

Teamwork for Education and Economic Sustainability
AAUN Forum and AGM 27 August 2018
Venue: The University Club of Western Australia

Participants Biographies

Opening Session 1 – Knowledge diplomacy: education and economic development

Professor John Hearn

Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Professor John Hearn is founding Co-Chair of the Australia Africa Universities Network since 2012 (www.aaun.edu.au); Board Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network (01.07.09-31.07.18) (www.wun.ac.uk); and Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney. Raised in India, UK and East Africa, he was awarded his BSc(1st), 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. 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 biomedicine, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has published 220 research papers and six edited books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell biology and biotechnology. A committed international citizen, he works globally in research capacity development - especially in China, India, Thailand, Brazil and Kenya. He is an adviser in Higher Education and Research to the Australian Government, British Council, Swedish STINT, World Health Organisation and OECD. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute.

Professor Dawn Freshwater, BA Manc, PhD Nott, FRCN, RN, RNT

Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia (UWA)

Professor Dawn Freshwater was appointed Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia (UWA) in January 2017. Prior to this she was the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar for three years, during which time she led the design and implementation of a modernised academic structure to optimise UWA's world class research and cultivate educational outcomes and student experience. Professor Freshwater continues to lead UWA through significant growth with the development of the Strategic Plan for 2030.

Professor Freshwater is a Member of the National Health and Research Medical Council (NHMRC)'s Women in Health Science (WiHS) Committee. She is also Deputy Chair and Director of Group of Eight (Go8), member of Chief Executive Women Engagement Committee, Board Director of PerthUSAsia Centre, member of the Partnership Board of the World University Network (WUN), Board Vice-Chair of the Matariki Network of Universities (MNU), Vice-Chair of the Australian Higher Education Industrial Association (AHEIA) and a Governor of the Forrest Research Foundation.

Professor Cheryl de la Rey

Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Pretoria; Co-Chair AAUN Africa

Prof Cheryl de la Rey has been the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria since November 2009. Her previous executive positions include being the Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Higher Education, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and Executive Director at the National Research Foundation. She has published books and several journal articles and she is registered as a Psychologist by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), is a fellow of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSAf) and of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She is the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), Vice Chairperson of the Talloires Network and the African co-Chairperson of the Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN). In February 2019 she will assume the position of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC

Senator for Western Australia

Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade

Senator Reynolds was elected to the Australian Senate in 2014 and is a passionate representative for her state of Western Australia. She has more than 20 years' experience at the national political level working for Ministers, Members of Parliament and the Liberal Party of Australia. Senator Reynolds served for 29 years in the Australian Army as a Reserve Officer, in a wide range of part and full time appointments. She also has corporate experience.

Key career appointments include: Chief of Staff to the Minister for Justice and Customs, Project Director with Raytheon Australia, Deputy Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia, Commanding Officer of a Combat Service Support Battalion and Adjutant General of Army, the Chief of Army's key governance advisor. Senator Reynolds was the first woman in the Australian Army Reserves to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier and was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross. She has completed a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies).

Senator Reynolds is a member of nine Parliamentary committees and is Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade, the Defence Sub-Committee and the Senate Publication Committee. She also chairs the Australia-Indonesia parliamentary friendship group and co- chairs the Parliamentary Friends of Defence, Friends of Australian Books and Writers and Friends of Disability. Senator Reynolds is pursuing new defence and space industry opportunities for WA, innovation, gender equality and federation reform.

Ms Gita Kamath

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

Ms Gita Kamath is a senior career officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Africa Branch in May 2017.

Ms Kamath has held a range of positions in the Department including Assistant Secretary, Agriculture and Food Branch, Assistant Secretary, Domestic Legal Branch,

Director, Arms Control Section, and Second Secretary and later First Secretary, Australian High Commission, Singapore.

From 2010 to 2013, Ms Kamath was Australian Ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy, Paris. She also served as non-resident Ambassador to Chad and the Central African Republic.

Prior to joining the Department as a Graduate Trainee in 1993, Ms Kamath worked as a corporate solicitor with the law firm Clayton Utz in Sydney.

Ms Kamath holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the University of New South Wales, a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Master of Arts (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from the Australian National University. She is admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales as a legal practitioner.

H.E. Ms Beryl Sisulu

High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Australia

Her Excellency Ms Beryl Rose Sisulu assumed the post of High Commissioner for the Republic of South Africa to Australia on 1 March 2017. On 5 October 2017 she was accredited as non-resident High Commissioner to Solomon Islands.

High Commissioner Sisulu has previously served as Ambassador to Norway, Iceland and Japan.

Born in Soweto, Johannesburg, she is the daughter of the late Walter and Albertina Sisulu. She matriculated in Swaziland and later attended the University of Natal where she attained a Law Degree.

