AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
WORKSHOP

Building Pathways Towards Sustainability through Collaborative Research and Innovation

📅 8th-10th May, 2024  📍 INTERCONTINENTAL
Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort
# Agenda Summary

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<td><strong>Wednesday, May 8</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>08:00 - 08:45</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>09:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Group picture and coffee break</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Session I</strong>: Panel Discussion on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda</td>
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<td>11:30 - 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Session II</strong>: Panel Discussion with University Presidents from host universities of the Centers of Excellence to discuss the importance of these centers to their university ecosystems</td>
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<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00 - 15:30</td>
<td><strong>Session III</strong>: Panel Discussion with Water and Agriculture Centers to discuss key innovations within their research</td>
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<td>16:00 - 17:30</td>
<td><strong>Session IV</strong>: Panel Discussion with STEM and Education Centers to discuss key innovations within their research</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
<td>09:00 - 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Session V</strong>: Panel Discussion with Health Centers to discuss key innovations within their research</td>
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<td>Parallel thematic sessions to help facilitate partnership discussions between centers</td>
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<td><strong>Session VII</strong>: Lessons and Findings from the ACE Partner Initiative</td>
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<td><strong>Pitching Session</strong> (participation of pre-selected Centers)</td>
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Day 1

Wednesday, May 8

08:00 – 08:45
Registration

09:00 – 10:00
Opening Ceremony
Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom

Moderators:
- Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire, Senior Program Manager, Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Prof. Meshack Obonyo, Project Coordinator, Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)

Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary, Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)
- Prof. Olusola B. Oyewole, Secretary General, Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Mr. Hans Stausboll, Director for Africa, European Commission Directorate for International Partnerships
- Ms. Sophia Ndemutila Ashipala, Head of Education Division, the African Union
- Mr. Mathieu Thenaisie, Deputy Director for Mauritius, Agence française de développement (AFD)
- Dr. Daniel Dulitzky, Regional Director, Human Development, World Bank

10:00 – 10:30
Group Picture and Coffee Break

10:30 – 11:00
Plenary Session I: Panel Discussion on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda
Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom

Moderator: Ms. Muna Meky, Education Practice Manager, World Bank

Presentation: Overview of the ACE Program
- ACE Program Managers

Speakers:
- Dr. Laurent Bochereau, European Union Science Counsellor to the African Union
- Dr. Daniel Dulitzky, Regional Director, Human Development, World Bank
- Prof. (Dr.) Kiran Bhujun, Director – Tertiary Education and Scientific Research Division, Ministry of Education, Mauritius

Moderated Q&A session

Objective: To have an engaging discussion on the context, goals, and next steps for the AU-EU Innovation Agenda with a specific focus on how partnerships fostered this week can contribute towards it.

11:30 – 13:00
Plenary Session II: Panel Discussion on Leveraging Centers of Excellence to Strengthen University Ecosystems
Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom

Moderator: Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai, Former Vice Chancellor of University of Mauritius and Former Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities
ACE 10th Anniversary Countdown (2014-2024): Celebrating a Decade of Advancing Post-Graduate Education Excellence in Africa

11:30 – 13:00

Speakers:
• Prof. Svein Stølen, Rector of University of Oslo and Chair of The Guild (Network of Research Intense European Universities)
• Prof. El Hadji Bamba Diaw, Director General, 2iE, Burkina Faso
• Prof. Celestino Obua, Vice Chancellor, Mbarara University, Uganda
• Prof. Tomislav Josip Minaric, Vice Rector, University of Zagreb, Croatia
• Representative from Mauritius

Objective: To have an engaging discussion on the impact that centers of excellence have on their host universities, specifically with cultivating an ecosystem for innovation, relevant research, and industry linkages.

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Plenary Session III: Panel Discussion on Research and Innovation within the Water and Agriculture Sectors
Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom

Moderator: Dr. Uchechi Obinna, Researcher at the Center of Expertise Water Technology (CEW), Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Speakers:
• Prof. Harouna Karambiri, International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE), Burkina Faso
• Prof. Eric Danquah, West African Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI), Ghana
• Mr. Pieter De Jong, European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology (Wetsus), The Netherlands
• Mr. Olof Blomqvist, Project Lead, Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), Lund University, Sweden
• Dr. Hans Komakech, Water Infrastructure & Sustainable Energy Centre for the Futures (WISE FUTURES), Tanzania
• Mr. Matija Zulj, Founder and CEO of Digital Agriculture Solutions for Agri-Food Value Chain (AGRIVI)
• Dr. Sera Gondwe, Center of Excellence in Transformative Agriculture Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (TACE), Malawi

Objective: To have an engaging discussion on current research, innovation, and partnerships already occurring within and outside of Africa in the Water and Agriculture sectors.

