

## Australia-Africa Education Partnerships for Development AAUN Forum and AGM 4-6 September 2017

### Participants Biographies

#### Opening Session 1 - Australia Africa: Education Partnerships for Development

##### **Professor John Hearn**

***Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)***

***Board Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)***

John Hearn is Chairman of the Australia Africa Universities Network ([www.aaun.edu.au](http://www.aaun.edu.au)); Board Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network ([www.wun.ac.uk](http://www.wun.ac.uk)) and Professor of Reproductive Physiology (School of Medical Sciences) at the University of Sydney. Born in India and raised in England and Kenya, he was awarded his BSc MSc and DSc(hc) from UC Dublin, and PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). He served for 6-7 years each in leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU and Sydney. Most recently, he was Vice President (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and Vice President (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He teaches first year and advanced students in science and biomedicine. He has published 210 research papers and edited six books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell science and biotechnology. A committed international citizen, he has worked globally in institutional and research capacity development, especially in China, India, Thailand, Kenya and Brazil. He is an adviser to the Australian Government, WHO, British Council, OECD, and Swedish Science and Technology International. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and founding Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute.

##### **Professor Robyn Anne Owens**

***Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Western Australia (UWA)***

Professor Robyn Owens is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and has responsibility for research policy development and leadership of the University's research activities, postgraduate education, industry liaison, intellectual property and commercialisation.

Professor Owens has a BSc (Hons) from UWA and a MSc and a DPhil from Oxford, all in Mathematics. She worked at l'Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay, continuing research in mathematical analysis before returning to UWA to work as a research mathematician.

She has lectured in Mathematics and Computer Science at UWA, and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Berkeley, as well as for shorter periods in Thailand and New Zealand. Her research has focussed on computer vision, including feature detection in images, 3D shape measurement, image understanding, and representation. She is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society and a winner of the UK Rank Prize. In 2012, Professor Owens was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Professor Owens led development and research training through her previous role as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Research Training) at UWA. Prior to this, she was Head of the School of Computer Science & Software Engineering at UWA. She is currently Chair of the Universities Australia DVCR committee and a Board member of the Integrated Marine Observing System and the Population Health Research Network.

**HONOURABLE MRS. LEELA DEVI DOOKUN-LUCHOOMUN**

***Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius***

Honourable (Mrs) Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun is currently the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research. Holder of a BSC (Hons) from the University of Delhi and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the Mauritius Institute of Education as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of Brighton, she has been a teacher of Biology for a period spanning 28 years. She had equally been a part-time lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education.

Her strong urge to contribute to society's betterment and her determination to set her own benchmarks acted as a springboard for her entry into politics. Mrs. Dookun-Luchoomun joined the *Mouvement Socialiste Militant* (MSM) party and, in the course of a rich career that also saw her occupying other Ministerial posts, she has risen within the party ranks to be its current Vice President and the President of the women's wing.

Residing in Vacoas, Mauritius, Mrs. Dookun Luchoomun is married and has two sons.

**Mr Matthew Neuhaus**

***First Assistant Secretary***

***Middle East and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)***

Mr Matthew Neuhaus has commenced in his current role as acting First Assistant Secretary, Middle East and Africa Division in May 2017. His previous role was Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from 27 July 2015. Prior to this, he was the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe from January 2011 to March 2015 (accredited also to DRC, Malawi and Zambia).

Mr Neuhaus has served in several senior positions in DFAT in Canberra, including as the Head of the Pacific Engagement Taskforce and Head of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Policy Task Force in 2010. He was the Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London 2002-2008.

His previous postings with DFAT include Kenya (1983-1985), Papua New Guinea (1988-1989), New York (1991-94) and Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria – accredited also to Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal and The Gambia (1997-2000). He was seconded to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Senior Adviser, International Division) from 2001-2002.

Mr Neuhaus has a B.A. (Hons) LLB from the University of Sydney and a Master of Philosophy (International Relations) from the University of Cambridge. He also

attended the Harvard University Kennedy School Leaders in Development Program in June 2006, and was a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University in 2015.

**H.E. Mr Isaiya Kabira**

***High Commissioner of Kenya to Australia and New Zealand***

H.E. Isaiya Kabira is the High Commissioner of Kenya to Australia and New Zealand. Since his posting Kabira has sought to define his agenda through the pillars of TOURISM, TRADE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, MINING, HEALTH, and SECURITY (TTEAHMS). Prior to his appointment, from January 2003 to 2013, Kabira was the Press Secretary of H.E. President Mwai Kibaki. Prior to joining the Government in 2003, he worked with various private local media firms. He is a graduate of the University of Nairobi where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Anthropology in 1990. Between 1990 and 2002, he undertook various study tours on broadcast journalism in the USA, UK, Germany and China.

**H.E. Mr Mark Sawers**

***Australian Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan; Australian Permanent Representative to the African Union***

H.E. Mr Sawers is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is currently Australia's Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan. He is also Australian Permanent Representative to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Prior to this appointment, he was Director, East Asia Summit and Regional Issues Section. He has served overseas as High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (February 2009 - August 2012), DFAT Adviser to the Commander, International Stabilisation Force in Dili (October 2007- February 2008) and as First Secretary, later Counsellor, at the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva (2003-2006).

Mr Sawers attended the senior staff college at the Australian Defence College in 2008 and he holds a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. He also holds a Master of International Law degree, a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics.

