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...and so much more
We hope that 2013 started with good tidings to all of you. It is our pleasure to present to you the first issue of ANIE Newsletter for 2013. In this edition, among other things, we highlight the 4th ANIE Conference and Annual General Meeting that was held at University of Pretoria South Africa from 26th to 28th September 2012. We also present the new board members who were elected during the AGM to steer us for the next two years. This issue also presents the growth in our membership and partnerships.

One of the main activities for this year will be our 5th ANIE Conference and Annual General Meeting that will be held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from 2nd to 4th October 2013. The theme of the conference is *Intra Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Building*. We hope that many of you will find it possible to attend. Finally, we would like to thank all of our members for their dedication and continued support. We ask those of you whose membership has expired to pay up as these contributions are inestimably important in our running. We hope that within this year and in the years to come, we will enhance our membership services and benefits.

From the next issue of the newsletter, we will have a specific theme for each edition and will from time to time call on our members and partners to make contributions regarding certain themes. We hope that this will make the newsletter more informative, interactive and useful in discussing and sharing information on different aspects of internationalization in Africa. We also urge you to utilize and share with us information that could enable us strengthen AFIRE. As usual, the newsletter will continue to be available on the ANIE website, www.anienetwork.org. I wish you a prosperous 2013.
I am deeply honored to assume the position of Chairman of the ANIE Board for the next two years. I wish to thank the members for electing me to this position. At the same time, I would like to sincerely thank the inaugural ANIE board for the incredible stewardship they gave to the organization in its formative years. As a founding member, I have witnessed and shared in ANIE’s growth over the past four years. It is therefore fulfilling and challenging to be bestowed of this responsibility. Over the past four years ANIE has held four successful conferences, workshops and research projects. We will strive to continue with these pursuits and other ANIE objectives as we head to the future.

I wish to appreciate the previous board led by Prof. Chacha Nyaogotti Chacha for their dedication and enthusiasm to ANIE. My special thanks also go to members of the ANIE secretariat at Moi University for their hard work. Our members remain our strength, and I urge them to continue participating in ANIE’s activities with even more gusto. This year’s activities include our 5th International Conference to be held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia that will feature themes revolving around intra regional cooperation.

As we move ahead, we will develop ANIE as a professional organization that responds to opportunities and challenges of internationalization to Africa. We will also enhance the resources in AFIRE, strengthening the Network of Emerging Scholars on Internationalization (NESI) through research and capacity building programs, mobilizing more resources for ANIE projects and activities and also enhancing ANIE membership and member benefits.

As I thank members and partners for their continued support, I equally ask all of us to join hands in making ANIE the premier advocate of internationalization in Africa, one that represents you and your ideas and is worthy of your membership.

Prof. Chika Sehoole

It is getting close to five years since ANIE was established. From that humble beginning, it is pleasing to arrive at this mark. While we have made some reasonable achievements over this time, there is still quite a lot of ground yet to be covered. There is still much more work ahead. Through our conferences we have provided an opportunity for Africa to debate the different manifestations of internationalization. This has contributed to enhancing the understanding of internationalization in the continent. Our research, though still small, is beginning to generate new knowledge on the previously dormant but rich field of internationalization in Africa. Through our international engagements, we have now become Africa’s voice on internationalization. We however still face numerous challenges amid many opportunities. As we take our strides into the future, we also take pride in our past achievements. This Newsletter mainly presents our activities over the last five months. We will keep sharing with you and involving you in our activities for the future. I look forward to a better future especially with the new board. We look forward to continued support from members and partners. We will strive to do our best to meet the objectives of ANIE. My best wishes to you all.

James Otieno Jowi

About ANIE

The African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) is an independent, non-profit making, non-governmental African network committed to the advancement of high quality research, capacity building, advocacy and information sharing on internationalization of higher education with prime focus on Africa. ANIE is a membership based organization serving its members, their institutions and organizations, and others engaged in internationalization. The network aims to be the leading organization in enhancing the understanding and development of the international dimension of higher education in Africa by expanding both knowledge and building, strengthening and sustaining a cohort of competent professionals in this field. ANIE is an autonomous institution whose secretariat has been set up at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.

ANIE Mission

To develop and strengthen capacity for research, advocacy and professional development in the international dimension of higher education to meet the needs of individuals, institutions and organizations in Africa.

