

On 'Local knowledge'

Excerpt from Dr. Datey-Kumodzie, "Finding a Knowledge Foundation for Africa"

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(retrieved at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/26/38516561.pdf>).

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5. CULTURE – THE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION-AND THE PROGRESS OF THE NATION

Our ancestors knew that the culture, in other words, the Heritage or The Knowledge System of a people is the only Foundation upon which they can plan their future. This is well reflected in a teaching left by one of the Sacred Kings of the Ewe of Ghana *Togbi Sri 1* In his last words before he died he declared:

*"The Treasure that is the beauty and pride of every nation
Is the Heritage, the knowledge-Foundation
Upon which it stands to construct its future.
It is the joy of this life that citizen
Is initiated into the laws of Creation;
And he must endeavor to live according to it
Thus can he help his nation in its development"*

It therefore goes without saying that:

By Togbi Sri 1

*Every Nation can only stand on the Knowledge
Foundation, its Heritage, to plan its progress.
If ever this Heritage is thrown away
The Nation runs the risk of being overthrown by other nations.*

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6. THE AFRICAN AND HIS HERITAGE TODAY

Critical examination has shown that the African, in the adventure of adopting the Christian-European and Arabic-Islamic cultures, has thrown away his own knowledge Foundation his Heritage. The African is not using his own accumulated knowledge for his development. He is just copying product of other people without grasping the fundamental laws and the ordering systems of his own environment. This is why he cannot make any progress. He is always returning to the same beginnings.