

The AMERICAN

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EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: ANOTHER APPROACH TO TACKLE HIGHER EDUCATION

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For the development of
human capital in
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YALI MWF 2019
Young Leaders are back,
more committed than ever



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The Words of AmCham's President

It is indeed an honor to be elected as President of AmCham as AmCham celebrates its 10th Anniversary in Madagascar. The concept of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar continues to be aligned with increasing cultural awareness and economic activity between the USA and Madagascar in a fair and transparent way.

To achieve this objective AmCham organizes several round table discussions each year and supports Madagascar's eligibility in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by encouraging duty free trade from Madagascar to USA and giving support to American businesses who are interested in investing in Madagascar.

A good understanding of the English language is necessary for Madagascar businesses to participate in AGOA and as part of AmCham's support efforts; we continue to organize English Discussion Groups for friendly oral debate in the English language. These Discussion Groups are open to both adults and children.

As we move into the second decade of AmCham, our objectives are now focused on increasing the awareness of AmCham in the local business community so that our resources can be made available to a wider business base, thereby increasing Madagascar's export trade opportunities.

Educational exchanges are an important element of a country's development and we are pleased to promote such activities in Madagascar.



Russell Joseph Kelly
President of AmCham Madagascar

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What's AmCham Madagascar?



The American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar is a non-profit association of American and local business people. AmCham Mada began its activities in November 2008 and was officially recognized by the government of Madagascar in February 2010.

AmCham's mission is to:

- Enhance commercial ties between the United States and Madagascar
- Uphold the highest standards of commercial practice
- Support the expansion of an English-speaking, Anglophone business community in Madagascar

Only the formal enterprises can become members of the AmCham.

AmCham has been influential in Madagascar and is committing itself to:

- Vigorously defending AGOA privileges for Madagascar-based companies
- Facilitating business deals between AmCham members
- Introducing AmCham members to international sources of technical and financial expertise
- Defending AmCham members interests with local and international authorities

With this in mind, the Chamber's regular activities are:

- **Thursday Morning Round Tables:** Monthly TMRT gathers all together top business people. The TMRT aims to discuss about a theme developed by a Guest Speaker: General Director, Minister, Chairmen...

- **Annual Cocktail Dinatoire:** Networking and Fundraising Event designed to kick-off AmCham's activities that gathers all together top business people and representatives of international and diplomatic communities. One Guest of Honor is invited to open the event.
- **English Discussion Group:** The AmCham's EDG consists of 100% english oral practice in a friendly and welcoming learning environment. Anyone with basic conversational English is eligible to attend. There are 2 categories, EDG for adults and EDG for kids.
- **Christmas Get Together:** Networking and Christmas Event for AmCham members to share and warmly enjoy Christmas with soft music.

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What Future For Higher Education?

In his book *Two Cheers for Higher Education: Why American universities are stronger than ever – and how to meet the challenges they face*, Steven G. Brint (Princeton University Press) explores the rich history of higher education and its future prospects. Originally, the purposes of higher education were to "prepare students for a few learned professions, and to provide a strong, religiously tinged moral education." That conception changed over time. The great majority of American universities are primarily devoted to teaching students, mainly in occupational fields that in theory equip graduates to obtain jobs. When it comes to research universities, the wide range of activities they offer – such as various trainings, mentoring, production of research papers, patenting of new discoveries – constitute the ir enacted purposes.

The author predicts that the focus of American higher education will tend to focus on three main purposes: (1) human capital development (improving the cognitive and non-cognitive skills of students), (2) basic research and research in the national interest, and (3) the provision of access for students from lower-income and under-represented minority backgrounds.



One thing is certain, American higher education is doing quite well. Unlike Africans, American people are less concerned with access issues and the trainings available, and more with the cost and the quality of undergraduate education.

How might we expect higher education in Africa to evolve over the next few years?

It has been recognized that higher education has the potential of providing African-led solutions to African problems. Despite many positive developments in the African higher education sector, many challenges have to be raised, including the poor research output of African universities. In 2014 it was estimated that Africa, which has 15% of the world's population, produced only 1% of the world's research publications and 0.1% of global patents, the bulk of which emanated from two countries – South Africa and Nigeria. While the African Union recommended African countries in 2006 to invest 1% of their GDP on research and development, the shortage of PhD-qualified academic staff and the lack of funds for research remain an important obstacle. Another challenge – which is not specific to Africa though – is corruption in higher education. Those issues should imperatively be addressed through appropriate solutions.

We have to change the research and innovation landscape of Africa. Yes but how?

Pan-African University. Let us remember that Madagascar currently has 33 Doctoral Schools (30 public, 3 private) which offers 105 authorized trainings in total. The African Union established the Pan-African University (PAU) in key development areas in the five regions of Africa, with an emphasis on postgraduate

training and research. Malagasy researchers could join the nearest one in Kenya for the East African region – the PAU Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI), hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

African Centres of Excellence. To strengthen postgraduate training and research in priority sectors, the World Bank Group's board of directors approved in 2016 a US\$ 140 million credit to set up 24 centres of excellence in universities in eight Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia).

What to expect?

Significant expansion of private higher education. In almost all countries, the number of private institutions exceeds public ones, and sometimes more students enroll in private universities. The major concern here is the quality of the education provided by private institutions which are at first commercial businesses.

Phenomenal increase of the use of ODeL. It is no surprise that open, distance and e-learning (ODEL)

will be a very important tool to realize Africa's vision about education as written in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

What is urgent now?

Differentiation. It is imperative for African countries to create more polytechnics and technical colleges and offer more specializations. It is also urgent for universities to place greater emphasis on postgraduate training and research than on just teaching and learning. Let us not create copies of the existing ones!

Trends. At the global level, the future of higher education predicts artificial intelligence, analytics, augmented and virtual reality, robotic telepresence and cyber defense will be driving forces in digital-learning at colleges and universities over the next 20 years. Is Africa ready for that? We really have to.



Edited by Kenny Raharison

Source: University World News / WBG / African Union / MESUPRES / Psychology Today

Information Corner

Higher Education Statistics - Madagascar

Type of institution	Number of institutions	Number of authorized trainings available
<i>Private</i>	120	329
<i>Paramedical</i>	101	224
<i>Public – attached to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research</i>	21	405
<i>Public – attached to other ministries</i>	5	8
<i>Public Doctoral Schools</i>	30	99
<i>Private Doctoral Schools</i>	3	6
TOTAL	280	1071

Source: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, May 2019

Laza Eric Andrianirina: Towards the rebuilding of public confidence

On September 12, the AmCham had the opportunity to welcome Mr. Laza Eric Andrianirina, General Manager of BIANCO, the leader organization in the fight against corruption in Madagascar, during the Thursday Morning Round Table. Although his presentation mainly focused on the corruption offenses in the private sector, he could give his views on corruption in the higher education system with The American team.



Laza Eric Andrianirina,
General Manager of BIANCO

agents' medical expenses, the granting of scholarships and allowances, the execution of fictitious work and the management of commodities which belong to the university.

In addition, certain administrative agents commit abuses of office by "selling" students' transcripts and by issuing fake diplomas. Some teachers are paid in exchange for the awarding of good grades, either during defenses or during final or entrance examinations.

What types of corruption are there in the higher education system?

