Responsible Governance: A U.S. - Nigeria Exchange Program

The Abuja Mandate in front of the Nigerian National Assembly Building, Abuja, Nigeria

Sponsored by:
The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State

U.S. and Nigeria partners:
Michigan State University’s
Center for Advanced Study of International Development,
Women and International Development Program, and African Studies Center
and the Department of Political Science and Department of Sociology at the
University of Jos, Nigeria

Program Summary
Michigan State University and the University of Jos, Nigeria coordinated a governance partnership to enhance the capacities of Nigeria’s democratic institutions. The U.S. program provided training for Nigerian local government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and university scholars. Particular focus will be placed on how these representatives can more effectively collaborate to promote citizen participation in government decision-making and examine specific practices that promote an effective, accountable, transparent and responsive government. This collaboration between MSU and UJN sought to improve the effectiveness and accountability of these stakeholders by providing them with relevant capacity and skills to cope with the complex issues of governance and administration. It built upon Michigan State University’s extensive expertise in providing technical assistance and training to local leaders and managers worldwide. I gave a lecture to the participating fellows on Comparative Federalism: Nigeria and the US. Following the U.S portion of the programming, I joined a delegation of Michigan public officials, NGO representatives and MSU staff on trip to Nigeria to conduct in-country training workshops in Abuja, Nigeria coordinated by MSU and the University of Jos, Nigeria. As well, I conducted a lecture and workshop and Federalism, Democracy and Nation-Building: the US and Nigeria Learning from Each Other