



Higher Education in the News

Africa

[What internationalising universities can learn from big business](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 29 April 2012

Lack of an explicit global strategy can be dangerous for universities, an international specialist from the University of London has warned. Tim Gore, director of global networks and communities for the university's international programmes, said that institutions can learn from industry in developing global strategies – but he stopped short of recommending an ideal model. More research is needed, he added.

[IDRC cuts regional offices, one in Africa, after budget cut](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

Canada's International Development Research Centre, or IDRC, has announced that it is closing two of its six regional offices – including one in Africa – and terminating support for its Innovation for Inclusive Development programme, as it seeks to absorb an 11% cut in its annual budget. The cuts, in an organisation that is widely regarded as one of the world's leading champions of research for development, form part of an overall reduction of Can \$4 billion a year in public spending over the next five years which was announced by the Conservative government at the end of last month.

[Can Africa afford national science funds?](#)

Research Africa, Posted to the web 23 April 2012

An increasing number of African governments are proposing to set up national science funds, and many African scientists welcome the goal: dedicated national funding for research. But could such funds detract from other science spending goals on the continent? And who could be trusted to run them fairly? Research Africa spoke to leading scientists and policymakers to find out the options for countries wondering whether national science funds are for them.

[International postgraduate students from Africa are struggling](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

High numbers of postgraduate and international students in a university are major requirements for successful evaluation and ranking. African universities are now preaching 'internationalisation' and collaboration with foreign institutions through various programmes, for both research purposes and international recognition. South African universities are leading other African universities and this can be seen in collaboration between South Africa's universities and those in Europe and America.



[AfDB to hold follow-up workshop after 1st Africa Forum on STI](#)

AFDB, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

The African Development Bank is organizing a workshop on 23 May to follow up from the recommendations of the Science, Technology and Innovation in Action parallel session on “eLearning, mLearning, eHealth and mHealth” stemming from the 1st Africa Forum on Science Technology and Innovation (STI). The session is a pre-event to the eLearning Africa Conference (eLA), an international conference on ICT for Development Education and Training in Benin, which will run from 23 to 25 May.

Science and Technology

[Germany and South Africa launch Year of Science](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

Germany and South Africa’s research ministers launched a Year of Science 2012-13 in Cape Town last Monday, aimed at strengthening higher education and science collaboration between the two countries and kicking off 41 joint research projects. The aims are to boost high-level skills development, research and innovation, build on existing partnerships, provide a platform for increased joint science ventures and attract more young people into the field in both countries.

[New high-speed 15,000km international link seamlessly connects African radio astronomers to Europe through GÉANT and UbuntuNet](#)

GEANT, Posted to the web 29 April 2012

Radio astronomers in Africa and across the globe will benefit from faster collaboration through a dedicated, high speed 15,000 km network link between the pan-European GÉANT and African UbuntuNet Alliance. The 2Gbps point-to-point circuit will enable astronomers at the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) in South Africa to stream observational data to the Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe (JIVE) in the Netherlands. It is the first point-to-point circuit between GÉANT and UbuntuNet.

[African Green Campus Initiative launched](#)

BUA News, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

University and college campuses that address climate challenge will better serve students and help create a thriving and ethical society, Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande said at the launch of the African Green Campus Initiative on Saturday. Launching the initiative, which aims to promote climate change interventions at college and university campuses, Nzimande called on leaders of colleges and universities to sign the Climate Change Commitment Pledge, which would help build on the legacy of last year's COP17.



[New science centre for climate research](#)

The Green Times, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

Five Southern African countries are establishing a regional science centre that will support cross-border research into climate change and land management. Ministers from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Germany signed a Joint Declaration that effectively inaugurates the Southern Africa Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL). SASSCAL aims to strengthen trans-boundary science and technology development in the SADC region using regional and international expertise.

Botswana

[BOCODOL transforms into open university](#)

Daily News, Posted to the web 27 April 2012

Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL) will transform into an open university to make education accessible to all. The institutions public relations and marketing coordinator, Mr Thuso Palai, said in an interview that BOCODOL would be a fully-fledged open university by 2016. Mr Palai said transformation would enable BOCODOL to introduce higher-level programmes such as masters degrees and their certification.

DRC

[Minister intervenes in chaotic university](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

The Minister for University Education, Leonard Mashako Mamba, has intervened to try to restore order at the medical faculty of Unikin, the University of Kinshasa, following operational malfunctions including overlapping academic years, abnormal length of courses, absent teachers and programmes that are not followed.

Mauritius

[Mauritius to sign MoU with Kenya and Tanzania](#)

Le Defi, Posted to the web 20 April 2012

In a bid to increase the visibility of Mauritius as a destination for higher studies overseas, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will soon be signed with Kenya and Tanzania. The MoU will provide for mutual recognition of qualifications, staff and students exchanges and establish linkages between universities.

