

# RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

12 November 2009

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Higher Education is widely acknowledged as key in the development and upliftment of this continent. This has in recent times been repeatedly affirmed by e.g. The USAID sponsored African Regional Higher Education Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2008 and the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa sponsored University Leaders Forum held in Accra, Ghana in November 2008.

The building of capacity within this sector on the continent for socio-economic growth and advancement is of critical importance, now more so than ever before, given the ever increasing challenges of globalisation, such as e.g. the growing threats associated with climate change and the global economic crisis, which are destined to impact more severely on the development of this continent than on any other. However, it is of great concern that Africa can only count a few universities in the top 500 rankings globally. By implication, Africa is destined to continue to rely heavily on the goodwill and cooperation of top higher education institutions beyond its borders for many years to come to build the capacity it needs for sustainable development. Although many consider a cornerstone of achieving this objective to be the development of large scale programmes to promote the mobility between African universities and universities in the "North" for collaboration in research and in teaching, there is a growing voice which questions whether this should be achieved primarily in this way or whether more emphasis should not be placed on improved assistance and collaboration to build sustainable research and training capacity at the universities within Africa. This voice raises the concern of an over-reliance on experts and capacity from outside Africa to resolve local problems, rather than more concerted efforts to work towards self sustainability of higher education in Africa.

In order to explore the role and responsibility of the top universities on the continent in the development agenda of the continent, the University of the Witwatersrand is organising a one day symposium on 12 November 2009, Africa University Day, to which key figures and organisations such as policy makers, facilitating and funding agencies and foundations, aid agencies and business are invited. The primary objective is to interact with them and for them to share with us their thinking on latest developments, approaches and challenges in building the required capacity for self sustainability. In addition, the symposium will explore successes and challenges of modes of engagement among higher education institutions in Africa.

The day will also serve to reaffirm Wits' commitment and demonstrate its resolve in expanding its footprint in Africa as an African University committed to the development agenda of the continent.

### Who should attend

- Academics with links into Africa or who plan to establish such links
- DVC's/Directors of Research and strategic planners of Higher Education Institutions
- Human Resource practitioners of business with interests in Africa
- Development Aid Agencies and Foundations actively engaged with capacity building in Africa
- Knowledge intensive NGO's involved with development on the continent



*\*Co-sponsored by the University of the Witwatersrand and the National Research Foundation*

**FINAL PROGRAMME**  
**RESEARCH and TRAINING for SUSTAINABLE**  
**DEVELOPMENT in AFRICA**

**African University Day, 12 November 2009**

**Hospital Auditorium, Medical School, University of the Witwatersrand**

(Proceedings to commence at 9h00 and to be concluded by 17h00)

**SESSION I: Welcome and Keynote Addresses**

Chair, Professor Yunus Ballim, Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic),  
University of the Witwatersrand

Professor Loyiso Nongxa: Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of the Witwatersrand.  
Welcome and Setting the Scene

**Opening Address**

The Hon. Minister Naledi Pandor: Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa

**Keynote Addresses**

The Hon. Commissioner Jean Pierre Ezin: Commissioner in Charge of Human Resources  
Science and Technology of the African Union on “The African Union Research and Training  
Initiative for  
Development: **The Pan African University**”

Mr Lumkile Mondi: Vice President Industrial Development Corporation of S.A. on High level  
skills requirements for business opportunities and economic growth in Africa

Dr Shahid Yusuf: Economic Adviser, World Bank Institute on “Universities as drivers of  
knowledge-based development.”

(Tea/coffee 30 min, from 10h30 – 11h00)

**SESSION II: Partnership and Networking Models for Capacity Building in Higher  
Education in Africa**

Chair: Professor Sospeter Muhongo, Director, International Council of Science Regional Office  
for Africa

Dr Wilson Wasike: Manager Training, African Economic Research Consortium on the African  
Economic Research Consortium

Prof Paul Dirks: School for Geosciences, Wits on “Africa Array”

Fazela Haniff: Director International Office, Wits on “Towards Inclusive Policymaking & Home Grown Capacity Development: East Africa Experiences.”

Dr Osman A Sankoh: Executive Director INDEPTH Network on the INDEPTH Network of Demographic Surveillance Sites in Africa (To be presented by Professor Steve Tollman).

General Discussion

(Lunch 1 hour, from 12h30 – 13h30)

### **SESSION III: Wits’ Africa Focus**

Chair: Dr Gerhard von Gruenewaldt, Research Advisor, University of the Witwatersrand

A selection of 10 speed presentations at ~5 min each by Wits staff and/or their partners in Africa illustrating Wits’ diverse activities involving partners in Africa on collaborative research and training of postgraduate students from Africa.

### **SESSION IVA: Facilitating and Funding Agencies I**

Chair: Dr Rocky Skeef, Executive Director New Business Development, National Research Foundation

Prof Sospeter Muhongo: Director, ICSU-Regional Office for Africa – ICSU ROA Science Plans: Networking and R&D Funding Partnerships

Piyushi Kotecha: CEO Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) on “Laying the Foundations for Network Development within Southern Africa”

Prof Joseph M.G. Massaquoi: Director UNESCO Bureau for Science and Technology in Africa on “UNESCO’s Contribution to facilitating training and research in Science and Technology in Africa”

(Tea/coffee 30 min, from 15h15 – 15h45)

### **SESSION IVB: Facilitating and Funding Agencies II**

Chair: Professor Belinda Bozzoli, Deputy Vice-chancellor (Research), University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Stuart Saunders: Senior Advisor, The Andrew W Mellon Foundation

Dr John Butler Adam: Programme Officer Higher Education, Ford Foundation Johannesburg and Ford Coordinator, The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa, on “Working Towards the Next Generation of Academics”

Dr Andrew Kaniki: Executive Director, Knowledge Fields Development, National Research Foundation on “NRF Focus on Africa programme”

General discussion

**Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements**

Symposium ends at 17h00

Refreshments and Posters

**Symposium Dinner:** 19h00

Guest speaker: Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, President and CEO National Research Foundation

2 November, 2009