

AfricaLics Newsletter

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AfricaLics

<https://africalics.org>

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About AfricaLics

The African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) is celebrating its 10 years anniversary since its launch in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in March 2012. The Secretariat is based at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), in Nairobi, Kenya and provides general support to the network.

It also implements a research capacity building (RCB) Programme entitled “Enhancing research capacity on Innovation and development (I&D) in Africa”. The network is financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



In line with the overarching vision, the network supports African countries in developing and utilizing high-quality research, conducted by African researchers, to enable more informed policy decisions to be made relating to the use of science, technology, and innovation (STI) for economic and social development as well as efficient governance. The network works closely with like-minded relevant international and local researchers and research networks to realize this vision.



UPCOMING EVENT

NigeriaLics PhD Academy

The first NigeriaLics Ph.D. Academy will be held from February 1st - 8th 2023 at the University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria. The Academy is expected to be a West African event rather than a Nigerian event. Applications attracted scholars from Ghana, Burkina Faso, and the Benin Republic. Part of the event will be supported by AfricaLics under Sida's research capacity-building funds. The AfricaLics Scientific Board congratulates NigeriaLics for this great milestone.



Nigeria PhD Academy Participants 2015

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

5th AfricaLics Research Conference Date: 9th - 11th November 2022

The conference was hosted by the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon and the Pan-African University, Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAUGHSS).

This year's conference combined plenary sessions, presentations of research papers in parallel tracks, thematic panel sessions or special sessions, and book presentation sessions. Over 250 papers were submitted and about 83 were selected for the conference.

Please visit the AfricaLics website for more information about the conference [here](#).



Conference Participants Group Photo



Enhancing Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability in Higher Education in Africa (EEISHEA) is a project funded by Erasmus+ and carried out by a consortium of 5 universities in Africa and 5 universities in Europe. The main aim of the project is to initiate sustained educational change in African universities, by redesigning chosen curricula to become ‘best practice’ examples with regard to contents, approaches to teaching and learning and methods of delivery. The two main components of the project are Training and Curriculum Development.



Dr Ann Kingiri at the EEISHEA Conference 2022

The theme of the EEISHEA 2022 Conference was “International Conference on Higher education in Africa” with a focus on the transformation and change of Higher Education in Africa. The transformative focus of the conference resonated well with AfricaLics' goal. In view of this, the AfricaLics secretariat submitted an abstract to participate in the conference which - was positively reviewed and accepted.

Dr. Ann Kingiri represented AfricaLics and had an opportunity to share about AfricaLics on “strengthening competences for innovation in the education systems in Africa”. The Conference attracted over 50 participants from Universities in Africa, as well as participants from Europe.

