

Universities and Governments: Securities and Economic Development to 2030

AAUN Forum and AGM, 10-11 February 2022 (Draft Program V9.1 – as at 1 Sept 2021)
Venue: Australian National University (Canberra)

To: AAUN Board, Partners, Forum Speakers. From: John Hearn, Co-Chair AAUN Australia.

INTRODUCTION. Thank you for your feedback for the AAUN **Forum and AGM 2021-22**. A great deal of consultation and thought has resulted in the draft program below. The AAUN Ltd Board, meeting on 2 September 2021, **approved postponement to 10-11 February 2022**. The reason of course is the continuing Covid uncertainty, with extended border and city lockdowns. We are at registration deadline time, but speakers are unable to commit yet. Our first priority is to ensure the quality and integrity of the program: hence the decision for postponement to 10-11 February 2022, by when vaccines should give wider cover.

OBJECTIVE. We will learn from the past 9 years' experience of AAUN, identifying key research and education interventions that deliver sustainable human and economic development. **Lessons may be specific to Africa, or with broader application to the Indo-Pacific and South East Asia.** We will explore the priorities for AAUN engagement and investment allied to the SDGs (ten years remain to 2030).

CONTEXT. As we emerge from COVID lockdowns, this is a prime opportunity for AAUN to confirm our links with governments in creating enduring impact through our research, education and international teamwork. AAUN has 23 University members (10 Australian, 13 African), with 60 research programs and teams focusing on regional and global challenges. We aim to have 15 University members in each continent by the end of 2022.

This is a time of extraordinary challenge in environment and climate, food and nutrition, public health in pandemics, education and research, international policy, and financial resources. These challenges require AAUN to innovate and to build our teamwork with governments, business, alumni and the African diasporas.

The CONCEPT for this AAUN Forum 2021-22 is **Teamwork Time**, including specific teams around specific programs where Australian, African and broader development interests in the Indo-Pacific coincide. We continue to build opportunity for early and established researchers, women and men. We must ensure sustained leadership and new international support. We plan for enduring and sustainable results.

The **THEME** of this AAUN Forum is **SECURITY**. But we must think broader about the **five securities** that we engage, including (i) **Environment and Agriculture**, (ii) **Food and Nutrition**, (iii) **Health and diseases**; (iv) **Education, Employment and Economic Development**. It is **failures in these** that fuel (v) **Hard Security** in migration, terrorism, trafficking, cybercrime, corruption and societal destabilization.

Our scope and scale covers selected Australian-African countries and university partnerships. Currently the Australia-Africa bridge is weakened by COVID, reduced priority in policy and diminished support in funding. **However, AAUN is committed to advance undaunted**, confident that the value and strategic importance of the Australia-Africa bridge will emerge again, in trade, education, friendship and diplomacy. AAUN and our partners are committed to rebuild, find the international resources, and contribute to national

economies and the SDGs. The long-term relationships, results and friendships between Australia and Africa remain as a solid platform for the future. In fact, the COVID experience can show new ways to partnerships.

This Forum will help us to see how, where and when we can deliver success?

SUMMARY – Please refer to the AAUN website www.aaun.edu.au for current information. A revised set of registration, abstract and bio's, accommodation details and deadlines will be sent to you in due course before 1 November, allowing plenty of time for the requested actions.

- (i) The program is being constructed to highlight a few areas where AAUN partnerships create impact.
- (ii) Our focus is on practical next steps (Please see the AAUN Annual Report 2018-2019 and Strategic Plan 2020-22 at www.aaun.edu.au)
- (iii) We include established and early career researchers, women and men, as core assets and participants in all research and development activities. Focus is on sustainable leadership.
- (iv) **The AAUN Board meeting** will be held during lunch break to include government and agency observers, but with a closed business session. **We ask all AAUN Board members to attend.**
- (v) The Forum is likely to **have a blended audience** with those attending in Canberra (100?) and those on Zoom, including many from Africa, Western Australia and elsewhere (150?).
- (vi) At the end of the Forum at **1630-1730h on Feb 10** we will have a **reception** to allow further meeting and discussion. The evening will be free for informal dinners and round tables.
- (vii) We plan an AAUN New Research Workshop (PRDF 2019-21) between 1000-1200 **on 11 Feb.**
- (viii) **Subject to the availability of funds**, we will call for competitive proposals for one Partnership and Development Fund (PRDF) project in **each of the 5 Security areas listed below.**

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS – A confirmed set of deadlines to be circulated in November 2021

Program and speaker confirmations to (john.hearn@sydney.edu.au) **deadline 1 November**. Please suggest any key, current strategic policy or program papers that could be circulated ahead of the Forum.

Abstracts (200 words) and **bios** (200 words) from confirmed speakers and chairs: **deadline 1 December**.

Registration (attendance and zoom - **opens 1 November**), arrangements (Grace Liu – aaun@unsw.edu.au).

Pre-recorded presentations for the Forum: **deadline 1 December** (Mingyi.Liu@unsw.edu.au and David.Mickler@uwa.edu.au). We would like pre-recordings from all speakers for the website Forum report.

Accommodation – Rooms will be reserved at a discount price at a nearby hotel. Please make your own reservations directly with the hotel (**full details will be circulated by 1 November**).

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PROGRAM

ACIAR – Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research – AAUN Knowledge Partner.

ARUA – African Research Universities Alliance.

DFAT – Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – AAUN Knowledge Partner.

HOMS – Heads of Mission – High Commissioners, Ambassadors.

UWA – University of Western Australia; (AfREC – Australia Africa Research and Engagement Centre).

NOTE: We thank ANU and Professor Sally Wheeler, DVC-I and Dean of Law ANU, for advice and support.

