

# UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA INAUGURAL AFRICA WEEK

HOSTED AT THE FUTURE AFRICA INSTITUTE AT UP - 30 MARCH TO 3 APRIL 2020

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Africa is a continent on the rise, where economic performance has remained resilient despite turbulent international events. However, Africa is also a continent burdened by contradictions and complexities; although the percentage of persons living in poverty has declined, the absolute number of people living in poverty has increased and inequality persists at striking levels.

Eliminating poverty and inequality have been identified as critical elements of the global development agenda. The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for joint action by the global community to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food and nutrition security, and meet other sustainable development targets. Similarly, the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, aims to address poverty and inequality on the African continent envisioning *“a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development... where poverty is eradicated in one generation”*. Eliminating poverty and inequality through development aid and public spending alone is not possible given the magnitude of the challenge and scale of investment required. The UN has thus articulated a strong call to action for all stakeholders to join forces in revitalising global and continental partnerships so as to strengthen implementation and achieve the goals.

Several demographic trends are set to significantly impact the development agenda in Africa, including the increasingly young population. All ten of the world's countries with the youngest populations are in Africa, with approximately 65% of the continent's citizens below the age of 35. Africa can benefit from young people's energy and ability to work, provided that viable opportunities for economic inclusion exist. Failure to do so can lead to conflict and political instability. From this perspective, access to relevant and quality higher education is a fundamental building block not only for economic growth, but also for working towards a just and peaceful continent.

The potential of higher education to contribute to towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 – through creating opportunities for Africa's youth and driving innovation – is explicitly acknowledged in both global and continental agendas. Investments in higher education in Africa yield the highest returns globally, up to 21%, and data further shows that a one-year increase in average tertiary education levels would eventually yield up to 12% increases in GDP. Higher education and knowledge creation directly, and indirectly, drives innovation and technology which are critical for economic growth. To realise higher education's potential contribution to development, profound and transformative changes are an urgent imperative. Achieving this transformation will require boundary-spanning partnerships that transcend geography, discipline and sector, as well as new modalities for engagement in collaborative efforts.

## UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (UP) – RESPONDING TO CONTEXT, EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Pretoria (UP) has undergone fundamental changes during the past decades and is now positioned as one of the continent's leading research-intensive institutions – committed to excellence, transformation and partnerships for impact.

Research is at the apex of the University's long-term strategic plan, which is to be a leading research-intensive university in Africa. Equally important is the University's international visibility and the impact of its research and innovation on socio-economic development in South Africa and Africa. UP therefore deliberately balances its focus on building a university that is firmly focused on internationally recognised, high quality scholarship and its

contributions, through engaged scholarship, in support of thoughtful development in South Africa, in Africa and globally, in particular the Global South.

In the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) rankings, released in 2018, UP was the only South African university to improve its ranking. From being in the 501-600 range in 2017, the institution now ranks in the 401-500 band, and third nationally. In the Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings – UP is currently ranked within the top 40 universities.

**UP Vision** “To be a leading research-intensive university in Africa, recognised internationally for its quality, relevance and impact, as also for developing people, creating knowledge and making a difference locally and globally.”

The university’s student body consist of diverse cultures, ecologies and social and economic circumstances – students who must become part of a rich societal fabric that is underpinned by understanding, respect, harmony and equity. Currently, 60.5% of undergraduate and 72% of the more than 18,000 postgraduate students are Black, Coloured or Indian. A strong international profile consists of 230 institution-wide international partnerships with collaborators in more than 50 countries across six continents, and more than 4500 international students from more than 60 countries.

UP recognises that complex challenges – such as poverty and inequality – require approaches and solutions that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. In response, the Future Africa Institute has been established at UP positioned as a leading entity to drive the institution’s efforts in interdisciplinary science. Future Africa is a space not only to transcend disciplinary boundaries, but also geographic ones and the campus is a focal point for UP’s collaborative efforts focussed on Africa. Through the work at Future Africa, UP seeks to work towards innovative approaches that have the potential for application in different contexts, with wide-ranging positive impact through the creation of multiple streams of value.

