ANNUAL AUSTRALIA AFRICA CONFERENCE (AAC) 2015
Enhancing strategic engagement and partnership between government, academia and business
26-28 August 2015, Canberra

Hosted by
AAUN, Australia Africa Business Council, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Heads of African Missions

Wednesday 26 August 2015 *Venue: University House Meeting Room*	
1200 - 1300	Lunch *Venue: The Fellows Café, University House cafeteria*
1300 - 1600	**AAUN Annual Review and General Meeting** *Venue: The Meetings Room, University House*
1600 - 1630	Afternoon Tea *Venue: Meeting room foyer*
1800 - 2100	**AAC Welcome Reception** *Venue: Springbank Room Crawford School of Public Policy* Hosted by the African Group of High Commissioners and Ambassadors in Canberra, the Welcome Reception is an opportunity to build new networks, renew acquaintances and make new connections. Welcome Remarks TBC
Thursday 27 August 2015 *Venue: Molonglo Theatre in the Crawford School of Public Policy*	
0830 - 09:00	Registration & Arrival Tea *Venue: Foyer, Molonglo Theatre in the Crawford School of Public Policy*
0900 - 0915	**Opening Session** Welcome & Introductions **Objective:** The plenary session will signify the overall objectives of the AAC sessions. The keynote speakers will inform delegates of policy issues in their portfolio relevant to the themes of the 2015 AAC.
0915 – 0940	**Moderator:** HE Molosiwa Selepeng (High Commissioner for Botswana) **Opening Presentations** - Hon Stephen Ciobo MP (15min) - Q & A session (10min)
0940 -1000	**Responding second Speaker** (15min + 5min) (TBC) - Equal Partnerships in the Knowledge Economy
1000 - 1015	**Vote of thanks: Practical Priorities and Progress** (10min + 5 min) - Mr Matthew Neuhaus DFAT Africa Branch
1015 - 1045	Morning Tea

	Venue: Foyer, Molonglo Theatre in the Crawford School of Public Policy

1045 - 1215	**Panel Discussion 1:**
	Investment and Business Promotion: Government and Private Sectors
	
	Objective: The session will explore business development opportunities in terms entrepreneurship development for youths and women, and also challenges and opportunities in tourism investment and Agribusiness investment. Furthermore, infrastructure investment and development opportunities including roads, railways, telecommunication and ports as well as renewable power generation investment in Africa (wind, solar, geothermal, biomass).
	
	Moderator: Mr Simba Kippaya
	
	Panellists: (10 min each)
	   - Dr Peter Johnston – Climate Science Frameworks (University of Cape Town)
	   - Mr Benoit Le Bars (OHADA in Africa)
	   - Mr Deon Herbst, Business and Innovation (University of Pretoria)
	   - Mr Grey Johnson (NEPAD)
	
	Open Discussion

1215 - 1330	Lunch *Venue: TBC*

1330 - 1500	**Panel Discussion 2:**
	Education, Science and Technology for Jobs & Economic Development
	
	Objective: Focusing on customising education, science and technology to meet actual local needs and get optimal returns of spent resources. This theme will explore education infrastructure/facilities, systems and quality to meet local needs; Science and Technology incubation centres in Africa; possibilities for regional centres of excellence for research and education through Governments and universities; promotion of Education science and technology as a link between Africa and Australia; and development of Research & Development in terms of its role in business, industrial, social and economic growth of an African country.
	