AfricaLics - Sida Seminar on Innovation Eco-Systems for Africa

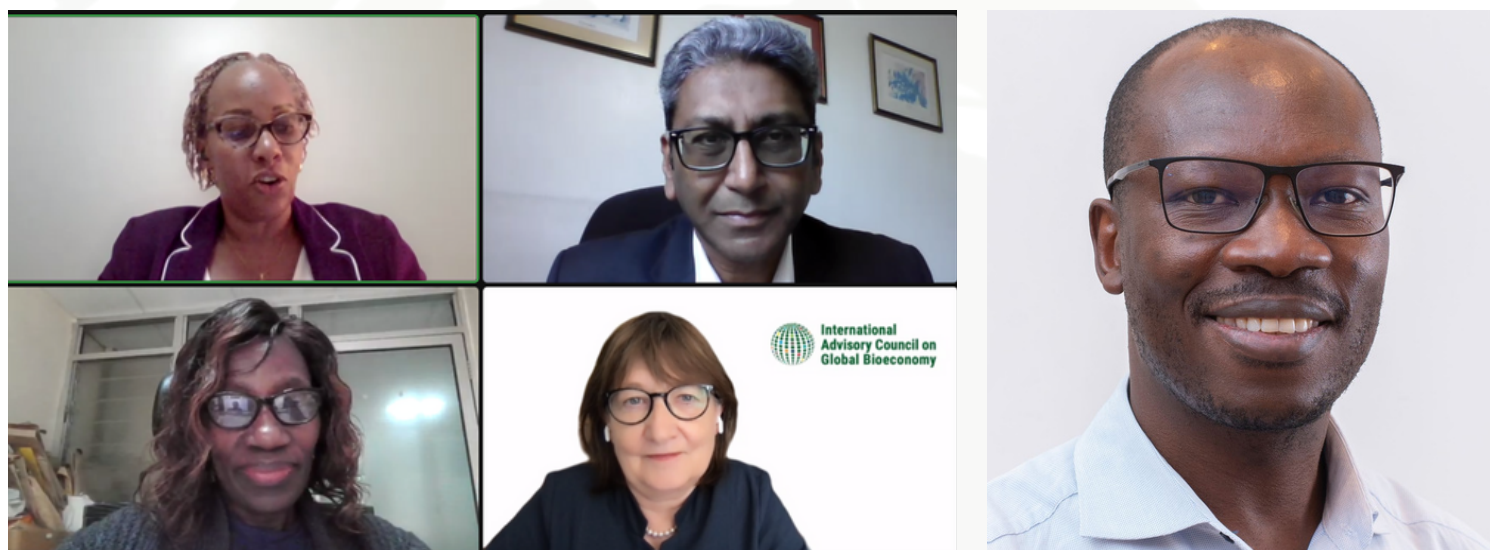
On Tuesday 20th September 2022 the AfricaLics secretariat (Dr. Ann Kingiri, Prof. Rebecca Hanlin and Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen) contributed and participated in a seminar entitled: *The Role of Research for Innovation Eco-systems for Africa*. The seminar brought together key scholars in the research and innovation space.



Participants at the Joint AfricaLics – Sida seminar in Stockholm

AfricaLics and BioInnovate Joint Webinar on Innovation in Practice

The webinar took place on 15th September 2022 and preceded the official release of the BioInnovate Africa Video Documentary on '*Innovation in the Development Context of Eastern Africa*'



Speakers in this event included: Dr. Ann Kingiri (ACTS/AfricaLics), Dr. Julius Ecuru (BioInnovate/ICIPE), Prof. Dhanjay Jhurry (Uniciti Education Hub (UEH), Mauritius), Prof. Christine Lang (International Advisory Committee on the Global Bioeconomy (IACGB), Germany) and Dr. Flora Tibazarwa, (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania).

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PHD VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2022

AfricaLics VFP fellowships program is an AfricaLics Initiative that offers opportunities for Ph.D. students from low-income and low-middle-income African countries to receive additional innovation and development training and research capacity-building support.

The Call for participants in the 2022 cohort went out in September 2021 and by December 2021, a total of one hundred and seven applications were received. Six Ph.D. visiting fellows - three male and three female - were selected by a small committee comprising members of the AfricaLics Scientific Board and the AfricaLics secretariat. Amongst the six students, three are from Ethiopia, one from Cameroon, one from Kenya and one from Uganda.

The six Ph.D. students are :

GEBREESYESUS SEWNET ALEMU

From Ethiopia studying at the University of Addis Ababa who works on evaluating the innovation ecosystem of Ethiopian higher education, the case of Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar University.



GELAW MULATU TILAHUN

From Ethiopia studying at the University of Addis Ababa who works on the innovative business model for the global competitiveness of Ethiopian small and medium enterprises (SMEs): A system dynamics approach.

YESUF YOHANNES MEKONNENN

From Ethiopia studying at the University of Gondar who works on determinants of employees' creativity in Amhara agricultural research institute: The mediating role of motivation to innovate.



PHD VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



18 PH.D Students participated (7 Female and 11 Male)



5 Papers published with input from PhD VFP Program



13 Scholars successfully completed their PhDs.

DJIJO TIAKOU AUDREY

From Cameroon studying at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal who works on the effects of information technologies and communication on structural transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa.



SIMON CK ROP

From Kenya studying at Egerton University who works on the effects of the community-based multi-stakeholder platform on the integration of avocado as a climate-smart practice among smallholder farmers in the upper Mara watershed, Bomet County, Kenya.

