

Higher Education in the News



Africa

Local academics excluded from policy-making

Crafting of policies in Africa largely excludes African academics, with over-reliance on donor agencies and foreign consultancies. But universities can play a key role by building stronger linkages with facilitative institutions to ensure that adequate skills are developed in policy research. So said Professor Kevin Chika Urama, executive director of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) after the [conference](#) "Linkages between Policy Research and Policy-making for African Development", which took place in Mombasa last month.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 11 December 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2011120920071644>

Continent-wide Tuning project launched

At a double meeting last week in Dakar, Senegal, the European Commission, the Association of African Universities and the African Union Commission launched their first Tuning initiative in Africa. Sixty universities across the continent will participate in five pilot projects. Tuning is a widely tested methodology for, indeed, tuning educational structures - not systems – internationally.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 4 December 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2011120222948908>

Africa the loser in brain drain

Sub-Saharan African countries that train, and invest in, their doctors end up losing billions of dollars as the clinicians leave to work in developed nations, finds new research. According to the study: The financial cost of doctors emigrating from sub-Saharan Africa: human capital analysis by the University of Ottawa published on British Medical Journal's website, South Africa and Zimbabwe have the greatest economic losses in doctors due to emigration, while Australia, Canada, the UK and the US benefit the most from the recruitment of physicians educated in other countries.

SOURCE: IT Online
Posted to the web 28 November 2011
<http://www.it-online.co.za/2011/11/28/africa-the-loser-in-brain-drain/>

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New university ranking aims for objectivity

A new university ranking seeks to use a sophisticated set of bibliometric indicators to rate scientific performance to establish the world's top 500 research universities. The [Leiden Ranking 2011/2012](#) aims to provide highly accurate measurements of the scientific impact of universities and of universities' involvement in scientific collaboration

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 5 December 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20111205195909326>

Science and Technology

TOMAZ SALOMAO: Sadc must speak with one voice at COP-17

DEBATE and speculation about the outcomes of the COP-17 talks in Durban are increasing in intensity. World citizens have been let down by previous United Nations climate change conferences coming to no legally binding agreement, yet many fear that without any level of commitment in Durban, carbon emissions will tip the world beyond a turning point. The Southern African Development Community (Sadc) region is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

SOURCE: Businessday
Posted to the web 28 November 2011
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=159750>

Angola

Universities Should Train to Meet Needs

The Angolan higher education institutions should seek to provide quality, opportune and pertinent training to meet the priorities of the country's human and technical development needs within a context of globalisation. This was said Wednesday in Lubango, southern Huila province, by the secretary of State for Science and Technology, João Teta. the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has created organs to ensure the promotion of quality, advanced training and support for the university student.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 30 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112011315.html>

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Vice-Minister for Education Participatory Administration

The Education Deputy Minister, Narciso Benedito, said on Monday here that the contemporary administration requires the participation of all its actors in decision making of the sector. During his speech, Vice-minister highlighted the importance of democratising the education system, mainly the basic law of the Educational System.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 12 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112122339.html>

Botswana

UB calls for technology partnerships

The University of Botswana, a leading national university, has called upon Industry to partner with the university to accelerate the development of promising technologies and promote their commercialization to help in diversifying of the economy. "We have promising innovations and projects at the university that need industry players to convert them into a final product useful for growing our economy," said Dr Alphonsus Neba, Assistant Director Research, Commercialization.

SOURCE: The Sunday Standard
Posted to the web 28 November 2011
<http://www.sundaystandard.info/article.php?NewsID=12623&GroupID=3>

Mauritius

Government encourages e-learning

The minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, Dr Rajesh Jeetah inaugurated the Author's Workshop organised by Elsevier Science Direct. Jeetah stated, "The objective of my ministry is to create an enabling environment for Mauritius so it can emerge as a centre of excellence. This objective will not be achieved without research.

SOURCE: The Independent
Posted to the web 29 November 2011
<http://theindependent.mu/2011/11/29/government-encourages-e-learning/>

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Mozambique

New Officials for Pedagogic University

Mozambican Prime Minister Aires Ali on Monday swore into office three assistant vice-chancellors for the Pedagogic University (UP), which has now become the largest university in the country, and has expanded well beyond its original task of training secondary school teachers. Ali explained that the three assistant vice-chancellors will strengthen the management capacity of the UP. In 2005, the UP had just 5,539 students, but now, just six years later, the number has swollen to 41,000 on first degree courses and 600 studying for masters' degrees and other post-graduate work.

SOURCE: AIM
Posted to the web 28 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111282275.html>

Namibia

More Needed to Access Higher Education

GREATER access to higher education is a "critical" challenge that needs to be addressed. Furthermore, the lack of a national policy on internships - for private- and public-sector students alike - is a concern which requires urgent attention. This was said by the Deputy Minister of Education, David Namwandi, on Tuesday. Namwandi was speaking at the end-of-term function of the second National Council for Higher Education (NCHE).

