

Circular 2, 2014

Dear Member Vice Chancellors,

This year SARUA brings you two Leadership Events. *Please note the change in the order of these.*

**Climate Compatible Development (CCD):
Opportunities for Collaborative Research in the SADC region.**

May 5th & 6th, Spier Conference Centre, Western Cape, South Africa

Climate Compatible Development requires universities to conduct inter- and trans-disciplinary research into how to mitigate, adapt to and develop within, climate change. Africa is one of the continents most vulnerable to climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC. Additional stressors, such as those arising from poverty, exacerbate this exposure to risk; Southern Africa faces huge developmental and financial challenges in adapting to climate change.

SARUA has completed the first phase of its *Climate Change Capacity Development Programme*, which aims to create a knowledge co-production framework for southern African researchers, the first of its kind in Africa. Universities in 12 of the 15 countries of SADC participated in the study, alongside other key stakeholders. For the first time universities and governments deliberated together on this pressing subject – this has resulted in a 2-volume publication that captures both regional and country-by-country knowledge needs and gaps and an analysis of how universities are currently responding to these challenges. Collaboration on this scale in this region is unique.

The SARUA CCD project findings offer direction for research collaboration and network formations in the SADC region. VCs and their DVCs of research and partnerships are invited to a consultative Leadership Dialogue to engage with the research findings and to partner on select research themes and consortia.

On May 5th & 6th the research study report on Climate Compatible Development will be launched.

**Global trends in Technology in Higher Education;
Opportunities and Challenges for African universities.**

September 2nd & 3rd, Cape Town

We are pleased to announce that the University of Cape Town has offered to partner with us on this event. Together UCT and SARUA will be able to reach the best international and African speakers, research and ICT experience distilled into a robust programme. We will shortly be calling for proposals from our region, from which to select the best research, case studies and speakers from the SADC region.

Catherine Hunter
Membership and Events, SARUA