

AUSTRALIA AFRICA UNIVERSITY IMPACT 2020 - 2030
AAUN Australia Forum 2 November 2020

Participants Biographies

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Professor John Hearn

Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

John Hearn is Founding Co-Chair of the Australia Africa Universities Network; Adjunct Professor, Institute for Global Development, University of New South Wales – Sydney; and Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney. Born in India and raised in East Africa, he received his BSc (1st hons), MSc and DSc (hc) from University College Dublin, and PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). He served 6-7 years each in leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU, and Sydney. He was DVC (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and DVC (Academic and International) at Sydney 2004-13. He teaches first year and advanced science and biomedicine; and has published 220 research papers and six edited books in reproduction and fertility, stem cell biology and biotechnology. His current research is in stem cell policy and higher education reform. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. A committed international citizen, he has worked globally in research capacity development. He is an adviser to the Australian Government, British Council, OECD and WHO. He was (to 2013) a Board member of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and founding Chairman of the Sydney Confucius Institute. He has worked in Kenya and Uganda on WHO and university programs between 1978 and the present.

Dr David Mickler

Director, Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC), University of Western Australia (UWA)

Dr David Mickler is the founding Director of the Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) at the University of Western Australia. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Foreign Policy & International Relations in the School of Social Sciences, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the UWA Public Policy Institute. Dr Mickler has been a visiting fellow at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, at the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria and at the African Union Commission. From 2016-18, he was the founding Co-Chair of the Global Africa Group in the Worldwide Universities Network. Dr Mickler's research examines Africa's regional and international relations, with a focus on the African Union and on Australia-Africa relations. His books include *New Engagement: Contemporary Australian Foreign Policy Towards Africa* (2013), *The African Union: Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (2016) and *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2020). He has also published in *African Security, Conflict, Security and Development*, *Global Responsibility to Protect* and *Australian Journal of Politics and History*. His current

research project, co-funded by AAUN and DFAT, examines the contributions of the African diaspora in Australia to both Australia-Africa relations and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

SECURING AUSTRALIA-AFRICA EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN A TIME OF COVID-19

Chair: Dr David Mickler

Professor Tawana Kupe

Vice Chancellor and Principal, The University of Pretoria

Professor Kupe is the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria. Prior to joining the University of Pretoria, he was based at the University of the Witwatersrand where he held the rotating Vice-Principal post for one year and also served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Advancement, Human Resources and Transformation since January 2013.

Professor Kupe also served as the Executive Dean of the University of the Witwatersrand Faculty of Humanities for six years, between January 2007 and December 2012, after serving as the Head of the then School of Literature and Language Studies, and the founding Head of the Media Studies Department.

Prior to joining University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Kupe lectured at Rhodes University between 1999 and 2001, and briefly acted as the Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. He joined Rhodes from the University of Zimbabwe, where he worked in various academic capacities from 1988, including as Chairperson of the Department of English, Media and Communication Studies.

Professor Kupe holds a BA Honours degree and Masters in English from the University of Zimbabwe, as well as a DPhil in Media Studies from the University of Oslo in Norway

Professor Amit Chakma

Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia

Prior to commencing at UWA in July 2020, Professor Chakma completed his second term and 10th year as President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Ontario. Prior to that time, he served from 2001 to 2009 as Vice-President (Academic) and Provost of The University of Waterloo in Canada. Professor Chakma was Inaugural Chair of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. He has served as Chair of the Canadian Government's Advisory Panel on Canada's International Education Strategy, helping guide the development and launch of the Strategy in 2014. He is a past Chair of the World University Service of Canada and a past member of the Science Technology and Innovation Council of Canada. He has a solid record of achievement in senior leadership roles at both universities. At the University of Western Ontario, he led a research-intensive university of more than 30,000 students, 2,000 academic and professional staff and a budget in excess of \$1 billion. Professor Chakma has a substantial record of research. He is a Professor of Chemical Engineering and holds a Master of Applied Science and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of British Columbia. His research has covered greenhouse gas control technology, energy and environmental model system modelling, petroleum waste management, gas separation and processing and mass transfer.

