Tanzania Alumni Workshop and Official Launch

The Tanzanian Australian Alumni Association was officially launched in a colourful ceremony attended by Tanzanian and Australian government officials.

Dr Francis Mhimbira, the current president of the Tanzanian Australian Alumni Association (TAAA) together with over thirty alumni attended the launch on May 29th 2015. The ceremony was presided over by Mr Mathias Kabunduguru, the Director of Policy Development, Public Service Management who spoke on behalf of Hon Celina Kombani, the Minister of State, President's Office Public Service Management.

"I really laud this initiative and call upon all alumni to use this network for knowledge sharing, strengthening and sustained friendship with Australia … The President's Office, Public Service Management, pledges to continue providing advisory support, and to further strengthen the already existing good relations between our two countries in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill."

With over 500 scholarships awarded to Tanzanian nationals since 1966, there is room for TAAA to grow. It was pleasant surprise to know that Mr Mathias Kabunduguru and other senior government officials in the Tanzanian Cabinet are Australia Awards alumni.

Also in attendance was the Deputy Premier of Western Australia Hon Dr Kim Hames who remarked *"I hope this association is the first of many more things to come. It is important for alumni who have learned different skills from Australia to come together as a group to develop Tanzania rather than go at it alone."*

On the day prior to this launch, about 25 alumni had the opportunity to participate in a professional development workshop sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The professional development workshop, which took place on the 28 of May, brought together alumni across Tanzania from as far as Kilimanjaro to those working in Zanzibar. Alumni discussed good qualities of a leader, conflict resolution and how to effectively manage change in the workplace.