

## Teamwork for Education and Economic Sustainability AAUN Forum and AGM 27 August 2018

*(Concept working draft V4 at 20 April 2018 – topics and speakers TBC)*

**Venue: The University Club of Western Australia**  
Hackett Entrance 1, Hackett Drive Crawley, Western Australia, 6009

### OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

#### **Purpose – knowledge partnerships for policy development:**

The international policy framework is taking shape around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the UN Paris Climate Accords (COP) and national policies. How can Universities best interact in bringing research evidence to fill the knowledge gaps? How can the Australian-African Universities Network contribute? What are the practical steps 2018-20 to focus our working teams and partners in engagement and results? How do we build the next generation of leaders who are capable and conversant with global policy; and able to access the opportunities and the required resources?

#### **FOCUS – the priority areas for Universities to engage with research and education:**

AAUN invites the advice and experience of all attending from government, academia, agencies and business in shaping our capacity and impact for the future. In our first six years we have established a platform and delivered results. Now we seek to build greater effectiveness, and to attract sustainable resources from national and international agencies. The program below is a concept in which we invite our members and stakeholders to engage and comment.

(i) **RESEARCH** – The AAUN research base holds significant assets in the focus areas of environment, food and nutrition security, public health in non-communicable disease, and related education and economic development.

(i) **EDUCATION** – In August 2018 DFAT has invited selected **African Ministers of Education**, presenting a significant opportunity. Please note the incorporation of the Ministers in the program for AAUN on 27 August, flowing in to the [ADU Research Forum](#) on 28 August and to the [Africa Down Under Conference](#) 29-31 August (see details below).

(ii) **POLICY** – The UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Climate Accords, China Belt and Road Approach, Australian and African international policy objectives are all highly relevant to AAUN. They provide a policy framework with mutual benefit to Africa and Australia, shaping research, education and economic development. They should also provide resources to implement partnerships and programs. They are an opportunity to evolve research, teaching and learning in new approaches, degrees and qualifications for the leaders of tomorrow.

(iii) **RESEARCH Strategy** – We review our progress and results from the 35 seed-funded programs that we have invested in since our launch 6 years ago at DFAT Canberra in 2012; and select the successful ones to build further with new initiatives. We will strengthen our partnerships with our sponsors, especially the Australian Government and agencies (DFAT and ACIAR) and the NRF (South Africa), and seek additional international resources and funding. In keeping with our research and education character, we are establishing 3-year alliances with our knowledge partners, leveraging further partnerships with African and International Networks, and focusing on mutual objectives and outcomes.

(iv) **HIGHER EDUCATION** – We review and extend our research and mobility programs and interactions with exchanges of experts, the Australia Awards, international needs and opportunities. Some of our members have highlighted the

needs for institutional development, graduate employment and more effort towards linked courses and degrees. An important dimension is to include the Alumni from AAUN and Australia-Africa training alongside our efforts.

### AAUN Forum Structure

Each session has 1-2 opening speakers, 2-3 panelists and expert discussants. Chairs and speakers please keep strictly to times shown. All participants are experts and there is time for discussion. Discussion time for consensus and practical outcomes is a vital part of the workshop.

### OUTCOMES

Important to the success of the Forum, we will develop a communique or position paper for policy makers in Australia and Africa, with copy to relevant international governments and agencies. Several research programs are likely to arise from the discussions. We will also engage with media and websites in communicating the outcomes of the meetings.

### DEADLINES (see details below)

**1 May 2018: please let us have your feedback, suggestions and nominations for this concept program. The revised program will be circulated before 1 June. Registration is open and we ask you to register early [via this link](#)**

**1 July: please send your 200-word bios and 200-word statements/abstracts (to [gliu@wun.ac.uk](mailto:gliu@wun.ac.uk)).**

