



# ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

*This newsletter is a 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.*

## AAP Publication:

### *Rethinking African Partnerships for Global Solutions*

[Rethinking African Partnerships for Global Solutions](#) is the first in a series of publications that will be put out by the Alliance for African Partnership on various aspects of partnerships in the African context. This edited volume and inaugural AAP publication was the product of numerous discussions in 2016 and 2017 with colleagues in African universities, research institutes, governments, private sector organizations and civil society, as well as with strategic development partners and MSU's Africanist faculty. It is a joint effort between MSU and African contributors and examines the history and trends of partnership as well as aspects of partnership that align with the AAP's three pillars: Building Bridges, Transforming Institutions, and Transforming Lives.



[Download Publication](#)

## Youth Essay Contest

The Alliance for African Partnership and MSU's Youth Empowerment Programs co-hosted an essay contest titled, "Working Together to Create the Africa We Want!" The contest, which was open to all African citizens between the ages of 15-24, is part of a series of activities commemorating the launch of the Alliance for African Partnership in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in July 2017.

The essay contest acknowledges a new era of engagement in Africa, where the voice of young people will be the driving force behind the vision, partnerships and strategies that move the continent forward. Contestants were required to focus their essays on one of the following six AAP themes: agri-food systems; water, energy, and environment; youth empowerment, education; culture; and health and nutrition.



A panel of eight judges from five countries received over 270 essay submissions representing 20 African nations. The judges will announce the winning essays in early July and authors of the three top essays will receive prizes; the first place winner will also receive an all-expense paid trip to the AAP launch in Dar es Salaam.

## 13th CAADP Partnership Platform

AAP Secretariat Director Richard Mkandawire was recently invited to give a keynote address at the 13th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Partnership Platform (CAADP PP). During the event, nearly 400 interested parties from various sectors gathered in Kampala, Uganda, to reaffirm mutual commitments, make connections between decision makers and stakeholders, and review progress.

Mkandawire's address focused on "Sector-Wide Inter-Ministerial and Donor Coordination" and touched on key issues relevant to the AAP's work. One such issue discussed was the increasing need for inclusivity in the implementation of development interventions at the country level. In particular, he raised the need for civil society organizations in Africa to become an integral part of national planning processes and implementation.

The keynote went on to address the growing call to establish a mutual accountability framework between donors and governments. Mkandawire cautioned that the over-emphasis on this framework often disregards the oft-forgotten reality that ultimately both donors and governments are accountable to the people they purport to serve.

While at the event, Mkandawire was able to deepen the visibility of the AAP in Africa among both donors and African leaders. This platform, as well as other Africa forums, are important avenues for MSU and the AAP in broadening partnership networks in Africa.

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## AAP at SARIMA

The Alliance for African Partnership held a lunch event for colleagues attending the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Conference in Windhoek, Namibia on May 24. AAP Management team members Amy Jamison and José Jackson-Malete, who is also the outgoing SARIMA President, gave an overview of the AAP, its current and proposed upcoming activities, and received feedback from attendees on AAP's future directions.



# Upcoming Events



## PUTTING VISION INTO ACTION TOGETHER

July 18-20, 2017 • Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

In partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam and RUFORUM, the Alliance for African Partnership is hosting its [official launch](#) on July 18-20, 2017 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

MSU Provost June Youatt, Associate Provost and Dean of International Studies and Programs Steve Hanson, and 40 other MSU administrators and faculty will join roughly 200 registered delegates from African universities, research institutes, governments, civil society, and private sector organizations for the event. The launch is intended to provide wide-ranging perspectives about how mutually beneficial collaboration between African and international partners can be promoted, and how such partnerships can be more competitive within the changing landscape and priorities both in Africa and by strategic funding partners. The event will also showcase 15 teams of African and MSU researchers who are the [2017 Awardees of the AAP's Inception Grant Program](#).

[View program agenda \(pdf\).](#)

### African Green Revolution Forum

The Alliance for African Partnership will be co-sponsoring a side event at the 2017 [African Green Revolution Forum](#) on September 5th in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The event, entitled *Capacity Development to Promote African Agricultural Transformation* will be co-organized with the African Capacity Building Foundation and the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI).

The purpose of this side event is to explore the evolving capacity development challenges and ways of responding to these challenges within the context of rapid agri-food systems transformation in sub-Saharan Africa. The session will provide a platform for a conversation on these issues from diverse stakeholder groups: governments, the private sector, national universities, capacity building organizations, and strategic development partners. Please check the [AAP website](#) for updates and details on the time and location of this event.



## 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.

### PRIORITY AREAS



Agri-food systems



Education



Youth Empowerment



Culture



Health & Nutrition



Water, Energy, & Environment

### OUR APPROACH



#### Building Bridges

Bringing people and organizations together to work toward common goals.



#### Transforming Institutions

Guiding institutions toward sustainable partnerships, enhanced resources, and increased capacity.



#### Transforming Lives

Turning research into real-world impact that improves African lives and livelihoods.

## 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](#).

### Contact Information

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