"The cases of corruption that are very often encountered in higher education relate to nepotism in the context of recruitment, be it about recruiting teachers or administrative staff; and in the allocation of student housing in the university residence.

In the field of public procurement, the provision of office supplies and the execution of university-related works are carried out in the utmost opacity and with disregard of the rules of competition. Favouritism rules.

Misappropriation of public funds is also very common, causing illicit enrichment. These are particular cases: the reimbursement of the

Abuse of office is regularly noted, including the increase of overtime hours by substitute teachers. On the other hand, many teachers and officials in higher education are allocated university-owned land."

Are there corruption cases reported to BIANCO within the private institutes?

"The most reported cases of corruption in the private institutes concern passive and active corruption in the context of fake diplomas that beneficiaries use for their integration or reclassification in the public service. Some private institutions in the capital city that have offshoots in the provinces are the most pointed out; and that confirms that investigations are being carried out."

What measures have been taken before corruption offenses at the public administration institutes and in public service competitions?

"For the specific cases of corruption that have been complained about within our services, we favor the traditional processing mode, namely the initiation of investigations.

Nevertheless, BIANCO is still working to prevent corruption opportunities through partnership agreements that set out the obligations of all signatories, BIANCO on the one hand and the University on the other, to respect the procedures to be followed regarding public service competitions. These measures are part of the technical assistance provided by BIANCO to all institutions where the risks of corruption are very high.

Honesty and integrity networks involving students are set up in public and private institutions to ensure ongoing awareness in the academic system and also to serve as a warning if necessary."

What strategy do you adopt to detect and manage corruption offenses in this sector?

"Although BIANCO is tempted to crack down on the most serious cases, such as embezzlements and illegal awarding of public contracts, the implementation of the overall anti-corruption strategy based on the three classic pillars can lead to convincing results.

When it comes to education and prevention for example, as mentioned above, whistle-blowers are mobilized before cases become more serious. If cases of large-scale corruption are found, the repressive apparatus is mobilized to give a judicial follow-up. Honesty networks and whistle-blowers are of great value in providing the right information for investigations."

Finally, is zero corruption in Madagascar possible? If so, in what conditions?

"As the leader of the fight in Madagascar, BIANCO is working to eradicate this plague that is undermining the country in accordance with the presidential instruction of "zero tolerance". It is a long-term task, requiring both a clear political will to fight against impunity and an unwavering and permanent public support as well as a synergy of the actions of all the players in the fight against corruption, namely the bodies in charge of the control of public action, the investigators, the magistrates and the members of the civil society.

Satisfactory results are being felt: many suspects are being held accountable before the law. Some senior officials think they will escape because of the delay in the operationalization phase of the High Court of Justice, which is a legal and political jurisdiction specialized in dealing with cases involving senior officials. The procedural rules applicable to this effect seem complex and long and suggest the possibility that those concerned can circumvent the justice system. Credible follow-ups to these major cases depend on the rebuilding of public confidence – a public who is thirsty for justice."

Collected and translated by Kenny Raharison



Laza Eric Andrianirina, with HE U.S. Ambassador Pelletier and representative of the AmCham Board

Study in the U.S. ... and speak out!

Students from all over the world who study at U.S. colleges are sometimes surprised that their professors, rather than only lecturing, encourage discussion and debate during class time. In fact, international students studying at American schools are guaranteed academic freedom and protection under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"I would love for students who are coming to the United States to know that they won't be punished because of what they have to say," says Sarah McLaughlin of FIRE, an academic-freedom advocacy group in Boston. McLaughlin says that when international students exercise free speech, it allows for a more fulfilling experience in and out of the classroom.

Here are examples of how students can exercise their freedoms at American colleges, but rules can vary depending on the college:

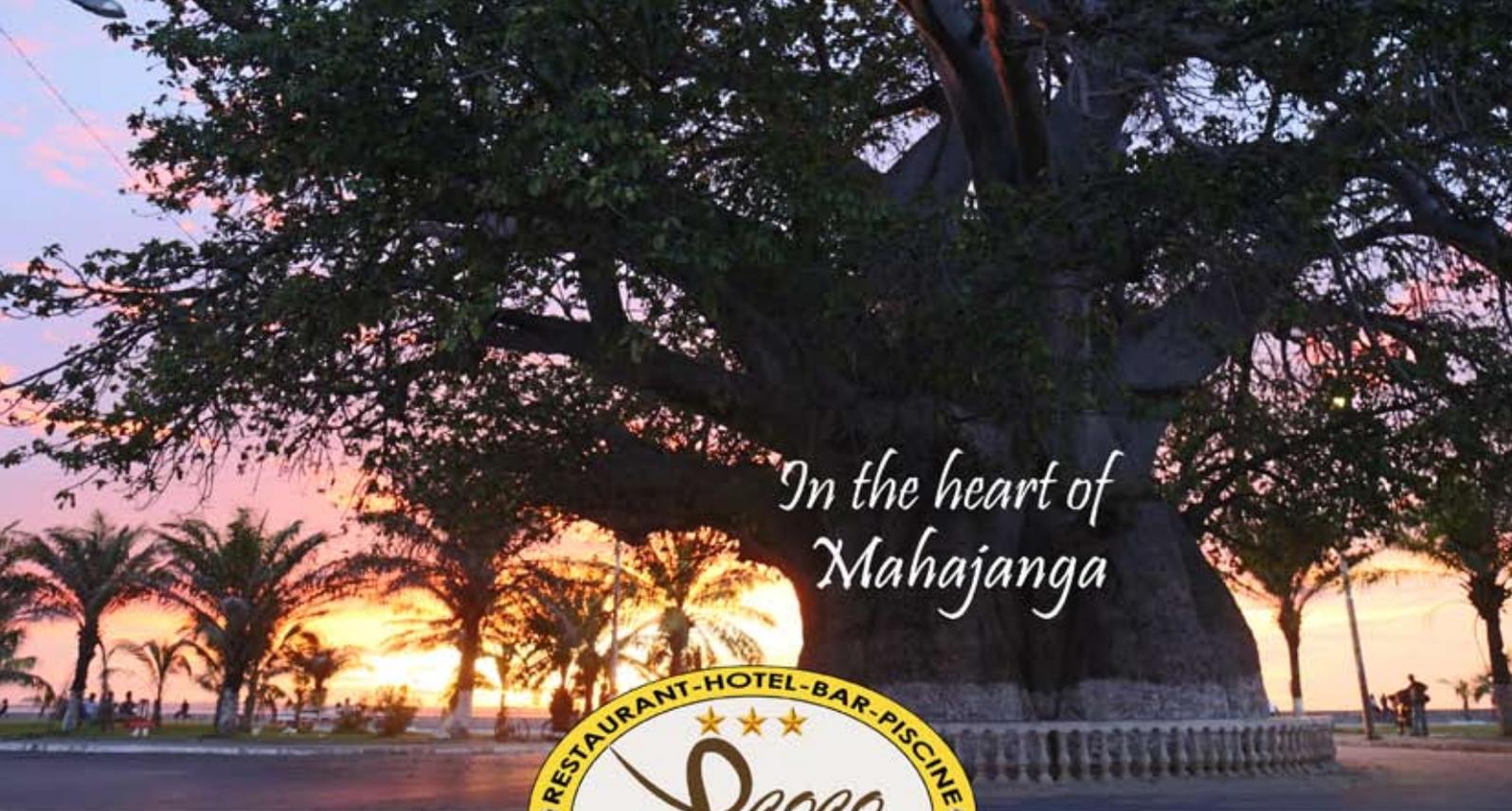
- Research an idea that's unusual or unpopular.
- Question professors or introduce controversial topics in class.
- Belong to clubs that reflect their identities and beliefs.
- Write for academic journals or school newspapers and websites.
- Run for student government or become leaders on campus.
- Protest peacefully without affecting visa status.
- Complain to administrators without affecting enrollment or scholarships.



