



Press Release

AKADEMIYA2063 Appoints Public Policy Veteran Debisi Araba as Managing Director

A seasoned public policy and strategy leader operating across multiple sectors, including sustainability, food security, and agricultural development, Araba brings over 15 years of experience.

KIGALI, September 1, 2025 — AKADEMIYA2063, a continental leader in the provision of knowledge and evidence-based systems to support policymaking, today announced the appointment of **Dr. Debisi Araba** as its new Managing Director, effective September 15. Dr. Araba will work in partnership with the Executive Chairperson and Board of Trustees to further AKADEMIYA2063's mission of creating, across Africa, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support African Union (AU) Member States in achieving the key goals of Agenda 2063 — transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Dr. Araba is a public policy, innovation, and strategy specialist with a focus on the future of food, the environment, and entrepreneurship. Prior to this role, he was a Senior Consultant with the African Development Bank (AfDB), advising on Agriculture and Food Systems. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London. Dr. Araba previously served as the inaugural Managing Director of the Africa Green Revolution Forum (now known as the Africa Food Systems Forum). He also served as the Africa Region Director at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a member of the CGIAR, the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers.

"I am honored to begin this new chapter at the helm of AKADEMIYA2063's leadership team to steer the organization's strategic objectives in alignment with Africa's development ambitions," said **Dr. Araba**. "With great commitment to our mission, I look forward to working closely with the highly motivated team and partners to leverage home-grown expertise to drive Africa's strategic priorities."

As the Senior Technical Adviser on Environmental Policy to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria, he was instrumental in co-authoring Nigeria's National Agricultural Resilience Framework and led global and national partnerships in the development of climate-smart strategies for the agricultural sector.

"Dr. Debisi Araba's experience in the policy landscape will be invaluable to the achievement of our organizational goals," said **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson at AKADEMIYA2063. "We are pleased to have him on board and look forward to accelerating AKADEMIYA2063's impact under his capable leadership."

Dr. Araba holds a Doctorate degree in Environmental Policy from Imperial College London, a Master's in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a Master's in Clean Technology from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, and a Bachelor's in Physical Geography from the University of Ibadan. He is an Emeritus Member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel – an eminent group of global experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition, and food security working to guide policy choices by African governments to accelerate progress toward food security and improved nutrition.

About AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal. Inspired by the ambitions of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence-based systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and improving livelihoods.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost economic growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional, and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, and data management, digital products, and technology—as well as innovative partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit www.akademiya2063.org.

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