



# AfricaLics Newsletter



July 2018 - April 2019

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## General Overview: About AfricaLics

The African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems

(AfricaLics) was launched in March 2012, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Since the Network's launch, the Secretariat based at the African Centre for Technology studies (ACTS), in Nairobi Kenya has been implementing a research capacity building (RCB) programme entitled **"enhancing research capacity on Innovation and Development in Africa"**.

This has been funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). This Sida funded RCB programme supports expansion of the cadre of researchers able to conduct research on innovation and development and build institutional level capacity in African educational institutions in this field.

Consequently, the project activities work towards an overarching vision of AfricaLics network - supporting African countries towards 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. To realize this vision, the Network works closely with like-minded relevant international and local researchers and research networks.

Through a membership system instituted by AfricaLics in 2018, it was established that there are 572 active members of AfricaLics, 153 female (27%) and 127 from LICs (22%) spread across Africa. However, the number of people indirectly interacting with AfricaLics is significantly high based on AfricaLics website traffic 2018 analytics.



### PhD visiting fellowship (VFP) programme

This VFP main objective is to support development of dedicated innovation and development scholars in Africa.

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### Call for papers - 4<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics Conference

The Conference will be hosted by Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) with University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) as co-hosts.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics PhD Academy

The 6<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics PhD Academy was held at Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco, from 20<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018. A total of 45 student applications were received and in the end 22 international students attended. They were joined by eight additional PhD students from Université Cadi Ayyad and a number of Masters Students who sat in on a number of sessions. 13 facilitators from across Africa and the world provided instruction over the two-week period event.

The academy supported training of African Doctoral students engaged in research in the academic field of 'innovation and development'. Which is a multidisciplinary field which includes researchers from a range of disciplines often studying innovation studies, the economics of innovation, innovation management, technology management, science and technology studies. Students and faculty working in the field of innovation and development and principally interested in how innovation relates to economic and social development in Africa were the main target group for the PhD Academy.

The Academy also aims to stimulate awareness of policy and management issues related to this burgeoning field of research.

The participants were engaged on a range of subjects from the latest thinking on innovation in an industrializing age through to in-depth training on the latest big data crunching open source software. This was augmented by visits to cultural and scientific sites culminating in an element of group project work. Through the project work students were asked to think through the theories and methods they engage with in their studies and were exposed to during the academy and develop a mock research proposal and policy brief. The participants of the Academy were generally satisfied with the general organization and overall structure of the PhD academy.



Figure 1: Participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics PhD Academy in Marrakech, Morocco

### 7<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics PhD Academy - 2020

The next 7<sup>th</sup> PhD Academy will be held in Ethiopia hosted by the university of Gondar, please check AfricaLics website for the call for papers.

<https://www.africalics.org>

## Globelics conference 2018 - Accra, Ghana



Figure 2: Participants of the 16<sup>th</sup> Globelics Conference in Accra Ghana

In collaboration with AfricaLics, the 16<sup>th</sup> Globelics Conference was held in Accra, Ghana, on 24-26 October 2018, organized and hosted by the CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) at Mensvic Grand Hotel. The main Conference theme for was 'Innovation,

Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Strengthening Institutions for Greater Relevance, Effectiveness and Inclusivity'. The Freeman Lecture will be delivered by Professor Mariana Mazzucato from the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London and the keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Xiaobo Wu from the National Institute of

Innovation Management, Zhejiang University. A total of 226 papers (including poster presentations) were accepted for presentation at the conference but in the end only 169 presenting scholars attended. 76 papers presented at the Globelics conference were from Low Income Countries (LICS) and low Middle Income Countries (LMICS) were accepted and travel support grant and

accommodation were covered by Sida through the AfricaLics Secretariat. The Conference brought together representation from 43 countries. The regional distribution were 18 African countries; 9 Latin America countries; 9 European/UK countries; 1 Middle East; 5 Asian countries; and 1 South American. The specific country representation recorded a high number of participants from Ghana. The total number of participants including 15 local exhibitors were 268 with participants from Ghana representing about 20%.





