

TOURISM AFRICA

ATA Holds Third Annual Presidential Forum

Photos by Dabo (African Sun Times)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York, Sept. 26 - The Africa Travel Association today held its Third Annual Presidential Forum, in partnership with the Africa House of the New York University. This event, since its inception in 2006 when the new Executive Director of the ATA, Mr. Eddie Bergman

launched the forum, has been drawing more and more people, especially important dignitaries from the tourism industry in Africa, particularly ministers of tourism in the continent. Although no president from Africa attended this year, it was nonetheless very well attended, under the

chairmanship of the president of the Africa Travel Association, Mrs. Shamsa Mwangunga, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, United Republic of Tanzania.

Other important dignitaries who attended included Mr. Kabinga Jacus Pande, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Republic of Zambia; Hon. Mrs. Calista Chapola Chimombo, MP, Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture, Republic of Malawi, who had to take over as chairperson of the event, after Hon. Mrs. Mwangunga had to leave to attend another event. Other dignitaries Dr. John Brademas, President

Emeritus, NYU; Dean Robert Lapiner, Dean of Continuing and Professional Studies, NYU, and Prof. Bill Easterly. ATA partnered with Africa House under its Executive Director, Prof. Yaw Nyarko, professor of economics at NYU. There was also Mr. Gregg Truman, Vice President of the South African Airways, Mr. Aziz Gueye, Managing Director of the Senegalese Tourism Board, Mr. Ogo "Mr. Africa" Sow, Diasporan Coordinator for the ATA, and Mr. Sidique Wai, NYPD Liaison to the community and President of the United African Congress, and Mr. Mark Walton, Executive Vice President of the Africa Channel television.

Highlights of the event included the gathering of the VIPs on the second floor of the Kimmel building, where people got to meet and greet. During the presentations, Mr. Bergman reviewed the progress in increased tourism to Africa, and the excitement being shown by many African countries in pursuing tourism as a viable industry that could create economic growth as well as jobs. The ministers present basically took the opportunity in promoting the exciting tourism atmosphere in their respective countries.

Apart from the presentations, highlights of the event included a better video presentation of the work and mission of the Africa Travel Association presented by the Africa Channel, and the debunking of the myth by Prof. Easterly of archaic



Above photo: l-r: Sitting: Representative of Mayor's office; Hon. Mr. Kabinga Jacus Pande, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zambia; Mr. Eddie Bergman, Executive Director, ATA; Hon. Mrs. Shamsa Mwangunga, President of ATA and Tanzania's Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism; Prof. Yaw Nyarko, Executive Director of Africa House, and professor of economics, NYU; Mr. Gregg Truman, Vice President for South African Airways.

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assumptions regarding Africa. In challenging a professor from Oxford who inferred that Africa was still in the 14th century, Prof. Easterly showed that deaths from wars, refugee migrations, deaths from starvation, and especially from HIV/AIDS have not amounted to more than 2% of the African population.

If you wish to join the Africa Travel Association, call them at 212-447-1357 or visit their website: www.africatravelassociation.org.

Right photo: l-r: Mr. Africa Ogo Sow, Dean Robert Lapiner, Prof. William Easterly, Mr. Eddie Bergman, the Hon. Mrs. Calista Chapola Chimombo, MP, Prof. Yaw Nyarko, and AST Publisher Chika Onyeant.

Below photo: Hon. Shamsa Mwangunga making her speech.



Below photo: Children from the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, Bronklyn, who were invited to attend the event.

