ACADEMIC CHAIRS FOR AFRICA

A NEW APPROACH TO CAPACITY BUILDING

CREATING A PLATFORM FOR EXCELLENCE

IN THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

A TWENTY FIRST CENTURY MODEL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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ACADEMIC CHAIRS FOR AFRICA

The attached is a document that outlines a proposal to create and fund 1000 chairs to be occupied at universities in Africa. This is a proposal for consideration by the G8+5 countries when they meet in Canada in 2010. The proposal is modeled on the very successful program of Canada Research Chairs that saw the creation of 2000 chairs as a strong move to help reduce the brain drain. These chairs were funded and occupied at universities across Canada in conformance with their own plans and priorities. The creation of a network of chair holders and their presidents would become a tool for connecting scholars all across Africa, from its many parts and reflecting its immense diversity both between and within countries. This diversity crosses many cultural boundaries that are of great significance in the world today. In today's world other boundaries must also be crossed. This proposal would lead to crossing of country and regional boundaries. With the focus on the Millennium Development Goals the activities due to this program would also necessarily cross discipline boundaries.

The idea has the support of many. These include senior officers at the United Nations, UNESCO, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. It has the support of many associations of universities including the Association of African universities and including anglophone, francophone and lusophone associations. It has the support of a number of academies of science, including the Third World Academy of Science. Through this there is the support of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). It has the support of many universities in Africa and through them a number of African governments. And it has the support of many universities around the world including a number in Canada. In advance of the G8 meeting in June there will be a meeting of the G8+5 academies of science in March. We have made contact with a number of countries at the ministerial level including Canada, the US, Japan, France, Germany and the UK. We have established contacts in Korea, China, India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa and several other African countries. We have become aware of a large number of programs aimed at building partnerships with African universities (see the selected readings attached for a sample of some of the many thrusts under way). This proposal is aimed at establishing a form of self-determination within the universities and hence building capacity for nodes of excellence so that the African universities can be good partners in a two-sided partnership. The present proposal is seen as an important platform, providing a necessary underpinning for the success and stability of these various programs. .

Many say this is the right idea for the right time. The example of the Canada Research Chairs and a new program of research chairs in South Africa as well as a pilot program by the International Development Research Centre in Canada show that the concept can work and can deliver outstanding results. It is proposed that the G8 +5 nations collaborate to fund these 1000 chairs at \$100m a year for 5 years and that the process be managed by a new international foundation established for the purpose. The concept has built into it a mechanism to assess the results of the investment as the annual reports and meetings of the chairholders and their presidents are reviewed.

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Associations of Universities

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PROPOSAL



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

ACADEMIC CHAIRS FOR AFRICA

THE NEED

African countries have many needs as they strive to move from developing countries to emerging countries and in the longer run to fully developed countries. The United Nations has developed the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to identify some of the most pressing needs and set a target timetable to meet these goals. Education is central to meeting each of these goals as they all require an educated populace and they require advanced skills to be available in each country. In the past, the focus has been on education at the primary and the secondary level. In more recent years, it has become evident that in this rapidly changing and evolving world, future economic and social development is equally dependent on higher education and on the research associated with higher education. Higher education is the necessary condition for building an innovative economy. The recent United Nations Academic Impact program is a ecognition of this fact as the UN is enrolling universities around the world

The World Bank points out that developing higher education is the way to build long term capacity for economic growth. In the past decades these skills have largely been developed by sending young people abroad to obtain their advanced education. Slowly, the universities of the developing countries of Africa are being reinforced so that higher education is indigenous. But it has been very difficult to recruit highly skilled individuals to return to their home countries, or if they do come back they often return to the country of their study or to other countries mostly in the west or to other non-academic/research organizations often outside their country. This is not due to salary alone, but to the working conditions and to the inability to contribute in a significant way to the development of their home country.

The brain drain from the developing countries to the developed nations is severe and must be reversed. To have any chance of meeting the MDGs and building the capacity for innovation, these countries must develop their advanced education systems. Creation and strengthening of the post secondary system must take place and it must take place soon. It is well understood that building an innovative economy in the knowledge world requires strength in the universities. This is a necessary condition.

THE CONCEPT

This proposal is designed to assist these countries to move strongly in creating real academic strength. The proposal is to create and fund 1,000 chairs to be held by outstanding people in institutions across Africa. There are several hundred such universities in Africa at various stages of development (the Association of African Universities reports about 200 members).

Canada was faced a few years ago with a severe brain drain problem when we found that many of our best academics were being recruited to the United States and to Europe, leaving Canada struggling in the dramatically evolving global knowledge economy. The solution was the creation of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs. Key to their success was empowering the universities themselves to set their own priorities. In this empowerment, universities had to develop their own plans. What is unique about this proposal, is that rather than the developed world telling the universities in each country where they need development, the universities will be asked to indicate where their own priorities lie and then given the tools for implementation.

This approach worked exceedingly well in Canada as institutions were empowered, research activity was decentralized to strong nodes and competition was the order of the day. Each person appointed to such a chair would be selected by the institution itself and would fit into the institution according to the institutional priorities and employment policies that they have determined. They will assist their countries to reach the MDGs and the associated innovation needed. The award would be a contribution to the institution.

MANAGEMENT

Management of the program would be under the jurisdiction of a foundation created for this purpose. As in the case of the CFI and the CRC this would ensure that the decisions were arms length from any one contributing government. But of course, it would also ensure that there was a very high level of accountability for the outcomes reporting back to the contributors. Each incumbent and each university would provide regular progress reports to the foundation and these would be published and widely disseminated. Financial accountability would be ensured by the use of a competent accounting firm.

