

# Pan African University - German Cooperation Programme Newsletter

April 2018

advancing africa



A quarterly newsletter by the German Development Cooperation Programme supporting the Pan African University (PAU) and the Pan African Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES) informing about the development of the PAU as well as milestones and results of the support processes. This newsletter is developed and coordinated by GIZ with contributions of KfW and DAAD.



### African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat visits PAUWES



Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Moussa Faki Mahamat speaking at PAUWES, Tlemcen. Photo: © GIZ/Lina Osorio, 2018.

On March 11, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Moussa Faki Mahamat, visited PAUWES. The Chairperson's delegation included Professor Sarah Anyang Agbor, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology; Abdelkader Msahal, the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Tahar Hadjar, the Algerian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Michael Peter Zenner, Ambassador of Germany to Algeria, and Benyaiche Ali, Wali of the Wilaya of Tlemcen. During his visit, Moussa Faki Mahamat visited an exhibition of student projects and initiatives. The AUC Chairperson, who was on a three-day

official visit to Algeria, was impressed with the institute, noting that PAUWES is “a prototype of the Africa of tomorrow, for which we are laying the foundations”. The event received significant media coverage from publications including the [Algerian Press Service](#) (English), [Le Quotidien](#) (French), and [El Chourouk](#) (Arabic).



Nina Volles, Nawal Allal presenting GIZ booth. Photo: © GIZ/Lina Osorio, 2018.



Michael Peter Zenner, Ambassador of Germany to Algeria. Photo: © GIZ/Isabela Vera, 2018.

## AU Heads of State decide to integrate Pan African Virtual University into PAU



E-Learning component at PAU . Photo © GIZ / Dirk Ostermeier, 2011.

During the 30th AU Summit the Heads of State took two decisions of relevance for the Pan African University. First, they endorsed a proposal to operationalize the AU flagship project, as the open distance and e-learning arm of the Pan African University Pan African Virtual and e-University (PAVU). Second, the AU Council elected Professor Pierre Dominique Nzinzi from Gabon as the new President of the PAU Council for a three-year term. Prof. Nzinzi previously served as Director of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Philosophiques at Université Omar Bongo in Libreville. Thus, the PAU strategic plan will also outline how PAVU will be fully integrated into PAU while preserving its overarching Agenda 2063 objective of increasing access to tertiary education in Africa through high quality Open Distance and eLearning resources.

### Meeting of Key & Thematic Partners (KTP) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The German Embassy convened the international partners supporting PAU in Addis Ababa. The European Union, JICA, KfW, GIZ and the German Embassy exchanged on developments at PAU. Within the framework of the ongoing process on financial sustainability, the KTP discussed their future support of PAU as well as potential new partners for the university. The KTP also coordinate their position to be presented in the PAU governance organ deciding on strategy – the PAU Council.

### Second Trilateral Meeting of Algeria, AUC and Germany on the development of PAUWES

The second Trilateral Technical Team (TTT) meeting among Algeria, the AUC and Germany took

place in Algiers at the beginning of March. This included representatives from the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, the PAU Rectorate, the Algerian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Higher Education, the University of Tlemcen and PAUWES as well as the Head of Development Cooperation with the AU at the German Embassy in Addis Ababa and GIZ. The meeting has been established as a platform for exchange to address challenges, the development potential of PAUWES, and to seek joint solutions. The partners committed to accelerate processes for academic staff recruitment and measures to ensure financial sustainability. As a result PAUWES could complete the administrative staff structure and strengthen operations.

