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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

Enhancing the Fundraising Capacity of the Pan African University



Representatives from the PAU Rectorate and the PAU Institutes' Directors gathered in Yaoundé, to develop a financial sustainability roadmap in line with the Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

In March, the directors and staff of the PAU institutes met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to work on a fundraising roadmap for the PAU. The process included a training on how to map, evaluate and approach potential funders, as well as on how to organize the budget process considering multiple sources of funding. The participants jointly identified the next steps to be taken and developed a draft action plan towards enhancing the financial sustainability of the PAU. Accordingly, these technical preparatory meetings serve as a crucial stepping stone for the elaboration of a financial sustainability roadmap

which is aligned with the PAU Strategic Plan. The process shall continue and result in capacities being developed at Rectorate and institute level for improved financial planning processes, an overview of potential donors and funding, approaches for successful fundraising and a long-term consolidation of the PAU budget. The fundraising efforts are complementing the budget provisions by AU member states that have demonstrated their ownership of PAU with a significant increase in their contribution.

Strengthening Communication at the Pan African University



The PAU Institute directors and a representative from the Rectorate met with communications expert at the African Union in Addis Ababa to consolidate the PAU's external communication strategy.

In February, as part of a process to strengthen the PAU's communication and public relation activities, the PAU institute directors, representatives from the PAU Rectorate as well as the communication officers of all institutes jointly planned the PAU website development process and decided on its structure. Three international communication experts will continue to support the PAU in strengthening its communication strategy and aligning communication channels and products across all PAU Institutes.

Having a clear identity is key to successfully meet the

expected outcomes of the new strategic plan by mobilizing funds and approaching new partners that will ultimately have an impact on the financial sustainability of the PAU. The process will continue until October 2019 and will result in a new PAU website as well as different communication products and strengthened communication capacities.

Ensuring support of the PAU Rectorate on-site: part of the GIZ-PAU team moves to Yaoundé, Cameroon

The PAU Rectorate is fully operational from Yaoundé. Following its relocation, the GIZ-PAU team has been setting up operations on-site since the beginning of 2019. GIZ will be represented by two international long-term experts who will further support the Rectorate in its overarching steering and coordination tasks. Among others, they will support the implementation of the strategic plan and the development of a quality framework of the university.

Lead advisor is Silke Blohm, former Director of Research at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London, who joined the GIZ to take on

this new responsibility. Afanwi Niba, GIZ advisor who accompanied the relocation of the PAU Rectorate to Yaoundé asserts that “The GIZ PAU Team will continue to work closely with the PAU Rectorate in Yaoundé to support the consolidation of the PAU and its institutes.” To further strengthen the infrastructure on-site, Germany through KfW has designated financing for IT equipment for the new PAU Rectorate building in Yaoundé.



The Pan African University Rectorate in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

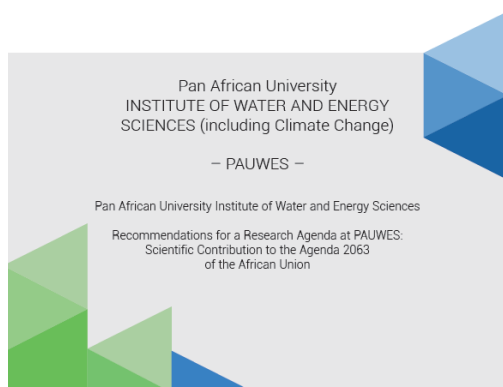
Master thesis analysis at PAUWES demonstrates a strong alignment with its research agenda and a practice orientation



Starting in November 2018, an analysis of the PAUWES students master theses was launched. The analysis aimed to assess student master thesis with regards to their methodology, thematic focus, case study location, practical orientation, as well as their relevance to the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and the STISA. A total of 149 theses (26 from cohort 1, 46 from cohort 2 and 77 from cohort 3) were analyzed.

