AAUN Education Session

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Context

- Africa - 1.033 billion (2013), 54 countries
- 2,450 post-secondary institutions, 7% of the world’s total (Okebukkola, 2015).
- Over 65% of institutions - universities (UNESCO, 2013).
  - SADC students the most mobile worldwide; 6 out of every 100 studying abroad
  - 50%, taking place intra regionally
Challenges

- Research capacity: Facilities; dissemination, funding
- Expenditure 0.5% GDP on research
- Global annual share of publications 1% (ADEA, 2015)
- Shortage of research expertise and experienced supervisors (Mutula 2009)
- Collaborative research - 66% of the continent’s research
Challenges

- Youth unemployment
- Relationship between higher education and industry
- Concern about the low quality of academic standard and skills displayed at work
- Universities are not providing students with adequate opportunities to develop the skills required to realise these aspirations (self employment)
Opportunities

- Africa is the youngest continent in the world with a large working age population.
Opportunities

• 40% of its working age population is between the ages of 15 and 24, youngest in the world
• 200 million youth in Africa – double in 2045
• Urbanisation and growing cities
• Soon: 80 cities with more than 1 million people each
• Megacities, Kinshasa, Lagos and Cairo, Johannesburg, with more than 10 million residents
Where to, and How?

- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Research and knowledge generation
- Centres of Excellence
- Bridge the gap between universities and industry
- Skills development programmes for youth development
- Formal programmes and community outreach programmes