



# ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

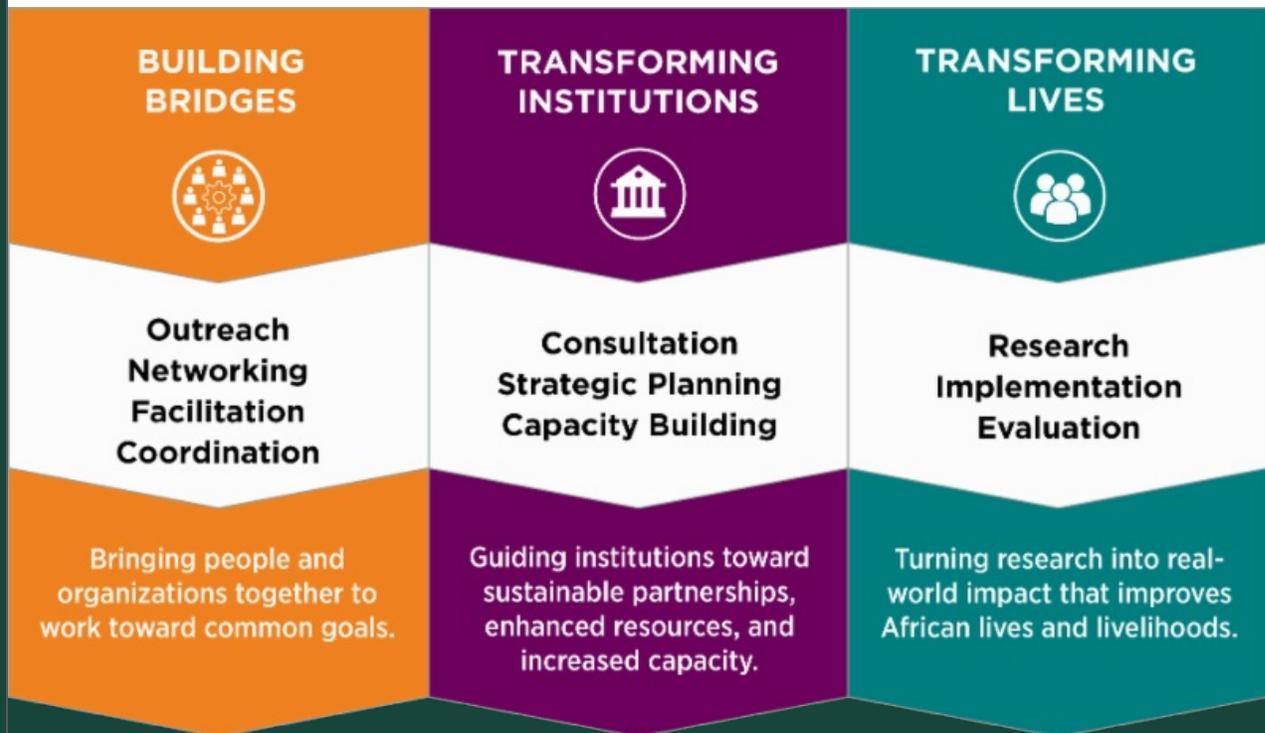
## Welcome to the Alliance for African Partnership Newsletter

We are delighted to share with you our first newsletter. The Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Newsletter will be issued monthly and is designed to keep readers abreast of our progress, upcoming events and activities of the AAP, and to encourage broad participation by MSU faculty and African partners.

The [Alliance for African Partnership](#) is a new university-wide initiative to be formally launched in early 2017. The AAP is designed to promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world.

### The AAP Management Team:

- [Thom Jayne](#) and [Jamie Monson](#), Co-Directors
- [Amy Jamison](#) and [Isaac Minde](#), Coordinators
- [Lisa Fruge](#), Events Planner



# Alliance for African Partnership Convening

Between May 10-12, MSU International Studies and Programs and African Studies Center hosted a co-creation workshop to engage invited African guests and MSU faculty in open discussion and collaboration on the changing landscape in Africa and the future of institutional partnerships. This workshop provided an opportunity for the MSU community and African leaders to come together to share and build upon ideas about partnership, provide meaningful feedback, and identify the best approaches for building the AAP.



*Convening participants work on their partnership models.*

[Read the Summary Report](#)

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## AAP Advisory Board

As one of the recommended outcomes of our May 2016 convening, we are in the process of forming a seven-member Advisory Board for the AAP. This board will include two MSU faculty members and five members representing African organizations. The board will meet four times per year and their responsibilities will include advising AAP management; identification and facilitation of partnerships; and formal review of proposed activities for inclusion in AAP programs. Invitations have been issued and the Advisory Board's composition will be reported in our next newsletter.

