



Some Aspects of Intra and Inter-Regional Cooperation in Africa

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3rd GMA, Guadalajara, Mexico,
April 20-22, 2009



Intra and inter-regional cooperation: What it is - I

- We can have Collaboration and networking in many contexts:-
 1. National - among HE institutions in a country, (UUK, CVC –Nigeria, VCG-Ghana, ANUIES, SAUVCA);
 2. Intra-regional - among national groupings within countries in a sub-region (SARUA, E.A. HE Council, C.A. Mins of Edu Council, Assoc of W.A. Univs - new);
 3. Intra-regional - among individual institutions within a region, (say Africa, AAU);
 4. Inter-regional or among sub-regional setups (eg. AWAU and SARUA);



Intra and inter-regional cooperation: What it is - II

5. Inter-regional - among similar regional bodies, e.g., AAU-A. Ar. U (Arab);
 6. Inter-regional between regional body like the AAU and a world or global body e.g., UNESCO, IAU, ACU.
- These collaborations and networks, may ultimately result in cooperation.
 - In the context of this conference I believe we are initiating an inter-regional discourse.



Intra and inter-regional cooperation: for What?

- Collaboration and networking promote:-
 - the exchange and comparing of ideas,
 - sharing information and testing solutions by deliberating upon what works, where and how,
 - sharing of resources (both human and material).
- The end results will elicit new ways of thinking and new insights towards:
 - viable solutions that will assist policy makers and practitioners in improving equity and access to higher education across the African continent.



Intra and inter-regional cooperation for What? *Cont...*

- Viable and practical solution to problem of barriers to equity and access to HE vital. This requires:-
 - research and scholarly exchange about the **causes** of inequality and limited access;
 - sound financial mechanisms and funding options to improve access;
 - **Measures for ensuring** the readiness and success potential of learners and education systems; and
 - strategies to improve delivery systems responsive to the needs of diverse groups in the system.



Some problems requiring intra- and inter-regional cooperation.

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- These can be summarized under three headings dealing with:-
 - Key threats
 - Key opportunities
 - Strategic challenges

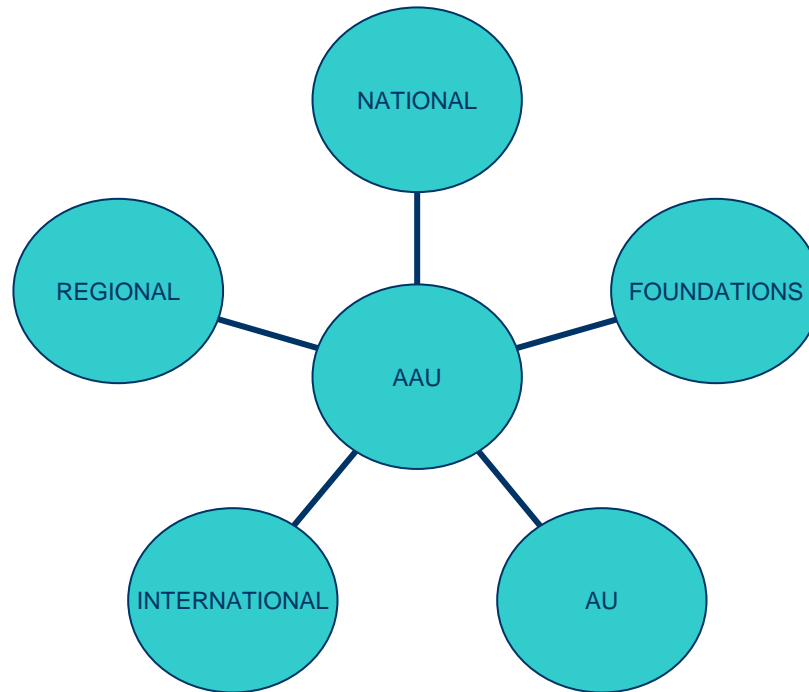
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AAU COOPERATIONS





Key Threats to African Higher Education System

- Wide scale poverty across continent;
- HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB;
- Corruption;
- Unresolved intra-state conflicts;
- Impact of weak economies on Africa's ability to retain skilled human resources – brain drain;
- High expectations for HE without matching resources;
- Colonial language barriers still strong (??).



Key Opportunities

- Strong trends toward state consolidation through democracy and market economies;
- Decreasing inter-state conflicts;
- Increasing international confidence in the possibilities of contemporary Africa;
- AAU's role as a diverse continental HE body uncontested;
- HE revival increasingly an accepted feature of state revival;
- The global challenge of the knowledge economy.



Strategic Challenges

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- To enhance the relevance of African Universities;
- To enhance the visibility of continental higher education institutions such as the AAU within the African Union.

