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Pan African University - German Cooperation Programme Newsletter



Newsletter of German Development Cooperation Programme for the Pan African University

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A quarterly newsletter by the German Development Cooperation Programme supporting the Pan African University (PAU) and the Pan African Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES) informing about the development of the PAU as well as milestones and results of the support processes. This newsletter is developed and coordinated by GIZ with contributions from KfW.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Towards a leading centre of excellence for the advancement of Africa: PAU Strategic Plan is validated and endorsed



The New Strategic Plan was validated by relevant stakeholders and the higher education community and subsequently endorsed by the PAU Council in Addis Ababa.

The Pan African University with support of renowned international higher education experts developed a five-year strategic plan to foster the sustainable growth and development of the university. The strategic plan was reviewed and validated by stakeholders, partners and the expert community in a workshop November 21-22, 2018 and it was endorsed by the PAU Council on February 13, 2019 in Addis Ababa. The strategic planning process which was supported by the European Union, the German Development Cooperation and the African

Development Bank is now moving on to the implementation phase.

The strategic plan outlines the main priorities for the development of PAU while clearly stating PAU's uniqueness as a continental university. In the next five years, the PAU shall; 1) produce highly skilled Pan Africanist graduates, enabling them to become future responsible decision makers, entrepreneurs and researchers at national, regional and continental level; 2) deliver state-of-the-art development oriented research and innovation to support the enhancement of the African continent as well as science to policy advise; 3) create a Pan African knowledge network through academic cooperation and mobility; and 4) establish a Pan African entrepreneurship hub that fosters cross-border businesses and innovations transfer. Strong steering and support structures at the university must be in place in order to deliver excellent outcomes regarding these unique value propositions in the three core functions of a university -teaching, research and outreach. The strategic plan stipulates clear objectives and targets for PAU's financial sustainability, governance, management and infrastructure development. As a next step, the PAU Council decided the operationalization of the Strategic Plan, the swift recruitment of the Rectorate positions, the improvement of the regulatory framework to accelerate institutional processes and a communication plan clearly stating the unique value propositions.

The Pan African University Council met February 12-13, 2019 in Addis Ababa



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The Pan African University Council met February 12-13, 2018 at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. Among other topics, the Council thoroughly discussed the Strategic Plan and finally endorsed it.

The Strategic Plan was welcomed as a comprehensive and compelling guiding document to consolidate the activities at PAU and to bring it closer to fulfilling its vision and mission, delivering measurable benefits to its member states and the African Union at large.

Central in the discussion were the unique value propositions of the PAU to the member states of the African Union. In addition, required changes in the PAU Statute to allow for smooth implementation of the Strategic Plan will be discussed in the next Council meeting, which is expected to take place in July/August 2019.

Furthermore, the Council welcomed the increase in the number of women applying and attending PAU institutes, as well as the increase of PAU's budget. Long-term academic staff recruitment will be prioritized, and procedures will be addressed to improve the delivery of services. The Council gave its endorsement on the first recruitment of professorships at PAUWES. In line with this, the Council recognised the need to revisit current PAU programs in terms of their relevance, visibility and sustainability.

The PAU Council also recognised the role of the stipends in shaping PAU's unique status while staying still realistic to the funding situation of PAU. A study which was supported by the GIZ PAU program, focusing on the current stipend amount at PAU was presented as one input to support the Council's decision making in this regard. Accordingly, the Council agreed to the reduction of the monthly scholarship amount.

Study trip to South Africa as part of PAU(WES)' "quality journey"

The 'PAU(WES) Higher Education Management Study Trip to South Africa', coordinated by the Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch University and supported by the GIZ, took place December 2-7, 2018 in the Western Cape Region. This one-week study tour was a learning journey for PAU(WES) staff to gain insights from South African universities about various ways to develop and improve educational interventions, and to share experience about building excellence in higher education. Specific focus areas included programme management, teaching and learning, student services, private sector cooperation, entrepreneurship, communications and marketing, and research.