AAUN Forum and AGM: Draft Program: Thursday 10 February 2022

| UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENTS: SECURITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2022 - 2030 Thursday 10 February, Australian National University (venue tbc.) | |
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| Time | NOTES: Further details will be circulated – please follow the website www.aaun.edu.au Please see the selected reference papers for background data to some presentations. |
| 0800 | Travel to ANU from hotel(s) – walking distance where possible |
| 0830 | Registration & arrival coffee/tea |
| 0900 | Session 1 – Teamwork Time: Universities and Governments in Development to 2030 |
| 0900-0915 | Welcome to Country Objectives (3 min each) – AAUN engagement in Australia, Africa and Indo-Pacific VC or DVC International Strategy , Australian National University Prof Tawana Kupe , Vice Chancellor University of Pretoria, Co-Chair AAUN Africa Prof John Hearn , (Exec Chair/MC), University of New South Wales, Co-Chair AAUN |
| 0915-1015 | Key Speakers (10 min each): <i>Australia Africa priorities and perspectives 2021- 2030</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HE Ms Alison Chartres, Head DFATAfrica Branch, High Commissioner Kenya 2016-20 2. HE Ms Dorcas Makgato – High Commissioner, Botswana 3. HE Mrs Marie Claire Jeanne Monty – High Commissioner, Mauritius 4. HE Marthinus van Schalkwyk – High Commissioner, South Africa <p>Discussion: (20 Min) Priority actions for Impact and International Development Discussants: <i>African High Commissioners, Australian High Commissioners (HOMS); Mr Daan Du Toit</i> DDG Int Cooperation and Resources, Dept Science and Innovation, South Africa; <i>Australian Government and Agency representatives.</i></p> |
| 1015-1045 | Coffee break |
| 1045-1145 | Session 2: Education, Research, Employment, Economic Development Chair: (3 min) – |
| | Key speakers (10 min each): Towards the new knowledge economy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professor Sally Wheeler OBE, Deputy-VC International and Dean of Law ANU 2. Ms Kelly Matthews, AUSTRADE Commissioner, Education - Mid East and Africa 3. Prof Ernest Aryeetey, Sec-General of the African Research Universities Alliance 4. Dr Angel Calderon, RMIT Senior Adviser. AAUN, SDGs, Impact and Rankings. <p>Discussion (15 min) Discussants (All), <i>Higher education experts, economic strategists. Prof Funmi Olonisakin, VP-International and Director of the African Leadership Centre, Kings College, London; Dr Fulufelo Nelwamondo, CEO of the National Research Foundation of South Africa</i></p> |

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| 1145-1245 | <p>Session 3: Public Health, Pandemics, Personal responsibility Chair: (3min) Prof Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research, Nelson Mandela University</p> |
| | <p>Keynote speaker (10 min each): Towards Pandemic Preparedness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Glenda Gray, President MRC South Africa 2. Prof Jeremy Nicholson, PVC Health Sciences, Murdoch (Long Covid?) 3. Prof Madara Ogot, DVC Research, University of Nairobi 4. TBC – Government or regulatory – Border strategies <p>Discussion (15 mins) Research Innovation and Impact – Australia Africa Opportunities Discussants: <i>Public Health, Research leaders, early career researchers and students ;</i></p> |
| 1245-1400 | <p>Working Lunch – AAUN Ltd – Board Meeting (Board Members and Invited Observers). <i>(i) Open session with reports to the Board (1300-1330h):</i> <i>AAUN - New Australia Africa Centres (updates) – Newcastle, UWA, Melbourne.</i> <i>(ii) Closed business session for AAUN Ltd Board Members (1330-1400)</i> <i>Strategic Plan, post covid priorities, new partnerships, resources</i></p> |
| 1400-1500 | <p>Session 4. Environment, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Chair: (3 min) Prof Frans Swanepoel, Deputy Chair AAUN, University of Pretoria.</p> |
| | <p>Keynote speakers: (10 min each): Towards the UN Global Food Systems Summit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Lindiwe Sibanda, Director ARUA CoE in Sustainable Food Systems 2. Prof Andrew Campbell, CEO ACIAR – or Dr Julianne Biddle, Director Multilateral 3. Dr Colin Chartres, CEO Crawford Fund 4. Aldo Stroebel, National Research Foundation of South Africa <p>Discussion: (15 mins) Aligning with international policies and funding opportunities Discussants: AAUN Board Members, University DVCs, Agriculture leaders, Dr Wanjiro Kamau Rutenberg, Exec-Director AWARD (African Women in Agricultural R&D). Dr Simon Hearn, Agricultural Economist</p> |
| 1500-1600 | <p>Session 5: Hard Security: migration, terrorism, trafficking, corruption. Chair: (5 min) TBC</p> |
| | <p>Keynote speaker (10 min each): Towards Partnerships and Trust</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Lisa Sharland or delegate, Dep Director ASPI and Head International Programs 2. Dr David Mickler, Director AfREC-UWA (Launch of UWA-ASPI Security Report) 3. Dr Kathryn Sturman, Sustainable Minerals Centre, University of Queensland 4. International Communications – Leading Journalist <p>Discussion (15 min) Discussants (All), <i>Hard Security aspects of the 5 Securities -</i></p> |
| 1600-1630 | <p>Closing Session – Conclusions and Recommendations for Action Chairs: Prof John Hearn and Prof Tawana Kupe, Session 1-5 Chairs</p> |
| 1630-1730 | <p>Forum Reception for AAUN and Conference Participants</p> |
| 1740 | <p>(Travel to hotels – taxi or walking)</p> |
| 1800-2100 | <p>Informal Meetings and Dinners</p> |

Thank you for your interest and engagement. Please contact us...

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