**H.E. Mr Andrew Barnes**

***Australian High Commissioner to Ghana***

H.E. Mr Andrew Barnes is Australian High Commissioner to Ghana with accreditation also to Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Prior to taking up his appointment as High Commissioner in June 2016, he was Director of the Southern, Central and West Africa Section in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Before joining the Africa Branch, Andrew was Director of DFAT's Counter Terrorism Cooperation Section managing CT engagement and capacity building programs in Indonesia and the Philippines. During his career in DFAT, Andrew has had postings in Canada and Stockholm and also worked in the Department's Western Australia State Office. In 1995-96 he worked for the World Food Program and then with an NGO in southern Sudan, managing emergency food relief operations and IDP camps.

**H.E. Mr Paul Lehmann**

***Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria, with non-resident accreditation to Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, the Gambia and Niger***

H.E. Mr Lehmann is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Until recently, he was Assistant Secretary of the Consular Operations Branch. Prior to that, he served for two and a half years as Minister Counsellor (Development) at the Australian Embassy in Kabul.

In Canberra, Mr Lehmann has filled a number of senior roles, including positions responsible for human resource management, corporate services, development policy, humanitarian assistance and bilateral aid program delivery in the former AusAID.

Mr Lehmann holds a Bachelor of Architecture Studies and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide.

**Professor Maano Ramutsindela**

***Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town***

Maano Ramutsindela holds a PhD in geography from Royal Holloway, University of London. He is Professor in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town. A Conon Collins scholar and a Fellow of the Society of South African Geographers, Ramutsindela held the Distinguished Hubert H Humphrey Visiting Chair of International Studies at Macalester College and the Mandela Mellon Fellow of W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University. He is the Co-Chair (with David Mickler) of the WUN Global Africa Group.

Ramutsindela uses political ecology and political geography to understand power dynamics in the management and use of natural resources. In the past 15 years he researched and published widely on peace parks in southern Africa. He is interested in how peace parks as a new conservation paradigm shape nature conservation policies and also create new narratives of development, co-existence and security at national and regional levels. His current project focuses on the impact and implications of peace parks on the goals of land reform in southern Africa. Ramutsindela's latest publication is "Greening Africa's borderlands: The symbiotic politics of land and borders in peace parks", *Political Geography* 56 (2017): 106-113.

**Dr David Mickler**

***Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, University of Western Australia (UWA)***

Dr David Mickler is a Senior Lecturer in Foreign Policy and International Relations in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Australia (UWA), and founder and Coordinator of the UWA Africa Research Cluster. David is also the inaugural Co-Chair of the Worldwide University Network's Global Africa Group (WUN GAG). He was previously a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Melbourne (2010-14) and a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2013). At UWA, David teaches units on the international politics of Africa, peace and security in Africa, international security, and responding to international crises. David's research sits at the intersection of International Relations and African Studies, with a focus on the regional politics of security and governance in Africa. David is the co-editor, with T. Lyons, of *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Towards Africa* (Melbourne

University Press, 2013) and co-author, with S. Makinda and F. W. Okumu, of *The African Union: Addressing the Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (Routledge, 2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). He is currently co-authoring, with G. Mukundi, a new book on the *African Governance Architecture*, and co-editing, with M. Ramutsindela, a new volume on *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*.

**[Session 2 - Practical implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education, Research, Entrepreneurism, Employment – the role of Networks](#)**

**Professor Deborah Sweeney**

***Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Western Sydney University***

Professor Deborah Sweeney is the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation at Western Sydney University. She provides leadership and guidance to achieve the University's strategic priorities for research and innovation and focusses on quality assurance and enhancement. In addition, she is responsible for supporting the research portfolios within the Schools and Institutes.

Deborah joined Western Sydney in 2009 and has more than 20 years' experience in research and research management. She received her Bachelor of Optometry from UNSW in 1980, joining the Cornea & Contact Lens Research Unit within the School of Optometry, UNSW. Since completing her PhD in 1992, she has held various executive roles within the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit and Vision CRC and its predecessor the CRC for Eye Research and Technology, including five years as Chief Executive Officer of Vision CRC.

Her major research area has been corneal physiology, her work has been instrumental in developing an understanding of the physiology of the human cornea and the effects of contact lens wear and refractive surgery on corneal function characteristics and the development of alternative forms of vision correction. Deborah has published over 100 refereed articles and several book chapters, and is co-inventor on two patents.

**Professor Ernest Aryeetey**

***Secretary General, African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)***

Prof Ernest Aryeetey is the foundation Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), a network of 16 of Africa's flagship universities. He is a Professor of Economics and former Vice Chancellor of University of Ghana (2010-2016). He was also previously Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) (2003-2010) at University of Ghana and the first Director of the Africa Growth Initiative of Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.

Professor Aryeetey studied at University of Ghana and undertook graduate work at Universitaet Dortmund, completing in 1985. He has held academic appointments at the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), Yale University and Swarthmore College in the U.S. at various points in time. Ernest Aryeetey was appointed a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations University by the U.N. Secretary-General in May 2016, and was previously Chairman of the Governing Board of UNU-World Institute for Development Economics Research (Helsinki). He is also a member of the Governing Board of the Centre for Development Research at University of Bonn. He served as Resource Person and member of the Programme Committee of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi) for many years. He is currently a Board member of Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited.

