

Higher Education in the News



Africa

Skills in development finance for Africa

With six of the 10 fastest growing economies currently situated on the African continent, the access to development finance is now crucial for the continued growth of the continent's economies and the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals. In order to realise these goals, many African governments must first overcome the key challenges of inadequate and sustainable financial resources to finance the development needs of their countries.

SOURCE: Service Leadership in Local Government

Posted to the web 8 August 2011

<http://www.servicepublication.co.za/index.php/magazine/skills/363-skills-in-development-finance-for-africa>

Ministers adopt harmonisation report

Education Ministers in the East African Community have adopted a report that could advance the planned harmonisation of education systems in the region. The master plan details how to harmonise educational systems and training curricula and touches on the fields of education, science and technology as well as culture, sports and youth affairs. It is hoped the acceptance of the report and consensus on the need for a task force to aid implementation will revive the harmonisation process, which has suffered near failure due to entrenched national interests within the five East African Community (EAC) countries

SOURCE: UniversityWorld News

Posted to the web 14 August 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2011081308534168>

Africa home to only 2.3 per cent world's researchers

Prof Mahmood Mamdani, who is the director of Makerere University's Institute of Social Research has put universities in Sub-Saharan Africa in the dock by accusing them of not creating researchers but churning out native informers to national and international non-governmental organisations. Whereas some academics might disagree with Mamdani, statistics from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) indicates all is not well with the African academe, as the entire African continent is home to only 2.3 per cent of world's researchers.

SOURCE: The Standard (KENYA)

Posted to the web 19 August 2011

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/sports/InsidePage.php?id=2000040499>

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Science and Technology

Science ministers must take their job seriously

African universities have few female students opting for 'hard sciences'. And despite the availability of funds, attracting female science lecturers is even more challenging. These were among concerns discussed recently in Cape Town by senior women from universities in Botswana, Mauritius and Tanzania attending the HERS-SA academy. The consensus was that the problem boils down to a shortage of role models.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 4 August 2011

<http://www.scidev.net/en/editorials/science-ministers-must-take-their-job-seriously.html>

Centre to coordinate southern Africa's agricultural R&D

Southern Africa's agricultural research could become better coordinated and funded, following the launch of a regional research centre in Botswana. The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa, which will become operational next week (23 August), will promote the creation and dissemination of new research and technology for improved food security in the region. It was launched during a meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministers in Gaborone last month.

SOURCE: Scidev.Net

Posted to the web 19 August 2011

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/centre-to-coordinate-southern-africa-s-agricultural-r-d.html>

Angola

Government Invests in Competences to Boost Telecommunications

Angolan Government is working on training projects in telecommunications and information technologies to create national competences that could be available to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). This was said by the deputy minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies, Aristides Safeca, who highlighted the process of economic integration underway in the region.

SOURCE: Angola Press

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108180264.html>

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Government commitment to scientific activity highlighted

Angolan Government's effort toward development and reinforcement of the scientific capacity of the country's scientific community was recognised Wednesday in Luanda, Angop learned. The recognition came from the director of the National Centre of Scientific Research, António Alcochete. He was speaking at the end of a meeting held to discuss the implementation of the bilateral cooperation accord in the scientific and technological sphere signed between Angola and South Africa.

SOURCE: Angola Press

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/educacao

South Africa

SA Students to Get Agriculture Skills in China

Fifteen postgraduate students have been awarded the opportunity of a two-year scholarship programme to further their studies in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in China. The postgraduate scholarship, which is a partnership between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and China, is part of an existing Cooperation Agreement between the two countries. The department's Director-General, Langa Zitha said this clearly shows that South Africa is enjoying magnificent relations with China.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108121147.html>

Universities call for funding change

South Africa's vice-chancellors are to call for a differentiated funding formula aimed at strengthening the ability of universities to deliver on their individual missions and at easing a funding 'bias' towards research. The university leaders achieved consensus - often a difficult task, given vast institutional differences - at their annual meeting in Pretoria.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110814102711296>

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Action on humanities urgent – reports

Two separate reports, both released last week and authored by teams of leading South African academics, have called for urgent action to promote the value of the humanities and arrest their post-apartheid decline, evidenced by decreasing student numbers, falling graduation rates and inadequate funding. The first of these, the *Report on the Charter on Humanities and Social Sciences*, was received last Thursday by South African Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande who commissioned the report.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110813084538215>

R1.2bn build programme core to Wits' top-100 global varsity goal

University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) vice-chancellor professor Loyiso Nongxa is optimistic that the R1.2-billion infrastructure programme under way across its 430 ha, 250-building property portfolio in the Braamfontein and Parktown areas of Johannesburg is laying the foundations for its aspiration to be a top-100 international university by 2022, its centenary year.

SOURCE: Engineering News

Posted to the web 16 August 2011

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/r12bn-build-programme-core-to-wits-top-100-global-varsity-goal-2011-08-12>

Swaziland

Govt sponsors 2 157 students in all tertiary institutions

GOVERNMENT will this year give scholarship to 2 157 new students that will be enrolled for first year in the different tertiary institutions. The figure also includes students to be studying outside the country in SADC countries, Morocco, Russia and Cuba and the 700 at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology that are already being sponsored. Though government will continue sponsoring the students the existing financial constraints will be taken into consideration.

SOURCE: Swazi Observer

Posted to the web 18 August 2011

<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=28738>

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Swaziland's cash-strapped University fails to open

Swaziland's cash-strapped university failed to re-open for the new academic year Monday, officials said, adding it would remain closed indefinitely. "The registration process is suspended, and the commencement of the first semester lectures is postponed... to a date yet to be determined," University of Swaziland Registrar Siphon Vilakati said in a statement.

SOURCE: OFM

Posted to the web 9 August 2011

<http://www.ofm.co.za/news.asp?nid=22009>

Tanzania

Develop ICT to speed up service delivery-expert

Dar es Salaam. Tanzania's backwardness in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) penetration rates is negatively impacting on delivery of social services, experts say. A sound development in ICT simplifies delivery of education and health among other services, experts say, calling upon various stakeholders to come up with concerted efforts that will hasten the pace of the country's ICT penetration.

SOURCE: The Citizen

Posted to the web 10 August 2011

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/business/-/13537-by-lillian-lawrence-the-citizen-correspondent-dar-es-salaam-tanzanias-backwardness-in-informatio>

Zimbabwe

NUST opens institute for development studies

Bulawayo Metropolitan governor Cain Mathema has commended the National University of Science and Technology (Nust) for opening an institute for development studies, saying this would spur growth in the whole country. Nust pro-Vice-Chancellor, Samson Sibanda said IDS would critically examine the role and efficacy of State policies and deepen access to quality higher education. The Founder of the IDS is also the dean of the faculty of commerce at the university, Milton Webb Ndlovu.

SOURCE: Newsday

Posted to the web 4 August 2011

<http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-08-07-nust-opens-institute-for-development-studies>

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