



PUTTING VISION
INTO ACTION
TOGETHER



Alliance for
African Partnership
**LAUNCH
SUMMARY**

July 18-21, 2017
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Alliance for African Partnership
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

PUTTING VISION INTO ACTION TOGETHER

A lot can happen in a year. And for the Alliance for African Partnership, the past year has been full of accomplishments supporting the initiative's mission to bring about positive change in Africa through meaningful, equitable partnerships.

At the AAP's initial convening in May 2016, Spartan faculty, staff, and students met with African thought leaders on the MSU campus to discuss innovative ways to address global challenges. The collective vision from that convening provided a road map for the initial activities of the AAP, including the formation of an Advisory Board, an AAP Secretariat based in Africa, the initiation of the AAP grants program, the publication of a "thought piece," and most recently, the official launch of the AAP.

The AAP launch was an opportunity to celebrate those successes. But more than that, the event was a continuation of the co-creation process that began at the AAP convening, helping to forge new partnerships and guide the AAP's future activities.

Co-hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam and RUFORUM, the launch event was held July 18-21 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and focused on the theme of "Putting Vision into Action Together." The program was highly participatory; attendees listened to engaging keynote speakers, held lively discussions about the future of Africa and effective partnerships in Africa, and benefited from diverse panels of leaders from higher

education, research institutes, NGOs, donor organizations, and the private sector. Networking and social activities were integrated throughout the event to facilitate relationships and inspire new partnerships.

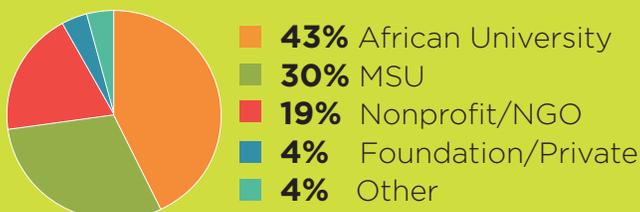
Ensuring the presence of a diverse audience with a wide variety of voices and perspectives was a priority for the launch. Participants ranging from university vice chancellors to representatives from funding agencies to African youth all engaged in a collaborative process to define the landscape and vision of successful partnerships, propose new ideas for implementation, and identify the resources needed to bring vision into action.

All told, the launch was a success, not just in the implementation of a great event, but also in the many ways it is helping to shape the Alliance for African Partnership. The next steps will be crucial as we capitalize on the momentum of the launch and engage with the thought leaders, innovators, and other individuals who are passionate about the future of Africa and committed to developing partnerships that will help address critical issues facing the continent—together.

"When it comes to improving the quality and impact of partnerships, the concept of 'transforming institutions' applies as much to international institutions as it does to African ones."

Thelma Awori

246 attendees



38% women

62% men



19
countries

15
African countries

#AAPLaunch



INSIGHTS & CHALLENGES

The following insights were gleaned from a closed joint introductory meeting between Provost June Youatt, Dean Steve Hanson, Dean Ron Hendrick, the AAP management team, and 15 vice chancellors and deputy vice chancellors of African universities to discuss existing and potential partnerships between MSU and African institutions.

Most universities in Africa still partner primarily in north-south relations, and they are seeking to increase and enhance collaborations with other African universities. An example is Togo: of 70 institutional partnerships, only 13 are with African universities. There is a need for more south-south cooperation.

Challenge: What role can AAP play in fostering south-south engagements?

New universities are being established rapidly, causing growth pains. They are taking resources (funds, faculty, student scholarships) causing older institutions to feel pinched. New universities are also not yet stable, resulting in all around anxiety about being “spread too thin” in higher education.

Challenge: What role could AAP play in supporting new universities while continuing to partner productively with established ones?

African vice chancellors would like to focus more on transforming lives—and funders support this—yet at the same time their resources must go towards advancing their standing and rankings in competitive global context. Rankings are increasingly important for African universities and must be taken seriously, therefore there is need to enhance research capacity.

Challenge: How can AAP facilitate transformational research and also contribute to research capacity and rankings?

Is there a way for African universities to partner with one another in ways that share diverse resources and strengths, to avoid costly duplication?

Challenge: What role could AAP play in facilitating sharing of resources among African universities?

The best partnerships are faculty-led and focus especially on the professional mobility of younger scholars through mentoring and research support.

Challenge: How can AAP promote young scholars and their research?

26

media outlets



22,371

social media impressions

1,907

Facebook live video views

