





The African School of Fundamental Physics and Applications a.k.a. the African School of Physics (ASP)

Mounia Laassiri

On behalf of the ASP-IOC

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ACP-IOC@CERN.CH

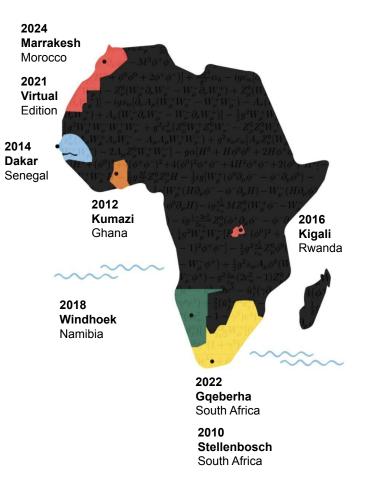


Outline



Eight editions completed since 2010!







ASP as a start-up



A non-profit organization established by a small group of worldwide scientists to stimulate and include more African talented physics students in the world scientific community

The aim of the school is to build capacity in African countries, to harvest, interpret, and exploit the results from physics experiments with particle accelerators, and to increase proficiency in related applications and technologies.



Support financially

- ~85 African students
- 80 high school teachers
- over 1000 learners for a 2-week school
- African researchers for a one-week international conference

Contribute to a world w/ equal access to knowledge

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Establish a biennial educative program to be hosted across Africa



Provide high quality classes by international re-known Scientists

Committees to build momentum— Founding Members

Build strategic partnership and collect financial support from Africa, Europe, USA and Asia via universities, laboratories, UN, and other organizations.



Prof. Bobby Acharya (ICTP & King's College London UK)

Brookhaven

ational Laboratory



(BNL)

Dr. Kétévi A. Assamagan



Dr. Anne E. Dabrowski (CERN)



Darve (ESS)



Prof. John R. Ellis (CERN & King's College London UK)



Dr. Steve G. Muanza (CNRS-IN2P3)

- Conceptual thinking by *S. Muanza* and *J. Ellis* in 2001 and IN2P3 to trigger.
- International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), **B. Acharya**, as incubator and greatly encouraged by CERN and Fermilab.
- Preparation for the first edition in 2010 leaded by *C. Darve* and *S. Muanza*.

Committees to build momentum— Current Members of the IOC



ASP has had a significant impact on the career development of its alumni



Prof. Bobby Acharya (ICTP & King's College London UK)



Dr. Kétévi A. Assamagan (BNL)



Dr. Christine Darve (ESS)

Prof. Fernando Ferroni





Dr. Mounia Laassiri (BNL)

- Prof. Fernando Ferroni joined the ASP-IOC in 2017 •
- Mounia Laassiri (ASP2016 Alumna) was invited in 2022 to lecture at ASP2022, and soon afterwards • was appointed to the ASP-IOC



ASP Organization

Objectives: Capacity development and retention in Physics in Africa



Local Organizing Committee (LOC)— in the host country

- Local logistics
- Liaise with Education and Research branches of host country government

Assessment of Impact

- Survey of students
- Survey of their Professors
- Follow academic developments

International Lecturers (IL)

- Design the scientific Program
- Help with the student selections
- Mentor and Coach students continuously

- on in Physics in Africa International Advisory Committee (IAC)
- Representatives of funding agencies
- Advise on the program
- Advise of the host country selection

Board of Trustees

- Legal Responsibilities
- Fund raising
- Assess Management's

Spin-Offs

- ASP Mentorship/ Coaching Program Networking and sharing of information
- Align ASP with educational priorities Improve future editions of ASP
- Promote research collaborations Promote research consortia



