



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Visionary Leadership – Excellent Management Skills – Transparency – Innovation – Efficiency - High Impact Delivery

Professor Sospeter Muhongo – A RÉSUMÉ



A Tanzanian national, born in Musoma on 25.06.1954, Prof Sospeter Muhongo is currently based in Pretoria, South Africa, where he is the first and founding Regional Director of the International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA, www.icsu-africa.org). Among other positions held, he is Chair of the Science Programme Committee (SPC) of the UN-proclaimed International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), Vice President of the Commission of the Geological Map of the World (CGMW), Immediate Past Chair of the UNESCO/IUGS/IGCP Scientific Board and member of the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) Science and Technology Advisory Group. He has been recently elected to Chair the Steering Committee of the EU-funded project, "African-European georesources observation system (AEGOS)."

Prof Muhongo is co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of African Earth Sciences (Elsevier), Associate Editor of the Precambrian Research Journal (Elsevier) and also co-Editor of a book (2009, in press) entitled "Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-Economic Development: Success Stories from Africa."

An efficient, innovative and result-oriented leader, Prof Muhongo has had great success in initiating and implementing well-focused and high-impact scientific projects. He has excellent management skills and is an experienced science advisor and policy-maker, and has also very successfully raised funds for scientific projects and programmes. His track record of creating sustainable scientific networks is excellent. Prof Muhongo believes in employing Science Diplomacy to address the common challenges and problems facing humanity.

Prof Muhongo is a member (2009) of the prestigious African Union (AU) Jury on AU Science Awards that aim at promoting the development and the utilization of S&T for Africa's sustainable development. He is also a member (2006-2010) of the new International Award Committee of the American Geophysical Union (AGU).

He is author or co-author of over 200 scientific articles and technical papers, including publications in international journals with high citation indices, and has co-authored the publication of the highly acknowledged geological and mineral maps of Africa, East Africa and Tanzania. The information contained in these maps has promoted investment in the mineral sector in Africa.

Prof Muhongo is a sought-after speaker on global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) issues and has been invited to give more than 250 keynote speeches at international conferences in Africa, America, Asia and Europe over recent years.

He has undertaken more than 100 contract scientific research projects and has rendered consultancy services in the mineral industry and on environmental issues and policy matters. Prof Muhongo has served on numerous professional and academic Regional (Africa)/International Review Panels and Steering Committees.

In addition to his association with geological societies in Africa, Prof. Muhongo is a Fellow and a Chartered Geologist of the Geological Society of London (*FGS, CGeol*), a recognized European Geologist (*EurGeo*), an Honorary Research Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (*FCAGS*), a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (*FAAS*), a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (*FTWAS*), a Fellow of the Gondwana Institute for Geology and Environment (*FGIGE*), a Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa (*FASSAf*), and a Member of the Geological Society of America (GSA). He is also member of numerous other professional societies.

Prof Muhongo was Head of the Department of Geology at the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania from 1997 to 2000 and is currently Honorary Professor of Geology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. In

the 1990s he was instrumental in raising the profile of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) and served as its President from 1995 to 2001. He was the first recipient (2004) of the Society's Robert Shackleton Award for Outstanding Research on the Precambrian Geology of Africa and was awarded Fellowship of the Society in 1998. In 2006, Prof. Muhongo was presented with the prestigious National Award for Outstanding Research in Science and Technology (S&T) in Tanzania, and in 2007 the Geological Society of South Africa conferred upon him its prestigious "Honours Award", for his meritorious contribution to the Earth Science profession.

He graduated with BSc Honours in Geology from the University of Dar Es Salaam in 1979 where he founded and chaired the Geological Association of Students (1977). He then undertook postgraduate studies in Germany between 1980 and 1990 at the University of Göttingen (MSc research), and at the Technical University of Berlin (Dr.rer.nat.). His outstanding performance during his undergraduate studies earned him the Vice-Chancellor's Prize (1977) and the Gondwana Prize (1979).

Prof Muhongo was the Chairman (1999-2005) of the Board of Directors of the Tanzanian State Mining Corporation (STAMICO). He also was the Chairman (2002) of the Tanzanian Government Commission of Inquiry into the deadliest tanzanite mine accident.

Over the past two decades Prof. Muhongo has co-organized over 100 international scientific and policy conferences, including those of UNESCO and ICSU in Africa, Asia and Europe, and has supported and contributed to a number of international scientific programmes. These include the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Geohazards Peer Review Team, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) International Advisory Group of Experts on Geological Heritage, the International Commission for Earth Science in Africa (ICESA), the Research and Development Advisory Committee on Management of Natural Resources Research (COSTECH, Tanzania), the International Association for Gondwana Research, and the Advisory Board of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO), and United Development Programme-South-South Cooperation (UNDP-SSC) project on Disaster Mitigation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He was a member of the Nominations Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) reporting directly to the IUGS Executive Committee. He presently sits on the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) Membership Selection Committee for the Earth Sciences.

Prof Muhongo has, as a result, established excellent and reliable worldwide contacts with senior scholars, government officials, politicians and business executives. He intensively mentors young scientists, engineers and technologists around the world and has developed a special interest in the application of science, research, technology and innovation for the sustainable socio-economic development of the global society.

He is married to Bertha (BSc, MSc, MBA), has a son (Rukonge, BA Law/LLB student), and is guardian to three orphans.

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