

Strengthening Australia-Africa University Relationships AAUN Forum and AGM 2 September 2019

(Draft Program V3 at 25 April 2019 – All Topics and speakers TBC)

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

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Purpose – strengthening knowledge partnerships for education, research and economic development:

The international policy framework is shaped around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the UN Paris Climate Accords (COP), the AU Africa Agenda 2063 and national policies. These include the Australian International Strategy White Paper 2017; and recently the Australian Government response to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee Report on the relationships with Africa.

Some questions are: How can Universities cooperate in bringing research evidence to fill the knowledge gaps? How can practical programs translate to mutual benefits and impact? How can the Australian-African Universities Network contribute? What are the practical steps 2019-22 to focus our working teams and partners in results and returns on investment? How do we build the next generation of leaders, capable and conversant with global policy; and able to access the opportunities and the required resources? How do we maximize the opportunities for Australia Africa partnerships in distinct areas that we can deliver? How do we build on success and diminish obstacles?

FORUM 2019 FOCUS – the priority areas for AAUN Universities to engage:

AAUN invites the advice and experience of members and stakeholders from government, academia, agencies and business in shaping our capacity and impact for 2019-22 and beyond. In AAUN's first operational six years 2013-18 we have established a platform and delivered early results. Now we seek to build greater effectiveness and impact, and to attract sustainable resources from national and international agencies.

AAUN has carried out an assessment of its academic and engagement impact to date, along with a draft revision of our strategic plan 2019-22 to build our vision, objectives and impact in coming years. **A key AAUN Forum objective is to link high ambition to real resources, so that the realities are rational. We need to assess opportunities and confront obstacles, to optimise success in Australia-Africa partnerships.**

We recognize our host and forum co-sponsor, the University of Western Australia and its African Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC). We are pleased to note the establishment of Africa-related Centres or Groups at **Curtin, Murdoch, Newcastle and UNSW**, while others are considering similar initiatives to build institutional teamwork and engagement with Africa. AAUN will do all it can to foster and support such initiatives.

(i) POLICY – As noted above, there are policy frameworks with mutual benefit for Africa and Australia, shaping research, education and economic development. They should also attract resources to implement partnerships and programs. They are an opportunities to evolve research, teaching and learning in new directions, degrees and qualifications for the challenges and leaders of tomorrow. AAUN builds equal partnerships – with twin leadership in both continents.

(ii) RESEARCH Strategy – We review our progress annually and the results from the 50 seed-funded programs that we have invested in since our launch 7 years ago at DFAT Canberra in 2012. We select the successful ones to build further with new initiatives. We are strengthening our partnerships with our sponsors, especially the Australian Government and agencies (DFAT and ACIAR) and the NRF (South Africa), and we seek additional international resources and funding. In keeping with our research and education character, we are establishing 3-4 year alliances with our knowledge partners, leveraging further partnerships with African and International Networks, and focusing on mutual objectives and outcomes. Our 50 teams focus in the areas of environment, food and nutrition security, public health in non-communicable disease, and related education and economic development.

(iii) 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 courses alongside our efforts.

(iv) 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 core part of the workshop. AAUN has invited selected **Australian and African Ministers and HOMS**, presenting a significant opportunity. Please note the incorporation of the Ministers and HOMS in the program for AAUN on 2 September. The AAUN Forum flowing on to the [ADU Research Forum](#) on 3 September and to the [Africa Down Under Conference](#) 4-6 September (see details below).

(v) OUTCOMES

Important to the success of the Forum, we will develop a **communiqué 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 consider these as **proposals for catalytic seed funding through the AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund 2020**. We will also engage with media and websites in communicating the outcomes of the meetings.

DEADLINES (see details below): - please check the website for regular updates of program and arrangements.

1 April. Registration is open (closing 1 Aug). Please register: Forum, dinner, transport [via this link](#) and hotel [via this link](#)

(The AAUN Dinner is a highlight, with African Australian music and dancing: we recommend that you join in...)

1 July: Chairs/speakers/panelists send a 200-word bio + 200-word statement/abstract to g.liu@sydney.edu.au

1 August: final program - please monitor the AAUN website for final adjustments – we will not print programs.

AAUN Draft Program: Monday 2 September 2019

STRENGTHENING AUSTRALIA – AFRICA UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIPS	
Venue: The University Club of Western Australia	
Time	
0800	Shuttle bus leaves from Pan Pacific Hotel, PERTH, WA
0830	Registration & arrival coffee/tea
0900	Opening Session 1 – Knowledge diplomacy: opportunities and obstacles.