ANIE Vision

To be the leading organization in internationalization of higher education in Africa.
The 4th ANIE Annual Conference was held at the University of Pretoria, South Africa from 26-28 September 2012. The theme of the conference was *Internationalization of Higher Education in Africa: Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Risks.* The conference brought together over a hundred participants including researchers, academics, policy makers, institutional leaders and government officials. The goal of the conference was to discuss how African higher education institutions could maximize the benefits presented by internationalization while at the same time responding to its risks. This was done in relation to four focus areas, namely: inter-institutional partnerships; research collaborations; the development of regional frameworks, networks and consortia; and academic mobility and growth in cross-border provision.

Participants were welcomed by Prof. Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal Research and Postgraduate Education University of Pretoria. She appreciated the choice of University of Pretoria to host the conference. The conference was officially opened by Dr. Dianne Parker, Deputy General in the Department of Higher Education, South Africa. To set the context for the conference, Jane Knight delivered the keynote address on *Internationalization scrutinized: Benefits & Risks, Truths and Myths, Guiding values.* In the presentation she underscored the fact that internationalization had transformed the higher education landscape around the world and had dramatically changed itself. There had been questions whether that change was for the better or worse given the new unintended consequences such as commercialization, the great brain race, diploma and accreditation mills and international rankings. The presentation scrutinized the risks, benefits and myths associated with internationalization. She argued for focusing on the collaborative, mutual benefit, capacity building, and partnership aspects of internationalization, for optimizing the academic benefits for individuals, institutions, countries and regions. The participants also discussed the inherent risks and challenges posed by internationalization with a view to developing interventions to minimize them. Suggestions on how higher education institutions in Africa would respond and interact with internationalization in order to maximize its benefits and minimize the risks were the core deliverables of the conference discussions.

The conference contributed in increasing awareness of the phenomenon of internationalization and its implications to higher education in Africa. A series of recommendations on how to minimize the risks and unintended consequences associated with internationalization of higher education in Africa were put forward. Participants were called upon to explore continental initiatives to respond to the benefits and risks of inter-institutional partnerships, academic mobility, regional frameworks and research collaboration. It was stressed that there was need to support ANIE in strengthening the understanding of internationalization and its impacts on Africa’s higher education.

In closing the conference, Prof. Cheryl de la Rey Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria further emphasized the need for African universities to have a better understanding of the implications of internationalization and collaborate in different areas that would strengthen their capacities. In his concluding remarks, ANIE Executive Director James Jowi thanked University of Pretoria for hosting a very successful conference and assured the participants that the main outcomes would form part of ANIEs agenda for the coming years.
After a successful 4th Annual Conference held in Pretoria, the ANIE Board came to a decision that the 5th ANIE Annual Conference will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the first week of October 2013. The conference will be held in collaboration with the Institute for International Education (IIE), Addis Ababa Office. ANIE has had close relations with IIE which culminated into the signing of a collaborative agreement in 2012. The conference will mark another opportunity for joint activities between the two organizations.

The theme of the conference and conference call will be on *Intra Regional cooperation and knowledge building*. Cheryl Francisconi, head of IIE office in Addis Ababa extended a welcome message to all participants during the 4th ANIE conference in Pretoria. We look forward to you joining us in Addis Ababa.
Dr. Maria V. K. Barifaijo, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Higher Degrees, Uganda Management Institute (UMI) is the new Vice Chairperson. She holds a PhD and a Masters in Educational Leadership and Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She has many years of teaching experience and twenty years of leadership and administration in higher education institution. Previously, she was acting Director of the East African Institute of Higher Education Studies and Development (EAIHESD) at Makerere University and a Coordinator of Graduate programmes. She is a member of the Steering Committee on the NICHE Project for Training of Educational Leaders.

Prof. Bob Wishitemi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Extension), Moi University, Kenya was elected Treasurer. He has held various teaching positions in a number of universities and has vast experience in project leadership and management. He has also held several administrative positions within the university sector in Kenya and has been a recipient of various research grants from various institutions. He is widely published, and is a member of many academic associations.

