

**THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014**

# HISTORY OF AAS

The seminal idea of creating a continent-wide academy of sciences was hatched during the inaugural meeting of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy, 5–10 July 1985. The idea received further boost from the concurrent proceedings at the same venue of the International Conference on South-South and South-North Cooperation in Science, attended by about 250 delegates from 50 academies of science and research councils from various parts of the world.

Consequently, a task force, chaired by the late Professor Thomas Risley Odhiambo, was charged with the planning and establishment of the proposed continental Academy. This task force presented its recommendations in a follow-up meeting in Trieste in December 1985. The gathering unanimously adopted the recommendations of the task force, turned itself into a general assembly and formed a founding constituent assembly for the establishment of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) on 10 December 1985. The 33 participants at the gathering became the founding fellows of the new Academy and went on to elect its first officers.

The inaugural meeting of the Academy was convened in Nairobi, Kenya, on 3–6 June 1986, during the International Conference on Drought, Desertification and Food Deficit in Africa, which was jointly sponsored by AAS, TWAS and the United States National Academy of Science (USNAS). The broad policy outcomes of this conference have acted as the templates for the core programmes of AAS ever since, with the focus areas being;- biotechnology; soil and water management; improved food production and value addition, as well as the associated goals in capacity building, information dissemination; networking; science and technology policy change and advocacy, and adoption of new modalities for obtaining sustained government and donor support for AAS efforts in problem-solving research and development.

Since its establishment in 1985, AAS has pursued a vision of being an engine for ST&I-led sustainable development in Africa. The Academy's key strategy has been the utilization of a community of excellent scientists to engage with governments and policy makers on the continent.



**AFRICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

## AAS GOVERNING COUNCIL

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Immediate Past President

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Northern Africa: **Chaibi Thameur (Tunisia)**

Central Africa: **Thomas Silou (Congo)**

Eastern Africa: **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (Mauritius)**

Western Africa: **Richard Awuah (Ghana)**

Ex-officio Member

Executive Director: **Berhanu Abegaz (Ethiopia)**

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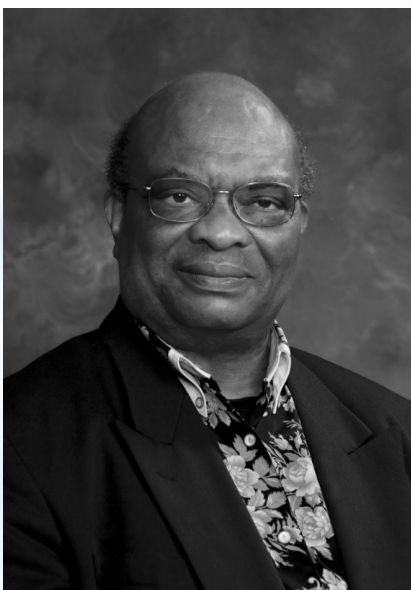
## ACRONYMS

AAS	African Academy of Sciences
AESA	Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa
ACU	Association of Commonwealth Universities
AMCOST	African Ministerial Council for Science and Technology
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ARC	AAS Audit and Risk Committee
AUC	African Union Commission
BAS	Brazilian Academy of Sciences
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAE	Chinese Academy of Engineering
CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences
CIRCLE	Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COPAB	Pan African Bioethics Congress
DFID	Department for International Development
DSN-ASIA	Denis Sassou N'Guesso Africa Science Innovation Award
EAC	East African Community
EAS	Ethiopian Academy of Sciences
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GA	General Assembly
GAAS	Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
GC	Governing Council
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFS	International Foundation for Science
INSA	Indian National Science Academy
IOCD	International Organization for Chemistry for Development
KAST	Korean Academy of Science and Technology
KNAS	Kenyan National Academy of Sciences
MAC	Membership Advisory Committee
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NAS	Nigerian Academy of Sciences
NASAC	Network of African Science Academies
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCA	The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
PAU	Pan African University
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
STEPRI	Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
TWAS	The World Academy of Sciences
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

I feel very delighted to say that the year 2014 has indeed been eventful and productive for AAS.

