

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

(Draft Program V10 at 25 August 2019 – Final Program)

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, Defense and Trade References Committee Report on the relationships with Africa.

SOME QUESTIONS - 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 2020-22 to focus our working teams and partners in results and returns on investment? How do we build the next generation of leaders, women and men, 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 2020-22 and beyond. In AAUN's first operational six years 2013-18 we have established a platform and delivered results. Now we will build greater capacity and critical mass, attracting resources from national and international agencies. We must be self-sustainable and independent of government, while aligning with international and national policies.

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, for optimal success in Australia-Africa partnerships.**

WE RECOGNISE OUR HOST PARTNER 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 equal governance in both continents.

(ii) RESEARCH Strategy – We review our progress annually and the results from the 53 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. We are establishing 3-4 year alliances with our knowledge partners, leveraging further partnerships with African and International Networks. Our 53 research 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, the advancement of women, 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 AND PARTICIPANTS

Each session has 3-5 keynote speakers. **Chairs and speakers please keep strictly to times shown, leaving time for discussion.** Discussion time to achieve consensus and practical outcomes is a core part of the workshop.

Please see the attendance list: Australian and African Ministers and HOMS, international agencies, leaders from education and research, business and NGO’s, presenting a significant opportunity to develop programs and partnerships. The AAUN Forum flows on to the [ADU Research Forum](#) on 3 September and to the [Africa Down Under Conference](#) 4-6 September, under the overall umbrella of Australia Africa Week (see details below).

(v) OUTCOMES

Important to the success of the Forum, we will develop a **summary communique 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 in communicating the outcomes of the meetings.

DEADLINES (see details below): - please check the website for regular updates of program and arrangements. **Registration is open (closing 28 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 from the Komichi Alliance: please join in...)

By 15 August: Chairs/speakers/panelists send a 200-word bio + 200-word statement/abstract to g.liu@sydney.edu.au
25 August: final program - please monitor the AAUN website for final adjustments – we will not print programs.

WELCOME RECEPTION – AAUN Participants are invited by Vice Chancellor Eeva Leinonen and Murdoch University to a reception on Sunday 1 September at 1800h at the Pan Pacific Hotel. **Please respond to D.Doepel@murdoch.edu.au**

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), University of Sydney, Founding Co-Chair AAUN Australia Prof Dawn Freshwater, Vice Chancellor University of Western Australia Prof Tawana Kupe, Vice Chancellor University of Pretoria, Co-Chair AAUN Africa</p> <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): Australia Africa priorities and perspectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HE Isaiya Kabira – Dean of the African Heads of Missions (Kenya) HE Marthinus van Schalkwyk – High Commissioner of South Africa Mr Ian Halliday – Australian Consul General Dubai, General Manager Middle East and Africa, Australian Trade and Investment Commission <p>Discussion: (30 Min) Actions and implementation to forge lasting partnerships</p> <p>Discussants: Introductory Comment (3 Min): HE Jenny Dee, Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius. <i>African High Commissioners, Australian High Commissioners (HOMS); Australia Africa Chambers of Commerce; Advisory Group on Australia Africa Relations</i></p>
1015-1045	Coffee break
1045-1145	<p>Session 2 – Strengthening University Relationships – what works and what does not? Chair: (5 min) Prof Dawn Freshwater, President and Vice Chancellor, UWA</p>
	<p>Keynote speakers: (10 Min each): Lessons from experience: success and sustainability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Tawana Kupe – President and Vice Chancellor, University of Pretoria Prof Deborah Terry - President and Vice Chancellor, Curtin University Prof Ebenezer Owusu - President and Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana Prof Eeva Leinonen – President and Vice Chancellor, Murdoch University <p>Discussion: (15 mins) Aligning with international policies and opportunities</p> <p>Discussants: Introductory Comment (3 Min): Dr Thandi Mgwebi, DVC-R Tshwane University of Technology. <i>AAUN Steering Group Members, University DVCs, Education leaders</i></p>
1145-1300	<p>Session 3: Australia Africa Teamwork – AAUN innovation programs, Communications Chair: (5min) Professor Frans Swanepoel, Deputy Chair AAUN Africa</p>
	<p>Keynote speakers (7 min each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prof Karen Charlton, UoW– Strategies to reduce blood pressure Dr Peter Johnston, UCT – Climate, Environment and Food Security Prof Wallace Cowling, UWA – Plant genetics for alternative foods Prof Prem Ramburuth, UNSW – The empowerment of women in the workforce in Africa Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee, UP – Education pathways and the conservation of talent Lisa Watts, The Conversation (Aust) – Expert news for impact and influence <p>Discussion (15 mins) Research Innovation with Australia-Africa characteristics</p> <p>Discussants: <i>International research leaders, early career researchers, students</i></p>