Dr. Mohsen Elmahdy Said, a Professor of Applied Mechanics at the Mechanical Design and Production Department, Cairo University, Egypt was elected as Member of the board. He got his Ph.D. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College of Science & Technology, London University in 1976 and a B.Sc. Degree from Cairo University in 1969. For more than twenty years, Dr. Said has held various key positions on national, regional, and international levels, including serving as the Advisor to Egypt’s Minister of Higher Education for International Cooperation. He also served as Executive Director and Chairman of the Board and Projects Management Unit that implemented Egypt’s Higher Education Reform Agenda.

Alice Sena Lamptey, Member, is the Higher Education Technical Advisor supporting the implementation of the Pan African University (PAU) based at the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) of the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. Since 2002 she has coordinated the Working Group on Higher Education (WGHE) of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) as Senior Higher Education Program Specialist. She has over 30 years international and multi-cultural professional experience working in the fields of education, gender, child rights and HIV/AIDS. She holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Ghana and is currently a part-time PhD Research Associate at the University of Tampere Finland. She is a founding member of ANIE and actively supports the network through advocacy, policy dialogue dissemination and programme funding.
Dr. Gerald Wangenge-Ouma, Member, is a Senior Lecturer in Higher Education Studies at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, where he is also the coordinator of the NORAD sponsored masters programme in Higher Education Studies offered in collaboration with Oslo University. He has a PhD in Higher Education Studies from the University of Cape Town and has conducted research and published extensively in the fields of comparative higher education finance, higher education policy studies, higher education and development and educational planning. He is currently on secondment at the Department of Higher Education and Training (South Africa) where he serves as researcher for the Ministerial Committee for the Review of the Funding of Universities.

Dr. Jane Knight, Member, is based at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada. Her research interest is on the international dimension of higher education at institutional, system, national and international levels. She has worked in over 60 countries with UN agencies, universities, foundations and professional organizations which help to bring a comparative, development and international perspective to her research, teaching and policy work. She is the author of more than 80 articles/chapters/reports on internationalization concepts and strategies, quality assurance, institutional management, mobility, cross-border education, trade and capacity building.

Prof. Olufemi Bamiro, Member, holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Nottingham University, England and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University, Canada. He joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1975 and has held many administrative positions in the University including Vice-Chancellor of the University. He has over 35 years of teaching and research experience in the areas of mechanical engineering, science and technology policy studies, software development, and environmental impact assessment. He has published several journal articles and books in these areas. In the area of science and technology policy studies, he has served Nigeria in several capacities. He is currently involved with the project on Sustainable Financing of Higher Education in Nigeria sponsored by the Partnership of Higher Education in Africa, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

The 2012 ANIE conference marked a further development in the cooperation between EAIE and ANIE. EAIE has supported ANIE’s participation in the past three EAIE conferences. This time Hans-George van Liempd, President EAIE and Marit Egner Chair of the EDC group participated in the ANIE conference. In his keynote address, Hans gave an overview on the trends of internationalization in Europe including the developments within the Bologna process. He also discussed the implications of Europe’s economic crisis on internationalization, including for internationalization in Africa. However, despite the crisis, according to Hans, internationalization still remained a strategic issue for many European universities. He outlined the main activities of EAIE and the identified areas that ANIE and EAIE could work on for the future. EAIE has formed a committee discussing with ANIE on these future activities.
ANIE signs MOU with IEASA

The 16th International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) conference took place from 29th August to 1st September 2012 in Cape Town South Africa. The theme of the conference was on Promoting Higher Education Internationalization through International Research Collaborations, Partnerships and Innovative Teaching. During the plenary session, James Jowi (ANIE) and Merle Hodges (IEASA) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) giving the two organizations a framework to cooperate on different initiatives. The two organizations have committed to work together to strengthen capacity for internationalization within African universities. They will also collaborate in research, organization of policy dialogues and information sharing on internationalization in Africa. The two organizations will also be participating in each other’s activities and seek opportunities to mobilize resources together to undertake internationalization in Africa. In retrospect, the 2008 IEASA conference held at the University of Port Elizabeth and attended by the then New Generation Group (NGG) of ANIE was an important inspirational moment that further strengthened the spirit of establishing ANIE. The two organizations will mutually work together and share their capacities to enhance internationalization in Africa.