### Globelics doctoral academy, South Africa

In collaboration with the AfricaLics secretariat and some members of ASB, the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) in Pretoria, South Africa, organized the 2018 International Doctoral Academy of the Globelics) from 3 - 14 December 2018



### Mentorship programme

Mentorship has been identified as one way of enhancing the capacity of scholars (early career scholars, PhD students and senior scholars) from these countries.

#### FAST FACTS

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The pilot efforts in 2018 saw seven scholars identified for mentorship following a review of paper submissions for the Globelics conference.

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PhD scholars from low income and low middle income countries attended Globelics doctoral academy organized by the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) of Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit AfricaLics website:  
<https://www.africalics.org>

## AfricaLics/Globelics mentorship programme

### Mentorship targeting innovation and development capacity building

**Background:** The number of successful applicants from low-income countries (LICs) and low middle income countries (LMICs) for innovation and development-oriented events held by Globelics and AfricaLics remains low. In the case of LIC participation it hovers around 20%. Mentorship has been identified as one way of enhancing the capacity of scholars (early career scholars, PhD students and senior scholars) from these countries. A mentoring concept has been developed to guide in a strategic mentorship plan under AfricaLics from early 2019. The main objective is to ensure that mentors and mentees have the opportunity to enhance their own skills, knowledge, and networks through their involvement with this mentorship program. The immediate output is an increased number of successful applicants not only for AfricaLics events but also for future Globelics conferences as well as other innovation related events relevant to Africa's development.

The pilot efforts in 2018 saw seven scholars identified for mentorship following a review of paper submissions for the Globelics conference. The papers were selected from the pool of papers submitted and accepted for conference to benefit from an initial pilot mentorship programme. The selection was based on reviewers' comments that suggested that these papers are at the low end of the accepted papers spectrum in terms of adoption of innovation thinking and would benefit from extra support to enhance their quality. The scholars were identified based on having the lowest scores amongst accepted papers and being from a low-income country or female scholars. These mentees were paired with two senior scholars who agreed to provide in-depth feedback on the mentee's paper and work with them to increase the quality of the paper in advance of their submission of their final paper. A preconference meeting was held two days before the Globelics conference in Ghana in October 2018. This meeting provided the mentees with a chance to 'road test' their presentations and get last minute feedback on their paper before the conference. It also involved an evaluation session of the mentoring exercise whereby lessons from this exercise were discussed during the AfricaLics scientific board meeting held during the same conference. While some mentors and mentees worked well together and benefited from the experience, in the majority of cases the level of refinement of the papers that

occurred was insufficient. This led to questions as how a successful mentorship can be devised and implemented. Mentorship has been identified as a strategy for enhancing short term and long-term capacity building efforts in I & D theme.

### Key important aspects and considerations:

Discussion around mentorship have been advanced both at AfricaLics and Globelics fronts. Some ideas for a successful mentorship strategy have been proposed. These ideas are informed by a brainstorming workshop held at the Aalborg University in Denmark on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019. This is further complemented by ideas generated during the AfricaLics pre-conference meeting held at University of Dar es Salaam on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

- The innovation and development (I & D) research area is new, and it is developing especially in Africa at a slow pace.
- The main difficulties in improving mentoring activities lies in a) identifying candidates for mentoring at the right time and b) ensuring good contact between mentors and mentees given that means of communication (internet-based services such as Skype) are not always working well in African (low-income) countries.
- There is also an issue of how we continue engagement with visiting fellow PhD students once they return from their time in Denmark. Many, but not all, remain in contact with their mentors or with the network more generally. Their level of participation appears to be linked to the subject matter of their PhD and the degree to which it maps well onto topics researched in the innovation and development field.
- Not one single approach to mentorship may be suitable in different contexts
- Formation of multi-disciplinary research groups is paramount as a way of getting a buy-in from scholars in diverse and traditional disciplines like Agriculture, Engineering etc.
- Support formation of young and senior researchers research teams within Universities and across departments
- Webinars to help interested scholars develop research papers

## 13<sup>th</sup> Globelics doctoral academy, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018



Figure 3: Participants of the 13<sup>th</sup> Globelics doctoral academy in Pretoria, South Africa

12 PhD scholars from low income and low middle income countries attended the doctoral academy organized by the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) of Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

In collaboration with the AfricaLics secretariat and some members of ASB, the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) in Pretoria, South Africa, organized the 2018 International Doctoral Academy of the Globelics) from 3 - 14 December 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa. The funding was limited and was selectively awarded to low-income and lower-middle income country participants who applied for the support in line with Sida requirements for travel support. Participants from and based in OECD member states were required to cover their expenses. A total of 11 participants were granted travel support of which 10 eventually attended the event. Of these, 4 were female and 3 from LICs. The academy attracted a total of 22 participants and 14 facilitators.

