

Higher Education in the News



Africa

Teaching and learning guide planned

A project to produce a teaching and learning guide to help improve higher education quality in Africa was approved at a regional UNESCO conference held in Mali this month. The guide will aim to build the pedagogical and managerial skills of African academics. The [Guide to Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#) will have a special focus on the eight member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, known as UEMOA from its French name *Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine*, which comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110918093241230>

EA Education Chiefs Calls for More Funding

EASTERN Africa Education ministers have called for an increase in financial allocations to education. The ministers who were attending a high level forum on Education For All at the Mombasa Continental Resort, agreed to develop national roadmaps for addressing challenges in education. It is estimated that resources available for education in Sub-Saharan Africa may have dropped by US\$4.6 billion (Sh440m) a year on average in 2009 and 2010.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 19 September 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109190043.html>

Kagame Hails Carnegie Mellon Partnership

President Paul Kagame, on Friday evening, commended the decision by the US-based Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to establish a campus in Rwanda, observing that it will not only boost the country's science and technology ambitions but also ensure that students from Rwanda and beyond acquire quality education. Addressing a gathering of over 1000 at the Pittsburgh campus, one of the leading universities in the world, President Kagame said that CMU opening a campus in Rwanda is in line with the country vision to build a knowledge-based economy.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109180010.html>

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Some way to go for regional integration

Southern Africa has moved forward with regional economic integration, but challenges remain, say trade experts. No less than 400 programmes focusing on regional integration were conducted in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) alone, with a combined value of eight billion dollars. A number of infrastructure projects were completed and several protocols signed. The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) has liberalised 85 percent of its internal tariffs and intra-SADC trade doubled between 2000 and 2010.

SOURCE: INamibia

Posted to the web 18 September 2011

<http://www.inamibia.co.na/news-and-weather/15-africa/2341-some-way-to-go-for-regional-intergration.html>

SADC ministers to discuss challenges facing education

The Ministry of Education will host the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Education and Training Conference from 19 to 23 September 2011 in Windhoek.

It is expected that all 14 SADC Ministers of Education will be in attendance together with their officials to engage discussions on education related matters at a regional level. According to Toivo Mvula, public relations officer of the Ministry of Education, the meeting aims to discuss issues pertaining to education and training in the region.

SOURCE: Namibia Economist

Posted to the web 18 September 2011

<http://www.economist.com.na>

Science and Technology

Institute in charge of climate change

The National Biodiversity Institute has been placed in charge of South Africa's adaptation to climate change, the department of environmental affairs says. SANBI's accreditation as a national implementing entity by the United Nations' Adaptation Fund Board meant that South Africa would be able to apply directly for environmental finance, without having to go through institutions such as the World Bank, said department spokesperson Albi Modise on Sunday.

SOURCE: News 24

Posted to the web 9 September 2011

<http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/Institute-in-charge-of-climate-change-20110911>

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Collaborate to integrate

Laments about African science often refer to the continent's low share of global scientific output, as measured by the number of articles Africa-based researchers publish in international accredited journals. How accurate a reflection of African scientific activity and potential is this? But also, more broadly, how can the continent grow its science-research base?

SOURCE: Mail and Guardian
Posted to the web 9 September 2011
<http://mg.co.za/article/2011-09-09-africa-collaborate-to-integrate/>

Statement by the DST, on the Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope

The National Research Foundation has submitted on 15 September 2011 the documents supporting the African bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope. The documents are South Africa's response to the Request for Information issued by the international SKA Siting Group in June 2011. This follows the initial submission of expressions of interest in 2003 and of reports in 2005, which led to South Africa and Australia being shortlisted as both being suitable for the SKA.

SOURCE: Polity.org.za
Posted to the web 9 September 2011
<http://www.polity.org.za>

Angola

Nation to Achieve Scientific Development Until 2025

The Ministry of the Higher Education and Science Technology (MESCT) has nine general objectives and 40 specific goals so that the country may achieve sustainable scientific development until 2025. This was said to Angop on Monday in Luanda by the national director for scientific research, Domingos Neto, in the ambit of the 3rd edition of creator and inventor fair that started on Saturday. He said that the scientific research is experiencing a boosting stage because the executive has approved the national policy on science and.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109131034.html>

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Botswana

Fako aims to raise UB staff morale

The newly installed University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor Thabo Fako, told the guests that attended his inauguration at the UB stadium last Thursday that one of his priorities would be to improve the working environment, to raise staff morale. "I hope to identify and address the challenges that the University currently faces; and strive to achieve institutional coherence and a sense of common purpose among all employees," he said.

