

AfricaLics Newsletter

August, 2023



AfricaLics

<https://africalics.org>

Issue No 7



About AfricaLics

The African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) was launched 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.

The secretariat 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.



HIGHLIGHT OF UPCOMING EVENTS

9th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy

4th - 8th September 2023

The 9th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy is jointly organized by the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa, with support from the AfricaLics Secretariat. The event is supported financially by UJ, the AfricaLics network members, and Sida.

The Academy provides an opportunity for Ph.D. students enrolled at African universities who work in the field of innovation and development (I&D) studies to gain more knowledge of this burgeoning field, meet leading academics in this field, and receive feedback on their Ph.D. studies.

The Academy will be delivered through frontier researchers in the field of innovation and development from around the world who will provide lectures and mentor students. The Academy also provides an opportunity for Ph.D. students to share their work and learn new skills.

The upcoming PHD academy, scheduled for this year, will be virtual. These academies have a distinct focus on various methodologies, with this year's emphasis being placed on the systematic literature review process.

The subsequent year's academy is intended to be a physical gathering, contingent upon the availability of funds.



8th AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy Participants 2022

Globelics International Conference 2023

12th- 14th October 2023

The Globelics network was established two decades ago, marked by its inaugural international conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 2003. The primary objective of the network is to explore Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (LICS) and its intricate relationship between innovation and development.

As Globelics celebrate the 20th anniversary of this significant milestone, the upcoming conference aims to reflect on the valuable insights generated by the network and chart a future I&D research agenda.

The conference will revolve around various sub-themes, each shedding light on critical aspects of the knowledge economy and its impact on development. These sub-themes include:

- Science, technology, innovation: Theory and policy for a knowledge economy.
- Transformative innovation, responsible innovation, and mission-oriented innovation
- Knowledge-driven development of national, regional, local, and sectoral innovation systems, including Agricultural innovation systems and rural development.
- Measurement of the knowledge economy: Indicators, data requirements, different approaches, and methodologies.
- Skilling for the knowledge economy: Industry-academy interaction, Intellectual property rights, open innovation, and development.
- Industry 4.0 and development: Digitalization and automatization, productivity and employment implications, gig economy and quality of employment.
- Economic and social upgrading for sustainable Catch-up: trade policies, FDI, value chains and innovation networks in a knowledge-driven economy.
- Innovation for inclusive development: Indigenous knowledge, Grassroot innovations, Jugaad, informal economy, micro and small enterprises.
- Entrepreneurship, employability, and gender dimension in innovation and development.
- The green economy and financing innovation: Low carbon innovations, environmental technologies, and renewable energy.

To access more information about the conference, kindly visit the following website:

<https://globelicsindia.org/>

>>> NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

SIDA GRANTS ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR VFP 2023 COHORT

There has been changes in the way Sida funds under Research Cooperation are distributed. This has affected the fund of SIDA activities. However Sida has allocated some small amount of funds. These funds will cover the expenses associated with bringing all the Visiting Fellowship Programme (VFP) students of the 2023 cohort to Johannesburg for a three-month period.

We express our deepest gratitude to Sida for their unwavering support and commitment to enhancing research capacity in Africa. Their contribution towards the 2023 cohort's experience at the University of Johannesburg is truly invaluable and will have a lasting impact on the student's academic and professional journey.

This generous support from Sida means that every student in the 2023 cohort will have the opportunity to participate in this transformative experience at UJ. The three-month period will allow them to engage in rigorous academic activities and collaborate with scholars.

The VFP plays a crucial role in enhancing the research capacity and academic qualifications of African Ph.D. students working in the field of innovation and development. By increasing their exposure to international knowledge and providing them with invaluable mentoring from both African and international scholars, this programme equips the students with the necessary tools and expertise to excel in their respective fields.

The AfricaLics secretariat extends congratulations and best wishes to all the VFP students of the 2023 cohort. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for innovation and development have led to this incredible opportunity. We are confident that this experience in Johannesburg will further strengthen the students academic/research qualifications.



VFP 2022 COHORT

>>> NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

2023 COHORT OF AFRICALICS PHD VISITING FELLOWS



2022 PHD VISITING FELLOWS WITH THEIR SUPERVISORS

We are delighted to announce that the 2023 cohort has been granted a remarkable opportunity to partake in a comprehensive one-year fellowship programme, which seamlessly integrates online activities with a three-month study period at UJ. The programme is designed to enrich the fellows academic and research qualifications in the field of innovation and development.