The main subject matter of this Doctoral Academy was "National Systems of Innovation in the Next (also known as the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution: Conceptual Challenge and Policy Implications". The training was based on critical keynote addresses, scholarly lectures, and presentations from the selected candidates. Student presentations focused explicitly on their on-going research, methodological challenges, and their contributions to the advancement of knowledge on innovation. The 2 weeks event was generally a success with activities structures in three key areas ; lectures on modernistic headways in innovation studies, the round tables dialogues and group work on particular issues related to innovations in developing countries and finally students presentations on their own research work.

## PhD visiting fellows programme (VFP) and related activities

**Background;** This VFP main objective is to support development of dedicated innovation and development scholars in Africa. The ultimate aim is to increase the magnitude of rigorous research on innovation and development conducted within African academic institutions. It is organized to support young researchers with a dedicated background in innovation and development studies research to strengthen their possibilities for building excellence in the field. The aim is to help them establish themselves as first-rate researchers in innovation and development and contribute to the development of funded hubs of excellent research on the topic at their home institutions. It is coordinated through Aalborg University (AAU) in Denmark.

To date a total of 15 students have been through the programme; three are currently enrolled. Ten have now completed their PhDs. One has completed a joint degree with Aalborg University (Denmark) and Adama University of Science and Technology (Ethiopia) and another PhD student from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya is aspiring to finalize in 2019.

### PhD visiting fellows

The four visiting PhD fellows (2018 batch) arrived the 1<sup>st</sup> of February to Aalborg University and returned to their home universities on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. The fellows are from Kenya (female), Ghana (female), Nigeria (male) and Benin (male).



Figure 4: PhD visiting fellows - 2018 batch

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VFP PROGRAMME

The aim of the visiting fellowship programme is to help African PhD students working in the field of innovation and development to strengthen their academic/research qualifications; improve 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).

<https://www.africalics.org/visiting-phd-fellowship-programme/>



One of the PhD-students, Vincent Flifli, succeeded during his stay at Aalborg University (AAU) to complete and get two papers accepted at two different conferences in The United States. He describes the meaning of participating as follows:

“The participation in these two conferences was for me a great achievement I have done during my stay in Aalborg since, not only it allowed me to get insight on the recent development in the areas of focus of each of these conferences (e.g. the concept of disruptive innovation and allied issues from ICABR and the feminist economics methodologies from IAFPE) but also allowed me to extend my network since I put me in contact with a number of experienced researchers” (<https://www.africalics.org/vfp-fellow-attends-icabr-and-iaffeconferences/>)

The PhD students went on study visits, visiting local industries and governmental organizations working with innovation politics on a national basis. These visits provided the students with some insights into how the Danish innovation system works both at local and national levels. (See blogs at AfricaLics web-site, e.g. <https://www.africalics.org/visit-danish-innovation-centre-and-investment-fund-for-developingcountries/>).

In general, the PhD students highlight the access to resources such as library facilities/literature, the close collaboration with their AAU mentors, access to courses and focused time given to work on their thesis as very valuable. It is their experience that the above has let them to advance very fast in their work and even in some cases achieve more than initial expected. The fellows also individually mention having gained new academic competences such as new knowledge on research methods, conducting literature reviews and being presented to methods of writing/building up an academic argument in relations to writing papers.

It is also mentioned both by some of the VFP-fellows and their supervisors, that being part of a research community has proved very relevant in establishing a wider academic network of shared interest and laid the grounds for future opportunities to collaborate on for instance co-publishing.

