

Higher Education in the News



Africa

Building World Class Research Universities Is Significantly More Complex Than Many Countries Estimate, New World Bank Report

In a global economy that depends on sophisticated innovation and knowledge to drive growth and wealth, a new World Bank report on higher education suggests that low- and middle-income countries should resist the temptation to establish world-class universities to cash in on research earnings and court global prestige before educating their own citizens to high tertiary standards. This is according to the new report, **The Road to Academic Excellence: The Making of World-Class Research Universities**.

SOURCE: The World Bank
Posted to the web 30 September 2011
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS>

Need for EAC to Harmonize Education

ALTHOUGH education ministers from the partner states of the East African Community (EAC) have approved a report on the harmonization of the region's education systems, education experts and students have expressed concern over the pact as it is silent on charging uniform fees in institutions of higher learning. The EAC is yet to reach a consensus on the harmonization of fees in its education institutions, an issue that educationalists say needs to be resolved before implementation of the regional report on the Harmonization of the EA Education Systems and Training Curricula.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 11 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110120760.html>

The Dynamic Of International Exchanges In Africa, Asia And Europe

An international and multidisciplinary conference on "THE DYNAMIC OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES IN AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE: The Challenge for the Education in International Exchanges in a Perspective of Common Well-being in a Sustainable World" will take place in Jakarta, Bandung and Bali, Indonesia, on November 14-20, 2011. The organisers are seeking Collaborations with various actors of international exchanges, individuals as well as institutions (academic institutions, governmental agencies, corporate sectors and civil society organisations).

SOURCE: Bandung Spirit
Posted to the web 12 October 2011
<http://www.bandungspirit.org/>

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AfDB gives \$7.5m to African capacity building

The African Development Bank has committed US\$7.5million to support the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Capacity Building in Africa. The signing was took place last week between AfDB and the IMF to support latter's capacity building in Africa through the third phase of the Africa Regional Technical Assistance Centers (AFRITACs) Initiative. The AfDB's renewed and increased contribution marks a new stage in the AfDB's support to AFRITACs and facilitates the expansion of the initiative.

SOURCE: East African Business Week

Posted to the web 12 October 2011

<http://www.busiweek.com/11/news/tanzania/1823-afdb-gives-75m-to-african-capacity-building->

Science and Technology

Planning for Climate Change

Environmentalists and climate change specialists from the Southern African Development Community and Mexico are meeting in Windhoek for a Comprehensive Climate Change Planning. The meeting is attended by representatives form Namibia, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania and Mexico. It is organized by the World Bank and the United Kingdom Department for International Development. The aim is to assist Tanzania to come with strategies in addressing its climate change effects.

SOURCE: iNamibia

Posted to the web 11 October 2011

<http://www.inamibia.co.na/news-and-weather/15-africa/2637-planning-for-climate-change.html>

Homegrown satellites 'to fix African problems'

SCIENCE leaders from Kenya, Nigeria and SA believe that a local space programme will benefit Africa through the development of skills and by focusing on issues specific to the continent.

The three are signatories to the African Resource Management Constellation (ARMC), which requires each member to launch a satellite to monitor their region's water, agriculture, climate and human settlement patterns, among other things.

SOURCE: The Businessday

Posted to the web 11 October 2011

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=155628>

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Botswana

Education still the key to the future – Maria Ramos

“One of the most important drivers of Africans’ success in this century is education.” This was said by Ms Maria Ramos, ABSA’s Group Chief Executive Officer, at the 11th Anniversary University of Botswana Foundation dinner dance where she was the guest speaker. Also in attendance were University Chancellor Sir Ketumile Masire, UB Foundation Board of Trustees Chairperson Satar Dada, Vice Chancellor Professor Thabo Fako, other members of the UB Foundation board of trustees and the movers and shakers of the business fraternity in Botswana. The theme this year was “Africa: the importance of skills for future growth and ongoing economic resilience.”

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 20 September 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109210161.html>

Malawi

Beyond Malawi’s academic freedom debate

Amidst an eight month battle over academic freedom in Malawi, Steve Sharra asks whether the roots of the crisis might lie much deeper, in the very nature of the Malawian public university in particular, and the modern African university in general. Could the deeper problem lie with how modern, postcolonial African universities were created, modelled after European systems of higher learning, managed through borrowed European political structures, and therefore not entirely relevant to problems of postcolonial Africa?

SOURCE: Pambazuka News
Posted to the web 14 October 2011
<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/77075>

Mozambique

Dutch Support for Higher Education

The Netherlands through the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Creation in Higher Education, is donating 13 million Euros (472.5 million meticais) over the period 2009 - 2015 to support higher education, as well as capacity building in Food and Nutrition, Health (SRHR) and water and sanitation management in Mozambique. In an agreement signed on Monday in Maputo by the Mozambican Deputy Minister of Education, Arlindo Chilundo, and the head of development and cooperation at the Dutch Embassy, Jan Huesken, this commitment was reconfirmed and its focus slightly adapted according to policy developments in the Netherlands and Mozambique.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 11 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110120009.html>

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Over 10,000 Young People to Be Trained On ICTs Within Three Years

Over 10,000 young Mozambicans are expected to benefit from training on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), as part of government's campaign to reduce current levels of digital illiteracy across the country. This plan was disclosed in Maputo this Wednesday by Science and Technology Minister, Venancio Massingue. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 4th Congress on ICT's in Mozambique, Massingue said "we want to see more young people with skills to handle information and communication technologies".