UP is currently revitalising its approach to partnerships to ensure that they focus on research excellence in areas of institutional research strength and focus, are designed for relevance and impact, and are synergistic and complementary. This has implications for how partners are selected, but also for how partnerships are managed as a collective (as opposed to being managed in a bilateral approach). To achieve this, UP is currently developing its *Africa Global University Project (AGUP)* within which UP will select 20-30 core universities (10-15 African and 10-15 global institutions) to become the core partner universities that the institution establishes long-term, expansive and synergistic partnerships with. The core partners would include those with whom UP already has a strong relationship of mutual benefit, and those with whom partnership can help UP achieve its vision, including contributing to making a difference and having impact. Within the specific thematic areas of collaboration which will be selected, the cross-cutting drivers of the AGUP will be enabling mobility and excellence, as well as promoting diversity. One of the desired outcomes of AGUP will be to develop young intellectual leaders with a global outlook through the activities of the Project.

## ABOUT UP AFRICA WEEK 2020

UP’s is proud to announce its inaugural Africa Week (30 March – 2 April), affirming the institution’s leadership and commitment to partnerships focussed on building capacity in Africa and accelerating impact at scale to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Africa Week will be hosted at Future Africa and will feature three key events:

- The Australia-Africa University Network (AAUN) Annual Africa Forum Meeting (see Appendix 1)
- The launch of UP’s *Africa Global University Project (AGUP)* by hosting a *by invitation only colloquium*
- The Times Higher Education (THE) Southern Africa Impact Summit (see Appendix 3)

Africa Week is distinguished from traditional academic conferences through its objective to facilitate opportunities to develop collaborative arrangements that will continue beyond the event itself. Africa Week will bring together 200-250 participants from around the globe, including Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors from UP's global and African partners.

The activities of Africa Week, although each distinct in their own right, are designed to be complementary, creating space for synergy and continued conversation between events.

<b>Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN) Annual Africa Forum</b> <b>30 March 2020</b>	<b>AGUP Colloquium (by invitation only hosting 60 participants)</b> <b>31 March 2020</b>	<b>THE Southern African Universities Impact Forum</b> <b>1-2 April 2020</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smart partnerships and African networks for excellence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Partnerships for impact</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEME</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Translating national goals into global impact</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>AAUN focusses on the engagement of Australian universities and universities in sub-Saharan Africa to enable the provision of specific expertise across areas of priority for Australia and Africa. The Annual Africa Forum meeting brings together the network's 22 members including ten universities from Australia and twelve from the African continent.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>The AGUP Colloquium will feature 5 action-orientated conversations to solicit input from UP's partners on how to refine the Africa Global University Project (AGUP), and to initiate collaborative activities across UP's major network partners.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p>At the inaugural <b>THE Southern African Universities Impact Forum</b>, leaders and subject experts from higher education institutions across the region will convene to share research, ideas and solutions to address and confront the key issues that affect the ability of higher education institutions to create a positive impact on society.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SDG FOCUS</b></p> <p>Focus on SDGs and STISA 2024 as drivers of partnerships and knowledge networks.</p> <p>Special focus on priority research proposals for PRDF 2020 and evidenced-based advice (see <a href="http://www.aaun.edu.au">www.aaun.edu.au</a>).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SDG FOCUS</b></p> <p>Focus on SDGs and STISA 2024 as drivers of partnerships and knowledge networks.</p> <p>Special focus on SDG 2 – Zero Hunger and SDG 17 – Partnerships to ensure inclusivity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SDG FOCUS</b></p> <p>Focus on SDGs, achieving meaningful change and impact.</p> <p>Special focus on SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, and SDG 4 Quality Education as it related to higher education.</p>

All the events across the week are intended to have concrete outcomes. Through the strategic conversations, Africa Week will lead to the identification of synergies between partners that can lead to innovative ideas and plans for collaborative action across the networks through, inter alia, collaborative research projects and engaged scholarship, and proposals for potential joint funding opportunities.

