

Higher Education in the News



Africa

African Varsities to Strengthen Ties

Modalities are being worked out to strengthen collaboration among African universities in the areas of Information Communication Technology (ICT), research capacity and infrastructural development. These issues were brought to the fore when the British Council, National Universities Commission (NUC) and other stakeholders met to discuss the state of higher education internalization, to see where Africa fits and how gaps can be bridged.

SOURCE: Daily Trust
Posted to the web 4 November 2011
<http://dailytrust.com.ng>

Achieving EFA Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa Depends On UK Aid

Sub-Saharan Africa which is one of the regions furthest away from reaching the Education for All (EFA) goals by 2015 is likely to suffer more if the United Kingdom (UK) cuts back on its education aid as a bilateral donor. Key donors are under pressure to reduce their funding to education for example The Netherlands' new development aid policy means that their aid will focus on four priority sectors: security and legal order, water, food security and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The expectation is therefore that most Dutch aid will gradually be withdrawn from the education sector.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 11 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111100653.html>

New virtual network for PhD students

An initiative to create a virtual network connecting doctoral students in Africa and Europe was launched at the World Innovation Summit for Education last week. Coordinated by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, DocLinks will strive to ease the loneliness of doctoral study and encourage sharing of experiences and resources.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 6 November 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20111105112935374>

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Africa: AfDB approves USD 124 million for 'Centers of Excellence

In 2002, when British and South African researchers first started to study the voluntary sector in Uganda, there were about 3,500 NGOs registered in the country. Six years later, in 2008, there were 7,000 - a similar proliferation seen all over East Africa. Trudy Owens from Nottingham University and Ronelle Burger, from the University of Stellenbosch, set out to investigate whether foreign funding was the main reason some NGOs collapsed while others survived and why some attracted foreign donors.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 18 October 2011
<http://www.speroforum.com/a/WMPXXALITB58/Africa---Foreign-funding>

Science and Technology

Africa needs more 'hands-on' science centres

There are few science centres that offer hands-on experience for young people in Africa. Support is needed for an expansion plan, says *Graham Durant*. Science centres are vibrant hubs of informal educational activity. In 1970, there were only two in the world: the Exploratorium in San Francisco, United States, and the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, Canada. Today, that number has mushroomed dramatically. There are now around 2,500 science centres globally, with many more being built.

SOURCE: SciDev.Net
Posted to the web 3 November 2011
<http://www.scidev.net/en/science-communication/opinions/africa-needs-more-hands-on-science-centres-1.html>

Angola

MESCT Announces Funding of Research Projects

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCT) and Science and Technology Department is set to make the first announcement about funding of research projects, in a joint partnership with Republic of South Africa. According to a press release delivered Wednesday to Angop, the project is part of cooperation programme between Angola and South Africa aimed at financing the research projects to be developed in two countries.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 9 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111100158.html>

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Master Degree Courses Deemed As Important to Overcome Teachers' Scarcity

The master degree courses are considered as important in order to train university lecturers and thus overcome gradually the scarcity of teachers in the Angolan education system. This was said to Angop on Wednesday by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Maria Cândida Teixeira, while addressing the opening ceremony of the first master degree course on Field and Laboratory Epidemiology.

SOURCE: Angola Press

Posted to the web 9 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/20111100094.html>

Minister Wants Betterment of Education Quality

The Education Minister, Pinda Simão, said on Tuesday in Luanda that 2nd Scientific and Pedagogical activities should produce concrete outputs in the improvement of the teaching quality in the country. The official said so to Angop, while addressing the opening ceremony of the 2nd Scientific and Pedagogical Conference, promoted by the National Research and Education Development Institute (INIDE).

SOURCE: Angola Press

Posted to the web 8 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111090182.html>

Botswana

Cabinet retains BIUST

Cabinet on Wednesday took a bold decision to retain Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) in a move that will certainly please Palapye residents and surrounding villages. Cabinet reached the decision following a lengthy discussion that included consideration of a technical report from the Ministry of Education and Skills Development. The report recommended that the university must be retained. The technical report was based on the findings of a team of consultants appointed early this year to evaluate whether BIUST should continue as a university or be downgraded.