Concrete examples?

- **Political opinions:** In 1989, some Chinese students studying at American universities condemned the Tiananmen Square massacre. The Chinese Communist Party threatened these students with punishment if they were to return home. In 1992, Congress passed the Chinese Student Protection Act to safeguard the students from retaliation by allowing them to seek asylum in the U.S.
- **Creative license:** Lebanese filmmaker Farah Shaer co-produced the movie "Heaven Without People" while pursuing a graduate degree at the University of California, Los Angeles. Released at the Los Angeles Film Festival, it was nominated for the Best World Film award.
- **Extracurricular learning:** Judith Pennywell, director of the University of Michigan's International Center, gave students tips on ways they could participate in the 2018 U.S. congressional elections, even though they would not be voting, and encouraged them to get involved in campus politics.
- **Activism:** Graduate students employed at the University of Illinois at Chicago credit international students for helping them win better working conditions

Source ; ShareAmerica (by Emily Louise Bowman)



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5 ways to manage student stress

If not well-managed, stress can become a vicious part of a student's everyday life. Students can be struggling with upcoming tests or overwhelmed by homework and a heavy workload. Loneliness, homesickness and money issues are significant factors of stress for students as well. What then happens? There are a number of common reactions – behavioural, physical, psychological – to stressful circumstances. But when it starts to affect their mental wellbeing, they have to admit first that they need some help. Anyway wellbeing practitioners are giving the five following advice to students – or anyone – to manage their stress.

1 Exercise

Why exercise? Just to get your heart racing. You just need to walk or bike. Regular exercise actually releases endorphins, feel-good hormones that can help to reduce tension and allow the mind to focus on something other than worries and concerns. If your college offers activities like hiking, dancing, basketball or martial arts, don't hesitate to subscribe!

2 Mindfulness

Practicing a relaxation technique – even just a simple technique as deep breathing or guided meditation – can help you lower your stress level. Just use free smartphone apps such as The Mindfulness App, Calm and Headspace. Rather than just ruminating over the problem, focus your mind on something positive.

3 Talking To Someone

First admit you need help and speak to your friends or family. Socializing with a friend just once a week can reduce your stress levels and improve your



mood. If a student wellbeing service is available in your university, just make an appointment with them. Most universities offer free counselling and support groups as well.

4 Time Management

If you are afraid to run out of time and to get stressed over it, try creating a written schedule. Simple time management techniques can help you to feel relaxed and focused. You can break your tasks down into manageable chunks and the most important: PLAN!

5 Getting Enough Sleep

Maintaining a sleep routine is really important: sleeping at the same time and waking up at the same time. But before going to sleep, take time to relax by taking a bath, or just by reading a book. Specialists recommend to avoid screen as much as possible before bed.

Stress to some degree is a normal part of our lives, we just need to control the amount of stress we are experiencing not to exceed the manageable level.



Edited by Kenny Raharison
Source: Graduate Prospects



Fonds Malgache de Formation Professionnelle

tahiry Famatsiam-bola Malagasy ho Fampiofanana ny mPiasa



152
recipients companies

9 697
recipients employees

1 349 010 105 MGA
of funding

In most sectors in Madagascar, business' growth is principally constrained by technical and capacity proficiency in the labor market. Yet many young graduated are unemployed. Madagascar is unfortunately confronted by the problem of training vs job mismatch, problem encountered even within developed countries.

Therefore, the GEM (Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar) launched the initiative to create the funding for professional training called Fonds Malgache de Formation Professionnelle or FMFP. To that end, the GEM mobilized the employers, the workers union and the government.

The implementation of FMFP will lead to develop the training culture in the companies, and to make available skilled people to help them run for competitiveness. FMFP also contributes to reduce unemployment, especially for young people.

Operational since March 2019 under private governance, the FMFP's mission is to finance vocational training projects based on three main focuses: continuous vocational training, pre-employment training and equity-type training.



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Christallin Lydovick
RAKOTOASY

Civic Engagement track,
University of Nebraska

The YALI fellowship taught me many things about diversity and exposed me to different cultures and compelling stories from all around Africa. The YALI program helped me to enhance my knowledge of English and strengthened my leadership skills. I am now more recognized in my community of Vavatenina, in the Analanjirifo region of Madagascar because of the education and experience I received in the United States through the Mandela Washington Fellowship and I am so proud of that. It was a life-changing program for me. I look forward to implementing, soon, the new ideas I developed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Elie Zo
LALAHARISAINA

Business track,
Clark Atlanta University

For me, the Mandela Washington Fellowship is among the most exclusive program, opening doors and enabling a deeper understanding of the forces of American Business Culture. The Academic sessions, site visits and networking sessions that I attended provided me with an in-depth insight of global trends and opportunities regarding business development. At Clark University, in Atlanta, a

number of people inspired me, after being given the opportunity to visit more than twenty organizations and enterprises including global corporations such as IBM, UPS, AGCO (Massey Ferguson's owner) and The Coca Company. YALI also allowed me to make invaluable connections with other young African leaders, who took part in this fantastic program.



Fleurot Argal
RAHARILALA

Public Management track,
Boise State University

I am thankful and very proud to be one of the 2019 YALI Mandela Washington Fellows and to be one of the 25 fellows at Boise State University. When attending the training, I expanded and developed my leadership skills through academic sessions, site visits, networking, mentoring, and meeting with American professionals. Moreover, I learned a lot from the American way of working, thinking, and policymaking. I feel more confident as a leader now. The Mandela Washington Fellowship has motivated me to work harder for my community and for my country.



Hasina
RATOONIRINA

Public Management track,
University of California Davis

It is an honor and a privilege to be part of this incredible life-changing journey with accomplished

young African leaders, impacting thousands of lives in their communities. The Mandela Washington Fellowship allowed me to learn, evolve, and hone my skills as a leader, and has contributed a great deal to my personal growth. It has opened my eyes to look at Africa from the outside and understand who and what I can become to positively impact my country and the continent of Africa at large.



**Hortensia
RASOANANDRASANA**

Civic Engagement track,
Appalachian State University

I have gained skills and have developed a solid network with Americans and African fellows. The fellowship taught me that everyone has the potential to accomplish great things. As a Mandela Washington Fellow, I strive to protect natural healthy environments and to develop rural livelihood programs through a sustainable model of ecotourism business -- where the impact will promote ownership and a sense of pride.



**Onja
RASAMIMANANA**

Civic Engagement track,
The Presidential Precinct

If I have to define my experience as a Mandela Washington Fellow in one word, it will be "GROWTH": It allowed me to become a better human being and a more skilled leader. I had the chance to talk with inspiring people, to debate with them about crisis management, fundraising strategies, negotiation skills, and other highly relevant topics. As an activist fighting for gender equality, I discovered that the biggest part of being a leader is to serve with confidence and humility. Moreover, I was amazed by how each

historical site we visited across Virginia taught us how to lead by action.