UP looks forward to welcoming its partners, collaborators and networks to Africa Week 2020.

# APPENDIX 1

## AUSTRALIA-AFRICA UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AAUN)

### AFRICA FORUM 2020

(As at 30 January 2020)

#### SMART PARTNERSHIPS AND AFRICAN NETWORKS FOR EXCELLENCE

DATE: MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2020

TIME: 8:30 - 17:00

#### DRAFT PROGRAMME

07h30	Shuttle leaves from hotel
08h00-08h30	Arrival at Future Africa Campus and Registration
08h30-10h00	<p><b><u>Session 1: Soft Power and Knowledge Diplomacy</u></b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research and International, Nelson Mandela University (NMU) (<i>Designate</i>)</p> <p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> (5 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Professor Tawana Kupe, Co-Chairperson, AAUN, Africa, and Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria, South Africa</li><li>▪ Professor John Hearn, Co-Chairperson, AAUN, Australia, and Professor, University of Sydney, Australia</li></ul> <p><b>Keynote Address</b> (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ HE Gita Kamath, High Commissioner of Australia to South Africa <b>tb</b><b>c</b></li></ul> <p><b>Panel Conversation: Africa-Australia Relations. <i>Australia and Africa: A New Friend from the South?</i></b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr David Mickler, Director, Africa Research and Engagement Centre (AfREC), UWA</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Dr Nikola Pijović, Africa Research and Engagement Centre (AfREC), UWA</li><li>▪ Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Exec, South African Institute of International Affairs</li><li>▪ Christopher Isike, Professor of African Politics and International Relations, University of Pretoria</li></ul> <p><b>Discussion</b> (30 min)</p>
10h00-10h30	Refreshments and group photo
10h30-12h00	<p><b><u>Session 2: In Conversation with the founding and current Chairpersons: AAUN – towards the next decade</u></b></p> <p>Moderator: Prof Maano Ramutsindela, Dean of Science, University of Cape Town, SA</p> <p><b>Keynote Speakers</b> (15 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Prof Tawana Kupe, AAUN Co-Chairperson (Africa) and Vice-Chancellor, University of Pretoria</li><li>▪ Prof John Hearn, founding and current Co-Chairperson, AAUN (Australia)</li><li>▪ Prof Cheryl de la Rey, founding and former Co-Chairperson, AAUN Africa (currently New Zealand)</li></ul>

**Discussion (45 min)**

12h00-13h00	Networking Lunch
13h00-14h40	<p><b><u>Session 3: In Conversation with University Leaders: SDGs and STISA 2024 as drivers for smart partnerships and African knowledge networks to achieve excellence</u></b></p> <p>Moderator: Prof Joanna Newman, Secretary-General, Association for Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London, UK (Setting the scene: 10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Input by</b> Prof Tawana Kupe, VC and Principal, University of Pretoria (UP) and Africa chair of AAUN (10 minutes)</li><li>▪ <b>Input by</b> Prof Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana (10 minutes)</li></ul> <p><b>Prof Newman interviews panellists (1 hour)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Prof Sue Harrison, DVC University of Cape Town (UCT), SA</li><li>▪ Prof Dhanjay Jhurry, VC University of Mauritius</li><li>▪ Prof David Norris, VC University of Botswana</li><li>▪ Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, VC Makerere University <b>tbc</b></li><li>▪ Prof Luke Mumba, VC University of Zambia</li><li>▪ Prof Madara Ogot, DVC, University of Nairobi, Kenya</li><li>▪ Prof Tayyeb Shah, DVC University of Western Australia (UWA)</li><li>▪ Prof Alex Zelinski, VC University of Newcastle <b>tbc</b></li></ul> <p><b>Concluding remarks</b> and strategic pointers for the way forward: Prof Joanna Newman (10 minutes)</p>
14h40-15h00	Refreshments
15h00-16h00	<p><b>Concluding session</b></p> <p>Chair: Prof Frans Swanepoel, AAUN Deputy-Chairperson</p> <p><b>Session Moderator Summaries (10 min each)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Dr Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research and International NMU (Designate)</li><li>▪ Prof Maano Ramutsindela, Dean of Science, University of Cape Town</li><li>▪ Dr Joanna Newman, Secretary-General, Association for Commonwealth Universities (ACU)</li></ul>
16h00-17h00	<p><b>AAUN AFRICA BUSINESS MEETING 2020</b></p> <p><i>(Closed session with AAUN Steering Group – Confirmation of Strategic Plan, Budget)</i></p> <p><b>Joint chairs:</b> Professors Tawana Kupe Africa and John Hearn Australia</p> <p>Steering Group, Invited Guests and Observers</p> <p>Agenda circulated to AAUN Steering Group and highest-ranking representatives of AAUN member universities.</p>
17h30-20h00	<p><b>COCKTAIL FUNCTION Future Africa dining hall and terrace</b></p> <p><b>Welcome:</b> Prof Anton Ströh, Vice-Principal Institutional Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, University of Pretoria</p> <p><b>Signing of MoU between the University of Pretoria and Murdoch University:</b> <i>Prof David Morrison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Murdoch University, and Prof Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor, University of</i></p>

