



A Visit to Madagascar

The AfLIA Central African representative Mr. Alim Garga paid a four-day working visit to Antananarivo, Madagascar from 23-27 January 2017. The purpose of his visit among other things was to advocate for AfLIA especially on the importance of Libraries and Information Associations registering to become members of the only continental Library Association in Africa; to strengthen the Library Association of Madagascar, and to sensitize Malagasy Library and Information Professionals on the 2nd AfLIA Conference and 4th African Library Summit scheduled from 14 to 20 May 2017 in Yaoundé Cameroon. He was met on arrival with a warm welcome by the President of the Library Association of Madagascar (APBIM) Mrs. Reyna Josvah-Rabiaza.

As part of his program, Mr. Garga led by the President and some Executive Members of the National Library Association paid a courtesy calls to the office of some Officials who support library activities in the country. The officials include the President of Senate, the Secretary General of the National Assembly of Madagascar as well as UNESCO officials in the country. A group photograph was taken after the visit.



AfLIA Representative Mr. Alim Garga (3rd from right) in a Picture with Madagascar Government Officials and the President of the National Library Association Mrs Reyna Josvah-Rabiaza

He also attended a two-day workshop organized by Institutions démocratique intégrés, représentatives et crédibles (IDRIC) (Integrated, representative and credible democratic institutions) and UNESCO for public Administrators.



The AFLIA Representative in a picture with participants after the workshop

To sensitize the professionals, the AFLIA representative had a meeting with Madagascar Library and Information professionals to re-echo AFLIA's mission to support the library community in Africa; and to make the profession a force to reckon with.



Mr. Alim Garga in a Picture with participants at the Meeting

He posited that one of the main objectives of AfLIA is to advocate for good library policies to be inculcated into national policies. As a result of this objective, AfLIA has been granted an Observer status with WIPO and has also applied for an Observer status with African Union. It was therefore important for all library and information professionals and institutions on the continent to accept and make it their priority to become members of this great Association for both national and continental development. He believed that as the sole custodians, managers and disseminators of information, there was the need to have one strong voice in both the continent and the diaspora; and that voice he emphasized is AfLIA.

He observed that, although the Library community in Madagascar is supported by public authorities and International Institutions, they still need assistance. Furthermore, the Library and Information professionals are motivated and determined to stand firm in the face of challenges and possess real potentials that could help their national development.

Finally, he was optimistic that if they are given the required support and opportunity to demonstrate their competence it would benefit other Library and Information professionals on the continent.

Thank you