Professor Eeva Leinonen

Vice Chancellor, Murdoch University

Professor Eeva Leinonen joined Murdoch University as Vice Chancellor and President in April 2016, after three years of service as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Wollongong.

Professor Leinonen has an academic background in linguistics and psychology and has extensive experience in higher education in the United Kingdom, Europe and internationally. Her academic research focuses on pragmatic deficits of children with autistic spectrum disorders as well as higher education topics relating to leadership, curriculum and use of technology in learning.

Prior to moving to Australia in 2012, Professor Leinonen held the position of Vice-President (Education) and Professor of Clinical Linguistics at King's College, University of London. She has also been Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hertfordshire, UK where she also held a number of other academic leadership positions. Professor Leinonen has been actively involved in national and international higher education debates and advisory groups, including but not limited to: Universities UK, Universities Australia; Chair of the UK Higher Education Funding Council/ Quality Assurance Agency advisory group into Employer Engagement in Learning, Director and Board Member of Future Directions International WA Health Translational Network Board Member and Chair of Innovative Research Universities Network.

H.E. Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy

Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius

Dr Kate was accredited as Australia's High Commissioner to Mauritius on 9 September 2020. Dr O'Shaughnessy is a career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Deputy Director, at DFAT's Western Australia State Office. She has previously served overseas in Ghana, as well as short term assignments in Nigeria, Niger, Lebanon and France.

Dr O'Shaughnessy holds a PhD and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Western Australia.

H.E. Mr Isaiya Kabira

High Commissioner of Kenya to Australia and New Zealand

Dean of the African Heads of Missions in Australia

HE Isaiya Kabira is the High Commissioner of Kenya to Australia and New Zealand. Since his posting Kabira has sought to define his agenda through the pillars of TOURISM, TRADE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, MINING, HEALTH, and SECURITY (TTEAHMS). Prior to his appointment, from January 2003 to 2013, Kabira was the Press Secretary of H.E. President Mwai Kibaki. Prior to joining the Government in 2003, he worked with various private local media firms. He is a graduate of the University of Nairobi where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Anthropology in 1990. Between 1990 and 2002, he undertook various study tours on broadcast journalism in the USA, UK, Germany and China.

[SHOWCASING AUN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS & CENTRES](#)

[Chair: Prof John Hearn](#)

j) Showcasing AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund (PRDF) projects

Associate Professor Richard Vokes

University of Western Australia

Richard Vokes is Associate Professor in Anthropology and International Development at the University of Western Australia, and Associate Director (Research) of UWA's African Research and Engagement Centre (AfREC). He is also an elected Research Associate of the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He holds a B.A. Hons. and an M.A. with Distinction in Social Anthropology from the University of Kent, and a D.Phil in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford.

His research focuses primarily on the African Great Lakes region, especially on the societies of South-western Uganda, where he has been conducting ethnographic fieldwork since 2000. He has published extensively, including on: development (governance, education, and natural resource management), the HIV/AIDS epidemic, new religious movements, and the history of photography, media and social change. He also works with African-Australians, in the digital humanities, and on the Anthropology of Antarctica.

His academic research has won numerous prizes and awards, including the Royal Anthropological Institute's Curl Essay Prize, a Finalist Award in the African Studies Association's Herskovits competition, and the Royal Anthropological Institute's Sutasoma Prize. He has held the Evans-Pritchard Lectureship and two Visiting Fellowships at All Souls College, Oxford. He has secured competitive research funding from: the Australian Research Council, the British Institute in East Africa, the British Library, the Economic and Social Research Council (UK), the Royal Society of New Zealand's Marsden Fund, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation (USA).

He has also carried out a wide range of consultancy and external advisory work, including for the UK and NZ governments, UNICEF, Oxford Analytica, IHS Markit, the Willis Group, and for a number of major transnational companies. His research has been used by the Office of the Secretary General of the UN. He is an Editor of the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* (since 2014), a founding Member of the Organizing Committee for the Australia Social Sciences Week (launched in 2018), and a former President of the Australian Anthropological Society (2017-2019).