### PhD fellows (2019 fellows)

The AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme offers African PhD students in the field of innovation, economics and development an opportunity to study at Aalborg University and become part of research networks active in the field. The visit

lasts until the end of June. The 2019 PhD fellows are Chipo Ngongoni (Zimbabwe), Justine Nalunguuma (Uganda) and Bernadin Ahodode (Benin). The three students all work with different aspects of the role and importance of networks and learning in fostering economic activity in their home countries. While Chipo focusses on health information platforms and systems, Justine works with innovation platforms in coffee production and the benefits of these for small holders. Finally, Bernadin uses econometric methods to investigate the role of triple helix in promoting economic development in Africa.

By providing time away from home to focus on the PhD dissertation, and by exposing the students to an international research environment and access to scientific literature and databases, the AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship programme aims to enhance students' research capabilities and improving their prospects for future participation in innovation and innovation research in their home countries. During their visit, the students will give presentations on their research in various fora, attend selected courses for PhD students, make use of the library facilities, interact with their AAU mentors and work on their PhD dissertations.



Figure 5: AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows 2019: interaction with mentors and staff at Aalborg University, Denmark

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (Chipo, Bernadin and Justine) AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows 2019 presented their work on coffee innovation platforms, innovation ecosystems in health and role of multiple helix in Africa at Aalborg University, Denmark.

### AfricaLics Seminar with PhD students and home supervisors

#### Background and purpose of the seminar

As part of the AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme – financially supported by Swedish

Sida and implemented at Aalborg University, PhD students are visited once by their home

supervisors during their stay in Denmark. The supervisors come partly to discuss progress of each student and ensure alignment of inputs by AAU mentors with those of the home supervisors – and partly to give presentations of ongoing research at their home universities and discuss possibilities for future collaboration with interested scholars at AAU and the AfricaLics network.

Three PhD students enrolled at African universities happened to be visiting Aalborg University during the first half of 2019. Two of the home supervisors visited Aalborg University from 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 for bilateral and trilateral meetings to discuss progress on PhD work with their students and align inputs from supervisors and mentors. The programme for the visit by the home supervisors also included a one-day seminar with presentations and discussions on 11 April 2019 at Aalborg University.

### Participants in the seminar

- AfricaLics PhD visiting fellows: Justine Nalunguuma, Bernadin Ahodode and Chipo Nancy Ngongoni)
- Home supervisors: Prof. Cornelius Schutte, Stellenbosch and Dr. Mubangizi Narisi, Makerere University, Uganda
- AAU mentors: Rasmus Lema (Associate Professor, AAU); Edward Lorentz (Professor, University of Nice and Adjunct Professor, AAU); Svetla Trifonova Marinova (Professor, AAU); Jesper Lindegaard Christensen (Associated Professor, AAU); Yariv Taran (Associated Professor, AAU); Margrethe Holm Andersen (Senior Advisor, AAU)
- AfricaLics Secretariat: Ann Kingiri and Rebecca Hanlin
- A few other research scholars from Aalborg University.



Figure 6: AfricaLics Seminar with PhD students and home supervisors on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Aalborg University, Denmark.

## The seminar

### a) Presentations by the PhD students on their research as follows.

- Bernadin Ahodode, University of Yaounde II, Cameroun: 'Sustainable Competitiveness of African Countries through Open Quintuple Helix Model: Analysis Using Innovation Synergy Index'
- Justine Nalunkuuma, Makerere University, Uganda: 'Innovation platform performance and behavior: Smallholder farmer benefits from coffee value chains in Uganda, a study of Bukomansimbi district'.
- Chipso Nancy Ngongoni, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa: 'Towards a framework for explaining Innovation Ecosystem Emergence'

This provided an opportunity to get feedback on their work from the audience.

### b) Other presentations

During the seminar, the main emphasis was on ongoing research in innovation and economic development. Main areas of research discussed include research in health innovation, measures for ensuring transitioning to sustainable and green production and societies as well as the role of Artificial Intelligence and robots in the future economic development in African countries. The topics are closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 development agenda. Prof. Cornelius Schutte explained about research activities and the PhD programme at the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University and Dr. Narisi Mubangizi likewise presented ongoing activities at the Department of Agricultural Extension at Makerere University.

