



The Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference,

Date: 23rd October, 2018.

Leadership, Gender and Research Excellence in African Universities: A Conversation with Higher Education Institutions, Science Granting Councils and Funding Partners in Africa

Background

Research excellence has become a high-profile feature of the African science landscape during the last decade. When the gender of African based researchers are considered the evidence shows that research outcomes are frequently worse for women than for men; that is, women have less research outputs and are promoted at a lower rate than their male counterparts in most African universities.

This would indicate that the initiatives to improve women’s access to science and technology and research in a number of key areas in Africa is still a major challenge for the research community and that still more needs to be done to attract and retain women based in Africa in doing and producing high quality research.

Purpose of the Side Event

This forum will provide an opportunity for the leadership in Higher Education Institutions, Science Granting Councils and Funding Partners that work in Africa and internationally to initiate a dialogue and co-create a transformational program to enhance research excellence contributions from female researchers. It is expected to provide a mechanism for linking individuals and communities in and across different regions and science sectors to engage in joint and transformative actions targeting shared needs and should also generate open discussion based upon the available research evidence; identify desired improvements and outline next steps.

Approach and Methodology

The side event will take the format of a ½-day workshop that would attract researchers, higher education administrators, and funders of research internationally and in Africa. The workshop will begin with welcome remarks by the Director of the AAP Secretariat followed by remarks from the guest speaker who will share findings from her recent commissioned publication on research excellence in Africa. The Panel Discussion that will follow will attempt to link gender, science, technology and innovation (STI) and research excellence in Africa from the perspectives of Higher Education, African and International Funding agencies, and Civil Society. Their contributions will

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address specifically the programs available to strengthen gender, STI and research excellence, what else is needed and whose role it is to establish these programs. The workshop will end with a small group brainstorming discussion and report back about the elements of an African Focused Research Excellence Transformational Program for Female STI Researchers at HE and Research Institutions in Africa.

Participants

Participants to be invited (those paid for by AAP in italics):

1. *Jose Jackson-Malete, Associate Director Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan State University*
2. *Amy Jamison, Associate Director AAP & Gen-Cen, Michigan State University*
3. *Erika Kramer-Mbula, Professor STI Policy Analysis, University of Johannesburg (SGCI)**
4. *Richard Mkandawire, Director AAP Africa Secretariat*
5. *Wenda Bauchspies, Co-Director, Gen Cen, Michigan State University ***
6. *Thelma Awori, Founding Chair and President Emeritus, Sirleaf Market Women's Fund*
7. *Penina Mlama, University of Dar es Salaam*
8. *Isaac Minde, Professor, Sokoine University of Agriculture*
9. *Thom Jayne, Professor, Michigan State University*
10. *Jamie Monson, Professor, Michigan State University*
11. *Anne Ferguson, Associate Dean, Michigan State University*
12. *Titus Awokuse, Chair AFRE, Michigan State University*
13. *Aggrey Ambali, NEPAD*
14. *Candace Keller, Michigan State University*
15. *Paul Zeleza, United States International University – Africa*
16. *Lucy Irungu, Vice Chancellor, Machakos University*
17. *Molapo Qhobela, CEO National Research Foundation, South Africa (SGCI)**
18. *Caroline Langat Thoruwa, Chair, African Women in Science and Engineering*
19. *Jemimah Onsare, Acting CEO National Research Fund Kenya*
20. *Andrea Johnson, Program Manager, Carnegie Corporation*
21. *Rose A. Mwonya, Vice Chancellor Egerton University*
22. *Benjamin C. Ozumba, Vice Chancellor University of Nigeria, Nsukka*

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- 23. George Kanyama-Phiri, Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - 24. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University
 - 25. David Norris, Vice Chancellor University of Botswana
 - 26. *Macki Samake, Recteur, Université des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako*
 - 27. *Ibrahima Thioub, Rector, University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar*
 - 28. William-Andey Lazaro Anangisye, Vice Chancellor, UDSM
 - 29. Boniface Wanyama, Principal Science Secretary, Head, Physical and Nuclear Sciences Schedule, National Council for Science, Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
 - 30. Anthony Muyepa, Director General, National Commission for Science and Technology
 - 31. Mbonye Manasse, Director General, National Commission for Science and Technology
 - 32. Peter Ndemere, Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
 - 33. Alfred Sumani, Executive Secretary, National Science and Technology Council
- * Paid by the SGCI Project

Expected Outputs

The major outcome of the side event would be engagement of stakeholders on gender, STI and research excellence in Africa and co-creation of a transformative program including the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the implementation of these programs.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

- Sponsors
- 1. Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan State University
 - 2. Center for Gender in a Global Context (GenCen), Michigan State University
 - 3. Science Granting Councils Initiative of Sub-Saharan Africa
- José Jackson-Malete, PhD
Co-Director
Alliance for African Partnership (AAP)

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Draft Programme:

Session Chairs:

**Jose Jackson-Malete, Co-Director Alliance for African Partnership,
 Michigan State University**
**Amy Jamison, Co-Director Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan
 State University**

- 9:00AM: Introductions of speakers and objectives of the workshop
- 9:15AM Welcome Remarks: Richard Mkandawire, Director AAP Africa Secretariat
- 9:30AM Overview of Research Excellence in Africa Erika Kramer-Mbula, Professor STI Policy Analysis, University of Johannesburg
- 10:15AM Panel Discussion on Gender, STI and Research Excellence Programs in Africa – What is there and What is needed?
 Lucy Irungu, Vice Chancellor, Machakos University
 Molapo Qhobela, CEO National Research Foundation, South Africa
 Caroline Langat Thoruwa, Chair, African Women in Science and Engineering
 Jemimah Onsare, Acting CEO National Research Fund Kenya
 Andrea Johnson, Program Manager, Carnegie Corporation
- 11:15AM Refreshments
- 11:30AM **Session Chair: Dr. Michèle Mbo’o-Tchouawou, AWARD Deputy Director for Programs**
 Small Group Discussion and Report back on an African Focused Research Excellence Transformational Program for Female Researchers at HE and Research Institutions in Africa
- 12:45PM **Closing Remarks**
Wenda Bauchspies, Co-Director, GenCen, MSU
- 1:00PM Lunch

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