, capitalism and the winner-takes-all mentality. Liberians must acknowledge that the study of others' literatures is not totally irreverent, but such studies must not take precedence over our national literature to educate our children about Liberian literature within the context of our socio-political and economic systems. We should expect to provide a national literature that produces good citizenry by upholding the same moral values that past generations of Liberians have respected and for which they were willing to die-for the survival of our nation.

Any deviation means we really would have no sense of our own history and sense of identity. We at LIHEDE believe that a nation that does not know its history, culture or language, has nothing to pass on to successive generations and is thus doomed and condemned to perpetual warfare and poverty. The aim of the Liberian Historical Project is just one step of that long but necessary journey to avert such a curse on Liberia and its successive generations. The recent civil strife, a very close call, must remain a wake up call to all thinking Liberians. In this regard, we are asking everyone to submit two chapters each on representative folktales and stories from each ethnic subdivision in Liberia for the general good of all Liberians. If you know the traditional literature of our people, help our nation to take her place, by being an author, among the lights of the world. The immortal book [Liberian Literature] that will come out of our collective effort will be collated in English and later be translated into the different Liberian languages, as well as, in Simple English as deemed necessary. Versions will be available for different grade levels, ranging from Pre-K to university. Note: You are encouraged to familiarize with LIHEDE history and activities @ [www.lihede.org](http://www.lihede.org).

Signed:

Dr. Syrulwa Somah, LIHEDE, Executive Director