0900-1015	<p>Welcome and Objectives (3 min each) – Prof John Hearn (Chair/MC), Co-Chair AAUN Australia Prof Dawn Freshwater, President University of Western Australia Prof Tawana Kupe, President University of Pretoria, Co-Chair AAUN Africa AAUN BOOK LAUNCHES (3 mins each): <i>(i) Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals – Prof Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town & Dr David Mickler, University of Western Australia</i> <i>(ii) Australia and Africa: A New Friend from the South? – Nikola Pijović</i></p> <p>Keynote Speakers (10 min each): Hon African Minister <i>Australia-Africa Teamwork 2030: what are the mutual opportunities?</i> Hon Australian Minister <i>Australia’s international priorities and perspectives in Africa</i> The DFAT Africa Region Brief, Senate DTRC Report, Government Response</p> <p>Panel: 5 min each: (i) HE Gita Kamath – Australian High Commissioner, Pretoria (ii) HE Isiaya Kabira – Dean of the African HOMS (Kenya)</p> <p>Discussants: <i>African High Commissioners, Australian High Commissioners (HOMS)</i> Discussion (30 min) – Opportunities and obstacles – what are the gaps and solutions?</p>
1015-1045	Coffee break
1045-1145	<p>Session 2 – Realities and resources: criteria for success – what works and what does not Chair: (5 min) Prof Dhanjay Jhurry, President University of Mauritius</p>
	<p>Keynote speakers: (10 Min each): Lessons from experience: focus for success - 1. Education, Employment, Economic Development. Prof Ernest Aryeetey, SecGen ARUA 2. Sustainability in education partnerships: Professor Deborah Terry, President Curtin Uni</p> <p>Panel (7 min each) (i) Professor Peter Mbithi, President University of Nairobi (ii) Mellissa Wood, General Manager, Global Program, ACIAR</p> <p>Discussants: International academic leaders, early career researchers Discussion (25 min)</p>
1145-1300	<p>Session 3: Australia Africa Teamwork – research frontiers and innovation Chair: (5min)</p>
	<p>Keynote speakers (7 min each): (i) Hypertension, Salt and Iodine – Prof Karen Charlton, Wollongong (ii) Plant Genetics and Breeding – Prof Wallace Cowling, UWA (iii) Women in the workforce – Prof Prem Ramburuth,UNSW (iv) – The China Belt and Road Initiative - (v) – Extractives and community development – David Doepel, Murdoch</p> <p>Discussion (30 min) Innovation with Australia-Africa characteristics</p>
1300-1400	<p>Lunch – served in foyer Round Table Meetings: (i) Network Alliances – WUN, ARUA, RUFORUM, Others(Venue Banquet Hall South) Or: AAUN Australia Africa Centres – Curtin, Murdoch, Newcastle, UNSW-Sydney (ii) Australia Awards Early career researchers and Alumni Group Chairs:</p>

1400-1500	Session 4: TEDx SESSION – Water for Life: Australia Africa Approaches and Solutions <i>Chair: (5 min)</i>
	Panel (7 min each): - Further consultation required: good topics and speakers essential 3 global challenges in water research – frontier research status (i) Safe water – cities and villages (ii) Food Security - New technologies in targeted irrigation (iii) Infrastructure – sustainability in water conservation and supply (iv) Communication – Lisa Watts , The Conversation Australia - Africa Discussion with audience (25 min):
1500-1530	Concluding Session - Co-Chairs: Prof John Hearn and Prof Tawana Kupe <i>Session Chair Reports – (4 x 5 min)</i>
	Strategic priorities/programs – action plan and next steps, recommendations to the AGM
1530-1600	Tea break (1610, for those not attending the AGM or Forum dinner, bus to the Pan Pacific)
1615-1715 1715-1745	AAUN BUSINESS MEETING and AGM 2019 – Steering Group, invited guests and observers (Closed session with AAUN Steering Group – Confirmation of strategic plan, budget)
	<i>Agenda and papers to be circulated to Members in early August.</i> (Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided)
1800 for 1830-2100	Conference Dinner for AAUN, WUN observers, guests (by invitation, with separate registration and at-cost payment)
(Transport to Conference Hotel: Pan Pacific at 2110)	Performance: Cultural and musical Vote of Thanks – Prof John Hearn, AAUN (5 min) Venue: The University Club of Western Australia

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).

Contacts

Program development and editing: A-Prof Grace Liu, E: g.liu@sydney.edu.au

Communications and Media (to be advised)

Speakers, Panelists and Chairs - URGENT

Please send your 100-200 word bio, and 100-200 word abstract to A-Prof Grace Liu at g.liu@sydney.edu.au 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 by **1 July**.

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 120 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 2 September 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 2017. 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: 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 2020 (catalytic grants of \$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 and for sponsoring the Annual Dinner. We welcome and thank our student volunteers from UWA. The AAUN Forum is also a part of **Australia Africa Week 2-6 September**, and a partner with the Australia Africa Research Forum (Murdoch) and Africa Down Under 2019. (See details below).

Thanks to Our Sponsors and Knowledge Partners

- 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 3 September

Joint AAUN Research Symposium with MURDOCH UNIVERSITY and AFRICA DOWN UNDER (ADU)

Chair: David Doepel, Murdoch University

- **Program:** please see the [Africa-Australia Research Forum webpage](#) 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, please register – Deadline 1 August 2019 (to d.doepel@murdoch.edu.au)

DAY 3-5, WEDNESDAY 4 – FRIDAY 6 September

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 related challenges

Thank you for your interest and engagement,

Professor John Hearn, Chairman AAUN Australia, E: john.hearn@sydney.edu.au

Associate Professor Grace Liu, General Manager AAUN, E: g.liu@sydney.edu.au

Communications and media: Marjorie Lewis Jones (TBC)