**Professor Peter M. F. Mbithi**

***Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi (UoN)***

Prof Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi is the Vice Chancellor and Professor of Veterinary Surgery, University of Nairobi (UoN). Born in 1956, Prof. Mbithi graduated from UoN with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine in 1983 and an MSc. in Clinical Studies in 1985. In 1987 he graduated with a Master of Veterinary Science from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and in 1995, he completed his PhD at UoN. He is an accomplished and transformational leader, a senior executive and eminent scholar with visionary and high level leadership insights and experience of over 30 years. Prof Mbithi has a track record in providing progressive University leadership and management. He has received several international and regional awards in recognition of his work.

**Mrs Di Fleming, FACEA FACE**

***Executive Director, Ducere Foundation; Interim Chair, Advisory Group on Australia Africa Relations (AGAAR);***

As Executive Director of the Ducere Foundation and Founding President of the Australia Africa Chamber of Commerce, Di has been working in Africa for nearly ten years, building commercial relationships, leading trade missions and delegations, and creating teaching and learning models for school improvement.

The Ducere Foundation is working in schools across 17 African countries to support the development of the African Children's Stories Program and also working with tertiary institutions in the sphere of incubation, entrepreneurship and enterprise models for change.

As the Principal of Kilvington Girls Grammar, Di was the first educator to become Telstra Victorian Businesswoman of the Year Award. Di is the founder and former CEO of Digital Harbour a major greenfield technology development at the Melbourne Docklands, founding CEO of Lab 3000 - the Centre for Excellence in Digital Design at RMIT University and a former associate professor in education and digital design at the Universities of Melbourne and RMIT respectively.

Di is the Interim Chair of the Advisory Group on Australia Africa Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government.

**Ms Gita Kamath**

***Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)***

Ms Gita Kamath is a senior career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is currently Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, a position she took up in May 2017. Ms Kamath has held a range of positions in DFAT including Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Australian Embassy Paris, Assistant Secretary, Agriculture and Food Branch, Assistant Secretary, Domestic Legal Branch, Director, Arms Control Section, and First Secretary, Australian High Commission, Singapore. Prior to joining DFAT, Ms Kamath worked as a solicitor with Clayton Utz. Ms Kamath holds a BA LLB from UNSW, a Grad Dip in Legal Practice from UTS and an MA (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from the ANU.

**Mr Johnson Kinyua**

***Director of University Advancement, University of Nairobi***

Johnson Ileri Kinyua is the Director of University Advancement in the Office of the Vice Chancellor at the University of Nairobi. He is in charge of Alumni Relations, Fundraising and Friend-raising, Marketing and Communications and Strategic Partnerships and

Collaborations. He is the immediate former Executive Director of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and has over 17 years professional experience in Non Profit Organisations, Private Sector and Academia (Higher Education).

Johnson holds MBA (Strategic), Master in Public Administration, B.Com (Management) from the University of Nairobi and currently finalising a PhD in Human Resources Management. He has attended several professional training programmes in Advancement and Alumni Relations, Public Private Partnerships, Ethics and Governance, Leadership Development Programmes and many more. He has a passion for Institutional and Human Resources Development (IHRD).

### *Session 3 – Security: Environment, food, nutrition and health*

#### **Ms Mellissa Wood**

##### ***General Manager, Global Programs, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)***

Mellissa Wood is ACIAR's General Manager, Global Programs and Director, Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) 2012-2016. She has a strong interest in improving the adoption of research outputs for food and nutrition security outcomes. As AIFSC Director, her research focus broadened to include designing and monitoring for nutrition elements in food security research. Previously, she was Director, Program Development, Global Crop Diversity Trust (2007-2012), working with FAO and CGIAR on developing and implementing a global strategy for the conservation and access of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

In Australia, Mellissa's experience includes 15 years in the Bureau of Rural Sciences, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry supporting evidence-based agriculture and natural resource policy using spatial data and online decision support tools. This included as Program Leader, Information and Risk Sciences where she managed the establishment of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (CEBRA) in 2006 and ran a team that provided scientific support to Biosecurity Australia. Prior to that, Mellissa was Manager of Australia's National Forest Inventory where she represented Australia on the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Montreal Process. Mellissa holds a BSc Resource and Environmental Management and Master in Public Policy in Development.

#### **Dr Aldo Stroebe**

##### ***Executive Director Strategic Partnerships, the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa***

Dr Aldo Stroebe is Executive Director Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa. He holds an academic affiliation at Cornell University's (USA) Institute for African Development as Visiting Fellow. He is an elected Founding Member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), under auspices of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), based on research excellence and academic publications (incl. two edited books). He has been acknowledged as a leader in the internationalisation of Higher Education and research and innovation management, and served as President of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), and as member of the Research and Innovation Strategy Group of Universities SA (2006-2016). He holds Ministerial appointments to the boards of the Water Research Commission (WRC) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), and to the National Education and Training Forum for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

(NETFAFF). At the NRF, he serves as South Africa's National Contact Point for H2020's ERC. Education credentials: University of Pretoria (BSc- and Hons-degrees); University of Ghent, Belgium (Masters in International Agricultural Development); University of the Free State and Cornell University, USA (PhD); Postdoctoral research at Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

**Dr Peter Johnston**

***Climate Impacts Researcher***

***Climate System Analysis Group, University of Cape Town***

Peter Johnston is a climate scientist at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on the applications and impacts of climate variability and change in agriculture and water related activities with special emphasis on vulnerability and adaptation options. He has worked closely with the Western Cape Government in developing a climate change vulnerability study. He was involved in the African Centre for Cities building adaptation frameworks for both Cape Town and Johannesburg, and assisted with NAP training in The Gambia and South Africa. Current research includes the application of models to determine the sustainable adaptation options for agricultural under climate change scenarios for commercial and small scale farmers. His latest work (PI) is focused on the climate risks and decision-making time frames associated with agriculture and food security.