Board members would be selected to represent funders, university associations and experienced managers. There would be regular meetings of the chair holders to report to each other and to the broader public on how they were helping their jurisdictions to meet the millennium goals and building innovative capacity. This would be an important network linking researchers and their institutions across Africa.

The foundation concept removes the political influence of special interests in the process of building local excellence and reinforcing clusters. Only public and not for profit universities would be entitled to be allocated chairs. The board of the foundation would be responsible for setting the criteria for awards. The board would establish the secretariat and appoint the CEO. Institutions and their governments would have to

demonstrate that the chairs would be additive to the strength and quality of the institution and would not be offset in any way. The use of a foundation would play a key role in ensuring that the opportunities to leverage successful endeavors would be brought to the attention of potential additional funders among foundations and the private sector. Universities themselves could leverage the positions and the programs with their own local governments and with the local private sector just as they have done in Canada.

APPOINTMENTS

Each occupant of a chair would also be required to have a cross appointment with a university in a developed country and be expected to spend about one month each year at that institution. It would be expected that most chair holders would be citizens of the country either from people now resident in that country, but perhaps often from the diaspora. These chairs would assist in meeting the need for poverty reduction, democratic governance, environment and energy and crisis prevention and recovery through building and reinforcing excellence and innovative capacity.

COST AND OUTCOMES

The cost of such a chair is estimated to be \$100,000 per chair per year allowing salary and benefits, travel money and some access to facilities (e.g. computing and internet). Each appointment would be for five years. During the period and at the end of the five year period there would be major conferences bringing all the chairs and their presidents together. This would provide a direct measure of the impact of this investment and the contribution of the network.

If the program was delivering high quality results a decision could be made to continue the program as it is or with some modifications. 1000 chairs at \$100,000 per year for 5 years would require the commitment of \$500 m. This is a significant investment, but there is little doubt that it would have a dramatic impact on Africa and its development toward the MDGs and serve as the focus for training the next generation. Increasingly the holders will need to focus on themes and less on individual academic disciplines. Working on aspects of the MDGs is not a discipline task, but needs the holders to cross boundaries and to bring together teams of problem solvers..

The chair holder will be expected: 1. to train PhDs.; 2. to mentor young academics and post doctoral fellows; 3.to produce research results of many kinds including but not limited to publications; 4.to contribute to the innovative capacity of their country; 4.to ensure that the research is put into use in both the national interest and the community interest; 5. to seek funding from other sources both national and international to ensure adequate support for their work as well as building a longer term base beyond the five years of initial support..

EMPOWERING UNIVERSITIES - THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS The Canada Research Chairs Program (CRC) was created in Canada along with the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to ensure that that Canada could remain competitive in the era of the knowledge economy. Many of Canada's best brains were being attracted to other jurisdictions such as the United States and Europe. Aggressive measures were needed to ensure that Canadians could stay in Canada and be competitive. And Canada needed to be able to attract good brains from other jurisdictions. The Canadian government created the CFI which was highly competitive and operated as a foundation independent of government, with decisions made by teams of experts. The CFI funded research facilities and infrastructure. Shortly after the government created the CRC program which funded 2000 chairs for the year 2000 to be held at universities across the country. These were funded at the level of \$300m per year on a continuing basis. These two programs had a dramatic impact on the universities of Canada. They EMPOWERED the university presidents to be strategic in their planning. The programs led to the DECENTRALIZATION of research to points across the country, and led to the creation or strengthening of significant clusters of activity. And the universities had to COMPETE for these resources and in some cases find matching funds. Not only did they have to compete on terms of excellence, but one of the major criteria for success was documenting the benefits to Canada of these requests.

The chair positions were allocated to each university in proportion to their success in the granting council competitions. Thus each university knew in advance the number of chairs that they had to work with. Each institution then proceeded to select individuals to occupy these funded chairs and in support of their own approved research plans (the approval was by the senate or equivalent of each institution and not by some central government agency). This was the first time that universities in Canada had created and published research plans and accordingly set their own priorities. The academic incumbents were selected by the presidents themselves and there was no intervention by the CRC secretariat. There was and still is an independent review process set up to review these decisions and to ensure that the caliber of the appointments met the highest of international standards in a ratification process. In some cases current academics were appointed, if there was a likelihood that they would be lost to Canada. In others, new hires were made from across Canada and from other countries. Today most of the chairs have been filled with appointments for 5 or 7 years. The individuals may be appointed for a second term. An equipment allowance was also made available. The program is a continuing one, but of course is subject to regular reviews to determine the effectiveness of the results. In the longer run, individual incumbents will be absorbed into the institution. There was always the worry about creating two classes of academic citizens but this was managed by requiring the university itself to do all the recruiting and hiring and establishing the salaries and working conditions. The grant from the secretariat was a contribution to building and reinforcing excellence.

The program was designed to empower institutions to meet their own objectives and to reach for ever higher levels of excellence. It is widely acknowledged that the CFI and the CRCs have had a dramatic impact on Canada's ability to compete in the knowledge economy and have strengthened Canada's innovation capacity. This has been achieved through a system of empowerment, decentralization and competition for the universities of Canada.

