

Draft Programme of Events

AUSTRALIA AFRICA CONFERENCE 2014:

Promoting strategic engagement and partnership between government, academia and business

14 – 16 July 2014

Conference Venue: Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Monday 14 July 2014

18:00-21:00 Welcome Reception - Sponsored by the Africa Group of High Commissioners and Ambassadors and the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

Objective: Hosted by the African Group of High Commissioners and Ambassadors in Canberra, this event will provide an opportunity to build new networks, renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. It is envisaged that the reception will set the tone for the interaction between government, business and academia who will be interacting for the next few days. The programme for the event will include introductions and brief statements by the Conference partners; Africa Group, Australia Africa Business Council (AABC), (AAUN), and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. 3 mins each.

Tuesday 15 July 2014

8.30 Registration and Seating

9:00 OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Objective: The plenary session will be formal and will represent the overall objectives of the Conference. A range of other experts from both continents will address the Plenary to inform participants of policy issues in their portfolio relevant to the themes of the Conference. Thus, participants will have an unparalleled opportunity to learn from Australia and Africa based policy makers about the existing and potential areas for enhancing cooperation between Australia and African countries.

Moderator: H.E. Mr Molosiwa Selepeng, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana and Dean of the African Heads of Mission in Australia. Mr Selepeng has a distinguished career in the Foreign Service since joining the Department of External Affairs of Botswana in 1971. He's served in London (twice) and Brussels. He's also served with distinction in other areas in the public service. Other appointments include

Senior Private Secretary to the President, Permanent Secretary for Political Affairs, Permanent Secretary to the President, Head of the Public Service, Secretary to Cabinet, and Special Envoy in a number of multilateral negotiations. He has considerable experience in public administration, diplomacy, multilateralism, conflict resolution and the art of negotiation. He is the recipient of the Presidential Order of Honour (PH) in recognition of his efficient and devoted service to the Republic of Botswana. Mr. Selepeng was appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to Australia in 2003. He is presently the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Canberra.

Welcome and Introductions. 5min

Opening Remarks

- Mr. Charles Millward, President of the AABC (ACT Chapter). 3min
- Prof. John Hearn, University of Sydney Medical School, Chairman of the AAUN and Chief Executive of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).3min
- First Assistant Secretary of the Middle East and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). 3min

9:15 Keynote Presentations (TBC)

- Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana (TBC) .15- 20min
- Mr Kuseni Dlamini, Chairman, Times Media Group Ltd (TBC). 15-20 min

10:05 Questions and Answers. 25min

Vote of Thanks

10:30 Morning Tea

11:00 Panel Discussion One

1. Development Strategies in Africa: Development Models, Export Processing Zones and Dutch Disease.

Objective: The session will look at the East Asian model and how Export Processing Zones (EPZs) contributed to stellar growth rates. The panel will also discuss industrialisation in a resource rich country and managing the Dutch Disease. Examples in Africa will be studied. Recent studies show that in recent decades resource rents in Africa have been squandered. So, the problems of development in a resource rich country will be examined. Of course, it was Australian economists who pioneered the study of Dutch Disease so this is particularly appropriate.

- Moderator: **Professor Ernest Aryeetey**, Professor Ernest Aryeetey is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana and was the director of the Brookings Africa Growth Initiative from 2009 – 2010. He has also been temporary lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (1993); visiting professor at Yale University Department of Economics (1999); and the Cornell visiting professor, Department of Economics at Swarthmore College (2001-2002). He studied economics at the University of Ghana and obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Dortmund, Germany in 1985.

Welcome and Introductions. 3min

The discussion will include:

- **Prof Bob Gregory(Australian National University University)**: Prof. Gregory was the first economist in the world to systematically identify the economic issues associated with a booming resources sector. He has contributed substantially to the literature on the subject and is an authority on Dutch disease
- **Mr Claude Baissac (Johannesburg)**: a political risk consultant who assists mining companies in de-risking their investments in Africa. He is currently President of the World Processing Zone Association and consults extensively to the World Bank on implementing Special Economic Zones in Africa.
- **Mr Stephen Wilson, General Manager, Rio Tinto Energy (TBC)** Mr Wilson is an economist by training and is actively involved in the development of Rio Tinto's engagement strategy in the developing world
- **Andrew Barnes** is the Director, Southern Africa Section, DFAT. Andrew and his team manage in-Australia aspects of our bilateral relationships (political, economic, development) in Southern Africa, and engagement with regional organisations such as SADC. He and his team work with DFAT's Africa Posts to deliver Australia's aid program support to extractives governance across Southern, East, West and Central Africa.

