

Joel Dimiyen Bisina

Joel is a peace activist and Founder/Regional Director of Niger Delta Professionals for Development (NIDPRODEV), a non-profit organization/NGO focused on communal and inter-tribal conflicts in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria. A background in finance and accounting led Joel to a successful corporate banking career. However, he saw the economic and environmental devastation caused by the production of oil in the Delta and felt called to help. In 1997, Joel decided to devote his life to mediating conflicts in the area and raising awareness of the situation throughout Nigeria and the world. He has successfully negotiated conflicts between many of the region's warring tribes, and functioned as a liaison between the government, foreign embassies, domestic and international NGOs, and the local populace. He has become a leading authority on the complex situation in the Niger Delta and is frequently interviewed by the BBC, Reuters, AP and other international news services. He also serves as a consultant, trainer and facilitator to organizations seeking creative approaches to seemingly intractable problems, and a frequent speaker on conflict and humanitarian issues. Joel is an alumni of the 2004 Summer Peace and Development Institute of American University in Washington, DC.