This analysis was also an opportunity to assess areas in which PAUWES can further strengthen the research conducted by students at the institute, in order to contribute to the need of creating knowledge and innovation for the African continent related to development agendas. The analysis concluded that close to all the student theses (99%) from the past 3 cohorts have been in line with the priority areas of the PAUWES Research Agenda. Additionally, more than 80% of the theses had a strong practice orientation, as it is encouraged at the institute. This practice orientation is in line with the entrepreneurial and problem-solving mindset prioritized by the PAU Strategic Plan 2020-2024. Most of the research at PAUWES focused on Western and Eastern Africa, reflecting

the populations of PAUWES' students. The analysis also shows that there is a strong interest to engage in climate change research. This is a call for PAUWES to support future students in conducting research in this field, particularly in climate change adaption, a priority research area in the African context where most of the population is vulnerable to climate change.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYABILITY

The Second Pan-African Youth Forum engages youth from across Africa on education and entrepreneurship

The Youth Division of the Department for Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST) of the AU Commission organized the “Pan African Youth Forum” on the 25th – 27th of April in the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Additionally, the “Reach One Million African Youth by 2021” initiative was launched at the Forum, which aims to directly invest in African Youth in four key areas: Entrepreneurship, Education, Engagement and Employment. Having gathered more than 400 youth from across Africa — including 12 Pan African University (PAU) students from all four institutes — with policy makers, entrepreneurs, private sector and practitioners, Africa’s needs and opportunities regarding these four areas were discussed.



400 Youth from all five African regions came together for the 2nd Pan African Youth Forum to discuss entrepreneurship, engagement, employment and education.

The director for the Center for African Entrepreneurship and Leadership (CAEL) at the University of Wolverhampton and member for the ATJ network Paschal Anosike, in one of the parallel sessions, highlighted the role of the PAU in creating an international community and the need to capitalize on this knowledge exchange in creating solutions for Africa. Additionally, he commented on PAUWES’ E-Hub, which has taken the very necessary steps on operationalizing students’ experience and leadership. Necessary for the success of such initiatives, is creating networks across the continent, which is one of the PAU’s Strategic Plan 2020-2024 primary goals.

The PAU, PAUWES’ Entrepreneurship Hub (E-Hub) and Africa Creates Jobs (formerly ATJ) showcased their work and provided input during the 4-day event, actively supporting the co-creation sessions central to the 2nd Pan-African Youth Forum.

PAUWES COMMUNITY

“Education is one of the most important tools for sustainable development” - PAUWES Student has been awarded the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneur Award 2019

PAUWES Success Stories



Shingirayi Kodongwe, Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneur 2019 awardee and PAUWES student, at OpenCon Algeria 2018.

For his ambition to re-invent primary school education for low-income families in Zimbabwe, Shingirayi Kodongwe, a PAUWES Energy Policy Student, was awarded the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneur Award 2019. His application was chosen among over 216,000 applications from across the continent. The Tony Elumelu Foundation champions entrepreneurship as catalysts for social and economic development across the African continent.

This entrepreneurial project aims at providing affordable high-tech and computer-assisted learning to under-privileged youth in Harare, Zimbabwe, starting January 2020, and aiming to expand across the continent over the next 10 years.

Shingirayi's project contributes to Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want and to the SDG4 by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all: "I believe this is one of the most relevant ways of developing the African continent by empowering youth and enabling them to become innovators and problem solvers."

Shingirayi believes that PAUWES is a springboard to a successful career working on solving sustainability challenges across Africa: "Being at PAUWES gives me courage to really challenge myself and believe that anything is possible." Shingirayi encourages prospective and current students at PAUWES to empower themselves and to test their skills and knowledge outside the classroom among others by engaging in entrepreneurial and innovation competitions. Shingirayi will graduate from PAUWES in 2020.

The selected entrepreneurs will each receive \$5,000 of seed capital, access to mentors, and a 12-week business training programme, directly focused on the needs of African entrepreneurs.