Prof Hettie Schoenfeld

Director, ARUA CaBFoods-Africa; Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria

Professor Schönfeldt's research focuses on linking nutrient quantity and quality of foods to sustainable food systems for attaining nutrition and food security for all. She is an advocate for nutrition research, promoting excellence through the creation, translation and dissemination of science-based information into policies, programmes and training programmes both nationally, and internationally. She publishes evidence on why country specific food composition data is essential to make it possible to interpret the dietary outcomes of countries. She serves as scientific advisor to AFROFOODS, a network on the African continent, forming part of IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force. She is a co-director of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Food Security and holds a

Department of Science and Innovation /National Research Foundation Research Chairs Initiative in Nutrition and Food Security.

Professor Prem Ramburuth

University of New South Wales, Sydney

Prem Ramburuth is Professor in International Business in the School of Management, UNSW Sydney. Her leadership positions at UNSW include Immediate Past President of the Academic Board, Associate Dean Education and Undergraduate Programs, Head of School of Management and Foundation Director of the Business School Academic Development Centre. Her research and teaching include the areas of Cross-Cultural Management in International Business and Higher Education, Emerging Economies (including BRICS and Africa), Globalisation, and issues of Diversity, Gender Equity and Empowerment. She is a member of several editorial boards including the *International Journal of Emerging Markets*, *Chinese Management Studies* and *Journal for Multicultural Education*.

Professor Ramburuth is the Academic Lead for Africa at the UNSW Institute for Global Development. She delivers transformative development programs in Africa in capacity building and training for academic staff, PhD and research training, and academic leadership initiatives. She is currently engaged in the establishment of formal Higher Education teaching qualifications for University staff in Uganda. She is a UNSW PLuS Alliance Fellow and Academic Lead for the PLuS Alliance Research Project in Africa - a collaborative project focused on establishing PhD Engineering Academies in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. She is Visiting Professor at Gulu University (Uganda), and has been Visiting Professor at VNU Hanoi Business School (Vietnam), University of Colorado (Denver), and University Tunku Abdul Rahman (Malaysia).

Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee

University of Pretoria

Dr Mentz-Coetzee is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) (University of Pretoria, South Africa) in the Peer-learning for Emerging Researchers' Knowledge and Advancement and the ARUA-UKRI GCRF Food Systems Network for Africa (FSNet-Africa) projects. Both projects focus on the capacity building of African early career researchers.

Dr Mentz-Coetzee is an experienced monitoring and evaluation practitioner, focusing on theory-based mixed-methods approaches and the evaluation of research and capacity development initiatives, with an emphasis on gender. She has worked as an evaluator in multinational contexts, engaged at national, pan-African and international levels. Previously, she was an external member of the evaluation team for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) programme run in eleven African countries based in Nairobi (Kenya).

Dr Mentz-Coetzee is a co-author on national and international publications on the engagement patterns of undergraduate students and contributed several chapters to a social sciences research methodology textbook tailor-made for developing contexts. Most recently (2019), she co-authored two book chapters focusing on agricultural education and training in Africa and the significance of doctoral education in Africa in book *Education and Development: Outcomes for Equality and Governance in Africa* published by Palgrave MacMillan.

Professor Nasima M.H. Carrim

University of Pretoria

Prof Nasima M.H. Carrim is an Associate Professor at the Department of Human Resource Management at the University of Pretoria. Her research focuses on gender in management, culture, religion and minorities in the workplace from an intersectionality and identity perspective. Her research strategy is based on qualitative research using life story interviews. She has authored many articles in international journals and books related to diversity management. She was the recipient of the Emerald African Management Research Fund Award in 2014 for her study related to Indian male managers' upward mobility in corporate South Africa. In 2014, she received the Certificate of merit for teaching excellence and innovation at the University of Pretoria for her undergraduate course in diversity management. In 2017, she received the 2016 Best Junior Researcher in Management Sciences in the Economic and Management Sciences Faculty at the University of Pretoria. In 2020 she together with Dr. Leon Moolman from North West University edited the textbook *Managing Diversity in the South African workplace*. She is one of convenors for the Gender, Work and Organization Conference that will be hosted by University of Stellenbosch Business School in 2023. She is also the Chair for the Diversity and Inclusion interest group at the Society of Industrial and Organisational Psychology in South Africa (SIOPSA).

