

Universities and Governments: Securities and Economic Development to 2030

AAUN Forum and AGM, 10-11 February 2022 (Draft Program V10 – as at 1 Nov 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 2022**. I attach the current version-10 and welcome further feedback by 10 November, Please note that most speakers have confirmed. We ask speakers and participants to register and confirm attendance in person or zoom. Attendance will be for double vaccinated individuals. Details on hotels and venue (ANU) will follow very soon.

There have been major geopolitical developments in the past year that influence Australian, African and Indo-Pacific futures, along with short and long term engagements from the US, UK, EU and other nations. These developments result in the formation of AUKUS and sharpening of other alliances, including the QUAD, CP-TPP. As the only Australia-Africa Universities Education and Research Network, AAUN is adjusting its strategic action plan 2022-25 (Attached). There are also some changes in this Forum program, to explore South-South and North-South partnerships. We ask speakers and participants to adjust the scope accordingly. The “5 Securities” theme remains as key.

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, there is an 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 teams and programs focusing on regional and global challenges. We will have 15 University members in each continent by the end of 2025, along with two new groups, the AAUN Indo Pacific Group (5 members) and AAUN Global Group (5 members).

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 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 strengthened capacity 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. The COVID experience shows us new partnerships and teamwork.

This Forum will help us to see how, where and when we can deliver partnerships and impact.

SUMMARY – Please refer to the AAUN website www.aaun.edu.au for current information.

The program is being constructed to highlight a few areas where AAUN partnerships create impact.

- (i) Our focus is on practical next steps (Please see the AAUN Annual Report 2018-2019 and Strategic Plan 2020-25 at www.aaun.edu.au)
- (ii) We include established and early career researchers, women and men, as core assets and participants in all research and development activities. A focus is on sustainable leadership.
- (iii) **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.**
- (iv) The Forum is likely to **have a blended audience** with those attending in Canberra (100?) and those on Zoom, including many from Africa, Indo Pacific, Western Australia and elsewhere (150?).
- (v) 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.
- (vi) We plan an AAUN “New Research” Workshop (PRDF 2019-21) between 1000-1200 **on 11 Feb.**
- (vii) **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 – Please note and keep these deadlines.

Program and speaker confirmations to (john.hearn@sydney.edu.au) **deadline 10 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 in walking distance. Please make your own reservations directly with the hotel (**full details will be circulated by 15 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 10-11 February 2022

UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENTS: SECURITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2022 - 2030 Thursday 10 February, Australian National University (venue tbc.)	
Time	NOTES: Further details will be circulated – please follow the website www.aaun.edu.au Please see the selected reference papers for background data and strategic considerations.
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 DVC International Strategy (or VC) , 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. <i>Opening Welcome: DFAT (TBC) – 3 minutes</i> 2. HE Ms Alison Chartres, Head DFATAfrica Branch, High Commissioner Kenya 2016-20 3. HE Ms Dorcas Makgato – High Commissioner, Botswana 4. HE Mrs Marie Claire Jeanne Monty – High Commissioner, Mauritius 5. HE Marthinus van Schalkwyk – High Commissioner, South Africa <p>Discussion: (20 Min) Priority actions for Impact and “New 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>

1145-1245	Session 3: Public Health, Pandemics, Personal responsibility Chair: (3min) Prof Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research, Nelson Mandela University
	Keynote speaker (10 min each): Towards Pandemic Preparedness <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	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>
1400-1500	Session 4. Environment, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Chair: (3 min) Prof Frans Swanepoel, Deputy Chair AAUN, University of Pretoria.
	Keynote speakers: (10 min each): Towards the UN Global Food Systems Summit <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	Session 5: Hard Security: migration, terrorism, trafficking, corruption. Chair: (5 min) TBC
	Keynote speaker (10 min each): Towards Partnerships and Trust <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	Closing Session – Conclusions and Recommendations for Action Chairs: Prof John Hearn and Prof Tawana Kupe, Session 1-5 Chairs
1630-1730	Forum Reception for AAUN and Conference Participants
1740	(Travel to hotels – taxi or walking)
1800-2100	Informal Meetings and Dinners

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY (0900-1200h). A workshop on current AAUN Research is in preparation (AAUN Partnership Research and Development Fund catalyst programs)

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

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