



(L-R) APRM Minister Khayar Oumar Defallah, University President Wilma Mishoe, APRM CEO Dr. Eddy Maloka, and Center for Global Africa's Conceptualizer, Professor Ezra Aharone at the President's Residence

CGA Initiatives and Pan African Development Conference

By Professor Ezra Aharone, Conceptualizer of the CGA Initiative

The CGA

In commemorating the 400-year mark of the Transatlantic Slave Trade (1619-2019) and recognizing the subsequent need to merge the economic and intellectual capital of the Diaspora with Africa, Delaware State University (DSU) birthed its vanguard **Center for Global Africa (CGA)** at our first annual **Pan African Development Conference**, April 10-12, 2019. The conference was cohosted by the [African Peer Review Mechanism](#) (APRM) which is a specialized agency of the [African Union](#) (AU) with whom DSU entered into a historic [DSU-APRM Partnership](#) in Chad in June 2018.

The CGA is an interdisciplinary academic center and think tank engaged in research, consultancy, and advocacy on Global Africa. As a centralized location to mobilize Diaspora affairs, the CGA's mission is to identify and implement solution-oriented initiatives with revenue-generating capacities for mutual and measurable progress, via interinstitutional cooperation between Africa and the Diaspora.

The CGA comprises DSU professors and students, with contributing scholars and students from other HBCUs and academic institutions, along with industry experts from non-governmental organizations and the corporate world, committed to devising and applying innovative strategies to enrich the socioeconomic conditions of both Africa and the Diaspora in shared and accelerated ways.

Among the CGA's signature initiatives will be: Participation in APRM Country Review Missions; Asset Mapping; Agricultural Partnerships; Fellows Programs; Student Internships (AU, APRM, United Nations, and other African institutions and corporations); Student Exchanges with African Universities; Forming a Repository of APRM Government Reports; Conflict Prevention and Resolution; Leading Diaspora Delegations and Corporations to African Forums; Diplomatic and Distinguished Lecture Series; and Establishing a Corporate Roundtable of Diaspora Businesses.



DSU Students at Lecture of APRM, CEO Prof. Eddy Maloka, which Initiated APRM Partnership

APRM

In this vein, the CGA's Pan African Development Conference in April was convened with APRM to galvanize corporate resources and Diaspora expertise. Although relatively unknown in America, APRM is a premier AU institution with acclaim as being Africa's most effective and revolutionary tool of development. In sum APRM's mandate involves:

1. Evaluating the proficiency of political, economic, social, and corporate governance of African nations via Country Review Reports conducted by African experts (which the CGA will contribute).
2. Submitting subsequent recommendations to redress deficiencies in multiple and expanded ways that include adopting common practices and policies.
3. Monitoring and advising during the implementation phase of recommendations to foster 21st-century advancements of African nations.

At present, [39](#) of Africa's 55 nations have joined APRM, with more to follow (Zimbabwe joined, May 2019). A primary objective of APRM is to ensure that sustainable pathways for clean water, energy, and financial markets are affordable and accessible throughout Africa. To this end, and in effort to "Deepen their Review Process" – by incorporating the vast yet largely untapped expertise of African Americans – APRM values the CGA's partnership and strategic approach.

Academic-Economic-Governmental Model

The CGA's model encompasses a 3-pronged "Academic-Economic-Governmental" approach, designed to produce reciprocal development between Africa and the Diaspora, while directly empowering all of our partnering institutions and corporations with unprecedented access to burgeoning opportunities within APRM's 39 member-nations.



Partnership Signing in Chad with Dr. Osei, Prof. Eddy Maloka (CEO, APRM), and Prof. Aharone

While these 39 nations represent the “governmental portion” of the model, Africa’s development needs (as identified by APRM) represent the “economic portion” of the model that can be serviced through US corporations such as [Kool-Baker Global](#) (KBG), which is a corporate signatory of our APRM Partnership. KBG is a renewable energy company of music icon **Robert “Kool” Bell** of **Kool & The Gang** and baseball great **Dusty Baker**, who are also celebrity “Ambassadors of CGA initiatives.”

New Institutional and Corporate Partners

Along with KBG, the CGA seeks new partnerships to expand our **Institutional and Corporate Roundtable**. All well, through APRM, our reach extends to other AU and United Nations (UN) agencies including: **Economic, Social and Cultural Council** (ECOSOC) which oversees civil society expertise; **African Union Development Agency** (AUDA) which executes development projects; **Citizens & Diaspora Directorate** (CIDO), which oversees Diaspora and civil society affairs; **UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel** (UNOWAS); and **UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa** (OSAA).

Further, the **Thurgood Marshall College Fund** (TMCf) who supports 47 public HBCUs, also helped sponsor our Conference and will soon sign an MOU to join our APRM alliance. In sum, the continued success of our Academic-Economic-Governmental Model is predicated upon our continued embrace of likeminded institutions and corporations who will mutually benefit from our collaborative effectiveness.