SOURCE: The Botswana Guardian

Posted to the web 28 October 2011

<http://www.botswanaguardian.co.bw/newsdetails.php?nid=2855&cat=BG%20News>

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Malawi

Presidential reversal reinstates lecturers

Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika has reinstated four lecturers who were suspended as a result of industrial action over erosion of academic freedom, and said higher education liberties were guaranteed in the African nation. Many campuses have been closed for much of the year due to unresolved lecturer protests over what has been seen as an increasingly autocratic climate in the country. Mutharika made a pledge on academic freedom while delivering a graduation speech earlier this month at the University of Malawi.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 30 October 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20111029090949923>

Mauritius

Tertiary sector: Enrolment rate to reach 70% in 5 years

In Africa, the GTER is currently at 7% while that of Mauritius is at 45.1%. We want to reach the percentage of 72% in five years and the Tertiary Education Minister is working towards this achievement. In order to accommodate all these students, infrastructural development is necessary," says Dr Jeetah. The GTER is calculated by the number of students enrolled in tertiary institutions divided by the number of people aged between 20 and 24 years. At present, there are 44,334 Mauritian students studying for higher education out of whom, 21,766 are in publicly funded institutions.

SOURCE: Défi

Posted to the web 28 October 2011

<http://www.defimedia.info/articles/12426/1/Tertiary-sector-Enrolment-rate-to-reach-70-in-5-years/Page1.html>

Mozambique

Mozambique secures \$90 mln loan from AfDB

Mozambique secured a \$90 million loan from the African Development Bank on Monday, which is meant to support the southern African country's budget over the next three years.

"The loan is to assist Mozambique to broaden the social impacts of the country's robust economic growth on effective job creation, income generation and poverty reduction," said Joseph Ribeiro, the bank's country director.

SOURCE: Sharenet

Posted to the web 31 October 2011

<http://www.sharenet.co.za>

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Namibia

Education Engages Microsoft On ICT

The Minister of Education, Dr Abraham Iyambo, and Microsoft are in discussions that could result in the ministry being the flagship of information technology. Once implemented, the Ministry of Education hopes to have an efficient and interactive information system for student loans, a live communication link with the 13 regional education directorates, which would enable the ministry's top executives to keep track of developments at various schools across the country at the touch of a button.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 10 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111101368.html>

Focus On Skills Development

THE pillar of higher education and training is one of the efficiency enhancers in global competitiveness. The Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011 ranked Namibia at 111 out of 139 countries on the pillar of higher education and training. Equally, a score of 3.2 out of 7 was allocated to higher education and training in Namibia in the same report. Unless the situation of education and training is properly addressed, Namibia's competitiveness shall remain low.

SOURCE: The Namibian
Posted to the web 2 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111010463.html>

Digital Network to Enhance Learning

The University of Namibia (UNAM) this week launched a video conference facility which will link different campuses into a single video conference session simultaneously. The 'Multipoint Bridge' facility aims to enhance the provision of quality education in the country. According to Prof Osmund Mwandemele, acting vice chancellor of UNAM, the facilities will be used to conduct common lessons among various campuses, conduct research by exchanging ideas with other institutions, faculties and departments.

SOURCE: The Economist
Posted to the web 4 November 2011
<http://www.economist.com.na>

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South Africa

MDG's - Shifting the focus from quantity to quality

South Africa may be on track to achieve five of its eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, but serious problems in health and education, if not attended to soon, may hold the country back from becoming a more prosperous society. Stephen Timm reports. The goals that South Africa looks likely to meet are eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal access to primary education, empowering women, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

SOURCE: Bua News

Posted to the web 28 October 2011

<http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11102813551001>

Skills Fund Under Fire for Not Spending

Law-makers have complained that the National Skills Fund (NSF) was rolling over billions of rands each year while many poor youth in the country remained without skills. They said the entity should create the capacity to spend its budget accordingly and not spend it on inappropriate projects. MPs said some community-based organisations were now dependent on other funding methods such as foreign donors. Since coming into operation in 2010, the entity presented its first unqualified report to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training on Wednesday.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 4 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111030482.html>

