



SAPA NEWSLETTER

Section on African Public Administration
American Society for Public Administration
Issue 5 ~ February 2024



Message from Dr. Rym A. Kaki, SAPA Chair

Dear SAPA Members & Supporters:



It is with immense pleasure that I extend post-holiday greetings to the entire SAPA community. Reflecting on last year's activities, I cannot help but rejoice over our collective milestones making 2023 a memorable year for us all.

SAPA members and affiliates shined both at home under the auspices of ASPA 2023 annual conference, as well as on the continental stage, organizing the section's inaugural Africa-based conference in Cairo, Egypt, enriching systematic research on hot-button sustainable development priorities confronting African PA and publics, and forging new collaborative partnerships with counterparts in Africa. The Cairo conference, *The Localization of African Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities for Public Administration Systems*, was hosted in June by the American University of Cairo's Department of Public Policy and Administration. It brought together prominent keynote speakers from Egypt's Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, UN-DESA, IIAS, alongside seasoned and emergent scholars and practitioners. They deliberated Africa's sustainable development agenda amidst post-pandemic turbulence. Both SAPA's continental conference and ASPA conference symposium saw a vibrant exchange of insights for improved African governance and public service. They also provided a diverse and inclusive platform for SAPA scholars and their counterparts around the globe to compare experiences and deepen relationships.

A big shout-out to the respective editorial boards of SAPA and the *African Journal of Public Administration and Management* (AJPAM) for maintaining a fruitful collaboration over joint publications. Toward the end of 2023, our organizations published a second guest edition covering SAPA's 2022 symposium proceedings on the topic of African development governance in the after the disruptions and setbacks of the pandemic. A third guest edition spurred by the 2023 continental conference is in the pipeline and a call for papers was disseminated globally for proposals to be featured at SAPA's 2024 symposium on resilience-building in the African context, corresponding to the 2024 ASPA Annual Conference theme. ...

Newsletter Contents: Chair's Message; Mission & Goals; Executive/Committee Leadership; 2023 External & Internal Events; ASPA 2024—SAPA Panels; Fundraising Update & Pledge/Support Drive 2023-2024; SAPA/AJPAM Guest Edition; Member News.



...Finally, SAPA continues to expand its network of partners. During the Cairo conference, we welcomed esteemed colleagues from the Consortium of International Management Policy and Development (CIMPAD). A special thank you goes to our main continental partner, APPAM, for their unwavering support to SAPA, the University of North Texas at Dallas for its continued sponsorship of SAPA symposia, and to ASPA leadership for their endorsement.

As we together celebrate these accomplishments and look ahead, I'm conveying deep gratitude to SAPA members at large, the Board, the Executive Team, and the partners both at home and on the continent, all of whom embody the SAPAn spirit of ubuntu. Here's to future productive transcontinental symposia and conferences and advancing the art and science of public administration the world over.

Stay tuned for more information on the SAPA 2024 Symposium and networking at ASPA Minneapolis!

Rym A. Kaki, Ph.D.

SAPA Mission & Goals



The American Society for Public Administration's (ASPA) Section on African Public Administration (SAPA) aims to advance the science, processes and art of public administration and governance on the African continent. It purports to foster opportunities for joint research and exchange between African Public Administration scholars and their international counterparts; provide systematic analysis, commentary, and articulation of on-the-ground plight of Africa's public service; play a leading role in advocating for diverse representation at all levels of government and promote the sense of ethical responsibility focusing on the exploration of professional, democratic, constitutional, and human values in public service. <https://thesapa.org/>

Executive/Committee Leadership Team

Officers: Rym Kaki (Chair); Gedeon M. Mudacumura (Vice Chair); Bakry Elmedni (Treasurer); Simone Martin-Howard (Secretary)

Advisory Board: Genevieve Meyers; Peter F. Haruna; Jessie Rose Mabutas; Oluwole Owoye; Deborah L. Trent; Atta Ceesay; Sombo Muzata; Bok Gyo Jeong; Aminata Sillah, Shin Kue Ryu, Mohamed Alaa Abel-Moneim, and James Agbodzakey

Academic Affairs Committee:

Shin Kue Ryu (Chair) shinkueryu@isu.edu

Practitioners Capacity Building Committee:

Adebayo Andari (Chair) -- adebayo.adanri@gmail.com

Marketing & Membership Committee:

Atta Ceesay (Chair) – ceesayaa@buffalostate.edu

Communication, Newsletter & Website Committee:

Debbie Trent (Chair) – dtrent@civilstrategies.net

Fundraising Committee:

