

AFRICAN UNION

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF V)
ABUJA, NIGERIA
23 - 27 APRIL 2012**

AU/ EXP/EDUC/ 6 (V)

REPORT ON THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

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1. Introduction

The Pan African University (PAU) project is the culmination of the efforts of the African Union to contribute to the revitalization of higher education and research in Africa, by nurturing quality and exemplifying excellence. The strategic vision of the PAU is the development of institutions for excellence in key areas of Science, Technology, Innovation, Social Sciences and Governance, which would constitute the bedrock of an African pool of world class higher education and research. This would usher in a new generation of African leaders with capacity to optimally harness available human and material resources, imbued with a common vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa.

The PAU is designed as a process of joint implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology in Africa (CPA) (2006-2011). Much work has been done since the project began in 2008, involving Member States, Regional economic Communities (RECs) the higher education community in Africa and the Diaspora, and a wide range of development partners.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2. Allocation of Thematics

Following recommendations from the fourth ordinary session of the conference of ministers of education of the African union (COMEDAFIV) in November 2009, and an extra-ordinary COMEDAF IV in may 2011, the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took decisions in July 2010 and July 2011 to allocate the themes to the five geographic regions, and to allocate four of the themes to four member states. Competitive technical bidding resulted in selection of specific institutions in each of the host countries. Negotiations with Partners have led to selection of key and Lead Thematic Partners for some of the PAU themes. This information is summarized as follows:

Table 1: Allocation of PAU Themes to Regions

Thematic Area	Host	Lead Thematic Partner
Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya EASTERN AFRICA	Discussions still ongoing
Life and Earth Sciences	University of Ibadan, Nigeria WESTERN AFRICA	India
Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences	University of Yaounde II, Cameroon CENTRAL AFRICA	Sweden
Water and Energy Sciences	-----University, Algeria NORTHERN AFRICA	Germany
Space Sciences	----- SOUTHERN AFRICA	Discussions underway

3. Identification of Academic programs and Curriculum Development

Workshops were held simultaneously in the first three PAU institutes in Nairobi, Yaoundé and Ibadan in March and May 2011 to identify academic programs and develop curricula for the various PAU institutes. For ease of management, each institute was restricted to an initial four programs. This was then followed by online exercise by subject experts to further refine the selected courses. In all these activities, experts were identified directly, through RECs, through Member States and through Partner agencies, from the hosting across Africa, the Diaspora and the international community and the diaspora, to further refine the curriculum. In November 2011, the Commission held a stakeholder workshop to finalise and validate these selected curricula. The validated curricula were as follows:

A. Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation

- i. Mathematics
- ii. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
- iii. Electrical Engineering
- iv. Civil Engineering

B. Pan African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences

- i. Plant Breeding
- ii. Reproductive Health and Reproductive Biology
- iii. Geoscience
 - a. Petroleum Geology option
 - b. Mineral Exploration Geology option
- iv. Environmental Management

C. Pan African University Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences

- i. Governance and Regional Integration
- ii. Interpretation and Translation
- iii. Kiswahili

4. Launch of the Pan African University

The Pan African University (PAU) was officially launched on 14th December 2011, by Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) and Prof Sam Ogeri, the Chairperson of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF IV) and the Minister for Education in Kenya. The launch was carried out as a side event of the January 2012 Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU). The launch was preceded by a workshop whose theme was *the role of the African University in promoting Integration and Intra African Trade*, held at the United Nations Conference Centre on 13th December 2011 in Addis Ababa, co-hosted by the Association of African Universities and sponsored by GIZ.

In attendance were members of the Diplomatic Corps in Ethiopia, Vice Chancellors from different African Universities, representatives of different departments of the AUC, UN Agencies, representatives Association of African Universities (AAU), PAU Partners, representatives of Regional Economic Communities, and 7 Laureates for the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award, and the media.

5. Fund Raising

Some of the Member States hosting the PAU have committed funds in support of the PAU institutes in respective countries. The AUC has sourced support from partners including the following commitments: 2 million Euro from GIZ; and 500,000 Euro from Sweden. Spain is also contributing to the PAU activities. Discussions have been held with Japan, India, China and USAID and commitments are awaited.

The African Development Bank has undertaken a needs assessment exercise in the first three PAU Institutes. This will result in a detailed business plan for the PAU, which will enable stakeholders to make reasonable estimates of the needed resources to facilitate resource mobilisation. The AfDB has emphasised the need for Regional economic Communities and Member States to explicitly express their support of the PAU, to facilitate the AfDB mechanism for making funds available. An indicative figure for the envisaged support from AfDB for the first phase is 45 million USD.

The AU on 31st January 2012 hosted a fund-raising luncheon to propel forward the recently launched Pan-African University. A number of potential sponsors, including African well wishers, Philanthropists and Corporate Sector, expressed intention to support the PAU

6. Next Steps for 2012

The AU Summit of January 2012 took a decision endorsing the report and recommendations of COMEDAF IV. The Commission therefore has the mandate to proceed implementing the PAU Statutes, including the activities itemized below:

(i) Operationalisation of the PAU Institute for Water and Energy Sciences in Algeria. This will involve curricula development which will be informed by a continental conference on Energy in Africa to be held in April 2012.

(ii) Early in the year, there will be a call for Member States interested in hosting PAU Centres and the PAU Rectorate. This activity will be organized through Regional Economic Communities. The PAU Rectorate will in the mean time be at the Head Quarters of the African Union.

(iii) Recruitment of staff of the Rectorate and staff of Project Management Units in the PAU Institutes will be undertaken.

(iv) Selection of students and recruitment of Professors will also be undertaken by respective PAU Institutes, using agreed guidelines

(v) Finalisation and signing of various hosting and partnership agreements