ANIE and AAU join hands to promote internationalization

The Association of African Universities (AAU) and ANIE have signed an agreement to enhance the international dimension of higher education in Africa. In the agreement AAU will work with ANIE as its legal implementing agency on issues relating to internationalization of higher education in Africa. Through this agreement, AAU will devolve to ANIE the implementation of its internationalization programs as provided in its Strategic Plan for 2011-2015. This relationship is anchored on the cardinal role that AAU played in the founding of ANIE in 2008 and in providing the first funding to ANIE through the MRCI project. Among other activities, ANIE will work with AAU member institutions in developing institutional strategies for internationalization, advocate for the establishment of international offices in member institutions of AAU, create links with African scholars in the diaspora and organize workshops and conferences for dialogues on internationalization in Africa. The agreement was signed by Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti Chacha for ANIE and Prof. Etienne Ehile for AAU.

ANIE joins Project ATLAS

ANIE is a new entrant into the Project Atlas of the New York based Institute for International Education (IIE). This is within a broad based Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between ANIE and IIE. This relationship will strengthen ANIEs role in collecting, tracking and analyzing data on the trends of academic mobility within Africa and between Africa and other world regions. The paucity of data on mobility on Africa has previously impeded an in-depth understanding of the trends of mobility and their implications on the continent and for policy directions. Through this, ANIE intends to partner with the other members of the network to also develop capacity for tracking mobility data on Africa. Academic mobility is growing and is one of the major issues in internationalization in Africa today.

ANIE joins ASIE

The African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) has joined the Association for Studies in International Education (ASIE). By this, ANIE becomes part of an organization bringing together leading international education associations globally. This will enable ANIE to contribute and also benefit from the different capacities and resources of the network. ASIE also publishes the Journal of Studies in International Education (JISE), the leading journal in internationalization of higher education globally. ANIE will now receive copies of issues of the journal. Some members of ANIE have also been given access to the online journal. A further development is the appointment of the ANIE Director to the Editorial Advisory Board of JISE. The journal is the premiere forum for higher education administrators, educators, researchers and policy makers interested in research, reviews and case studies on all facets of internationalization of higher education. Each issue brings together the concepts, strategies and approaches of internationalization, the internationalization of the curriculum and issues surrounding international students and cross border delivery of education.
MRCI Research Project: Experiences of ANIE young researchers

In 2010 the AAU awarded ANIE a grant within the Mobilizing Regional Capacities Initiative (MRCI) to implement a project on Developing a Framework for sharing R&D Resources on the Internationalization of Higher Education in Africa. Part of this grant was awarded to 12 young scholars from 7 African countries to undertake research on internationalization of higher education and its role in the attainment of the MDGs. The young scholars successfully completed their researches under the mentorship of Dr. Jane Knight, University of Toronto, Canada and Prof. Chika Sehoole of University of Pretoria, South Africa. The research outcomes are being published in a book through Sense Publishers and is expected to be out by mid 2013. This was one of the initial initiatives of ANIE to strengthen the development of its new generation group of academics. Some of the researchers who participated in the project have shared with us their experiences below:

Christiana Badoo- Ghana

My participation in this research project as a ‘Young Scholar,’ having assessed and provided valuable insights into Ghana’s strides in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3 has greatly strengthened my intellectual ability, research experiences, and communication skills (as a result of interacting with various stakeholders) among many others. Indeed, my understanding and appreciation of the concept and practice of internationalization and the gender dimensions in higher education institutions in Ghana and South Africa has been bolstered principally by researching and working with teams of other Researchers particularly with my counterparts in South Africa.

Tibelius Amutuhaire- Uganda

It was a great opportunity to work with ANIE on the role of internationalization of higher education in HIV/AIDS prevention in Uganda. While the benefits of participating in this research project may not be exhausted, the outstanding one is that I interacted with experienced professors who formulated and guided my study whose findings are to be published in a book. The professors also polished my academic writing skills. In a nutshell, participating in this project improved my skills, knowledge and expertise regarding internationalization of higher education. My network of scholars through which I can participate in debates regarding higher education and internationalization has also expanded as a result of working with ANIE.

Laura Lalampa- Kenya

The research provided me with valuable experience in proposal writing and the actual research process. With the guidance of my supervisor, I was able to bring to life an idea by carrying out the research and writing out a comprehensive report that gives insight into Women’s empowerment and Internationalization of Higher Education. This is not to say the process was without challenges. There were several instances when I felt burnt out because of endless visits during data collection but was able to finish the arduous task, thanks to the encouragement of the many people I met along the way. I now look forward to seeing the final product.

