

Higher Education in the News



SARUA

Fund mooted to boost SADC universities

Higher education in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries north of South Africa has been plagued for decades by underfunding, weak planning and an academic brain drain that has seriously undermined the region's research capacity. The Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) believes a fund should be established to support collaborative research and development initiatives at SADC universities. The association invites engagement from interested parties with the key tenets of the proposal described in this article, as well as possible modes of implementation. The full proposal can be downloaded from the SARUA website by clicking [here](#)

SOURCE: SARUA

Posted to the web 27 May 2011

<http://www.sarua.org/files/publications/Fund%20boost%20SADC%20universities%20M&G%2027.05.2011.pdf>

Africa

AAU bolsters university leadership skills

The Association of African Universities is determined to improve on current selection processes for vice-chancellors, new Secretary General Professor Olugbemiro Jegede said. It is also training up-and-coming people to step into university management and leadership positions. The association will discuss these and many other issues at its Conference of Rectors, Vice-chancellors and Presidents of African Universities, to be held in Stellenbosch from 30 May to 3 June under the theme "Strengthening the Space of Higher Education in Africa".

SOURCE: UniversityWorld News

Posted to the web 22 May 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110520203406457>

Funding fears for Pan-African University

The setting up of the Pan-African University, which is due to go live in September, is facing a fresh threat, with the African Union yet to announce funding for the facility meant to help supply the continent's high-level skills. No new infrastructure will initially be constructed for the PAU. Rather, existing facilities in the five host universities will be used as satellites campuses. According to deliberations at the COMEDAF meeting, most of the funding will be spent on bursaries for postgraduate students.

SOURCE: UniversityWorld News

Posted to the web 22 May 2011

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110520190147636>

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Low Levels of Tertiary Schooling Hurting Continent's Growth Prospects

Africa could boost its faltering competitiveness in global trade by investing more in tertiary education, women entrepreneurship and tourism, the World Bank has said. In its Africa Competitiveness Report 2011, released recently, the World Bank notes that the stock of human capital with a tertiary education on the continent is very low by international standards. "In East Africa, while tertiary enrolment rates have risen dramatically in the past decade, a very small fraction of students continue with their education after secondary school," notes the report.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 24 May 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201105240446.html>

PPPs the way forward for African infrastructure

With Africa being touted as the 'new frontier' for infrastructure development, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat has started developing an "infrastructure development master plan", which will deal with an estimated \$100-billion deficit in the region's roads, railways, ports and inland waterways, power, communication and water infrastructure. The new developments are in addition to the infrastructure projects already being implemented across the region.

SOURCE: IT Online
Posted to the web 17 May 2011
<http://www.it-online.co.za/content/view/4482379/142/>

Science and Technology

Continental forum for science launched

The first-ever Inter-parliamentary Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation was launched recently at a continental meeting that stressed the need for political will in developing the sector. The meeting also concluded that significant investment in science, technology and innovation was needed to ensure Africa's transformation.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 22 May 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110520203109848>

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Africa releases first survey of its own science

A major pan-African science, technology and innovation (ST&I) survey, aimed at mapping the state of research to help with policymaking has been released. The 'Africa Innovation Outlook 2010', prepared by the African Science and Technology Indicators Initiative (ASTII) and launched at its workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, covers 19 countries from across the continent and aims to plug an information gap on the state of science in Africa.

SOURCE: SciDev.Net

Posted to the web 25 May 2011

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/africa-releases-first-survey-of-its-own-science.html>

Centres of excellence can stop Africa's brain drain

Science students will choose to study and work in Africa if they have access to high-quality training. African economies are growing quickly and employers across the continent are seeking qualified personnel to maintain and pursue their development. But many Africans are still turning to northern or western countries for their education and their careers, making it difficult for African employers to hire qualified local staff.

SOURCE: SciDev.Net

Posted to the web 25 May 2011

<http://www.scidev.net/en/opinions/centres-of-excellence-can-stop-africa-s-brain-drain.html>

Africa-Europe research collaboration to be transformed by EC-funded research infrastructure

DANTE, the international research network operator, and the European Commission's EuropeAid Cooperation Office announced the signature of a €14.75M contract for support to a sub-Saharan African intra-regional research networking infrastructure which is already interconnected to the pan-European research network, GÉANT. Eighty percent of the project's funding will come from the European Commission's EuropeAid Co-operation Office, and the remainder will be contributed by the African partners in the project.