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STEERING COMMITTEE

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President of the Chilean Academy of Science, Juan Asenjo

Australia

University of Canberra, Ingrid Moses, chancellor

Thailand

Siam University, Pornchai Monghkovanit, president

Malyasia

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato Dzufliki Abdul Razak, vice chancellor

SELECTED QUOTES

SELECTED QUOTES ON AFRICA AND ACADEMIA (Nov 1,2009)

- 1. "Economic success in a globalized world lies increasingly in how effectively a country can assimilate the available knowledge and build comparative advantage is selected areas with good growth prospects. And how it can enlarge the comparative advantage by pushing forward the frontiers of technology through innovation".
- Source "Accelerating Catch-Up: Tertiary Education for Growth in Sub Saharan Africa". World Bank, 2008
- 2."Now it is necessary to move quickly to acquire the higher order skills and expertise which will allow African countries to add value in existing economic activities and enter new industries and services" ibid
- 3. "This report seeks to inform discussion and policy making as African countries consider the innovations needed to build tertiary education systems equal to the global economic challenges they face", ibid
- 4."Grant institutional autonomy buttressed by appropriate accountability mechanisms in order to increase opportunities for system differentiation and institutional innovation", ibid
- 5. "The changes required are well known: interdisciplinary rather than disciplinary perspectives; flexibility in learning; group work instead of lectures; problem solving rather than memorization of facts ----" ibid
- 6. "For a return in one year plant corn; for a return in 10 years plant a tree; for a return in every year forever invest in education" old Chinese proverb quoted from presentation by Chad Gaffield, President of SSHRC
- 7. "Over the last decades, some things have not changed. There's been no significant break in relations of knowledge production between the colonial and post-colonial eras. African universities are essentially consumers of knowledge produced in developed countries. Virtually all partnerships tend to be one-sided. This is not only negative for the African continent but we believe it also deprives global higher education of access to the indigenous knowledge of Africa" Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education for South Africa, at the WCHE meeting in 2009.
- 8." Knowledge workers are problem identifiers, they are problem solvers and problem brokers" Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of Namibia at the WCHE meeting in 2009
- 9. "The commitment for support to higher education in Africa from so many countries outside now needs to be unpacked. How can it be ensured that the support to Africa is determined by the needs and priorities determined by African higher education, and not by donors?" response by Goolam Mohamedbhai head of the Association of African Universities

- 10. "This is an interesting initiative and one that can make a difference to higher education in Africa. The promoters of this proposal should therefore be commended." Comment by Goolam Mohamedbhai, Association of African Universities
- 11. "I would like to pass on our strong support for this idea. The critical factor in the reconstruction of higher education in Africa is to make the academic environment more attractive to high quality teachers and researchers. This will be the only effective way to counter the brain drain. This proposal has the right scale to make a real impact and start attracting people back to African universities" John Tarrant, secretary general of the Association of Commonwealth Universities
- 12. "The World Bank has long championed education, and continues to view the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education as a necessary objective for developing countries. However for the reasons above, and in light of recent trends in technology, neglecting tertiary education could seriously jeopardize SSA's (sub Saharan Africa) longer-term growth prospects, and slow progress toward MDGs, many of which require tertiary-training to implement" see report referenced in item 1.
- 13. "Among non governmental organizations, the institutions of higher learning and the research universities, especially, have a unique role in meeting the Millennium Promises. Only universities have within their walls the vast range of expert scientific knowledge that is vital for deep problem solving on the issues of sustainable development. ---- universities can approach global problems with less bias- political, social and economicthan just about any other social institution" Jeffrey Sachs-Common Wealth, Penguin2008
- 14. "The panel supports the proposal presented by the IAUP for the creation of 1000 academic chairs for Africa over the next 10 years." UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, the panel on "Civil Society (NGOs) and the private sector"
- 15. "As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I shall continue to call on Africa's development partner's to fulfill their commitments to the continent, even in this time of crisis. With your strong leadership, matched by strong partnership from the international community, Africa will be transformed for the better in the future." Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon
- 16. "This is the correct way to address the development of many universities in countries of Africa. It will take some time, but it will work for sure." Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, former Rector of the United Nations University, first Rector of the Federal University of São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil and former Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Education of Brazil.
- 17. "There is a well-established relationship between a country's investment in research and its level of development. In both Latin America and South-East Asia, fast-developing countries have all rapidly stepped up their expenditures on science and technology. If African countries fail to increase their science spend faster than their economies grow,

the continent will remain a developmental backwater." Africa Analysis: Progress on science spending? Science and Development Network Oct ,2009

- 18. "Anyone seeking to tackle the problems facing the developing world must remember two simple facts of life. First, none of these problems from food shortages and the spread of disease, to achieving sustainable economic growth can be addressed without the use of science and technology. Second, harnessing science for development depends on the skills of a country's people. And that in turn requires a robust and effective higher education system the only mechanism that can produce and sustain these skills. "Science and Development Network Mar, 2008
- 19. "A lesson from small developed and R and D intensive countries (such as Finland and Israel) is that entrepreneurship that is innovation-linked can be fostered. A prerequisite for this is that the educational system harnesses individuals with the requisite skills; then and only then can active government policies towards entrepreneurship have the wished for consequences. "UNU- WIDER Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Development: lessons for Finland Oct 2009
- 20. "There is most certainly a pressing need to develop the capacity of African education institutions to offer higher learning and advanced training for skilled workers. This proposal will address this need by helping to make Africa's academics much more attractive to quality teachers and researchers" Indira Samaresekera, President of the University of Alberta
- 21. "I would be pleased to support such an initiative going forward" Heather Monroe-Blum, Principal, McGill University
- 22. "Looks interesting" Peter McPherson, president of APLU
- 23. "This is a very good proposal. In my own country, it is fine accordance with the outcome of the work of our Commission for Africa." Sven Casperson former rector of Aalborg University
- 24. "Your proposal is an outstanding contribution to the ongoing discussions on the need to find innovative ways to support higher education in Africa, given the relative failure of traditional approaches. It is also of great interest to us as we seek partners and ideas to help implement our strategy for Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST)" "He has our support and we are hopeful that that he will convince the G8 leaders to allocate more resources to tertiary education in Africa." Boukary Savadogo, Division Manager, Education, Science and Technology African Development Bank
- 25. "Cette necessite oriente l'action de tous les pays emergents, mais elle doit egalement orienter celle du continent africain. Pour cette raison egalement, votre projet arrive a son heure. En Afrique, le milieu de la recherche est en plein developpement mais l'idee d'un reseau de chaires vient consolider les efforts déjà investis sur tout le continent par des