**Precieux Guenolé
RAJAOFERA**

Civic Engagement track,
University of Delaware

For me, the 2019 Mandela Washington Fellowship has been an opportunity to learn and a chance to represent my beloved country, Madagascar. I learned a lot from the program and the American way of working. I demonstrated that our country could also do great things and sit at the table with other African Nations. Throughout the program, I have consistently been guided by two factors: learning and representing Madagascar effectively.



**Sitraka
RATSIMBA**

Civic Engagement track,
Indiana University

I have been traveling for the past 12 years but I have never been exposed to this amount of substance. The Mandela Washington Fellowship gave us so much in terms of learning, human connections, and unforgettable memories. Although I am still working on distilling all this information, I can say that the Mandela Washington Fellowship experience was life-changing as it helped me to know more about myself, refine my vision, and hone my leadership and team building skills. Kay Coles James, President of The Heritage Foundation said that "to whom is given much, much is expected." I really take this quote to heart and will focus on providing as much value as I can in the future.

**Tahiry
SOJA**

Public Management track,
Syracuse University

I was proud to be part of the YALI 2019 cohort. It was a rich experience during which I learned how vibrant Africa is. During the program, we were not taught anything in particular, but were given tools and thoughts to provide wings and boost our passions. To me, that is the most enriching part of the YALI experience. Whoever is passionate about anything should apply for the next the YALI 2020."

**Armel
SYLVA**

Civic Engagement,
Indiana University

It was an amazing opportunity being part of the MWF Mandela Washington Fellowship program 2019 because it has allowed me to move out of my comfort zone; I am ready to face all the challenges in order to achieve my long term goals which is empowering youth through education by making it more inclusive and accessible. My biggest take-away from this program is the knowledge I have acquired and the lifetime relationships I have built.

**Yvan Fabius
Soufaly**

Business Track,
University of Texas

It has been three months since I left my country for the United States. I have noticed that in the USA you can make mistakes and learn from them. In the USA, people help you by interacting and creating paths for others. Everyone helps you to achieve your dream. It is a pleasure for them to open up a new path for you and they will not let you down until your dreams come true. Most professionals I have encountered spend their time working hard, reading, researching, and designing. I think, that is the reason why they now have international companies like DELL, APPLE, GOOGLE, CAPITAL Factory, UBER,. Why don't we, Malagasy, raise a generation in the right way, let them explore, share it and produce for themselves and for the nation.

**Salim
Youssouf**

Civic Engagement Track,
University of Georgia

I am very grateful to have been chosen among the 700 Young African Leaders to attend the 2019 Mandela Washington Fellowship. The five-week training in civic leadership at the University of Georgia was very enriching and mind opening. The academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, local community engagement, and site visits were so empowering. I learned that we cannot change the status quo overnight but, as leaders, we need to be patient, strategic, and resilient. The fellowship helped develop leadership skills and foster meaningful connections with American professionals.

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Testimonies: Here's what Malagasy students witnessed while they were studying abroad



Vola Ambinintsoa, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

"What has New Zealand taught me? The appreciation of the nature, from the hills of Wellington to the wonderful beaches of the Southland.

The admiration of different birds with their unique songs, day and night. The appreciation of a smile and a "good morning" from a bus-driver, as well as the "thank you" of the bus passenger when he gets off. Respect to everybody: regardless of their jobs or their rankings, everyone is called with their first name, from cleaners to the president of a University. My surprise when a police officer at the airport welcomes me with a big smile when knowing how far my home country is. The tears in my eyes when watching the All Blacks performing the haka finally live before a rugby match. All these are much more valuable than any academic learning."



Narindra Randrianavony, University of South Carolina, USA

"The very first time I knew I was admitted at the University of South Carolina, I remembered I was quite nervous. Indeed, leaving everything I knew and, being away from my family and friends for a large amount of time were quite challenging to me. But I soon realized that this challenge will be the greatest experience of my life.

With no doubt, I felt blessed to have benefited of one of the best educational systems in the world. However, I felt much more blessed to have

experienced first-hand what Americans call the "American Dream" and the "Southern Hospitality." I hope I don't overstate it but I literally enjoy every single day I've spent in the US. I loved how people did not hesitate to invite me in their lives, in their homes (and not just on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day); how I was met with genuine smile at almost every street corner; or how generous people could be whenever they sensed I was homesick and so invited me to have a drink with them.

Truly, I have learned more than just schooling while in the US. I have gained life-changing values and new life perspectives, especially on how to live as a responsible citizen in this world."



Hasina Randrianjafy, Kingston University, London, UK

"The most rewarding year of my life was in the UK as an exchange student".

"When I first landed in the UK to pursue an MSc in Environmental Management (Energy) at Kingston University London, I was completely fascinated by many aspects of this country that in addition to quenching my thirst for world-class education at a UK university, I would travel as much as possible. Academically speaking, when you study in the UK, you have the choice between 106 prestigious universities offering a broad spectrum of courses that methodically prepare students to adaptively face today's challenges and providing tangible experience-sharing by subject matter experts from wide-ranging fields. Travel-wise, the UK's public transportation is extensive and widely accessible,

both in terms of geographical location and pricing, thereby enabling students to travel at an affordable price especially when using student discounts and cards. And there are so many choices, including bus, train, cable car, tramway and flight. In one year, I have visited 12 cities across the UK, but that is an insignificant share of cities in this marvelous country. Every single place I visited was so unique, piquing my curiosity to impatiently visit another. What I enjoyed the most about the UK was that in every city or place you go, there seems to be at least one beautiful free public park. In London, they are innumerable. I spent most of my weekends at these parks with my reading materials and a small picnic lunch ready. These kinds of settings are almost inexistent in Madagascar but I found them conducive to learning, relaxation and well-being. The UK also fulfilled my passion for history as everything became "real" there. Growing up, I have been reading and watching movies about UK royalties, but actually standing in

a hallway at Hampton Court near Kingston one day and seeing the sign "Ann Boleyn's Gateway" I was thrilled! I was ecstatic that Ann Boleyn, whom I have been watching in movies and reading in books all this time, actually lived there where I set foot. Such a sensational moment for me! This experience was dreamlike to the point that it furthermore captured my interest in British Heritage. I thought to myself that every castle, court or park I have not visited would be another unseized opportunity for me to actually see firsthand and experience such legendary histories. From then onwards, I was multiplying my castle and court visits but two sentences would summarize my take on being an international student in the UK. One year is too brief to explore and learn everything about this abundantly rich country culturally and historically. Nonetheless, one year studying in the UK would be both scholastically and culturally fulfilling and enriching to any foreign student as there is so much to learn and see."

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Happy 10th Anniversary to Amcham Madagascar



**Michael P. Pelletier,
U.S. Ambassador to
Madagascar and the
Comoros**

"On behalf of the entire team at the U.S. Embassy here in Madagascar, and on behalf of the U.S. Government, our very best wishes on the

10th anniversary of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar! And our most sincere thanks for all of the great work the AmCham has done over these past ten years to nurture and encourage business and commercial ties between Madagascar and the United States of America. We firmly believe that the private sector has an absolutely essential role to play in the path to sustainable self-reliance, and we believe that the United States has important positive experiences and potential partnerships to fulfill that role here in Madagascar. American business is built on ingenuity, transparency, and social responsibility – all values that are clearly shared here in Madagascar. We are honored to have partners like the AmCham to work with to help advance those values and to facilitate and encourage ever more private sector partnerships. We look forward to many more decades of success together! Arahabaina!"