Questions and Answers.

Vote of Thanks.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Panel Discussion Two

Education, Science and Technology in Africa: Creating a Synergy to generate jobs and create wealth

Objective: The session will provide insight into the role of science and technology in innovation, sustainable energy and technology transfer; in particular opportunities for employment arising from the deployment of new technologies will be examined, including requirements for vocational education and contributions from business. Australia sees developing countries as important partners, markets and sources of talent and on that basis have established effective partnerships to deliver tangible business outcomes which bring a return in revenue, relationships, employment and enhanced living standards. Accordingly, the session will provide a platform for sharing of thoughts and experiences which can help identify potential areas for capacity building, technology transfer and business partnerships that can contribute to lowering the barriers in employment opportunities, access to technical training, sustainable energy development and technology transfer in African countries.

Moderator: **Dr. Daniel Connell**, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU. Dr. Connell teaches and researches at the Australian National University, Crawford School of Public Policy. His research focuses on governance issues affecting rivers in federal systems such as Australia, Southern Africa, the United States, Europe, India, China and Brazil. Daniel also teaches courses dealing with the politics of trans-boundary rivers and environmental policy and communications. His publications include *Water Politics in the Murray Darling Basin* published in 2007 by Federation Press and *Basin Futures: water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin* co-edited with Quentin Grafton and published by ANU E-Press.

Welcome and Introductions. 3min

The discussion will include:

- **Cheryl de la Rey**, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria. Her previous executive positions include Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Higher Education, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and Executive Director at the National Research Foundation. Professor De la Rey is registered as a Psychologist by the Health Professions Council of South Africa, is a fellow of the Psychological Association of South Africa, a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and of the Academy of Science of South Africa. She is a member of the national Human Resource Development Council, the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), International Council of Science's (ICSU) Strategy and Planning Committee, the Talloires Network, and she is the African Co-Chairperson of the Australia – Africa Universities Network (AAUN).
- **Morgana Ryan - Accenture (Sydney)**, is the Director-Asia Pacific for Accenture Development Partnerships. In addition to overseeing Accenture Development Partnerships' regional portfolio of work with more than 20 clients, she also provides strategic input and oversight for much of its work with international nongovernmental organizations in the strategy, organizational design and ICT for development areas. She has become increasingly involved in cross-sectoral partnerships in line with the growing convergence between business and development.
- **Dr. Osamuyimen (Uyi) Stewart** is the chief scientist of IBM Research – Africa, the newest laboratory in IBM's global network of twelve research labs that will focus on technological innovations germane to the African Continent. In the services industry, the largest

segment of the information technology (IT) marketplace, he was instrumental to the formation of IBM's Services Innovation Lab, responsible for the technical strategy and program management involving 200 researchers across eight global labs.

- **Dr Nathan Steggel** – is the Chief Operating Officer of the Canberra based Windlab systems, a company focused on developing wind farms worldwide. The company uses a proprietary technology developed in Australia to calculate optimal setting for wind farms. Nathan was instrumental in forming a consortia in South Africa which have won two government tenders to develop massive windfarms in that country.

Questions and Answers.

Vote of Thanks.

15:00 Afternoon Tea

15:30 Panel Discussion Three

Health, Nutrition and Food Security: optimal policies to improve agricultural production to enhance nutrition and food security and harnessing emerging markets.

Objective: The session will determine optimal governmental policy interventions in agriculture to maximise food output and ensure its distribution in such a way to provide food security to the population. The contribution of food security to good health outcomes will also be considered, as will the role of the private sector in achieving these outcomes.

Moderator: **Professor John Hearn**, Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network and Chair of the Australia – Africa Universities Network. He is Professor of Reproductive Physiology in the School of Medical Sciences at the University of Sydney. He was awarded his PhD from the Australian National University (ANU) and served for 6-7 years each in leading research, teaching and administrative positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin, ANU and Sydney. He was Vice President (Research) at ANU 2000-4, and Vice President (Academic and International) at University of Sydney 2004-13. He teaches first year and advanced students in science and biomedicine. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Welcome and Introductions. 3min.