	Moderator: Prof Anthony Welch
	
	Panellists (10 min each):
	   - Dr George Odhiambo (University of Sydney)
	   - Ms Catherine Gill, DFAT (Education for Women's Economic Empowerment)
	   - Prof Sehoole (University of Pretoria)
	   - Australian Vice-Chancellor (Stephen Parker TBC)
	   - Kofi Osei Bonsu (student speaker) Topic: Australian education program - Knowledge, Social and Economic benefits for Africa
	Open Discussion

1500 - 1530	Afternoon Tea *Venue: Foyer, Molonglo Theatre in the Crawford School of Public Policy*
1530 - 1700	**Panel Discussion 3:** *Food, Nutrition and Health Security Research to Improve Lives & Engage Markets* **Objective:** The session will cover and discuss issues of access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary requirements as well as food preferences of the African countries and maintain food security. The session will examine policies related to agricultural production, political commitment and prioritization of the fight against hunger and malnutrition. **Moderator:** Professor John Hearn **Panellists: (10 min each)** - Dr Nick Austin, (Director ACIAR/AIFSRC) - Prof Kadambot Siddique (University of Western Australia) - Associate Prof Robyn Alders (University of Sydney) - Associate Prof Robyn McConchie (University of Sydney) - Associate Prof Karen Charlton (University of Wollongong) - Prof Mavis Malaudzi (University of Pretoria) **Open Discussion**
1830 for 1900	**Conference Dinner** *Venue: Common Room, University House* Speakers TBC (15 min total)
Friday 28 August 2015 *Venue: University House Common Room*	
0830 - 0900	Arrival Tea *Venue: Foyer, University House Common Room*
0900 - 1100	**Parallel Workshops** *Venues: University House (Common Room, Scarth Room, Drawing Room)* **Objective:** The workshops (Attendant discussions lead by experts or specialists) will be informal and interactive. Delegates representing academia, business and government will be pre-assigned to each workshop with a mix of viewpoints and experiences that will help to drive the discussions. In addition, each workshop will have a facilitator and recorder. Discussions and feedback from AAC 2014 will be included in these workshops. The workshop sessions will be grouped in separate rooms based on the main themes of the conference. The workshops will identify common priorities and recommend either building on AAC 2014 projects or new projects for seed funding application to AAUN partnership funds, matched by government and private sector funding. These proposed projects will be developed further and considered in a competitive call for bids towards the funding. The purpose of the workshop sessions is to integrate AABC and partners in an academia-business-government teamwork in order to close gap between business, research and policy makers and come up with proposed concrete outcomes in terms of policy recommendations and other project proposals. The proposed projects are

	envisaged to be of mutual benefits to both Africa and Australia
	Conveners:
	- **Mr Deon Herbst**
	Investment and Business Promotion: Government and Private Sectors
	Venue: Scarth Room, University House
	- **Dr George Odhiambo**
	Education, Science and Technology for Jobs & Economic Development
	Venue: Drawing Room, University House
	- **Prof Kadambot Siddique**
	Food, Nutrition and Health Security Research to Improve Lives & Engage Markets
	Venue: Common Room, University House
	Note: we expect to seed fund a competitive proposal from each of these workshops. A call for proposals will be announced in September.
1100 - 1130	Morning tea *Venue: Foyer, University House Common Room*
1130 - 1230	**Closing Plenary Session & Reports from workshops** (3 x 12 mins each) and 20 min priority discussions on next steps. A draft communique will be presented. **Objective**: The workshop facilitators will present the outcomes of the workshop sessions to the Plenary. The session will provide feedback and conclusions of each workshop session and identify programmes of action to refine and develop these ideas into actionable initiatives to be implemented by project teams. The formation of bilateral (African/Australian) working groups is contemplated here which will identify a way forward to arrive at concrete policy recommendations and projects for seed funding.
1230 - 1300	**Closing Comments** - DFAT – Ms Catherine Gill - AABC – Mr Simba Kippaya - AAUN – Prof John Hearn - African Heads of Mission **Vote of thanks / communique**

- END OF PROGRAM –

Conference sponsored by
Africa Australia Universities Network (AAUN), African Heads of Mission Group in Australia, Australia Africa Business Council (AABC), Crawford School of Public Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Department of Education, Australian International Food Security Centre (ACIAR), South African Airways (SAA)

Registration: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-australia-africa-conference-aac-tickets-17823666065