SOURCE: Dante

Page Last Accessed 27 May 2011

<http://www.africaconnect.eu/MediaCentre/Pages/EC-fundedresearchinfrastructure.aspx>

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Angola

Assessment Institute Ensures Boosting of Higher Education

Angolan minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Maria Cândida Teixeira has said that the inter-regional seminar on assessment and institutional accreditation is an important milestone for ensuring the promotion and quality of the country's higher education. The institutional assessment, is intended to promote constant revision of mechanisms and procedures of the quality of higher education and improve academic and institutional performance, as well as the relationship of higher education institution and community.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 24 May 2011
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201105241784.html>

New centre for sustainable development

Angola is to host the first African centre for sustainable development, which will provide earth science education and research opportunities for scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa through expert training and sharing cutting-edge knowledge between countries. The Excellence Centre for Sciences Applied to Sustainability, CESSAF, will be hosted by the University of Agostinho Neto, which is based in Luanda.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 22 May 2011
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110520202848796>

Government works for distance learning implementation

The Angolan Government is working on the implementation of distance learning in the country. the minister of Education, Mpinda Simão, has announced that the initiative will start with the conception of a national policy that meets this demand. The minister, who was speaking at the opening of a workshop on advocacy of distance learning, said he hopes that the experts from SADC transmit knowledge to representatives from various sectors on the use of modern information and communication technologies that enable knowledge sharing.

SOURCE: Angola Press
Posted to the web 19 May 2011
http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us

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Malawi

Malawi makes bold ICT strides

Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika has told parliament Malawi has made significant strides in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Mutharika touted as remarkable an innovation in the area of information and communications technology where Government plans to implement a “Connect a Constituency” Project to ensure that every constituency in Malawi has access to modern ICT facilities.

SOURCE: BIZTech Africa

Posted to the web 26 May 2011

<http://www.biztechafrika.com/section/government/article/malawi-makes-bold-ict-strides-mutharika/727/>

Mauritius

Open university project to be launched this year

The long awaited open university project will be implemented this year. It will be a strong player in tertiary education in Mauritius and in the region. This was stated by minister of Tertiary Education Rajesh Jeetah on Friday. He was speaking at a lecture on open and distance learning delivered by Sir John Daniel, CEO of Commonwealth of Learning (COL), at Ebène.

SOURCE: The Independent

Posted to the web 21 May 2011

<http://theindependent.mu/2011/05/21/open-university-project-to-be-launched-this-year/>

Namibia

Namibia Needs Science And Technology Experts

The Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma, says Namibia needs experts in science and technology, who would adapt and develop technologies that are appropriate for the country's needs. He noted that the Namibian Government knows the importance of science and technology experts, adding that the government has been investing a lot of resources in the fields of science and technology.

SOURCE: KUDUfm

Posted to the web 21 May 2011

<http://www.kudufm.com>

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South Africa

Centralise Research Council Funding - Pandor

The Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor wants funding allocated to all research councils - both inside and outside of her department - to fall under one roof to improve co-ordination and resourcing of the country's research councils. The department is also developing terms of reference for the planned creation of a national committee on science, technology and innovation. Turning to the progress of South Africa's bid for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope, Pandor said that the local SKA office had met all the necessary benchmarks and requirements.

SOURCE: BUA NEWS
Posted to the web 24 May 2011
<http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11052415051001>

R37 billion for higher education

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande tabled a budget of R37.4 billion for the 2011/12 financial year in Parliament. Of that, R9.1bn was set aside for the Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Seta) and the National Skills Fund. Universities would receive R19.4bn and Further Education and Training (FET) colleges would receive R4.3bn. Some R4.1bn would go to public entities, of which R4bn had been set aside for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

SOURCE: Times Live
Posted to the web 27 May 2011
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article1087846.ece/R37-billion-for-higher-education>

Universities split again

The University of Limpopo's Turfloop and Medunsa campuses have demerged. The two institutions were merged in 2005 after recommendations of a committee established to look at the viability of the merger. It is envisaged that implementation task teams will be set up for the establishment of a new institution at a time to be determined by Minister of Higher Education Blade Nzimande.

SOURCE: Sowetan
Posted to the web 27 May 2011
<http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/05/27/universities-split-again>