IOC

Program management Fund raising Coordination of activities Activity reports to

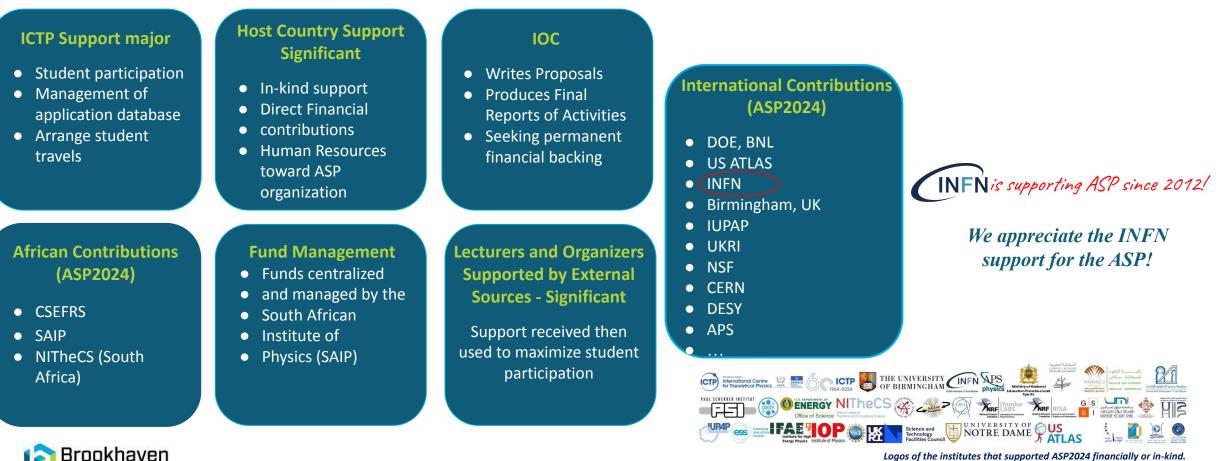
Funding agencies

National Laboratory

Sponsorships for Student Participations



"If each African country supports its participants or contributes 2500 Euros every year to the ASP budget, ASP will be entirely financed by African countries. And *2500 Euros* is marginal even for the least developed country"



7

ASP Editions

6

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ASP	Host Country	Applicants	Students	African Countries	Mentorship	Teachers	Pupils	Conference	
ASP2010	South Africa	125	65	17	Continuously, even when there is no formal school				
ASP2012	Ghana	138	50	15					
ASP2014	Senegal	330	70	21					
ASP2016	Rwanda	429	75	28	Program formalized in 2016. Runs continuously	20	150		
ASP2018	Namibia	523	85	26		63	> 1200	+60	
ASP2021	Morocco Morocco Online	N/A	94					+649	
ASP2022	South Africa 🔀	>416	~82: In person ~97: Online	40		~80	~230	+601 60: In-persor 50: Online	
ASP2024	Morocco	534	~93: In person ~102: Online	50		~80	>1000	ACP2025	
ASP2026	Kenya	Coming up!							

Topics of interest



Particles and related applications

- Nuclear physics,
- Particle physics,
- Medical physics,
- (Particle)astrophysics & cosmology,
- Fluid & plasma physics,
- Complex systems

Light sources and their applications

- Light sources
- Condensed matter & materials physics
- Atomic & molecular physics
- Optics & photonics
- Earth science

Cross-cutting fields

- Accelerator physics
- Computing
- Instrumentation & detectors
- Quantum computing & quantum Information
- Machine learning & artificial intelligence

Societal engagement

- Physics education
- Community
- engagement
- Women in physics
- Early career physicists

The ASP program is adapted to the interests of the host country, and to the academic majors and levels of the participants!

Morning talks @ ASP2024:

- 1st week: AAS, DOE Int. Outreach / ASP, ASFAP, NASAC,
- 2nd week: ICTP-Africa, EIC, CERN-Africa programs, APN

Evening talks @ ASP2024:

- 1st week: SOAPHYS, Pan-African physics society, status, challenges and path forward, Arab Physical Society, The Square Kilometer Array (SKA), Air quality research
- 2nd week: Fundamental Physics in North Africa, Public outreach event in Arabic, EuPRAXIA, Physics' multidisciplinarity and its contributions towards the SDGs & Climate recovery, ...



