



Higher Education in the News

Global

[West and Central African research under the microscope](#)

SOURCE: University World News, Posted to the web 22 July 2012

Research remains the poor relation of universities south of the Sahara, in particular those in West and Central Africa. This finding was repeatedly and bitterly stated at a forum held in Dakar, Senegal, from 2-4 July. This state of affairs is in sharp contrast to some countries in East and Southern Africa, which have been able to survive research-wise and benefit from the help of donors, according to the forum on “Strategies for Sustainable Financing of University Research in West and Central Africa”..

[Dlamini-Zuma first Sadc chairwoman of commission](#)

SOURCE: The Business Day, Posted to the web 16 July 2012

SA’s Home Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma yesterday won a vote to become the first woman to head the African Union (AU) Commission, delegates confirmed last night. She beat incumbent and rival Jean Ping of Gabon. Ms Dlamini-Zuma secured 34 votes in the fourth round of voting, giving her the margin needed to defeat Mr Ping. The victory makes Ms Dlamini-Zuma the first chairman from the Southern African Development Community (Sadc), as well as the first woman to chair the commission in 49 years.

Science and Technology

[SKA needs more local skills](#)

SOURCE: IT Web, Posted to the web 2 July 2012

SA needs to focus on human capital development if the privilege of playing host country to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope is to take on full meaning in the country as a whole.

This is according to professor Nithaya Chetty, group executive of astronomy at the National Research Foundation (NRF), who took part in an historic “Astronomy Town Hall” meeting at the University of Pretoria, last week. Chetty says the acceleration and expansion of skills in South African schools, universities and other educational institutions is crucial if the community is to take advantage of the SKA.

Angola

[SA, Angola collaborate on infrastructure development](#)

SOURCE: SA News, Posted to the web 9 July 2012

South Africa and Angola, through the Regional Spatial Development Initiative Programme (RSDIP) and the Industrial Development Institute of Angola (IDIA), have signed an agreement on technical cooperation that will further stimulate infrastructure development in Angola. IDIA is under the Ministry of Geology, Mines and Industry in Angola, and the main duties of the Institute are to instigate industrial development that will enable the creation of national economic integration and equilibrium between diverse regions of the country..



Botswana

[Lecturer cautions about collaborative research](#)

SOURCE: Daily News, Posted to the web 16 July 2012

African researchers have been advised to develop good research structures and mitigate challenges they face with collaborative research partners. Director of International Education and Partnerships at the University of Botswana (UB), Dr Leapetswe Malete said African universities and institutions should set out priorities and clear agenda of what they want to achieve with collaborative partners from the initial stage of research. He was Speaking at a week-long DocLinks/Commonwealth Residential School on Climate Change held at UB in

[BIUST ready for occupation](#)

SOURCE: Sunday Standard, Posted to the web 17 July 2012

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) is preparing for occupation this President's holiday weekend, said Johnie Swartz, the minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology. BIUST, which is expected to be a high quality research-intensive university with focus on science, engineering and technology degree programmes, has suffered construction delays.

DRC

[CONFERENCE OF THE RECTEURS \(CEPGL\)](#)

SOURCE: University of Kinshasa, Posted to the web 16 July 2012

The Permanent Executive Secretariat (SEP) of the CEPGL organized on July 11, 2012 in Kinshasa, the first General meeting of the Conference of the Vice-chancellors of the Universities of the Member States of the CEPGL. The meeting gathered in Kinshasa 4 university institutions of the Republic of Burundi, 13 of the Democratic republic of Congo and 1 of the Republic of Rwanda. The delegation of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the CEPGL was led by Mr Joseph LITITIYO, Assistant Executive secretary In charge of the Programs of the CEPGL.

Lesotho

[Connectivity from WIOCC reduces bandwidth prices in Lesotho by 67%](#)

SOURCE: Biz Community, Posted to the web 16 July 2012

Businesses, institutions and consumers in Lesotho are set to experience faster, reliable and significantly more affordable internet connectivity as Africa's carriers' carrier [WIOCC](#) brings additional broadband capacity into Lesotho. Educational institutions, such as the National University of Lesotho, are already benefitting - with students now able to access essential web-based resources that were previously unavailable.



