

PANELISTS

Ambassador Michael Owen

*United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone*

Dr. Samura Kamara

*Minister of Finance and Economic Development*

Dr. Sam Sesay

*Minister of Agriculture, Food Security & Forestry*

Dr. Minkailu Bah

*Minister of Education, Science and Technology*

Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura

*Minister of Health and Sanitation*

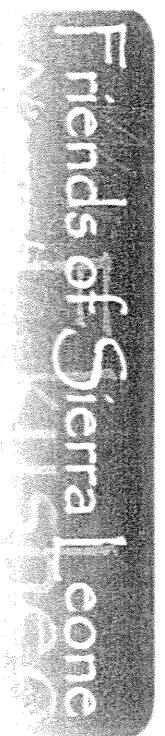
Mr. Vijay Pillai

*World Bank Country Manager for Sierra Leone*

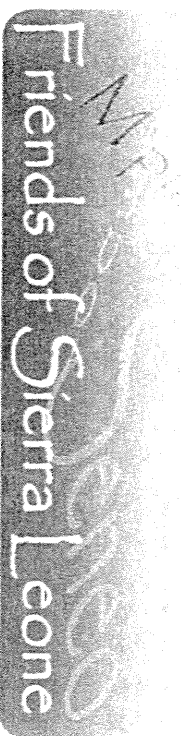
OPENING REMARKS and MODERATOR

Ambassador Thomas Hull

*Former United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone  
2004 to 2007*



Friends of Sierra Leone



[www.fosalone.org](http://www.fosalone.org)

**Country Update - Panel Discussion**

July 19th, 2011

Miatta Conference Centre  
Freetown, Sierra Leone



**Sierra Leone and Peace Corps  
Celebrate 50 Years  
Towards Freedom and Peace**

Peace Corps signed an agreement with the new government of Sierra Leone just nine months after the country became independent from the United Kingdom.

## ABOUT THE COUNTRY UPDATE

In the summer of 1991, a small group of returned Peace Corps volunteers who had served in Sierra Leone convened a public forum to share news about Sierra Leone and to find ways they might continue to contribute to the development of the country they served. It is in this context that the Friends of Sierra Leone (FoSL) was founded, with the Country Update serving as the guide for advocacy for the people of Sierra Leone with U.S. policy makers, U.S. government officials, and everyday Americans.

In 2004, FoSL held its annual meeting for the first time in Freetown. A group of about 35 traveled from the U.S. to Freetown to not only have the annual meeting, but also to reconnect with friends and family not seen for many years. The meeting was a big success by all accounts. The general discussion by those who participated, which included government representatives from both Sierra Leone and the United States, the private sector, the World Bank, and several NGOs, concerned the efforts to recover from the devastation of the long, recent war. In fact, the United Nations still had a large presence in Sierra Leone and their white UN vehicles and helicopters were seen daily.

In 2008, FoSL returned for its second annual meeting held in Freetown. The Country Update was composed of a smaller group of government representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Education. There were also two representatives from the Special Court to bring us up to speed on what was happening with the Court.

With the 2011 Country Update, we would like to know where the participants see the country headed. Over the past several years, those of us in FoSL who have returned several times to visit have seen some of the gains made in various areas. We are particularly interested in how we can participate in the work taking place. We want to know where our efforts can best be used to support what the government and the people of Sierra Leone are already working to accomplish and how we contribute towards development of our beloved Sierra Leone.

## 2011 COUNTRY UPDATE

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:05         | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br>Ms. Peggy Murrell<br>President, Friends of Sierra Leone  |
| 9:05 - 9:15         | <b>Opening Remarks - Why are we here?</b><br>Ambassador Thomas Hull<br>Moderator   |
| 9:15 - 9:30         | <b>U.S. and Sierra Leone relations</b><br>Ambassador Michael Owen<br>U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone   |
| 9:30 - 9:45         | <b>Donor support in Sierra Leone's economy</b><br>Dr. Samura Kamara<br>Minister of Finance and Economic Development                              |
| 9:45 - 10:00        | <b>Donor community's economic assessment</b><br>Mr. Vijay Pillai<br>World Bank Country Manager for Sierra Leone                                  |
| 10:10 -10:15        | <b>Food security in Sierra Leone — What can we do?</b><br>Dr. Sam Sesay<br>Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Forestry                   |
| <b>10:15 -10:30</b> | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  |
| 10:30 - 10:45       | <b>Status of maternal and child health; and HIV &amp; AIDS— What can we do?</b><br>Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura<br>Minister of Health and Sanitation |
| 10:45 - 11:00       | <b>Status of schools and teacher training — What can we do?</b><br>Dr. Minkailu Bah<br>Minister of Education, Science and Technology             |
| 11:00 – 11:30       | <b>Question and Answer Session</b>   |
| 11:30 - 11:40       | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Mr. Michael Diliberti<br>Past FoSL President, and Committee Chair  |