

Higher Education in the News



SARUA

Region falls behind in research

SOUTHERN Africa's lack of investment in higher education is failing to meet the needs of the economy, and regional collaboration in scientific research is essential if we are to innovate and grow. This is the view of the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA).

In a report submitted to the biennial conference of the Association of African Universities in Stellenbosch on Thursday, SARUA called for a \$100m five-year fund to increase academic collaboration between universities in the region.

SOURCE: Business Day
Posted to the web 6 June 2011
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=144828>

Call for a regional research fund

Southern African universities have called for a regional fund to boost public sector research, which is considered critical to the ability of countries to innovate and develop economically. A detailed plan for a \$100 million five-year fund was submitted to the continent's biggest higher education event, the biennial conference of the Association of African Universities, held at Stellenbosch University this week. Piyushi Kotecha, CEO of the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), proposed the research fund in a presentation on Thursday, joining other higher education stakeholders in the call but for the first time outlining how it might work.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 6 June 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110603183747375>

Africa

University support funds under-used

Association of African Universities Acting President, Professor George Magoha, has urged universities to exploit funds and opportunities that the association offers for teaching and development. The AAU has money for staff exchange and ICT training that is being wasted.

Opening the association's biennial conference at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, Magoha said that although the AAU did not have solutions to every problem of individual universities, there were simply not enough takers for the resources available.

SOURCE: UniversityWorld News
Posted to the web 5 June 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110603183828508>

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Youth of Africa Need Relevant Education

The world is changing fast, thanks to globalisation that is catalysed by advancements in science and technology. The situation poses unique challenges for Africa, more so the sub-Saharan countries such as Tanzania, which for long lagged behind on account historical disadvantages that must be overcome. If a majority of African countries are to develop into middleclass economies within the decade as aspired in the context of the much-touted millennium development goals (MDGs), then education must be given a priority.

SOURCE: The Citizen
Posted to the web 6 June 2011
<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/editorial-analysis>

Higher education space gaining momentum

Efforts to create an African Higher Education Space are gaining momentum, with three key areas - qualifications recognition, harmonisation of systems and quality assurance - actively supported by the African Union, regional economic bodies, university associations and international organisations. "Creating a higher education and research space fits with the African Union's harmonisation strategy for African higher education," Said Dr Goolam Mohamedbhai, former Secretary General of the Association of Universities (AAU) and former vice-chancellor of the University of Mauritius.

SOURCE: UniversityWorld News
Posted to the web 5 June 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110605094827881>

AAU Conference recommends more focus on Science and Technology Innovation

Stellenbosch (SA), June 7, GNA – Delegates at the just-ended Conference of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREViP) asked African Governments to prioritise funding to develop higher education with focus on Science and Technology Innovation (STI). In a 16-point recommendation adopted, they said although the global economy was driven by STI infrastructure, Africa remained a notable exception with a low profile on STI.

SOURCE: Modern Ghana Online
Posted to the web 7 June 2011
<http://www.modernghana.com/news/333025/1/aau-conference-recommends-more-focus-on-science-an.html>

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Science and Technology

Online laboratories extend higher learning

Universities in West and East Africa are using online science laboratories to conduct research on real hardware in remote locations. The new tools have augmented the teaching of science and engineering, expanding experiments and easing institutions' lack of equipment. The iLabs initiative has extended the space for higher education on the continent.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 5 June 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110605082651312>

R&D survey is a chance to move African science forward

Collecting statistical data on both government and private-sector spending on research and development (R&D) is not the most exciting task facing the scientific community. Indeed, those who do get enthusiastic about such things are usually referred to disparagingly as 'policy wonks'.

Yet for the past 50 years, R&D data collected by organisations such as the National Science Board in the United States, or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, have formed part of the bedrock on which western nations have both formulated their policies to support research and measured their success in doing so.

SOURCE: SciDev.Net
Posted to the web 27 May 2011

<http://www.scidev.net/en/editorials/r-d-survey-is-a-chance-to-move-african-science-forward.html>

Malawi

Education gets K47.4 bn in budget allocation

Finance Minister Ken Kandodo says government has pumped in K47.4 billion to Ministry of Education which is 24.4 percent of the total recurrent Budget and also allocated huge sums to beleaguered University of Malawi (Unima) and financially struggling Mzuzu University (Mzuni) to cater for scholarships and professional development of civil servants, including academic staff. Kandodo told that academic staff from public universities such as Unima and Mzuni needs highly qualified staff to ensure delivery of high quality education in higher edification.