**1 August: final program - please monitor the AAUN website for final adjustments.**

### AAUN Concept Program: Monday 27 August 2018

<b>AUSTRALIA AFRICA – TEAMWORK FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Venue: The University Club of Western Australia</b>	
<b>Time</b>	
<b>0800</b>	<b>Shuttle bus leaves from Pan Pacific Hotel, PERTH, WA</b>
<b>0830</b>	<b>Registration &amp; arrival tea</b>
<b>0900</b>	<b>Opening Session 1 – Knowledge diplomacy: education and economic development</b>
<b>0900-1015</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; MC - Prof John Hearn, Co-Chair AAUN Australia (3 min)</b>  <b>Welcome to Country – Mr Richard Walley (5 min)</b></p> <p><b>Host: Prof Dawn Freshwater, President University of Western Australia</b>  <b>Prof Cheryl De La Rey, President University of Pretoria, Co-Chair AAUN Africa</b>            (3 min each)</p> <p><b>Opening Speaker: Minister or Senior Official, DFAT: The Australia Africa Future 2030</b>            (10 min)</p> <p><b>Round Table Discussion:</b> Brief comments on priorities and needs from Africa and Australia  <b>Chair: Ms Gita Kamath, Assistant Secretary, Africa Branch, DFAT</b>                (i) African HOMS – from countries with AAUN members                (ii) Australia HOMS – in countries with AAUN members            (3 min each)</p> <p><b>Discussion (15 min)</b> – Australia-Africa partnerships and priorities in higher education and economic sustainability. What are the focus points for the most productive partnerships?</p>
<b>1015-1045</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

1045-1145	<p><b>Session 2 – Global and local: policy into practice (SDGs, BRI, Climate, Indo-Pacific)</b>  <b>Chair: Dr Aldo Stroebe</b>, Exec Director International, National Research Foundation, SA  (5 min)</p>
	<p><b>Keynote speakers:</b> (10 Min each)  <b>Prof Cheryl de la Rey</b>, President University of Pretoria  <b>Mellissa Wood</b>, General Manager, Global Programs, ACIAR</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> with emphasis on interactions and research priorities/gaps  (i) The UN-SDGs – role of Universities in Australia and Africa  (ii) The China Belt and Road – Australia-Africa-China synergies  (iii) Australia’s lead areas in Africa’s Global engagement and investment  (7 min each)</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b> (TBC) Assessment of progress  <b>Discussion (15 min)</b></p>
1145-1300	<p><b>Session 3: Australia Africa Teamwork – priority research areas for maximum impact</b>  <b>Chair: Professor Prem Ramburuth</b>, University of New South Wales (5 min)</p>
	<p><b>Keynote speakers:</b>  1. Australia University President (UNSW?)  2. African University President (Mauritius?)  (10 min each)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b>  (i) Food and nutrition security, post-harvest waste  (ii) Higher education reform, advancement of women  (iii) Innovation, employment and economic development  (7 min each)</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b>  <b>Discussion (15 min)</b></p>
1300-1400	<p><b>Lunch – served in foyer</b></p> <p><b>Round Table Meetings:</b>  (i) <b>Worldwide Universities Network – Global Africa Group (Venue TBC)</b>  (Chairs: Dr David Mickler, UWA; Prof Maano Ramutsindela, UCT)  (ii) <b>Australia Awards and Alumni Group</b>  Early Career Researchers Group (Venue TBC)</p>
1400-1500	<p><b>Instruments for engagement – what works and what does not?</b>  <b>Chair: Prof Frans Swanepoel</b>, University of Pretoria (5 min)</p>
	<p><b>Keynote speakers:</b>  Extractives and community sustainability: advances and obstacles  Land use challenges in Africa and Australia: shared solutions  (10 min each)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b>  (i) Australia Awards and Alumni Group: bridges to sustainable partnerships  (ii) Alliances with other Networks (WUN, RUFORUM, ARUA)  (iii) AGAAR and recommendations to the Foreign Minister  (7 min each)</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b>  <b>Discussion (15 min):</b></p>

<b>1500-1530</b>	<b>Concluding Session - Co-Chairs: Prof John Hearn and Prof Cheryl de la Rey</b>
	Strategic priorities/programs – action plan and next steps, recommendations to the AGM
<b>1530-1600</b>	<b>Tea break</b>
<b>1615-1715 1715-1745</b>	<b>BUSINESS MEETING - AAUN AGM 2018 (Closed session with AAUN Steering Group)</b>
	<b>AAUN Steering Group, with invited guests and observers</b> <i>Agenda and papers to be circulated to Members in early August.</i> (Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided)
<b>1800 for 1830-2100</b>	<b>Conference Dinner for AAUN, WUN observers, guests (by invitation, with separate registration and at-cost payment)</b>
(Transport to Conference Hotel: Pan Pacific at 2100)	<b>Performance:</b> (TBC) <b>Vote of Thanks</b> – Prof John Hearn, AAUN (5 min) <b>Venue:</b> <a href="#">The University Club of Western Australia</a>

### Discussants

African Heads of Mission in Australia, Australian Heads of Mission in Africa, Academic, Business and NGO experts. The Forum brings together multidisciplinary expertise: we welcome viewpoints and comments to build the future. Please note the participation of the Chair and members of AGAAR (Advisory Group on Australia Africa Relations – reporting to the Foreign Minister HE Julie Bishop).