Jean-Claude Mansanga Ndongo (Chair) – jndongo2019@fau.edu

Global Outreach Committee:

Mohamed Abdel-Moneim (Chair) – moneim@feps.edu.eg

New Advisory Board Members: Drs. Shin Kue Ryu, Mohamed Alaa Abdel-Moneim and James Agbodzakey were appointed to the SAPA Advisory Board on August 18, 2023. Leading the Academic Affairs Committee and working closely with SAPA leadership, Shin ensured successful symposia events the last several years and at the continental conference in Cairo. Mohamed played a pivotal role in facilitating the continental conference, is one of SAPA’s co-founders and staunchly supports the section’s mission and goals. James has brought SAPA generous sponsorship from UNT Dallas for three consecutive years to support our symposia and conferences.

2023 External & Internal Events

**American University in Cairo (AUC) |, June 6-7, 2023 Cairo, Egypt | HYBRID
LOCALIZATION OF AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: Challenges, Lessons
Learnt & Opportunities for African Public Administration Systems**



In the words of SAPA vice chair Gedeon Mudacumura, the launch of SAPA's inaugural Africa-based conference in Cairo, Egypt, was a major milestone that the section's founders will never forget. For them, this conference was a dream that came true. The theme of the conference was "The Localization of African Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities for African Public Administration Systems."



"It was a real pleasure to have the American University in Cairo (AUC) Department of Public Policy and Administration hosting this one-of-a-kind conference that brought together an interdisciplinary team of seasoned scholars and practitioners from all over the world to discuss and debate Africa's sustainable development agenda. SAPA members will forever be grateful for AUC's willingness to work with SAPA in the planning and delivery of this inaugural conference."

NASPAA 2023 Annual Conference

SAPA members once again presented at the October NASPAA conference. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Drs. **Rym Kaki**, **James Agbodzakey** and **Shin Kue Ryu** led a panel addressing *The Merits, Challenges & Opportunities of PA Internationalization*. They shared insights on teaching and leading programs in international/comparative public policy and administration, including a case study on USC Price IPPAM & MPA Programs.

2023 Business Meeting

August 4, 2023, found many SAPAnS on Zoom for the section’s annual business meeting. Chair Rym Kaki highlighted steady membership growth, from 12 in 2018 to 62 in 2023 and spanning the U.S., Canada, Egypt, Ghana, and Qatar. She also noted progress on the section’s 2023-2024 strategic plan, including ongoing national, African, and global partnerships (see image below), including the launch of a taskforce to begin planning SAPA’s second continental conference in 2025.

**2023-2024 Strategy
National, African & Global Partnerships**

- Continuing **nurturing exiting partnership** with AAPAM/AJPAM (MOU 2021-2024)
- Cultivating **new institutional collaborations**
 - IIAS
 - AUC
 - UNISA
 - COMPA
 - CIMPAD
- Exploring **fundraising and institutional sponsorships**
 - US-based PA schools/universities
 - UN DESA
 - African Development Bank
 - World Bank/AfDB
- Launching a **task force** to brainstorm & fundraise the 2025 SAPA 2nd continental conference



SAPA Leadership Award

On December 19th, **Vice Chair Gedeon Mudacumura** announced that **Chair Rym Kaki** was selected as the first recipient of the SAPA Leadership Award. Gedeon asked Rym to “allow your Vice Chair to express, on behalf of the SAPA Board, his thankfulness and gratitude as an eyewitness of how [she] tactfully delivered on all the promises” she set in the last three years.” Rym responded: “I am a firm believer that SAPA ubuntu is its greatest asset.” **Dr. Peter Haruna** served as SAPA Leadership Award Taskforce chair. Dr. Kaki will officially receive the award at the 2024 ASPA annual conference in Minneapolis.

ASPA 2024 Annual Conference

SAPA will convene its annual day-long symposium on April 12, 2024, during the annual ASPA conference in Minneapolis. The **Call for Proposals** invited papers under the theme, “Pathways of

The American Society for Public Administration 2024 Annual Conference

SECTION ON AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SAPA)



Enhancing Resiliency in African Governance and Development,” and the response to the call has resulted in four panels: “Rebounding from Challenging Times”; “Methodological Innovations to Better Ascertain Local

Circumstances”; “A Probe into African Political Institutions’ Resilience”; and, “Theoretical Frameworks on Comparative Studies among African Nations.” Opening the proceedings will be Dr. **Robert Mong**, University of North Texas at Dallas president, and symposium organizing ... committee co-chairs Rym Kaki and Shin Kue Ryu. Dr. Patria De Lancer Julnes, ASPA president, is an invited speaker. They will be followed by keynotes from: Dr. **George Kojo Scott**, Secretary General, AAPAM; Dr. **Anastase Shyaka**, Ambassador of Rwanda in Poland; Dr. **Ghada Barsoum**, American University in Cairo; and **Dr. Brian Levy**, Johns Hopkins University. Special thanks to the major event sponsor, UNT/Dallas!

