



The Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference,

Date: 23rd October, 2018.

Australia-Africa University Network (AAUN) Africa Forum and AGM

Background

The international policy framework is taking shape around the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, on the African continent high-level policies guiding the development of the continent including Agenda 2063, STISA2024, and CESA2025 are being implemented. For agriculture, CAADP, the Science Agenda for African Agriculture (S₃A), the Agricultural Transformation for Africa framework of the African Development Bank (AfDB) are of particular importance.

In this context, prominent networks have emerged that are aligned with these policies, and share similar ambitions of resource sharing, effective collaboration for impact, and multidisciplinary approach for research outcomes. The AAUN was established five years ago, and will be re-launched during August 2018 at the AAUN Australia Forum and AGM, linked to the Africa Down Under Week to be hosted in Perth, Australia. The new AAUN strategic plan for 2018-2020 will also be propelled. The AAUN Network currently consists of ten Australian and ten Africa member universities, co-chaired by the University of Sydney and the University of Pretoria.

Purpose of the Side Event

Four SDGs will structure the day's discussion i.e. goal 1: no poverty, goal 2: zero hunger; goal 5: gender equality and goal 17: partnerships. The focus will be to discuss and address the following critical questions:
How can universities interact in providing research evidence to fill knowledge gaps, and how can AAUN contribute in this regard?
What are the practical steps (2018-2020) to focus on engaging partners for results and impact?
How will the next generation of leaders be prepared to understand global policy, and how to effectively collaborate and form networks to access resources?

Objectives of the side Event

Enhance team building between members, African networks (incl. ARUA, RUFORUM, AAU) and other relevant alliances.

CO-ORGANISERS:





Provide the opportunity for networking to enhance greater effectiveness and identify opportunities of synergy and complementarity. Identify opportunities to strengthen Africa and Australia research partnerships. Benefit and participate in the extensive RUFORUM network and opportunities available.

Approach and Methodology

An interactive one-day side-event, including four sessions as outlined; each session will have an opening speaker and three selected panellists. The moderator will also be the opening speaker and be responsible for a succinct concluding summary. Following the short opening, the panellists will provide concise inputs from different lenses on the four SDG's. The audience is regarded as experts and therefore adequate time will be allowed for discussion. The moderator will direct the deliberations towards consensus, and provide a strategic summary of the discussions, which is regarded as critical output of each session.

Venue and Participants

Up to 70 experts from academia, government, the diplomatic sector, business and other agencies. Guests and observers from cooperating networks and NGOs are also welcome. Registration for this side-event is without charge based on the support from the ACIAR and the NRF. However, all participants including moderators and speakers will be required to register, on the AAUN website, with a closing date of 1 October 2018.

Expected Outputs

It is envisaged to develop a communiqué or position paper for policy makers on issues raised from the discussions addressing the four selected SDG's. These aspects will be appropriately disseminated through the media and other information sources.

acity (maximum no. of participants)	50-70
Is the Side Event an <u>Open</u> or <u>By Invitation Only</u> event?	Open, but registration required by 1 October 2018.
Room configuration / set-up (i.e. theatre, classroom, roundtable or u-shape)	Theatre/classroom
Start Time of Side Event:	08:30
End Time of Side Event:	17:00
Technical needs required (please tick):	

CO-ORGANISERS:





• Projector ✓	Quantity required: 1
• Projection screen ✓	Quantity required: 1
• Laptop ✓	Quantity required: 1
• Microphone & PA System ✓	Quantity required: 3
• Laser pointer ✓	Quantity required: 1
• Flip chart (with paper & markers)	Quantity required: -
• Note pads & pens	Quantity required: -
• Telephone line	Quantity required: -
• Refreshments /meals (expected number of participants, please specify) ✓	Quantity required: - Aligned with the conference programme (1 lunch, two breaks: morning and afternoon)
Any other special requests:	

SESSION PROGRAM

Moderator:

Time	Activity	
08:30	Registration and arrival coffee	
09:00-09:25	Opening session Moderator: Prof Frans Swanepoel, UP and AAUN Vice-Chair	
	Welcome by Prof John Hearn, AAUN Co-Chair, University of Sydney	3 min.
	Welcome to the RUFORUM biennial conference, Prof Adipala Ekwamu	3 min.
	Welcome by the host university, Prof Peter Mbithi, VC, University of Nairobi	3 min.
	Opening speaker: How do networks and partnerships address the SDGs, with specific focus on goals 1, 2, 5 and 17 Prof Teboho Moja, New York University, USA	15 min.
09:30	Session 1: The Role of Universities in Addressing SDG 5: Gender Equality Moderator: Dr Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, AWARD <i>Panellists, focusing on the following contexts</i>	
	i. Teaching, learning and research, AAUN Australian University	
	ii. Preparing the next generation, Christian Acemah, UNAS	
	iii. Policy engagement, Dorothy Ngila, NRF	
11:00	BREAK	

CO-ORGANISERS:





11:30	Session 2: The Role of Universities in Addressing SDG 17: Partnerships Moderator: Dr Aldo Stroebel, Executive Director, NRF	
	i. Teaching, learning and research, Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng, VC, UCT	
	ii. Preparing the next generation, Dr David Mickler, UWA	
	iii. Policy engagement, Dr Emmanuel Mutisya, AfDB	
13:00	LUNCH	
14:00	Session 3: The Role of Universities in Addressing SDG 1: No poverty Moderator: Prof Murray Leibrandt, Pro-VC Poverty, UCT	
	i. Teaching, learning and research	
	ii. Preparing the next generation, Dr Cyriaque Hakizimana, Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA) Network	
	iii. Policy engagement, Dr Alfred Sumani, CEO, National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Zambia	
15:00	BREAK	
15:30	Session 4: The Role of Universities in Addressing SDG 2: Zero hunger Moderator: Dr Eric Danquah, World Bank CoE in Crop Improvement, University of Ghana	
	i. Teaching, learning and research, AAUN Australian University	
	ii. Preparing the next generation, Prof Sheryl Hendriks, University of Pretoria	
	iii. Policy engagement: Dr Munamu Chisvo, CEO, FANRPAN	
16:30-17:00	Summary and closure Strategic priorities and recommendations - Prof Frans Swanepoel, University of Pretoria - Prof John Hearn, University of Sydney	
17:15-18:15	AAUN AGM (<i>closed meeting</i>)	
19:00	Conference dinner	

CO-ORGANISERS:





**Side Event Organizers
and Contact**

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