



The Academy

The National Academy of Public Administration is a non-profit, independent coalition of top public management and organizational leaders who tackle the nation's most critical and complex challenges. With a network of more than 600 distinguished Fellows and an experienced professional staff, the Academy is uniquely qualified and trusted across government to provide objective advice and practical solutions based on systematic research and expert analysis.

Established in 1967 and chartered by Congress, the Academy continues to make a positive impact by helping federal, state and local governments respond effectively to current circumstances and changing conditions.

National Academy of Public Administration

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The Africa Working Group





Philip J. Rutledge
1925-2007

Mission

The African Working Group is an affiliate of the National Academy of Public Administration Standing Panel on International Affairs. Established in 2001, under the leadership of Dr. Philip J. Rutledge. The Africa Working Group's mission is to enhance public administration practices in Africa through strategic, collaborative, respectful and sustainable partnerships with African-based and Africa-focused institutions and stakeholders.

Direction

The Africa Working Group commits to working closely with applicable public sector institutions, research and academic organizations, the organized private sector and civic society entities actively engaged in efforts to enhance the practice of public administration and good governance in Africa.

In the past, the AWG through memorandum of understanding collaborated with public administration institutions in Africa on training and strategic advice. The Africa Working Group remains committed to working with viable partners on training programs (mid-and-executive levels), technical assistance programs, organizational strategic reviews and mutually beneficial joint projects that expand the frontiers of public administration in Africa. In addition, the Africa Working Group welcomes opportunities to collaborate with partners on seminars, workshops and conferences on public administration and governance issues in Africa.

Specifically, the AWG seeks to collaborate with Africa-based and Africa-focused institutions and stakeholders on joint proposals and joint projects, technical assistance programs, forums and conferences that focus on such areas as organizational reviews and development, human resources management, performance based management, leadership development, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of existing programs, electronic governance (E-Governance) systems, and effective executive briefings. These activities are designed to assist Africa's public administrators, to provide technical resources for strengthening governance and to create opportunities for shared lessons between United States and African partners.

Partnerships

The Africa Working Group continues to explore opportunities to expand its partnerships through collaborative programs with the African Union and the Regional Economic Commissions in Africa as well as with the World Bank. These institutions have identified good governance as a priority. In addition, the AWG will expand its contacts with multilateral agencies actively engaged in Africa, especially United Nations agencies located in the United States. Collaboration with universities, research institutions and think tanks in Africa is another top priority of the AWG as is its well established partnership with the Constituency for Africa (CFA) in organizing the annual Phillip Rutledge Seminar, which focuses on governance and public administration issues in Africa. This seminar series provide opportunities for Africa, United States and multilateral agency public administrators to discuss current and emerging policy and operational issues.

Goals

The Africa Working Group's goals focus on consulting and collaborative opportunities.

- Successfully seek and manage public administrations engagements in Africa.
- Advise African partners on generating resources from government, foundations and business sources to support public administration initiatives.

- Specifically advise on implementation of memoranda of understanding with Africa-based and Africa-focused public sector institutions, research and academic institutions, think tanks, civil society organizations and organized private sector entities on public administration issues in Africa.
- Project the Academy as a center of learning, knowledge, best practices and practical advice on public administration and governance in Africa through periodic forums, conferences and symposia.
- Provide a vehicle for outreach and coalition-building with other organizations and agencies concerned with enhancing public administration and governance in Africa.
- Provide orientations and briefings on public administration in the United States for official and unofficial visitors from Africa.
- Expand the AWG capacity within and outside the Academy by working closely with the NAPA International Affairs Standing Panel and broadening membership among the Academy's Fellowship and with associate members. Expanding membership of the AWG among the historically Black Colleges and Universities, related research institutions and public interest groups is another top priority.

Leadership

NAPA Fellow Dr. Chinua Akukwe is Chair of the Africa Working Group. He is a professor at the George Washington University (GWU) and former Chair of the Technical Advisory Board of the GWU Africa Center for Health and Human Services.

NAPA Fellow Sylvester Murray is Chair Emeritus.

NAPA Fellow Daniel L. Skoler is Chair of the International Affairs Panel.

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