He was PI of a AAUN Proposal Development titled "Agro-diverse farming systems in Africa: potential for improving Food and Nutritional Security in the context of climate variability and change" working with and involving parallel case studies in South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria and Western Australia. This proposal has not yet been funded, but is still under revision.

He has numerous publications and co-authored the South African chapter of Southern African Agriculture and Climate Change.

**Professor Dhanjay Jhurry**

***Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius***

Professor Dhanjay Jhurry was appointed Vice-Chancellor on 6 March 2017 and he assumed office on 9 March 2017.

He received his PhD in Polymer Chemistry in 1992 from Bordeaux-1 University (France). After spending three years as Research Chemist at Flamel Technologies company in Lyon, France working on biomedical polymers, in December 1994, he joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Mauritius as Lecturer and was appointed Professor in 2005. He held the post of National Research Chair in Biomaterials and Drug Delivery under the Mauritius Research Council from 2012 to 2016. He founded and headed the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), a centre attached to the University of Mauritius, from 2011 to 2016.

Prof Jhurry worked on sucrose-based polymers for his PhD. His mainstream research in polymer science, biomaterials and tissue engineering, nanotechnology/ nanomedicine and drug delivery has led to 70 papers in scholarly journals. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Polymer International and also a member of the IUPAC Committee on Polymers.

He has received various national and international awards and recognition including the first Best Mauritian Scientist Award in 2011, the 'Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' *insignia* by the Rep. of Mauritius in 2012 and the 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques' *insignia* by the Rep. of France in 2007. He was designated



'Mauricien de l'Annee 2011' by local newspaper l'Express. Prof Jhurry was also Vice-President of the COMESA Innovation Council from 2013 to 2015.

**Ms Lisa Sharland**

***Head of the International Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)***

Lisa Sharland is the Head of the International Program at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) Canberra where her research examines a range of international security issues with a focus on Australia-Africa engagement, UN peace operations, and women, peace and security. She is also responsible for managing ASPI's engagement in the biennial Australia-Africa Dialogue with the Brenthurst Foundation. She is currently a non-resident fellow in the Protecting Civilians in Conflict program at the Stimson Center in Washington DC. Prior to joining ASPI, Lisa worked as the Defence Policy Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations in New York, where she provided advice on peacekeeping and defence-related policy issues and represented the Australian government in multilateral negotiations. Lisa will be launching a new ASPI report on "Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Africa: The Role of the Mining Sector" at the 2017 Africa Down Under conference in Perth.

**Professor Janet Bornman**

***School of Management, Curtin University***

Prof Janet Bornman was the Founding Director of the International Institute of Agri-Food Security at Curtin University where she established a cross-Faculty network with national and international outreach. Prior to that she has held positions as Director of the International Global Change Centre, in Hamilton, New Zealand, and Research Director at the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, in Denmark. Janet was also contracted by the European Union to monitor and report on projects on Environment and Sustainable Development.

She currently chairs the United Nations Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, and is Principal Investigator for an AAUN project on agro-diverse farming systems in Africa for assessing the potential for improving food security in the context of climate variability and change. As an additional extension of this AAUN project Janet is developing together with colleagues, a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, international graduate training programme as a pilot initiative, to link climate change and nutritional needs to agriculture.

**Associate Professor Stuart Johnson**

***School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University***

Stuart's research has been based in academia, industry and Government and focusses on: (a) value-addition to grains through food product and process development and (b) extraction and purification of grain protein and dietary fibre fractions for food ingredients, nutraceuticals and biomaterials and (c) in vitro and human studies to understand the health benefits of new grain foods. Key activities in his research are: (a) grain varietal and production environment selection for targeted end-use; (b) formulation and process optimisation for new grain-based food products for chronic disease prevention and energy/micronutrient malnutrition and (c) novel grain-protein biomaterial systems (microparticles and films) for encapsulation and controlled release of bioactives in food preservation and nutraceutical applications. His research utilises: (a) chemical and physical analytical techniques; (b) predictive statistical modelling; (c)

sensory evaluation; (d) in vitro models of the human gastrointestinal tract; (e) human clinical trials.

He is/ has been a Chief Investigator on funding applications attracting in excess of Aus\$2,000,000. External funding has been provided by the Australian Research Council, Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Horticulture Australia Ltd, Royal Perth Hospital Medical Research Foundation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia, Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing, InovoBiologic, and the Australia-Africa Universities Network.

Since 2005 he has been an author on 48 published or accepted peer reviewed journal articles, 2 book chapters and many conference invited papers.

