

Afro Asian Union Expands to North America

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The Afro-Asian Union for Tourism, Crafts, Research & E-Commerce (AFASU) is expanding to North America. The AFASU mission is to make a positive contribution to African-Asian societies by raising awareness and gathering local, international and digital resources to support tourism, crafts, research and e-commerce in member countries.

The North American expansion will be led by Mr. Tharwat Abouraya, CTIE, Vice President North America Affairs, based in

the Washington, D.C. area. Abouraya currently chairs the International Friend of Bibliotheca Alexandrina and serves on the Maryland State Governor Larry Hogan's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs. The North American branch of AFASU supports the leadership of the Afro-Asian Union and its president in carrying out the overall development strategy.

AFASU was founded in November 2020 under the umbrella of the [Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization](#) (AAPSO), a non-government association with national committees in more than 90 countries and associate members in Europe and Latin America. The first conference of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Movement was held in Cairo in 1957; AAPSO continues to implement the objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement. AAPSO has consultative status with United Nations organizations and observer status in the African Committee for Human Rights and Peoples.

AFASU aims to

- help local societies and private sector businesses participate in the development and growth of tourism;
- improve people's income, while minimizing poverty and unemployment;
- promote tourism and the craft economy through advanced technology;

- preserve national heritage and crafts as a way to improve people's lives and solve their economic problems;
- remove obstacles to the growth of e-commerce, including supports for worker training and investment;
- build or identify centers to promote critical research and development;
- improve worker protections in all economic sectors;
- provide a platform for members to speak up about critical issues;
- build Afro Asian connections in the United States and Canada.

AFASU will organize its work through eight divisions: Travel and Tourism; Crafts Industries; E-Commerce; Research and Consultancy; Digital Information and Technology; Employees' Protection; Training and Development Industry, Commerce, Investments and Strategic Partnerships.

Member opportunities include:

- collaboration to achieve sustainable development and transformational change;
- representation in front of governments and official bodies;
- continuing education through training and awareness courses, seminars, exhibitions, trade visits;
- professional networking and shared data;
- employment opportunities;
- member directory;
- consultation opportunities with leading experts in each field;
- participation in the annual African-Asian handicraft fair.

For more information, visit www.afroasianuion.org or email africaasiana@gmail.com