After spending time with human rights activities, Ms Sisulu worked for NGOs; set up a Women's organisation; worked with the Black Sash as the Regional Director for Kwa-Zulu Natal, and worked at the Legal Resources Centre, a public interest law firm, where she also completed her Articles as a candidate Attorney. She later joined the Department of Justice as the Regional Head, and was responsible for all the courts in the Gauteng Province. In 2000 Ms Sisulu was nominated by the then Minister of Justice to attend a Senior Executive Programme at Harvard University, Boston, USA.

High Commissioner Sisulu is fluent in several of the languages spoken in South Africa. She is married to a diplomat, Mr Daniel Stemmer.

H.E. Ms Jenny Dee

Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius

Ms Dee is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She took up her appointment as Australia's High Commissioner to Mauritius in July 2017 with non-resident accreditation to Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles.

In Canberra, Ms Dee has held a range of positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently the Director of the External Budget Section. She has extensive experience managing some of Australia's most significant bilateral relationships in South and South-East Asia including as Director of the India Political and Regional Section and leading the Indonesia Economic and Transnational Issues team. She commenced her career in Australia's foreign service in 1996 working on international climate change negotiations.

She has served overseas at Australia's missions in Jakarta, Indonesia - as the Australian Embassy spokesperson and manager of public affairs - and in Harare, Zimbabwe. Ms Dee has also worked as a consultant editor in Mexico for McGraw Hill publishing.

Ms Dee holds a Master of Arts (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from Monash University and a Bachelor of Business (Journalism) from the Queensland University of Technology.

H.E. Mr Edwin N. Adjei

High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to Australia

HE Mr Edwin N. Adjei was appointed as Ghana's High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of Australia on 13th September 2017 by His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana. He presented his credentials to His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd.) on 23rd November 2017.

HE Mr Edwin N. Adjei is also concurrently accredited to New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Nauru. He presented his Credentials to His Excellency Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, President of the Republic of Fiji on 29th May 2018.

HE Mr Edwin N. Adjei has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration since December 1987, and held many senior level positions in that Ministry. He has worked in various Bureaux of the Ministry such as the Information and Culture Bureau, the Personnel and Training Bureau, Estates and General Services Bureau, Africa and Regional Integration Bureau and has been Acting Director, Finance and Accounts Bureau, Director, International Organisations and Conferences Bureau (IOCB), Personal Assistant to the Chief Director, Director, Americas Bureau and Director, Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau.

HE Mr Edwin N. Adjei was also a member of Ghana's delegations to several international conferences including the UN General Assembly Sessions in 2005 and 2006. He also sat on the Board of the Ghana Export Promotion Authority and the Governing Board of the Kofi Annan International Peace-Keeping Training Centre (KAIPTC). He has also served abroad in Ghana Missions in Windhoek, Prague, Beijing, Riyadh and London. From July 2016 till his appointment he was the Acting Chief Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

HE Mr Edwin N. Adjei is married to Mrs Matilda Adjei with three children.

H.E. Ms Bronte Moules

Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe

Bronte Moules is a career diplomat with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She is currently Ambassador to Zimbabwe, also covering Zambia, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo.

Prior to her current posting Bronte served as Ambassador to Myanmar, Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea and Deputy Head of Mission Bangkok. She has also served at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, the Australia Mission to the United Nations in New York, and the Australian Mission to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. She has held senior positions in DFAT Canberra including as

Assistant Secretary of the Executive Branch, and as DFAT Liaison Officer in the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Bronte has a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (Hons), from the Australian National University, and her high school education included a year on exchange at Suranaree High School in Thailand. Bronte has one daughter.

Mr Siddhartha Chakrabarti

Chargé of the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Mr Siddhartha (Sid) Chakrabarti is the Chargé of the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa (accredited to the African Union, South Sudan, Djibouti and the Central African Republic). Mr Chakrabarti has worked with the Australian Government in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Fiji and has acted as the Executive Officer to the Secretary, Director for Indian Ocean issues, Assistant Director for India – political issues, an executive officer for Afghanistan – humanitarian issues, and a policy officer for Australia’s global development partnerships. Mr Chakrabarti has a Masters in Arts (Middle East and Central Asia) with honours from the Australian National University and LL.B and Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Australia.

Mr Chakrabarti grew up in Perth, Western Australia, and lives in Addis Ababa with his spouse, Emma, and very cute puppy, Scout.

Professor Peter Mbithi

Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi (UoN)

Professor 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. Professor 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.

Professor Stephen Smith

Professor of Public International Law, UWA; Previous Foreign Minister of Australia

Professor Stephen Smith has been a Professor of Public International Law at the University of Western Australia since 2014. Prof Smith was Federal Member for Perth for the Australian Labor Party from March 1993 until September 2013. In a distinguished career spanning 20 years in the Australian Federal Parliament, Prof Smith served as the Minister for Defence, and prior to that, as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In opposition, Prof Smith held a range of Shadow Ministerial positions including Shadow Minister for Trade, Shadow Minister for Resources and Energy, Shadow Minister for Communications, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Immigration, Shadow Minister for Industry, Infrastructure and Industrial Relations and Shadow Minister for Education and Training. Prof Smith completed his Bachelor of

Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia and has practised as a Barrister and Solicitor in Perth. He then completed a Master of Laws in Public International Law at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in Law in London. From 1983 to 1987 Prof Smith was Principal Private Secretary to the Attorney-General of Western Australia. From 1987 to 1990 he was the State Secretary of the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Labor Party. During 1991 and 1992, Prof Smith was Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia and Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia, Paul Keating. Prof Smith is currently the Chairman of archTIS and a Member of the Board of LNG Marine Fuel Institute.