15:30 – 16:00
Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30

Plenary Session IV: Panel Discussion on Research and Innovation within the STEM and Education Sectors
Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom

Moderator: Dr. Kojo Appiah, Engineering Advisor (Semiconductor Industry) & Sustainable Development Advocate (Africa)

Speakers
• Prof. Maïssa Mbaye, ACE in Mathematics and ICT (MITIC), Senegal
• Prof. Raghava R. Kommalapati, National Science Foundation (NSF) CREST Center for Energy & Environmental Sustainability, United States
**Day 2**

**Thursday, May 9**

**09:00 – 10:30**

**Plenary Session V: Panel Discussion on Research and Innovation within the Health Sector**

*Room: Intercontinental, Ballroom*

**Moderator:** Dr. Daniel Dulitzky, Regional Director, Human Development, World Bank

**Speakers:**
- Prof. Gordon Awandare, West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious and Non-Communicable Diseases (WACCBIP + NCDS), Ghana
- Prof. Bojan Polic, University of Rijeka, Croatia
- Dr. Abebaw Fekadu, Centre for Innovative Drug Development & Therapeutic Trials (CDT-Africa), Ethiopia
- Prof. Hadiza Galadanci, ACE for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Nigeria
- Prof. Adnan Custovic, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Dr. Ogwang Patrick Engeu, Pharm-Biotechnology & Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC), Uganda

**Brief Reflection:** Prof. Christian Happi, ACE for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID), Nigeria

**Objective:** To have an engaging discussion on current research, innovation, and partnerships already occurring within and outside of Africa in the Health sector.

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**10:30 – 11:00**

**Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 12:30**

**Thematic Breakout Sessions**

*Room Assignments:*
- **Health:** Intercontinental Hotel, Ballroom
- **Urban/Transport:** Intercontinental Hotel, Aris
- **Mining:** Intercontinental Hotel, Trochetia
- **Agriculture:** Ravenala Hotel, B-Leisure
- **ICT:** Ravenala Hotel, Think Tank 1
- **Water:** Ravenala Hotel, Think Tank 2
- **Education:** Ravenala Hotel, Think Tank 3
- **Energy:** Le Jadis Hotel, Latania

**High Level Side Meeting**

*Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Baracuda*

**Objective:** To help facilitate partnership discussions between centers and research networks within and outside of Africa in all relevant ACE thematic areas.

Please see the online program for details on ACE assignments and international participants.
Day 3  
**Friday, May 10**

09:00 – 10:00  
**Session VI: Graduate Tracer Study Results**  
Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Ballroom  
Moderator: Prof. Kokou Kouami, ACE Impact Project Steering Committee Member, Togo  
Speaker:  
• Ms. Kate Wang, International Partnerships, MyCOS Group  
Moderated Q&A  
Objective: To share preliminary results from a Graduate Tracer Study recently conducted on the ACEs program.

10:00 – 11:00  
**Session VII: Key Achievements, Findings and Lessons from the ACE Partner Initiative**  
Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Ballroom  
Moderator: Prof. Olusola B. Oyewole, Secretary General, Association of African Universities (AAU)  
Speaker: Dr. Helene Kirchner, Inria (National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology) & IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development).  
Objective: To share key achievements, lessons learned, and key findings from an evaluation of the ACE Partner Initiative (creation of four inter-ACE research networks related to infectious diseases, mining, water, and digital science & technology).

11:00 – 12:00  
**Extended Coffee Break for Informal Networking**

Coffee Break and Networking for University Presidents

Side Meeting for University Presidents  
Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Baracuda  
Facilitator:  
• Dr Roberta Bassett, ACE Task Team Leader for Eastern and Southern Africa, World Bank  
Objective: To explore both the areas of dynamic development in innovation and partnership opportunities and the pressure points/ challenges that university presidents face in optimizing these opportunities for their institutions.

12:30 – 13:30  
**Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00  
**Thematic Breakout Sessions continued**

15:00 – 15:30  
**Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00  
**Thematic Breakout Sessions continued**
12:00 – 13:00 | **Session VIII: Highlights from Thematic Breakout Sessions**  
Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Ballroom  

**Moderator:** Prof. Alassane Ndiaye, ACE Impact Subject Matter Expert in Transport and Logistics  

**Speakers:** Select representatives from Thematic Breakout Sessions

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13:00 – 13:30 | **Closing Ceremony**  
Room: Intercontinental Hotel, Ballroom  

**Moderators:**  
- Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire, Senior Program Manager, Association of African Universities (AAU)  
- Prof. Meshack Obonyo, Project Coordinator, Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA)  

**Reflections and Next Steps:**  
- ACE Program Task Team Leaders, World Bank  

**Official Closing Address**

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13:30 – 14:30 | **Lunch**