A presentation on reflections on "PhD supervision and mentoring: challenges, good practices and ideas for future AfricaLics interventions" was delivered by Ann Kingiri. This was intended to elicit discussion around this topic that is very relevant to AfricaLics with regards to building requisite and sustainable capacity on Innovation and Development in Africa. There were presentations from the two home supervisors on their ongoing research and relevance for sustainable development. Other participants (Rasmus Lema, Edward Lorenz, Ann Kingiri and Rebecca Hanlin) shared their experiences around their on-going research. The PhD students were able to link up later with respective researchers for further discussions.

The seminar was concluded with an interactive session on the AfricaLics research agenda and ways of developing inter-institutional cooperation. This was facilitated by Rebecca Hanlin.

## Post-doctoral visiting fellows

The major aim of the AfricaLics postdoctoral VFP is to help young African researchers (early career scholars) establishing themselves as first-rate researchers in innovation and development studies research. By doing so, the programme aims at contributing to the development of funded hubs of excellent research in innovation and development at selected African universities/research centres in Africa and to the development of a vibrant research community in Africa in this field.

The Call for applications for the Postdoc VFP 2018 closed by 24th of January 2018 and 33 applications from 9 different countries were received. Of these, 26 were men and 7 were women, with a total of 7 applicants from LICs. Countries represented were (number of applications from each country in brackets): Ethiopia (5), Cameroon (2), Kenya (4), Nigeria (14), Ghana (4), Tanzania (1), Botswana (1), Rwanda (1), Uganda (1). Final selection of the three fellows for the pilot programme of the AfricaLics post-docs VFP took place in February 2018 on the basis of review of applications and interviews with 10 number of candidates shortlisted for interviews. The pilot programme aims at developing a collaborative and low-cost model for early career development for young researchers from African universities working in the field of Innovation and Development. Three post-docs (one female from Ghana and two male fellows from Ethiopia) were selected. The three post-docs and their collaborating partners from home institutions + their mentors from AAU met at a joint kick-off workshop in Johannesburg in June 2018. The workshop was organized jointly by Aalborg University, ACTS (Nairobi) and the local host at University of Johannesburg, Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula. The University of Johannesburg is in the process of developing a Community of Practice on Innovation and Inclusive Industrialization and the aim of holding the workshop in Johannesburg was to explore possibilities for collaboration with the CoP. Good options for collaboration were identified, including possible collaboration re: Call for Special Issue on questions related to 'Building innovative capabilities for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialisation in Africa'. On 23rd September 2018, the three post-docs arrived in Copenhagen. All three post-docs are highly committed to their research projects and to the related development of

'hubs' of researchers in Innovation and Development at their home institutions. Hence the pilot programme so far seems promising. A full assessment of the programme can, however, only be made later in the process and a lot depends on successful completion of the remaining part of the entire process.



Dr. Kassahun Yimer AfricaLics post-doc visiting fellow at Aalborg University and his collaborator Dr. Ameha Mulugeta presented a proposal on local manufacturing of renewable energy technologies in Ethiopia with a focus on solar PV systems and biogas technology.

[Follow this link for more information](#)



Post-Docs visited Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy in Aalborg and NOVI Science Park and discussed issues related to sustainable industrialization in Africa.



Post-docs in deep discussions and reflections on tools and practices for research project development and management. Great facilitation by Leif from Peak consulting group in Denmark.

## AfricaLics outreach event 2018-2019

**Background:** The major aim of this event was to provide a space for scholars to interact on current issues that are relevant to Africa. When AfricaLics was launched in 2012, there were 9 neglected thematic areas that were perceived to be critical towards guiding research in innovation and development (I&D) that is contextually relevant to Africa. Since then the context is being shaped by global developments, mainly the SDGs. This informal outreach event aims to stimulate participants' thinking around how Africa's I&D research should respond to the transformational and sustainability goal that these new developments attracts.

The other aim of the event was to expand the network through increased numbers of scholars interacting with the network. We believe that involving AfricaLics scholars within the region and beyond is paramount because they are the real 'ambassadors' of the network. Discussion will focus on how to expand the network's reach in terms of research themes and related activities.