Quality was a cross-cutting theme throughout the tour, and each participant worked on their own processes as part of this "quality journey". The trip included visits to several South African universities in the Western Capesuch such as [Stellenbosch University](#) (SU) and the [Sustainability Institute](#) (SI), [University of Cape Town](#) (UCT) and meetings with faculty from the [Cape Peninsula University of Technology](#) (CPUT) and the [University of the Western Cape](#) (UWC). This study trip contributed to the strengthening of quality higher education management and to the capacity building of staff across PAU(WES).

PAU Key and Thematic Partners met on December 4th, 2018 in Addis Ababa

The Key and Thematic Partners (K&TP) meeting on December 4th, 2018 provided an opportunity for representatives from the German Embassy in Ethiopia, GIZ, JICA, AfDB and USAID to discuss their support of PAU institutes and its latest developments. During the meeting, the partners presented their current support activities and discussed potential synergies as well as potential areas for further collaboration.

Following a short presentation of the draft Strategic Plan, the partners deliberated on ways they could support its endorsement and implementation. The partners would like to jointly support the entrepreneurship activities at the PAU.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Revised PAUWES Curriculum is validated by African and international experts

Over 50 experts and stakeholders from across Africa, as well as from other regions of the world, including North America, Europe and the Middle East came together on February 19th and 20th to validate the new curricular for PAUWES. Participants included academics in the field of Water and Energy Engineering and Policy, Practitioners, Enterprise leaders, students and representatives of key stakeholder institutions such as the PAU Rectorate and the University of Tlemcen. Furthermore, the directors of all PAU institutes and GIZ staff attended the workshop.

The aim of the validation workshop was to ensure a peer review of the new, revised curricular developed by a team of experts. The validation workshop marks the peak of a series of consultative meetings, which have taken place since March 2018. The process was supported by the GIZ.

On the first day, two working groups (one focusing on Energy and the other on the Water) assessed the revised curricular in reference to its alignment to Agenda 2063, the connection between the Engineering and



Policy Tracks, the contribution to student's employability, entrepreneurship and leadership and how it can enhance collaboration with other PAUW Institutes.

On the second day of the workshop, three working groups (Water Engineering, Energy Engineering and Water and Energy Policy) assessed each curricular on: their compatibility to the PAUWES research agenda, the appropriateness of the courses contents for master level, the relevance of the topics to current challenges, the extent to which they prepare students for a PhD, and the courses contribution towards developing students' entrepreneurial mindsets. The validation workshop concluded with a plenary session which gave room for more reflection and discussion on the various outputs from the working groups. Consensus was reached that the new curriculum is in line with Agenda 2063 and the PAUWES research agenda; focuses on African challenges; and contributes to developing student's entrepreneurial mindset. In the next step, the recommendation of the participants will be taken into consideration to finalize the curriculum. Finally, the PAU Rectorate committed to begin the instatement of long-term academic staff to support the smooth implementation of the new curricular.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYABILITY

The Second Edition of the Africa Talks Jobs Conference promotes Youth Entrepreneurship

The [African Union Commission](#) (AUC), the [New Partnership for Africa's Development](#) (NEPAD) and [Business Africa](#) – the continental umbrella organisation for the private sector – held the second Africa Talks Jobs (ATJ) conference at the AUC headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30th to 31st October 2018. It was jointly supported by the European Union (EU) and the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ) through GIZ African Union programmes – the Pan African University Programme (PAU), the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) and the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP). More than 160 representatives of youths, businesses, investors, educational institutions, policy-makers and civil society from all African regions and European partners attended the conference.



160 representatives of youth, businesses, investors, educational institutions, policy-making and civil society organisations from all African regions as well as European partners convened at the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa from 30 to 31 October 2018 for the Africa Talks Jobs Conference.