ASP Program Expansion







Student program

(3)2-week intensive school:

- Provide full financial support to students and create a scientific melting pot of cultural diversity
- Diversity of academic levels
- Mainly Master and PhD students
- Diversity of education background From theoretical physics to engineering sciences
- Diversity of the countries of origin
- Priority to Sub-Saharan African students
- Women participation (~32 50%)

ASP2024 Strong female participation



Since ASP2014, ASP has maintained F:M ratio >= 7:10







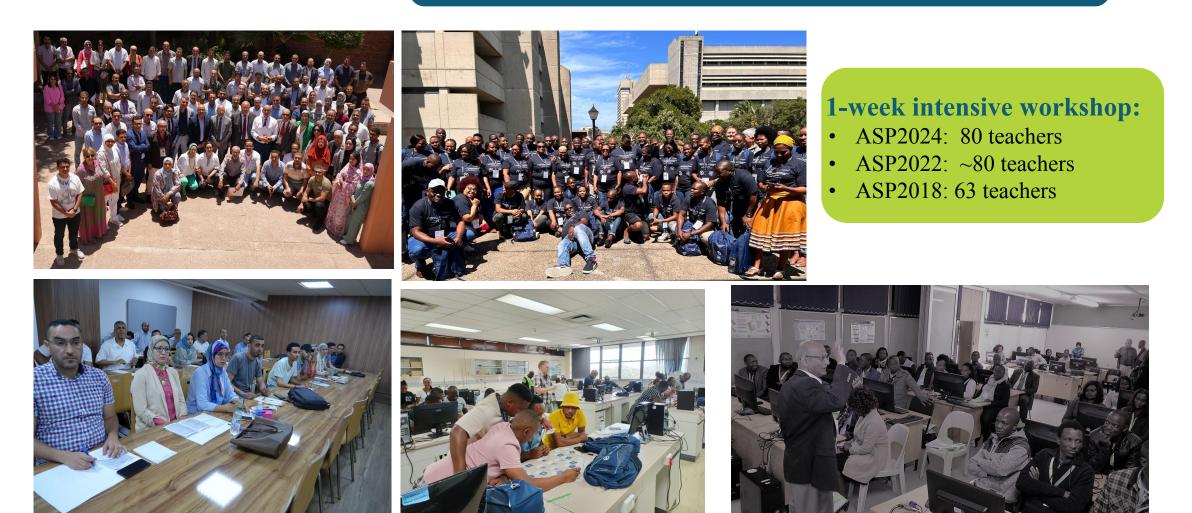




High School Teachers Program

Objective Support teachers' growth in the planning and delivery of physics instructions







High School learners Program



Objective Motivate high school pupils to develop and maintain interest in Physics.





1-week learners Outreach:

- ASP2024: 5 high schools (as venues), 1038 pupils
- ASP2022: 10 high schools, 230 pupils
- ASP2018: 39 high schools, 1500 pupils

Program designed such that the lecturers that are not lecturing to students can help with the learners' program

ASP2024

The period of April 15–19, 2024, was chosen to maximize learner attendance while they are still in school.



ASP Activities **ASP** Forum



One day. Objective:

Align ASP with the research and education priorities of African countries.



ASP2010



Dedicated to Knowledge and Transfer of Technology Dr. D. ADAMS, chief director: Emerging Research areas & Infrastructure, Human Capital and Knowledge Systems.



general









Prof. H. WINICK. Prof. Emeritus, SLAC and Prof. L. SERAFINI (INFN, IT)

> ASP2020 marrakech, Morocco





Dr T. TJIVIKUA, Vice-Chancellor, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia), Dr. R. ADAM (SKA, SA)







AfLS and compact acc.







LINK



Physics education and research roadmap development and implementation in Africa Prof. A. Muronga (Nelson Mandela University, SA) Dr. Raissa Malu (Investing In People (IIP) ASBL) Oumar Ka (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal)

ASP2014

Sakar, Senegal

THE THIRD BIENNIAL AFRICAN SCHOOL OF FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Dr. H. TOURE, UN ITU Secretary General.

Prof. A. WAGUE and O. KA M. NGOM - US

UN support

Embassy rep.







East Afr. Science and New ICTP Center **Rwandan Ministry of Education**



Sustainability of ASP and capacity development & retention in Africa-with the participation of policymaker representatives from Morocco, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin and South Africa (DSI, NRF, SAIP, SANSA, NMU), and international delegates from Africa, Europe and the U.S.

ASP2024 Marrakesh, Morocco





Strategic engagement with African policymakers in science education and research 2 panel discussions

- "The road to critical skill development for Africa's growth"
 - With pan-African and international panelists
- Physics outreach efforts by ASP alumni •
 - Demonstrate the impact of ASP Consolidate outreach efforts and support.



