

# Higher Education in the News



## SARUA Perspectives 2011

### Higher Education in SADC: A New Focus

After three decades of attrition and neglect, higher education in southern Africa, and in the sub-Saharan region, is on the move. The last few years have seen encouraging stirrings of new life, along with a growing awareness of the importance of effective higher education in the fortunes of developing nations and regions.

SOURCE: SARUA

Posted to the web 31 March 2011

<http://www.sarua.org/?q=content/2011-perspectives-1>

## Africa

### Regional research networks vital

Effective regional research networks are vital if Southern African Development Community countries are to stand any chance of competing in a globalised world in which the currency is knowledge, argued Southern African Regional Universities' Association CEO Piyushi Kotecha (pictured) at a recent workshop. While only a few nations have functional networks or reasonable bandwidth for research, there have been exciting improvements in connectivity.

SOURCE: UniversityWorldNews

Posted to the web 28 March 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110325203111730>

### African migration generates win-win benefits, says new report

With about 30 million Africans living outside their home countries, migration is a vital lifeline for the continent. Yet African governments need to do more to realize the full economic benefits of the phenomenon, says a new report by the African Development Bank and the World Bank. Fragile and post-war countries face even bigger challenges because of the flight of human capital. African governments and policy makers should focus on increasing education and skill levels and establishing an environment in which high-skilled workers have productive opportunities at home.

SOURCE: African Development Bank

Posted to the web 12 March 2011

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-events/article/african-migration-generates-win-win-benefits-says-new-report-7878/>

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## Exploring the 'academic core' of universities

Lack of research funding and low knowledge production - both in PhD graduates and peer-reviewed publication - are the most serious challenges facing African universities as they work to strengthen their 'academic core' and make a sustainable contribution to development, a major study of higher education in eight African countries has revealed. Low knowledge production levels cannot be blamed solely on lack of capacity and resources. Rather, the problem is lack of research incentives.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 27 March 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110327101449663>

## Research into higher education busts myths

Major research into African universities has been "myth-busting", says Professor Peter Maassen of the University of Oslo, co-author of a new report on higher education and development on the continent. The study revealed that flagship universities in eight African countries are more similar to institutions elsewhere than is generally perceived, with well-qualified staff, positive student-to-staff ratios, and rising enrolments including in science, engineering and technology.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 20 March 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110320094512799>

## Science and Technology

### Increasing connectivity in rural Africa

ICT connectivity and its enormous benefits have never been in dispute. However the majority of Africans living in rural areas still lack basic access to telephony, the Internet and related services and applications. For six years the CTO's rural connectivity conference has been leading the way in creating a platform for in-depth deliberations on how universal access can be achieved through public-private partnerships.

SOURCE: Screen Africa

Posted to the web 22 March 2011

<http://www.screenafrica.com/page/news/africa/374377-Increasing-connectivity-in-rural-Africa>

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## **R80m Microscope Boost For Nanoscience**

South Africa's Department of Science and Technology has acquired a world-class, R80-million high-resolution transmission electron microscope that will push the frontiers of nanotechnology research in the country. The state-of-the-art electron microscope, one of just 15 on order in the world, will be housed in the new R30-million Centre for High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy being at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth.

SOURCE: MosselBay  
Posted to the web 30 March 2011  
[http://www.mosselbay.co.za/r80m-microscope-boost-for-nanoscience\\_article\\_op\\_view\\_id\\_6138](http://www.mosselbay.co.za/r80m-microscope-boost-for-nanoscience_article_op_view_id_6138)

## **AUF launches digital projects in 50th year**

While celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, the French-speaking University Agency, continues to launch new projects and partnerships. The latest include an international online journal specialising in ICTs that provides an outlet for young scientists to publish their research; a link to a vast digital library for students in developing countries; and an application for an interactive encyclopaedia focused on Africa.

SOURCE: University World News  
Posted to the web 16 March 2011  
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110325203222211>

## **Angola**

### **Spain Offers Scholarships for ICT Research**

The embassy of Spain to Angola has five scholarships available for an equal number of African countries, for research in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The students will do their entries until March 30, during which they will have to submit an idea for research in information technology that contributes to social and economic development of their countries.