ii) Strengthening AAUN through building Africa centres

Prof Cheikh Mbow

Director, Future Africa Institute, University of Pretoria

Professor Cheikh Mbow is the Director of Future Africa at the University of Pretoria. Cheikh Mbow served as the Executive Director of START-International in Washington DC and Lead Scientist on Climate Change at the World Agroforestry Center in Kenya. He is Adjunct Associate Professor at Michigan State University's Department of Forestry. He worked for IPCC, Future Earth and the Global Observation of Forest Cover. Prof Mbow worked on drivers of land resources dynamics and on climate change. He is working currently on the development of transdisciplinary approaches to address Africa's development challenges by establishing frameworks for thriving sustainability science to support need transformation in the continent.

Dr Janet Dzator

***Director, Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P),
University of Newcastle***

Dr Janet Dzator is an economist in the School of Business, University of Newcastle. Janet had a PhD from the University of Queensland (UQ) and she teaches Macroeconomics and Sustainable Development Economics at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Janet's research is interdisciplinary. Her key areas of research include economic evaluation, policy and behavioural analysis, sustainable economic development, economics of disaster, health policy, healthcare financing, health technology/system analysis (service supply and demand) and econometric modelling. Dr Dzator is currently the Director of the University of Newcastle's Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P). She is also the current Head of the Disciplines of Economics, Politics and International Relations. Janet was a Program Convenor for the Bachelor of Commerce program, Student Academic Conductor Officer, Member of Academic Senate, Member of the Gender and Equity Board, and Member of

her Faculty Board for several years. Prior to joining Newcastle, Dr Dzator was a research and teaching fellow at the Social and Public Health Economics Research Unit (SPHERE) at the Curtin University of Technology, Perth (2000-2003) and was the Economic advisor to the Western Australia Drug Evaluation Panel, a branch of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Association. Her passion is to work on issues that count in transforming lives for the better whether that work involves training the next generation, service to the community or research.

Mr David Doepel

Chair, Africa Research Group, Murdoch University;

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.

Mr Haileluel Gebre-selassie OAM

Community Program Director, Blue Nile Program, University of Melbourne

Haileluel Gebre-selassie holds a Master of Public Policy and Management from the University of Melbourne and a Master of International Social Work from La Trobe University. He is the Convenor of the Africa Research, Engagement and Enterprise Initiative (AREEI), University of Melbourne.

Haileluel is a Winston Churchill Fellow and current Chair of the African Think Tank. He is also member of the Victorian government African Action Plan Implementation Committee and Chair of the African Communities Task Force established by Victoria Police. Haileluel is a recipient of the Member of the Order of Australia and Melbourne Awards.

Abstracts of Presentations

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

AAUN 2020-2030 – Towards the Next Decade

Prof John Hearn, Co-Chair, Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Since our launch in 2012, AAUN has built a strong platform with 10 Australian and 12 African Members, 60 Research Teams, mobility programs, and relatively stable base funding. The new Strategic Plan 2020-22 (www.aaun.edu.au) includes careful expansion, development of our universities and people, while targeting global challenges aligned to the SDGs, Africa 2063 and Australian Indo-Pacific strategies. We are currently carrying out qualitative and quantitative assessments to learn what works

and what does not. Throughout, we have kept the principles of equal partnership, shared thinking and innovation, opportunities for early career and established researchers, and the advancement of women and men in university research and education. The pandemic is a chance to re-set and move forward, engaging the ideas and expertise of all participants. Our priorities are practical projects and innovation to deliver the best results for partners, programs and people, while providing solid evidence for policy options. In putting substance behind the rhetoric, we must also be crystal clear about the realities, address the significant obstacles, and learn how best to serve our universities and communities. It is teamwork time - and we must use the time well in contributing to relevant knowledge, creative careers, and wise leadership.