STELLA KICONCO

From Uganda studying at the University of Pretoria, South Africa who works on assessing innovation brokering and dissemination for improved banana productivity in Uganda.



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Since early 2022, the six students in the 2022 cohort have been attending a range of online courses and paper presentation seminars and have received written feedback on their work from AfricaLics mentors.

Past Event Photos

A few of the group discussion sessions at the VFP workshop held in Nairobi.



From June 1 to September 30, they were based in Nairobi and had the opportunity to focus fully on their Ph.D. work while interacting with their peers and mentors (online and onsite). As part of the program, the Ph.D. students, their supervisors, and mentors met in Nairobi for a four-day workshop held from 22nd to 25th August 2022. Intense discussions were held on students' individual work, improved methods for Ph.D. supervision and mentoring as well as future possibilities for collaboration in research and teaching in Innovation and Development (I&D) field of study. The programme aims to assist African PhD students working in the field of I&D to improve the quality of their dissertations, strengthen their academic and research credentials in readiness for a career in academia, the private

sector or government/policy making. The program does this by enhancing the Ph.D. students' agility and exposure to global knowledge in I&D.

The initiative is a component of AfricaLics' efforts to support the growth of an active research community in Africa on this newly developing and intensely interdisciplinary topic. The 2022 program is coordinated by the AfricaLics secretariat in collaboration with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya, with assistance from the AfricaLics and Globelics scholars based at various universities, the UJ-TRCTI and other pertinent African and international universities active in the field of I&D.

PHD VISITING FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME (VFP)

2023 COHORT



The call opened in August and closed on 15 September 2022. AfricaLics was looking for suitable Ph.D. student candidates from universities in African countries to participate in the AfricaLics Ph.D. VFP (2023 cohort) focused on Innovation and Development. Under this AfricaLics Visiting Fellowship Programme, successful candidates will be provided with the opportunity to participate in a one-year fellowship program combining online pre- and post- activities with a study period of 3 months at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa.

Mentoring will be provided by a range of African and international scholars in Innovation and Development studies who are research active within AfricaLics and Globelics. The program will be housed by the DSI/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development (TRCTI) at the University of Johannesburg. The TRCTI chair also includes the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) in Kenya and the University of Sussex in the UK.

The aim of the VFP and the scholarships is to help African Ph.D. students working in the field of Innovation and Development to strengthen their academic/research qualifications; improve the quality of their dissertations and prepare for a career in innovation and development either within academia or outside (e.g., in the private sector or in government/policy making). The Programme does this by increasing the mobility and level of exposure of the Ph.D. students to international knowledge in the field of I&D. The program forms part of the efforts by AfricaLics to contribute to the development of a vibrant research community in Africa in this emerging and highly multidisciplinary field.

The Swedish International Development Agency, Sida (Stockholm), has so far provided funding for the visiting scholarships as part of the project, "enhancing research capacity on Innovation and Development in Africa through the African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics)" (2013-2022). Decision on successful applicants is expected towards the end of 2022.

Globelics Academy 2022 - The 15th International Ph.D. School on Innovation and Development

The Academy was held at Tampere University, Finland from 15 August - 26 August 2022. The Academy supports the training of Ph.D. students from all over the world in writing a thesis on issues related to innovation systems and development. Globelics Academy aims at improving students' ability to undertake theoretically informed and policy-relevant empirical work on issues related to innovation in firms and societies, and its relationship with economic development. About half of the participants were from Low and Low middle-income countries and their participation was supported by SIDA. Dr. Ann Kingiri (AfricaLics Secretary General), Liza Awino Onyango-Abuje (Ph.D. student at JOOUST, Kenya), and Sewnet Alemu (Ph.D. student at Addis Ababa University and AfricaLics VFP) attended the academy. Other facilitators were drawn from AfricaLics Scientific Board.



Participants : Globelics Academy 2022

8th AfricaLics PhD Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems

Date: 13th - 24th June 2022

The Academy was hosted by the Jaramogi Odinga Oginga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and AfricaLics secretariat.