Session 2

Global and local: policy into practice (SDGs, BRI, Climate, Indo-Pacific)

Chair: Dr Aldo Stroebel, Exec Director International, National Research Foundation SA

Dr Aldo Stroebel

Executive Director Strategic Partnerships, National Research Foundation (NRF), SA

Dr Aldo Stroebel is Executive Director Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa, and Visiting Fellow at the Institute for African Development at Cornell University, USA. He is a former President of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), serves as South Africa's National Contact Point for the ERC to H2020, and holds Ministerial appointments to the boards of the Water Research Commission (WRC), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), and the National Education and Training Forum for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (NETFAFF). He was a founding member of the SA Young Academy of Science, and is an elected Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS). 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. He has published widely in smallholder farming systems, and has been acknowledged as a leader in internationalisation of Higher Education, and research and innovation management.

Ms Mellissa Wood

General Manager, Global Programs

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Mellissa Wood is ACIAR's General Manager, Global Programs and previously Director of the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) 2012-2016. She leads ACIAR's engagement with global and multilateral fora as well as co-investments alliances in Africa, including 'Cultivate Africa's Future'. Mellissa has a strong interest in improving the adoption of research outputs for food and nutrition security outcomes, with a focus on the roles of public policy and the private sector to facilitate this. Previously, she was Director of Program Development at the Rome-based Global Crop Diversity Trust, working with FAO and CGIAR on the conservation and access of plant genetic resources. In Australia, her past roles include Program Leader, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry where she established the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis and was Manager, Australia's National Forest Inventory. Mellissa holds a BSc in Resource and Environmental Management and Master in Public Policy in Development and is a member of the AICD.

Mr Seth Appiah-Mensah***UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU)***

Mr Seth Appiah-Mensah is a veteran peacekeeper and a United Nations Staff Member. Prior to coming to UWA in October 2017 he was the Chief of Mission Support Planning Service at the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in Addis Ababa. For over ten years, he worked in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNHQ New York, where he played a lead role in the planning and management of several UN and AU missions, such as UNAMID (Darfur), MINURCAT(Chad), AFISMA (Mali), MISCA/MINUSCA (CAR) and AMISOM (Somalia). He also served in peacekeeping operations in Liberia (ECOMOG) and Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Seth was a member of the Ghana Armed Forces (Navy) for more than 23 years and held senior positions, including Commanding Officer Ghana Navy Ship YOGAGA, Military Advisor AMIS (Darfur) and the Aide de Camp to the President of Ghana (2002-2004). He has published articles on maritime security and peace and security issues across Africa in international journals. He is graduate of Britannia Royal Naval College, UK, US Naval War College, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Command and Staff College, Jaji, Nigeria. He holds a Master of Arts degree (Maritime Policy) from the University of Wollongong, Australia. He is married and has four boys.

Professor Ahmed Bawa***CEO Universities South Africa***

Ahmed Bawa is the CEO of Universities South Africa. Until recently he was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Durban University of Technology. He also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal (later to be the University of KwaZulu-Natal). At the City University of New York, he was faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Hunter College and a member of the doctoral faculty and the Graduate Center. He was also appointed Associate Provost for Curriculum Development. As the Program Officer for Higher Education in Africa with the Ford Foundation he led the Foundation's African Higher Education Initiative. In this portfolio he worked in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt and Palestine. He serves on a number of advisory boards such as the South African Institute of Distance Education, the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research of South Africa and the Higher Education Support Programme of the Open Society Foundation.

Session 3**Australia Africa Teamwork – priority research/education areas for impact**

Chair: Professor Prem Ramburuth, University of New South Wales

Professor Prem Ramburuth***Business School, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney***

Prem Ramburuth is Professor in International Business at the UNSW Business School, UNSW, Sydney. Her leadership roles at UNSW including immediate past President of the Academic Board, Associate Dean Education, Associate Dean Undergraduate Programs, and Head of the School of Management. Prof. Ramburuth researches and teaches in Cross-Cultural and Diversity Management in Business and Higher Education and 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*. Her recent research focuses on Emerging Markets and Developing

Economies, including the impact of education, training and capacity building on economic growth and development, and issues of gender equity in the workplace.

Prof Ramburuth is Academic Lead for Africa at the UNSW Institute for Global Development, a role in which she oversees several projects at Gulu University in Northern Uganda, delivers academic development programs and shares strategies for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Her work in Quality Assurance includes Chair of the Academic Board of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), 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. She has been Visiting Professor at VNU Hanoi Business School and VNU International University (Vietnam), University of Colorado (Denver), (former) University of Durban-Westville (South Africa), and Tunku Abdul Rahman University (Malaysia).