acteurs comme l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie." Bernard Cerquiglini, recteur of AUF

- 26. "Le monde developpe a une defie vis-à-vis des pays en developpement. Mais cette initiative est surtout une facon de nous donner une chance a nous tous. Ce que nous ferions ainsi, en soutenant le developpement de la vie universitaire et de vie scientifique en Afrique, nous le ferions pour l'ensemble de l'humanite. C'est du moins la conviction qui m'habite et qui justifie l'appuie de l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie a votre formidable projet. "ibid
- 27." I found the proposal to create chairs at African universities most interesting and please count on me to help." Jaime Fucugauchi, UNAM, Mexico
- 28. "First of all let me say that this seems to me personally to be an excellent and worthwhile initiative" Richard Yelland OECD
- 29."There was general support for the proposal by the Board as members felt that such a proposal could bring about substantial positive changes to African higher education" letter from the Association of African Universities
- 30."This is indeed an innovative and timely proposal that could go a long way in developing the capacity of African educational to offer the advanced skills, knowledge and expertise needed for the socio-economic transformation of African societies." Cheik Sidi Diarra Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and special adviser on Africa presentation at the World Innovation Summit on Education Doha, Nov 2009
- 31. "What has emerged is that of the growing number of African students who seek educational opportunities abroad, very few return home after completing their tertiary studies. As a result, there are increasing concerns within the region over implications that human capital losses have for development.

A brief look at the statistics show that almost 30,000 Africans from the sub Saharan region holding PhDs now live outside Africa." Ibid

- 32. "In many cases, countries spend more hiring expatriates than it would cost to retain local professionals." Ibid
- 33." It was good to meet you in Doha. Wise was about innovation, and your ideas sparkle with them.

I am glad to hear about the many positive responses the initiative and your outreach to critical governmental and non-governmental constituencies." Under-Secretary-General of the UN , Kiyotaka Akasaka

34. "As an institution that, like most African universities, has been grappling with the problem of brain drain for some years now, the University of Ghana welcomes new ideas such as yours, that will help alleviate the situation. We expect that not only will such chairs foster retention but that the African academic diaspora will also find this

- arrangement sufficiently attractive to entice some of them back home." CNB Tagoe, vice chancellor, University of Ghana
- 35. "I am so glad that you are pursuing this initiative. It is tremendously worthwhile". Stephen Toope, president, University of British Columbia
- 36. "I have discussed this idea and we are really interested" Joseph Pare, Minister of Education Burkina Faso
- 37. "My university would fully support the concept, and I would be willing to be your partner in making the case. This is an excellent idea built on values that I share i.e. building excellence within and among African universities." Jonathan Jansen, vice chancellor Free State University, and vice president of the South African Academy of Science.
- 38. "Congratulations. That is a very good initiative. I agree with you, we need to strengthen research capacities in Africa in order to promote sustainable development." Dirk Messner, director, German Development Institute
- 38."Like all the colleagues whose testimony you shared with us,I also find the proposal very relevant to the needs of developing nations in Africa. Capacity building is the number one priority to be able to make progress towards the MDG amd establish stronger economies in these countries. The proposed Academic chairs would certainly be an effective way of contributing to and scaling up ongoing capacity building activities in support of university development." Jamil Salmi, Tertiary Education Coordinator, World Bank.
- 39. "We would like to say this very clearly. It is high time that Africa comes up with its own agenda. Let if be developed by Africans-and assisted by our good friends---"
 Shaukat Abdulrazak, CEO and secretary of the Kenya National Council for Science and Technology, in the report of the AAAS conference of their Center for Science Diplomacy
- 40. "IAU welcomes the proposal to create a new program of Academic Chairs for Africa aimed at strengthening higher education and research in public and not for profit higher education institutions. Most particularly, we welcome the emphasis on empowering African institutions to prioritize their needs and seek chair holders whose work will contribute to the overall development plans of the university that hosts him/her." Eva Egon –Polak, secretary general, International Association of Universities.
- 41. "L'universite Hassan 11 de Casablanca et les univeristes Marocaines saluent cette proposition et s'engagement a s'inscrire dans la mise en place et la reussite de ce projet pour le partage du savoir en Afrique et dans le monde au benefice de l'humanite et de son bien-etre." Mohammed Barkaoui, recteur, Universite Hassan 11