Some questions that informed the discussions include:

- How can capacity building in I & D be strengthened and expanded to embrace the transformational agenda in line with the SDGs?
- How can we work to develop more formalised collaborations with other research capacity building initiatives and/or innovation and development researchers outside of Africa and the Globelics network? The Science Granting Council Initiative and the Transformational Innovation Policy Consortium (TIPC) are some of the examples.
- How can we effectively involve or engage the policy makers, business community and all relevant stakeholders in the capacity building and policy related endeavours?
- How can we leverage resources?

### Programme of the session

Discussion topic	Facilitator/speaker
Introduction to the session	Ann Kingiri
What key issues should innovation studies focus on? We aim is to demystify innovation studies to make it more amenable to thematic areas relevant to Africa and easy to apply in research by African scholars	Diran Soumonni
Expansion of AfricaLics network at National level: key considerations using Ethiopia as an example	Daniel Kitaw
Developing more formalized collaborations with other research capacity building initiatives key considerations (examples include TIPC, EASA, SGCI)	Bitrina Diyamett
Plenary discussion	Rebecca Hanlin
Discussion within tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use flip chart and post notes strategically placed on the tables</li> </ul>	AfricaLics team and ASB members

After brief /setting the scene interventions by the selected speakers, the audience were invited to make a few comments on any of the three discussion points. Thereafter, discussion continued on tables whereby participants wrote comments or questions on the flip charts or stickers provided on the table. [Access a detailed report here](#)



## Danida Fellowship - Donor Harmonization Group (DHG 2018) Forum

**Background:** The Donor Harmonization Forum consist of European institutions working on research and higher education in development. Once a year the group convenes to hold a two-day forum to share knowledge and experiences with each other and discuss new trends, ideas, and priorities. Each year one of the member organizations volunteer to host the forum, and in 2018, the Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) was hosting the event. The planning group of the 2018 forum comprised of the Dutch NUFFIC, the Norwegian Center for Internationalization and education, SIU, and DFC. The participants of the forum were drawn from DHG members and selected external partners from the private sector and public institutions.



Figure 7: Dr. Ann Kingiri delivering a key note at DHG 2018 Forum in Copenhagen

Ann Kingiri gave a keynote address during the 2018 Forum focusing on the importance of innovation in research and higher education. The title of her presentation was: ***"Business as unusual: the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in research and higher education"***.

The key note highlighted the following key areas.

**Africa now:** Entrepreneurship and innovation in research and higher education. The focus was on the directions the universities and research are taking and how innovation and entrepreneurship have become a top agenda point. The guiding

points included; what is happening, why is it happening, where is it happening and what are the challenges and positive achievements so far.

**Innovation and entrepreneurship:** The definition and use of the terms innovation and entrepreneurship in research and higher education. This part of the presentation will give the forum a collective understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship in research and higher education – and a chance to reflect and contest it

**The global trends:** From aid to trade and from elite universities to mass universities. The key highlights were: what are the global trends right now on a macro level in terms of the development agenda and in terms of higher education and research? How does these two aspects influence what is happening in Africa.

**Case stories:** These were drawn from concrete, real life experiences on how to contribute to and enhance innovation and entrepreneurship in research and higher learning. These included AfricaLics and IREK project experiences in relation to building requisite technological and institutional capacities for Africa's development.

**Discussion points:** These focused on mainly stakeholder collaboration and support - challenges and best practices; the role of the private sector in research – pro and cons and promoting productive and responsive innovation in research and via higher education.

The key note afterwards sparked additional questions and interest. For the full presentation, [please follow this link](#)

## African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) workshop on Research Capacity Strengthening

Ann Kingiri participated in a workshop on "Impact Indicators for Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) Initiatives" at APHRC Campus on February 20, 2019

**Background:** The DFID and other funding agencies have invested in initiatives that strengthen the research capacity of African scientists in health. As a result, many individuals and organizations are now able to conduct research, and institutional and

national research systems have improved over time. Often, the RCS initiatives have been evaluated at output and outcome levels. However, there is an increasing need to have in a place a framework of indicators for evaluating impact of RCS initiatives. In this regard, the DFID has commissioned a scoping review of published and grey literature published on the topic resulting in a framework of impact indicators. The work has been conducted by the in partnership with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). Experts were invited to a workshop to validate the framework.

