



The 2010 MEDAL OF GLORY AWARD

Presentation by:

Fred Oladeinde, President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

Presented to:

**H.E. Blaise Compaore, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso
On Behalf of the People of Burkina Faso**

July 22, 2010

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Burkina Faso, President Blaise Compaore, Your Excellency The Prime Minister of the Republic of Burkina Faso, H.E. Tertius Zongo, Honorable members of Parliament, H.E. Chairperson of the National Organizing Committee, The Chairperson of Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa, (FARA) Dr. Dennis Kyetere, Members of the Board of Directors of FARA, The Executive Director of FARA Dr. Monty Jones, Honorable Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, colleagues and friends representing Civil Society Organizations and Farmers Organizations, members of the Press, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.

For the first time in its thirteen (13) year history, The Medal Of Glory Award (MOGA), is being bestowed on a nation and its people and a businessman.

The 2010 MOGA Award goes to President Blaise Compaore, on behalf of the more than 15 million people of Burkina Faso. The People of Burkina Faso, (Burkinabe) are being recognized for their efforts in pursuing agricultural trade, as a tool to advance political, social, cultural and economic development of their country. The Burkinabe's have been relentless in their labors to penetrate regional and international markets through the simple, but effective exporting of fruits and vegetables among other products, to its neighbors, and cotton, globally. Burkina Faso exemplifies the plight of a developing country that is constrained by limited access to regional and international markets in its efforts to grow its economy, and provide a decent standard of living for its people, so that Democracy and Freedom may thrive. The Burkinabe's have persevered in conducting agricultural trade, notwithstanding restrictive and bias international, and unsupportive regional policies, corruption at border posts and limited transportation linkages between farms and markets.

Dr. Mo Ibrahim, the founder of Celtel International and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, is an African born electrical and mobile communications engineer.

Through Dr. Ibrahim's leadership Celtel became one of Africa's most successful telecommunication cellular networks, creating thousands of jobs in sixteen African countries and facilitating linkages from farms to markets

by using technology to bridge the communication gap between rural and urban Africa.

As Founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation he celebrates excellence in leadership and good governance through the Ibrahim Prize that rewards good leadership and good governance and The Ibrahim Index that ranks governance in Africa.

Accordingly, both the Country of Burkina Faso and this African born businessman resonates AfrICANDO 2010 theme: Using Trade as a Tool to Advance Agricultural Development throughout Africa.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, The Medal of Glory Award, is The Foundation for Democracy in Africa's (FDA) highest honor, awarded annually to exemplary leaders for extraordinary contributions to economic, social, cultural and agricultural development and Democracy in Africa.

Past recipients of the award include President Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika of Malawi; Dr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Director General of the United Nations, Scientific and Cultural Organization (1974-1987); Dr. Sarah E. Moten, Chief, Education Division USAID; President Masire of Botswana; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; Dr. Dorothy Height, Late President of the National Council of Negro Women; President Alpha Omar Konare of Mali; President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal , President Shehu

Shagari, the First Executive President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria and others.

The award to Dr. Mo Ibrahim will be presented on a later date. Because of prior commitments Dr. Mo Ibrahim is unable to join us at the 5th African Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly.

Distinguished guest ladies and gentlemen, please kindly rise and join me on behalf of the 2010 MOGA Selection Committee and my Board of Directors in presenting the 2010 MEDAL OF GLORY AWARD to H.E. The President of The Republic of Burkina Faso, President Blaise Compaore on behalf of the people of Burkina Faso. May God continue to Bless Burkina Faso, and May God continue to Bless all Burkinabe's.

I Thank You.

#####