The 2023 cohort has six outstanding Ph.D. students, consisting of four female and two male participants, from a highly competitive pool of 72 applicants. These successful candidates hail from diverse African countries, including Cameroon, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Kenya.

Mentorship will be provided by a diverse group of African and international scholars, who are actively involved in research pertaining to innovation and development studies within the AfricaLics and Globelics communities.

Their expertise and guidance aim to empower these talented Ph.D. students, enabling them to strengthen their academic and research foundations, enhance the quality of their dissertations, and prepare for successful careers in the realms of innovation and development. Such careers can be pursued either within academia or beyond, encompassing the private sector or government/policy-making institutions.

The program fosters increased mobility and exposure for Ph.D. students to international knowledge in the field of innovation and development. In doing so, it plays an integral role in AfricaLics' ongoing commitment to cultivating a vibrant research community in Africa within this emerging and highly multidisciplinary field.

In the earlier phases of the Research Capacity Development Programme (2011-2016 and 2017-2022, respectively), visiting fellows had the invaluable opportunity to visit Aalborg University as part of their program. However, beginning in 2022, the VFP fellows will be hosted by African universities. The 2022 cohort had the privilege of being hosted by Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST) in Kenya.

The 2023 cohort of VFP's

**ADEDUNTAN
OLUWASEYITAN SEGUN-
OLASANMI**

From Obafemi
Awolowo University,
Nigeria.

Research Title:

Dynamics of Gender
and Technology in the
Cashew Nut Value;
Chain in Southwestern
Nigeria at Obafemi
Awolowo University.



NATNAEL SHARECHO

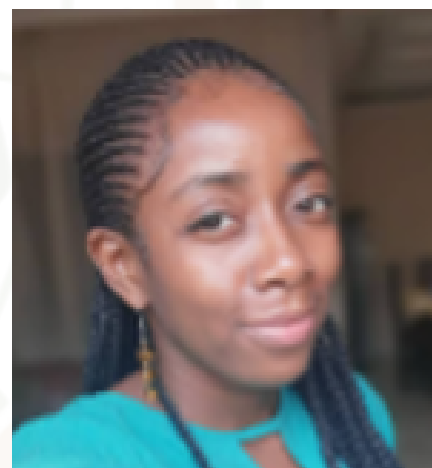
From the University of
Gondar, Ethiopia.

Research Title: Business
model innovation and
firm performance: The
moderating role of
environmental dynamism
at the University of
Gondar.

**PAULE MELISSA
ATANGANA**

From the University of
Yaounde, Cameroon.

Research Title: The
macroeconomic effects of
financial development on
sources of innovation in
Africa at the University of
Yaounde.



PLEASE FOLLOW AND KEEP CHECKING AFRICALICS WEBSITE AND SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR THE LATEST NEWS, BLOGS, UPCOMING EVENTS,
OPPORTUNITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://AFRICALICS.ORG](https://AFRICALICS.ORG)

PHD VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



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



5 Papers published with input from PhD VFP Program



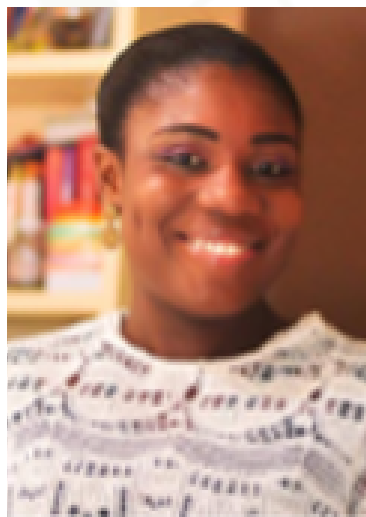
13 Scholars successfully completed their PhDs.

ROSALYNE BADDOO

From the University of Ghana.

Research Title:

Commercializing agri-innovations in Ghanaian Universities for Sustainable Agribusinesses at the University of Ghana.



MBEO CALVINCE OGEYA

From Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya.

Research Title:

Transformative Innovation: Investigating the Coevolution of Grid and off-grid electricity Systems.

ANN NUMI

From Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya.

