

AAUN AUSTRALIA AFRICA.

UNIVERSITIES NETWORK LTD

To: Members of AAUN Ltd Board, Knowledge Partners, PRDF Award Leaders.

[V6 01.10.22]

From: Prof John Hearn, Co-Chair AAUN; A/Prof Grace Liu, General Manager AAUN

AAUN Strategic Action Summary 2022-23.

[website: www.aaun.edu.au]

Dear Colleagues and Friends of AAUN,

The calendar year **2022-23 is the tenth anniversary of AAUN**, now emerging from Covid . AAUN has made good progress in our partnerships, programs, and preparations. We have learned improved communication and teamwork, continued strong on-line workshops and fora, and developed priority opportunities for established and emerging researchers - women and men.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT. We have held a firm course with our AAUN Strategic Plan, extending it to 2022-25. We have tested our capacities to broaden our education, research, innovation, and economic engagement, in serving better our universities, governments, business, NGOs and international agencies.

There is opportunity for a **reset and relaunch of AAUN** to include broader south-south collaboration and development, based on our impact assessment 2013-20 and supported strongly by our African partners.

STRENGTHS. AAUN was launched with DFAT in July 2012. Current membership is 13 African and 10 Australian Universities. Sponsors and knowledge partners include DFAT and ACIAR, the NRF of South Africa, OECD, WHO, Commonwealth Universities and external research grants. There are 60 Research programs and expert teams, with equal governance, objectives, and impact.

OPPORTUNITIES (POLICY). The geopolitical developments of 2020-21, including the QUAD, AUKUS, CP-TPP Post-Brexit Britain and Commonwealth **all enhance Indo-Pacific priorities**. These open new options for higher education and research, science, technology, innovation, and a development diplomacy between **Australia, Africa, New Zealand, and the Indo Pacific**. The opportunities can catalyse selected south-south partnerships, without diluting AAUN commitments to the SDGs, Africa AU2063 goals, and Indo Pacific priorities of Australia and the Island Nations. **Many AAUN Universities have Indo-Pacific expertise**.

ACTION PLAN. AAUN 2012-2022 has delivered its successful model of multi-university partnerships, with annual competitive, catalytic funds invested in areas of global challenge: environment, health, food and nutrition, education, economic development. **An extended AAUN Platform can be adopted for 2022-25.**

1. Membership 1. Our target is 15 members each in Australia and Africa by 2025.

2. Membership 2. The Board approved in 2020 (Covid-delayed) invitations to 5 Indo-Pacific Universities, and to 5 northern hemisphere universities, already engaged with AAUN. This would develop a selected **AAUN Indo-Pacific Universities Group** and an **AAUN Global Universities Group** alongside current members. Depending on progress, the Board will consider any adjustment to the AAUN brand or trading name.

3. Research Fields. Review selected additional fields: green development, energy and climate science, bio and marine economy, IT-Aps, entrepreneurship, sport science. Potential research related training courses.

4. Teamwork. Enhanced engagement with alumni, diasporas, NGOs.

4. Business Partnerships. AAUN will **offer PRDF partnerships, with business planning/project development.**

5. Resource Development. AAUN Ltd (2020) is an NFP company. All funds go direct to research and support.

Please send us your feedback, with a summary of your Indo Pacific interests and capacities, by 01.08.22.

Thank you – Mingyi.liu@unsw.edu.au; J.Hearn@unsw.edu.au