**NOTE:** The Africa Strategy submission of AGAAR is with the background papers.

### Contacts

**Program development and editing:** A-Prof Grace Liu, E: [gliu@wun.ac.uk](mailto:gliu@wun.ac.uk)

**Logistics and Communications:** Marije Nieuwenhuis, E: [aaun.events@sydney.edu.au](mailto:aaun.events@sydney.edu.au)

### Speakers, Panelists and Chairs - URGENT

Please send your 100-200 word bio, and 100-200 word abstract to A-Prof Grace Liu at [gliu@wun.ac.uk](mailto:gliu@wun.ac.uk) by **1 July - after which the program is closed**. The bios and abstracts will be edited and circulated, with selected background papers and the final program after 1 August. If you wish to recommend a brief background paper, please do so.

**NOTE:** In interests of environment and cost, there will be no printed programs. Please go to the [AAUN website](#) ahead of the meeting (after 1 AUGUST) for updates of the program, or to download or print the final program as you wish.

### Participants

We expect up to 100 expert participants from academia, government, diplomatic, business, agencies. We are pleased to welcome guests and observers from cooperating networks and NGOs, including to the AAUN AGM meeting, other than for the final closed session which is for AAUN steering group only.

### Registration

Forum registration for 27 August is without charge, thanks to support from Australian Government Agencies (DFAT, ACIAR, Department of Education). The dinner is a separate registration at cost price of \$ 110 (including GST). Drinks included. All participants are invited to register for the Forum dinner.

Please register [via this page](#). **Registrations close on 1 August 2018**. All participants including speakers are required to register. Please register as early as you can to help us with logistics and catering. Thank you.

## Communications

We encourage you to circulate this notice to colleagues who you think may be interested in the proceedings. For further information, please [go to our website](#) or contact us at the emails provided at the end of this notice.

## Please check our website

The website will be updated regularly as we develop the AAUN Forum and associated events further.

## Follow up

We will call for AAUN-Partnership and Research Development seed fund bids in February 2019 (catalytic grants of average \$10K to initiate and build strategic and sustainable research teams and exchange programs).

## Host

We are grateful to the University of Western Australia for hosting the AAUN Forum allied to UWA Research Week, and for sponsoring the Annual Dinner. The AAUN Forum is also a part of **Australia Africa Week 29-31 August**, and a partner with [Africa Down Under 2018](#).

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF)

\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 2, TUESDAY 28 August

### **Joint AAUN Research Symposium with AFRICA DOWN UNDER (ADU)**

- **Concept:** AAUN Programs and ADU as they relate to Block-chain initiatives in Mining and Extractive Industries.  
**Chair:** Mr. David Doepel, Murdoch University
- **Program:** Currently under development, [see flyer](#) for details. We are exploring how African Education Ministers, HOMs and higher education experts in Africa and Australia can join in exploring solutions to graduate employment, entrepreneurship and new business development.

### **Your input is welcome – Deadline 1 May 2018 (to [d.doepel@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:d.doepel@murdoch.edu.au))**

**Please note** the above program is now developing, with some flexibility in panelists and discussants. There is a little time for further comment and engagement across AAUN, with African and Australian HOMS, and also government.

## DAY 3-5, WEDNESDAY 29 - FRIDAY 31 AUGUST

### **AFRICA DOWN UNDER CONFERENCE**

AAUN members who wish to attend the **Africa Down Under Conference** can register at the [ADU website](#).

We are exploring with ADU the opportunities for AAUN researchers and educators to engage in challenges related to extractive industries, social cohesion and sustainable societal development.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you for your interest and engagement,*

**Professor John Hearn**, Chairman AAUN Australia/Executive Director WUN, E: [john.hearn@sydney.edu.au](mailto:john.hearn@sydney.edu.au)

**Associate Professor Grace Liu**, Research Development Manager AAUN/WUN, E: [gliu@wun.ac.uk](mailto:gliu@wun.ac.uk)

**Marije Nieuwenhuis**, Program Manager, AAUN/WUN, E: [aaun.events@sydney.edu.au](mailto:aaun.events@sydney.edu.au)

\*\*\*\*\*