

Global Research Council (GRC) Academic Symposium Energy and manufacturing technologies

Venue: Swakopmund, Namibia

Date: 16 November 2015

Context

The role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in national and international developmental agendas is becoming increasingly recognised. Africa is cognisant of this role as evident from the recently developed vision 2063 that places the role of STI at the heart of Africa's development trajectory. The African Union's vision 2063 calls for the diversification of sources of growth and sustenance of Africa's current economic performance, and in the long-run, lifting large sections of our population out of poverty. The strategy for this vision, further fosters social transformation and economic competitiveness, through human capital development, innovation, value addition, industrialisation and entrepreneurship (STISA-2024).

Academic session

As part of the Global Research Council (GRC) Africa Regional Meeting, an academic symposium on African research will be held focusing on two themes: (i) energy and (ii) manufacturing technologies. The purpose of the academic session is to bring together researchers, students and other stakeholders from Africa and Germany to discuss recent research in energy and manufacturing technologies. The sessions will also serve as a platform to discuss current and future sustainable solutions to Africa's energy and manufacturing challenges. The session aims to strengthen research collaboration between experts from Africa and Germany in the energy and manufacturing technologies sectors.

Session 1: Energy

The region's rapidly increasing energy demand and lack of resources to meet this demand pose a major hindrance in sustainably attaining developmental goals. The objective of the energy academic session is to:

- Identify good practices in energy solution;
- Identify current challenges and solutions in relation to regional energy status quo;
- Share recent developments in the energy sector;
- Share lessons on models and tools used in addressing energy challenges;
- Assess opportunities and challenges needed for the development of sustainable energy solutions;
- Enhance partnerships in energy among African and German experts.

Speakers (TBC)

- **Dr Zivayi Chiguvare**, Namibia Energy Institute
- **Prof Krause Maçedo**, Rhodes University, South Africa
- **Prof Luke Chimuka**, Witwatersrand University, South Africa
- **Mr Markus von Jeney** – Energy expert, Namibia
- DFG

Session 2: Manufacturing technologies

Manufacturing technologies play an important role in national and regional economic and social development. Scientific evidence has clearly shown that high-technology manufacturing countries offer the greatest potential for growth. The objective of this academic session is to:

- Stimulate discussion on the status core for manufacturing technologies in the region;
- Share recent developments in manufacturing technologies;
- Share lessons on models and tools used in addressing manufacturing technology challenges;
- Assess opportunities and challenges needed for the development of a sustainable manufacturing technology sector; and
- Enhance partnerships in manufacturing technologies among African and German experts.

Speakers (TBC)

- **Mrs Ally Angula**, MD, Leapfrog Holdings, Namibia
- **Mr David Namalenga**, MD, Dinapama Manufacturing & Supplies, Namibia
- **Prof Tien-Chien Jen**, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Dr Olubambi Apata**, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa
- DFG

Expected Outcomes

- Learning and knowledge exchange among participants through interactive discussions;
- Identifying future research needed to enhance the value, and improve the sustainability of high-impact science-based research;
- Identify future opportunities for collaboration among stakeholders;
- Demonstrate the impact of international collaboration;
- Identifying and develop pathways to enhance relationships between African and German researchers;

Structure of the symposium

The programme will feature presentations on recent developments in energy and manufacturing technologies sectors by renowned research leaders from Africa and Germany with a focus on science collaboration. Facilitated discussions will also be held on *bridging the gap between research, society and policy* to ensure a holistic approach to challenges faced by the two sectors. For each session, each speaker will be given a maximum of 8 minutes for presentation. After each session, facilitated discussion will be held.

About GRC

The GRC was established in 2011 as a virtual organization pledged to identify mutually acceptable paths toward greater international research collaboration in order to more effectively address global challenges. The Global Research Council has a long-term objective of fostering multilateral research and collaboration across continents to benefit both developing and developed nations. The regional meeting is a build up to the global GRC forum to be held in India in 2016. The two themes identified for the 2016 GRC discussion are "Equality and Status of Women in Research" and "Interdisciplinarity".