African Diplomatic Orientation & Engagement Program

April 5-6, 2019

Wye Retreat Conference Center
Queenstown, Maryland
LETTER OF WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Africa-America Institute’s Board and Staff, I would like to welcome you to our inaugural African Diplomatic Orientation & Engagement Program. This program was created in response to requests we received from members of the African Diplomatic Corps who felt they would benefit from an event solely focused on African Ambassadors.

We would like this program to serve as an opportunity for experienced members of the African Diplomatic Corps to share lessons learned with those who have less experience, and for experienced Washington insiders to engage with the African Diplomatic Corps on issues and strategies that can support their effective representation of African countries in Washington, D.C.

Since 1953, the Africa-America Institute has strived to create programs that will best serve the interests of those working for the benefit of Africa. It is my sincere hope that the Ambassadors and their representatives will leave this convening encouraged and reenergized to continue their important work.

Sincerely,

Kofi Appenteng,
President
Founded in 1953, the Africa-America Institute (AAI) is the premier U.S.-based international organization working to increase the capacity of African individuals and institutions through education, training and dialogue.
Members of the African Diplomatic Corps assigned to Washington, D.C. and New York City have expressed a desire for greater engagement with each other and with others interested in promoting growth in Africa.

This has prompted the Africa-America Institute (AAI) to host this inaugural African Diplomatic Orientation and Engagement Program at the Wye River Conference Center in Queenstown, Maryland.

AAI is delighted to convene, foremost, members of the African Diplomatic Corps, thought leaders in Washington D.C., African and American government, academic, and business leaders who have a keen interest in promoting growth in Africa at this inaugural event.

It is our sincere hope you, the members of the African Diplomatic Corps, find this experience useful.

If this inaugural event is judged useful by the participants, we look forward to hosting two convenings annually; one of will focus on effective representation in Washington, D.C., and the second that will focus on effective representation in New York City.
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS INAUGURAL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC ORIENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM POSSIBLE
FRIDAY EVENING

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Registration

6:30 - 7:30 PM
Reception and Welcome Remarks
Message from Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
Mr. Kofi Appenteng
President and CEO
The Africa-America Institute

His Excellency Sooroojdev Phokeer
Ambassador to the United States
The Republic of Mauritius

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Dinner Conversation
“The Recognizing the Historic Importance of the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington”
The Honorable Michelle Gavin
Former U.S. Ambassador to Botswana

The Honorable Michael Battle
Former U.S. Ambassador to the African Union

Mr. Gregory Simpkins
Senior Africa Advisor to the Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
SATURDAY ALL DAY

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
Breakfast

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM
Morning Plenary
“How Can U.S. Businesses Work More Effectively with the African Diplomatic Corps to Promote Economic Development on the Continent”

According to the U.N., Africa’s population is expected to triple by 2050. As Africa’s investment ecosystem continues to diversify, American businesses are committing to Africa. More than ever, U.S. companies are expanding their operations and integrating Africa into their global supply chain. This conversation will explore how African Ambassadors to the U.S. can play an integral role in educating and advocating for innovative and sizeable U.S. investment across the continent.

Moderator: Prof. Landry Signé
David M. Rubenstein Fellow – Global Economy and Development, Africa Growth Initiative
Brookings Institute

H.E. Sidique Abou-Bakarr Wai
Ambassador to the United States,
The Republic of Sierra Leone

Ms. Brionne Dawson
Director for Eastern and Southern Africa
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Jirair Ratevosian
Executive Director, Government Affairs for Africa and Cuba
Gilead Life Sciences

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
Panel One
“How to Navigate the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government and Promote Africa”

Representatives from Congress and the Trump and Obama administration will convene to offer their expertise on the role of the White House and Congress in successfully advancing an African agenda in Washington. Through learning about their distinct roles, Ambassadors will better understand how having bipartisan relations with each branch is essential to achieving success.

Moderator: Mr. Judd Devermont
Director, Africa Program
Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Senior Counselor
Albright Stonebridge Group

Mr. Gregory Simpkins
Senior Africa Advisor to the Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Mr. Michael Phelan
Senior Foreign Policy Advisor
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel Two

“How to Effectively Advance an African Agenda in the Western Media”

When Americans typically think of Africa, images of poverty, war, and famine routinely come to mind. However, as Africa continues to gain influence, it is imperative Western media highlight Africa’s burgeoning cultural Renaissance. African and American experts in media will offer strategies for countering negative and archaic perceptions for increased investment on the continent.