A call for applications to the AfricaLics PhD Academy was advertised in March 2022. A total of 54 applications were received and reviewed by a scientific review committee made up of members of the local organizing committee in Kenya, the AfricaLics Secretariat, AfricaLics Scientific Board and other external reviewers. Selection was based on the following criteria: relevance in terms of topic and content as well as quality, regional distribution and gender consideration.



A total of 24 students were selected for the academy. Participants were from 7 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and South Africa. They were joined by 2 observers (Ph.D. students and 7 Masters & Ph.D. students from JOOUST who showed interest in the field, but their Ph.D. or master's thesis was not within I&D studies. Students with observer status attended the main lecture sessions across the first and second weeks of the academy.

"The AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy started 10 years ago in Nairobi and has returned in 2022 to its birthplace. At the end of the 8th Academy, over 200 Ph.D. students in this emerging field of study have been trained. The Academy provides an opportunity for students who often sit in disciplinary departments to experience this new emerging multi-disciplinary field and become members of a network of scholars who work in this field; providing an important peer support system as they continue with their careers"

Prof. Rebecca Hanlin,
AfricaLics Secretariat.



Students participated in group work during the academy that aimed to:

- (a) provide students with a chance to get to know each other and extend their peer networks even at a distance in an informal but structured manner.
- (b) provide training in key research and presentation skills that are essential to life during and post-PhD.

Students were allocated into groups and to conducted the following activities: develop research proposal, develop policy brief and make a presentation. The winning group was awarded a small token.

Group 1: Empowerment and inclusivity through the adoption of innovative technologies - The cases of AES, POWAARD, and AHADI in Kenya.

Group 2: Investigation of academia-industry-government collaborations to enhance sustainable innovation efficiencies SMEs in Kenya: recycling enterprises.

Group 3: Enhancing the Emerging Climate-Smart Businesses through Government, Industry, and Academia Interaction.



The winning group (Group 3)

“JOUST is honored to have been able to host the Ph.D. Academy and the VFP program 2022. This year saw the VFPs being hosted for the first time in Africa. This was possible because of the burgeoning expertise on the continent. JOUST has been among the first universities in sub-Saharan Africa together with the University of Johannesburg to have a dedicated Ph.D. program in innovation and sustainable development.”

Prof. Benard Muok, JOUST
Director at Directorate of
Research, Innovation and
Partnership.

PhD Academy Overview



8 PhD Academies held



236 PhD students trained
(92 Female and 144 Male)
5 Alumni Groups created.

ACTS/AfricaLics signs an MOU with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST)

On 9th February 2022, ACTS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JOUST to host the Visiting Fellowship Programme (VFP) under AfricaLics.

The MoU between JOUST and ACTS resulted in the revamping and renaming of an existing program as an institute/center, which opens significant opportunities for mainstreaming the R&D and anchor the VFP and the launched Master's and PhD degrees programme at the university. The JOUST management team was delighted to fast-track the formalisation process needed to assist in getting this programme off the ground. The AfricaLics PhD Academy and the VFP programme are supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



The Vice-Chancellor & AfricaLics Secretary General signing the MOU at JOUST Bondo Campus

2018 AfricaLics VFP Alumni Selected for U.S. Department of State Programme

Our alumni keep excelling in their respective fields of endeavors Justina Onumah, our 2018 VFP alumna who was recently conferred her Ph.D. has recorded yet another milestone in her career. Justina was selected for the prestigious U.S. Department of State's Mandela Washington Fellowship Programme for Young African Leaders. It is a flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) which seeks to invest in the next generation of African leaders to spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Sub-Saharan Africa. She was part of 32 young Ghanaians selected from a pool of nearly 4,000 applicants only from Ghana through a rigorous, competitive process. The 32 Ghanaian Fellows were part of 700 young African leaders selected for the 2022 program. They comprised leaders from businesses, the public sector, and non-governmental organizations. Justina was placed in the Civic Engagement track at the University of Delaware, for 6 weeks, where she honed her leadership skills with further support for professional development after the fellowship.



Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Justina hoped to use the skills gained to expand and launch her mentoring support program, especially for girls in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), and contribute to strengthening research-policy engagements.

POST-DOCS VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME VFP



AFRICALICS POST-DOCS - DR. ABDI YUYA (LEFT), DR. CHARITY OSEI-AMPONSAH (CENTRE) AND DR. KASSAHUN YIMER (RIGHT)

In 2021, the AfricaLics post-docs (with support from their Aalborg University collaborating partners) finalized the joint guest-editing of a Special Issue of the journal *Innovation and Development* (I&D) with the title: “**Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects**”. All articles and the introductory note prepared by the guest editors are online, while a physical version of the special issue is expected to be published in late 2022. Three parts of the special issue are open access and can be accessed here:

On September 2021, Dr. Abdi Yuya Ahmad also gave an online presentation of his AfricaLics post-doc work during a conference organized by the Danish United Nations Association Northern Jutland (UNA) and Aalborg University. His presentation focused on the topic “*The Economic, Social and Political challenges in implementing SDGs in Africa: with focus on youth employment, democracy, Human rights, & Migration*”.

In the same event, Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka – also a long-term member of the Globelics and the AfricaLics fraternity – gave a presentation on “*SDGs in Africa: The role of the Private sector in COVID-19 recovery*”. He underlined the significance of the private sector in combating COVID-19 in Africa and other diseases. He also mentioned that African Development Bank (AfDB) is working towards establishing an African Pharmaceutical Foundation.

You may watch the presentations on the AfricaLics YouTube channel via the following links:

Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka: <https://youtu.be/8Tae2b6Hl9o>

Dr. Abdi Yuya Ahmad: <https://youtu.be/qLbYzk6SmFk>

AFRICALICS ENGAGEMENT IN RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS IN INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT - VIRTUAL EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the need to go virtual. The following are a few selected webinars that AfricaLics organized/co-organized in the reporting period.



Webinar Series 02 – Using Agriculture as a Panacea for Rural Development: Lessons from Ghana and for African AIS

Dr. Justina Onumah and Dr. Ann Kingiri

The agricultural sector in most African economies is undoubtedly one of the important sectors that have the potential to speed up overall economic growth. The webinar focused on answering questions such as:

1. Is agriculture the only tool for rural development?
2. What role are agricultural innovation system actors currently playing in achieving this?
3. What technology mix is required and how best can inequality in access and utilization be reduced with those options?
4. What should AIS actors do to speed up this process?

Please follow this [link](#) for more information

Webinar Series 01 – Building Science Systems: The role of Science Granting Councils (SGCs)

The webinar included a presentation by Prof. Rebecca Hanlin that focused on the main findings of the project outlined in a published open-access book entitled "Building Science System in Africa: Conceptual Foundations and Empirical Considerations" (Hanlin, Tigabu and Sheikheldin, 2021). She was joined by Mike Kachedwa from Malawi's National Commission for Science and Technology who provided a perspective from the Councils. Please follow this [link](#) for more information



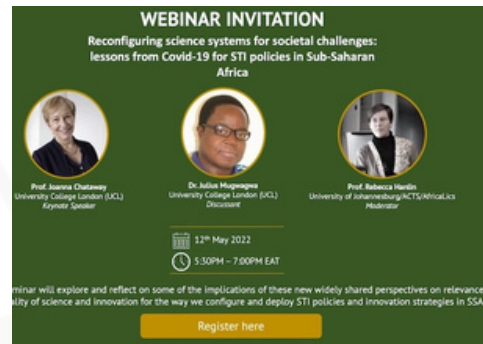
Prof Rebecca Hanlin, AfricaLics



Webinar Series 03 - A holistic view of Inclusive Innovation

Dr. Kemi Omotesho, Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun, Eng. Joseph Otejere and Dr. Chukwudi Njoku

Innovation is believed to be the solution to several economic challenges experienced across the world. However, will innovation and technology really be the solutions or the approach with which they are deployed? Innovation literature has certainly moved away from the linear and simplistic models to more dynamic and broad-based model? How inclusive are these dynamic and broad-based models? These questions among others were discussed by the panelists to stimulate insightful strategies that could open ways to African Innovation models that would foster sustainable economic development across the continent. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.