Research Title: An Agricultural Biotechnology Technological Innovation System (ABTIS): Build-up, Actors & Dynamics.



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>>> NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

LAUNCH OF ETHIOPIALICS

On 10th November 2022, the department of Technology and Innovation Management (TIM) at Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU), in collaboration with Addis Ababa University, University of Gonder, and Haromaya University, took the initiative to establish the Ethiopian Network for the Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (EthiopiaLics). This network serves as a platform for Ethiopian researchers and scholars in the field of Innovation and Development and operates as an Ethiopian chapter of AfricaLics. The establishment of EthiopiaLics was announced during a workshop held back-to-back with the 5th AfricaLics Conference, which took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 9th – 11th November 2022.



Members from the Launch of EthiopiaLics in Ethiopia

EthiopiaLics is dedicated to promoting research activities and projects focused on innovation and economic development. It also aims to provide networking opportunities, increase access to quality training for self-actualization and sustainable economic development in Ethiopia, and offer platforms for young and established scholars in the field of innovation and development through conferences and dedicated online networking platforms. EthiopiaLics seeks to bridge the knowledge gap, facilitate competence building and transfer, and foster mentorship between established and upcoming scholars through training and mentorship programs.



First EthiopiaLics members meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon



First EthiopiaLics workshop members meeting in Ethiopia

For further information and a detailed report on the foundation workshop, please visit the following link:

<https://africalics.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EthiopiaLics-Foundational-Workshop-Report.pdf>

»»» NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICALICS UNVEILED: EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY OF AFRICAN INNOVATION

We are thrilled to announce the launch of "AfricaLics Unveiled," an exciting video series that offers a captivating exploration of the diverse facets of our organization. Led by our esteemed Secretary General, Dr. Ann Kingiri, this video series will take you on an engaging journey, shedding light on the remarkable work being done in the field of science, technology, and innovation in Africa. We invite you to join us on this inspiring voyage and discover the transformative power of knowledge and innovation across the continent.

What to Expect:

1. Expert Interviews: Gain insights from leading researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and innovators who are driving change and making significant contributions to the African innovation landscape. Hear their stories, learn from their experiences, and be inspired by their journeys.
2. Showcasing Success Stories: Discover remarkable case studies and success stories of individuals and organizations that have leveraged science, technology, and innovation to address pressing challenges and create positive social impact across Africa.
3. Exploring Innovation Ecosystems: Dive into the vibrant and dynamic innovation ecosystems that are emerging across the continent. Learn about the key players, collaborative networks, and policy frameworks that are driving innovation-led growth in Africa.

Subscribe to our Youtube channel [here](#).

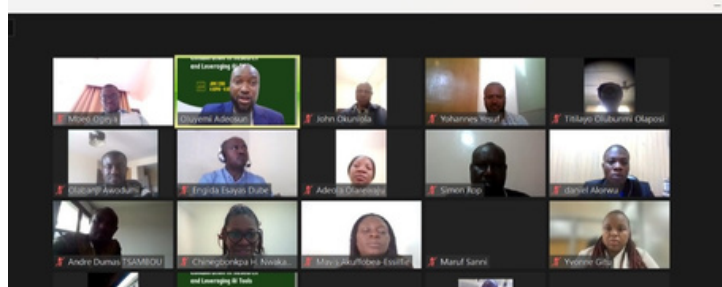
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<https://youtu.be/QITJPig2BY>
<https://youtu.be/mf-nLOY-a-cl>
<https://youtu.be/h03o2W2fOE0>



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

The following are a few selected webinars that AfricaLics organized/co-organized during the reporting period.



The Alumni event held on 22nd June 2023

Alumni Meet-Up Session on Collaboration in Research and Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

Date: 22nd June 2023

Speakers: Dr. Jumoke Oladele, University of Ilorin, Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun, De Monfort University, and Dr. Claude Ndaki, University of Douala.

The Alumni Meet-Up Session was hosted by AfricaLics to bring together alumni members for an engaging and interactive event centered around the theme of “Collaboration in Research: Leveraging on AI Tools like Chat-GPT – Ethics, Boundaries, and Possibilities.” The session provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and exploring the potential of AI in research.

The webinar created a dynamic and inclusive platform for alumni members to engage in discussions on collaboration in AI & related innovation aspects. The combination of informative discussions, breakout sessions, and interactive games made the event both educational and enjoyable, fostering a memorable experience for all participants.

