

## Believing in the Beauty of Your Dreams: Connecting Communities with the World

Dr. Natalie D. Hahn  
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Dr. Natalie D. Hahn has devoted her entire career to international development, primarily with the United Nations System. She designed non-formal educational programs for rural youth, particularly young women, with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). For the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), she organized financial empowerment projects for rural women to obtain credit and savings opportunities. At the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), she organized ***The African Farmer and Her Husband*** initiative with the introduction of 11 improved food crops and new processing techniques to rural women in Nigeria.

During Malawi's transition to democracy, where the priority was on HIV/AIDS, water/sanitation and free primary education, she served as the UNICEF Representative to Malawi. At the UNICEF Headquarters in New York, she was the Deputy Director of the UNICEF Programme Funding Office and assisted with World Bank collaboration. She was the Senior Private Sector Advisor at the UN Office for International Partnerships and

the key organizer for UN conferences with the private sector on remittances, water/sanitation and tapping talents in the field of information communication technologies for UN projects in the Caribbean and Africa.

She is the President of Hahn Associates ([www.hahnassociates.net](http://www.hahnassociates.net)), a consultancy group based in New York City, and has worked with The Citigroup Private Bank and Cisco Networking Academy Program. She continues assignments on corporate partnerships for the UN Office for International Partnerships and recently assisted in organizing an international roundtable on remittances for development for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on information technologies training and opportunities for women.

Remaining loyal to her home state of Nebraska, Dr. Hahn has established The Malaika Foundation ([www.malaikafoundation.org](http://www.malaikafoundation.org)) to add international dimensions to libraries and primary schools in the state. In collaboration with the American Peace Corp Association and the Nebraska Department of Education, The Malaika Foundation has organized a ***Symposium Series on Opening Your Classroom to the World*** for Nebraska educators.

Dr. Hahn completed a B.A. at the University of Nebraska, an M.A. at The Ohio State University, an M.P.A. at the Kennedy School of Government, and a Doctorate of Education at Harvard University. She was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Nebraska. In recognition for her work with rural communities in Africa, she was bestowed as Chief Folashade Arike in Nigeria ("*one who transfers economic empowerment to women*") and Chief Chifundo in Malawi ("*one who grants mercy*"). For the past ten years, she has cared for six Malawian young persons, all siblings, whose parents were dear friends and died in 1995.