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 5 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110060044.html>

Namibia

Teacher Shortage Limits Information and Communication Technology Success

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) says a lack of teachers impedes government's aims to achieve its ICT goals. The committee's chairperson, Moses Amweelo, made these observations during a media briefing yesterday on the activities undertaken by the committee since its inception in July 2010. The meeting aimed at reporting back to the public about its observations in the ICT sector and future endeavours in ensuring that ICT stakeholders' interests are considered in legislation.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 10 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110110787.html>

Pohamba to Replace Nujoma As Unam Chancellor

President Hifikepunye Pohamba has been nominated the new Chancellor of the University of Namibia (Unam) to replace former president, Dr Sam Nujoma. The announcement was met with ululation from a crowd gathered to hear Professor Filemon Amaambo, the Chairperson of the Unam Council, make the announcement on Friday at a local hotel. The announcement was part of the process that began on November 19 last year, at the last council meeting of 2010.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 10 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110100456.html>

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South Africa

Students to Benefit From Transformed NSFAS

The Higher Education and Training Department and National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) board have recommitted to ensuring full compliance with all legislative and regulatory requirements in order to receive clean audits in future. NSFAS has received an unqualified audit from the Auditor General following a turnaround strategy implemented after it received an audit disclaimer last year. Higher Education and Training Minister Dr Blade Nzimande said the department and NSFAS board were jointly committed to achieving the rest of its turnaround goals.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 10 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110110087.html>

SA's higher education system needs new framework - Nzimande

SA's post-school education system needed to embed a system by which students were guaranteed on-the-job experience, Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande said. SA's higher education system needs a new "institutional framework and training landscape" in order to address a system that was often leading graduates into a "cul-de-sac" of further educational and job opportunities, he said.

SOURCE: The Businessday
Posted to the web 4 October 2011
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=155101>

UCT sole African institution in World University Rankings' top 200

THE University of Cape Town (UCT) is once again the lone African institution in the top 200 on the British-based Times Higher Education (THES) magazine's World University Rankings 2011-12 list, published today. While many take such rankings seriously, there is a great deal of scepticism in academic circles over their actual, rather than perceived, value in evaluating the relative quality of an institution.

SOURCE: The Businessday
Posted to the web 6 October 2011
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=155244>

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Swaziland

E30m for all tertiary students' allowances

GOVERNMENT has availed E30 million to pay tertiary students' allowances. The ministry of finance has already released the money to the ministry of labour and social security which will then distribute it accordingly to the various institutions of higher learning. Allowances for UNISWA returning students were normally paid as early as August while for first year students they were deposited into their accounts latest being October. But due to government's current financial status the payment of the allowances was delayed.

SOURCE: Swazi Observer
Posted to the web 12 September 2011
<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=30884>

Tanzania

Education System Crying for Immediate Review

There is a need to review the country's education system as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of independence. This was said by former Prime Minister Joseph Warioba when launching a two-day conference for the 50th anniversary of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Also the UDSM Council chairman, Mr Warioba said the need for reviewing the education system was vital as the current one had failed to impart self reliance knowledge to students.

SOURCE: The Citizen
Posted to the web 10 October 2011
<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/4-national-news/15993-tanzanias-education-system-crying-for-immediate-review.html>

Dar es Salaam Welcomes India to Invest in ICT

NDIAN businessmen and women have been asked to seize the abundant opportunities in Tanzania by investing in key areas such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development. The challenge was thrown here by the Minister for Communications, Science and Technology, Prof Makame Mbarawa, during the plenary session of the India-Africa Business Partnership summit which opened here on Thursday.

SOURCE: Daily News Tanzania
Posted to the web 14 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110140131.html>

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Zambia

Costly internet inhibits research

Government says the high price of internet connectivity in the country is a hindrance to promoting research. Education and Vocational training Permanent Secretary Andrew Phiri was speaking in Lusaka at the kick off policy of the Zambia Research Educational Network-ZAMREN.

Mr Phiri says the Information Communication and Technology -ICT-sector is key to advancing research and education in the country.

SOURCE: ZNBC

Posted to the web 26 September 2011

<http://www.znbc.co.zm/media/news/viewnews.cgi?category=10&id=1317908902>

Zimbabwe

UZ Repositions for Growth, Relevance

The country's oldest institution, the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), is repositioning itself to be the benchmark for academic excellence in the country. This emerged during the university's 2011 academic graduation ceremony held in the capital last Saturday. In his speech to graduands and guests at the event which was presided over by the institution's Chancellor President Robert Mugabe, UZ Vice Chancellor Professor Levi Nyagura highlighted the numerous challenges faced by the institution over the past few years.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 12 October 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110131083.html>

495 Graduate At GZU

PRESIDENT Mugabe yesterday conferred degrees and diplomas on 495 graduates at the Great Zimbabwe University's fifth graduation ceremony since the establishment of the institution nearly six years ago. The graduates completed degrees and diplomas in Arts, Commerce, Social Sciences and Education. There was concern over the low number of graduates this year, a scenario university authorities attributed to dropouts in 2008 when the country faced economic hardships.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 12 October 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110130414.html>

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Water Situation At National University Remains Dire

THE just-ended strike by Harare City Council workers has resulted in a serious drop in water levels at the reservoir at the University of Zimbabwe, an official said yesterday. UZ Vice Chancellor Professor Levy Nyagura, said the water situation remained dire, adding a long-term solution was the recapitalisation of council to provide water to all its customers. Although Harare City workers resumed work yesterday after downing tools on Friday, some areas remained in crisis.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 11 October 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110110329.html>