20h00-20h30 Shuttle leaves for hotels

## Tuesday 31 March

08h00 Shuttle leaves from hotel

08h30-09h00 Arrival at Future Africa Campus and Registration

09h00-12h55 **AAUN Transdisciplinary Research Workshop – Conference Room 1, Future Africa**

Convenors: Prof Hettie Schönfeldt and Prof Naushad Emmambux

09h00-09h10 **Prof Naushad Emmambux**, University of Pretoria (Workshop convenor)

*Theme, goals and envisaged outcome of the workshop* (10 minutes)

09h10-09h20 **Dr Aldo Stroebel**, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa **tbc**

*Trans-, cross- and interdisciplinary research – a funder’s perspective* (10 minutes)

### **Practical examples of transdisciplinary research – the benefits and challenges**

09h20-10h15 **5 x 8 minute presentations**

- **Prof Kadambot Siddique**, Principal Investigator of the 2018 AAUN PRDF grant project *AAUN-FLoRET: Future Legumes Research, Education & Training programme – Linking climate change and nutritional needs to agriculture* **tbc**
- **Dr Alex Thornton**, 2019 AAUN PRDF grant project *Integrating Urban Green Infrastructure and Food Security for Economic Development in African Cities* **tbc**
- **Prof Shakila Dada**, UP Centre for Alternative and Augmentative Communication (CAAC) **tbc**
- **Prof Mavis Mulaudzi**, Principal Investigator of the 2015 AAUN PRDF grant project *Investigating The Nutritional Value Of Locally Harvested And Processed Mopane Worms – An Analysis Of The Value Chain For Indigenous Edible Insects And Their Potential Role In Mother And Child Nutrition In Sub Sahara Africa: Focus On Mopani* **tbc**
- **Prof Naushad Emmambux**, recipient of the EU grant for INNOFOOD and DST-NRF Centre of Excellence Grant for SMART FOODS

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10:15-11:15 **World Café discussion towards an integrated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of transdisciplinarity in research** (1 hour)

#### Table hosts:

- Maricia van Deventer (table host coordinator)
- Picot Carene
- Peter Bamidele
- Emmanuel Nekhudzhiga
- Clarity Mapengo
- Masanabo Mondli
- Njabulo Maphumulo
- Carmen Muller

11h15-11h45 Refreshments

11h45-12h25 **Discussion towards an integrated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of transdisciplinarity in research** (continued)(40 minutes)

12h25-12h45 Brief **feedback by table hosts** on key patterns/insights that emerged during the World Café (5 minutes per table)

12h45-12h55	<b>Prof Hettie Schönfeldt</b> , University of Pretoria, UCRI grant holder and workshop convenor: Forthcoming funding opportunities that speak to transdisciplinary research modalities (10 minutes)
12h55	Participants join the delegates to the UP Africa Global University Colloquium for lunch
14h00	<b>Shuttles leave for hotels</b>

## INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Registration

Forum registration for 30 March 2020 is without charge, thanks to support from the National Research Foundation (NRF), the University of Pretoria, Australian Government Agencies (DFAT, ACIAR, Department of Education) and other sponsors. All participants are invited to a cocktail dinner on the evening of 30 March. Please register for the Forum [here](#).