The African pharmaceutical industry was set up as early as the early 1900s and late 1800s focusing on the vaccine sector. Improved local production has been on global and local agendas since the 1970s and yet the industry has been locked-in into low technologies for decades. This webinar focused on technological and industrial stagnation with respect to political economy roots of long-running industrial underdevelopment.

The core argument is that extractive economic and political institutions shaped contemporary institutions in former colonial countries, and these institutions persist for a long time. The institutional persistence notion was linked to finance capability, the need to develop mutually beneficial local health-industry complexes, backward linkages to produce APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) and how these complexities play out in the underfunding of the African pharmaceutical sector.

For more information about this event please follow this [link](#)



Geof Banda's webinar poster

Webinar Series 04 – Financing Innovation and Industry Development challenges in the African Pharmaceutical Sector

Date: 4th May 2023

Speakers: Dr. Geoffrey Banda, University of Edinburgh, UK and Dr. Skhumbuzo Ngozwana, Kiara Health, South Africa.



WEBINAR INVITATION

THEME

Technological Innovation
and
Economic Inequality

Guest Speaker

Dr. Titilayo Olubunmi Olaposi
Principal Research Fellow in the African Institute for
Science Policy and Innovation



*Webinar Series 05 – Technological Innovation and
Economic Inequality*
Date: 15th April 2023

Speaker: Dr. Titilayo Olubunmi Olaposi, African
Institute for Science Policy and Innovation at the
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

The webinar focused on how to reduce economic inequality in African countries by accelerating inclusive growth towards increased employment opportunities for all. Actions to be taken to achieve progress towards a less unequal income distribution must include strengthening of innovation systems in African universities.

The presentation highlighted research management systems in African countries and their readiness to accelerate technological entrepreneurship through the establishment of robust model, institutional structure, and local and international funding for research commercialization. This is with a view to developing a framework for translating research outputs from African universities to technological startups capable of generating employment and alleviating poverty, thus reducing income inequality via technological innovations in the long run.

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

WEBINAR INVITATION

Developing new innovation
indicators suitable for
informing new policy mixes
in African countries

Thursday
23 March 2023

5:30 pm – 7:00 PM
EAT

CHAIR
MR. LUKOVI
SEKE

PRESIDENT
DR. GLENDA
KRUSS

*Webinar Series 02 – Developing new innovation
indicators suitable for informing new policy mixes in
African countries.*

Date: 23rd March 2023

Speakers: Mr. Lukovi Seke, African Union
Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Dr. Glenda
Kruss, CeSTII-HSRC and Ms. Anneline Morgan,
Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Typically, very limited input and output indicators are adopted, that are not always of value or use for STI policy learning. When R&D-centric modes of innovation are privileged in measurement, the typical conclusion is likely to be that there is little innovation taking place in most African countries. Innovation surveys in a wide range of enterprises – whether large or micro, formal or informal, and in manufacturing, services or agricultural sectors – can provide useful evidence to inform STI policy mixes oriented towards the development priorities of STISA and the SDGs. New innovation surveys are costly and require buy-in from policymakers.

Speakers shared recent conceptual and empirical research to define modes of innovation in South Africa, as one way to propose relevant new STI indicators, using existing enterprise innovation datasets. The potential value and use of such a model will be critically interrogated from the perspective of policy actors.

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



WEBINAR INVITATION

THEME

Industrialising through Global Value Chains: what Africa
can learn from East Asia and Latin America



Guest Speaker
Dr. Oluseye Jegede
Senior Researcher in Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Studies

16th February 2023
17:30-19:00hrs EAT

ZOOM

www.africalics.org

*Webinar Series 01 – Industrializing through Global
Value Chains: What Africa can learn from East Asia
and Latin America.*

Date: 16th February 2023

Speakers: Dr. Oluseye Jegede

In the past, African countries have faced the constraints of low technology capability, restricted market size, high transport costs, and trade barriers and needed help to benefit from manufacturing. But with globalization, African countries can identify manufactured goods that have a competitive advantage. This would help advance the entry of firms into global value chains (GVCs), and scale up manufacture practically devoid of limit, thus establishing their niche in the global market. By integrating into GVCs, the African region would enhance growth in manufacturing jobs despite a need for an increase in the contribution of manufacturing value-added to GDP.