#### **Dr Brian Kullin**

##### ***Australia Awards Pos-Doctoral Fellow***

##### ***Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town (UCT)***

Originally from Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, I am currently a microbiologist in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town. I have a particular research interest in the anaerobic bacteria that reside in the human gastrointestinal tract and the roles that they have to play in both health and disease. Recently I have been involved in various projects that focus on *Clostridium difficile*, a gut pathogen that is able to cause serious disease in hospitalised patients. Particularly at risk are patients with TB infection who receive intensive, long-term antibiotic therapy that disrupts the normal microbial communities in the gut and allows toxin-producing *C. difficile* strains to proliferate. I am interested in understanding the local epidemiology of the organism with a view to improving the treatment and management of patients with the disease in South Africa.

#### **Prof Hettie Schönfeldt**

##### ***Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria***

Hettie Schönfeldt R Nutri (UK) (SA) PriSciNat (Fd Sci), is Professor Extraordinaire and Research Leader for the Biofortification Programme in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria. She is a rated scientist and a principal investigator in the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security. Hettie is a team member of the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) which provides a yearly Agricultural Outlook (currently 2014 - 2023) on African Food Systems, with her focus particularly at the nutrition and consumer interface. She is a reviewer of nutrition programmes for the South African Department: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation of the Presidency. She serves as scientific advisor to the South African National Department of Health, which includes tasks such as the development of policies, advisory panels and Codex. She serves as scientific advisor to AFROFOODS, a network on the African continent, training 134 individual participants from 24 different African countries forming part of IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force. Hettie was chief rapporteur of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Protein Requirements for human health. She also formed part of the Evaluation Team that considered FAO's work in Nutrition worldwide.

#### **Ms Fiona Pakoa**

##### ***Team Leader, Australia Awards – Africa program***

Fiona Pakoa is the Team Leader, Australia Awards – Africa based in Pretoria, South Africa. Fiona has worked on the Australia Awards – Africa program since January 2011.

Initially based in Brisbane, Australia, she joined as Team Leader in April 2015. Prior to joining Palladium, who manages Australia Awards – Africa on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Fiona was the International Relations Manager at the University of Queensland. She was the inaugural University of Queensland representative who managed the scholarships contract when the Australia government devolved scholarship management to universities in 1997. She served on the Queensland Education and Training International taskforce in the Queensland Premier's department from 2004 to 2007. Prior to emigrating to Australia, Fiona was an agricultural economist in Africa and Vanuatu.

Fiona holds a MA(Hons) from Edinburgh University in Economics and Economic History, an MSc in Agricultural Economics from Imperial College, MEd in International Education from Monash and is currently studying a Masters of Strategic Organisational Development from the University of New England.

### [The Synergies between Africa-Australia-China in Education, Extractives, Business](#)

#### **Professor Prem Ramburuth**

##### ***Business School, University of New South Wales***

Prem Ramburuth is Professor in International Business at the UNSW Business School, University of New South Wales, Sydney. She has held several leadership positions at UNSW including immediate past President of the Academic Board, Associate Dean Education, Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs, and Head of the School of Management. Prem researches and teaches in Cross-Cultural and Diversity Management in Business and Higher Education, and her more recent research focuses on Emerging Economies, including the BRICS countries. She is on the editorial board of the *Academy of Management Learning and Education*, *Journal for Multicultural Education*, *International Journal of Emerging Markets* and *Chinese Management Studies*. She is Chair of the UNSW Africa Strategy Group and leads an academic development program in Uganda for the UNSW Institute for Global Development. Prem is also Chair of the National Institute of Dramatic Board (NIDA) Academic Board, a member of the Australian National Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) Expert Panel, and Higher Education QA Assessor for the Fiji National Higher Education Commission and the University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia. She has been a Visiting Professor at VNU Hanoi Business School and VNU International University (Vietnam), and University of Colorado (Denver).

#### **Professor Qinhua Xu**

##### ***Professor, International political economy; Director, the Center for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies, Renmin University of China***

Xu Qinhua is Professor of International political economy, Director of the Center for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies and deputy director of Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Studies at Renmin University of China in Beijing. She is active in the energy sector and is entrusted with a number of advisory posts in the China government agencies and international bodies. She is now an expert consultant of National Energy Administration, member of Petroleum Economics Standing Committee, China; a committee member of the World Energy Council; and the founder of China International Energy Cooperation Forum. She is now the editor of the annual report *China International Energy Cooperation*. Her other publications include *China's Energy Policy in National and International Perspectives: Energy Revolution and*

*The Belt and Road Initiative* (2017 in English); *New Geopolitics: Central Asia Energy and China* (2007); *A Study on China Foreign Energy Strategy* (2014); *China Energy Policy in National and International Perspectives: A Study Fore-and-Aft 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress* (2014 in English); *An Introduction to Energy Diplomacy* (2012); *A Comparative Studies on Clean Energy Development* (2013); *Cultural Differences Comparative Studies: for Facilitating International Cooperation* (2013 in English); and over 80 professional articles and essays, as well as one translated book on Great Central Asia History for UNESCO.