**Zouzar Bouka, Founding
Board Member and 2nd
AmCham President**

"10 years! 10 years already and it went so fast.

When Ambassador Niels Marquardt called us, a few lucky ones, he couldn't have chosen a better time to form Amcham As a young organization, which back office work started end of year 2008, we witnessed an incredible series of events which forever changed the history and the face of the "Red Island ". Its results was the consecration of the power of the people in the election of their leader. And in that sense Madagascar became a real Democracy.

Amcham has during these years brought to the business community value added, which is thanks to ours initiating open and frank discussions during our Thursday Morning Round Table, or our September Get together cocktail which brings an eclectic crowd, which as a result widened the horizon of networking for our members and the business community in general.

Finally I'm very proud of the young people working at Amcham every day and who are making sure each day to promote America's image, values, business knowledge, the promotion of English and doing this through various media methods.

This will help in the long term to create an environment which will allow us to welcome more and more American companies in our beautiful island."

Happy Anniversary 10 years



Mamy Rabe, Chairman & Founder of Moneytech, Founder Member of AmCham

"Historically, before AmCham, there was the Madagascar USA Business Council, whose goal was to change the mindset of our business men and women regarding another system and another language. Starting there, I had the vision to prepare the next generation of business people by building an American University in Madagascar, so that we will not be obliged to send our young people abroad for studies. A serious university just like the American University in Cairo, ours would be a reference in southern Africa. I wish that AmCham will lead such a big project in the next 10 years."



Peter Hallinan, 3rd AmCham President

"The years 2013-2017 were exciting times for AmCham. With the active backing and assistance of our members and board, we accomplished a number of firsts for the Chamber: the first debate between presidential candidates, the first Executive Director, the first AmCham Post, the first English language classes, the first official visit to the US Senate to lobby for AGOA, the first AGOA support contract, the first trade mission to the US, and more. We also amended our bylaws to add strong anti-corruption and anti-monopoly provisions, re-affirming AmCham's commitment to leading our business community in the pursuit of good governance.

Today, our community of Malagasy and international members look to AmCham as a bulwark of vigorous and plain-spoken inquiry and

debate. Looking forwards to the future, AmCham must preserve and extend this core strength, but must also recognize that Madagascar's greatest asset is the energy, intelligence and sheer potential of its young and growing workforce, and should focus on strengthening the bridges between the Malagasy and US entrepreneurial communities, encouraging development, investment and alliances within those sectors in which hard work, perseverance and creativity matter as much as capital, such as artificial intelligence, education, biology, and financial technology."



John Claussen, 4th AmCham President

"Congratulations to AmCham Madagascar for 10 Years of Successful Support and Services to our Members!

During these first ten years, membership has grown, while Amcham has offered an expanding base of programs and services to promote the development of positive commercial relationships and goodwill between the Republic of Madagascar and the United States of America, while upholding the highest standards of good business practices and governance, aligned with the Chamber's primary objectives.

It was truly an honor to serve Amcham, with my best wishes to the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar for continued success over the next ten years."



AmCham's Executive Team



**Scott Reid, Chief
Executive Officer**

"Congratulations AmCham Madagascar for 10 years of service to members, providing networking opportunities, support and training for local companies pursuing exports to USA under AGOA. Key relationships with US Embassy and USAID has been central to AmCham providing high quality advice to Malagasy companies and individuals. Well done AmCham Team, Board and Members for reaching this milestone and looking forward to continuing the great work!"



**Lalaina Rakotoarison,
Executive Secretary**

"An organization's success is fulfilled by the support of the board members and members not only by the executive team or individuals because it takes a combined effort to meet the goal and reach the top. No obstacles can stop the effort of a well-combined team. My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to AmCham for the next 10 years to come."



**Elodie Rabenivo, AGOA
RC / AmCham Project
Officer**

"AmCham is for me more than a family. Working with such a great team helps not only the officer grow but also, the person I am. I wish more projects, more for the dear members

and board members, continuous improvement, more to come for our Association."



**Kenny Raharison,
Communication Manager**

"This year is AmCham's year. AmCham reached this milestone thanks to its board's commitment, the energy of its executive team, and the overwhelming support of its partners. If AmCham could make such big achievements in its first decade, I am certain that the next 10 years will be more than amazing. Long live AmCham, long live AmCham family!"



**Andriamiharisoa,
Accountant**

"These past few years I felt that I am one of those lucky people who got the chance to be part of the AmCham executive team, Let's keep it going and may our activities prosper even more in the 10 years to come. All my best wishes!"



**Henintsoa Ratsimbazafy,
English Discussion Group
Facilitator**

"I wish AmCham a very happy anniversary. May these ten past years help us to be successful. And may us be more productive and efficient for the ten coming years. Long live AmCham."

What's going on in U.S. – Africa Trade?

USAID – EATIH Outcomes: After five years, the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (the Hub), a USAID project, has come to a close. Remember that AmCham's AGOA Resources Center project has been supported by the Hub from 2016 to 2018. Now let's have a look back on the results of the project at the East African level. To date, the USAID Hub facilitated 75 financial transactions, mobilizing \$173.6 million in new private sector investment and finance to eastern African firms. These funds allow businesses to expand their operations and improve services.



African Continental Free Continental Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): The drive to boost intra-Africa trade and establish a consolidated African market through the establishment of a continent-wide free trade area has gathered remarkable support over the past year from U.S. government and business. The AU and United States signed a joint statement during the latest AGOA Forum in Abidjan in support of the AfCFTA and the AU's goal of increasing continental trade and investment. This includes an undertaking to identify areas for cooperation and capacity building and a mutual desire to pursue deeper trade and investment ties beyond AGOA. The Malagasy government has already promised to sign the agreement.

Prosper Africa: Prosper Africa is the US Government's new initiative to substantially increase two-way trade

and investment between the United States and Africa. Based on a number of interventions to facilitate investment on the continent, Prosper Africa will see 15 US federal agencies align to establish a one-stop-shop to facilitate transactions for US and African businesses. This will include the presence of "deal teams" in Africa. Through this initiative, the US Government will significantly increase the scope of support it offers to US companies interested in doing business in Africa. Such support will include access to financing as well as support in facilitating and expediting transactions and mitigating associated risks.

Edited by Kenny Raharison
Source: USAID – EATIH / Agoa.info

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AMCHAM UPCOMING EVENT

AmCham's *Thursday Morning Roundtable*

Thursday, **October 17th, 2019** at **7:30 a.m.**

Infinithé Ivandry

Guest Speaker: **Mrs. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf**, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the **African Union Commission** in Madagascar and the Comoros

The presentation will focus on the setup of the **AfCFTA** and the upcoming **11th African Private Sector Forum** in November in Madagascar.

RSVP to es@amcham-madagascar.org

Scholarships for international students

There are literally billions of dollars in scholarships out there. You are likely well suited for several of them. And winning some free money for college would be pretty sweet...

But how do you find scholarships? When should you apply? And how can you improve your chances of winning? We are going to explain everything in this guide.