- 42."Yes indeed, the proposal is interesting" Harsh Gupta, Director of the Indian Geological surveey and member of the Inidan National Acadmy of Science and Technology
- 43. "We have quite a lot of capacity gaps which we would like to fill with seasoned academics of the caliber the G8 would like to avail to African universities" B.W. Malunga, registrar, University of Malawi
- 44."Thanks for the email and the attached papers. I fully support the project and I would be very happy to be a member of the steering committee. Silas Lwakabamba, Rector, National University of Rwanda
- 45."Congatulations on these impressive activities and presentaions. George Haddad, director of Higher Education, UNESCO
- 46. "Thank you for sending me the documentation on proposal for academic chairs for Africa. This project holds my interest--- Ahlin Byll-Cataria, African Development Bank
- 47. "I might add that your initiative received mention at the Global STI Forum at the World Bank on Thursday/Friday- a great crowd to know about it. Sara Farley, Chief Operating Officer, Global Knowledge Initiative (located within the US National Academy of Science)
- 48. "I had in fact heard about your very interesting initiative from Harold Varmus at the World Bank Global Forum last month, where there were some presentations relevant to what you are trying to do." Phillip Griffiths, Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton and senior advisor Andrew Mellon Foundation
- 49. "This is indeed an excellent proposal and will significantly help in building research capacities and scientific excellence in African universities" Mohamed Hassan, Executive director, The Academy of Science for the Developing World. (TWAS)
- 50. "Partnering with Africa to foster the continent's sustainable growth is not only in keeping with Canada's desire to contribute to global prosperity, peace, and security: it is in Canada's best interests. Indeed, Canada reiterated its support to work with G8 and African partners at the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, to make progress in fighting HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria; to build African capacity to address peace and security challenges; and to support African-led initiatives on economic development and governance reform." Knowledge for Development, Canada-Africa Partnerships in Science, Technology, Innovation and Health. Office of the National Science Advisor, 2007
- 51."We recognized that educational and research capacity building is extremely important to enhance the problem-solving abilities of developing countries in overcoming development challenges, as is their participation in international cooperative efforts to address global issues. This is because it contributes to developing local human resources

who can take the initiative in resolving their own problems and lead the growth of their communities. One practical approach to capacity building would be to further support collaborations of developing country researchers a research and training institutions in the G8 countries. To avoid brain drain, incentives that encourage and factors that hinder the return of these scientists and professionals into their home countries should be considered" G8- AMCOST Expert Meeting Science and Technology for Africa's future-towards a sstainable partnership, Berlin, Oct 2007

- 52. "Mannuh (Prof Mannuh, University of Ghana), reflected on the debate about whether the migration of highly educated Africans to the west was brain drain, brain gain or brain circulation. She noted that educated Africans in the diaspora were not returning to or investing in their homelands at anywhere near the extent of East and South Asians. While the African diaspora was a potentially powerful resource for development, Africa was along way from turning its brain drain into positive brain gain—" University Leaders Forum, Developing and Retaining the Next Generation of Academics, Partnership for Higher Education in Africa, Ghana 2009
- 52."Prof Mohamebhai spoke about the enormous challenge facing African universities in the twenty-first century, particularly in light of the advent of the knowledge society that was drawing the best and the brightest to northern universities and to non-academic employment in their own countries. " ibid

SELECTED LETTERS



the academy of sciences for the developing world c/o ICTP - Strada Costiero 11 - 34014 Trieste - Italy

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1 December 2009

Dear Professor Strangway,

Thank you very much for your email and the proposal to create 1000 chairs for African universities at the forthcoming G8 meeting to be held in Canada. This is indeed an excellent proposal and will significantly help in building research capacities and scientific excellence in African universities.

TWAS will be very pleased to be associated with this initiative. We have excellent networks of leading scientists and institutions in developing countries which will be in a strong position to assist in implementing this proposal. I will be pleased to speak to you over the phone to provide you with more details on how TWAS and its partners can support your proposal.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

TWAS Executive Director

Prof. David William Strangway Chancellor of Quest University 3200 University Boulevard Squamish BC Canada V8B 0N8



Office of the President

3-1 University Hall Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2J9

www.ualberta.ca

Tel: 780.492.3212 Fax: 780.492.9265

2 December 2009

Professor David Strangway President and Chancellor Emeritus Quest University Canada 3200 University Boulevard Squamish, BC Canada V8B 0N8

Re: Academic Chairs for Africa

Dear Professor Strangway,

The University of Alberta proudly supports your proposal to create 1,000 Academic Chairs in Africa to invigorate higher education, research and retain academics in Africa.

There is most certainly a pressing need to develop the capacity of African education institutions to offer higher learning and advanced training for skilled workers. This proposal will address this need by helping to make Africa's academics much more attractive to quality teachers and researchers.

I look forward to watching this proposal continue to develop and wish you the best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

Indira V. Samarasekera, OC President and Vice-Chancellor

IVS/ac

From:

"Pr. Mohammed Barkaoui" <m.barkaoui@uh2c.ac.ma>

To:

<davidstrangway@telus.net>

Sent:

Thursday, January 14, 2010 8:58 AM

Subject:

Projet de création et de financement de 1000 Chaires dans les Universités Africaines

Cher Professeur David W.Stang Way,

Permettez-moi de vous exprimer ma profonde gratitude pour cette importante initiative de création et de financement de Chaire pour la promotion de l'innovation et de la recherche associée au développement de l'enseignement supérieur des Université Africaines.

Aussi, cette louable proposition de créer et financer 1000 chaires dans les Universités Africaines aura un impact certain par la promotion de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation dans les pays africains à l'instar de' l'expérience réussie au Canada et d'autres pays.

L'Université Hassan II de Casablanca et les Universités Marocaines saluent cette proposition et s'engageront à s'inscrire dans la mise en place et la réussite de ce projet pour le partage du savoir en Afrique et dans le monde au bénéfice de l'humanité et de son bien-être.