The discussion will include:

- **Melissa Wood** is the Director of the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC). Prior to this role, Melissa worked with the Rome-based Global Crop Diversity Trust and in the Bureau of Rural Sciences within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Ms Wood has led scientific teams working on natural resource management issues, monitoring and sustainability reporting, the development of online tools for knowledge management, conservation agriculture and food security. She has partnered with international governments, the Australian Commonwealth and state governments, industry bodies and with national and international NGOs and farmer groups. She holds a BSc in Resource Environmental Management from the Australian National University.
- **Dr Peter Johnston, Applied Climatologist at University of Cape Town.** Peter Johnston is a climate scientist at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on the applications and impacts of climate variability and change on various user sectors. He specialises in agriculture and water related activities with special emphasis on vulnerability and adaptation options. He has worked closely with the Western Cape Government in developing a climate change vulnerability study and this was followed by a strategy and action plan. He is also involved in the African centre for cities looking at adaptation frameworks for both Cape Town and Johannesburg. His interests and involvements have taken him to many African countries to learn from and contribute to other water and agricultural adaptive practices to climate change and variability.
- **Distinguished Prof James Dale, AO Director/Distinguished Professor, Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities (TBC)** D/Prof Dale has been involved in biotechnology research for more than 25 years with specific interests in molecular farming for high value proteins in tobacco and bioethanol from sugarcane, the development of disease resistance in genetically modified bananas, papaya and sugarcane and the biofortification of bananas. His research team has developed a range of biotechnology methods and products for expressing transgenes in plants. He has also led research and development programs in the international arena most of which have been based in South East Asia and more recently in Africa.

Questions and Answers.

Vote of Thanks.

17:00 End of Session

18:30 for 19:00 Conference Dinner

Hosted by Rio Tinto and attended by delegates and VIP guests.

Wednesday 16 July 2014

09:00 WORKSHOPS

Objectives: The workshops (expert group discussions) will be informal and interactive. Delegates representing academia-business-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. Full participation of delegates from across Australia and African countries will add considerably to the profile of the conference and provide crucial input. The workshops will identify common priorities and recommend 2-3 research/education projects to be funded by AAUN partnership funds, matched by government and private sector funding. It is expected that the workshops on (i) Education, Science and Technology, and (ii) Health, Nutrition and Food Security will generate major following and interest; hence, two (2) projects will emerge from there. The AAUN already has a proven record in requesting priority proposals to be formulated and recommended by each workshop. These are developed further and considered in a competitive call for bids. The projects are implemented by the project teams with regular reporting and oversight from AAUN Central Office. The purpose in this conference is to include AABC in an academia-business-government teamwork.

Morning Workshops:

(Note. 10:30-11:00 Morning Tea)

Co-chairs – TBC

1. Development models, EPZ's & Dutch Disease
2. Education, Science & Technology
3. Health, Nutrition and Food Security

Note – the AAUN business meeting and AGM will be held in parallel to the first session of the morning 0900-1030

12:30 Lunch

14:00 CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Objective: The facilitators will present the outcomes of the workshop (expert group discussions) to the Plenary. The purpose of the wrap up session will be to provide feedback to all conference participants on the 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.

Moderator: **H.E. Ayoola Olukanni, High Commissioner of Nigeria.** Ambassador Olukanni is a career diplomat with over thirty years experience in the Nigerian Diplomatic Service. He's served in a variety of fields and senior positions in Brussels, New York, Tel Aviv, Nairobi and Vienna. He was appointed the High Commissioner of Nigeria in Australia in 2011, with concurrent accreditation to New Zealand, Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu. Ambassador Olukanni has considerable experience in the field of environment and sustainable development and negotiations of Multilateral Environment Agreements.

Welcome and Introductions. 3mins

Presentation of Outcomes.

Questions and Answers.

15:30 Afternoon Tea

16:00 Closing Comments by:

- AAUN
- AABC
- African Head of Mission
- DFAT Representative

16:30 Vote of Thanks

End of Programme of Events