### PAU at turning point: preparation of 5 year strategy, plan for financial sustainability and new personnel concept

The new 5 year strategy plan for the PAU shall be presented to the PAU Council and AU member state representation during this summer. The strategy will guide PAU through a phase of consolidation to ensure that the university is living up to its mission: providing quality, African solutions to African problems and a generation of young leaders and researchers for the continent. A team of experts and stakeholders of PAU are working on the plan that consists in setting relevant and realistic goals in line with the vision and mission, the integration of the concept of the Pan African Virtual University into the PAU structure. The strategic plan shall be aligned to the financial sustainability plan as well as the personnel structure including recruitment processes, which are developed at the same time. An expert team from the renowned Center for Higher Education Studies (CHEPS) at the University of Twente in the Netherlands is supporting the PAU Rectorate with developing the plan for PAU's financial sustainability. The expert group developed a model demonstrating that financial sustainability is not an isolated theme but rather depends on the Institution's performance, accountability, and autonomy. In addition, a team of Australian experts supports the Rectorate in redesigning the HR structure and PAU's staff rules and regulations. After site visits and interviews at institutes, the AUC and Rectorate, experts, Rectorate and GIZ aligned the fields of planning in an intensive coordination session in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the future location of the PAU Rectorate.



## PAUWES and GIZ collaborate to scale up communications activities

PAUWES has strengthened its approach in the area of communications since last autumn with the support of GIZ. This initiative is now showing concrete results, particularly following the appointment of Khadidja Bousmaha as a permanent communications officer at PAUWES in January 2018. The team has been collaborating intensively on the update of the communication strategy and a range of projects such as the dissemination of the quarterly student-led PAUWES magazine, the editorial calendar for digital communication and the re-design and content update of the PAUWES website to be launched within the next months. The goal of the measures is to increase awareness of the institute, build up a strong reputation, support students' and lecturers' recruitment and to attract partners for PAU.

## Academic Affairs

### PAUWES and partners kick off first curriculum review process



Curriculum review team. Photo: © GIZ, 2018.

On March 12 and 13, the kick-off of the first PAUWES Curriculum Review took place in Tlemcen. Academics, practitioners and experts on pedagogy and employability identified curriculum-related challenges in PAUWES' four Master programs, and set up a roadmap to define the needed review steps. A focus group with employers, sector experts and skills specialists shall focus on strengthening the relevance of the curriculum and skills development for employability and entrepreneurship. Another focus group of international academic experts will review issues of quality and research linkages. The review is expected to be finalized in December 2018 with the submission of the curricula to the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

## PAUWES hosts successful 2018 Winter School

From February 15-22, PAUWES hosted a winter school program in Tlemcen and Algiers for students from PAUWES' fourth cohort as well as visiting students from Bonn and Cologne. Students specializing in engineering had the chance to visit Cap Djanet, a thermal power station, and a research center at SONALGAZ, a state-owned utility in charge of the electricity and natural gas distribution in Algeria.

Students interested in water had the opportunity



Students at Winter School program. Photo © GIZ/PAUWES Multimedia CoP teamv 2018.

to visit El Hamma, a desalination plant in Algiers, as well as Oued el Harrach, a water treatment centre. Dr. Bernhard Tischbein, professor at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) in Bonn, and lecturer of the Winter School stated that the course presents itself as "an opportunity for us to link up with our partners, which will help young people to become agents of change for Africa". The event was a joint project of PAUWES with its German university partners within the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) support to PAUWES.

### Research-2-Practice Forum takes place April 16-18 in Tlemcen

The forum strives to link research and development, with the aim of making concrete contributions towards the goals of the Agenda 2063. PAUWES in cooperation with a consortium of German universities (UNU-EHS, ZEF and ITT) led by UNU-EHS and the University Abou Bekr Belkaid in Tlemcen, are jointly organizing an international forum in Tlemcen, Algeria from 16-18 April 2018. The forum is supported by German Technical Cooperation - BMZ and BMBF.

For more information, click [here](#).

# Entrepreneurship & Employability

## PAUWES launches career services



Career services at PAUWES. Photo: © GIZ, 2018.

After probing different events and career workshops in 2016 and 2017, PAUWES has now started establishing **career services** as part of its institutional structure, with regular annual activities. The services purpose is to support students regarding their career orientation, as professionals, researchers or entrepreneurs, throughout the course of their studies and during the transition into the world of practice. On the other hand it also aims to develop career paths and find the right entry positions based on the students competences profile. The career services advises on the practice orientation of the curricula, establishes networks with employers in the public and private sector, supports with internship placements, invites practitioners for lectures and exchange, and counsels students and trains them for job interviews. Additionally, the career services is focused on strengthening and collaborating with the Alumni Association and its involvement with current students.