Professor Dhanjay Jhurry

Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius (UoM)

Professor Dhanjay Jhurry has been holding the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius (UoM) since March 2017. His vision is to develop the UoM into a research and entrepreneurial university.

Previously, he held the post of National Research Chair in Biomaterials and Drug Delivery under the Mauritius Research Council from 2012 to 2016 while directing the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), a centre which he founded and which is attached to the University of Mauritius.

Prof Jhurry studied at Bordeaux University (France) and received his PhD in Polymer Chemistry in 1992. After spending three years as Research Chemist at Flamel Technologies Company in Lyon, France working on biomedical polymers, he joined the Dept. of Chemistry at the University of Mauritius as Lecturer and was appointed Professor in 2005.

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 over 75 papers in scholarly journals.

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 also won the first Mauritius Innovators Award in 2004.

Prof Jhurry is an elected member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) since July 2017. He is also a member of Ashinaga's *Kenjin-Tatsujin* International Advisory Council (Ashinaga Africa Initiative) and he was Vice-President of the COMESA Innovation Council from 2013 to 2015.

Professor Ian Jacobs BA, MA, MBBS, MD, FRCOG

President and Vice Chancellor, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Professor Ian Jacobs has been President and Vice-Chancellor of UNSW Sydney since 2015 and Chair of the Group of 8 universities since February 2018. Prior to this he was Dean of Medicine at University College London and Vice President, University of Manchester.

At UNSW he has led the development of the "UNSW 2025 Strategy" focused on academic excellence, social engagement and global impact. In his role as Go8 Chair he

has initiated an engagement strategy focused on explaining the importance of the role of the Go8 universities to Australian society.

He qualified in medicine in Cambridge and London before specialising in surgical treatment of women's cancers. His research in screening for ovarian cancer, has led to grant awards >£50m, over 400 publications and an H-Index of >75.

He founded the Uganda Women's Health Initiative in 2005 and the Eve Appeal charity in 1985. He is a non-Executive Director of Abcodia Ltd a medical diagnostics company he founded as a spin out from his research in 2010.

He is a Board member of Research Australia, B/HERT, Ovarian Cancer Australia, The Conversation and Chair of SPHERE (Sydney Partnership for Health Education, Research and Enterprise).

Professor Hettie Schönfeldt

Department of Animal & Wildlife Sciences, University of Pretoria

Prof Schönfeldt is the director of the new African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence for Food Security led by the University of Pretoria in collaboration with the University of Nairobi and the University of Ghana, Legon. She is a National Research Foundation (NRF) B3 rated scientist and a principal investigator in the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Food Security. She holds a Department of Science and Technology (DST)/National Research Foundation (NRF) South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) chair in the National Development Plan Priority Area of Nutrition and Food Security.

Her research focuses on linking nutrient quantity and quality of foods to sustainable food systems for attaining nutrition and food security for all. She continually publishes evidence on why country specific food composition data is essential to make it possible to interpret the dietary outcomes of countries from both an under- and over-nutrition perspective.

Prof Schönfeldt serves as scientific advisor to the SA 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 164 individual participants from 24 different African countries forming part of IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force. She was the reviewer of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)'s School Feeding Scheme and the DPME Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children from Conception to Age 5.

She has published extensively, with more than 120 articles in scientific journals, books, chapters in books and conference proceedings, and has authored more than 170 research reports. She has supervised/co-supervised more than 31 postgraduate MSc and PhD students.

Dr Rose Amazan

Lecturer, School of Education, University of New England

Rose Amazan is a lecturer at the University of New England's School of Education. Rose's research and teaching is in the area of international and developmental education. She has extensive experience in many countries and has contributed to numerous analyses of issues such as female skilled-migration, diaspora mobility, gender and higher education in Africa and African university partnerships. Her current research project explores the issues surrounding the position of women in Ethiopian society, particularly

in relation to their demonstrable increased participation as students and teachers in higher education. She is also examining the outcomes of Australian scholarships for Africans including re-integration, development of networks of practice among returnees and gender implications.

Lunch Session: Round Table Meetings

Dr David Mickler

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

Dr David Mickler is the interim Director of the new UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) and a Senior Lecturer in Foreign Policy & International Relations in the School of Social Sciences. He is also the inaugural Co-Chair of the Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group (WUN GAG, with Prof Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town). David's research examines the regional and international politics of Africa, including contemporary Australia-Africa relations. At UWA, he teaches units on The International Politics of Africa and Peace and Security in Africa and leads a new tripartite postgraduate education collaboration between UWA, the University of Pretoria and Paramadina University (Indonesia). He is the co-editor of *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Towards Africa* (Melbourne University Press, 2013) and *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (Springer, forthcoming 2019) and co-author of *The African Union: Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (Routledge, 2016) and *The African Governance Architecture: Principles, Platforms and Politics* (Routledge, forthcoming 2019). He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (2013) and a Visiting Researcher at the African Union Commission (Ethiopia and South Africa, 2017).