ASP Activities ASP-Conference (ACP)

One week:

The physics topics taught at the school form the core of the ASP conference.



Objectives

- Attract ASP alumni
- Attract African research faculties
- Attract international participants not part of ASP
- Foster new research collaborations







Peer-reviewed conference proceedings published by the African Review of Physics. http://aphysrev.ictp.it/index.php/aphysrev/issue/view/35

ACP2023 @ George Campus, SA

- Number of registrants: 601
- Number of in-person participants: 60
- Peak Zoom connections: ~50
- The ratio Female : Male in the registration is 4:10

ACP2021, Online

- Participants from Africa: 563 (34/ 54)
- Participants from outside Africa: 86



ASP Activities ASP – Mentorship

At all times:

- It runs continuously even when there is no school;
- Open to ASP student alumni in Ph.D. programs;
- Pairing of students to lecturers. Lecturers to mentor and coach them;
 - Not a replacement of academic advisors, rather in addition to / in collaboration with it
- Helps IOC track students after the school;
- Helps answer the questions, "Where are they now?", "What happens to them after they've attended ASP?"
 - These are legitimate questions
 - Mentorship program supplemented by periodic of surveys
- Program formalized soon after ASP2016;
- Through this program, we place ASP alumni in high education programs in South Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.



Participants in the 2018 African School of Physics, which took place in Namibia. Credit: Glibert Tékouté





ASP — EuPRAXIA PP Annual Meeting 2024, September 27, 2024

17

2019 (9)

ASP Activities

Short-Term Visits for Research

2022-2023 (6+) 2023-2024 (6)

Country of Citizenship of AS

22 alumni From 10 countries

LIBY

CHAD

Brookhaven

National Laboratory

Selected ASP alumni to spend 3-6 month at BNL for research

Assigned to work in research groups according to majors

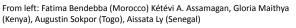
Areas of concentration:

Astrophysics & cosmology, nuclear physics, particle physics, light sources & materials characterization, nanoscience, nuclear instrumentation, radionuclide production & medical physics, particle accelerators, HEP computing.

June-December 2019

July-December 2022

July-December 2023







From left to right: in front, Christelle Ekosso (Cameroon), Dr. Mounia Laassiri (Morocco); standing, Diallo Boye (Senegal), Dr. Somiealo Azote (Togo), Jesutofunmi amm Fajemisin (Nigeria), Hassnae El Jarrari (Morocco), Dr. Kétévi A. Assamagan, Raymond Yogo (Kenya), and Yves Kini (Burkina Faso). Heba Sami Abdulrahman (Egypt), not in the figure, arrived in September.



From left: Asmaa Aboulhorma (Morocco), Zainab Soumaimi (Morocco), Kétévi A. Assamagan, Antalia Rabarisoa (Madagascar), Xola Mapekula (South Africa), Kayode Dada (Nigeria), Rado Fanantenana (Madagascar)





Public engagement in the host country's language

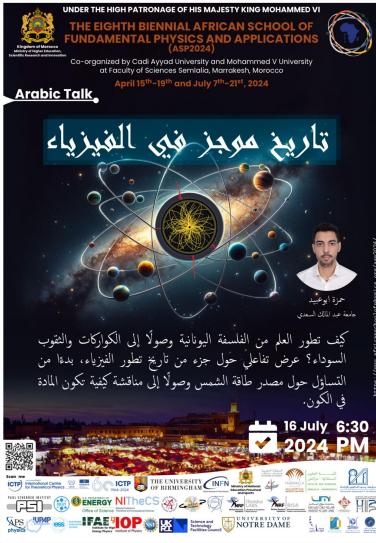
Event targeted the general public, in-person or online

@ASP2024

- The Power of Curiosity (Not Just in People, But in Nature)
 - The Golden Age of Islamic Science
 - The Evolution of Physics
 - Modern Physics: Bigger Questions



https://indico.cern.ch/event/1417241/timet able/?view=standard#b-567908-evening-n ews-public-o