SECURING AUSTRALIA-AFRICA EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN A TIME OF COVID-19

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Professor Tawana Kupe

Vice Chancellor and Principal, The University of Pretoria

There is a silver lining or an opportunity in the impacts COVID 19 has/is having on higher education at multiple levels, which include but are not limited to the future of contact teaching and learning, what and how we do research and international collaborations and partnerships including staff and student mobility. The silver lining or opportunity is to rethink/re-imagine higher education in what is an age of disruptions that we have faced as a sector and as humanity and the world. COVID 19 is a health crisis that has exacerbated existing crises of politics, the economy, the environment and society more broadly. More specifically we should identify innovative ways and means of re-aligning higher education with societal challenges in ways that engender the creation of a new more sustainable world that is characterised by equity and equality, social justice and a more ethical use of natural resources.

Prof Amit Chakma

Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia

The motto of UWA is Seek Wisdom. All across the world, people travel to seek wisdom through enlightening education experiences and this is why international collaboration is so valuable. Wisdom, insight and knowledge come from everywhere. The perspectives and experiences of others enrich us and we must reject any attempts to narrow our intellectual horizons. We need each other's humanity and we must strive to continue to meet face-to-face where possible, while using the opportunities provided by online communication and education to make our programs more inclusive. We are still learning about the impacts of COVID-19. But we do know that we are interconnected and must understand and respect each other's complexities, rather than become divided. We must continue to learn about one another. UWA is proud to lead and participate in projects that help us understand and engage with our neighbours. Ideally situated on Australia's western shores, UWA looks across the Indian Ocean to Africa and seeks to play a leading role in advancing Australia-Africa relations on the basis of mutual respect and collaboration. We all have much to gain from bringing Australian and African researchers and students together. We are therefore a proud member of AAUN, having hosted the annual AAUN Australia Forum & AGM at UWA during Australia Africa Week since 2016. Through our UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC), we have developed strong links with African institutions, African communities in Australia, and the Australian government.

Prof Eeva Leinonen

Vice Chancellor and President, Murdoch University

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on people's lives across the world. While life has largely returned to normal in Western Australia as a result of the State's borders being closed to the rest of the country and world, we know that in other parts of the world, including Africa, infection rates remain high.

2020 was to be the year that we released Murdoch University's Third Commission on Africa – a multi-year undertaking involving a number of our African partners in the Australia Africa Universities Network Forum. While the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered enormous change and uncertainty, our focus on building strong and deep relationships with Africa has not waned.

Instead we have used the pandemic as an opportunity to look with fresh eyes at our societies and how we conduct ourselves as one human family. It is clear we must continue to develop our food, nutrition and health systems on "one health principles" recognising the interconnection between people, animals, plants and our shared environment. As a network, we have a unique role to play in promoting research and teaching built on these principles.

H.E. Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy

Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius

In her presentation, Dr O'Shaughnessy will provide a broad overview of Australian government engagement in the education sector in Africa, and touch on some of the opportunities for the sector in Mauritius.

[SHOWCASING AAUN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS & CENTRES](#)

[Chair: Prof John Hearn](#)

[i\) Showcasing AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund \(PRDF\) projects](#)

Nutrient density and protein quality of African processed meat products

Schönfeldt, H.C.,¹ Leshi, O.O.,² & Bruce, M.3 & Pretorius, B1

1.University of Pretoria; 2.University of Ibadan; 3.Murdoch University

Economic constraints and cultural preferences contribute to differences in food choices observed among socioeconomic groups in developing countries. Ready-to-eat processed meat consumption has increased significantly and forms an important part of the diet of Africans, particularly true for vulnerable groups. It can be attributed to their low cost, versatility, extended shelf-life and availability on the market.

In the field of nutrition, nutrient intake is estimated by combining consumption data with food nutrient composition databases. Current data on the nutrient composition of processed meat from 20 African food composition was reviewed. Of all the food items found in these food composition tables in Africa, none of the data for processed meat products is of African origin. Data is borrowed from either the American food composition database or the British food composition database. However, the African products differ substantially from those from American or British origin due to different raw ingredients, recipes, processing, consumers preferences, as well as different legislature.

Processed meat is not a homogeneous food group and the composition of these products varies widely. It is important to study dietary quality for distinct meat

categories and to inform the development of specific appropriate food-based dietary guidelines at country and regional level.