CGA Professors at TMCf with CEO Dr. Harry Williams and Founder Dr. Joyce Payne

Through the CGA's integrated approach, amplified Diaspora attention and resources will be harnessed and applied towards areas of 21st-century African development that are both inevitable and profitable, (i.e. energy, housing, trade, education, agriculture, infrastructure, clean water, public health, technology innovations and transfers). Among other pioneering impacts, the CGA and our partners will ultimately:

1. Advance best practices and policies of African governance.
2. Connect the intellectual capital of DSU and HBCUs to the economies of Africa.
3. Evolutionize the 21st-century role, relevance, revenues and scholarship of DSU and HBCUs.
4. Create an Institutional and Corporate Roundtable of Diaspora entities to undertake development opportunities.

Conference Dignitaries and Celebrities

Among the African dignitaries and persons who endorse the CGA's mission and attended our Pan African Development Conference were: **Dr. Ibrahim Gambari** (Chair of APRM Eminent Persons); **H.E. Minister Khayar Defallah** (Chair of APRM Focal Points Committee); **Dr. Eddy Maloka** (CEO of APRM); **Ms. Tumi Dlamini** (APRM Attorney and Advisor); **Mr. Sandjima Dounia** (APRM Chad Director); **Ms. Zemenay Lakew** (APRM Special Advisor); **Ms. Liziwe Masilela** (APRM Communication Director); and **Ms. Arlette Yemek** (APRM Assistant to CEO).



Dignitaries, Celebrities, and CGA Professors with President Wilma Mishoe at Conference

Also attending as the keynote speaker was **Arikana Chihombori-Quao** (AU Ambassador to the US). To confirm the AU's commitment to Diaspora collaborations, Ambassador Quao cited AU policy that officially designates Diaspora Africans as members of Africa's "Sixth Region" (Africans worldwide who live outside Africa's 5 geographical North, East, South, West and Central Regions). The policy encourages "Sixth Region" Africans to contribute to Africa's emerging renaissance. This was also expressed by African leaders during the [2019 AU Summit of Heads of State](#) in Ethiopia, attended by six DSU professors in February, which drives the CGA's motivation to "**Mobilize Sixth Region Affairs.**"

Celebrity supporters of the CGA who attended the Conference were **Dusty Baker**, baseball great; **Ken Griffey Sr.**, baseball great; **Robert "Kool" Bell**, founder of Kool & The Gang; and **Thomas McClary**, founder of the Commodores band. (*Visit Conference Photo Gallery*

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48216028@N03/sets/72157706550010631/show>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/48216028@N03/sets/72157690919055553/show>)



Dusty Baker, Provost Tony Allen, Ken Griffey Sr., and Dr. Akwasi Osei

Conference Events and Activities

The Pan African Development Conference included the following events and activities:

- **April 9:** Reception at the residence of President Wilma Mishoe
- **April 10:** VIP Reception
- **April 11:** Opening Ceremony with Provost Tony Allen; Three Discussion Panels; and Evening Networking Gathering with Entertainment from Sankofa Dance Troop (the Three Panels addressed:
 1. HBCU Students and Reshaping African and Diaspora Images, Narratives, and Relationships;
 2. Development Opportunities for U.S. Businesses in APRM Member-Countries;
 3. The Role of APRM and Mobilization of the Sixth Region through HBCU Expertise
- **April 12:** Closed Session for Action Steps



Robert "Kool" Bell, Tony Boyle, Dusty Baker, and DSU President Wilma Mishoe

Conference Outcomes and Action Steps

Among the most notable outcomes was APRM's entrusting of the CGA to assign two Diaspora members to join every [Country Review Mission](#) (experts who compile Country Review Reports), and one Diaspora member to join every Targeted Review Mission (a Review which "targets" specific areas/facets of a country). This year the CGA will select Diaspora members to join Review Missions of Egypt and Niger.



DSU Professors and APRM Officials at Closed Session

Achieving this status within the ranks of APRM, demonstrates the AU's sincerity to implement its Sixth Region policy, which will not only strengthen Africa-Diaspora relations but will translate into new and necessary socioeconomic advancements.

Evolution and Accomplishments of the CGA

- Hosted [APRM Officials at DSU](#) to initiate the DSU-APRM Partnership, April 2018
- Visit of DSU to South Africa to attend the [South-South Cooperation Conference](#), organized by the UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), May 2018
- Visit of DSU to Chad to sign the [DSU-APRM-KBG Partnership](#), June 2018
- Visit of DSU to the United Nations [Africa Dialogue Series 2018](#), organized by the UN-Office of Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), attended by 50 students and professors, where students actively engaged African diplomats, October 2018
- Visit of DSU to Ethiopia where 6 professors attended [AU Summit of Heads of State and Government and the APRM Convention](#), February 2019
- Held the first annual CGA [Pan African Development Conference](#) at DSU, April 2019
- Hosted the Namibian Ambassador Monica Nashandi and the [African and Caribbean Affairs Commission](#) at DSU, May 2019
- Visit of DSU to the United Nations [Africa Dialogue Series 2019](#), organized by the UN-Office of Special Advisor on Africa, May 2019
- Visit to AU Mission in Washington, DC to attend "HBCU-Africa Homecoming Media Launch," June 2019
- Hosted Hon. Kojo Yankah, Founder of African University College of Communications, June 2019



Profs. Marshall and Aharone at AU Summit in Ethiopia with H. E. Kwasi Quartey (Deputy Chair, AU Commission)

Thanks and Appreciations

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