ANIE wins research grant from CODESRIA

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) has awarded ANIE a research grant for a study on Internationalization of higher education and the changing leadership role of deans in African Universities. This is within CODESRIAs Higher Education Leadership Research Program (HELP) which has been established to reflect on leadership issues within African Universities. ANIEs project will be a comparative study involving researchers from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The project aims at providing an empirical analysis of the impacts of internationalization on the leadership roles of deans in the selected universities. The Comparative Research Network (CRN) which ANIE developed through this initiative will compare outcomes from the three countries. The project ends in May 2014 and involves two methodology workshops. Through this project ANIE expects to generate new knowledge on the impacts of internationalization on university leadership and to strengthen its team of researchers with an interest in internationalization and institutional leadership in Africa.
In a groundbreaking seminar with Boston College’s Centre for International Higher Education, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) hosted an international working conference on the role of research universities in global knowledge networks. The conference was opened by OECD’s Asa Olson, coordinator of the Innovation, Higher Education and Research for Development (IHERD) and Prof. Philip Altbach, Director of the Centre for International Higher Education (CIHE), Boston College. The conference discussed the role of research universities in advancing the national and global economies. In his introduction, Prof. Altbach characterized research universities as a small but very central part of the global higher education system. Research universities were seen as those producing much of global research, employ best faculty, best students, had high academic quality, academic freedom and good governance. They are also ranked highly globally, are preferred by international students and are internationally networked. Discussions were based on experiences from different world regions.

Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede, former Secretary General Association of African Universities (AAU) noted that Africa did not have many research universities due to the several challenges that had characterized the system. Africa’s higher education was however developing centres of excellence across the continent which could contribute to the development of research universities in Africa. As a stakeholder in this debate, ANIE was represented by James Jowi who presented a position paper on African Universities and global knowledge networks. ANIE’s argument was that internationalization, especially through university partnerships in research and innovation could help strengthen research in African universities and end up building research universities in Africa. It was seen as important for research universities in developed parts of the world to partner with universities in developing countries.

ANIE participated in the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) held in Doha Qatar from 13th to 15th November 2012. The theme of the conference was **Collaboration for Change**. The conference brought together over 1000 educational, political and social leaders from across the world. The conference explored how educational collaborations in many forms and levels could become a driving force for innovations and revival of education globally.
Internationalization begins with the curriculum

- By Craig Whitsed and Wendy Green

“You can’t have comprehensive internationalization without internationalization of the curriculum,” said Professor John Hudzik to a diverse gathering of academics and managers at a recent International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) event in Brisbane, Australia. Hudzik, author of Comprehensive Internationalization and a professor at Michigan State University, was in Australia as a guest speaker for the University of Queensland’s (UQ) Teaching and Learning week and the launch of the UQ Global Strategy and Internationalization plan.

Members of the IEAA Special Interest Group on Internationalizing the Curriculum caught up with Hudzik between his engagements. Sitting at a café overlooking the Brisbane River, we invited him to elaborate further on “internationalization of the curriculum”. Hudzik explained that universities today have to be reminded of their core mission, namely the production of graduates who can live, work and contribute as productive citizens in an increasingly fluid and borderless global context.

“The research agenda is important,” he stressed, but went on to explain that concentrating solely on research is detrimental for all stakeholders because a more balanced approach to the provision of higher education in the current globalised environment is critical to the ongoing sustainability of higher education worldwide. Discussing his conceptualisation of “comprehensive internationalization”, Hudzik observed that while increasing attention to rankings has caused universities to place significant emphasis on and devote resources to the production of research, the institutions are still responsible for facilitating opportunities for all students to develop global perspectives and intercultural communication competencies.

Echoing earlier commentaries in University World News by Professor Elspeth Jones, Professor Hans de Wit and Associate Professor Betty Leask, Hudzik observed the limited attention paid to internationalization of the curriculum, and the importance of viewing internationalization as a significant facet of all students’ learning experiences, whether local, international, mobile or at home. Neglecting to measure the impact of internationalization on students and concentrating on ‘activity’ while excluding learning outcomes is as satirical as operating a hospital without patients. Universities are in danger of losing sight of their key stakeholders: undergraduate and non-research students.