**Associate Professor Dr Emmanuel Laryea**

***Law Faculty, Monash University***

Dr Emmanuel Laryea is an Associate Professor in the Law Faculty, Monash University. He is member of the Monash Centre for Commercial Law and Regulatory studies. Dr Laryea's teaching and research interest is in International Economic Law and African Development. He is a Supervising Professor on UNCTAD's IIAs Mapping Project; and member of UNCITRAL's Panel of Experts on E-Commerce Law. He is the author of several publications, including: 'Implications of the Rise of the BRIC Countries for Africa', in Vai lo Lo and Mary Hiscock (eds), *The Rise of the BRICs in the Global Political Economy: Changing Paradigms?* (2014) Edward Elgar, 123-141; (with Ionnides K.) 'International Investment Agreements and Sovereign Debt Restructuring: Some Issues for African Economies Issuing Sovereign Bonds on International Capital Markets' in Boulle L, Laryea, E.T. and Sucker F (eds), *International Economic Law and African Development* (2014) Siber Ink Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa, 111-139; (with Scata, J.), 'Involvement of Civil Society in the Evolution of International Investment Law: Beneficial to Africa?' in Boulle L, Laryea, E.T. and Sucker F (eds), *International Economic Law and African Development* (2014) Siber Ink Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa, 140-171; 'Facilitating Expansion of African International Trade Through Information and Communication Technologies' (2012) 5(3) *African Journal of Legal Studies* 219-242; "Contractual Arrangements for Resource Investments" in Francis N. Botchway (ed), *Natural Resource Investment and Africa's Development*, Edward Elgar, 107-133; "Evolution of International Investment Law and Implications for Africa" in Francis N. Botchway (ed), *Natural Resource Investment and Africa's Development*, Edward Elgar, 293-327; "Promoting Good Governance through ICT Systems: Improving Transparency and Reducing Corruption" in Ross Buckley (ed), *Debt for Development Exchanges: History and New Applications*, Cambridge University Press, 260-295. He is co-editor of *International Economic Law: Voices of Africa* (2012) and *International Economic Law and African Development* (2014) both published by Siber Ink, Cape Town, South Africa.

**Mr Nosa Esiet**

***PhD Candidate, Bond University***

Esien Nosa Esiet holds BA from the University of Calabar, Nigeria, and MA in International Relations from Bond University, Australia. He is currently undertaking a PhD at Bond University, on a Comparative Study on Australian and Chinese Engagement with Africa. His teaching and research interest is in International Relations. He is interested in developing the relationship between Africa and Australia. He is associated with admission of international students at Bond University, including attracting African students to Australian Universities.

## Abstracts of Presentations

### Opening Session 1 - Australia Africa: Education Partnerships for Development

**Professor John Hearn**

***Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)***

***Board Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)***

In a time of international turbulence, teamwork and knowledge partnerships build the trust and capacity required to solve mutual challenges. The Australia Africa Universities Network has catalysed 35 multinational and interdisciplinary programs with its small competitive investments, encouraging international mobility. The fora and strategic workshops held in Australia and Africa, bring strengths and expert thinking to focus from both continents. AAUN is aligning its strategies appropriately with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, bringing evidence for improved policy. As individual researchers, we can engage anywhere. But international research and education networks add a further dimension in forming communities of scholars with greater capacity and impact. We engage the power of established and emerging researchers in creating opportunities. We accelerate achievement by overcoming inertia, cultural ignorance and bureaucracy. The current global tectonics with BREXIT and change in Europe, the USA and China, send ripples around the world. Higher Education and Research diplomacy is a quiet and enduring engagement that can focus our universities, governments, agencies and NGOs to achieve maximum international benefit. AAUN can assist with its teamwork and contributions to environment, food and nutrition security; public health and improved systems; education and employment; and the development of initiative and entrepreneurship.

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**H.E. Mr Mark Sawers**

***Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia; Australian Permanent Representative to the African Union***

The African Union (AU) has grown in stature as the continent's pre-eminent norm setting organisation and a symbol of the continuing emotional appeal of pan-Africanism. Any engagement with Africa can no longer afford to overlook it. Education is of central importance to achieving the AU's Agenda 2063 and several important initiatives are being pursued under this rubric. At the last AU Summit in July this year, AU leaders declared 2018-2027 the African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment. The AU has also committed to establish a Pan-African Virtual University. My comments will provide some background on the AU in the education domain and identify areas for future cooperation between the AU and Australian education institutions.

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*Session 2 - Practical implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education, Research, Entrepreneurism, Employment – the role of Networks*

**Mrs Di Fleming FACEA FACE**

***Executive Director, Ducere Foundation; Interim Chair, AGAAR***

One of the most powerful characteristics of successful implementation is the way in which brokerage of ideas, across government, commerce, education and community is accelerated. Today Fintech and Edtech are natural partners. Economic diplomacy is a toolbox for bilateral and multilateral partnerships and productivity.

Understanding the ecosystem of each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals then exploring the interconnectivity of higher education through entrepreneurship, employment and research requires a network, a knowledge bank for change.

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*Session 3 – Security: Environment, food, nutrition and health*

**Partnerships for innovation and agricultural transformation in Africa**

***Mellissa Wood, General Manager Global Program, ACIAR***

In 2012, Australia’s ACIAR and Canada’s IDRC created a research partnership model in Africa called Cultivate Africa’s Future (CultiAF). It built national research capacity in the region and through this, created opportunity for innovation and agricultural transformation by female and male smallholder farmers in Africa.

Since the first phase of CultiAF, much has happened on a global and African scale to create pathways for positive change that a more ambitious second phase of CultiAF can align to. These include the Malabo Declaration; Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa; Sustainable Development Goals; and Paris Climate Agreement.