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 and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town. A Fellow of the Society of South African Geographers and an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, Ramutsindela held the Distinguished Hubert H Humphrey Visiting Chair 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 related to the ownership, management and use of natural resources in African contexts. In the past 16 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. 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.

Session 4

Instruments for engagement – what works and what does not?

Chair: Prof Frans Swanepoel, University of Pretoria

Professor Frans Swanepoel***Director, Strategic International Partnerships, University of Pretoria***

Frans Swanepoel is Professor of Agricultural Transformation in Africa (ATA) at the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa (SA), where he also serves as Director: Strategic International Partnerships. He is former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) SA, and is a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for African Development (IAD), Cornell University, USA. He serves on the boards of a number of high-level continental bodies, incl. the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), and the Regional University Forum for Capacity Development in Agriculture (RUFORUM). He is a member the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and a Fellow of the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences (UNAS), and was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Cornell University (2008-2009). He researched at Texas A&M University and University of the Free State, SA for his PhD. His research interests include African food systems, research leadership and capacity development and partnerships and networking in Africa.

Mr David Doepel***Chair Africa Research Group, Murdoch University;******Chair, Africa Australia Research Forum (AARF)***

David has held a number of positions in research management at Murdoch University including Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Development, Interim CEO of the National Centre of Excellence in Desalination, and Director, Research Institute for Resource Technology.

Prior to that he served in a variety of roles in the Western Australian Government, including Principal Policy Advisor (Science and the Arts) to the then Premier Alan Carpenter and inaugural Regional Director for the Americas for the Western Australian Trade and Investment Office in Los Angeles.

His current research interests include policy settings for structural transformation in an African context. The nexus is between the extractive industries, agricultural sector and farming system innovations, particularly those that leverage blockchain technology.

David holds degrees from Murdoch University, the Melbourne College of Divinity and Boston University.

Dr Peter Johnston***Climate Impacts Researcher, University of Cape Town (UCT)***

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 on various user sectors. He specialises in agriculture and water related activities with special emphasis on vulnerability and adaptation options. His interests and involvements have taken him to many African countries to learn from and contribute to other water and agricultural adaptive practices to climate change and variability.

Recent research included the application of models to determine the financial impacts and sustainable adaptation options for agricultural under climate change scenarios for commercial and small scale farmers. Other work is focused on the climate risks and decision-making time frames associated with agriculture and food security for Western Cape Department of Agriculture, and the impact of climate change on the financial vulnerability of maize, grape, wheat and citrus farmers in South Africa. Currently he is

involved in regional capacity building initiatives in Climate Change adaptation, and in developing a research focused African postgraduate cohort dedicated to alternative food security-enhancing crops.

He is co-PI of a AAUN Proposal Development that is a collaborative, international education and training initiative, the Future Legumes Research Training Programme (FLoRET). It will initially focus on legumes as a nutrition-rich staple food. The emphasis on staples, such as the high protein legumes as a starting point, is exceedingly relevant across developed and developing countries, since both have challenges with food and nutrition security especially in the context of current and future climate risks.

Peter has numerous publications and co-authored the South African chapter of *Southern African Agriculture and Climate Change*, IFPRI, 2013. He has delivered many public lectures on climate, water and agricultural issues and is regularly consulted by media for comment on topical weather and climate events.

Ms Harriet Gausi

Australia Awards, Malawi; PhD candidate, University of New England, Australia

Harriet Gausi is an Agricultural development practitioner with 15 years' experience of working to provide extension and agricultural advisory services in Malawi. Having worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi, she has focused on smallholder rural communities, and natural resource management in collaboration with other stakeholders in agriculture and community development at both the district and national levels. She has coordinated government programs, preparation and review of annual work plans and budgets; coordinating implementation of project activities; production of technical reports, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities. Harriet holds a Master of Science in Animal Science and a Bachelor's degree in General agriculture (both from the University of Malawi, Malawi). She is currently pursuing a PhD in Agriculture at the University of New England, Australia. In her PhD studies, Harriet conducted research on village chicken productivity, as these poultry are very important to the livelihood of rural communities, especially women. Harriet is passionate about bringing positive change to girls and women (because of the crucial role they play in influencing quality of life in society). In her free time, Harriet mentors young people in orphanages and girls in primary schools.

Dr Grace Muriuki

Research Fellow, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland

Grace is a Research Fellow at the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland, and in the very recent past, worked at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the Sustainable Minerals Institute, Australia. Grace is a geographer (PhD, University of Queensland; Msc, BSc Nairobi, Kenya), and has worked on human migration, land cover change and natural resource contestations, urbanisation and food systems. She has experience in a range of research, academic and service delivery roles in Australia (CSIRO, Queensland Government, and University of Queensland) and in sub-Saharan Africa. Her current focus is on livelihoods and food security (including under mining-induced displacement and resettlement), food systems for sustainable urban development, wider application of GIS and other spatial tools and the science of integration.