1300-1400	<p>Lunch – served in foyer</p> <p>Round Table Briefings: (Venue: Seminar Rooms ARTS G05 and G07 adjacent to AfREC)</p> <p>Moderator – David Doepel, Murdoch University</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AAUN - New Australia Africa Centres – Curtin, Murdoch, Newcastle, UNSW, UWA <p>Moderator - Anthea Edmunds, On-Award Manager, Australia Awards Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Australia Awards Early career researchers and Alumni Group
1400-1500	<p>Session 4: TEDx SESSION – “Water for Life”: Australia Africa Challenges and Solutions</p> <p>Chair: (5 min) – UWA/TEDX Expert Moderator; Coordinator: Dr David Mickler (UWA)</p>
	<p>Panel (8 min + 5 min Q and A each):</p> <p>Global challenges in water research – frontier research status in Australia and Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Greg Leslie, Head UNSW Global Water Institute – 2. Prof Basant Maheshwari, WSU – Urbanisation, Water and Food Security 3. Prof Anas Ghadouani, UWA Aquatic Ecology and Ecosystems <p>Discussion round up with audience (20 min including 2 min Chair Conclusions)</p>
1500-1530	<p>Concluding Session - Co-Chairs: Prof John Hearn and Prof Tawana Kupe</p> <p><i>Session Chair Reports – (4 x 5 min); Outcomes and actions follow up (10 min)</i></p>
	<p>Strategic priorities/programs – action plan and next steps, recommendations to the AGM</p>
1530-1600	<p>Tea break (Bus to Pan Pacific 1610, for those not attending the AGM or Forum dinner)</p>
1615-1715 1715-1745	<p>AAUN BUSINESS MEETING and AGM 2019 – Steering Group, invited guests and observers</p> <p>(Closed session with AAUN Steering Group – Confirmation of strategic plan, budget)</p>
	<p><i>Agenda and papers have been circulated to Steering Group members.</i></p> <p>(Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided)</p>
1800 for 1830-2100	<p>Conference Dinner for AAUN, WUN observers, guests. We look forward to a special event. (This is a separate registration and at-cost payment of \$110 – we do not use sponsors funds to feed ourselves!)</p>
(Transport to Conference Hotel: Pan Pacific at 2110)	<p>Performance: Cultural, musical, dancing: The Komichi Alliance 1930-2100h.</p> <p>Vote of Thanks – Prof John Hearn, AAUN (5 min)</p> <p>Venue: The University Club of Western Australia</p>

Contacts

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

Speakers, Panelists and Chairs. A-Prof Grace Liu has edited the abstracts and bios and is placing these on the website. Also, six reference papers which are an important background to the Forum discussions. **Chairs and Speakers are asked to keep strictly to time so that discussion times are preserved for the expert participants.**

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.

Volunteers. We are pleased to recognise and thank our colleague volunteers from UWA including **Tinache Jakwa (Convener), Seth Appiah-Mensah, Muhammed Dan Suleiman, Isaac Frimpong, Isaac Mensah and Kimberley Barker.**

Participants. We expect up to 120 expert participants and students 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 of the AGM 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 are 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 28 August 2019. 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.

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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