Higher Education in the News

SADC Ministerial Summit

SARUA Programme for University Leaders in the Southern Africa Region (PULSAR) 2012
SOURCE: SARUA, Posted to the web 29 June 2012

Spaces are still available for SARUA's PULSAR programme, a new executive development programme for senior administrators in universities in SADC. Late applications can be accepted. However, please note that the programme commences on 9 July 2012. Please contact Coco Belgarrab at coco@sarua.org to secure a place. Further information about the programme is available at this link: www.sarua.org_PULSAR_Programe

SARUA NEWS RELEASE: Southern African universities urged to be more assertive in striking international partnerships
SOURCE: SARUA, Posted to the web 27 June 2012

Southern African universities need to be more assertive about defining their own interests when negotiating international partnerships with universities and donors in northern countries. They also need to harness more opportunities to strike intra-regional and south-south agreements that can foster innovation and new knowledge. These were the outcomes of the SARUA Vice Chancellors Leadership Dialogue on 'Internationalisation in Higher Education – Implications for the knowledge project in the global south', held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 21 and 22 June 2012.

Global

500bn infrastructrue plan to be presented to SADC leaders in August
SOURCE: Engineering News, Posted to the web 18 June 2012

A Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Infrastructure Master Plan (RIMP), which could involve cross-border projects with a combined investment value of up to $500-billion, has been finalised and will be presented to the subregion's heads of State for offical sanction at an upcoming summit, scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, in August. The plan proposes the development of regional power, transport, water, communications, tourism and metrology infrastructure over the 15-year period, from 2012 to 2027.

UbuntuNet-Connect 2012, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 14-16 November 2012
SOURCE: UBUNTUNET, Posted to the web 12 June 2012

 UbuntuNet-Connect is the Annual Conference of UbuntuNet Alliance that focuses on research and education networking activities in Africa. It is organized by UbuntuNet Alliance and hosted by member NRENs. The Conference brings together practitioners in the research and education networking community, researchers, policy makers, academicians, connectivity providers, and a pool of expertise from across Africa and beyond. In previous years, the conference has attracted sponsorship from leading commercial companies and service providers.

SADC banks on own development bank
SOURCE: City Press, Posted to the web 23 June 2012

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) wants another development bank that will rival the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), City Press can reveal. SADC deputy executive secretary João Samuel Caholo told reporters this week that a proposal for an SADC development bank is set for final approval at the SADC heads of state meeting, which is due to be held in August.

Science and Technology

Innovation Africa Summit in Cape Town to Bring Together World Leaders in ICT, Education, and Technology
SOURCE: The Nigerian Voice, Posted to the web 20 June 2012

CAPE TOWN - 20 June 2012 – Featuring participation by top level ministers and officials from across Africa as well as representatives of the world's top technology brands, the Innovation Africa Summit to be held October 5-7 in Cape Town aims to be the networking event of the year, facilitating crucial public-private partnerships to guide the future development of Africa's fast growing ICT, education, and technology sectors. The event is supported by the Government of South Africa and organised in partnership with University of the Western Cape.

Africa needs local capacity for innovation research
SOURCE: SciDev.Net, Posted to the web 5 June 2012

Building a community of innovation scholars will promote locally relevant research and policy, say *Bitrina Diyamett* and *Erika Kraemer-Mbula.* Africa has made remarkable progress in building capacity in natural and engineering sciences over the past decade. The endorsement of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) — which focuses on developing scientific and research capacity — by all African countries in 2005, shows continent-wide recognition of the importance of science and technology.

DRC

Congo-Kinshasa: New Science Academy Established
SOURCE: African Seer, Posted to the web 20 June 2012

Researchers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have established an Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology for Innovation (ACASTI). The academy was launched in Kinshasa last month at a ceremony entitled 'Today's Science for the Development of DRC Tomorrow'. It will particularly focus on the coordination of scientific research into natural resources to boost economic development. The also aims "to contribute to the progress of science, art and literature, and ensure the visibility abroad of research carried out in different parts of DRC".

Botswana

Innovation Hub gets international recognition
SOURCE: BizTech Africa, Posted to the web 16 June 2012

The Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) recently registered with the International Association of Science and Technology Parks (IASP). The IASP is a worldwide network of science and technology parks meant to drive growth, internationalisation and effectiveness of its members. It is anticipated that BIH's registration to the IASP will accord it Affiliate Member status in recognition of its current engagement in the development and operation of a science and technology park on a dedicated site in Gaborone.