En vous souhaitant une bonne et heureuse année 2010 et formulant nos vœux de voir qu'elle soit l'année de début de concrétisation de cet important projet.

Avec mes sincères et cordiales salutations.

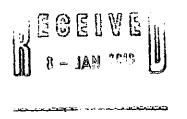
Prof. Mohammed BARKAOUI

Président de l'Université Hassan II -Casablanca

Tél.: 00212 (0) 522 433 030/31 Cell: 00 212 (0) 619 291 291 00 212 (0) 661 098 999 Fax.: 00212 (0) 522 276 150

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI University Office

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UNIVERSITY OFFICE P O. BOX 278 MALAWI

Our Ref: 1/12/3/6/1

30th November 2009

The Secretary to the University University of Strathclyde McCance Building 16 Richmond Street GLASGOW G1 1XQ

FAX: 01415531521

Dear Peter

ACADEMIC CHAIRS FOR AFRICA

On behalf of the University of Malawi, I write to advise that we would be most grateful if our University were to benefit from academic chairs for Africa. We have quite a number of capacity gaps which we would like to fill with seasoned academics of the calibre the G8 would like to avail to African Universities.

In view of what has been said above, I would be most grateful if you spoke in our support so that we could benefit from the academic chairs for Africa.

Yours sincerely

B.W. Malunga

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR



December 2009

IAU Comments on the Proposed Academic Chairs for Africa

The International Association of Universities (IAU) fully supports the continued development of strong higher education and research institutions in Africa. A significant number of African universities are members of the Association and IAU makes every effort to offer services and activities from which they can benefit alongside other Members as well as providing programs (for example LEADHER) made available exclusively for partnerships designed to strengthen developing country institutions' capacities. Indeed, IAU has been publishing the only *Guide to Higher Education in Africa* regularly and in partnership with the African Association of Universities (AAU) for the past several years.

IAU welcomes the proposal to create a new program of Academic Chairs for Africa aimed at strengthening higher education and research in public and not for profit higher education institutions. Most particularly, we welcome the emphasis on empowering African institutions to prioritize their needs and seek Chair holders whose work will contribute to the overall development plans of the university that hosts him/her.

In general we would like to stress two points most especially. The objective being to strengthen institutional capacity, the university is the key actor. Thus its role, alongside the individual Chair holder needs to be central in the design of the Chair. Not only is this required in order for the infrastructure, in terms of equipment, technical supports etc., to be put in place and maintained to meet the needs of the Chair holder, the overall sustainability of the benefits, also rests on the full and on-going participation of the host institution. How the Chair holders fit into the overall institution thus needs to be considered carefully.

Second, though reference is made in the proposal to this aspect, it must be underlined that stopping and/or reversing the brain drain is central to achieving the overall goal of strengthening higher education and research in Africa. For this reason, IAU would urge that the Academic Chairs for Africa program be made available almost, if not entirely exclusively, to African scholars, whether they are living on the continent or in diaspora.

We hope that these comments might be helpful in strengthening the proposal, which, we suggest would benefit from a full discussion within the framework of the African Association of Universities in order to ensure full ownership of the idea and its implementation by the most important stakeholders.

Eva Egron-Polak, IAU Secretary General

From:

"John Tarrant" < J. Tarrant@acu.ac.uk>

To:

<Leonard.Edwards@international.gc.ca>

Cc:

<ds6436@telus.net>

Sent:

Friday, October 09, 2009 12:15 AM

Subject: Academic chairs for Africa Dear Mr Edwards

David Strangway has been keeping me informed on his proposal for "Academic Chairs for Africa".

As you are taking the lead in organising the G8 meeting I would like to pass on our strong support for this idea. The critical factor in the reconstruction of higher education in Africa is to make the academic environment more attractive to high quality teachers and researchers. This will be the only effective way to counter the brain drain.

This proposal has the right scale to make a real impact and start attracting people back to African universities.

The ACU will be happy to work with our partner for the Francophone African Universities (the AUF), our member universities in Africa (about 70), the Association of African Universities and our member universities throughout the Commonwealth to help turn the dream into a reality.

I hope very much that this project can be supported by the G8 as a tangible and practical way to channel international assistance to the desperate need of African higher education which was so clearly identified at Gleneagles.

Professor John Tarrant Secretary General Association of Commonwealth Universities

The content is confidential to the intended recipient and may be legally privileged. If you are not an intended recipient, please delete this email from your system and notify the sender. You can contact the ACU by telephone on + 44 (0) 20 7380 6700 or by facsimile + 44 (0) 20 7387 2655.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities is a UK registered charity (registered charity number 314137) whose Patron is Her Majesty the Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth.

From: "bernard.cerquiglini" <bernard.cerquiglini@auf.org>

To: <davidstrangway@telus.net>
Cc: <duc.vinet@umontreal.ca>; <martine.gemme@umontreal.ca>; "Pierre Noreau"

<pierre.noreau@auf.org>; "nora stamboulieh" <nora.stamboulieh@auf.org>; "chantal lemullois"

<chantal.lemullois@auf.org>

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2009 1:20 AM

Subject: Chaires en Afrique

David William Strangway

Chancellor of Quest University

3200 University Boulevard Squamish,

BC Canada V8B 0N8

Mister Chancellor

La présente fait suite aux échanges récents que j'ai eu le privilège d'avoir avec le Recteur de l'Université de Montréal, Monsieur Luc Vinet. Il a attiré mon attention et celle de l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) sur le projet de réseau de chaires d'excellence sur l'Afrique que vous proposez à la communauté scientifique internationale, avec le soutien de partenaires issus de tous les horizons. Il s'agit d'une initiative particulièrement opportune alors que le milieu universitaire africain cherche les conditions de sa propre institutionnalisation et que les besoins en recherche sont si pressants. Et je veux immédiatement confirmer notre appui à cette initiative.

