

Higher Education in the News



Africa

Africa begins to step away from donor dependency

An increasing number of African countries are beginning to step away from aid dependency, as the domestic private sector becomes the engine of growth across much of Africa. Currently, at least a third of African countries receive aid that is equivalent to less than 10 per cent of their tax revenue. They include Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Libya. This is a significant change from years of high dependency on aid.

SOURCE: The Citizen

Posted to the web 11 December 2011

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/editorial-analysis/20-analysis-opinions/18917-africa-begins-to-step-away-from-donor-dependency.html>

AU leadership race likely to put other topics in the shade at summit

A leadership contest for the African Union, pitting a regional political and economic powerhouse, South Africa, against the small west African country of Gabon, has galvanised the AU summit. The race between Jean Ping, who is seeking a second term, and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the South African home affairs minister has eclipsed the theme of this year's summit, intra-African trade, a subject that sets pulses racing only among policy wonks.

SOURCE: University World News

Posted to the web 4 December 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/jan/25/african-union-summit-leadership-trade>

African Conference Calls for New Agricultural Universities

East and Central African countries should establish a new generation of innovation-oriented agricultural universities that would help integrate research, training and extension services, a conference has agreed. The recommendation came at the close of the first General Assembly of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), ASARECA was established in 1994 and its member countries are Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It works to promote science and technology and innovation to help feed the region in the 21st century.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 6 January 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201090132.html>

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AfDB to mobilize additional \$50m to support statistical capacity building in Africa

The relevance of statistics in pushing Africa's development has gained greater attention as the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) announces a further commitment of \$50 million towards assisting statistical development efforts on the continent. The Chief Economist and Vice President of the AfDB Prof. Nthuli Ncube said over the last decade the Bank has mobilised close to \$100 million in direct grants to assist African countries to strengthen their statistical capacity building efforts.

SOURCE: Times Live

Posted to the web 19 January 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2012/01/19/dlamini-zuma-touts-bid-for-au-chief>

Dlamini-Zuma touts bid for AU chief

South Africa is pushing its campaign for Home Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to head the African Union executive, a key post to be decided at a summit next week. Dlamini-Zuma, a former foreign minister and ex-wife of President Jacob Zuma, is challenging Gabon's Jean Ping, who has been AU Commission chairman since 2008 and is seeking another term.

SOURCE: Times Live

Posted to the web 19 January 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2012/01/19/dlamini-zuma-touts-bid-for-au-chief>

Science and Technology

Southern African water resource specialists trained in use of satellite imagery

The South African National Space Agency (Sansa) has reported that more than 200 water resource management specialists from across Africa received training last month in the use of near real-time satellite data to make the best use of the continent's limited water resources.

This training programme formed part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Tiger Initiative, which is concerned with employing space technology to improve water resource management in Africa. The December workshop was focused on the needs of the Southern African Development Community countries.

SOURCE: Engineering News

Posted to the web 9 January 2012

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/southern-african-water-resource-specialists-trained-in-use-of-satellite-imagery-2012-01-09>

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Funding for climate change projects poor

The funds for implementation of projects on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) are flowing to developing countries from some developed countries on voluntary basis alone, lacking legally binding framework agreed internationally, it has been learnt.

This makes it difficult to force rich countries pay for environmental conservation efforts as agreed under various international agreements. The chairman of the secretariat for preparation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for REDD Pius Yanda told BusinessWeek at the weekend that there is no internationally agreed framework for managing REDD projects and funds.

SOURCE: The Citizen

Posted to the web 19 January 2012

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/magazines/31-business-week/19008-funding-for-climate-change-projects-poor.html>

Angola

Education Minister Defends Greater Co-Operation

Angolan minister of Education Pinda Simao has asked for the engagement of the professionals of the sector with a view to improve the educative performances throughout the country in the coming years. The minister said that Education is a key sector for the development of the country which requires the support of its staff and society in general and a strategic area that should be up to the challenges of the country.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)

Posted to the web 24 January 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201240061.html>

See also <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201250328.html>

Botswana

TEC wants tertiary institutions merged

The Tertiary Education Council (TEC) has submitted to the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, a rationalisation strategy to maximise use of government-owned tertiary education institutions. The proposal could come before parliament after next month's budget-speech debate. TEC's executive secretary, Dr Patrick Molutsi told a recent meeting of the Trainers and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) that TEC's rationalisation strategy wants these institutions to be regionally clustered in order to enhance their productivity.

SOURCE: Botswana Guardian

Posted to the web 28 November 2011

<http://www.botswanaguardian.co.bw/newsdetails.php?nid=3178&cat=BG%20News>

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Malawi

Lecturers resume work, but tensions persist

Lecturers in Malawi have resolved to return to work to end nearly a year of academic freedom protests during a long-running impasse with the government. But with tensions and mistrust persisting, lecturers have been firm about setting out the conditions under which they will resume classes. In an exclusive interview with *University World News* last week, the spokesperson of the Chancellor College Academic Staff Union, Jessie Kabwila, confirmed that lecturers were indeed returning to work as the new year started.

SOURCE: University World News
Posted to the web 15 January 2012

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20120113214941712>

Mozambique

New Officials for Pedagogic University

Mozambican Prime Minister Aires Ali on Monday swore into office three assistant vice-chancellors for the Pedagogic University (UP), which has now become the largest university in the country, and has expanded well beyond its original task of training secondary school teachers. Ali explained that the three assistant vice-chancellors will strengthen the management capacity of the UP. In 2005, the UP had just 5,539 students, but now, just six years later, the number has swollen to 41,000 on first degree courses and 600 studying for masters' degrees and other post-graduate work.

SOURCE: AIM
Posted to the web 28 November 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111282275.html>

Namibia

UNAM Turns Thousands Away

THE University of Namibia (UNAM) has admitted 4 366 new students out of 15 577 applications received for this academic year. This means that 11 211 people who sought admission to UNAM were rejected. The number of admissions is against the backdrop of over 6 000 students who scored enough points in last year's Grade 12 examinations to qualify for university admission.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 26 January 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201260570.html>

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Foreign Lecturers Dominate Polytechnic

Fifty three percent of the Namibian academic staff at the Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) possess undergraduate qualifications, a situation that has left the institution with no alternative but to engage foreign expertise to maintain its high standard of delivering quality service. These statistics were announced during a welcoming ceremony for 2012 held under the theme 'Internationalisation of Higher Education'. According to statistics provided by the institution, 70 percent of the non-Namibian male academic staff hold doctoral qualifications compared to the 16 percent of Namibian male academic staff.

SOURCE: AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com)
Posted to the web 21 January 2012
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201200945.html>