SOURCE: The Namibian
Posted to the web 25 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111260041.html>

Seychelles

Building capacity to develop learning support materials

The education sector plays an important role in the sustainable development of southern Africa, since it reaches the region's young people, and can contribute directly to change at community and institutional level. Therefore, the need to build capacity in developing learning support materials to strengthen innovative practice for change and learn together for a sustainable future is very important for the region.

SOURCE: Seychelles Nation
Posted to the web 5 December 2011
<http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=25874>

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South Africa

Radical new plan for higher education

Hidden in the text of the education section of South Africa's new *National Development Plan* is an intention that is much more radical than any previous higher education policy. While previously higher education was regarded as an equity instrument, now for the first time it is acknowledged as a major development driver in the information-knowledge system. Knowledge production and equity are linked within a more differentiated system. Two major policy goals are to double the participation rate and expand private higher education.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 3 December 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=201112022252975>

Setas 'Need to Focus On Their Developmental Roles'

Major weaknesses continue to exist in the sector education and training authorities (Setas) and they still needed to prioritise their developmental responsibilities, including targeted interventions, higher education minister Blade Nzimande said on Tuesday this week. Speaking after meeting the chairmen of all 21 Setas in Johannesburg, Nzimande said Setas were overly focused on accreditation and compliance at the expense of a deeper understanding of the economic sectors in which they operated.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 1 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112011094.html>

Universities must build winning nation

South Africa is an ambitious country. All of the world's leading nations reached their high-level standing because they were ambitious in the first instance, and acted on that ambition. History tells us that while ambition is essential, it also takes hard work, focus and dedication to succeed, whether it is economic, political or scientific achievement that is aspired to. For South Africa to succeed, the capacity, quality and productivity of the higher education and innovation systems need urgent attention.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 4 December 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20111202221544907>

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Challenges facing SA higher education

Universities in SA have a lot to be proud of, says the vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Pretoria (UP), Professor Cheryl de la Rey. "In several fields, such as engineering, plant and animal sciences, and health sciences, our universities produce research that is cited internationally. And many academics from SA universities appear among the top 100 most-cited scholars in their fields of expertise." At the same time, she says, local universities are very aware of the role they have to play in supporting the country's under-resourced universities..

SOURCE: Biz Community
Posted to the web 4 December 2011
<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/524/67940.html>

Tanzania

Graduates Key to Growth

Graduates of different degree programmes at Mzumbe University have been advised to fully exploit the skills and knowledge acquired from the institution as a catalyst for bringing the country social and economic development. The university's vice chancellor, Prof Joseph Kuzilwa, said here over the weekend that training and skills imparted to graduates were meant to enable them to compete in the labour market both locally or globally.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 4 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112051049.html>

Generating researchers to speed up regional development

The dreams about having educated lie upon one another; there is nothing to doubt against its necessity being part of every ones development economically, politically, intellectually, socially or technically. A forum organized recently in Dar es Salaam by the University of Dar es Salaam in corroboration with the Norwegian government focusing on extending programs in universities to underscore African-Norwegian partnerships in academic capacity building at a crossroads; achieving experiences and the way ahead.

SOURCE: IPP Media
Posted to the web 5 December 2011
<http://www.ipppmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=36108>

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Experts Agitate for Education Budgetary Increase

Education activists have challenged the government on the education system saying that if education budget would not be increased it would be difficult to attain most of development goals. Executive Director of HakiElimu, Ms Elizabeth Missokia said while Tanzania was celebrating 50 years of Independence education system was still facing many challenges which needed instant solutions.

SOURCE: Tanzania Daily
Posted to the web 14 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112150411.html>

Zimbabwe

President Caps 1,882 MSU Graduates

PRESIDENT Mugabe yesterday capped 1 882 Midlands State University graduates The President, who is the Chancellor of MSU, officially opened the new administration block. President Mugabe said discord in the inclusive Government was impacting negatively on the economy. Among the graduates were 56 from the university's associate college, Africa Management Development Institute of Swaziland.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 3 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112030054.html>

President Caps 1,679 ZOU Graduates

PRESIDENT Mugabe yesterday capped 1 679 Zimbabwe Open University graduates, among them pioneers of the Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy. The graduates are from 31 different degrees and diplomas offered by the institution with 48% of the graduands being women. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, ZOU Vice Chancellor Dr Primrose Kurasha said the institution believed in quality education for all.

SOURCE: The Herald online
Posted to the web 26 November 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111260127.html>

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Construction of LSU Gains Pace

CONSTRUCTION of Lupane State University has gained pace with the university expecting to relocate to the site soon. In his report at the university's second graduation ceremony in Lupane where President Mugabe capped 16 graduates yesterday, LSU Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Maclean Bhala said he was satisfied with the pace of construction. He said the university's enrolment has swelled from 503 students last year to 1 063 students of which 51 percent are female and 49 percent are males. Dr Bhala attributed the increase to the introduction of new programmes that have attracted more students in areas such as accounting, finance and human resource management.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 14 December 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201112150242.html>