Mauritius

[Open University – Democratising education](#)

SOURCE: Le Defi Media ,Posted to the web 27 July 2012

The Open University of Mauritius Bill was passed in 2010 and it was announced that the Mauritius College of the Air will be the learning centre for the Open University. It is the third Government-funded tertiary institution after the University of Mauritius and University of Technology, Mauritius. Last week, Kaviraj Sokhun and Ayesha Jeewah were nominated Director and Chairperson of the Open University respectively by the Cabinet. The aim of the institution is to democratize education and to give everyone the possibility for a post-secondary education without attending classes.

Mozambique

[Mozambique and Germany sign technical accord](#)

SOURCE: Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Posted to the web 19 July 2012

The director of the University Eduardo Mondlane, Prof. Doctor Orlando Quilambo, said yesterday, 12 of July, that the debates during 4th Pedagogical Seminary had allowed the creation of a fruitful vision for the improvement of the quality of education. Speaking in the closing of the event, he acknowledged the involvement of diverse partners for the accomplishment of the event.

[Climate change funding discussed in Maputo](#)

SOURCE: Club of Mozambique, Posted to the web 19 July 2012

By the end of this year, Mozambique will have a National Climate Change Strategy, which will include the strategic objectives the country hopes to attain to make it more resilient to the impacts of climate change. According to the Permanent Secretary of the Environment Ministry, Mauricio Xerinda, the strategy seeks to endow the country with opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve sustainable development – that is, development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations

Namibia

[Higher Education Deserves More Focus](#)

SOURCE: The Namibian, Posted to the web 20 July 2012

As a nation we recognise the importance of the education agenda which is why education spending amounts to about 23 percent, totaling to N\$9.4 billion, of our 2012/2013 budget. Namibia is one of the highest spenders on education in the world. However, is this focus on education spending directed at the right levels to address Namibia's ever-widening skills gap?



Seychelles

[Tertiary learning body holds first meeting](#)

SOURCE: Seychelles Nation, Posted to the web 12 July 2012

The commission is a statutory body with the task to supervise, coordinate and regulate tertiary education in Seychelles. The members have been appointed on a three-year mandate and their core business relates to regulation of tertiary education, from post-secondary to university level.

Speaking to the media, chief executive of the commission Jean-Michel Domingue said the creation of such a commission is part of the reforms taking place in the education system.

South Africa

[African universities urged to focus on developing skills in communities](#)

SOURCE: HR Future, Posted to the web 18 July 2012

South African universities and other key educators are urged to move away from a “business as usual” approach in order to preserve and integrate African culture in the education system. As the continent experiences drastic growth, it has become crucial to develop the skills within communities in order to address lingering challenges brought on by the apartheid era.

[Take nothing for granted](#)

SOURCE: Financial Mail, Posted to the web 19 July 2012

Are SA business schools that offer programmes in Africa profiting at the expense of the markets they are supposed to be serving? The rest of the continent has become big business for SA schools (see table). Most teaching takes place in SA, though schools will also generally train clients in their countries of origin. Gordon Institute of Business Science director Jonathan Cook, who is a board member and former chairman of the Association of African Business Schools, says SA schools must not believe the rest of the continent is waiting for them.

[Rethinking post-school education and skills training](#)

SOURCE: University World News, Posted to the web 22 July 2012

A high-impact 2009 study into post-school youth in South Africa introduced the concept of ‘not in education, employment or training’, or NEET, which became firmly entrenched in the education jargon. It found that a shocking 2.8 million people aged between 18 and 24 years were ‘NEETs’.

[Responding to the Educational Needs of Post-school Youth](#), was funded by the Ford Foundation and based on research by the Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET), the Further Education and Training Institute (FETI) and the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU).