There is strong evidence that investing in small-scale agriculture is an effective way to meet the food security needs of vulnerable populations, especially women and children, while building economic livelihoods. The demographic transition underway in Africa coupled with rapid urbanization poses both a challenge and an opportunity, with agriculture remaining a key sector with potential to absorb youth in most African countries. This is well understood by smallholder farmers to Ministers of Agriculture. Rapid urbanization requires innovative farm-to-consumer marketing systems where reducing product loss and food safety are becoming key research issues as more consumers are separated by distance from food production.

Science has built a significant platform on which productivity gains are regularly delivered. ACIAR’s new strategy and the 2nd phase of CultiAF will now focus on maximising productivity within climate resilient systems and ensuring the mechanisms and market linkages to achieve them is within reach of the African farmers who feed the continent.

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## **Abstract for a Future Legumes session at AAUN September 2017**

***Dr Peter Johnston, A-Prof Stuart Johnson, Prof Janet Bornman***

'Future Legumes' is a recent concept, mainly encouraging the use of legumes as a high protein staple, and aiming at linking agriculture more closely to nutritional needs. This initiative has evolved from previous AAUN project meetings (focusing on agrodiversity) in Cape Town and has recently extended its outreach also to the European Union through long-established relationships with two Danish universities. Existing research in Australia (and other countries) needs to be integrated and extended to African environments.

To promote future legumes in areas of food-insecurity and as an adaptation to climate change, the following are proposed: a) training and upskilling of tomorrow's leaders in agri-food security and healthy diets; b) bringing action-research and awareness to farmers, especially in Africa, and also to professionals in government and industry, increasing coping capacity to climate risk and achieving sustainable, healthy livelihoods; c) awareness and acceptance of farming communities and consumers of the value of nutritional foods and the need for biodiverse farming as a safeguard against economic pressures and climate variability; d) publications from participating students, emerging researchers and supervisors as well as popular articles and fact sheets.

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## **Health and Research Impact**

***Prof Dhanjay Jhurry, Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius***

Diabetes, opiate addiction and Alzheimer increasingly plague countries all over the world and are creating major public health concern. Conducting public health research and translating the findings through new products and diagnostics can make a real impact. Three examples of research developments will here be discussed.

To more efficiently predict the development of diabetes, the development of an ELISA kit that can measure specific a number of key plasma markers (hs-CRP (C-reactive protein), Interleukins IL-6, IL-10, adiponectin, brain-derived neurotrophic factor BDNF and lipoxin A4 (LXA4)) has been proposed. Such a kit will help prognosticate the treatment or therapeutic interventions at a single shot. The cost of all the tests per patient will not be more than USD25.

The development of opioid-specific treatment is another public health challenge. Agonist therapy making use of methadone is associated with a number of problems and is more of a corrective than a curative treatment for opioid addiction. Naltrexone, an opioid receptor antagonist that blocks the reinforcing effects of opioids, has proved to be more efficient. Recently developed implantable naltrexone-sustained release systems have shown better efficacy in the treatment of opiate addiction.

Early detection and diagnosis can play a significant role in mitigating Alzheimer's disease (AD). Newly developed assays such as the bio-barcode assay which makes use of gold nanoparticles or another assay that takes advantage of the optical property of nanoparticles are able to detect much higher concentration of amyloid-derived diffusible ligands (ADDLs), implicated in the pathogenesis of AD, as compared to conventional immunosorbent assays.

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### **Agro-diverse Farming Systems: Assessing the Potential for Improving Food Security in the Context of Climate Variability and Change**

***Dr Peter Johnston, Prof Janet F. Bornman, Prof Richard Warrick***

This research project has achieved the following through AAUN-funded workshops and electronic communication: a) developed a research programme framework with aims, key research questions, methodological approach and objectives, and drafted the research programme for potential funders; b) further strengthened team collaboration with the Universities of Lilongwe, Cape Town, Nairobi, Pretoria, Ibadan, Western Australia, Curtin, and non-AAUN universities of Stellenbosch and Witwatersrand, including the holding of a team workshop in Cape Town in May 2016; c) recruitment of a research assistant and co-author to contribute to the manuscript on *Agro-diversity in Sub-Saharan Africa – Challenging monoculture* using a comparative analysis between the two paradigms of monoculture and agro-diversification in the quest for sustainable agricultural communities in the context of climate risk, price fluctuations and market downturns; d) an extension of the AAUN *Agro-diverse Farming Systems* project with the ongoing development of a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, international graduate training programme as a pilot initiative, linking climate change and nutritional needs to agriculture, involving ca 6 universities from Africa and Australia as well as 2 international partners. This initiative will work towards building collaborative research capacity between, and amongst, African universities and Australia through the AAUN, and ensuring that benefits beyond research outcomes reach communities and Indigenous peoples. There is thus strong alignment and complementarity with the AAUN strategic objectives of building research capacity and training, and addressing food and nutrition security (AAUN-Strategic-Plan-2015-17). It will also support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, e.g., Zero Hunger, Good Health & Wellbeing, Quality Education, Responsible Consumption & Production, Climate Action, and Partnerships for the Goals.