## Objectives of the workshop

1. To agree on the common indicators used to measure impact of RCS initiatives
2. To elicit/ collate additional indicators being used to measure impact of RCS initiatives

Relevance to AfricaLics: Ann contributed to the workshop by sharing her experience related to AfricaLics capacity building efforts.

## AfricaLics pre-conference meeting – University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Figure 8: Participants of the preconference meeting in Dar es Salaam, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The preconference took place at the University of Dar es Salaam Confucius Institute (CI) Conference Room on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### Objective of the Pre-conference meeting

Tanzania being the venue for the upcoming fourth AfricaLics conference, AfricaLics secretariat aims to increase the number of successful applicants from Tanzania in particular. Hence, the objective of the preconference meeting was to increase the number of accepted papers from Tanzania in the AfricaLics conference in 2019. The meeting/workshop was open to all interested scholars from across Tanzania.

Overall, the preconference aimed at:

- increasing the number of accepted papers from Tanzania in the AfricaLics conference in 2019 (immediate goal),
- supporting development of quality papers for submission to subsequent AfricaLics and Globelics conferences and other relevant events (short/medium term), and
- explore medium and long-term goals aimed at building a critical mass of scholars who attain some level of capacity to embed Innovation and Development (I&D) thinking in their respective research and academic circles

The conference was attended by 43 participants from academia, research institutions, government agencies and private sector. Among the participants, 21 were males and 22 females.

[Follow this link for a detailed report on the meeting.](#)

## Important upcoming events and activities

### Call for papers - 4<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics International Conference

The Conference will be hosted by Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) with University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) as co-hosts.

The focus is primarily the current state of research on African Innovation and Development specifically for the academic community, but also targeting policy makers and business community. It aims to bring together leading scholars (between 150 - 200) working on innovation and development in Africa with the foremost scholars from outside Africa as well as policy makers and business community interested in this field.

### Conference theme and sub-themes

The 4<sup>th</sup> AfricaLics conference aims at addressing some of the above raised questions. Answers to such questions are of interest, not only to Africa, but also the global development community - in the spirit of the SDGs of leaving no one behind. The conference main theme is: Innovation and transformative capacities for growth and sustainable development in Africa. Papers addressing the main topic and sub-themes (see below) are strongly encouraged, but other high-quality papers focused on innovation and development issues may also be accepted.

### Sub-themes

- Appropriate policies for innovation and development in the era of Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), 2024, Agenda 2063 and the SDGs
- Innovation, the Private Sector and Sustainable Development - the future of formal and informal economies
- Innovation management in key economic sectors for Africa's development (e.g. agriculture, manufacturing, services): prospects and challenges
- 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution: opportunities and impacts of disruptive technologies on African social and economic structures
- Ensuring sustainable development through innovation - focusing attention on natural resources management, energy and climate change
- Challenges in and innovation for sustainable education, health and human wellbeing in Africa
- Ensuring inclusive innovation and development - focusing attention on gender, youth and persons with disabilities.

### Paper submission and selection process

We invite submission of original unpublished full papers for the conference. Submission of a full paper (in PDF) not exceeding 8,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) can be submitted against any of the themes mentioned above. All papers should be made through the online submission system (ConfTool) which will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at the conference website: <https://2019.africalics.org/> and the deadline will be on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.



## AfricaLics PhD Academy 2020

The next AfricaLics Academy will be held in Ethiopia, please check the AfricaLics website for call for papers which will be published late 2019.



## AfricaLics constitution: Membership and election of new AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) members

Background: Discussions concerning future organizational and financial sustainability of the network continued in 2018 at the level of the ASB. These discussions are aimed at assisting the ASB in developing a strategic plan for the development of the network. In 2018, efforts continued towards formalizing the network through the adoption and subsequent implementation of the interim Constitution. The first activity in these efforts was to introduce formal membership of the network. This took place in July 2018 when all those who had participated in an AfricaLics event were invited to become part of the network (as per the membership criteria outlined in the interim constitution). We can report that there are 572 members of AfricaLics, 153 female (27%) and 127 from LICs (22%)

Towards formalising of the network, the following recommendations have been agreed upon by the AfricaLics Scientific Board:

- An interim constitution 2019 is adopted that becomes a working constitution. The interim constitution has been passed and is available on the website. [Please access the interim constitution here](#)
- Re-election of new members to fill up ASB vacancies (as per the membership criteria for the ASB outlined in this constitution) with elections taking place in 2019. Members are eligible to vote for their preferred candidates as per the voting procedure [available here](#). The procedures outline the functions of ASB, eligibility criteria and relevant timelines.