The specific aim of the experts and practitioners dialogue was to consolidate and identify strategies and actions on youth entrepreneurship promotion in Africa. Consequently, the participants discussed how to provide Africa's next generation with relevant skills that increase businesses' productivity – including ways to engage the private sector in skills development – and how to promote entrepreneurship and youth-led start-ups through concrete actions. Anja Pauls, BMZ Country Desk Officer for the cooperation with pan-African institutions, welcomed the lively discussions, the joint learning process and the invaluable dedication by the private sector. "The BMZ is delighted to be able to support the African Union in promoting its convening power through the Africa Talks Jobs conference and is looking forward to continuing its friendship as well as partnership with the AUC, Business Africa and NEPAD."

In 2019, the platform will be taken to the next level – “Africa Talks Jobs” will transform into “Africa Creates Jobs”. You can read the full press release [here](#).

Introducing the new Career Services and Employability Office at PAUWES



New Career Services Officer Fouad Hadj-Amara with PAUWES students (fourth from right to left, first row).

which can facilitate this transition. Career Services and the Career Services Officer at PAUWES will work closely internally and externally to provide students with skills, networks, inspiration, linkages and opportunities to catalyse their journey into post-PAUWES careers. This includes working with internal and external actors. Mr. Hadj-Amara is looking forward to transferring his leadership skills to students in the PAUWES career services office and to help build an entrepreneurial mindset in the institute: “With my experience, I can assist our student who are interested in creating a business. I have a strong believe that honesty and good teamwork are key factors for success.”

In November 2018, PAUWES set up its Career Services and Employability Office and hired its first officer, Mr. Fouad Hadj-Amara, an alumnus from the University of Tlemcen. The Careers Services and Employability Office at PAUWES will play an essential role in helping the institute achieve its long-term impact goals for Africa through helping to place PAUWES students and graduates into internships and, ultimately, long-term employment. The mission of PAUWES careers services is to support students in their transition from graduates to change makers, and to build partnerships with institutions

PAUWES COMMUNITY

PAUWES and University of Tlemcen students will compete as the only All-African Team in the Solar Decathlon Africa 2019

The Solar Decathlon is a global, biannual collegiate competition by the U.S. Department of Energy, that challenges teams of students from across the world to design and build highly efficient buildings powered by renewable energy. A team of PAUWES and University of Tlemcen students from eight different countries across the continent will be the only All-African team competing at the [Solar Decathlon AFRICA 2019](#) this coming September in Morocco, the first time this event will be held in the continent. The team name is Jua Jamii, a Swahili phrase meaning ‘solar community’, and together they have designed the Jua House: a net-zero-energy house using recyclable containers which also seeks to preserve, modernize and embrace the African architectural heritage.

The GIZ has been supporting Jua Jamii in developing and implementing their communications strategy as well as in their partnership dossier. Team Members from Jua Jamii also received support from the GIZ to attend the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018. The partnerships fostered through the support of the GIZ has made it possible for team members of Jua Jamii to secure funding to participate at the decathlon this year in Morocco, complementing the original 50 000 USD awarded by the organisers to build the house.



Here, part of the Jua Jamii Team, the only All-African Team competing in the Solar Decathlon AFRICA 2019 later this year.

PAUWES and University of Tlemcen host the first OpenCon in North Africa

A group of highly motivated PAUWES students organised the first [OpenCon](#) satellite event in Algeria on December 13th. As the name indicates, OpenCon is an initiative to promote Open Access, Open Education and Open Data in both research and education for the next generation to develop critical skills and catalyse action toward a more open system for sharing the world's information – from research and educational materials to digital research data. This first OpenCon Algeria satellite conference brought together 100 students and academics to discuss issues of open education and research in Africa. The Director of PAUWES, Prof. Abdellatif Zerga opened the event by emphasising the importance of Open Data and Research, given the importance of the education market as the biggest market globally. Keynote speaker Prof. Kamel Belhamel, talked about important tools to enhance Africa's education quality like the Directory Open Access Journal (DOAJ) and the Open Educational Resources (OER). He emphasised as well that “we need to break down the wall blocking complete access to education.”



