

Australia Africa Knowledge Teamwork: Policies, Priorities, People **[FINAL PROGRAM – Speakers and topics are subject to minor change]**

[AAUN Forum and AGM, 3-5 Sept 2023

DRAFT V6-1– 01.09.2023]

Venue: Curtin University, 137 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000

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

INTRODUCTION. There are current events and changes that influence AAUN’s future.

- Change of government in Australia 2022, with a positive improvement in Australia Africa relations.
- Reviews in progress of Security and Defense, Education, and International Development policies.
- Changes in global geopolitics influencing the Australia Africa Indo Pacific Regions.
- AAUN exploring links with African and Indo Pacific University Networks.
- AAUN continuing to consult and strengthen its Strategic Action Plan 2023-25.
- AAUN is implementing a selected membership drive and a funding drive for its Action Plan.
- In the meantime, AAUN Board Members, Partners, Researchers, and stakeholders continue their work

The AAUN Australia Forum and AGM on 4-5 September in Perth will further develop the rationale, priorities, and implementation for post Covid emergence in research, education, and mobility.

The Forum in Canberra 27-28 October 2022 provided an integrated framework for “The Five Securities” (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.

The AAUN Africa Forum on 22 May 2023 at the University of Pretoria, as a part of Future Africa Week, explored ways that selected strategic partnerships can address large, complex problems and deliver impact through teamwork. Knowledge for development systems will become increasingly diverse, increasing cross-sectoral, integrating multi-disciplinary research, and building capacity for teamwork and impact.

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

- (i) The AAUN Annual Reports 2018-2019, and 2020-23 (in preparation), with the AAUN Strategic Action Summary 2022-25 (www.aun.edu.au) provide a background to future development.
- (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 AGM** is on 4 September 2023. We ask all AAUN Board members to attend. The first part of the meeting will be open to invited guests. If required, the second part will be closed.
- (iv) **Those attending in Perth (100 capacity)** and those on Webex (150?) are asked to register at www.aun.edu.au Members and invited guests of AAUN will have priority seating in Perth.
- (v) At the end of the Forum there will be a group dinner with a keynote lecture and panel on “African Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific”. The venue is the Duxton Hotel, registration is separate through invitation and the AAUN Forum webpage, and will include a cost (\$60 likely).

Accommodation – We suggest the Duxton Hotel, 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000, which will offer a discounted room rate of \$235 for AAUN delegates. Please make your reservations directly via [THIS LINK](#).

Registration attendance and Webex - opens 15 July www.aaun.edu.au (Grace Liu – aaun@unsw.edu.au).

Note: AAUN Members and invited guests will have priority for in-person registration. Places are limited.

SPEAKERS – please keep to 7 minutes each. **Please send a 200-word bio, a 200-word abstract and a power-point (optional) by 20 August latest to be included in the program - aaun@unsw.edu.au**

CHAIRS – Make sure **time is observed strictly** and discussions allow broad engagement. When the 4 presentations in your session are complete, ask for comment from listed discussants (1-2 min each) and then open to Q/A – with short interventions! There is ample time for an inclusive discussion.

REFERENCES. Please refer to and read the following papers for **Sessions 2-5 and AAUN background**

Reference link: Ayu Anastasia Rachman, [Why countries should leverage universities as a new force in global diplomacy](#). *The Conversation*, 21 June 2020.

Reference link: Wachira Kigotho, [Establishment of entrepreneurial universities ‘urgent’](#). *University World News Africa*, 25 May 2023.

Reference link: Calestous Juma, [Education, Research and Innovation in Africa: Forging Strategic Linkages for Economic Transformation](#). Belfer Centre, Harvard Kennedy School, February 2016.

Reference link: [The benefits of community engagement for universities](#), 6 December 2022, TheHive.com

AAUN REFERENCE AND BACKGROUND PAPERS – See www.aaun.edu.au

1. **AAUN Strategic Action Plan 2022-2025**
2. **AAUN Assessment Report**
3. **AAUN Submission to DFAT for the review of International Development 2023**
4. **DFAT International Development Policy Review (summary)** – released 8 August 2023.
5. **OECD Summary of AID/FDI to Africa**

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PROGRAM

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

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

HOMS – Heads of Mission – High Commissioners, Ambassadors.

NRF SA – National Research Foundation of South Africa.

PRDF - AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund.