How scholarships work

Let's start with the basics. In short, scholarships are financial awards you do not have to repay that cover education-related expenses. They can come in virtually any amount, from \$100 (or less) to full-tuition awards or they might be one-time awards, or they might last for multiple years. Almost anyone can win scholarships: high school student, college students, graduate students and yes, even international students. Scholarships can come from any number of sources: US universities, academic departments, nonprofit organizations, charities, professional organizations, individuals, foreign governments and universities, and more. And they are awarded for all kinds of different things.

The majority of merit-based grants and scholarships come directly from colleges, and you might receive merit aid from your college or university based on your academic and/or extracurricular record as

part of your financial aid package. Ask your potential colleges if you might be eligible for their institutional merit aid and what you need to apply.

How to win scholarships

The truth is, scholarships are difficult to win. Less financial aid is available to international students compared to US students; the US government does not offer much federal aid to non-US citizens. If your college has a large financial endowment, more scholarships may be available to you. But at most schools, competition is fierce, with scholarships reserved for the top applicants.

But there are many other places to look for scholarships, and, it is a common misconception that you need to be a "perfect" student to win them. While a stellar academic record will always help you in your quest, they are awarded for much, much more than academic achievement or even being "the best" at something.

Scholarship providers value passion and commitment, like sticking to your favorite sport for many years. They appreciate special circumstances, like overcoming hardships or financial adversity. And they look for students who share their passions and values, like majoring in a particular subject. There are also many scholarships and fellowships available specifically for international students.

How to search for scholarships

You want scholarship? You need to find them by searching online, in books, and in your community. Treat your scholarship search like a part-time job. Devote time—say, two hours each week—to finding and applying for scholarships. It helps you to organize all of your scholarship application materials in one



spot for easy access, including recommendation letters, essay drafts, and follow-up emails.

What to search for (aka your unique criteria)

So, you are ready to start your scholarship search. First, you have to figure out what you are looking for—your scholarship search criteria. A good first step is to think about all the things that make you, well, you! It can be helpful to sit down and brainstorm your activities, accomplishments, interests, or other unique aspects of your life. These could include athletic and artistic abilities; racial/ethnic background; academic interest; military affiliation; and unique stuff like having red hair or being left-handed. There really are scholarships for everything.

Finally, there are lots of “easy” scholarships that almost anyone can win. If you are eligible, go ahead and apply (since you really have nothing to lose), but know that your chances of winning are slim. These contests and awards should not be your whole scholarship search strategy—more like a cherry on top.

Where to look for college scholarships

It is tempting to just stick to online scholarship search engines. But don't! A lot of scholarships never make it into these databases, especially the smaller and/or local ones, and those are exactly the types of awards you are most likely to win. Places to look for scholarships include:

- Scholarship search sites (like Big Future, Fastweb, Scholarships.com and CollegeXpress!)
- International-specific sources (like fundingusstudy.org)
- Books (such as *The Ultimate Scholarship Book* by Gen and Kelly Tanabe)
- Your college or university (awards for your major, international student scholarship, alumni funds etc.)
- Other scholarships resources like Naviance, smartphone apps like Scholly, and general search engine like Google.



As you are searching through all these potential scholarship resources, beware of scams: you should never have to pay to apply for or receive a scholarship. No scholarship is ever “guaranteed.” And you will never be randomly picked to win an award you did not opt into in some way basically, if a scholarship sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do research online and or talk to your guidance counselor and parents if you are unsure.

Applying for scholarships

You cannot win scholarships if you do not apply. Sort your scholarships by deadline, then just start applying one by one. Scholarships vary a lot in their application criteria, so be sure to check each individual award application for admission to award you a scholarship (such as academic-based awards), or you may need to fill out a separate application which may also have a separate deadline. You may need to ask for recommendation letters, write an essay, or complete an interview. If you are pursuing a scholarship in the arts, you may need to submit a portfolio or complete an audition as well. Keep track of those requirements and double-check before sending in any applications that you have met them all.

Finally, edit your applications thoroughly and have someone else take a look too. The standards are high: make sure you have answered all questions or essay prompts fully and accurately, and double check for spelling, grammar, and other errors that could cost you. And good luck!

Source: *A Global Guide to Colleges & Universities 2018*

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Zouzar BOUKA, Chairman of Vision Madagascar is present during the Pope's visit.

Considered as the biggest historical event of the year 2019 in Madagascar, with the successful democratic presidential elections, the Pope Francis' visit took place on September, 6-10.

Zouzar BOUKA, Chairman of Vision Madagascar (ViMa) had the opportunity to attend the important event. "I will always remember Pope John Paul II's visit 30 years ago and his warm words at that time that remained imprinted in my heart: 'Do not be afraid'".

"I hope that today's younger generation has also found a message of hope during the visit of Pope Francis, the one who places Love above all."



About Vision Madagascar

VISION MADAGASCAR (ViMa) was founded in 2000 by Zouzar BOUKA. Madagascar's emblematic structures such as the South African Embassy in 2007 and the Antananarivo City Hall in 2010 are its works.

The real estate division still plays the most important role with ViMa Real Estate, ViMa Business Centers and ViMa Majunga Hub. Through these subsidiaries, ViMa is a pioneer of business parks in Madagascar with the best rental stock such as Embassies, international organizations, banks, "Fortune 500" companies, etc.

ViMa Majunga Hub owns the first industrial park on the West Coast with 32 hectares of urban land and 60,000 m² of lettable area.

A subsidiary like ViMa Woods – a FSC™ -based industrial logging and timber company – makes ViMa an important player in the development of the country where the private sector fully contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of the Malagasy population.

Partnerships with companies such as ASO - Amaury Sport Organization, Regus (business center), Symbion Power, Teleperformance (world leader in remote customer relations), World Trade Center, Eiffage and Trapiura bring an international perspective to ViMa.

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*Hassanein Hiridjee
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More than words: Adult literacy training turns illiterate farmers into confident business people

Many farmers and members of Village Savings and Loans groups have minimal literacy and math skills, thus they are unprepared to manage financial transactions on their own. USAID's ASOTRY program offers literacy classes to community members already participating in other ASOTRY activities.

It is dark and cool inside the room. Students are seated on the floor, their backs pressed against an old wooden bed frame, the bare cement wall, or large sacks of grain.

At the teacher's command, a man rises from the floor and approaches the chalkboard. He is instructed to complete the two math problems displayed: 6,202 divided by 7; 2,313 multiplied by 3. He navigates the long division with ease; the multiplication even quicker. He takes his seat against a bag of grain as his classmates clap in unison.

His backrest is fitting. After all, it is the grain itself that has brought these men and women here to learn. As they well know, the market is unforgiving for a farmer who is illiterate.

"Literacy training is a program for adults who don't know how to read, write, or do math," said Vero Hanitritiniaina Antoinette, known as Vero. She is a literacy teacher and site animator for the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) ASOTRY food security program. Vero's responsibilities include the education of her own students and the students of three other literacy program sites in this region.

The agricultural trade consists of crop varieties, quantities, dates, administrative processes, and sales both piecemeal and bulk. The inability to read, write, or count is an obvious limitation. Illiterate farmers are tricked into bad deals, miss out on good deals, and in general remain stagnant in a fast moving industry.