## Learning and recommendations corner

### On innovation and development research capacity building in Africa

#### Structural issues surrounding capacity building efforts

AfricaLics efforts towards building a critical mass of I & D scholars in Africa through conferences and PhD academies has been lauded by different stakeholders. However, the progress has been slow despite several efforts, including individual and targeted approach involving the AfricaLics Scientific Board members. This suggests that there are structural factors beyond the control of the AfricaLics governance system that have been influencing the situation. One major structural factor that we have identified from the beginning of AfricaLics is the academic pipeline in this field. In many cases/countries, it just doesn't exist yet or is only developing slowly. This requires long-term change and we hope that our post-doctoral visiting fellows (VFP) as well as other graduates who are actively involved in AfricaLics will eventually be able to change this. The development of National and regional hubs (e.g. hubs in Northern Africa, West Africa etc) are potentially a vehicle for improving the academic pipeline. Other efforts include

dedicated attempts to reach out to beneficiaries of past and upcoming AfricaLics Innovation and Development 'teachintracks' and the inclusion of Masters students in AfricaLics capacity building efforts (e.g. at PhD Academies and AfricaLics mentorship strategic plan).

### Long term and sustainable I & D capacity building efforts

Further efforts geared towards long term and sustainable I & D capacity building are required. AfricaLics aim at building on experiences with the mentoring activities and possibilities for building up a more dedicated system for students applying to events that we and the wider, Globelics network, hold. Efforts in 2018 - with strong participation and leadership from the AfricaLics and Globelics Scientific Boards - were not as successful hence the need to rethink the way mentoring is being done. Some of the options being considered include:

- Review experience from mentoring activities in 2018 and decide on the way forward based on discussions in the AfricaLics network and a review of other mentoring programmes. An AfricaLics briefing note will be developed for wider sharing within the network and outside the network.
- A dedicated country based as opposed to dispersed efforts. This may require a buy in from scholars in respective countries.
- Development of an 'AfricaLics summer course on PhD supervision in Innovation and Development' as a way of increasing attention to I&D studies research and raising the interest of PhD supervisors at African universities in promoting more PhD candidates in the field. This would complement discussions with regards an Masters summer course that have been ongoing.
- Dedicated support to PhD supervisors (e.g. through development of a 'summer course' which could also be offered to other PhD supervisors and donor programmes in higher education in Africa - and/or appointing long term mentors to a cohort of students.
- Rethink linkages between the PhD VFP programme and long - term mentoring activities especially for those from low-income countries with few opportunities (especially those participating early in their PhD programme where possibilities to influence their PhD work are considerable).

## AfricaLics blogs

- **Sustainable and Inclusive Agro-industrialisation in Africa: What Contributions can African Researchers offer?** By Dr. Charity Osei-Amponsah (CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute) – AfricaLics Post-doctoral Visiting Fellow Agro-industrialisation is the growth...
- **VFP fellow attends, ICABR and IAFPE conferences USA (11-21 June 2018)** By Vicent Flifli *This report describes my participation in two conferences in which I presented two different papers written from my Ph.D...*
- **PhD Visiting Fellows visit Danish Innovation centre & Investment fund for developing countries, Denmark** By Vincent Flifli *the visit of both the Danish National Innovation Fund and the Investment Fund for Developing Countries...*
- **The process of theorizing and theory building in management research at Halmstad University** By Emmanuel OGUNJEMILUA *The African Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) provides capacity building...*
- **Mixed methods course at Aalborg University, Copenhagen campus** By Pamela Mreji *What is mixed methods approach? When is it used? Why? What is the epistemology and theories...*
- **Visit to Vester Hedegaard Organic Farm in Pandrup, Denmark** By Justina A. Onumah *The AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme is a great platform that exposes African PhD scholars...*



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