SOURCE: Botswana Gazette
Posted to the web 7 September 2011
<http://www.gazettebw.com>

Lesotho

NUL to build a new teaching facility valued at M10 million

The National University of Lesotho has received a grant to the value of M10 million from the government of Lesotho, through the Ministry of Education of Training. This will be used to finance the construction of a large classroom building. On the 30th August 2011, a contract was signed between NUL and a local company that has won the tender to be the lead consultant in this project.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
http://www.nul.ls/modules/news/news_0001.html?uri=/index.html

Malawi

Mzuni vice chancellor Prof Mhango dies

Nyasa Times learnt that Professor Mhango died peacefully Wednesday in Coventry, United Kingdom where he was receiving treatment. Tributes have started pouring to an "inspirational" man. Professor Joseph Uta deputy vice-chancellor, said: "We've lost an inspirational leader who will be sadly missed not only for the direction he brought to the university but also the warm rapport he had with both staff and students

SOURCE: Nyasa Times
Posted to the web 8 September 2011
<http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/mzuni-vice-chancellor-prof-mhango-dies/>

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Mauritius

Head of national university to leave

Professor Konrad Morgan, Vice-chancellor of the University of Mauritius, has announced that he does not wish to extend his contract when it expires in December 2012. One of the reasons behind the impending resignation is the university's failure to recruit two pro vice-chancellors to assist Morgan.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110917100301621>

Seychelles

The University of Seychelles ... A university of the people

The second anniversary of UniSey could not have come at a better time as the University prepares itself for the opening of its third academic year 2011-2012 on Monday September 19, 2011. This time around, UniSey will be welcoming 50 new students in its small but dynamic community, enlarging its students' community to well over 500. At the beginning of its first academic year, UniSey was only offering undergraduate and pre-graduate courses in Business and Administration as well as Computing and Information System.

SOURCE: Seychelles Nation
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=24994>

South Africa

Free education to boost skills levels?

A mismatch between the supply of and demand for certain skills needed by South Africa's labour market has led Deputy Minister of Basic Education Enver Surty (pictured) to call for extending provision of free education to cover students in further education and training and in higher education institutions - not just the compulsory seven- to 15-year-old category. This was among key resolutions agreed to at a recent cabinet *lekgotla* - a gathering of key decision-makers in government - which focused on addressing the country's skills shortages.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 18 September 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110917103627835>

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Minister Nzimande congratulates and welcomes the new Director-General

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, wishes to congratulate the newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Mr Gwebinkundla (Gwebs) Qonde. Mr Qonde's appointment was confirmed by the Cabinet in its meeting of Wednesday, 7 September, and is effective immediately.

SOURCE: South African Government Information
Posted to the web 8 September 2011
<http://www.info.gov.za/speech/DynamicAction?pageid=461&sid=21440&tid=42294>

Limpopo signs R25m research deal with Univen

The Limpopo provincial government has signed a R25 million research agreement with the University of Limpopo (UL) and the University of Venda (Univen) respectively. The Limpopo Research Observatory (LRO) agreement will see Univen and UL produce research papers aimed at assisting the provincial government in its service delivery mandate in the next five years.

The provincial government will spend R5 million per year over a five-year period so that research programmes that will be conducted by [the two universities] can function effectively.

SOURCE: Bua News
Posted to the web 22 August 2011
<http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11090809251001>

DUT collaborates with Indian Institute of Technology

The Durban University of Technology and the Indian Institute of Technology are collaborating on a space science programme to develop aerospace grade material using nano-technology. The programme is jointly funded by the National Research Foundation in South Africa and the Department of Science and Technology in India over a period of three years. This project is intended to provide training for young scientists in this field, contributing to human capital development and improving the economy of each of the countries involved.

SOURCE: Durban University of Technology
Posted to the web 9 September 2011
<http://www.dut.ac.za/DealerNews/newsdetails.asp?newsitem=6003>

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Swaziland

UNISWA lecturers worried jobs at risk

THE future of the University of Swaziland's (UNISWA) lecturers under the faculties that have not been sponsored by government's scholarship hangs in the balance. This comes in the wake of the scholarship crisis engulfing the education fraternity. This saw government awarding 505 students with scholarship at UNISWA only. Government announced it would not sponsor programmes like Law, Journalism and Humanities. This means in the coming three academic years, lecturers falling under the 'not sponsored category' would be without jobs.

SOURCE: Swazi Observer
Posted to the web 12 September 2011
<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=29630>

Tanzania

V-Chancellor sets ambitious plans for SUZA

THE newly appointed Vice Chancellor (VC) of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Prof Idrisa Rai, said on Thursday he aims at making the university to be a world-class centre for excellence. Prof Rai said, however, SUZA is still in its infancy and needs to expand, but it has to percolate other priorities for the development of the University.

SOURCE: Daily News
Posted to the web 19 September 2011
<http://www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=23509>

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's mining sector faces skills challenges

The lack of a clear and consistent government policy on skills upgrading, deteriorating infrastructure and obsolete equipment could be Zimbabwe's biggest development challenge, according to experts in the mining industry. Spencer Kahwai, chairman of the University of Zimbabwe's Institute of Mining Research (IMR), said a shortage of skills in critical areas like metallurgy and geology was hampering the expected contribution of the industry to the national coffers.

SOURCE: MSN.com
Posted to the web 12 September 2011
<http://news.za.msn.com/zimbabwes-mining-sector-faces-skills-challenges>