However, shifting the focus to student outcomes is not without its challenges, as leaders in the field have observed across numerous publications. As Hudzik acknowledged, it is often assumed that internationalization intersects with teaching-pedagogy, assessment and learning across different disciplines in similar ways.
This assumption is problematic. In recent editions of *University World News*, leading contributors have emphasized the importance of faculty-level engagement with internationalization of the curriculum. Echoing their concern for a more sustained and strategic move from rhetoric to action, Hudzik stressed the need for wider inter- and intra-disciplinary collaboration, to assist academics in realizing the development of global engagement within their curricula.

Rather than diminishing a university’s capacity to build research and international reputation, internationalization of the curriculum needs to be part of a strategic, comprehensive internationalization strategy, a fundamental component and signifier of a university that bridges the local and global domains. Hudzik concluded the conversation observing that the business of universities is now and will increasingly be cross-border. To be relevant, universities will have to seriously re-engage with the notion that they are also “collegiums of learners at different stages” and not solely for the production of new knowledge. As such, universities are responsible, in addition to building research capacity, for facilitating opportunities for all students to develop global perspectives and intercultural communication competencies – in other words an internationalized curriculum.

Source: *University World News*. 26 January 2013; Issue No: 256

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### Political boost for Africa’s university and research initiatives

By Wagdy Sawahel

African leaders have supported higher education and research by adopting the statute for the Pan-African University, approving plans for a Tunisia-based African Union Institute for Statistics, and endorsing the creation of an African Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation and a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization. The initiatives were outlined in African Union assembly decisions and declarations endorsed at the 20th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government, which had the theme “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance” and was held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

At the opening summit Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, chair of the African Union (AU) Commission, said: “Education and skills development is at the heart of our regeneration efforts. The Pan-African University and the general expansion of our higher education sector will equip young people with critical abilities to drive innovation, sciences, entrepreneurship, research, social development and industrialization.”

To put Zuma’s words into action, the summit adopted the statute of the Pan-African University, or PAU, as a continental research and postgraduate training institution operating in all regions. The meeting also approved the creation of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization to promote research in universities and the transfer of new technologies to the industrial sector. It requested the African Commission to convene a meeting of stakeholders dealing with intellectual property to a summit by May, to debate implementation of the organization.

Source: *University World News*. February 2013; Issue No. 257

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### Ministerial meeting agrees on priorities for innovation

By Wagdy Sawahel

African ministers, senior United Nations officials and representatives of the private sector and civil society met in Tanzania this month and identified key priorities in promoting the role of science, technology and innovation, or STI, in supporting development in Africa.

The measures were announced at the meeting, which was one of a series held in preparation for the Annual Ministerial Review of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which will be held in Geneva in July. The gathering called on the UN and the World Intellectual Property Organisation to support greater emphasis on science, technology and innovation as key to sustainable development in Africa.

Robust data on innovation are not abundantly available, and what evidence there is suggests that levels of innovation in Africa are relatively low, according to the conference’s background note. It indicated that research and development (R&D) intensity in Sub-Saharan Africa – excluding South Africa and Tunisia – was less than 0.4% of gross domestic product, which is far short of the level recommended by UNESCO. In 2000, Africa accounted for less than 1% of world expenditure on research and development, and more than half of R&D was done in the public sector. The document also noted that, in most cases, R&D funding was from government sources and foreign donors.

Sub-Saharan Africa produced only 11,142 scientific journal articles in 2008 and of these, South Africa produced almost half (46%) followed by Nigeria (11%) and Kenya (7%). In other words, the three countries accounted for two-thirds of Africa’s article output.

In terms of innovation more broadly, Africa also performed poorly and the background note argued that mobilising, encouraging and leveraging innovation required action across several areas, “most of which need government involvement”. These include education, infrastructure, communication and knowledge sharing mechanisms, regulatory and intellectual property frameworks, access to finance, credit and insurance, and good governance. “The gap between the potential for innovation and what is realised is in fact an opportunity – one that requires realignment and strengthening of innovation systems, a supportive environment and strong national and regional strategies,” the document stated.

The ministerial meeting agreed on the following key priorities:

- Innovation can bring benefits across all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and is key to accelerating...
Discussions at ECOSOC must lead to a ministerial declaration that calls for much greater emphasis on the contribution that STI can make to achieving sustainable development in relation to the post-2015 development framework and implementation of Rio+20 outcomes.