## Entrepreneurship & Innovation Club

The PAUWES Entrepreneurship and Innovation Club was launched on May 20 by three PAUWES students namely; Rehema Khimulu, Arnold Kipchumba, and George Kiambuthi. The initiative aims to: Provide a platform for students to actualize their entrepreneurial ideas and impact both PAUWES and Africa positively. And provide a platform for students to design linkages between their Master's thesis and Entrepreneurship, in order to harness the entrepreneurship potential. In February 2018 the founders and managing club members organized a handover session to the new management team that stressed the importance of having an entrepreneurial mindset while undergoing a master degree. **Watch video!**

## Entrepreneurship Students' Activation Workshop

The Africa 2063 Vision serves as an inspiration to advance our capacity for value creation to prosper Africa. The EU Commission's new Skills Agenda defines entrepreneurship as a transversal skill for the knowledge economy to strengthen human capital, employability, competitiveness and social inclusion. The PAUWES Entrepreneurship Programme is designed by the Sustainability Institute from South Africa, and facilitated by Phumlani Nkontwana and Fredell Jacobs, the workshop aims to activate the students' entrepreneurial mindset and develop individual entrepreneurship competence. The learning journey takes on a practice-based approach with case studies and an entrepreneurial toolbox. From February 25 until March 7, students were exposed to entrepreneurship ecosystems and the life cycle of a typical venture in innovation driven entrepreneurship at PAUWES. The programme is designed as an immersive experience through action learning and interactive sessions that require students' commitment to participate as an individual and as a team player. Students concluded the two weeks by understanding that entrepreneurship is a powerful tool for value creation and driving impact, but also that it is a lot of fun!

## Alumni

### PAUWES alumna Vivian Nwardiaru interviewed by Radio AFRO FM



Vivian Nwardiaru, PAUWES alumna, © V. Nwardiaru, 2018.

In early March, Vivian Nwadiaru, who graduated from PAUWES in 2017 and is currently doing an internship at the PAU Rectorate in Ethiopia, was

interviewed by AFRO FM. The interview was organized by the German embassy in Addis Ababa. It focuses on cooperation between Germany and the African Union, as well as PAU's mission to build the capacity of young Africans in a highly supportive Pan African environment. Vivian's interview slot begins around 0:35:00 and can be found on [here](#).

## Alumni stories



Clarisse Nibagwire, PAUWES alumna. Photo: © C. Nibagwire, 2018.

**Clarisse Nibagwire** graduated in 2016 from PAUWES with a Master of Science (MSc) in Energy Engineering. She now works as Renewable Energy Officer for the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA).

Clarisse decided that renewable energy was her passion upon joining the **Women Initiative for Renewable Energy (WIRE)**, which linked her with a renewable energy company installing mini-grid systems in rural areas of Rwanda. She plans to continue expanding her expertise in the field, as "the energy sector is the pillar on which all kinds of development can build".

**Follow PAUWES' social media accounts to get more information about the institute and its community!**



## Events

Date	Name	Place	Participants
April 16 - 18	Research-2-Practice Conference	Tlemcen, Algeria	PAU Rectorate, PAUWES representatives, GIZ, experts
May	Evaluation workshop for the long term academic staff recruitment	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	PAU Rectorate, GIZ, experts
May	Strategic plan review workshop	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	PAU Rectorate, Strategic Planning Committee, GIZ, experts
May	Curriculum review workshop employment session	Tlemcen, Algeria	
June	PAU Senate Meeting		
June	PAU Council Committee Meeting		
June	Kick-off workshop for the development of a quality framework	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	PAU Rectorate, Directors, GIZ, experts
June	PAUSTI graduation		

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## Disclaimer

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 228 44 60-0  
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Registered at  
Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384  
Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB  
12394

VAT no. DE 113891176  
Tax no. 040 250 56973

Management Board  
Tanja Gönner (Chair)  
Dr Christoph Beier  
Dr Hans-Joachim Preuß

In charge of this newsletter:  
Karen Hauff

Editor(s):  
Nina Volles Bird, Franziska R u e ß

With contributions from:  
Lina Osorio

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GIZ staff members