

**Editorial****FAAPA shifting to top gear**

Following the holding at the end of November in Rabat of its first general assembly, the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) has shifted up to top gear, with a series of more than respectable achievements and ambitious projects that go in the sense of promoting the profession of news agency-journalist across the African continent.

Indeed, in the space of just over a year after its creation in Casablanca, FAAPA is already positioning itself as the promising new flagship of the African press, thanks to the diversity and range of various articles published on its website that represents a window on African first-hand news.

FAAPA's website, the first of its kind in Africa, is, in many respects, a source of satisfaction for all the members of this professional and regional federation.

It aims to become the first news agency in the continent in terms of volume and range of information, but also through the originality of its product and the relevance of its vocation as a tool for pooling efforts and means.

**Africa****FAAPA holds its 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly**

• Meeting in Rabat of the first General Assembly of FAAPA

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies held its first General Assembly on November 26-27, 2015 in Rabat, which represents an important step in strengthening South-South cooperation and strategic partnership in order to confront together the 21<sup>st</sup> century's challenges.

The meeting was attended by Moroccan Minister of Communications, spokesman of the government, Mr. Mustapha Khalfi, who stressed that "FAAPA is far from being only a purely technical platform of exchange and reflection, but it is rather an al-

liance of visions, ambitions and aspirations for prosperity".

The FAAPA president and MAP Director General, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, noted on this occasion that «it was fundamental to give greater importance to consultation and coordination between our news agencies in all areas of common interest, particularly in the areas of information and communication, multimedia and human resources training».

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, FAAPA organized a seminar on «Strengthening Managerial capacities of African news agencies».

**Table of Content**

- 1** - EDITORIAL :  
• FAAPA shifting to top gear

- 2** - FEDERATION :  
• South-South Cooperation  
• Training

- 3** - COOPERATION :  
• Agreement  
• Partnership

- 4** - COMMUNICATION :  
• Multimedia  
• Journalism

**Training Tools for a modern communication**

The African center for training of journalists (See page 2) has already hosted its journalist-trainees during the 2015 spring session.

This first training seminar of 5 days hosted 15 journalists from numerous African News Agencies.

The seminar allowed journalists to master the optimization for search

engines and identify opportunities of loyalty and visibility for development on the Web through social media (Twitter, Facebook,...).

The FAAPA President, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, mentioned in this regard that the educational and training vocation of this federation is an essential vector of its inception.

## South-South Cooperation

### A year ago, a federative organization was launched



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• The founding members of FAAPA pose for a souvenir photo

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA), set up in October 14th 2014, is an essential basis for the development of communication and a professional platform to encourage the exchange of experiences, information and multimedia products and to promote the exchange of ideas on the future of news agencies and the role they must play in the 21st century. This endeavor needs to take place in a manner that respects their diversity and their respective characteristics, while being fully aware of the profound changes of the media landscape in the context of globalization and the multimedia era.

The announcement of the creation of this African fede-

ration was made on the sidelines of the 1st Forum of news agencies of Atlantic and West Africa, organized by Moroccan News Agency (MAP) in Casablanca on the theme: "The News Agencies of Africa in the Multimedia Era: What Future?", with the participation of managing directors of several news agencies in the region, in addition to Moroccan and African communication experts and distinguished figures.

For MAP Director General, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, the 20 countries who contributed to this great achievement came to Morocco with one slogan: to ensure that Africa is making progress, that Africa is proud about itself and that Africa should find solutions to its problems within its geographical context.

On this occasion, MAP Director General, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi was unanimously elected president of the executive council, Mrs. Oumou Barry (Côte d'Ivoire) was chosen as first vice-president and Mr. Anasth Wilfrid Mbossa (Congo) as second vice-president. Mr. Mathias Leandre Atignon (Benin), Mr. Yarba Ould Sghair (Mauritania) and Mr. Jay Nagbe Sloh (Liberia) were elected members of the body, while its secretariat general was entrusted to Mohamed Anis (Morocco).

The Federation aims to promote cooperation between African news agencies in all areas, including information, training and multimedia products.

## Training

### FAAPA dedicates African center for training of journalists in Rabat

The African Center for Training of Journalists (CAFJ), was inaugurated on March 26, 2015 in Rabat in the presence of Directors General of several African news agencies including members of the Executive Council of the Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) chaired by the Director General of the Moroccan News Agency (MAP), Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi.

The center aims to become a learning center for vocational training of journalists and non-journalists, from Atlantic Africa. With three annual sessions for 20 journalists per session, the center will offer genuine quality training as the challenge of skills is the first one facing of the Federation, said Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi.