Registration closes on Friday, 28 February 2020. **NOTE:** In the interest of environment and cost, there will be no printed programmes. Please go to the [AAUN website](#) ahead of the meeting for updates of the programme, or to download or print the final programme as you wish.

### Visa requirements

Information on visa requirements for South Africa is available at the following link:

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa>

Please note that the onus is on participants to verify and comply with visa requirements.

### Accommodation

Four hotel options are available for delegates, namely:

- The **Future Africa Campus**, see <https://www.futureafrica.science/index.php/campus/accommodation>. Future Africa offers short term accommodation options for conference participants. Rooms are serviced and offer:
  - Modular workstation
  - Free wifi and LAN-connection
  - On-suite bathroom (showers only)
  - Self-catering options with kitchenette (available on request)
  - The campus also hosts a large dining hall and secure parking.
 Rates are R1035.00 per night inclusive of breakfast.
- The **highperformancecentre (hpc)**. Booking enquiries should be directed to [reservations@hpc.co.za](mailto:reservations@hpc.co.za). Rates are single @ R1099 per night, breakfast included and twin @ R1499 per night, breakfast included.
- The **Maslow Time Square Hotel**, see <https://www.suninternational.com/time-square/rooms/>. There are different room options available ranging from R1788.00 to R4304.00 per night inclusive of breakfast. Please quote the following code when booking: **UP300320**
- **Southern Sun Pretoria**. Rates are single @ R1225.00 bed & breakfast per day, and double @ R1405.00 bed & breakfast per day. Please quote the following block code when booking: **3297721**

Note: The above are indicative rates and subject to change.

Please book your accommodation early, as no block bookings are being made for the Forum. Delegates who wish to make use of the hotel-to-Forum shuttle service have to indicate which of the recommended hotels they will be staying at when registering for the Forum.

### **Transport**

Shuttle transport between the conference hotels and the Forum venue will be provided to participants free of charge. Please note, however, that you are responsible for the arrangements and cost of your transport to and from the airport.

We can recommend the following shuttle services:

- EZshuttle - <https://www.ezshuttle.co.za/portfolio/pretoria/>
- Aqua Tours - <https://aquagroup.co.za/services/chauffeur/> . Bookings can be made at: email: [admin@aquamice.co.za](mailto:admin@aquamice.co.za), tel: +27 (0) 31 563 5003, all hours tel: +27 (0) 882 778 6081
- Shuttle Direct - <https://www.shuttledirect.co.za/>

### **Speakers, panelists and chairs**

Please send your 100-200 word bio, and 100-200 word abstract to Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa at [faraik@gmail.com](mailto:faraik@gmail.com) at the Africa secretariat by Monday, 3 February 2020. The bios and abstracts will be edited and circulated, with selected background papers and the final programme after 28 February.

### **Tourism information**

For tourism information and useful tips when visiting South Africa, please go to <https://www.southafrica.net/gl/en/travel>

### **AAUN Australia Forum Meeting**

The AAUN Africa Forum discussions and outcomes will link to the AAUN Australia Forum and AGM on 31 August 2020 in Perth, as a part of Australia Africa Week.

### **Communications and enquiries**

Please check our [website](#), which will be updated regularly as we develop the AAUN Forum programme and associated events further.

Enquiries may be sent by email to: [desiree.tesner-smith@up.ac.za](mailto:desiree.tesner-smith@up.ac.za) .