Abstracts of Presentations

Opening Session 1 – Knowledge diplomacy: education and economic development

Professor John Hearn

Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Each year, the annual AAUN Forums in Australia and Africa give us an opportunity to tune our priorities and focus with changing policy and capacity developments. The meetings are vital way to incorporate research and education advances, and to align with the ambitions and capacities of our members. International cooperation is not easy, but with over 43 programs and equal partnerships between our 20 member Universities, we now have established fit-for-purpose scholarly communities who are creating relevant new knowledge and impact. Around this core of seed-funded programs in environment and food security, nutrition and health, education and economic development, we are building an Australia Africa information portal, exchange programs with options for established and emerging researchers, and support for the advancement of women in higher education. The team effort is with our knowledge partners DFAT, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and the National Research Foundation of South Africa. We are extending our networks to build further reach and capacity. Together we can achieve much more than is possible by individuals or single institutions. At a time of dynamic geopolitics, we can be instruments of enduring knowledge diplomacy in the Indo Pacific region – addressing selected mutual challenges of Australia and Africa.

Global and local: Science for policy and the role of networks

Prof Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor University of Pretoria; Co-Chair AAUN Africa

Globally, communities are grappling with challenges related to equitable development, peace and sustainability. In this context the concept of science for policy is growing in significance as seen in the mission statements of several scientific organisations. However, at the same time there are indications that the status of science in society is being eroded due to the rise of populism and the emergence of the ‘post-truth’ era. Recent surveys reveal that public trust in established institutions including science is declining. This presentation will suggest that trans-regional and transnational academic networks and partnerships have a crucial role to play in fostering science for policy and science in society at both local and global levels. Such networks can be catalyzed to provide leadership by using their convening power, mobilizing their scientific expertise and using their collective voice to promote science in society and to influence public policies at both local and global levels.

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC

Senator for Western Australia

Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade

Current global geo-strategic changes are causing Australia and other Liberal Democracies to consider our role in the Indo-Pacific region. The Senator will speak about Australia's focus on the Indo-Pacific and plans to deepen engagement with countries throughout the region in partnership with Japan and the United States.

Senator Reynolds will also speak on the opportunities for Australian industry across Africa and the role of local companies, in cooperation with Government, in assisting nations to achieve key outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Senators' speech comes on the back of a report by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee into Australia's trade and investment relationships with countries of Africa. This report made a number of recommendations to the Commonwealth Government to strengthen relations with nations on the continent which included increasing Government to Government dialogues, supporting initiatives that strengthen the regulatory and governance landscape, and promoting information and knowledge sharing across complimentary industries.

Senator Reynolds believes Australia has an important role to play in working with these nations to a build a strong regulatory framework, particularly in the resources sector, to provide an environment conducive to business investment and the growth of sustainable industries which deliver not just for national economies, but for local communities.

H.E. Ms Beryl Sisulu

High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Australia

As outlined in *Agenda 2063* - the 50-year action plan and vision of the African Union - Africa needs to promote education in order to create employment and provide the skills required for a productive workforce that will be of benefit to the continent, as well as the world economy at large.

The education we strive for should be able to produce visionary and strong leadership that will not only contribute to the eradication of poverty and inequality but also ensure the full realization of Africa's ambition to be stable, prosperous and competitive in global trade, investment and tourism.

Africa has a great potential for investment and equipping the workforce of the future. The continent's education systems need to support the rapidly changing demands of African economies in order to meaningfully contribute to the development of "the Africa We Want".

[Session 2](#)

[Global and local: policy into practice \(SDGs, BRI, Climate, Indo-Pacific\)](#)

[Chair: Dr Aldo Stroebel, Exec Director International, National Research Foundation SA](#)

Innovation to strengthen African farming and food systems

Mellissa Wood, General Manager, Global Programs, ACIAR

Food and nutrition security remains a significant challenge in Africa as farming systems face a myriad of difficulties related to declining soil fertility, yield gaps, climate change impacts and disease outbreaks. Agriculture plays a critical role in delivering food

production, income generation and women's empowerment. It also plays a key role in providing the link between diet, nutrition and human health and agricultural research is essential to strengthen African farming and food systems.

ACIAR is Australia's specialist international agricultural research for development agency whose mission is to achieve more productive, resilient and sustainable agriculture in developing countries through international agricultural research partnerships. ACIAR's ten-year strategy sets out high-level strategic directions to address challenges faced by the developing world. ACIAR's African strategy is currently under review to sharpen the focus on areas where Australia has unique strengths to contribute to joint innovation, and utilising strong partnerships for achieving results. This includes co-investment partnerships that leverage complementary skillsets and enable greater funding for game changing innovations. Evolving from overcoming technological barriers and the provision of seed, fertilizer and other inputs, new ACIAR investments are applying Australian natural resource monitoring technology to support agro-ecological approaches towards diversification, intensification, soil water and nutrient management, and generally adapting practices to local ecological conditions. Other approaches emphasise facilitating women's empowerment and building mentoring relationships for empowering African agricultural and biosecurity expert capacity. One example is the *Digital Earth Africa* initiative that focuses on enabling emerging technologies developed in Australia to solve Africa's greatest challenges.