Webinar Series 04 - Reconfiguring science systems for societal challenges: lessons from Covid-19 for STI policies in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Prof. Joanna Chataway, Dr. Julius Mugwagwa and Prof. Rebecca Hanlin

Covid -19 has brought the relevance of science, innovation, and evidence into everyday conversations. Views and perspectives that were previously difficult to communicate are now much more commonly articulated. The context of the pandemic is dynamic and pervasive, with new data and competing models emerging in attempts to define and anticipate a rapidly changing reality. This raises both challenges and opportunities in the urgent need to recognize, develop, and test scalable solutions and improvements in health policies, systems, products, technologies, services, and delivery methods to improve treatment, education, outreach, research quality and delivery, and overall access to health care at global and local scales.



Webinar Series 05 - Intellectual property, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development

Dr. McClean Sibanda
Date: 7th July 2022 Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (EAT)

The webinar delved into the importance of intellectual property, innovation, and entrepreneurship for the development of Africa's economies. The speaker argued that lack of investment in research and development (R&D) in many countries in Africa coupled with a lack of deliberate emphasis on opportunity entrepreneurship has resulted in low levels of innovation, as demonstrated inter-alia by low patent outputs, as a proxy for innovation. Most countries in Africa have informal economies dominated by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), most of whom don't make much use of technology or produce innovations. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.

STRINGS project- Changing Directions: Steering science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals – October 2022

The 'Steering Research and Innovation for Global Goals' (STRINGS strings.org.uk/) project is a multi-actor partnership, looking at the alignment between science, technology and innovation (STI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

AfricaLics secretariat participated in the project including the launch of the report that highlights a glaring mismatch between STI and the SDGs and warn that – if this mismatch is not addressed – it will undermine progress on the SDGs. You may find the project's short video link here:

<https://vimeo.com/761375179>

The study's final report 'Changing Directions: Steering science, technology and innovation towards the Sustainable Development Goals' can be found in the STRINGS website.

Africalics Scientific Board (ASB) Corner Selected Highlights

ASB in COP 26 - Sustainable jobs for Economic Recovery and Social Inclusion in Rural Areas: Prospects and Horizons: North African Region

Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat, a member of AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) on 11th November 2021 at COP26 Glasgow made a presentation titled "Towards a green, sustainable and inclusive development of rural population: The experience of PPDR and the green dam in Algeria." He was also a panelist during potential and horizons of green jobs in the North African region: Socio-economic impact round table.



Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat

Président du Réseau Maghtech
(Maghreb Technologie)



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



“
Agir à proximité, rester à l'écoute des populations rurales et rétablir la confiance pour donner le maximum de chance de réussite des projets de développement agricole et rural durable, inclusif et doublement vert par les objectifs et par la démarche.
”

Special Issue Alert

Following a successful AfricaLics international conference held in Oran, Algeria from 27th - 29th November 2017. A special issue titled “Numéro Spécial de la revue de l’Université’ Oran2 portant sur la Conférence AfricaLics 2017 «L’Emergence des Systèmes d’Innovation en Afrique»” has emerged from collaborations inspired by this conference. The special issue contributions were coordinated by Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat

AfricaLics Blogs

Please visit the AfricaLics blog page. Here are some of the most recent blogs that have been posted:

- Reflections on the webinar “Re-configuring science systems for societal challenges: lessons from Covid-19 for STI policies in Sub-Saharan Africa” - Josephat Okemwa
- Reflections on the webinar “Building Science Systems: The role of the Science Granting Councils (SGCs) - Moses Owidhi and Josephat Okemwa
- Research on innovation as opposed to research in innovation: transforming innovation education for a better tomorrow - Prof. Rebecca Hanlin
- Reflection on the webinar “Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects” - Josephat Okemwa and Moses Owidhi
- Every upcoming or early career scholar needs mentorship: Experiences from the AfricaLics Mentorship Programme - Dr. Justina A. Onumah, Senior Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute of the CSIR-Ghana

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