

Universities and Governments: Five Securities and Economic Development to 2030

AAUN Forum and AGM, 27-28 Oct 2022 tbc (Draft Program V10.6 – as at 15 March 2022)
Venue: Moot Court, Law School, 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**. This Forum is postponed to 27-28 October 2022 tbc, due to current uncertainties related to Covid/Omicron. I attach the current version-10.3 working program. Please note that almost all speakers are confirmed. Attendance is for double vaccinated individuals (certified) and Covid protocols will apply.

There have been major geopolitical developments in 2020-21 that influence Australian, African, and Indo-Pacific futures. Short- and long-term engagements from the US, UK, EU, and other nations have strengthened. The formation of AUKUS and sharpening of other alliances, including the QUAD and CP-TPP establishes a new framework. As the only Australia-Africa Universities Education and Research Network, AAUN is adjusting its strategic action plan 2022-25 (Attached), to extend South-South and North-South partnerships. We ask speakers and participants to adjust their scope accordingly. **The “5 Securities” theme remains as core.**

OBJECTIVE. We will learn from the past 10 years’ experience of AAUN, identifying key research and education interventions that deliver sustainable human and economic development. **Results may be specific to Australia - Africa, or with broader application to the Indo-Pacific and Southeast Asia.** We will confirm our priorities and programs aligned to the SDGs (Note: only eight years remain to 2030).

CONTEXT. As we emerge from COVID lockdowns, AAUN will strengthen links with governments in creating enduring impact through 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 2025, with 2 new groups: **the AAUN Indo-Pacific Group (south-south, 5 members) and the AAUN Global Group (north-south, 5 members).**

This is a time of extraordinary challenge in environment and climate, food and nutrition, public health and 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 related diasporas.

The CONCEPT for this AAUN Forum 2022 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 achieve sustained leadership and new international support. We deliver strengthened capacity and sustainability.

The **THEME** of this AAUN Forum is **SECURITY**. But we must think broadly 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 reach covers selected Australian-African countries and university partnerships, with Indo-Pacific links. 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 our partnerships are obvious in education, trade, friendship, and enduring diplomacy. AAUN and our knowledge partners are committed to reshape and contribute to national economies and the SDGs. The long-term relationships, results and friendships between Australia, Africa and Indo Pacific universities are a solid platform. The COVID challenge shows how our partnerships, teamwork and communications can win through, with the urgent context of climate, pandemics and the SDGs.

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

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

- (i) Our focus is on practical next steps. Please see the AAUN Annual Reports 2018-2019, and 2020-22 (in preparation), with the AAUN Strategic Action Summary 2022-25 at www.aun.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 next AAUN Ltd Board meeting** will be held at 1630h Sydney time on Thursday 10 February. We ask all AAUN Board members to attend (zoom details will be provided).
- (iv) The Forum will 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** 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 Horizons” Workshop (PRDF 2019-21) between 0900-1200 **on Day 2**. Program leaders may use remaining PRDF funds to cover travel and accommodation in Canberra.
- (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 carefully. Any revised deadlines will be provided at end of February. We ask that deadlines are observed so that we can all deliver a top-quality Forum.

Program and speaker confirmations to (j.hearn@unsw.edu.au) **deadline 1 August**. 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 speakers and chairs (aaun@unsw.edu.au): **deadline 1 September**.

Pre-recorded presentations for the Forum: **deadline 1 September** (Mingyi.Liu@unsw.edu.au and David.Mickler@uwa.edu.au). We ask pre-recordings from all ZOOM speakers in case live presentation fails!

Accommodation – Rooms will be reserved at a discount price at HOTEL Q-T, I London Circuit, 0.7 Km walk – 10-15min. **Please make your own reservations on-line by 15 August – AAUN hotel link is at www.aun.edu.au**

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

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.

AfREC – Australia Africa Research and Engagement Centre, University of Western Australia.

AAUN Forum and AGM: Draft Program: October 27-28, 2022

UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENTS: FIVE SECURITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2022 - 2030 October 27-28, Moot Court, Law School, Fellows Road, ANU	
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. Note that speakers are physically present unless shown as attending by zoom (Z) This program is subject to some amendment due to travel and availability of speakers.
0800	Travel to ANU from QT hotel, I London Circuit – walking distance (0.7 km – 10-15 mins)
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 Prof Sally Wheeler (Host) , 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, Indo-Pacific, priorities 2022- 2030</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marc Innes-Brown, Opening Comments: DFAT (TBC) – <i>3 minutes</i> 2. HE Ms Alison Chartres, Head DFAT Africa Branch - High Com. 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: HE John Tipis, Kenya; HE Prof Joyce Kikafunda, Uganda; Daan Du Toit DDG Int Cooperation and Resources, DSI, South Africa (Z); Australian Government and Agency representatives.</i></p>
1015-1045	Coffee break
1045-1145	Session 2: University Challenges: Climate, Pandemics, Democracy, Development 2030 Chair: (3 mins) Dr Joanna Newman, Sec-Gen and CEO Assoc. Commonwealth Universities
	Keynote speakers (10 min each): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Cheryl de la Rey, VC Canterbury, Chair Association of Commonwealth Unis. 2. Prof Glenda Gray, President MRC South Africa (Z) 3. Prof Pal Ahluwalia, VC and President, University of the South Pacific 4. Prof Brian Schmidt, VC and President. Special Guest Speaker. <p>Discussion (15 mins) Evidence based policy impact – Challenges and Opportunities Discussants: <i>Public Health, Research leaders, early career researchers and students</i></p>