Gender Equity in Africa: Intersection of Research, Training and Capacity Building
Prof Prem Ramburuth (UNSW); Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee (UP); Assoc/Prof Nasima Carrim (UP)

This brief presentation seeks to capture the progress and outcomes of two significant PRDF projects funded by the AAUN that involves partners from universities in Australia (UNSW and WSU) and Africa (UP, South Africa; Ibadan, Nigeria; and Gulu University, Uganda):

- PRDF 2018-early 2020: Empowerment in the Workplace: Women in Africa
- PDRF 2020-end 2021: Women Early Career Researchers in Food Systems in Africa: Research, Training and Capacity Building

It also seeks to highlight the multiple dimensions to our research and activities in gender equity, gender empowerment, capacity building and training for women across disciplines (including in Food Systems) in Africa. Furthermore, it draws attention to the intersection of our research with related projects in transformative academic development, mentoring for women in leadership, doctoral programs, and research training (e.g. PLUS Alliance and PERKA programs). The presentation also highlights trends in our research and the collaborative publications output that is currently in progress in targeted high impact journals. Community publications and policy documents are also in progress, to ensure broader impact and the facilitation of change.

[ii\) Strengthening AAUN through building Africa centres](#)

**The Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P),
University of Newcastle**

Dr Janet Dzator, Director of CARE-P, University of Newcastle

Background Drawing on his passion for excellence and inclusivity, Professor Kevin Hall (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Global Engagement & Partnerships, University of Newcastle) oversaw the establishment of the Centre for African Research, Engagement and Partnerships (CARE-P) at the University of Newcastle in late November 2019 as part of the growing Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) or consortium. A/Professor Chris Kewley the inaugural Director has oriented CARE-P towards most of the objectives of the AAUN and the centre has started to growth under the Directorship of Dr Janet Dzator.

CARE-P Strengthening AAUN

Key projects and activities CARE-P acts as a conduit between the University of Newcastle and the AAUN to ensure AAUN activities and policies are smoothly integrated. CARE-P has been promoting collaborative research and engagement with partners in Africa and currently oversees project in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Ghana with potential projects under consideration in Eswatini, South Africa and Botswana. CAREP's African Project Fest is an innovative approach observed periodically to identify and promote partnership among emerging projects as well as for keeping focus on the development of institutional research partnerships. COVID19 has negatively affected staff and student mobility in 2020 but digitization has kept existing collaborative efforts ongoing in addition to working with emerging interested individuals and groups to establish partnerships. The Centre is exploring Dual Award Doctoral Degree programs for African students to assist human capital building due to travel

restrictions and lack of international scholarships. The University's Office of Alumni provides support in reaching our alumni in Australia and Africa for continued partnerships and engagements as well as offering opportunities for post-training support. CARE-P is also upfront in partnering with current students in organising online conferences and social activities including Africa Day celebrations to strengthen current and post-training relationship as well as support.

Planned activities The centre has also been exploring opportunities to engage with other centres of excellence whose activities hold promise for partnership in Africa and the African community in Newcastle and surrounds.

Challenges Africa receives little or no focus in policy and funding opportunities in Australia which is increasingly reflected in university strategies.

Abstract for presentation on the UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre

Dr David Mickler, Director of Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC), UWA

The UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC) started as an Africa research group in 2015 and was formally launched at the 2018 AAUN Forum as a UWA Strategic Institutional Research Centre. Designed to enhance Australia-Africa literacy, AfREC develops and promotes collaborative research, education, training and public engagement on issues of relevance to the African continent, to Australia-Africa relations and to African-Australian diaspora communities. With 60 Research Fellows and Postgraduate Fellows from across a wide range of schools and disciplines, AfREC works closely with AAUN partners, major African community organisations in Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Africa Branch and relevant industry groups. The Centre's flagship events and programs include the annual Africa Research Showcase; the annual Samuel M. Makinda Africa Day Public Lecture; and the WA African Women's Leadership, Empowerment & Development (A-LEAD) program, delivered in partnership with the Organisation of African Communities in WA. The Centre also delivers Africa-focused teaching, training, research and internship programs and a range of public events. AfREC has received positive citations by the Commonwealth government, DFAT and the African Think Tank. UWA was ranked by The Australian newspaper's national research report 2020 as the leading Australian university for research on 'African Studies and History'.