Votre projet propose l'établissement de mille chaires d'excellence partout en Afrique. Le projet s'inspire du modèle des Chaires du Canada qui ont permis la stabilisation du milieu universitaire de ce pays. Il s'agit d'un modèle qui a largement fait ses preuves. On trouve également d'autres modèles du genre. Je pense notamment aux Chaires Jean Monnet en Europe qu'on trouve implantées dans de nombreuses universités partout dans le monde. Dans tous les cas les fonds sont confiés en gestion à un organisme central, on pense dans le cas présent à une fondation internationale. Je comprends que le processus de sélection des titulaires de ces Chaires y rencontrera toutes les exigences reconnues internationalement par le milieu scientifique et que la répartition institutionnelle et géographique des chaires y favorisera la constitution d'un véritable réseau auquel peuvent contribuer de nombreuses universités. Compétences, ressources, collaboration; on rencontre ici toutes les conditions de l'excellence académique. La structuration d'un tel réseau favorise en effet non seulement la stabilisation des milieux d'enseignement et de recherche mais également la collaboration scientifique à une très grande échelle. Les titulaires de ces chaires trouveront facilement des correspondants en Afrique, mais également sur d'autres continents, ce qui facilitera la coopération

scientifique des universités du Nord et du Sud.

Le grand projet que vous proposez à la communauté universitaire internationale répond à des nécessités connues de tous. Il s'agit d'orientations largement partagées par l'Agence universitaire de la francophonie. Elle renvoie à un principe simple : l'avenir des collectivités humaines passe par l'éducation, notamment par le développement de l'éducation supérieure. Cette nécessité oriente l'action de tous les pays émergents, mais elle doit également orienter celle du continent africain. Pour cette raison également, votre projet arrive à son heure. En Afrique, le milieu de la recherche est en plein développement mais l'idée d'un réseau de chaires vient consolider les efforts déjà investis sur tout le continent par des acteurs comme l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie. Et de même qu'au sein de chaque collectivité, la présence de penseurs, de chercheurs et d'intellectuels favorise la structuration des systèmes sociaux et la stabilisation des rapports politiques et économiques, l'activité des chaires dont vous proposez l'établissement servira, au sein de la communauté scientifique africaine, de pôle d'attraction et de mécanisme de structuration de l'activité académique à tous les cycles de l'université. Leur création ne garantie pas uniquement l'attribution de moyens qu'on sait indispensables à la recherche, chaque chaire est également un outil d'animation de la vie scientifique et un mécanisme fédérateur des acteurs du monde universitaire dans tous les champs du savoir. À leur façon ces chaires sont les ferments des futurs grands réseaux de recherche auxquels l'Afrique pourra enfin contribuer de façon efficace et compétente. Plus encore, ces chaires permettront au milieu universitaire africain de garder sur le continent ses chercheurs et ses intellectuels les plus prometteurs. Elles permettront même de faciliter le retour en Afrique de chercheurs qui ont dû s'expatrier hors du continent pour mener à bien leur vocation d'universitaires. Ceux-ci trouveront enfin en Afrique les moyens de leur ambition intellectuelle. Ce faisant, plutôt que de dépeupler le continent africains de ses meilleurs éléments, on stabilisera les futures générations de chercheurs. On fonde, de cette façon, les bases de la nouvelle Afrique.

C'est pour toutes ces raisons, Monsieur le Chancelier, que l'Agence universitaire de la francophonie s'associe au projet que vous proposez aujourd'hui au monde universitaire. Il s'agit d'un projet qui plaide par lui-même son ambition, mais toutes les raisons que j'évoque dans cette lettre d'appui permettent d'en mieux faire comprendre la nécessité. Le monde développé a une dette vis-à-vis des pays en développement. Mais cette initiative est surtout une façon de nous donner une chance à nous tous. Ce que nous ferions ainsi, en soutenant le développement de la vie universitaire et de vie scientifique en Afrique, nous le ferions pour l'ensemble de l'humanité. C'est du moins la conviction qui m'habite et qui justifie l'appuie de l'Agence universitaire de la francophonie à votre formidable projet.

Nous nous rencontrerons bientôt à Montréal pour discuter des détails de ce projet. Je confie à Monsieur Pierre Noreau, Directeur du Bureau des

Amériques de l'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie le suivi du dossier: il assurera le maintien de nos relations.

Pour l'heure je vous remercie de cette initiative importante et vous prie, Monsieur le Chancelier, d'accepter mes salutations distinguées et cordiales.

Bernard Cerquiglini

Bernard Cerquiglini

Recteur de l'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie

4, place de la Sorbonne

75005 Paris

Tél:01.44.41.18.13

Télc: 01.44.41.18.17

Courriel: bernard.cerquin.tuclin.autlorg

From:

"Professor C.N.B Tagoe" <cnbtagoe@ug.edu.qh>

To:

<davidstrangway@telus.net>

Sent:

Thursday, December 31, 2009 5:04 AM

Subject:

Academic Chairs for Africa

Dear Professor Strangway,

Many thanks for your mail on the all-important subject of creating academic chairs in African universities, with the objective of contributing to the reduction of the brain drain.

