

# OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY



# **The Role of the African University in Promoting Integration, and Intra-African Trade**

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011*

*at the Africa Union Commission Conference Centre*

*A Side Event of the January 2012 Summit of  
Heads of State and Government of the African Union*

*Concept paper*

## **Introduction and Background**

Regional integration is a key intermediate step toward the integration of African countries into the world economy. Regional integration has been accompanied by the development of intra-regional trade agreements with the most recent being the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 2008. Africa's regional economic communities are making progress in certain areas but the integration process still faces numerous challenges. The selection of 'Promoting intra-Africa Trade' by Africa's Heads of State and Government as the theme for their next Summit in January, 2012 could not have come at a more opportune time.

Africa is diverse in terms of its geographic, natural resource and linguistic distributions. Her higher education system is also diversely structured along colonial (and therefore linguistic) systems, mainly the Anglophone, Arabophone, Francophone, Lusophone and colonial patterns. Despite this diversity, the offerings from the internationalisation of higher education through privatisation and commercialisation as well as the proliferation of open and distance learning opportunities has, until recently, seen a strong African resentment, given the level of development of her higher education system relative to that of industrialised countries. Responding to the challenges of internationalisation therefore involves innovations not only in course provision to ensure relevance, but also in revenue generation, quality assurance, institutional governance, and human resource management. The Arusha Convention, developed under the auspices of UNESCO in 1980, sets the framework for the recognition of degrees and certificates among African universities and holds the key for the harmonization of higher education programmes in Africa. The Convention thus seeks to foster cooperation in information exchange, harmonization of procedures and policies, and attainment of comparability of qualifications to facilitate mobility of Africans across African countries for employment and further study.

The premium placed on education, particularly quality higher education, as the most important tool in developing the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude towards socio-economic development cannot be over-emphasised. This is the bedrock behind the launch of the Second Decade of Education for Africa EX/CL/224 (VIII) by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which identified tertiary level education as one of the seven priorities to be focused on for the ten-year period spanning 2006-2015. The importance of higher education was re-emphasised in the Addis-Ababa Declaration 2007, Assembly/AU/Decl.5(VIII) by the Conference of Heads of State and Government which called more explicitly for "the revitalization of African Universities" in its decision adopting the Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology in Africa.

The purpose for the establishment of the Pan-African University (PAU) is to walk the talk in the implementation of Arusha Convention by creating an exemplary but uniquely different and modern educational structure which focuses on integrative teaching and cutting-edge research, and is strategically conceptualised within the context of the diverse African cultural values, linguistic pluralism, and aspiration for the scientific and technological breakthroughs towards the continent's development.

Despite the enormous challenges, the African Union Commission, working closely with its higher education partners that included the Association of African Universities (AAU), which is designated as the lead implementation agency, has been able to develop this blue print based on the revitalisation of Africa higher education component of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of African Education (2006 – 2015), and the Africa Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology. The conceptualisation of this model African university has undergone several internal and external reviews, and the African Union is today proud to launch the Pan African University.

Given the limited fiscal and human resources in most African countries, and the need to build synergies for home-grown solutions to the numerous developmental challenges facing Africa, building African centres for excellence in higher education through collaboration and cooperation of member countries reinforces the concept of pan Africanism which is being sought at various fronts on the continent. In effect, the actualisation of the Pan African University project is an evidence of creating a stronger higher education 'space' in Africa, which was the theme of the AAU's Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP), that was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in May/June, 2011. It is through this kind of space, in unison with the Revised Arusha Convention and other tools, that such ideas and ideals can flourish and tangible results are achieved.

### **A Synopsis of the Pan African University**

The Pan Africa University provides an opportunity for the continent to claim her rightful place in the global knowledge-based economy. In itself, the PAU is not an isolated new institution but one based on already existing centres across the continent, seeking to promote science and technology in Africa and a strong link between scientific research and economic development. If this objective is achieved, which we believe it will, the PAU will enhance the triple missions of modern universities around the world, namely; education and training; research; and public service / engagement, which in the case of the PAU, is the entire African continent.

In his book *'The Rebirth of African Civilisation'* Chancellor Williams cautioned that the task of establishing an African University "even when pushed on all fronts, as it must be, with the speed consistent with careful study and soundness, will nevertheless be like building a cathedral which one expects to see completed in his lifetime or that of his children" [p.212]. He suggested a master plan with a clear goal to build the 'cathedral', concentrating first on those tasks that are easily and quickly done but which eventually become the foundation for the rest of the tasks [Ibid].

The PAU is modeled on the creation of centers for excellence in the underlisted thematic areas, with each geographical sub-region of Africa hosting a thematic component and serving as a coordinating hub for high quality centers developing similar programs on the continent.

The five thematic areas and the regional hubs of PAU are:

- Space sciences (Southern Africa, with a host institution yet to be identified)
- Water and Energy Sciences, including climate change (North Africa, with a host institution in Algeria)

- Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (Eastern Africa, with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya, as the host institution)
- Life and Earth Sciences, including health and agriculture (Western Africa, with University of Ibadan, Nigeria, as the host institution)
- Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (Central Africa, with University of Yaounde I, Cameroon as the host institution)

It is envisaged that the PAU will facilitate the production of high quality graduates who are sufficiently skilled and knowledgeable – not just in the arena of technical know-how but also equipped with the appropriate attitudes and mindsets to be retained on the continent - to make significant contributions to Africa's development.