OpenCon Algeria 2018 was organized by PAUWES students (left to right): Donald Abony, Sallemine Abdelkader, Amira Ghied and Lillian Juma.

This was the first time a satellite event of OpenCon took place in Northern Africa. OpenCon Algeria begun with several keynote speeches, followed by panel discussions and concluded with two highly interactive workshops led by PAUWES students. Additionally, the GIZ supported the students' in developing the programme, marketing the conference, and assisted the students in facilitating the workshop session on research data management. OpenCon Algeria is to become a yearly event.

PAUWES students win Go Green in the City 2018 competition by Schneider Electric

PAUWES students Zvirevo Chisadza and Cynthia Tariro Mutsindikwa –both energy engineers originally from Zimbabwe– won Schneider Electric's Go Green in the City global competition held in Atlanta, USA, November 11-16, 2018. Prior to that they had been selected as the finalist for the Middle East and Africa Region.

Their project titled “Organic Photovoltaic Greenhouses (OPGs)” was selected the global winner, chosen out of over 24,000 young innovators, and top 10 finalist teams who participated in the competition. Together, Zvirevo and Cynthia created an organic photovoltaic greenhouse system that can generate sustainable energy off-grid, increasing crop production: a step forward in the global fight against hunger. Over 815 million people are affected by food shortages globally, and powered greenhouses are a solution to increase crop production with the potential of reducing hunger by 20%. However, green houses consume large amounts of energy, making them costly and unsustainable. This project aims to increase world food production while lowering agricultural carbon emissions, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thanks to this ambitious project, the two winning PAUWES students received job offers from Schneider Electric, and an all-inclusive international trip to two cities of their choice (where Schneider Electric has offices). You can read a blog post by Zvirero and Cynthia [here](#).

“Diversity is key in developing sustainable solutions in Africa and the world at large” – Tony Kukeera

PAUWES Alumni Success Stories

PAUWES is deeply invested in the success of their alumni, and in this section wished to celebrate them, their entrepreneurial spirit, and the work they do towards building a more sustainable, climate resilient and connected Africa.

Tonny Kukeera (27, Uganda) fully embodies these values. As a student, he demonstrated initiative and entrepreneurship: he worked as the leader of the editorial team of the PAUWES Community of Practice, an online platform which connects PAUWES stakeholders virtually so they can interact, communicate, collaborate and network online. This experience taught him the importance of communication to foster diverse communities, a skill which he has transferred into his own projects beyond PAUWES. As a graduate, Tonny founded EnergySol Consulting Ltd with eight former PAUWES students. Together they work to solve energy problems and promote climate change resilience among African communities. Tonny highlights the importance of fostering a professional network with both professors and fellow students while at PAUWES, and approach them as your potential partners for future project:



PAUWES Alumni Tonny Kukeera at the 2nd [Africa-EU Renewable Energy Research and Innovation Symposium \(RERIS\) 2018](#). Tonny also received an award for best poster and pitch presentation during this symposium.

"I do not think there is a place or school in the whole world where you can meet as many amazing people from different backgrounds and countries other than PAUWES."

In 2018, Tonny was awarded the entrepreneurship grant worth USD 5000 by the [Tony Elumelu Foundation](#) and granted the prestigious [International Climate Protection Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#). For this fellowship, Tonny will tackle the issue of information access for off-grid household electricity users, with the intention to promote energy efficiency. You can read more about this [here](#).

EVENTS

These are the upcoming internal and public events

March 2019

- March 7 - 8 Financial Sustainability - Development of Fundraising plan Yaoundé, Cameroon
- March 19 - 20 Academic Rules and Regulations Validation Yaoundé, Cameroon
- March 29 PAUGHSS Graduation Yaoundé, Cameroon

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