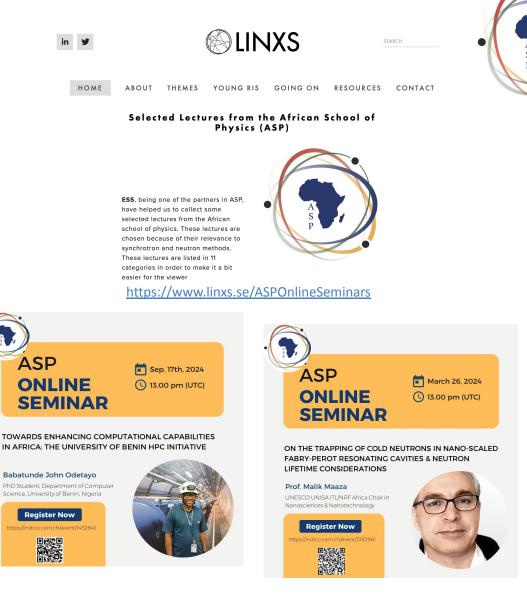


ASP– Online lecture series

Online Lectures started during Pandemic

- The following series have been captured in <u>Indico</u>
- Series 1 (May 7-Nov 19, 2020): ASP lecturers, see <u>the</u> topical version by LINXS
- Series 2 (Nov 24-Jan 02, 2021): Photons and Neutrons, see LINXS version
- Series 3 (since Feb 16, 2021): ASP Alumni

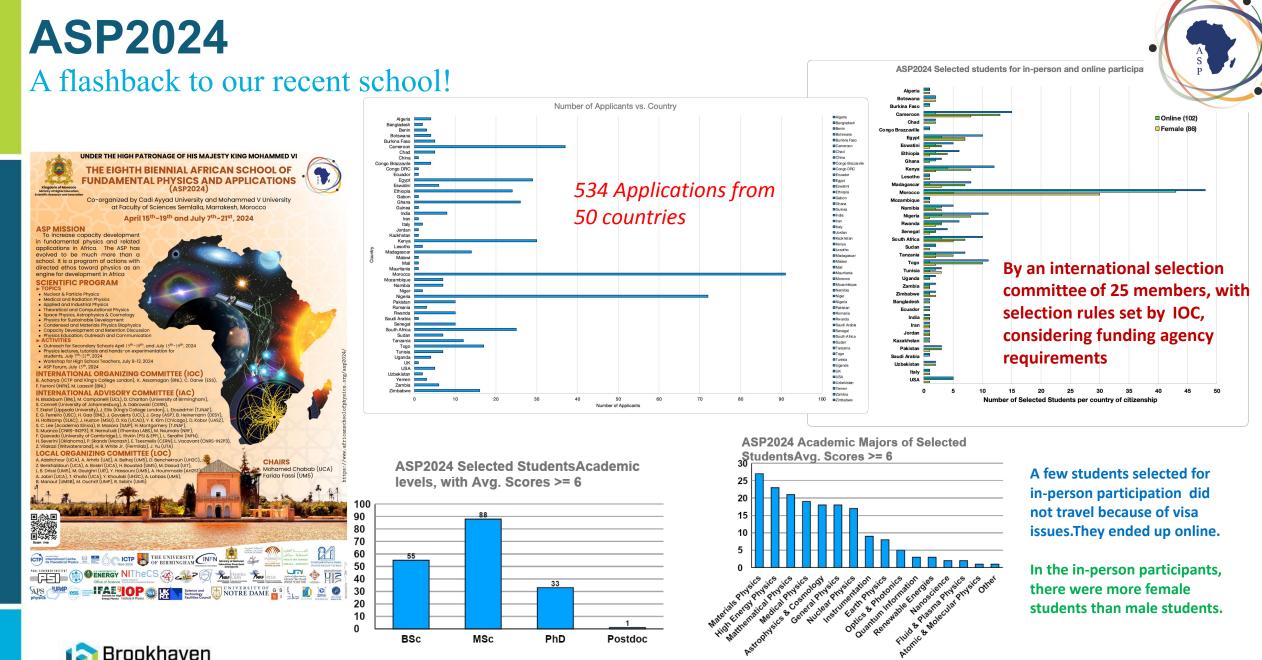
More organizational lectures: International Association for Physics Student (IAPS) (09/02/2021) ASP Mentorship Program (12/11/2020) NB: Most videos are available on the given Indico and gathered in the Video_PlayList.



What's next?