Building a Sustainable Peace in Africa: A Critical Look at SDG 16 ***Mr Seth Appiah-Mensah, UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU)***

SDGs seek to bring lasting peace, strengthen human rights and rule of law and ensure resilience in the vulnerable communities. In Africa, armed violence and insecurity create the most havoc and mass atrocities. It may, therefore, be argued that SDG 16 is the most important goal. In fact, every other goal depends on peace and security, justice and rule of law. The United Nations and international partners are building capacities of countries to enhance domestic capacity, build resilience as well as address the drivers of conflict including access to justice, corruption and bribery, transparency, fundamental freedoms and participatory decision-making. But these objectives are in constant competition with national priorities, and it is not at all clear how these are navigated within a complex security regime where both state and non-state actors are stakeholders. Like the MDGs, there is a risk that many of the SDG 16 targets could be missed, if not properly prioritized and aggressively addressed. I argue that targets have to be prioritized at the national level as an important first step towards achieving SDG 16. A related issue is how the prioritised targets can be harmonised at the national level and dovetailed with the strategy of a regional agency to achieve a coherent peace and security framework.

Professor Ahmed Bawa ***CEO Universities South Africa***

Universities are knowledge intensive social institutions that have the particular mandate of developing and graduating new cohorts of undergraduate and postgraduate students. In doing so they contribute to the development of various kinds of human capacity that are fundamental to the functioning of democracies and economies. Alongside and

through this mandate they engage in the production, application and dissemination of knowledge that contributes to the challenges improving the social, political, economic and environmental wellbeing of the societies in which they are located.

Many of the challenges facing our societies such as global warming due to unprecedented human consumption, grinding poverty and growing inequality, political and other forms of violence, rampant infectious diseases, forced human migrations, etc. are simultaneously intensely local and global. This places universities in a very special position to address these challenges since, as knowledge intensive institutions, they too are both local and global.

Perhaps the most significant challenge facing universities is to produce graduates who see themselves as part of a global commons of scholarship and who are able to work across geographical and political boundaries, be competent in comparative studies and engage the complexity of these major socioeconomic challenges with newly developing theory and praxis.

Session 3

Australia Africa Teamwork – priority research/education areas for impact

Chair: Professor Prem Ramburuth, University of New South Wales

A blended approach to developing the University of Mauritius into a research-engaged and entrepreneurial University

Prof Dhanjay Jhurry, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

As the landscape of higher education changes and Universities face pressures such as the need for greater access to higher education, the imperative of producing work-ready graduates, the higher expectations of society for university contribution to socio-economic development of a country, the bigger emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation and the need for interaction with external stakeholders amongst others, there is a need to revisit existing models of University development – teaching university, research university, entrepreneurial university.

What model should Universities in the developing world champion? Should they limit their core mission to the development of human capital? How to engage with government and business? How can our Universities take research to the marketplace? How to foster technology transfer which requires significant resources and infrastructure? How to promote internationalization?

This presentation will discuss our blended approach to develop the University of Mauritius into a research-engaged and entrepreneurial University inter-related through the triple helix – Government, Private sector and University – to more effectively drive innovation and economic development as depicted in the Figure below. Through this approach and the accompanying measures put in place – setting-up Poles of Research Excellence, Poles of Innovation, Incubators and Agri-Tech Park, development of teaching programs with industry, creation of a knowledge transfer office – funding for research and innovation has substantially increased. This model appears to also have the merit of attracting international talents.

UNSW-Gulu University Partnership

Prof Ian Jacobs, President and Vice Chancellor, UNSW Sydney

An important part of UNSW's 2025 Strategy is creation of an Institute of Global Development (IGD). UNSW's partnership with Gulu University in Uganda was established in 2016 as a component of the IGD. The partnership, contains four pillars: staff exchange and professional development; student mobility; cooperative research and community engagement; and the sharing of academic resources. Two years on, the partnership has completed four successful initial pilot projects – delivery of UNSW teacher training modules to Gulu academic staff; a peace and conflict project which is seeing UNSW and Gulu students collaborate on research; a Summer School Exchange program which has had UNSW students undertake agri-business placements in Uganda, and Gulu students study Australian farming practices in Australia; and a broad-ranging community health program, which, among many other activities, is working with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to provide cervical and breast cancer screening, and training for local nurses and midwives.

The contribution of food composition data to attaining food security

Prof Hettie Schönfeldt, University of Pretoria

Most governments have committed to the set of Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations (UN) to be achieved by 2030. Subsequently the governments have drafted, or are in process of drafting, policies and programmes which aim to answer to these global requests. Sub-Saharan Africa provides a unique case study: in that despite economic growth, undernutrition has not improved when compared to other industrialised nations, while at the same time, diet-related non-communicable diseases and obesity have exponentially increased.

