

William E. Smith

African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network Advisory Board

William Smith has been involved in West Africa, particularly Sierra Leone, since 1994. His activities involve the private commercial sector of the economy. For numerous years, he and his Sierra Leone business partner operated a 98-foot vessel transporting passengers and freight between Freetown and Conakry, Guinea. As a Fulbright scholar in 2013, he examined Sierra Leone's attempt to bolster entrepreneurship and small business management within the country's agricultural community. He also taught a course in entrepreneurship and small business management in the University of Sierra Leone's Master of Business Administration program. Since 2013, Dr. Smith has concentrated on boosting Sierra Leone's domestic rice industry through an improved private sector supply chain.

While conducting research on behalf of the U.S. Embassy during his Fulbright experience, Dr. Smith was introduced to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Since that point forward, he has become very active in the promotion of AGOA, especially in the areas of entrepreneurship, small business management, and the creation of supply chains for the purpose of product exportation.

William Smith received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication, Masters in Business Administration majoring in Finance, and Jurist Doctorate Degree from Michigan State University. He earned his Ph.D. in African Development and Policy from Howard University in Washington, DC. He also conducted post graduate work at the University of Michigan in African economies in relationship to social and political settings as well as international trade and policy.