AAUN Forum and AGM: Draft Program: 4 Sept 2023

AUSTRALIA AFRICA KNOWLEDGE TEAMWORK 4 September 2023 – Curtin CBD Campus, 137 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000	
Time	NOTES: Final changes will be posted – please follow the website www.aaun.edu.au Please see the selected reference papers for background data and strategic considerations
0800	Walk from hotels: Duxton Hotel is a 10 minute walk.
0830	Registration & arrival coffee/tea
0900	Session 1 – Teamwork Time: Policies and opportunities 2023-25

<p>0900-0915</p> <p>0915-1015</p>	<p>Chair and MC - Prof John Hearn Host - A/Prof David Mickler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome to Country – Whadjuk Nyungar Elder Nick Abraham (3min).</p> <p>Opening comments (3 min each): Hon Ayor Makor Chuot MLC, Government of Western Australia welcome to WA Prof Harlene Hayne, Vice Chancellor Curtin University – welcome to Curtin University Prof Frans Swanepoel, Interim Co-Chair AAUN Africa – University of Pretoria Prof John Hearn, Exec Co-Chair AAUN, University of New South Wales - Sydney</p> <p>Speakers (7 min each): <i>Australia, Africa, Indo-Pacific priorities 2022-2030</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HE Ambassador Joe Tapera Mhishi, HC Zimbabwe, and Dean African HOMS 2. HE High Commissioner Ms Marie-Claire Jean Monty, HC Mauritius 3. Prof Loretta Feris, DVC Academic, University of Pretoria 4. Hon Prof Matthew Neuhaus, ANU – former Ambassador and Asst/Sec Africa <p>Discussion: (30 Min) Current challenges and solutions for Australia-Africa engagement. Discussants: High Commissioners from Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda; HE Berenice Owen-Jones, HC to Ghana; HE Keara Shaw, HC to Mauritius (tbc).</p>
<p>1015-1045</p>	<p>Coffee</p>
<p>1045-1145</p>	<p>Session 2: The role of AAUN and Universities in deepening Australia Africa cooperation Chair: (3 Mins) Prof Sanjeev Sobhee, Vice Chancellor University of Mauritius</p>
	<p>Speakers (7 min each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Peter Eastwood, DVC Research and Innovation, Murdoch University 2. Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor Makerere University 3. Prof Kayihura Muganga Didas, Vice Chancellor University of Rwanda 4. Prof David Norris, Vice Chancellor University of Botswana <p>LAUNCH – AAUN-ELAAD Program 1 - Project Summary; Program 2 – Launch and call. Dr Muhammed Dan Suleiman and A/Prof David Mickler, Curtin University (7min)</p> <p>Discussion (25 min) Discussants: Prof Samuel Makinda, Int Relations, Murdoch; Dr Firew Amogne, VC Bahir Dar University.</p>
<p>1145-1245</p>	<p>Session 3: Global Entrepreneurial Universities: Insights from the AAUN Chair: (3 mins) Dr Annette McLaren, Director, Strategic Projects, Western Sydney U.</p>
	<p>Speakers (7 min each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Xiaotian Zhang,, Associate DVC Global, Curtin University 2. Prof Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, Dean Faculty of Econ and Mgmt Sciences, UP 3. Mr Kelly Smith, PVC International, Murdoch University 4. Dr Aldo Stroebel, DVC Research, University of Mpumalanga <p>Discussion (30 min) Discussants: Research, Business, and Innovation experts</p>

