Australian Education Program: Social and Economic Benefits for Africa

By Kofi Osei Bonsu
Challenges for an African student seeking higher education (in Africa)

- Inadequate infrastructure and facilities
- Lack of Funding
- Inadequate study materials
- Lack of Conducive study environment
Why study abroad?

- Worldwide Connections
- Quality Education
- Student Experience
- Employment Prospects
- Travel Opportunities
Why study in Australia?

- Specialist Institutions
- Quality of Scientific Research
- Service & Support
- Conducive Environment
- Flexibility to Work & Study
- Job Opportunities
- Multicultural Society
- Qualification Recognition
- Quality Assurance
- Funding & Scholarships
A special brand of education producing a new generation of scholars, innovators, and leaders.
Gain a competitive edge
Engaged in international work.
Establish professional relationships abroad.

Increased respect and appreciation for other cultures.

Self-confidence, adaptability, maturity, tolerance, refined world view.

Its People

Social & Cultural Benefits

Personal Growth

Career Benefits
Ripple Effect

Economic and Political Benefits

✓ Social capital transfer (capacity, norms, values,) that go to strengthen institutions, influence policy networking (Examples of networking: Cameroon alumni) and eventually development

✓ Offer home country training and skills geared towards the requirements of economic development in a globalizing world.
Ripple Effect

Economic and Political Benefits

- Offer home country institutions new partnerships, collaborative projects and other opportunities.

- Workforce development.

- The opportunity to study abroad enhances home country educational programs through the transfer of knowledge and know how.
Thomas Kaydor
Kaydor volunteered as a Representative for ANU College of Asia and the Pacific in the Postgraduate and Research Students’ Association in order to stay connected and represent the ANU student community.

The images above are from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the International Conference on Financing for Development and representing Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as a Panelist at a side event organized by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and WaterAid - an international NGO.
Ngang Eric
Ngang Eric

- Created the Action Group on Governance and Environmental Management (AGGEM).
- Community gravity water schemes, offer low cost solution to the problem of access to potable water.
- Working with communities offers opportunities for learning the invaluable inherent skills and expertise community members have.
Where to next?

✓ How can **WE** maximise these opportunities?
  ✓ Role of African governments and institutions
    ✓ What do I need?
    ✓ Who can provide it?
    ✓ How can it help ‘our’ education system?
✓ Role of Australian education providers
✓ Role of AusTrade, etc