1145-1245	Session 3: Higher Education, Research, Employment, Economic Development Chair (3 mins) Fulufelo Nelwamondo, CEO NRF South Africa
	<p>Keynote speakers (10 min each): Towards the new Knowledge Economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Sally Wheeler OBE, DVC International and Dean of Law, ANU 2. Kelly Matthews, AUSTRADE Commissioner, Education – Mid East and Africa 3. Prof Ernest Aryeetey, Sec General, African Research Universities Alliance (Z) 4. Dr Angel Calderon, RMIT Senior Adviser. AAUN, SDGs, Impact and Rankings <p>Discussion (15 min) Discussants (All). Experts – higher education, economic and employment strategists Prof Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research/Innovation/Internationalizations, Nelson Mandela University; Prof Jolyon Ford, A/Dean International ANU, Prof Funmi Olonisakin, VP International and Director, African Leadership Centre, Kings College, London.</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> AAUN - New Australia Africa Centres (updates) – Newcastle, UWA, Melbourne. <i>(ii) Closed business session for AAUN Ltd Board Members (1330-1400)</i> Strategic Plan, post covid priorities, new partnerships, resources</p>
1400-1500	Session 4. Environment, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Chair: (3 min) Prof Frans Swanepoel , Deputy Chair AAUN, University of Pretoria.
	<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 (Z) 2. Prof Andrew Campbell, CEO ACIAR – or Dr Julianne Biddle, Director Multilateral 3. Dr Colin Chartres, CEO Crawford Fund 4. Dr Aldo Stroebel, National Research Foundation of South Africa <p>Discussion: (15 mins) Aligning with international policies and funding opportunities. Discussants: AAUN Board Members, Agriculture leaders, Dr Jemima Njuki, IFPRI. Dr Simon Hearn, Agricultural Economist. Dr Nick Austin, CEO Watertrust Australia (TBC).</p>
1500-1600	Session 5: Hard Security: migration, terrorism, trafficking, corruption. Chair: (3 min) TBC
	<p>Keynote speakers (10 min each): Towards Indo-Pacific Partnerships and Trust</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Kathryn Sturman, Sustainable Minerals Centre, University of Queensland 2. Dr David Mickler, Director AfREC-UWA (Launch of UWA-ASPI Security Report) 3. Australian Major General (TBC) – Special Guest Speaker. 4. Dr Katja Theodorakis, Head of Counterterrorism Program, ASPI <p>Discussion (25 min) Discussants (All), <i>Hard Security projections and priorities of the 5 Securities -</i></p>
1600-1630	Closing Session – Conclusions and Recommendations for Action Chairs: Prof Tawana Kupe and Prof John Hearn, 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 28 OCTOBER, Moot Court, Law School, Australian National University

DAY 2. (0900-1200h). A workshop on current AAUN Research is in preparation (AAUN Partnership Research and Development Fund catalyst programs). The workshop focuses on the 2019-20 AAUN awards and the AAUN Action Plan 2022-25. Program leaders are encouraged to attend in person; and may use any residual funds from their awards to cover travel and accommodation. Chairs: Prem Ramburuth and John Hearn.

MEETINGS with Senators, MPs and officials. AAUN members are welcome to set up such meetings for themselves, or to propose individuals for invitation to the AAUN Program at ANU. However, please avoid setting up separate, competing meetings during the core AAUN program on 10 February. We suggest meetings on Wednesday 26 October (probably a sitting day, tbc after the elections in May 2022).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Professor Sally Wheeler OBE and ANU DVC, and Dean Law School as host, and for venue and conference support.

ANU Student volunteers for assistance to the Forum (Names).

Others:

MEDIA (TBC)

REFERENCE PAPERS (To be added – see www.aaun.edu.au).

1. **AAUN Annual Report 2018-19 and draft 2020-2021**
2. **AAUN Strategic Action Plan 2022-25**
3. **Australian International Development Policy (AAUN submission)**
4. **Indo Pacific Policy Development 2020-25**
5. **Geopolitical Developments in Australia, Africa, Indo Pacific (overview - links).**

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

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