PAUWES students demonstrate their skills at Sprint Challenge

The Design Sprint was held at PAUWES in collaboration with the Sustainability Institute (Stellenbosch, South Africa) on April 25th-27th. Experts Keneilwe Munyai (Design Thinking Expert from Cape Town University) and Angela Coetzee (Lead Research Consultant from the Sustainability Institute) led the sprint challenge together with Amazigh Fouad Dib (Private Sector Coordinator) and Fouad Haj Amara (Career Service Officer). A design sprint is a process for answering critical business questions through design, prototyping and testing ideas with clients. This design

marathon aimed at helping students identify clients' needs and to engage with different stakeholders for their designs. The students explored workable solutions to problems and developed prototypes to visualize their ideas. Students working in diverse multidisciplinary teams tried to solve a challenging problem within a limited time. This provided opportunity for PAUWES students to learn the importance of building prototypes, testing and polishing a design idea in a brief period in order to meet the client's needs.



Dr. Keneilwe Munyai, design thinking expert, and Angela Coetzee, lead research consultant, with PAUWES students at the Sprint Challenge.

Yacouba Sawadogo, Alternative Nobel Prize winner, Visits PAUWES

On May 2nd, the winner of Right Livelihood Award 2018 Yacouba Sawadogo gave an inspiring presentation at PAUWES on water and food security. Mr. Sawadogo, known as "the man who stopped the desert" for his use of a traditional farming technique to fight the drought in Burkina Faso, spent 40 years of his life working to improve the livelihoods and well-being of his community.

The Right Livelihood Award –which is often referred as the alternative Nobel Prize– is an international award honoring those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges of today. Mr. Sawadogo, a Burkinabe farmer, reintroduced a traditional farming method called "Zai" which has resulted in a current rate of reforestation of over 10000 hectares of land. His forest is one of the most diverse in the Sahel Belt with more than 60 species of trees and bushes. This Burkinabe farmer transformed the lives of the people from his community while contributing to food security as the method employed conserves rain water and improves soil fertility.



Yacouba Sawadogo, Burkinabe Right Livelihood Award, with Prof. Abdellatif Zerga, director of PAUWES.

Prof. Abdellatif Zerga, Director of PAUWES, greeted Mr Sawadogo at PAUWES for an Entrepreneurship Conference on Water and Food Security, and PAUWES students were able to exchange knowledge and experience with him.

Ann Mogoi – in Memoriam

The PAU Team and the GIZ-PAU Team has been deeply saddened by the sudden loss of the PAUWES Graduate Anne Mogoi Birundu, one of the 157 victims aboard of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302. Anne had been part of the first cohort at PAUWES in the Water Engineering track and was an example to her peers and prospective students alike. She was a results-oriented registered Civil Engineer with expertise in Water Resources development projects that focus on the Water, Food and Energy Nexus, Sustainable Environment Management, Climate Change, Research, Innovation and Development.

With her studies, Anne aimed at becoming a leading expert in the field of sustainable water management, who would contribute to improved livelihoods in Kenya and the region. Anne was at the time of her passing an Engineering PhD student at Boku University in Vienna, Austria. She had been travelling to visit her family and to elaborate her PhD proposal with her academic supervisor in Nairobi, when the terrible accident happened.

We have been deeply saddened by this tragedy and we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Anne's family, friends and colleagues and to all those all those who were close to the victims of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302.

EVENTS

Upcoming events

May 2019

May 14-15 PAU Aligned Communication Nairobi, Kenya

June 2019

June 6 PAU Council Bureau Meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Registered offices

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Registered at

Local court (Amtsgericht)
Bonn, Germany
Registration no. HRB 18384
Local court (Amtsgericht)
Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Registration no. HRB 12394

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In charge of this newsletter:

Karen Hauff

Editors:

Franziska Ruess

With contributions from:

Essete Abebe
Jose Diaz Mendoza
Ana Werkstetter
Ünsal Melis Karakuş

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