A transformed integrated agricultural and food system is a necessity for addressing malnutrition in all its forms, as well as the challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. To accomplish this, there is an urgent need for a far greater focus on food systems and how to make these deliver on the strategic goals of the African agriculture and food security agenda – namely economic opportunities, poverty alleviation and shared prosperity. Such an approach requires the coordination of a range of stakeholders, including academics, indigenous knowledge holders, industry, science organisations and governments to ensure progress. This will require targeted approaches that ensure innovation utilises indigenous African knowledge systems, protects biodiversity and embraces modern sciences as enabling factors for building knowledge economy.

Knowledge, Networks and Nations. Australia-Africa collaboration in the Era of Network Science

Dr Rose Amazan, University of New England

Australian higher education is known for its extensive international networks. But Africa is a singular exception. So it is important that we seek out the most productive partnerships and priority research areas, to maximize the impact of our Australia-Africa collaborations. We must also think through what evidence we have that challenges assumptions that we previously held about collaboration/partnership. Context matters, too, and does differ in addressing structural issues (i.e. gender dimensions of research

production). So a significant part of this systematic mapping exercise consisted of working collaboratively across borders, exemplifying a wider epistemic shift away from some researchers being deemed to be rule-takers, while others are seen as rule-makers.

Mapping and analysing what's there, what's effective, who's collaborating and why amongst our partners, as well as understanding how collaboration and partnerships are changing, and the implications of these developments, not only helps to improve coherence, but also social and economic sustainability. Using data and analysis from AAUN partners, and other institutions, as well as Elsevier's database of research outputs, we were able to demonstrate a growth in collaborative activities between Australian and African universities. The growing scale of research collaboration activities we found in our research is in line with the findings by the Royal Society, showing that network science is not merely increasing, but that international collaboration correlates strongly with publication impact. Adding to this is the alignment of our research and several recommendations by the same Royal Society's (2011) report, in particular the importance of 'mapping collaboration networks, to strengthen existing ones and identify new opportunities'. Thus, our systematic assessment of the scope and impact of Australia - Africa collaboration in higher education should form a base to better coordinate our efforts, share good practice, minimise duplication and maximise impact.

[Session 4](#)

[Instruments for engagement – what works and what does not?](#)

Chair: Prof Frans Swanepoel, University of Pretoria

Mining the Opportunity of Minerals in Africa

Mr David Doepel, Chair Africa Research Group, Murdoch University

The promise of genuine creation of lasting value from the extraction of minerals from Africa remains in many cases just that, a promise, and one yet to be realised. Universities can and do play a pivotal role in research and education to bring about such realisation. Inclusive growth driven by a greater and more meaningful participation from local and regional communities is one such mechanism. Over the last decade Murdoch University has engaged in a number of collaborative research projects looking at deep linkages between sectors catalysed by mining activity. In addition to reporting on some of the outcomes and policy recommendations that have been formulated this session will also explore future opportunities particularly the "promise" of blockchain, which also is yet to be realised.

Land use challenges in Africa and Australia: shared solutions 2030

Dr Peter Johnston, University of Cape Town

While agricultural land-use in Australia is generally utilised by formal commercial agriculture, the situation in Africa is different. Some 80% of African farmers are smallholder (either small scale or subsistence) farmers. Various development challenges prevent these farmers from upscaling to larger sustainable and commercial enterprises that are resilient to variations in economic and climatic conditions.

A viable agricultural sector requires a comprehensive network of research and other support structures including meteorological agencies, farmer consultative groups, and

social services. These infrastructural advantages may be useful for assisting in issues of cultural traditions, land ownership and institutional frameworks and regulations that are deeply entrenched in many African societies.

Innovations such as gender integration, access to micro-credit and education on food and nutritional security (especially with regard to alternative crops) have the potential to build up Africa's agricultural sector to one where food and nutritional sufficiency is accompanied by financial success.

An FAO analysis of 15 case studies in Africa further demonstrated that organic agriculture brings multiple benefits to the community including more nutritious diet and health, reduced occupational hazards through decreased exposure to pesticides, and job creation.

Australian educational and agricultural organisations can play, and are already playing, an important collaborative role in this effort.

Food security: is women empowerment prerequisite for food security? A review
Harriet Gausi, *PhD candidate, University of New England, Australia*

A desk review was done to assess how women empowerment contributes to sustainable food security. Reports and papers from FAO, World Bank, United Nations and other sources were reviewed; primarily focusing on literature on women empowerment as it relates to food security. It has been found that rural women especially in developing countries make substantial contribution towards food production, utilization, economic and physical access to food and food stability. Women involvement in agriculture is considerably high, ranging from 50 % to over 60 % in some areas; and in some developing countries, the agricultural sector provides employment for 85 and 94 % of men and women, respectively. Again, 95 and 35 % of women and men correspondingly, are involved in food preparation. It was also identified that education is one way of empowering women; and that policies that promote women education including that of girls would go a long way in empowering women. Concurrently, as women get empowered, access and utilization of land for agriculture purposes would also improve, thereby ensuring sustainable food production and subsequent attainment of sustainable food security. This review concludes that women empowerment is a prerequisite for food security.