Malawi

Building on ICT
SOURCE: Biztech Africa, Posted to the web 17 June 2012
University of Malawi architecture students say the introduction of ICTs in their course has helped to improve their efficiency and time management as well as organisation in their studies. University of Malawi architecture students say the introduction of ICTs in their course has helped to improve their efficiency and time management as well as organisation in their studies. The University's Polytechnic constituent college recently exhibited its students' work, as well as the subjects that form part of their work.

Activists support university fee hike
SOURCE: BNL Times, Posted to the web 17 June 2012

Players in the education sector have called for a review of fees for the University of Malawi and proposed an increase to at least K100,000 per year from the current K25,000 per student.
Civil Society Education Coalition (Cisec) executive director Benedicto Kondowe said it was about time that the fees structure be reviewed because it had become too expensive for government to fund tertiary education.

Mauritius

Skills training workshop on 'Increasing external funding for research'
SOURCE: Le Defi Media, Posted to the web 15 June 2012

Some 30 research managers and researchers from research institutions in Mauritius gathered on Tuesday at the University of Mauritius (UoM) for a two-day training workshop on Increasing external funding for research. The event was organised by the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) in collaboration with the UoM.

Madagascar

Madagascar launches online research network
SOURCE: SciDev.Net, Posted to the web 4 June 2012

Madagascar has launched an online research network, the Research and Education Network for Academic Learning Activities (iRENALA), which aims to boost science, technology and education in the country, as well as internationalise its science. The network, launched earlier this month (8 June), will promote discussions between worldwide researchers, students and policymakers, and facilitate access to digitised documents available in virtual libraries, according to Horace Gatien, president of Toamasina University.

South Africa

Review of Performance for Fourth Quarter: Department of Higher Education briefing
SOURCE: Parliamentary Monitoring Group, Posted to the web 12 June 2012

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) briefed the Committee on their performance in the fourth quarter. The presentation gave Members an overview of the organisational environment and focused on other divisions within the DHET, such as planning and monitoring, university education, Vocational and Continuing Education and Training, and skills development. The full report is available via the below link.

Young, jobless and desperate – Degrees with no guarantees
SOURCE: City Press, Posted to the web 18 June 2012

University degrees or diplomas no longer hold the promise of jobs for young South Africans as hundreds of thousands of them battle to find work. Labour market analyst Loane Sharp says that about 600 000 university graduates are languishing at home, unable to put into practice what they have learned. University qualifications, Sharp says, are not the only qualities employers look for when recruiting. Sharp's advice to young people is to choose what they want to study carefully before going to university and enrolling for a course that is not in demand.

UFS confers record postgraduate degrees
SOURCE: Free State Times, Posted to the web 18 June 2012

A total of 481 master's degrees and 82 doctorates were conferred to graduates at the University of the Free State in two ceremonies this week. This is the most postgraduate qualifications yet to be awarded at a single graduation ceremony, the university said. This is an achievement for the university, because generally South African universities do not produce enough postgraduates to compete with other developing countries.

Wits to boost bandwidth with new fibre, wireless network

SOURCE: My Broadband, Posted to the web 18 June 2012

The University of the Witwatersrand is in the process of upgrading its inter-campus bandwidth to ensure that all its campuses have access to the "best and fastest bandwidth available". It has partnered with Dimension Data on the Inter-Campus Link Upgrade (ICLU) project. The ICLU will enable Wits University to effectively manage and distribute high bandwidth between its dispersed campuses and improve connectivity to previously under-serviced Wits sites.

Tanzani

Tanzania: Inadequate Funding, Skills Impede Development Plan
 SOURCE: All Africa, Posted to the web 29 June 2012

INADEQUATE funding for research and development and lack of critical mass of skilled human resources have drastically affected the execution of the country's five-year Development Plan 2011/12-2015/16. To enable the country attain its goals timely, said Eng. Mgalula, the government recognizes that Science Technology and Innovation (STI) as critical to economic growth, as it forms the basis for sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the society through increased productivity.

Zambia

Accept extension studies diploma in public service, urges Simukanga
SOURCE: Post Zambia, Posted to the web 17 June 2012

UNIVERSITY of Zambia Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Simukanga says government should include diploma in extension studies of the institution on the list of qualifications acceptable for public service. During the first graduation ceremony for adult education and extension studies in Lusaka on Friday, Prof Simukanga said that excellent tuition and training given to students was an assurance that they could perform to the expectations of the various government departments they may be attached to.

Zimbabwe

Zim poised for greater heights
SOURCE: The Herald Online, Posted to the web 25 June 2012

Universities are to communities in which they are located what tower lights represent in their designated areas. As pinnacles of higher education and technological innovations, universities play a cutting-edge role to catalyse communities around them for positive responses to challenges that often impede social, economic and political advancement in society.