The Federation's members, present in this ceremony, hailed the establishment of this training space made available to all African news agencies.

Located in the headquarters of MAP (Moroccan news agency), CAFJ will receive every year sixty African journalists from FAAPA member-agencies in fall, winter and spring thematic sessions (twenty journalists per session), noting that the first training session, held in April 2015,



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• The President of FAAPA and the DG of Ivorian News Agency (AIP)

was focused on web journalism.

The center places at the disposal of the African trainees a complete multimedia technical infrastructure, in accordance with all recommended international standards, and with mentoring provided by expert trainers.

Mr. Hachimi Idrissi invited the news agencies, members of FAAPA, to express their training needs, proposing the concept of training at the request and distance learning.



## Agreement

### FAAPA and AMAN agree to promote their cooperation



• Mr. Hachimi Idrissi with the chairman of MENA Executive Board

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) and the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN) agreed, on October 13, 2015 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the 24th General Assembly of AMAN, to promote bilateral professional cooperation.

Under this agreement signed by Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, Director General of the Moroccan News Agency

(MAP), FAAPA President, and Mr. Alaa Haider, chairman and editor of the Egyptian news agency (MENA), which holds the rotating presidency of AMAN, the two parties undertake to keep each other informed about the latest developments in AMAN and FAAPA and exchange copies of public statements and decisions.

The two parties also undertake to grant each the status of observer within their respective institutions and that each party invites up to two representatives of the other party to attend its General Assembly, without having the right to vote.

The federation and the alliance agree also to include on their websites the logo of the FAAPA and AMAN with a link to their respective gates ([www.faapa.info](http://www.faapa.info) & [www.aman-alliance.org](http://www.aman-alliance.org)).

The aim of this agreement is to promote openness to new horizons of fruitful cooperation between FAAPA and AMAN, on a professional basis which promotes the exchange of experiences and expertise, says Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi.

Furthermore, at the initiative of Moroccan News Agency (MAP), AMAN's general assembly has decided to hold its 26<sup>th</sup> session on 2017 in Morocco.

## Cooperation

### FAAPA, UfM sign partnership agreement



• The President of FAAPA with the SG of the UfM

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) and the Secretariat General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) signed, on October 2, 2015 in Barcelona, a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU touches mainly on the creation of a framework for consultations between the two parties notably

in the fields of sharing information, communication, training and holding meetings on issues of shared interest.

The document was inked by chairman of the FAAPA's executive council Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, Director General of MAP news agency, and UfM's Secretary General Mr. Fathallah Sijilmassi during a meeting at the headquarters of UfM.

## Numbers

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) :

30

Member News Agencies & Observer members

7

Official sponsors

10.047

Dispatches published (March - November 2015)

## Multimedia

### Website of Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies launched



• Website of FAAPA

The Atlantic Federation of African Press agencies (FAAPA) launched on March 26, 2015 in Rabat its official website «www.faapa.info», with aims to be a progressive and interactive portal reflecting the state of mind of the Federation itself.

Speaking on this occasion, The FAAPA President and MAP Director General, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi said the new portal is a medium of communication with a huge potential that will enable internet users from around the world to get the needed information and will highlight activities by African news agencies.

The FAAPA council president also said that the website is a real engine for the actors interested in the development of news agencies, as well as in opening new horizons on Africa.

This website aims to promote the communication and the exchange of information among members and internal and external partners of FAAPA. It also aims to increase the presence and the brand of the Federation both in Africa and internationally, allowing the public direct access to information concerning the African countries.

It will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the professional relationship between the members and partners of the Federation.

## Journalism

### Creation of the Grand Prize of the FAAPA

The Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA) approved the creation of its Grand Prize, during its 1st General Assembly, held in Rabat on November 26-27, 2015.

The creation of this Grand Prix, which rewards the best article, photo, video and audio reports, is part of the momentum of this professional organization aimed at encouraging excellence among FAAPA member agencies.

On this occasion, the General Assembly mandated FAAPA Executive Council to examine the modalities

and criteria for participation and award of the prize.

FAAPA, which aims to promote cooperation and experience exchange among press agencies in all areas of common interest, such as information, training and multimedia products, seeks to establish a strategic partnership and promote professional relations among African press agencies.

Created in Oct. 2014 in Casablanca during the 1st Forum of News Agencies of Atlantic and West Africa, FAAPA held on Nov., 2015, the 2nd meeting of its Executive Council.



• First General Assembly of FAAPA

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