1245-1400	<p>Working Lunch – AAUN Ltd – Board Meeting (Board Members and Invited Observers).</p> <p>(i) Open session with reports to the Board (1300-1330h): AAUN – New Australia Africa Centres (updates) – Newcastle, UWA, UQ, Curtin.</p> <p>(ii) Closed business session for AAUN Ltd Board Members (1330-1400) Strategic Action Plan, priorities, new partnerships, resources and finance.</p>
1400-1500	<p>Session 4. Education, research and innovation synergies across AAUN and regions Chair: (3 min) Prof Frans Swanepoel, AAUN Interim Co-Chair Africa, University of Pretoria</p>
	<p>Speakers: (7 min each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof Thandi Mgwebi, DVC Research Nelson Mandela University 2. Prof Wallace Cowling, Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia 3. Prof Jaya Dantas, Dean International, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University 4. Prof John Hearn, Executive Co-Chair AAUN and UNSW Global <p>Discussion: (30 mins) Discussants: <i>Networks leaders – what works and does not?</i></p>
1500-1600	<p>Session 5: AAUN – University initiatives to engage academics, students, communities Chair: (3 mins) Prof Treena Burgess, Harry Butler Institute, Murdoch University</p>
	<p>Speakers: (7 min each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Janet Dzator, Director Centre for African Research, Engagement, Partnerships 2. Prof Shamit Saggarr, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education 3. Panel: Tino Mukoki, President Curtin African Students Association; Panache Mudimu, President Murdoch African Society; Ali Seidou, Australia Awards Africa. <p>Discussion (25 min) – AAUN University Programs and progress: UQ, UWA, AAUN members Discussants: <i>Australia Awardees. Shontal McLintock, Palladium. AAUN Communities</i></p>
1600-1630	<p>Closing Session – Conclusions and Recommendations for AAUN Action – Next Steps Chairs: Profs Frans Swanepoel and John Hearn Discussion – Session Chairs, All. Brief on dinner and Day 2 – David Mickler</p>
1630-1730	<p>Forum Reception for Participants</p>
1740	<p>(Travel to hotels)</p>
1800-2030	<p>DINNER with keynote address and panel. Venue Duxton Hotel. Separate Registration.</p> <p>Co-hosted by the Centre for Australia-Africa Relations, Curtin University; Australian Institute of International Affairs WA; Australia Africa University Network.</p> <p>Keynote Address: (15 min) Prof Christopher Isike, Director, African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Pretoria</p> <p>Panel: (5 min each) Prof Jacqueline Lo, Director, Indo-Pacific Research Centre, Murdoch University. Hon Prof Matthew Neuhaus, ANU – former Ambassador and Asst/Sec Africa. Mr Brendan Augustin, President, Australian Institute for International Affairs, WA</p>

SUMMARY OF FORUM EVENTS: **[WEATHER – 18 degrees and rain: Bring umbrellas]**

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER – MURDOCH UNIVERSITY- AFRICA DOWN UNDER - RECEPTION

Prof Simon McKirdy, DVC Global Engagement; **Bill Repard**, Exec Chair, Paydirt Media Pty Ltd and Chair ADU; Prof **Frans Swanepoel** and **John Hearn** AAUN - Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel 6pm.

MONDAY 4 – TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER – AAUN FORUM, AGM, RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

As detailed in this document.

TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, CURTIN BENTLEY CAMPUS –

0815h: Bus pick up for visiting delegates from the Duxton Hotel, Perth CBD

0900-1130 Research Workshops

- **Science Diaspora Diplomacy (5 papers + discussion).** Chair, **A/Prof David Mickler**, Dean Global – Africa, Curtin
- **Energy Transition (5 papers + discussion).** Chair: **Dr Bishal Bharadwaj**, Curtin Institute for Energy Transition; **Dr Gloria Rupf**, Murdoch University.
- **One Health (5 papers + discussion).** Chair: **Prof Sam Abraham**, Murdoch University
- **Food Systems and Nutrition (5 papers and discussion).** Chair: **Prof Wallace Cowling**, Deputy Director, Institute for Agriculture, University of Western Australia.

11.30 – 1230h: Group lunch for workshop participants. Discussion on respective workshop key findings and next steps for AAUN Research Collaboration.,

1230 - 1400h: For visiting African delegates only (due to numbers/cost)

Visit and tour of [John Curtin Gallery](#) (Open Borders exhibition) and [Curtin HIVE](#) data visualization studio (both on Curtin main campus).

1400 – 1700: [On Country Indigenous Cultural Experience](#) (specific program and venue tbc).

1730: Bus return of delegates to Duxton Hotel, Perth CBD

Program leaders (PRDF awardees) and others are encouraged to attend in person; and may use any residual funds from their awards to cover travel and accommodation.

DEPARTURE FLIGHTS FOR AFRICAN DELEGATES: Late Tuesday 5 Sept or Wed 6 September am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Student Ambassadors and volunteers, assisting the Forum.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS.

We thank the National Research Foundation of South Africa for their strong support.

Thanks to Curtin University, VC Harlene Hayne and Dean Global, Africa, David Mickler for hosting this AAUN Forum

MEDIA (TBC). A Forum report will be circulated to partners, media, agencies and posted on the AAUN websites.

CATERING. Morning tea/coffee/juice; light lunch; Reception 1630-1730h

CAFÉ. There are many cafés and restaurants within easy walking distance.

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

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