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Service to (AAU) Membership through intra-regional cooperation

- Continental HE leadership development;
- ICT infrastructure and bandwidth capacity;
- African HE curriculum review;
- Strengthened capacity for knowledge generation;
- Sustainable student and staff mobility;
- Management information database on HE in Africa;
- Bridging the language divide;
- Networks for teaching and research.



AAU Programmes and activities through intra-regional cooperation - I

- Leadership Development (LEDEV);
- Management Development (MADEV);
- Mainstreaming Gender in Higher Education in Africa;
- Research and Education Networking;
- Study Programme on Higher Education Management in Africa;
- Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD);
- Academic Staff Exchange.



AAU's Programmes and activities through intra-regional cooperation - II

- Small Grants for Dissertations and Theses Programme;
- Working Group on Higher Education in Africa;
- Quality Assurance Support Programme for African Higher Education;
- African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS;
- Mobilisation for Regional Capacity Initiative.



Intra-National Cooperation For African Higher Education in Ghana (VCG) - I

- Vice Chancellors Ghana (VCG) – started in 1965 as an informal consultative forum, later the **Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principal (CVCP)** with UG, KNUST & UCSE to:
 - Consider common problems;
 - Agree on fundamental policies;
 - Act in concert in execution of duties (where possible);
 - Promote understanding, trust, and cooperation among the institutions; and



Intra-National Cooperation For African Higher Education in Ghana (VCG) - II

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- Dialogue with government over issues affecting the universities.
- Established permanent secretariat in 1978 and now has 6 (public) members, and serves:
 - As Think-Tank for Ministry of Education on matters relating to public universities;
 - A forum for consensus building on issues of common interest to member institutions as well as other HE institutions in Ghana;

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Sp Thank to Tank

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Intra-National Cooperation For African Higher Education in Ghana (VCG) - III

- As consultative forum through which numerous and complex challenges facing HE can be tackled together;
- Harness the unique attributes of all the public universities towards the realization of the development aspirations of Ghana;
- As the unifying voice for HE, advocating for increased understanding and support for HE sector from stakeholders;



Intra-National Cooperation For African Higher Education in Ghana (VCG) - IV

- To collaborate with international bodies with interests in HE e.g., AAU, ACU, World Bank & Foundations – Carnegie, McArthur, Rockefeller, Ford, Fulbright, Leventis.
- Represented on NCTE, NAB & GETFund
- Other forms of collaboration under VCG are:
 - Committee of Registrars and Finance Officers;
 - Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH);

Intra-National Cooperation For African Higher Education in Ghana (VCG) - V

- National Research and Education Network (NREN).
 - In Ghana, the NREN is The Ghana Academic Research Network (GARNET) which has just been set up; for
 - Capacity development, resource acquisition and sharing through ICT.
- Consultation with other tertiary institutions in Ghana eg. Private universities - CHPUG (18), other public professional institutes (3), polytechnics – CHP (10).



Inter Regional Cooperation For African Higher Education in West Africa

- Regional Research Education Networks (RRENs) These link NRENs. Currently are in formation in West and Central African region as WACREN. Already established in East Africa region as UbuntuNet Alliance;
- West African Postgraduate Medical College for specialist medical training under the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons (WACP and WACS);
- Maritime University.



Inter Regional Cooperation Goals For African Higher Education - I

- Achieve greater communication and collaboration between the AAU as well as African higher education institutions and African Governments;
- Strengthen the role of higher education as an essential aspect of Africa's development;
- “Academic freedom” and “accountable autonomy” drive HE-State relationships.

Inter Regional Cooperation Goals For African Higher Education - II

- Mobilize significant support for African HE Research Capacity;
- Build leadership capacity
- High AAU leverage for strategic leadership and intervention in HE across the continent.



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Example from the University of Ghana

- Host of the **Universities** Leaders Forum;
- Academics across borders – with UNESCO.
- Other initiatives:
 - Kofi Annan Peace Keeping Centre
 - University of Ghana International Students' office

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May be add three othe

1)Kofi Annan Centre

2)Naval College

3)University of Ghana International ...

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Inter-Regional Cooperation Examples

Pan African approach

International approach

AAU/UNESCO

AAU/IAU

AAU/ADEA

AAU/ Arab Universities

AAU/EUA: (European university association)

AAU/NASULGC: (National association of State universities
and land grant colleges).



Conclusion

- Greater AAU advocacy and lobbying capacity within AU and a strong global reach
- Achieve a strong regional presence through AAU sub-structures
- A strong voice for good governance and social empowerment (sustainable peace, security, and stability)



Conclusion cont'

- Work with AU and Donor partners
- Secure AU commitment to African HE
- Mobilize and consolidate African HE leadership
- Play a role in the re-thinking of African HE
- Develop programme of action



END

THANK YOU