

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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BOARD ON AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT

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December 9, 2008

Dr. Salif Diop
Head, Ecosystems Section
UNEP/DGEF IW: LEARN
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi 00100, KENYA

Dear Dr. Diop,

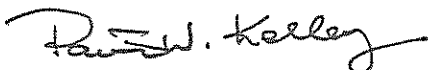
On behalf of the Board on African Science Academy Development of the United States National Academies, I would like to thank you for your presentation at our Fourth Annual Conference, *Science Academies as Partners for Improving the Impacts of Policies in Africa* that took place November 4-5, 2008 at the UK's Royal Society in London. Your presentation was not only informative but also instrumental in setting the stage for the lively discussion that ensued. We received nothing but the highest praise for this meeting which could not have been possible without your support and interest in investing in Africa and the African academies. Our hope is that we can maintain the momentum throughout the years to ensure the sustainability of African academies and to ensure their position of being the foremost providers of evidence-based advice to their policy makers and to their nations.

We are presently developing an overview report of the conference which we will share with you as soon as possible. However, should you have any thoughts or questions you would like to direct to me prior to that time, I would welcome the opportunity to hear from you sooner as we are constantly looking for input on how to sustain and even elevate the level of interest and effectiveness of academies in Africa and around the world.

Our next annual conference of the African Science Academy Development Initiative will be held in Ghana on November 8-11, 2009. We hope that you will consider joining us for this event which will focus on improving maternal, newborn and child health in Africa.

Again we thank you for your presentation and we wish you the best through 2008 and the New Year.

Sincerely,



Patrick W. Kelley, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director, Board on African Science Academies Development