SOURCE: AngolP  
Posted to the web 24 March 2011  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103241057.html>

# Higher Education in the News



## Botswana

### Fako gets UB top post

The government has appointed sociologist, Professor Thabo Fako, as the new University of Botswana Vice Chancellor. He is expected to take over from Professor Bogosi Othogile at the end of his contract in April. The appointment takes effect from the 1st of April, 2011 for a period of five years. Prof Fako has previously served as Deputy Vice Chancellor at UB and has been in the department of sociology for a long time. His appointment places him as the fifth UB Vice Chancellor.

SOURCE: Sunday Standard

Posted to the web 31 March 2011

<http://www.sundaystandard.info/article.php?NewsID=10346&GroupID=1>

## Mozambique

### U.S.\$161 Million for Education Strategic Plan

The Mozambican Government's cooperation partners, including the World Bank, have promised to disburse 161 million dollars to fund the Education Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2016.

According to Education Minister Zeferino Martins, these funds have been mobilized under the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), as requested by Mozambique in 2010.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 28 March 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103260018.html>

### Selection of Candidates for UEM Vice-Chancellor Begins

The Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Mozambique's oldest and largest higher education institution, on Tuesday announced the start of the procedures to select a new Vice-Chancellor.

The five year term of office of the current Vice-Chancellor, Filipe Couto, is nearing its end, and the UEM University Council must draw up a list of three names of a possible successor. That list is presented to President Armando Guebuza, who makes the final decision.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web on 30 March 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103300144.html>

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## Swaziland

### Over 900 students fail to get scholarships

OUT of over 1000 students who had applied for scholarships to study in institutions outside the country, only 54 have been awarded. These are students who are already enrolled in various tertiary institutions mostly in South Africa. Most of those who were awarded are those that are enrolled for science and Information technology studies. The scholarship policy states that due to the increased number of students who qualify for tertiary education, government has been unable to meet scholarship demands.

SOURCE: Swazi Observer  
Posted to the web 27 March 2011  
<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=23040>

## Seychelles

### Seychellois touch the future at 2020 EXPO

Seychelles President James Michel opened the doors of the Seychelles2020 EXPO. The President said that the EXPO Seychelles 2020 has several themes including; the Knowledge Economy, this will be developed with the arrival of the fiber-optic submarine cable, which will create new opportunities for young Seychellois to participate in the e-economy via the Internet and improve business speed and performance. The University of Seychelles will drive this K Economy and give Seychellois the tools to take up these new opportunities, as well as take a new direction in the education of the youth.

SOURCE: ForImmediateRelease  
Posted to web on 27 March 2011  
<http://www.forimmediaterelease.net/pm/4672.html>

## South Africa

### SA needs to act tough among BRIC players

SA should be wary of offering too many economic concessions to the BRIC bloc without guarantees of reciprocal gain, analysts caution. Trade experts and foreign policy practitioners have voiced concern that SA has yet to come up with a clear strategy on how it plans to use its membership of the bloc to further the country's interests.

SOURCE: MSN Business News  
Posted to the web 31 March 2011  
<http://news.za.msn.com/article.aspx?cp-documentid=156805906>

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## Stellenbosch centre for leadership excellence

STELLENBOSCH University has launched the Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development, which is aimed at students from the university and other tertiary institutions. The institute, named after the former chancellor, is part of the Hope Project, an initiative through which Stellenbosch sought to use academic and scientific research to find solutions to pressing challenges in Africa.

SOURCE: The Businessday  
Posted to the web 29 March 2011  
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=138466>

## Tanzania

### Veta Experiences Shortage of Resources for Its Programmes

The Vocational Education Training Authority (Veta) is short of resources to implement many of its programmes and projects. Veta board chairman Prof Idrissa Mshoro said here yesterday that the state-run institution was failing to implement some of its programmes because of a shortage of funds. Veta was also facing an inadequate capacity in monitoring, evaluation of vocational education training (VET) to include assessment of the impact in achieving goals set in national policies.

SOURCE: The Citizen  
Posted to web on 18 March 2011  
<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news>

### UDSM to Mark 50 Years

The University of Dar es Salam is facing a challenge of producing graduates with developmental values that could help to push the country's development ahead. Professor Yunus Mgaya said as the University commemorates 50 years it was committed to ensure quality education, offer consultations on different areas as well as to bringing positive changes in the country. The government considers 50 years of the University of Dar es Salaam as a golden celebration, which should be honored for what the institution has enabled in the country.

SOURCE: The Citizen  
Posted to web on 18 March 2011  
<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/4-national-news/9293-udsm-to-mark-50-years.html>