

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

(Draft Program V4 at 15 June 2019 – Topics and speakers subject to change)

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 results. Now we will build greater effectiveness and impact, attracting resources from national and international agencies. We must be self-sustainable and cannot wait for government.

AAUN is carrying out an assessment of its academic and engagement impact to date, along with a draft revision of our strategic plan 2020-22 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 the evident obstacles, optimising success in Australia-Africa partnerships.**

We recognize our host and forum co-sponsor, the University of Western Australia and its new 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. **See briefing session at 1300-1400.**

(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. The AAUN Forum flows 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, copying to relevant international governments and agencies. Several research programs will arise from the discussions. We will consider these as **proposals for seed funding through the AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund 2020**. We will also engage with media and 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	Welcome and Objectives (3 min each) – Prof John Hearn, (Chair/MC), University of Sydney, Founding Co-Chair AAUN Australia Prof Dawn Freshwater, President University of Western Australia Prof Tawana Kupe, President University of Pretoria, Co-Chair AAUN Africa

	<p>AAUN BOOK LAUNCHES (3 mins each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals – Prof Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town & Dr David Mickler, University of Western Australia Australia and Africa: A New Friend from the South? – Dr Nikola Pijović, Research Fellow, AfREC UWA. <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></p> <p>The DFAT Africa Region Brief, Senate DTRC Report, Government Response 2019</p> <p>Panel: 5 min each: (i) HE Gita Kamath – Australian High Commissioner, Pretoria SA (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 on success -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Ernest Aryeetey, SecGen ARUA – Education, employment, economic development Professor Deborah Terry, President Curtin Uni – Sustainability in education partnerships <p>Panel (7 min each)</p> <p>(i) Professor Peter Mbithi, President University of Nairobi (ii) Mellissa Wood, General Manager, Global Program, ACIAR</p> <p>Discussion: (20 mins) Aligning with international policies (SDGs, BRI, AU Agenda 63 etc)</p> <p>Discussants: International academic leaders and early career researchers</p>
1145-1300	<p>Session 3: Australia Africa Teamwork – research frontiers and innovation Chair: (5min) Prof Eeva Leinonen, President Murdoch University</p>
	<p>Keynote speakers (7 min each):</p> <p>(i) Prof Karen Charlton, Wollongong – Prevention and Management of NCDs in Africa (ii) Prof Wallace Cowling, UWA – Plant genetics for alternative foods (iii) Prof Prem Ramburuth, UNSW – the advancement of women in the workforce (vi) Prof Ebenezer Owusu, President University of Ghana - partnership priorities for impact (vi) Lisa Watts, The Conversation Australia – Factual news for impact and influence.</p> <p>Discussion (20 mins) Innovation with Australia-Africa characteristics Discussants: International research leaders and early career researchers</p>
1300-1400	<p>Lunch – served in foyer</p> <p>Round Table Briefings: (Venue Banquet Hall South)</p> <p>Moderator – Dr Aldo Stroebel, Executive Director, NRF - SA</p> <p>(i) AAUN - New Australia Africa Centres – Curtin, Murdoch, Newcastle, UNSW</p> <p>Moderator -</p> <p>(ii) Australia Awards Early career researchers and Alumni Group</p>

1400-1500	Session 4: TEDx SESSION – “Water for Life”: Australia Africa Challenges and Solutions <i>Chair: (5 min) – UWA/TEDX Expert Moderator</i>
	Panel (7 min + 5 min QandA each): Global challenges in water research – frontier research status in Australia and Africa (i) Prof Greg Leslie , Head UNSW Global Water Institute – (ii) Prof Elly Sabiiti , Makerere Uni – safe water, cities and villages (iii) Prof Basant Maheshwari , WSU – Urbanisation, Water and Food Security (iv) Prof Anas Ghadouani , UWA Aquatic Ecology and Ecosystems Discussion round up with audience (10 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. 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, implementation and editing: A-Prof Grace Liu, E: g.liu@sydney.edu.au

Communications and Media: Marjorie Lewis Jones marjorielewisjones@yahoo.com.au

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 15 AUGUST) for final updates of the program. 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. There will be Australia-African entertainment.

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,

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