In October, we will have an ASP2024 Alumni Oral Presentation





ASP — EuPRAXIA_PP Annual Meeting 2024, September 27, 2024

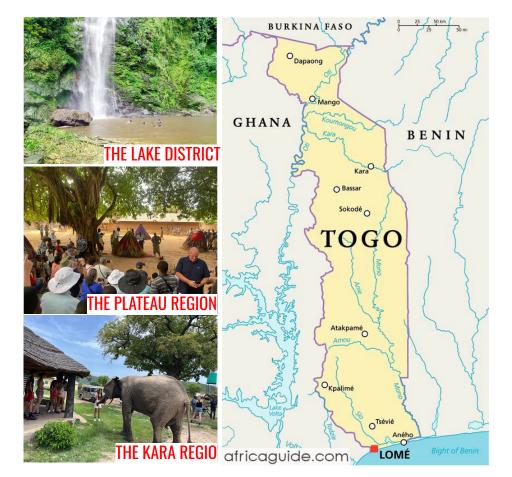
National Laboratory

ACP2025— Togo

The next host country of ASP/ ACP is selected 2.5 years earlier

- The next host invited to join the organization of current ASP/ ACP
- ACP2025/ ASP2026 will be organized in a hybrid modes
- ACP2025 will take place in 2025 in Togo at the University of Lome, September 15-21, 202
 - We did already start the preparation toward ACP2025
 - Site visit to be scheduled soon with a purpose:
 - Meet the LOC;
 - Secure support from host institute
 - Review logistics and make suggestions for improvements in time for the event
- We will arrange a training program for high school teachers (50-80)
- Further, we will include an outreach program for > 1000 learners
- Looking towards ASP2026 in Kenya
 - A Kenyan delegation was at ASP2024 in Morocco
 - Fundraising efforts start in earnest

ACP2025, University of Lome, Togo September 15-21, 2025





ASP2026— Kenya



ASP2026, University of Nairobi, Kenya

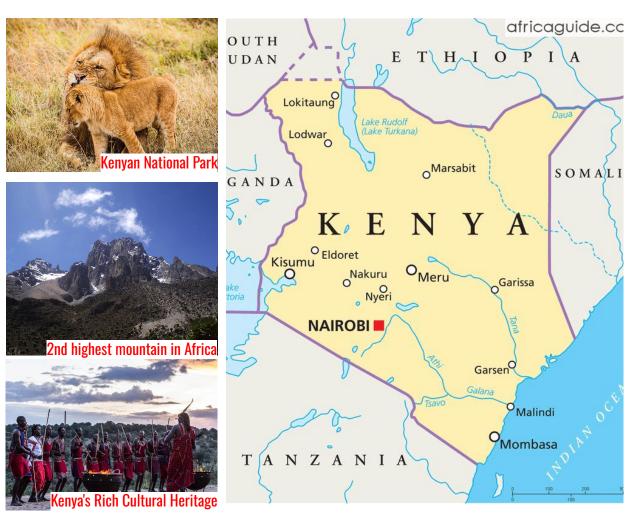
Kenyan delegation at ASP2024 in Morocco



Prof. Francis Wanjala Nyongesa discussed the Kenyan preparation towards hosting ASP2026



Prof. Njeri Mburu came to observe the ASP teachers' program





ASP— **IMPACT**

Dr. Sanae Samsam

- Alumna of ASP2016 and ASP Mentorship Program (with Prof. Luca Serafini) \bullet
- Began Ph.D. at La Sapienza University of Rome in 2019, in collaboration with INFN Milan
- PhD completed in April 2023 \bullet
- PostDoc at INFN Milan, under Luca Serafini (former INFN Research Director & STAR **Project Leader**)
- Short-term research stay at BNL, Jan–Mar 2024

a precious resource for scientists across the continent.



The Path of a Young African Woman Toward Light Sources

How the African School of Physics and mentorship opportunities Sense Semeen; Isituto Nazionele di Fisica Nucleare (NEN), Milano, Italy

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



Atending the African School of Physics (ASPI 11) in 2016 was a life-changin period of the second se nthas given me the confidence to pursue my PhD in physics. And that I will be forever grateful. In this article, I share my experie pactithes had on my career and personal growth.