The global policy approach to technology and innovation must change to keep pace with changing models of innovation and the new geography of innovation. Innovation is increasingly open, global, networked and collaborative. The emergence of new innovation players in countries of the South creates new opportunities for Africa.

Technology and innovation partnerships for development must be multi-stakeholder, recognise the critical role of the private sector and harness the resources it offers.

Policy-makers in Africa should redouble efforts to develop legal and policy frameworks, including intellectual property legislation and policy, to release the region’s untapped potential. Investments in education, research and development should be increased. Support in moving ideas to development and to market should be accelerated.

African countries need support to build their innovation infrastructure and the capacity to create domestic technology solutions to local development challenges, as well as to support the transfer, adaptation and dissemination of technology. Commitments of support should emerge from the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review.

ECOSOC should maximise its potential as a platform for multiple international efforts to support African countries on STI capacity-building. It should identify mechanisms for greater coordination among providers of STI assistance.

Source: University World News, 23 March 2013, Issue No. 264

CHINUA ACHEBE, African Literary Titan, Dies at 82

In his first novel and masterpiece, “Things Fall Apart” (1958), Mr. Achebe, who died on 21st March 2013, at 82, did exactly that. In calm and exacting prose, he examined a tribal society fracturing under the abuses of colonialism. The novel tells the story of Okonkwo, a stoic clan leader and former wrestling hero who returns to his village after seven years in exile (He’d been sent away after his role in an accidental death). The changes that Christian missionaries and other white men have brought are intolerable to him. “Things Fall Apart” rolls toward a bleak ending. What sticks with you about the novel is its sensitive investigation, often through folk tales, of how culture functions and what it means. Mr. Achebe had plenty to say about notions of traditional masculinity, as well, not to mention his braided observations about nature, religion, myth, gender and history. The novelist grabbed the subject of colonialism “so firmly and fairly,” John Updike wrote in The New Yorker in the 1970s, “that the book’s tragedy, like Greek tragedy, felt tonic; a space had been cleared, an understanding had been achieved, a new beginning was implied.”

Albert Chinualumogu Achebe was born on Nov. 16, 1930, in Ogidi, an Ibo village. His father became a Christian and worked for a missionary teacher in various parts of Nigeria before returning to the village. Growing up in Nigeria, Mr. Achebe attended schools that were modeled upon British public schools. As a student, Mr. Achebe immersed himself in Western literature. At the University College of Ibadan, whose professors were Europeans, he read Shakespeare, Milton, Defoe, Swift, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats and Tennyson. In his recent book of essays, “The Education of a British-Protected Child” (2009), he was eloquent about what it felt like as a young man to read classic English novels: they provided a cognitive dissonance he had to work through. “I did not see myself as an African in those books,” he wrote. “I took sides with the white men against the savages.” He continued: “The white man was good and reasonable and smart and courageous. The savages arrayed against him were sinister and stupid, never anything higher than cunning. I hated their guts.” But the turning point in his education was the required reading of “Mister Johnson,” a 1939 novel set in Nigeria and written by an Anglo-Irishman, Joyce Cary. The protagonist is a docile Nigerian whose British master ultimately shoots and kills him. Like reviewers in the Western press, Mr. Achebe’s white professors praised it as one of the best novels ever written about Africa. But Mr. Achebe and his classmates responded with “exasperation at this bumbling idiot of a character,” he wrote. He soon joined a generation of West African writers who in the 1950s were coming to the realization that Western literature was holding the continent captive.

Mr. Achebe was a poet, professor, short-story writer and critic in addition to being a novelist. His more than 30 other books include the novels “No Longer At Ease” (1960) and “Anthills of the Savannah” (1987). He published several children’s books too. Mr. Achebe was a mentor and role model to a generation of African writers — he’s often referred to as the father of modern African writing. But like many novelists who find success with an early book, Mr. Achebe found himself almost solely defined by “Things Fall Apart.” Nevertheless, his talent and success have helped spawn an array of postcolonial writing from across the continent.

As the curtain closes on a great son of Africa, his legacy shall not “fall apart”!

Source: Adapted from the New York Times, March 22, 2013

“’If you don’t like someone’s story, write your own.’”

