

African Women of Excellence



H.E. Ambassador Alice Dear

Africanist, businesswoman and former banker, Ambassador Alice Dear is President of A.M. Dear & Associates, a business advisory boutique promoting private sector investment and public-private partnerships in Africa. A strong advocate for gender equity and women's economic empowerment, she is a frequent speaker on strategies to support small and medium scale enterprises. Ambassador Dear is also President of Unique Afrique, Inc., a web-based importer of unique fashion accessories handcrafted primarily by African women.

Her familiarity with the nuances of African business, political, and economic affairs complements her skills in international finance garnered during an 11-year tenure on Wall Street. In 1994 President Clinton appointed Ms. Dear, with unanimous Senate confirmation as Executive Director of the African Development Bank, Africa's premier financial institution. From 1994-2000 she represented the U.S. Government on the Boards of Directors at Bank headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, where she shared responsibility for oversight of the Bank's financial, operational and administrative management.

Prior to her presidential appointment, Ms. Dear honed her skills in international banking, finance and marketing at Irving Trust Company (now Bank of New York Mellon) where she rose from international trainee to Vice President in the Middle East and Africa Group. She left banking to launch an international consulting business, A.M. Dear & Associates.

Ms. Dear began a life of uninterrupted international travel after college when she joined Pan American World Airways. For 8 years she traveled the globe as a New York-based flight attendant and purser, taught in Pan Am's training center in Miami and cut her teeth in development in Pan Am's Technical Assistance Program as a consultant serving as Flight Service Specialist to Air Zaire in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (then Zaire).

A frequent lecturer, panelist and moderator at conferences on international development, finance and gender issues, Ambassador Dear represents Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) as Non-Governmental Organization affiliate at the United Nations in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. She is a current Board Member of Women's eNews, an online news service covering women's local and global issues and the Atlanta-based IUGB Foundation, whose mission is to provide financial assistance to help the International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB) in Cote d'Ivoire realize its vision of becoming a Regional Center of Excellence in Higher Education. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Planning Committee of Global Summit of Women.

Ambassador Dear holds a M.B.A. from Pace University, and a B.A. from Howard University. Born and raised in Gary, Indiana, the avid traveler speaks French fluently. She is a long-time resident of the Village of Harlem in New York City.