[SA researchers punch above weight — for now](#)

SOURCE: The Business Day, Posted to the web 24 July 2012

SA NEEDS more academic researchers if it wants to continue increasing its research output, two experts say. However, universities find it difficult to attract and retain postgraduate students.

Scientific output is an important part of the Department of Science and Technology's 10-year innovation plan. It aims to develop the country's knowledge economy to boost economic competitiveness and job creation.

Swaziland

[Economy fails Swaziland students](#)

SOURCE: The Namibian, Posted to the web 17 July 2012

An economic crisis in Swaziland is taking a toll on a generation of university students as the cash-strapped monarchy reduces scholarships. Universities are often a cradle of dissent in this small mountain kingdom of 1,1 million people, as political parties are banned and few channels exist to oppose the monarch. This year 1 200 students were admitted to the University of Swaziland, for 10 200 that sat final exams in school. Fewer than half of them received state bursaries in a country where 60 per cent of people live on less than US\$2 a day.

Tanzania

[OUT professor receives global education award](#)

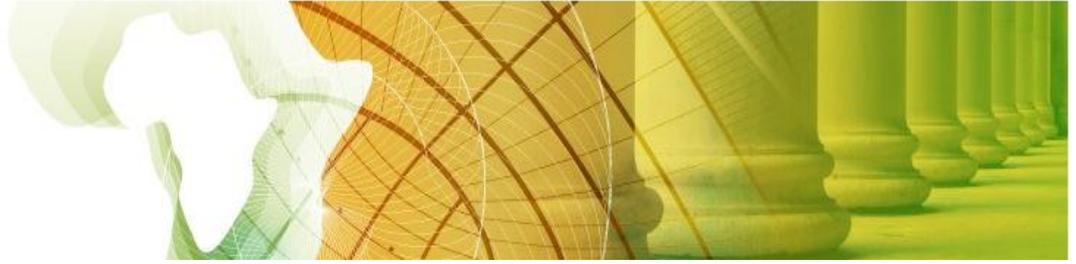
SOURCE: IPP Media, Posted to the web 19 July 2012

Open University of Tanzania (OUT) vice-chancellor Prof Tolly Mbwette has been awarded the International Academic Excellence Award for his outstanding contribution in the education sector. The award was bestowed to him by the World Education Congress administering 'Global Awards for Excellence in Education Leadership & Teaching' at a ceremony in India recently.

[Varsity introduces course on fishery to improve sector](#)

SOURCE: The Citizen, Posted to the web 23 July 2012

The University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) plans to tackle the shortage of experts in the fishing sector by offering specially designed training programme. Speaking at the closing of the 16th International Institute of Fisheries Economic and Trade (IIFET) biennial conference held in Dar es Salaam last week, Prof Yunus Mgaya, the UDSM deputy vice-chancellor said the institution was now admitting students to pursue the programme..



Zambia

[Simukanga tips UNZA students](#)

SOURCE: Times of Zambia, Posted to the web 5 July 2012

UNIVERSITY of Zambia (UNZA) Vice-Chancellor, Stephen Simukanga has advised students at the institution to resolve issues amicably and desist from engaging in boycotts and riotous behaviour. Professor Simukanga said students should take their studies seriously and not get involved in riots whenever they were aggrieved. He was speaking in Lusaka during the 42nd graduation and induction ceremony where 297 students from the School of Medicine graduated under the theme 'Repositioning the University of Zambia'.

Zimbabwe

['Virtual Lectures' to Help Cope With Brain Drain](#)

SOURCE: All Africa News, Posted to the web 23 July 2012

A virtual lecture hall, enabling lectures to be streamed to university campuses from around the world, aims to plug the gap in scientific teaching staff at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), which has suffered years of brain drain. The Virtual Lecture Hall (VLH) was launched last month (29 June) at UZ's College of Health Sciences (UZ-CHS) and Faculties of Science and Veterinary Science, by the UK-based Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) and Econet Wireless, the mobile communications company funding the project.