And in Anaody village, in Anjoma Commune, it is a common disadvantage.

"We have many illiterate people in the community," Vero said. "We held events to distribute food and people have to sign to receive their portion. We noticed many couldn't sign their names."



Thanks to the literacy program, farmers can write and do simple math required in business.



"It is a big disadvantage, not knowing how to write or count."

The ASOTRY literacy program offered to change that for anyone willing to learn.

"I wanted to join the literacy training because I didn't know how to read or write at all," said Marie Louise Ravampionona, a 46-year-old mother of six and recent graduate of the seven-month program. "It was my husband who managed everything in my life. When I joined a Village Savings and Loans group I couldn't even write my name, so I had to ask others to do that. I didn't like it."

Those sentiments are the same ones that compelled farmers of all ages, both male and female, to enroll in the program. After years of fear and shame, the adults of this community have chosen a change.

"Before, if they had to go do administrative activities, they were scared," Vero said. "Now they can fill out forms and write papers and understand easily. The administrative processes are no longer



Marie Louise is more self-reliant now that she can write.



Literacy class in Anaody, led by Vero (middle, in the USAID vest).

difficult for them. In meetings, they can stand and express their point of view, and in their daily lives they can rely on themselves to go to the market and pursue their daily activities. The fear is gone."

After the math problems are completed, Vero calls on a young mother to go to the chalkboard and write a sentence: Mahay manoratra aho. The woman does so and reclaims her seat to the sound of clapping.

Though the clapping ritually follows each correct answer, it seems especially fitting now. The sentence this young farmer just wrote is the perfect marriage of action and meaning; in English, it translates to – 'I can write'.

"I hope the students become models for the community, that their lives improve and that, in turn, they teach the other members of the community," Vero said.

"We thank ASOTRY for this program," she added. "It is a way for the community to reach development."

ASOTRY, a project funded by USAID and operated by ADRA Madagascar, has provided literacy classes to 7,013 people like Marie Louise, giving them the power to improve their lives.



Edited by USAID

Photo Credit: ADRA / Livatiana Ranarison

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Falihery Ramakavelo: "Ecotourism: Fight against poverty and **for protection of the environment**"

Why ecotourism?

"Ecotourism is definitely among the new travel trends of international tourists. Modern tourists choose their destination in the expectation of discovering a new country, new cultures, and especially new fauna and flora that they do not know yet. Increasingly, tourists are aware of the need to protect the environment and fight against poverty; and the ecotourism product is the most suitable one to meet that growing demand. The majority of the 1.2 billion tourists worldwide choose to travel in the ecotourism program. And a point to note is, Madagascar is home to 80% of endemic species and is now in the top 10 best tourist destinations in the world. It's up to us to invest whole-heartedly in ecotourism. By ecotourism, I mean the combination of five aspects: protection of the environment, integration of the local population in ecotourism projects, protection of local cultures, promotion of the use of renewable energy, and organic farming."

What does investment in ecotourism require?

"Indeed, there is clearly a need for infrastructure, starting with airports. Madagascar should invest in making Diego-Suarez, Morondava and Fort-Dauphin international airports. Added to this is the need for adequate road infrastructure to grant access to remote sites. Instead of big hotel chains, we'd better promote smaller ones, commonly called "boutique hotels" that use renewable energy and recycle waste. Security is a key requirement as well. Through all available means, Madagascar should promote its biodiversity assets in three aspects: geological, biological and cultural. Finally Madagascar has to invest in human capital, and this is where VATEL comes in."

Why choose to study at VATEL?

"VATEL wants first to sensitize young people to invest in the tourism sector, considering its great potential in Madagascar. Historically, Vatel is a French school founded in 1981 in Paris, but was only present in Madagascar in 2014. Know that VATEL remains the top Hotel, Catering and Tourism school in the world, and now has 50 schools in 30 different countries. What makes VATEL unique is that it is a business school, but one which is specialized in the above-mentioned sector. VATEL in Madagascar offers a Bachelor's degree program and also a two-year MBA in Ecotourism – which requires a Bachelor's degree. The MBA program aims to train future leaders who will have the decision-making power at the national level in the near future. The training program that Vatel offers combines theory and practice including study trips to tourist sites. The diplomas awarded to our students are obviously recognized worldwide and the graduates join a network of more than 30,000 Vatelians all around the world. Currently we are recruiting students for the new school year starting in early November. Applications are now open."

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Exploring Ranomafana National Park

Are you traveling on the 7th National Road towards Fianarantsoa? Take the crossroads to Alakamisy Ambohimaha (NR 45) and you will end up in a heavenly spot in the Matsiatra Ambony and Vatovavy-Fitovinany regions, none other than the Ranomafana National Park which covers 41,601 hectares. The Tanala and Betsileo communities present in these regions will welcome you.

A huge reserve of endemic animal species

The names of the animal and plant species found in the site will fill a very long list. But briefly, you can discover 6 species of fish, including *Bedotiasp* or "Jono", discovered in 1994. The region is also home to 90 species of butterflies of which 4 are rare species (*Graphiumendochus*, *Charaxescowani*, *Euxanthe madagascariensis* and *Acraeaboya*). 8 families of spider are still new in the wildlife list recorded in Madagascar. 58 species of reptiles are crawling in the Park.

In the aquatic environment, there are 6 endemic species of crustaceans and one subspecies of



Coua caerulea



Haplemur aureus

crayfish from the *Astacoides* group, the unique one in the world. Diversified amphibian species *Mantidactylus* and *Mycrohylidae* also makes the site special.

This time of the year (October and November) is the perfect moment for bird watching, even if it falls in the rainy period. Note that 118 bird species, among the 257 recorded in Madagascar are visible in the region. Moreover, the majority is endemic, and about thirty species exist exclusively in the primary forest of the Park, to mention only *Mesitornisunicolor*, *Brachypteraciassquamiger*, *Neodrepanishypoxantha*, and *Xenopirostrispolleni*, which are globally recognized species.

Do you want to discover our lemurs? You will be fascinated. 13 species are visible in the park, including diurnal species like *Haplemur aureus* and nocturnal species like the famous Aye-Aye or *Daubentonia madagascariensis*. Among the primates most appreciated by tourists are Varibolomena,

Varibolomavo, Simpona, Varijatsy, and Varikamena. Also get acquainted with the rare foot-sucker bat or *Myzopodaaurita*, which you will not find anywhere else outside the country. Other mammals such as "Voalavondrano" and "Fosa" can be added to the list attractions for tourists.

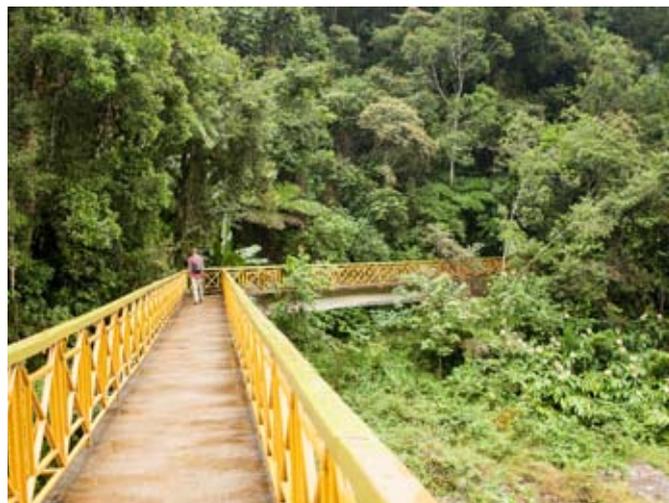
Diversified vegetation

The rain forest covers Ranomafana Park. However, only the part included in the hard core is considered primary forest. The forest is home to rare tropical hardwoods of which several species have considerable economic value both locally and nationally, such as pallsander or *Dalbergia*. A profusion of rare species also makes up the park's biological richness: ferns, bamboos and hundreds of orchids that are there to amaze your eyes.