The present research thus builds on the work of Gereffi, & Wyman (2014), uncovering the paths followed by East Asian and Latin American countries towards industrialization, thus highlighting key options for African countries.

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

General Assembly of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CNRST)

Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat was invited to deliver the keynote speech at the General Assembly which was held in Algiers from 21st – 22nd January 2023. The theme of the event was: "making scientific research the engine of the knowledge and innovation economy: some lines of thought".

This platform brought together policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders to deliberate on strategies to make scientific research a central force in the knowledge and innovation economy.



Prof Djeflat Abdelkadar delivering Keynote speech

*at the General Assembly of the National Council
for Scientific and Technological Research
(CNRST)*

Africalics Scientific Board (ASB) Corner Selected Highlights

Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Science Advisory Council Meetings



Prof Djeflat Abdelkadar the COMSTECH science advisory council in Pakistan

Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat recently had the privilege of attending several meetings as a part of the COMSTECH science advisory council in Pakistan. These meetings provided a valuable platform for discussions about crucial role of science in addressing societal challenges and fostering sustainable progress.

We extend our congratulations to Prof. Djeflat for his participation in these meetings and for his dedication to promoting the importance of science and technology in the national and international arenas. His efforts are a testament to his expertise, commitment, and passion for advancing knowledge and driving positive change.

Prof Djeflat honoured

The Faculty of Economics, Commercial and Management Sciences of the University of Oran, Algeria celebrated a solemn ceremony in honor of Professor Djeflat, on 7th Feb 2023. This recognition was due to his investment as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that acknowledged his achievements and exceptional accolades.

The ceremony was chaired by the Dean Dr. Tcham Farouk in the presence of the Head of the Department of Financial and Accounting Sciences, Dr. ZERIGUI Khadija and the Head of the Department of Management Sciences, Dr. Meliani Yassin. A group of professors, both from the faculty and from outside, were also present to pay tribute to Professor Djeflat.



Prof Djeflat Abdelkadar receiving his award

Africalics Scientific Board (ASB) Corner Selected Highlights

African startup conference, Algeria



Prof Djeflat Abdelkadar

Three members of the Maghtech network, including Prof. Mohamed Cherchem, Director of the knowledge economy within the Ministry, participated in the African Startup Conference which was held from 5th - 6th December 2022 in Algiers. Prof. Djeflat took part in the ministerial meeting involving representatives from 30 African countries where he delivered a presentation.

SPECIAL ISSUE ALERT

Publication of the second issue of the Journal of Development Innovation Management and Knowledge (DIMS). This is a International Scientific Journal of the Maghreb Technology Network "Maghtech" (Maghtech.org). It's mission is to disseminate research results related to the issue of "strategies to promote development driven by science, technology, innovation and knowledge in the Maghreb countries" and in the South in general.

The second issue is a special issue on the theme of the "knowledge economy." The Maghtech network has invested a lot in this issue both at the theoretical level and in relation to developing countries. A complete team was dedicated to this issue in the case of Algeria and was affiliated to the Centre de Recherche Appliquée au Développement (CREAD). Half a dozen books and nearly fifty articles including 12 thesis have been published by members of the Maghtech network dealing directly or indirectly with the theme of the knowledge economy. This special issue is composed of the main pillars of the knowledge economy: institutions, research and innovation, training and digital.

➤➤➤ NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will be editing papers presented during the 5th AfricaLics Conference held in Cameroon in Nov 2022.



More information about the journal can be accessed here:

<https://www.maghtech.org/dims-1/dims-vol-1-n2/>

BLOGS

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

- [Financing Innovation and Industry Development Challenges in the African Pharmaceutical Sector](#) – Mourine Chepkemoui and Moses Owidhi
- [Developing innovation indicators to inform new policy mixes in African countries](#) – Josephat Okemwa
- [Industrializing through Global Value Chains: What Africa can learn from East Asia and Latin America](#) – Yvonne Gitu and Moses Owidhi
- [Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship as Drivers for Economic Development in Africa](#) – Moses Owidhi and Josephat Okemwa
- [Using mobile money to increase enterprises' sectorial turnover](#) - Bernadin G. C. Ahodode, Researcher, University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin Republic.

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