Come True Through the ASP Mentorship Program my Threeweek stinist the ASP in Kigali, Newnola, I was exposed to an of ourses that were both interies and ingiving. This increable nee was further arriched by the company of new themas from various Afrika. The highlight of my time at the school was undoubtedly the ASP. der the guidance of my mentor Luca Serafini, I completed my firs road at the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics in Mila after being awarded my first two scholarships. The ternational Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) through the state of Heasaron in travial Laboratories (iet.) program (2) while the second was ted from the Islain Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international benation (MAECI). Subsequently, I was able to hone my skills and receive assistance in my quest to secure admission for a PHD at La Sepienza was of Some

https://apsphysics//The Path of a Young African Woman Towar d Light Sources.pdf

The First African Light Source Project Roundtable Discussion at the African Conference of Physics (ACP2023) Led by accelerator physics experts, a collaborative roundtabl Light Source Project (AFLS), attracting a global audience.

THE AFRICAN PHYSICS NEWSLETTER



iverse ideas and propositions, enriching the ACP experience with thought

ect (AfLS). This interactive platfor

Luca Serafin CONTRIBUTING ANUARY 2024

The 3rd biennial African Conference on Fundamental Physics and Applications (ACP)[1], converd a broad spectrum of typics, ranging from particle and nuclear physics to revealed be energies, hereby by bortering collaboration and innervitors. In depth of particle physics to versimize in one focus may be physics and application that using event offend a pattern for experts to discuss adjects as diverse as the physics in versimized theory and the physics and applications formation and physics in versimized to the physics and applications formation and physics and the physics and the physics and applications formation and physics. The physical physics are applied and physics formation and physics. Application and the physics and physics and physics. The physics and physics and the physics and physics and physics and physics. The physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics and physics. The physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics. The physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics. The physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics. The physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics and physics and physics and physics and physics are applied by the physics are applied by the physics and physics are applied by the physics are aphysics are applied by the physics are aphysics ar

African Light Source Discussion.pdf

ASP2024 Outreach Program

Sanae Samsar Istituto Nazionale di Fisio

Nucleare (INFN) Milano Ital



courtesy: Sanae Samsam (INFN)



Dr. Laza Rakotondravohitra Alumnus of ASP2010 PhD at Fermilab on MINERVA. Laza was instrumental in getting his country, Madagascar, into DUNE.



Dr. Marie Chantal Cvulinvana Alumna of ASP2016 PhD. Renewable energies Uni. of Johannesburg Rwandan Association of Women in Science & Engineering (RAWISE)

Dr. Samsam works on the optimization and simulation of spectra produced by Compton X-ray sources. Her work is not

realization of the first synchrotron beamline in Africa, a project that is now 20 years old and whose realization would be

only extremely important for the success of the STAR project but also represents a fundamental step towards the



Dr. Benard Mulilo Alumnus of ASP2010 PhD at RIKEN Japan on PHENIX. Mulilo has successfully developed a heavy ion physics program in Zambia, and the country has now joined the EIC.

Dr. Diallo Bove Alumnus of ASP2012 PhD, Dark Matter Uni. of Johannesburg Now, working at BNL as a Postdoc on the ATLAS Experiment Boye is a Goldhaber **Distinguished Fellow**



Dr. Ann Nieri Alumna of ASP2016. Ph.D., Ann Njeri Alumna of ASP2016, Ph.D., Astrophysics, University of Manchester, UK Currently, she is a Research Assistant, NCL, UK L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science 2024 Rising Talent Award



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https://apsphysics/The

...and many others!



ASP2010 Stellenbosch, South Africa August 1-21, 2010 ASP2012 Kumasi, Ghana July 15- August 4, 2012 ASP2014 Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar August 3-23, 2014 ASP2016 Kigali, Rwanda August 1-19, 2016

The African School of Physics is much more than a school. It is a program of actions with directed ethos toward physics as an engine for development in Africa!







2024 Marrakesh Morocco 2021 Virtual Edition 2014 Dakar Senegal 2012 2026 Kumazi Nairobi Ghana Kenya 10 2016 Kigali Rwanda $\sim\sim\sim$ 2018 Windhoek Namibia 2022 Gqeberha South Africa

2010 Stellenbosch South Africa



Grazie