Fundraising Update & Pledge/Support Drive

Jean-Claude Ndong and James Agbodzakey have been instrumental in securing a third round of funding -- \$5,000 --from the University of North Texas/Dallas. UNT/Dallas is again the major sponsor of SAPA’s 2024 symposium at ASPA in April. ...

...Jean-Claude and James also take this opportunity to remind SAPA members and friends to respond to the October 10, 2023, email solicitation for the **2023-2024 Pledge/Support Drive**.



Donations will:

- *Facilitate the 2024 symposium and SAPA's efforts in general;*
- *Encourage opportunities for joint pracademic research and exchange between global and African public administration scholars and practitioners with an active interest in the continent's public service and development;*
- *Provide systematic analysis, commentary, and articulation of on-the-ground plight of public service in the context of UN 2030 and Africa 2063 goals;*
- *Foster active collaboration with ASPA and the National Council, with advocacy for "diverse and inclusive representation" in Africa's public service organizations;*
- *Promote "ethical responsibility," around professional, democratic, constitutional, and human values; and*
- *Support research that explores indigenous concepts, including "ubuntu" [humanity] and "abunzi" [reconciliation], and their integration into public service norms.*

Kindly send your contribution via check to **Dr. Bakry Eljack Elmedni**, SAPA Treasurer, 2108 Crescent Drive, Tarrytown NY, 10591. If you would like to contribute via wire transfer, you can send an email to: sapaaspaafrica@gmail.com for account details. Our fundraising goal through the Pledge/Support Drive, separate from the Sponsorship Package is \$5,000. Please -- give generously to help reach our goal.

SAPA/AJPAM Guest Edition

SAPA has finalized its 2nd collaborative issue with the African Journal of Public Administration and Management (AJPAM), the flagship journal for the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM). The journal holds a dominant readership among AAPAM members. In the special issue, we collated the presentations from our last SAPA Symposium during the ASPA Annual Conference in 2022. The symposium was titled, ...



..."Democratic Governance in Africa: Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities." Under the theme, we collected and now share our members' on-going research. As diverse as the continent itself, our members identify and address the multifaceted governance challenges confronting the African continents.

Member News

Peter F. Haruna has completed an edited book-length manuscript titled, "Climate Governance in International and Comparative Perspective: Issues and Experiences in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean." The 20-chapter book brings scholars and researchers from the Global South to address issues and experiences with public administration and climate governance while tying the discussions back to the common body of knowledge and scholarship defining our field. Scheduled for publication in Spring 2024, the book offers new knowledge by applying a comparative analytical framework to identify opportunities for encouraging innovation in public administration and climate governance. Co-editors, Drs. Peter Haruna, Laila El Baradei, Liza Van Jaarsveldt, Abraham Benavides, and Cristina Stanica, respectfully invite all SAPAnS to join the virtual launching of the book in early Spring 2024.

Amina Sillah is pleased to share that the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implementing organization World Learning and their Peer Review Panel have placed her on the Fulbright Specialist Roster in international development, public policy, and empowerment, for a tenure of three years, through 10/13/2026.

Jean-Claude Ndong has accepted a full-time position with the [Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management](#) (I-DIEM), a Florida-based global non-profit. In his new role as a program manager, Jean-Claude will manage I-DIEM's global expansion and lead the [I-DIEM Africa](#) initiative.

Sombo Muzata, Assistant Professor of Political Science at James Madison University, hosted the Accountability in African Public Policy and Administration conference this past February 7-9 in Washington. DC. It is one of the activities she organized for her Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship. She's shown here with keynote speaker, Dr. Jay Albanese, Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. The conference was featured on Voice of America's Africa 54 program, broadcast across the continent. High-ranking government officials from both Africa and the USA, and they discussed the strategies that they are using to fight corruption.



Rym Kaki became the Director of International Public Policy and Management Program at the USC Sol Price School of Public Administration last July. IPPAM is a premier interdisciplinary program in public policy and management designed for early to mid-career professionals interested in working cross-culturally and cross-sectorally with peers from around the world in an immersive environment.

**Stay connected for more SAPA news
& share your ideas!**



<https://thesapa.org/>



~ THANK YOU ~