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## Get Involved with the AAP

The Alliance for African Partnership seeks to be inclusive of all in the MSU community who are engaged in or who would like in the future to engage in partnership activities with African research, policy and implementation organization.

To this end, we plan to invite proposals from MSU faculty and their African colleagues for initiatives that may be carried out with support from the AAP. This support could take many forms including facilitation and coordination; networking; capacity strengthening; and preliminary funding. Further information about the proposal process will be available soon. Check the AAP website for updates and watch for this in next month's newsletter.

We have outlined the following principles that will guide our selection of proposed activities following the establishment of our Advisory Board, because our board will guide us in the selection process.

### **The principles that have emerged from our convening include:**

- Potential to build long-term institutional capacity and sustainability;
- Deepening and/or expanding the foundation of existing partnerships;
- Potential for new synergies that bring in new MSU faculty and partner organization collaborators across disciplines; and
- Potential for leveraging significant external grant funding.

For questions or more information on getting involved, contact [Amy Jamison](#).

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## Thought Piece

As one of the outcomes of our May convening, our team is editing a Thought Piece that captures our ideas about how the landscape for partnerships between international universities and African partner organizations is changing, and the implications for best partnership practices to support capacity building and policy-oriented research in Africa. The Thought Piece will contain essays by distinguished MSU and African partners and be published in a forthcoming special report by the

## AAP Virtual Think Tank and Resource Portal

In order to promote innovative African partnerships, the AAP seeks to create a resource portal that will:

- Serve as an online networking platform to connect researchers at MSU and in African universities, organizations, institutions, and beyond.
- Facilitate global outreach and dissemination of knowledge which includes promoting cutting-edge research and policy for water, food, health, and education related issues. The portal will also be mindful of intersectional issues relevant to the contexts of various African societies, including gender, class, language, age, religion, etc.
- Be a forum for scholars, professionals, students, NGOs, and policy makers to engage in dynamic conversations that can help communities, practitioners, and decision makers at all levels work together for practical positive change.

More information on the portal will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

## Upcoming Events

### African Green Revolution Forum

The Alliance for African Partnership will be hosting a networking reception for colleagues attending the [African Green Revolution Forum](#) in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday, September 5. The AGRF is taking place September 5-9, 2016 at the UN Complex in Nairobi. Please check the [AAP website](#) for updates and details on the time and location of the MSU AAP reception.



MSU faculty and African partners associated with the Alliance for African Partnership will be significantly involved in this year's AGRF. Illustrative activities include,

- Isaac Minde, Richard Mkandawire (prospective Advisory Board member), Thom Jayne and Nicole Mason will be participating in an AGRF session aiming to highlight policy options for improving smallholder farmers' access to fertilizer and designed to assemble a consortium of African and international partners to guide policy options and implementation activities on these issues.
- At the invitation of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, researchers from African organizations and MSU faculty have contributed to the 2016 African Annual Status Report to be launched by the Alliance for a Green Revolution at the Forum opening event on September 6, 2016.
- Amy Jamison will participate in an AGRF session designed to explore future MSU activities in support of long-term capacity building of African universities.

### RUFORUM Biennial Conference

Several AAP-associated faculty and staff will be attending the [RUFORUM Biennial Conference](#) in Cape Town, South Africa, October 17-21.

The theme of the conference is '*Partnerships to unlock the Potential of Agricultural Development in Africa*' and those attending from MSU plan to glean significant insight from this meeting to continue to

shape the AAP's approach to partnership. The AAP will host an exhibition booth and take part in networking and side events related to partnership building and strengthening institutions.



## AAP Reception at Borlaug Dialogue (World Food Prize)

The MSU Alliance for African Partnership plans to host a networking reception for MSU faculty, partners, and other colleagues attending the [2016 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium](#) in Des Moines, Iowa, October 12-14. Please visit the [AAP website](#) for updates and details on the time and location of this reception.



## Desmond Tutu Legacy Foundation International Peace Lecture Events

In partnership with the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, the [MSU Museum](#) is opening "Ubuntutu: Legacies of Love and Action," an exhibit of quilts made by the Women of Color Quilters Network (U.S.) and South African quilt artists. The opening of the exhibition will take place in Cape Town on October 3, 2016 to coincide with the [Desmond Tutu Legacy Foundation International Peace Lecture](#) (October 7, 2016). The Alliance for African Partnership will host a side event celebrating legacies of cultural heritage partnership between South Africa and MSU. Details will be announced in next month's newsletter.



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