



Reference

To whom it may concern

From: Mandi Smallhorne, freelance science journalist and editor, president of AFSJ and SASJA

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WFSJ Board: recommendation of Ochieng' Ogodo

I write in support of Ochieng' Ogodo's candidature for one of the new positions on the World Federation of Science Journalists board.

I have met Ochieng' at several African conferences as well as in Seoul, and know that he has been a very committed and active member and office bearer (including chairman) of the Kenya Environment and Science Journalists Association (KENSJA) for years. He is a thoughtful person whose contributions in these have always been valuable.

As regional coordinator of SciDev.Net, he has made an impressive contribution to the quality and status of science journalism in Sub-Saharan Africa, not only coordinating coverage but also acting as a de-facto mentor, helping contributors to up their game and learn from his considered and thoughtful input on submitted articles.

Little wonder then that he was the English-speaking Africa and Middle East region winner of the 2008 Reuters-IUCN Media Awards for Excellence in Environmental Reporting. His own science journalism has been published widely.

I know that Ochieng' feels strongly driven to improve science journalism in the sub-continent and extend its reach. He would undoubtedly be a solid contributor to the WFSJ board's work, and I have no hesitation in recommending him.

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