As an institution that, like most African universities, has been grappling with the problem of brain drain for some years now, the University of Ghana welcomes new ideas, such as yours, that will help alleviate the situation. We expect that not only will such chairs foster retention but that the African academic Diaspora will also find this arrangement sufficiently attractive to entice some of them back home. We therefore give our fullest support to the proposal offer to host at least one of the chairs.

We should note at this point that the University of Ghana is familiar with the IDRC chairs programme, one of which is hosted in our Department of Nutrition and Food Science, and can attest to its value in furthering academic excellence.

I am yet to take up this matter with our Minister of Education but I can assure you of his unconditional support should a formal response be required of him.

| I wis | sh you succe: | ss with this | splendid | l initiative. | And | best | wishes | for | 201 | 10 | • |
|-------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----|------|--------|-----|-----|----|---|
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Yours.

Cliff Tagoe

NOTE: This e-mail message is subject to the University of Ghana email disclaimer see http://www.ug.edu.gh/index1.php?linkid=271



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES

اتحاد الجامعات الافريقيه

Ref.

AS/28

24 November 2009

Professor David Strangway
President and Chancellor Emeritus
Quest University
CANADA

Dear Professor Strangway,

Academic Chairs for Africa

Your proposal of creating 1,000 Academic Chairs in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to revitalise African higher education, promote research and reduce brain drain was considered by the Governing Board of the Association of Africa Universities at its meeting held in Accra on 11-12 November 2009.

There was general support for the proposal by the Board, as members felt that such a proposal could bring about substantial positive changes to African higher education. The Board, however, felt that details of the implementation of the proposal need to be carefully worked out so as to ensure that the African higher education institutions derive maximum benefits that are sustainable over long-term.

We wish the proposal plenty of success and please do keep us informed of its progress.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai

Secretary-General

From:

"Kiyotaka Akasaka" <akasaka@un.org>

To:

<davidstrangway@telus.net>

Cc:

"Cheick Sidi Diarra" <diarrac@un.org>; "Ramu Damodaran" <damodaran@un.org>; "Jaya Dayal"

<dayalj@un.org>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:49 PM

Subject: Re: academic chairs for Africa

Dear Dr Strangway,

Thank you for your kind message and your support to the "Academic Impact." It was good to meet you in Doha. WISE was about innovations, and your ideas sparkle with them!

I am glad to hear of the many positive responses to the initiative and your outreach to critical governmental and non-governmental constituencies. As I suggested at WISE, education is both a Millennium Development Goal and a requisite for the other goals to be effectively realised. Africa offers vivid example of this and of the remarkable indigenous intellectual vigour that can serve the continent's, and our world's, cause.

As you know, Mr Cheikh Diarra, the Secretary-General's senior adviser on Africa, also participated in WISE and I will share your message with him.

Best regards.

Kiyo Akasaka Under-Secretary-General, DPI, United Nations akasaka@un.org Office 212-963 2912 Fax 212- 963 4361 HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017 TEL.: 1 (212) 963,1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963,4879

REFERENCE: 272-11/2009/UN-OHRLLS/FK

12 November 2009

Dear Prof. Adams,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2009, informing me about the exciting proposal by Dr. David Strangway to create and fund 1,000 academic chairs in educational institutions across Africa.

This is indeed an innovative and timely proposal that could go a long way in developing the capacity of African educational institutions to offer the advanced skills, knowledge and expertise needed for the socio-economic transformation of African societies.

It is fully in line with the efforts of my Office, which you are fully aware of, as well as the entire United Nations system to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development in Africa.

I therefore wish to express my utmost support to the initiative and urge development partners to give it the backing it deserves.

I look forward to learning more about the initiative and wish Dr. Strangway success in this noble initiative.

Cheick Sidi Diarra

Under-Secretary-General

Special Advisor on Africa

High Representative

for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Prof. J. Michael Adams President Fairleigh Dickinson University New Jersey

SELECTED READINGS

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- 1. Accelerating Catch-up Tertiary Education for Growth in Sub Saharan Africa World Bank report, Oct 2008
- 2. Strategy for Higher Education , Science and Technology , African Development Bank, 2009
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- 5. Partnerships for Higher Education in Africa, a venture of seven foundations in the US Second University Leaders Forum, Developing and retaining the next generation of academics, Ghana, Nov 2008
- 6. Academic Impact, A United Nations Program to enroll a large number of university presidents in support of the Millennium Development Goals 2009
- 7. Africa-US Higher Education Initiative, US AID conference in Rwanda, Aug 2009
- 8. Speech by Under Secretary General of the United Nations Cheik Diarra, Doha, Qatar, Nov, 2009
- 9. What is the Third World Academy of Science
- 10. Global Forum: Building STI Partnerships for Building Capacity, World Bank, Washington DC, Dec 2009
- 11. Bill Summary, African Higher Education and Improvement Act, a bill in front of the US Congress including the creation of an American University in West Africa
- 12. Pan African University the African Union 2010
- 13. Victoria Institute of Science and Technology (VIST), Kenya, a new university Calestous Juma
- 14. Egypt Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) , a new university in Cairo
- 15. American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting on East African Science, Dec 2009
- 16. Activities of the DAAD in Germany for African universities

- 17. Knowledge for Development, Canada-Africa Partnerships in Science, Technology, Innovation and Health, Industry Canada, Office of the National Science Advisor, 2007
- 18. G8- AMCOST meeting, Science and Technology for Africa's future towards a sustainable partnership, Berlin, Oct, 2007
- 19. The G8 science and technology minister's meeting Chair's Summary 2007
- 20. UNESCO fights brain drain with computing gain