



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?



Why study in Australia?



Study in Australia: Benefits for Africa

A special brand of education producing a new generation of scholars, innovators, and leaders.



Its People



Social & Cultural Benefits

Increased respect and appreciation for other cultures.

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

Personal Growth

Career Benefits

Gain a competitive edge
Engaged in international work.
Establish professional relationships abroad.



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