Malawi

[Total Malawi, UNIMA sign MOU](#)

Malawi Nation, Posted to the web 27 April 2012

For 41 years Total Malawi has been giving out scholarships to Commerce and Engineering Students. But through the MOU Total Malawi will be sponsoring lecturers to go for education and exchange programmes in different countries where the company operates. The University Vice Chancellor Professor Fabiano said the University is excited that the partnership with Total continues to strengthen.



South Africa

[Stellenbosch University scores big on fundraising campaign](#)

University World News, Posted to the web 20 April 2012

Stellenbosch University in South Africa has raised R2 billion (US\$256 million) since launching a fundraising campaign 20 months ago aimed at boosting research and driving the 'science-for-society' approach of its Hope Project. Rector and Vice-chancellor Professor Russel Botman told a press conference in Cape Town on 11 April that not only had the university surpassed its ambitious target of R1.75 billion, "we are making a real difference in people's lives".

[UCT changes department of accounting's name](#)

Biz Community, Posted to the web 23 April 2012

The Department of Accounting at the University of Cape Town has changed its name to reflect a fresh focus on transformation within the accounting profession, improving the quality of its graduates, and playing a more active role in improving public sector accounting, among other things. In January 2012, the department was renamed the College of Accounting. Professor Mark Graham, founding head of the college, said the change is part of a plan to improve both the quantity and quality of accounting professionals coming through the system.

[Nzimande: Address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, on the budget vote](#)

Info.Gov, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

The Address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, on the budget vote, in the National Assembly. The Department's budget (excluding levies) increases from R28.2 billion in 2011/12 to R31.5 billion for 2012/13. This is an increase of R3.3 billion (11.7%) on the 2011/12 allocation.

[New UP hall adds room for progress](#)

Pretoria News, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

THE UNIVERSITY of Pretoria (UP) has opened a new R45 million lecture hall complex, the Thuto Building, which will add about 2 400 seats to the university's lecturing facilities. The two-level building has two 600-seat lecture halls on each level, which addresses a need for larger teaching spaces at UP. UP's vice-chancellor and principal Professor Cheryl de la Rey said the opening of this and several other new facilities since the beginning of last year was a manifestation of the university's major infrastructural renewal and revitalisation project.

[As Wits turns 90, it sets sights on being a top-100 varsity by 2022](#)

Engineering News, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

South Africa's renowned University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) is celebrating its nintieth year of existence this year and is using the milestone event to plan for the future – a future that builds on the institution's academic and research heritage in a way that enables it to navigate the challenges associated with the country's prevailing education inequalities, while also setting in place the research infrastructure required to tackle some of South Africa's most pressing problems.



Swaziland

[What govt will pay for in tertiary institutions](#)

Swazi Observer, Posted to the web 24 April 2012

MORE students who have applied for admission into the country's tertiary institutions stand to face disappointment when they see the new list of priority courses to be sponsored by government. This follows the release of a new list of priority courses that government intends to sponsor this year. These are the programmes of study, which government believed would help improve the economy. Government will be sponsoring the courses under the list for the next three years beginning this academic year until 2015.

Tanzania

[Why we need to diversify higher education financing strategies](#)

IPP Media, Posted to the web 23 April 2012

Despite the liberalization of the higher education sector, participation and admission rates and general gross enrolment ratio in higher education in Tanzania are still low compared to neighbouring and other SADC countries implying the low capacity of the higher education sector to enrol more students because of limited funding. This article reviews the current financing strategies for higher education, in order to propose ways to deal away traditional ways of financing education and look into alternative ways to diversify financing strategies by venturing into new financing strategies.

Zambia

[Copperbelt University re-opens](#)

The Times, Posted to the web 20 April 2012

THE Copperbelt University opened the 2012 academic calendar yesterday after the completion of the rehabilitation works at the school of business, administration block and the female hostel that were destroyed during a storm in February this year. A hail storm in February blew off roofs at the new school of business, administration block and the new female hostel. The storm also destroyed computers and other accessories compelling the CBU senate to indefinitely postpone the opening of the institution to facilitate repairs of the damaged structures.

Zimbabwe

[Mbeki to Launch UZ Programme](#)

The Standard, Posted to the web 22 April 2012

FORMER South African President Thabo Mbeki will be in Harare this week to launch a programme to raise funds for the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). Mbeki was once the mediator in the government of national unity (GNU) talks before his successor, Jacob Zuma, assumed his facilitation role. Co-ordinated by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara's office, the programme aims at raising US\$20 million by the end of year and will kick-off with a fundraising dinner where Mbeki will be the guest of honour.