Announcements

Higher Education Policy (HEP): Special Issue on Doctoral Education in Africa

The aim of HEP is to provide a peer-reviewed vehicle of the highest quality for institutional leadership, scholars, practitioners and administrators at all levels of higher education. Papers on management issues, challenges and opportunities, networking initiatives, innovative approaches to doctoral education and training, supervision will be considered. Abstract should not exceed 700 words. Deadline: 30 April 2013, final versions are expected for 30 September 2013. Seven papers will be retained. Contact: Hilligje van’t Land - h.vantland@iau-aiu.net

IAU 4th Global Survey

Following extensive consultations with the IAU 4th Global Survey Advisory Committee, IAU has finalized the draft questionnaire to be used for the 4th Global Survey. An electronic version has been prepared by the British Council and is now being piloted by a group of 30 IAU Members Institutions. The IAU expects to launch the Survey in April. An invitation email with a link to the electronic survey (which will be available in English, French and Spanish) will be sent to the Heads of Institution and Head of International Relations of all university-level institutions in the IAU’s World Higher Education Database (2013). When it reaches you, please make sure that your institution takes part in the Survey! ANIE urges all African institutions participating in this study to fully utilize this opportunity so that responses from Africa can be enhanced. Through this we can have better insights into the current trends and development on internationalization in Africa and also in comparison with other world regions. Contact: Ross Hudson - r.hudson@iau-aiu.net

University of Botswana to participate in ISAS

Following the recent Call for Expressions of Interest for an ISAS Project to be undertaken with an IAU Member Institution in Africa, the University of Botswana’s application has been retained for the current year. Work on this ISAS project, which is made possible thanks to funding from a grant to IAU by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will begin in the coming weeks according to the areas of particular interest to the University. IAU would like to thank all those institutions that responded to the Call, and would encourage each as well as others to consider undertaking an ISAS Programme in the future.

African Union (AU); Regional Organizations; Science Policy


International Education Association of Australia (IEAA)/ European Association for International Education (EAIE): Student Mobility

IEAA and EAIE have submitted online a International Student Mobility Charter that aims at facilitating higher education and knowledge mobility by addressing the following ten issues: Equity of treatment; Intercultural competences; Integration of international students; Opportunity to complete studies; Portability and continuity of funding; Student status; Visas and formal requirements; Information; Student rights support; and Quality assurance.

Guide to Higher Education in Africa (GHEA): 6th edition has just been released!

The 6th edition of the Guide contains details on 52 educational systems and 1,200 higher education institutions in Africa. This publication is the result of a partnership between the International Association of Universities (IAU) and the Association of African Universities (AAU) to jointly collect and disseminate information on higher education on the African continent. A copy of the Guide is sent free of charge to all IAU Members in Africa.

African Union (AU): Regional University; Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Workshop for the Pan African University (PAU) which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4 to 6 March 2013 provided a forum to representatives from the African higher education sector to review the draft PAU strategic plan.

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA): Research Methods; Social Sciences; Call for Participation

CODESRIA has launched a call for applications for its methodology workshop on quantitative and qualitative methods in social science research. The call is for lecturers in African Universities which are CODESRIA Members. Deadline for application: 26 April 2013. http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1744&lang=en
Partners’ Upcoming Events

April 24-26, 2013

IAU 5th Global Meeting of Associations of Universities (GMA V).

May 26-31, 2013

NAFSA 2013 Conference and EXPO, Louis, Missouri,
USA http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Annual_Conference/

May 28-31, 2013

AAU 13th General Conference:
“Transforming African Higher Education for Graduate Employability and Socio-Economic Development”.

May 29-31, 2013


June 17-19, 2013

Supporting International Students Conference. Orlando, Florida,
USA. www.academicimpressions.com

August 21-24, 2013

IEASA 17th Annual Conference, Central University of Technology,
South Africa www.ieasa.studysa.org

September 10-13, 2013

25th Annual EAIE Conference, Istanbul,
Turkey http://www.eaie.org/home/conference/istanbul.html

October 13-15, 2013

The International Social Science Council’s 2nd World Social Science Forum (WSSF), Montréal, Canada.
Theme: “Social Transformations and the Digital Age” (see detailed theme and sub-theme document at http://www.wssf2013.org)
African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE)
Margaret Thatcher Library (Rm LS 03)
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