Moderator: Mr. Reed Kramer
CEO and Co-Founder
AllAfrica

Mr. David Applefield
Special Projects Representative
Financial Times

Mr. Joe Davidson
Columnist - The Federal Insider
The Washington Post

Mr. James Blue III
Producer
PBS NewsHour

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunchtime

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Panel Three

“How Securing American Capital for Africa”

While numbers continue to show the United States as a leader when it comes to investing in Africa, these numbers can be deceiving with countries, such as China, rapidly funding infrastructure projects across the continent. This panel of African and American business experts will share their thoughts on how African representatives to the U.S. can better position their countries to acquire more American capital.

Moderator: Mr. Mark Clack
Senior Advisor to the President
USADF

H.E. David Newman
Ambassador to the United States
The Republic of Botswana

Mr. Mamadou Samba
Director
DC Mayor’s Office of African Affairs

Mr. Mamadou Beye
General Manager for Policy, Government & Public Affairs
Chevron
Panel Four

“How can the African Diplomatic Corps Engage Global Philanthropy”

Twelve Africans appeared on Forbes 2018 list of “The World’s Billionaires”. Philanthropy, which emphasizes giving to strangers, is an emerging concept in Africa. This panel will focus on how wealthy individuals and foundations, not only in Africa and the U.S., but around world, can successfully be approached for investment opportunities.

Moderator: Mr. Kofi Appenteng
President and CEO
The Africa-America Institute

Dr. Austin Demby (AAI Alumnus)
Deputy Director
Office of Global Health, Office of the Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration

Ms. Juliet Mureriwa
Grants Officer, Reserves Fund
Ford Foundation

Mr. Jeffrey Krilla
Vice President for Global Public Policy and Government Affairs
Kosmos Energy

Closing Remarks

Mr. Kofi Appenteng
President and CEO
The Africa-America Institute

His Excellency Sooroojdev Phokeer
Ambassador to the United States
The Republic of Mauritius
PANELISTS

Mr. Kofi Appenteng  
President and CEO  
The Africa-America Institute

Mr. David Applefield  
Special Projects Representative  
Financial Times

The Honorable Michael Battle  
Former U.S. Ambassador to the African Union

Mr. Mamadou Beye  
Manager for International Government Affairs  
Chevron

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The Washington Post

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Director for Eastern and Southern Africa  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Austin Demby  
Deputy Director  
Office of Global Health, Office of the Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration

Mr. Judd Devermont  
Director, Africa Program  
Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

The Honorable Michelle Gavin  
Former U.S. Ambassador to Botswana

Mr. Reed Kramer  
CEO and Co-Founder  
AllAfrica
ABOUT THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE

The Africa-America Institute (AAI) is the flagship U.S. organization connecting Africa to America for over 65 years. Since its founding in 1953, the Africa-America Institute has provided scholarships to over 16,000 students from Africa to attend universities in the United States and remains committed to increasing the capacity of African individuals and institutions through education, training and dialogue.

The AAI boasts an esteemed network of alumni, many of which are leaders and vanguards across Africa’s public, private, and governmental sector. These include current heads of state, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa; H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire; H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia. Many of AAI’s Alumni have left an indelible imprint including the late 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Mathaai and the late Barack Obama Sr.

To further our mission of connecting Africa and America in the 21st century, AAI now operates under two strategic pillars: Pathways for Youth to Livelihood and Africa Illuminated.

AAI CELEBRATES 16,000+ ALUMNI LEADERS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS ACROSS AFRICA AND WORLDWIDE

African Countries with AAI Alumni
The Pathways for Youth to Livelihood program seeks to reimagine the current university structure by supporting reforms that prepare African students for careers in the current global landscape. As the fourth industrial revolution continues to disrupt traditional career paths, it is imperative students are prepared to compete in an ever-changing world.

Through Pathways, AAI facilitates several higher education initiatives in Africa, and the United States, with the intention of minimizing the gap between students in Africa and other parts of the world. Currently, AAI is developing a regional collaborative in higher education with the support of local governments in West Africa.

2019 marks the 400-year anniversary of the first slave ship to arrive in Jamestown, Virginia from West Africa. In an effort to celebrate the diverse histories of Afro-descendants in Africa and the Americas, AAI plans to support the dissemination and production of content that caters to these two groups through its new initiative, Africa Illuminated.

Presently, AAI is facilitating the creation of two programs under the Africa Illuminated Pillar, in partnership with Universidade Pedagógica (UP) in Mozambique and IE University in Spain. Their work highlights the achievements of Afro-descendants throughout history, and the role of Africa in the world.
AAI’s 35th Annual Awards Gala

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2019

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NY, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Ousseina Alidou
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Mora McLean

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Roger Wilkins
The Africa-America Institute has moved

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For more Information and to Stay Connected visit

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