Higher Education Minister Appoints Administrator for Walter Sisulu University

The Department of Higher Education and Training as part of its responsibility regarding universities, has over the past few years been alerting Walter Sisulu University (WSU) about its deteriorating financial position and impending financial crisis despite receiving unqualified audit reports. The department became aware of WSU's inability to cope financially in meeting its operational obligations in 2010. Cash flow projections for the 2011 and 2012 financial years indicated that the university would operate on a cash deficit throughout these periods.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 3 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111030046.html>

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Knowledge-based economy: collaborative research is key

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande said that funding for collaborative research and development programmes will take precedence over single-body project funding. The reasons for this, said Nzimande, is that universities and research bodies must help to broaden and develop the skills of students and people in other organisations in order to change South Africa from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

SOURCE: Bizcommunity

Posted to the web 31 October 2011

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/573/66456.html>

New Chairperson of HESA

Higher Education South Africa held its AGM on 27 October. One of the outcomes of that meeting was that Prof Ahmed Bawa was appointed as the Chairperson of HESA as from 01 January 2012. Prof Bawa is currently the Vice-Chancellor of the Durban University of Technology (DUT). A relative newcomer to the HESA Board, Prof Bawa took over as Vice-Chancellor of DUT in September 2010. Technology (DUT). A relative newcomer to the HESA Board, Prof Bawa took over as Vice-Chancellor of DUT in September 2010.

SOURCE: HESA

Posted to the web 7 November 2011

<http://www.newssite.co.za/www.newssite.co.za>

Tanzania

Information Technology and Changing Role of Teachers

The government has elaborate plans and strategies of producing as many teachers of different grades to be distributed to primary, secondary and institutes of higher learning as possible. The government has also specific plans of ensuring that all necessary teaching aids like books, libraries and laboratories in order to make the education wholesome. But the biggest challenge facing the sector is whether the teachers are not redundant in the wake of improved technical and technological advancement.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 11 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111100423.html>

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World-Class Research Universities Not for All?

A robust tertiary education system is what developing countries like Tanzania and many other African countries should strive to achieve first before dreaming of having top-class research universities, experts have said. In a recent report, the World Bank notes that without quality tertiary education, the goal of world-class research universities will remain a pipedream for, mostly, African countries.

SOURCE: The Citizen

Posted to the web 9 November 2011

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/magazines/33-success/16894-world-class-research-universities-not-for-all.html>

Zambia

Three new universities, job creation planned

Zambia's newly elected President Michael Sata (pictured) has outlined plans to review the privileged education sector as well as establish three new universities, to fulfil his election manifesto. Job creation for privileged education graduates would also be prioritised.

Sata, who came to power last month after defeating ex- president Rupiah Banda, said he also had plans for the establishment of universities and technical colleges in each of the people's nine provinces and intended rehabilitating existing institutions.

SOURCE: Zim Telegraph

Posted to the web 30 October 2011

<http://www.zimtelegraph.com/?p=4361>

Zimbabwe

Varsities Urged to Embrace ICTs

UNIVERSITIES have been urged to embrace new information communication technologies to help students easily acquire knowledge when using libraries. The call was made yesterday by University of Zimbabwe Vice Chancellor Professor Levi Nyagura in a speech read on his behalf by Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Chipu Dyanda at a workshop on information literacy. Motivation for information literacy skills is based on the realisation that academic libraries are central and critical to the instructional and scholarly life of the universities they serve.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 8 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111090332.html>

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Chinhoyi University courts foreign tutors

The Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) has embarked on a vigorous staff recruitment drive, targeting experienced doctorate holders at unknown universities. Speaking at CUT's seventh graduation ceremony on Saturday, Vice-Chancellor Professor David Simbi reiterated the need for human capital development if the institution was to satisfy its mandate to harness technological innovation and scientific research.

SOURCE: Zim Telegraph
Posted to the web 10 November 2011
<http://www.zimtelegraph.com/?p=6405>