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### **Breast cancer screening practices of African migrant women in Australia: a descriptive cross-sectional study.**

***Dr Olayide Ogunsiji, Western Sydney University, Australia***

**Background:** Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer among women and a leading cause of mortality and morbidity, globally. Breast cancer mortality can be improved through routine cancer screening, yet breast cancer screening behaviour of African women is under-studied at home and abroad. The aims of this study were



to report breast cancer screening status of African migrant women and factors associated with their breast cancer screening behaviour in Australia.

**Methods:** A descriptive, cross-sectional approach was utilised for this study. Two hundred and sixty four African migrant women aged 18-69 years and recruited from a number of organisations responded to a self-reported African version of the Breast Cancer Screening Beliefs Questionnaire (BCSBQ).

**Results:** While most of the participants heard of breast awareness (76.1%) and mammogram (85.2%), only 11.4% practised monthly breast awareness, whereas 65.9% had ever had a mammogram as frequently as recommended.

**Conclusions:** The research reveals that practical barriers and attitudes towards general health check-ups are important factors to take into account in determining African migrant women's participation in breast cancer screening. The potentials and implication of replicating this study among African women in Africa will also be discussed.

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#### **Food composition data for animal-source foods in sub-Saharan Africa**

*HC Schönfeldt, B Pretorius, N Hall, M v Deventer and C Muller*

**Associates of the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being, Department of Animal and Wildlife Science, University of Pretoria**

**Department of Science and Technology—National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Food Security**

Variation in nutrient content of different varieties of the same food can make the difference between deficiency of a particular critical nutrient such as iron, zinc or vitamin A or meeting daily needs. These differences are statistically and nutritionally significant. The rich heritage of numerous breeds of animals adapted to the local environment are an untapped resource to combat the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the Sub-Sahara Africa.

The current phase of the project systematically collected the nutrient content data of South African animal source foods. Data were compiled for 237 individual food items from 22 reference sources, reporting between 11- 36 nutrients. It was captured on an internationally recognised database, using the FAO/INFOODS of the United Nations Food composition Data Management Systems Compilation Tool.

Variations were seen in the nutrient composition of milk between locations and seasons, especially for fat-soluble vitamins. South African lamb contains notably less total fat, cholesterol and energy than the USDA values currently used as a reference. Notable differences were found in the quantity and quality of different fatty acids of beef, contrary to research from other regions.

Dietary diversification of nutrient rich foods as a food-based strategy is a sustainable way of combating malnutrition.

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## *The Synergies between Africa-Australia-China in Education, Extractives, Business*

### **Trends in Australia-China-Africa Relations**

***Professor Prem Ramburuth, University of New South Wales, Sydney***

This presentation seeks to broadly capture growing trends in Australia-China-Africa relations and the development of common global interests across several sectors. China is Australia's largest trading partner, with Australia being a leading source of resources for China. China is also Africa's largest trading partner, with countries in Africa being the source of much needed resources, especially the extractives and energy sources. This presentation highlights common threads in Australia and China's economic activities and engagement in Africa, the sharing of expertise, infrastructure and asset building, as well as contributions to social and community development. It also points to the potential for further collaborative initiatives, where Chinese investment and outward FDI and Australia's reputational advantages and 'social licence' can be leveraged to enable them to grow in and with Africa. The presentation includes reference to China's Belt and Road (B&R) strategic and economic agenda that reaches out across multiple corridors via land and sea, and canvasses the opportunities and challenges for Australia.

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### **The potential of energy cooperation between China and Australia under the B&R framework**

***Prof Xu Qinhua, Renmin University; Shi Xunpeng, University of Technology Sydney***

For the seeking of regional energy security and connectivity, the Belt and Road Initiative (B&R) embraces great energy investment opportunities, in which is embedded with the potential of energy cooperation between China and Australia. However, because of the political and economic status quo, the sustainable energy investment risks are comparatively more competitive in the B&R region. The B&R Initiative triggers Chinese global energy strategy from bilateral to mainly multilateral, putting its foreign energy bilateral cooperation into the B&R multilateral basket through supplying the B&R region with an energy public goods for battling the investment risks and booming the region economic development and stability of China's own benefits under the B&R framework, while the framework bridges the gaps for all the stakeholders of the B&R to meet their needs on the same platform. The paper tries to explain three questions a) If the B&R framework will bring the potential of energy cooperation between China and Australia? b) The background and the motivation? c) The implication for China and Australia current and future bilateral energy relationship?

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### **Australia and Chinese Engagement with Africa**

***Assoc-Prof Emmanuel Laryea, Monash University; Nosa Esiet, Bond University***

Though blessed with immense natural resources and population, Africa remains largely impoverished, deprived, and underdeveloped. Africa needs investment in

almost all sectors—from infrastructure to technology, education, technical capacity building, agriculture and food security, and improved governance and systems. While these needs have been there for a long time, the current situation on the continent and the global geo-political and economic climate presents unique opportunities to Africa and its development partners for mutual benefits.

Both Australia and China have developed relations with Africa. But the extent, intensity, and modes of engagements with economies on the continent differ in many ways. And these have implications for impacts.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner since 2009. China offers massive infrastructure development on the continent, among other things. It is stepping into education and wider areas.

While Australia lags far behind China in volume and value of trade and investment on the continent, its mining companies have more projects on the African continent than any other continent other than Australia. Australia has a lot more to offer, and gain.

Both Australia and China are, largely, welcome actors on the African continent. This presentation looks at the modes and implications of Australian and Chinese engagement with Africa.

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