The PAU initiative will enhance higher education collaboration with industry to enhance their relevance and contribution to addressing local challenges. It also aims at creating a privileged link with partners, by identifying for each hub, a 'Lead Thematic Partner' to facilitate a new type of cooperation, based on intellectual collaboration. Finally, the PAU initiative will also establish dynamic links with African Diaspora all over the world.

### **Objectives of the Launch**

This launch is to promote and popularise the Pan African University, discuss the potential challenges in its implementation and the contribution of the African University in general to regional integration and intra-african trade. It will be organised as a side event of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for January, 2012 in Addis Ababa. This event provides an opportunity for senior university leaders, particularly Vice Chancellors and Rectors, to make inputs into as well as own the PAU. Several issues will be discussed, including the role of the African university in African regional integration and intra-African trade; academic mobility as facilitated by the Revised Arusha Convention; ensuring quality and excellence in higher education as well as resource mobilisation.

The successful candidates of the third call of the Kwame Nkrumah African union Scientific Awards will also receive their awards during this event.

### **Participation**

The Association of African Universities (AAU), on behalf of the AUC duly invites its member institutions, represented by Vice Chancellors, Rectors and other institutional heads, as well as other higher education stakeholders, particularly researchers, development partners, student representatives and policy makers to the launch. A number of Ministers of higher education will be present.

In total, about 200 higher education representatives from Africa are expected.

### **Date and Venue**

13th -14th December, 2011 at the Conference Centre of the Africa Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## Draft Programme

### Agenda

- Presentations on African Higher education in promoting intra-African Trade
- Presentations on African Higher quality imperatives and financing
- Presentation of Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards for African Women Scientists
- Launching of the Pan African University

### DAY ONE

### HIGHER EDUCATION PARADIGMS IN INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

13<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Time	Activity	Director of Ceremony
09.00- 09.30.	Registration of Participants	
09.30 – 10.00	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p><i>Welcome Remarks</i></p> <p><b>Mrs Vera Brenda Ngosi</b> (Director AUC-HRST)</p> <p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <p><b>Prof Olugbemi Jege</b> (General Secretary, Association of African Universities)</p> <p><b>Prof Lamine Ndiaye</b> (Chairman, PAU High Level Panel)</p>	<p><b>Dr Beatrice Njenga</b> (Head, Education Division- AUC-HRST)</p>
10.00 am - 10.30 am	<p><b>Keynote Presentation:</b> Expectation of the African Corporate Sector from the African University”</p> <p><b>H.E. Erastus Mwencha</b> (Deputy Chairperson of the AUC )</p>	

10.30 a.m. - 11.00 am	Tea/Coffee Break	
<b>THEME ONE: Promoting intra-African Trade Through Higher Education</b>		
11.00 – 11.30	<b>The Pan African University</b> <i>The Concept: Prof. Lamine Ndiaye</i> <i>Progress so far: Dr Njenga</i>	<b>Prof Olugbemi Jegede</b> (General Secretary, AAU)
11.30 – 11.50	The role of Technical Higher education in promoting intra-African Trade <b>H.E. Hon. Kamal Abdel Latif RAHIM</b> (Minister of Human Resources Development, Republic of Sudan)	
11.50 – 12.10	<b>The Pan African University and Intra-African Trade</b> <b>S.E Professeur François ABIOLA</b> (Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique de la République du Bénin)	
12.10 – 12.30	Facilitating Intra-African trade through Academic Mobility <b>Prof Juma Shabani</b> (Director UNESCO Bamako Cluster Office)	
12.30 – 13.00	<b>Discussions</b>	
13.00 pm – 14.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Theme Two: Quality Imperatives and Financing of African Higher Education</b>		
14.30 – 14.50	Continental Framework and Mechanisms for Quality Assurance. Options for the PAU <b>Prof Olusola Oyewole</b> (University of Agriculture Abeokuta)	<b>VC University of Zimbabwe</b>
14.50 – 15.10	Financing Higher Education in Africa <b>Dr Maxwell Mkwezalamba</b> (Commissioner for Economic affairs-AUC)	
15.10 – 16.00	Resource Mobilisation for the PAU	

	<b>Guedegbe, Corbin Michel</b> (African Development Bank)	
16.00 – 16.20	Tea/Coffee Break	
16.20 – 17.00	<b>Discussions</b>	

**DAY TWO**

**KWAME NKRUMAH SCITIFIC AWARDS FOR WOMEN**

**LAUNCHING THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY**

**Presentation of Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards for African Women Scientists**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Director of Ceremony</b>
11.00 – 11.40	<b>Introductory Remarks:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr Jean Ping</b>-AUC Chairperson</li> <li>2. EU Representative to the African Union</li> <li>3. <b>H.E. Prof. Jean-Pierre Ezin</b>, Commissioner, HRST</li> <li>4. AMCOST Chairperson</li> </ol>	<b>Mrs. V.B. Ngosi</b> (Director, HRST)
11.40 - 12 00	<b>Presentation of the Awards</b>	
12.00 – 12. 10	Vote of thanks (by one of the awardees)	

**Launch of the Pan African University**

12.10 – 12. 20	<b>Commissioner HRST</b>	<b>Mrs. V.B. Ngosi</b> (Director, HRST)
12.20 – 12. 30	Signing of MOUs	
12.30 – 12. 40	<b>Launching of PAU</b>  <b>H.E. Dr. Jean Ping</b> (AUC Chairperson)	
<b>13.00 – 14.00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	