SOURCE: Nyasa Times
Posted to the web 4 June 2011

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/education-gets-k47-4-billion-in-budget-allocation.html>

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Bunda College delinked from Unima

Bunda College of Agriculture has been delinked from University of Malawi (Unima) and will now be part of the yet-to-be established Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Luanar). The de-link was effected in the National Assembly on Wednesday after members of parliament passed the University of Malawi (Unima) Amendment Act.

SOURCE: Nyasa Times

Posted to the web 19 May 2011

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/education/bunda-college-delinked-from-unima.html>

Malawi

Bandwidth availability to be tripled soon

MINISTER of Information, Communication and Technology Nelsiwe Shongwe has observed that the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) will triple bandwidth availability in the country shortly. Currently, bandwidth is at 150 megabits (Mgs). She said this was encouraging as the nation was cognisant of the fact that the barrier had been the high bandwidth cost and government was looking for ways of assisting in this regard.

SOURCE: Swazi Observer

Posted to the web 21 May 2011

<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=25824>

South Africa

COMMON MARKET: is SA fit to lead the process?

SA WILL host the second summit of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (Comesa), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on Sunday. The tripartite framework has its basis in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. This has a view to rationalising and consolidating regional economic communities to achieve a common market for the continent, enhancing intraregional trade, attracting investment, and accelerating growth and development.

SOURCE: Business Day

Posted to the web 10 June 2011

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=145477>

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WSU hosts DVC Research Forum

WALTER Sisulu University recently hosted the Deputy Vice-Chancellors' (DVC) Research Forum at the Health Resource Centre, Mthatha. The DVC's Forum is a platform that brings together DVCs from all South African Universities to come and share best practice ideas on research development in South African institutions of higher learning. DVCs discuss a number of issues that provide opportunity for input into development of University strategy and direction when it relates to improving research.

SOURCE: Walter Sisulu University
Posted to the web 31 May 2011
<http://www.wsu.ac.za/news/news.php?id=dvcs>

Tanzania

ICT potential in education little tapped

The effective use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in developing countries like Tanzania is crucial in order to overcome the challenges that are faced countrywide in many sectors, and to reduce the digital divide and improve the economy. ICT is becoming more and more integrated in societies worldwide. Its effects are clearly seen in people's lives as well as on the countries' economy as it opens doors for new opportunities. African governments need to seriously invest in the use of ICT for education, as the only way forward to become competitive globally.

SOURCE: The Citizen
Posted to the web 6 June 2011
<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/3-features/11653-ict-potential-in-education-little-tapped.html>

Chief Secretary Praises Mzumbe Varsity

The Morogoro-based Mzumbe University is playing a pivotal role in the country's development endeavours. The Chief Secretary, Mr Philemon Luanjo, made the acknowledgement when talking at a forum on strengthening linkages between the university and key stakeholders held in Dar es Salaam the minister for Education and Vocational Training, Dr Shukuru Kawambwa, told the forum that the challenge facing Mzumbe and other higher learning institutions is to produce graduates who are relevant to current and future development needs.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 1 June 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201105310087.html>

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Researchers hope for more funding in next budget

Dar es Salaam. Researchers hope the government will honour pledges of increasing funding for research activities in the 2011/12 budget to be tabled this week. In the 2010/11 fiscal year the government allocated Sh30 billion for research activities, up from Sh10 billion allocated in the previous year. However, experts say the amount was still not enough to pursue serious and tangible researches.

SOURCE: The Citizen

Posted to the web 5 June 2011

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/4-national-news/11626-researchers-hope-for-more-funding-in-next-budget>

Zambia

Education Sector Growing

EDUCATION is key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is a powerful driver of the development of individuals and societies. The sector is a fundamental building block of human development and is one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty, improving health, gender equality, peace and stability. This is why the Zambian Government has continued to pay more attention to developing this sector by investing heavily in infrastructure development.

SOURCE: Times of Zambia

Posted to the web 6 June 2011

<http://www.times.co.zm/news/viewnews.cgi?category=7&id=1307521837>

Zimbabwe

University of Zimbabwe Set to Build Links to Industry

The University of Zimbabwe's research and innovation capacity is set to get a facelift, with the establishment of a new business unit dedicated to attracting more private funding and helping researchers to commercialise their innovations. Once ranked among Africa's leading academic institutions, the University of Zimbabwe has suffered the consequences of brain drain and a dearth of scientific research because of the country's economic difficulties.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 3 June 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201106030482.html>