



# ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

*This newsletter is a monthly publication designed to keep readers abreast of events and activities of the Alliance for African Partnership, a new initiative at Michigan State University that promotes innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions.*

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*Happy Holidays*

from all of us at  
Michigan State University and the  
Alliance for African Partnership



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## Update on Invitation for Proposals

Thank you to all those who responded to the Alliance for African Partnership's inaugural Invitation for Proposals. We received an overwhelming response, as more than 60 teams submitted proposals from a wide diversity of disciplines, including health, nutrition, agri-food systems, youth employment, cultural heritage and more. The proposals demonstrated the significant number of existing partnerships between MSU and African colleagues and gave evidence that these partnerships will be bolstered by new opportunities for engagement. Awards will be announced mid-February.

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## Deepening MSU's Engagement with Mali

The Alliance for African Partnership recently engaged in two important events that continue MSU's long history of partnership with higher education institutions in Mali.

### Book Launch at African Studies Association Conference

The African Studies Center and the MSU Press held a book launch at the annual African Studies Association Meetings in Washington, DC on December 1 to celebrate the newly released book, "The Lieutenant of Kouta" by Massa Makan Diabaté, which was translated from the original French version by Shane Auerbach and David Yost. Guests were welcomed by African Studies Center Director Jamie Monson and MSU Press editor Alex Schwartz. Remarks were made by Diabaté scholar, Professor Cheick M. Chérif Keita, PhD from Carleton College. A special appearance was made by Mr. Ibrahim Biridogo, Counselor to the Ambassador of Mali in the United States.



*Left to right: Cheick M. Chéirf Keita (Diabaté Scholar); Mr. Ibrahim Biridogo (Counselor to Mali Ambassador); Peter Limb (MSU Library); Jamie Monson (Director, MSU African Studies Center), Alex Schwartz (MSU Press)*

## Welcoming Malian Higher Ed Leaders to East Lansing

The Alliance for African Partnership joined with other units at Michigan State University to host a delegation of distinguished Malian higher education leaders on campus for two-days of seminars and workshops, December 12-13. The visit was part of a World Bank-sponsored U.S. study tour and was designed to inform proposed higher education sector reform in Mali.

Professor Fatoumata Dicko Traore, advisor to Mali's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, led the delegation that included rectors of several Malian universities, heads of major education programs working in Mali, and advisors from the World Bank. Members of the delegation took part in panel and small group discussions focusing on many of the core functions of higher education institutions: connecting research, teaching, and outreach; academic and administrative services; finances and fundraising; and curriculum and student learning.

Several members of MSU's central administration and faculty members contributed to the discussions. The delegation also participated in site visits to the Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology, the Residential College in Arts and Humanities' Language and Media Center, and the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health.

The Malian higher education leadership visit was coordinated jointly by the AAP; International Studies and Programs; the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH); the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and the Center for Global Connections in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (CGC). Faculty members who played a key role in the initiative included Veronique Theriault (AFRE), Stephen Esquith (Dean, RCAH), Nathalie Me-Nsope (AFRE), and John Staatz (Professor Emeritus, AFRE).

The visit was very successful by all accounts, and the AAP is already planning follow-up activities that will strengthen the long-standing partnership between MSU and higher education leaders in Mali.



*Several members of the Malian delegation examine microscope technology during a tour of MSU's Diagnostic Center for Animal Health.*

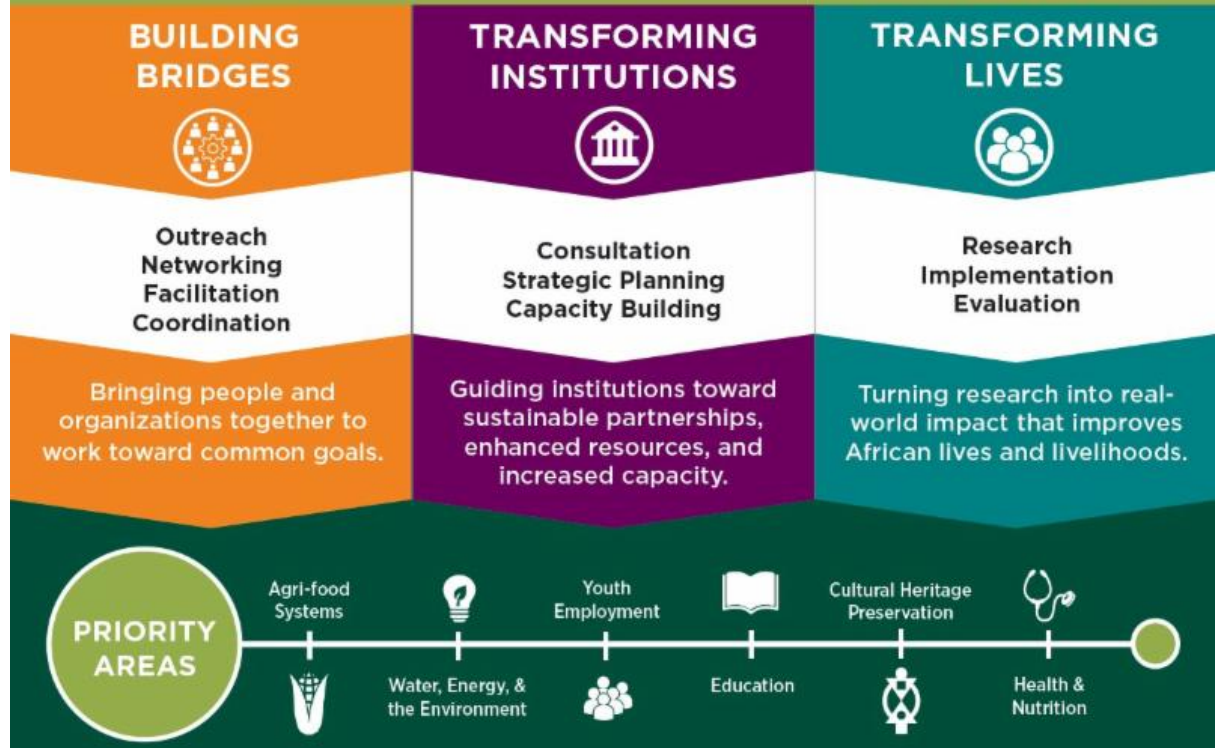
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**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Alliance for African Partnership Launch**  
**July 18-20, 2016**  
**Nairobi, Kenya**

*Watch your email and the AAP website for more details in the coming months.*

## **About the AAP**

The Alliance for African Partnership is a new Michigan State University initiative designed to promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world.



## Get Involved

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.

For questions or more information on getting involved, [visit the AAP website](http://www.aap.isp.msu.edu).

### Contact Information

Email: [aap@isp.msu.edu](mailto:aap@isp.msu.edu) | Phone: (517) 353-1700

Web: [aap.isp.msu.edu](http://aap.isp.msu.edu)



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