What to do in Ranomafana?

After buying your ticket at the Ambodiamontana welcome office, 56 multilingual guides are ready to accompany you in one of the three tourist circuits offered by the Park so that you can contemplate the beauty of the Malagasy nature.

The Park also offers other attractions such as tree climbing, kayaking and organized mini-marathon. The most interesting activity that visitors should do is camping in one of three



places: Ambodiamontana, Vatoharanana and Sahamalaotra. Wear rain gear and cleated shoes, take a tent and relax.

Taste the Malagasy dishes offered by the local cuisine, bring handmade souvenirs home – basketry, sculpture, banana peel or bamboo. Dance to the rhythm of the Tanala traditional dance, the "Dombolo" and discover the "Horija", traditional music of the region.

Note that about 500 villagers from the local community provide control, surveillance and maintenance of the Protected Area.



Edited by Kenny Raharison

Source & Photo Credit: Ranomafana National Park

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FOCUS ON

Highly publicized, and actively linked to the contemporary trend of well-being, Moringa is currently the inevitable antioxidant plant. Native to South Asia, the tree is found in the semi-arid, tropical and subtropical areas of the world. One of the species, *Moringa Oleifera*, grow in Madagascar..

Moringa, a “Tree that never Dies”

Very fast-growing tree, the *Moringa Oleifera*, also called Drumstick tree, Horseradish tree or Benzolive tree can reach a height of 32-40 feet and a trunk diameter of 1.5 feet. The plant has proven a strong resistance to drought hence the name of “Tree that never Dies”; it can be consumed as a replacement for daily nutrient requirements. Indeed, many parts of moringa are edible, with very diverse regional uses:



Currently exported products are mainly unscratched bark and scraped bark. Products are composed of:

- Immature capsules (fruits).
- Leaves
- Ripe seeds
- Oil extracted from the seeds
- Flowers
- Roots

Rich and nutritious

Nutrient, dietary supplement, naturopathy preventive, or traditional herbal medicine, Moringa is used around the globe in various ways and though, each part of the plant holds its own intake of 30% protein and 15% fiber. It also contains phytonutrient, and is exceptionally rich in vitamins A, B, C and E. Moringa contains minerals like potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, selenium and eight essential amino acids that the body needs . Plant of prevention, without



Moringa Oleifera

nevertheless being miracle plant, the Moringa remains exceptional. It is particularly useful in the fight against malnutrition in infants and nursing mothers and its associated diseases (blindness, ...). From one country to another, its use varies from infusion to the powdering of seeds and leaves. The oil can also be extracted from the seeds and used for body and hair.

Thus, marketing helps in conquering green customers and health conscious consumers.

In the world

Whilst the tree can be found in Middle and South Asia, in South America and Southern Africa, India remains the world's largest producer of Moringa with annually 1,1 to 1,3 millions tons of fruits for an

area of 380 km². One Kg of Raw Powder in 2019 runs circa 22 USD to the final customer.

In Madagascar, where the local population uses the Moringa daily as an accompaniment to meals as a romazava or laoka, the green powder is exported gradually to Europe namely in Germany, Italy or Belgium and starts steps to the USA with first samples.



Edited by Elodie Rabenivo

Sources: moringanews.org; moringawave.com



Fragment of History

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF U.S. PRESIDENTS

PART 8: MARTIN VAN BUREN

Martin Van Buren served as 8th President of the United States from 1837 to 1841, representing the Democrat party. Born on December 5, 1782 in Kinderhook, New York, he was inaugurated at the age of 54.

Van Buren became known for being a shrewd politician. Later he was called "Little Magician" and the "Red Fox" for his cunning politics. Martin grew up in a Dutch-speaking family and only received a formal education to the age of 14. He learned law by working and apprenticing for attorneys in New York. In 1803 he passed the bar and became a lawyer. Martin became involved in politics at a young age and attended his first political convention when he was just 17.



Before he became President, Van Buren was considered a master manipulator of "machine politics" in New York. In 1815, he became the New York Attorney General and then was elected to the U.S. Senate representing New York. As a strong supporter of Andrew Jackson, he was appointed Secretary of State after Jackson's election. He resigned in 1831 and was later picked as Jackson's Vice President for his second term.

His Presidency

Andrew Jackson supported Van Buren for president after deciding not to run for a third term. Van Buren won the election of 1836 becoming the 8th president of the United States.

Van Buren's presidency was defined by the Panic of 1837. Just a few short months after he became president, the stock market crashed. The economy ground to a halt as banks failed, people lost their jobs, and companies went out of business. The failure was largely due to policies set forth by his predecessor President Jackson and there was little Martin could do. After the stock market crashed, his opponents called him "Martin Van Ruin".

Van Buren continued with Jackson's policy on moving American Indians to new lands in the west. The Trail of Tears took place during his administration in which the Cherokee Indians were marched across the country from North Carolina to Oklahoma.

Van Buren tried to regain the White House twice but did not regain the Democratic nomination. In 1848, he ran under a new party called the Free Soil Party.

Martin was the first president to be born as a citizen of the United States while his predecessors were born as British subjects. One funny fact is, the word "Okay" or "OK" became popular when it was used in Van Buren's campaign. It stood for one of his nicknames "Old Kinderhook".

Van Buren died at home on July 24, 1862 at the age of 79 from a heart attack.



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

We hereby apply for membership of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar and agree, if elected to membership, to be bound by its rules and regulations and to pay the appropriate Annual Dues: (PLEASE PRINT or TYPE)

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See next page for annual dues.

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1 to 10 employees	300,000 AR per year
11 to 50 employees	600,000 AR per year
More than 50 employees	1,500,000 AR per year

For NGOs: 600,000 AR per year

Sponsoring membership: 15,000,000 AR (*)

One of AmCham's objectives is to keep its annual dues affordable for all businesses. We also recognize that many companies have very significant investments in Madagascar but may have a small number of employees relative to their business activities. We ask that those companies join AmCham at the highest level.

(*) Companies/NGOs interested in becoming Sponsoring Members of AmCham will receive the following special benefits:

- No annual dues for three years - that is 2017, 2018, and 2019
- The organization's logo will appear on AmCham's publications, website and social media
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- Special consideration for international events organized or facilitated by AmCham

As noted above, annual fees will be waived through 2019. From 2020 onward, annual membership dues will apply to new Sponsoring Members.

The Board of Directors has great ambition for AmCham and is committed to making it a force for improving Malagasy-American trade. We look forward to your active participation.

On behalf of the AmCham Board of Directors,

Yours truly,

Russell J Kelly
President

Please submit your application form at the AmCham's office with a check corresponding to your dues and payable to "Chambre de Commerce Américaine à Madagascar" or "AMCHAM", as well as your company profile;

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