Earlier in the year, we had a very successful AAS 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) at Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on the theme “Positioning AAS for better impact in Africa.” We are very grateful to the Government of Congo for generously hosting this GA which consisted of four distinct activities: 1) Scientific Session with invited plenary lectures given by seven AAS Fellows in diverse areas of Science and Technology; 2) Induction ceremony for 62 new Fellows of the AAS; 3) a Business meeting of the Academy dealing with various agenda items including the election of members of the new Governing Council (GC) of the AAS; and 4) Award of the Olusegun Obasanjo Prize, Induction of President Denis Sassou N’Gusso as a Honorary Fellow of AAS and the glorious announcement of the President Denis Sassou N’Gusso Prize. The seven invited plenary lectures as well as the fact that the members of AAS GC were all elected electronically for the first time are unique features of the Brazzaville GA and I cherish the strong hope that future GA’S will replicate and improve upon these highly commendable innovations. It is also my strong hope that there will be further improvement on the induction procedure of new Fellows as discussed and recommended by our GC meeting of July 2014.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Prof. Aderemi Kuku, AAS  
President

There were two GC meetings in 2014, a pre-GA 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 14 April 2014 and a post-GA 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Nairobi 24-25 July 2014. It was the GC meeting of July that set the stage for the activities of the current GC members and we have been doing our best to fulfil our mandate.

During 2014, existing partnerships have been strengthened and new ones established. For example AAS became strategic partners for AU, AUC and NEPAD. Indeed together with NEPAD, AAS has launched the platform AESA - Alliance for Excellence in Research in Africa- with Welcome Trust, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and DFID as Donor



partners and there is now a NEPAD-AAS MoU towards actualising this platform. Professor Kelvin Marsh resumed in 2014 as a Senior Advisor of AAS. AAS is now invited to AMCOST Ministerial and Bureau meetings and moreover, AAS has been named Manager of the newly established Sassou N'Guessou Innovation Award. AAS has been represented on various committees of AU and AUC e.g. on the committee to choose the rectorate and rectorate country for the Pan-African University as well as on PAU council. A 14-year old dormant MoU with the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) was revived in 2014 resulting in closer working relationship with KAST e.g. a Bilateral AAS-KAST Symposium scheduled for July 2015. Also, beyond the MoU earlier signed by AAS with Ghana Academy of Arts and Science, Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and Kenya National Academy of Sciences, AAS also signed in 2014 an MoU with the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) resulting in a joint organisation of an ICT event in Nigeria in 2015. AAS has also maintained its close working relationship TWAS, Indian National Academy of Sciences, Brazilian and Chinese Academy of Sciences.

I am happy to say that AAS has continued its capacity building programmes in 2014 including efforts to nurture African emerging scientific talents. For example, 1) the workshop on stem cell and regenerative medicine in August 2014, with eventual pairing of mentors and mentees for hosting arrangements in India, Brazil and South Africa; 2) Climate Change programme through the CIRCLE Fellowship programme funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) implemented by AAS and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Finally, in order to increase the visibility of AAS as well as popularise science all over the continent of Africa, the current AAS GC created in 2014 four AAS Commissions:

- 1) AAS Commission on Science Education;
- 2) AAS Commission on African Scientific Heritage;
- 3) AAS Commission on Pan-African Science Olympiad; and
- 4) AAS Commission on Women in Science in Africa.

The Commissions have started to work and we are optimistic that their impacts will be felt all over Africa before long.

With all the achievements recorded for 2014, AAS now looks forward to 2015 and beyond with a lot of hope for greater achievements that will only be possible with the cooperation and collaboration of all Fellows of AAS and our various partners. We count on all of you for further success of AAS.



This is the fourth Annual Report in as many years since we resumed preparing them. As can be seen from the content of the report there is now a lot happening at AAS. But I must also hasten to add that a lot more could be done. Outputs and inputs are always related. Critical inputs are the quantity and quality of our human resources as well as the financial resources that are made available to us. These inputs have gradually increased over the past few years and so have the outputs as well.

Our Strategic plan came out in 2013, and hence this is the second year in implementing it. In the areas of “recognizing excellence” we have done very well. The number of Fellows has increased by 24 in 2014 reaching 291 and is about to reach the 50% mark (300) of the target number of 600 set in the Plan. Reaching this target will not be easy, especially since we are also raising the quality bar slightly; but I am hopeful that we will succeed.

## FOREWORD

A major activity in 2014 has been holding the triennial General Assembly which was generously hosted by the Government of Congo in Brazzaville. This meeting saw the highest number of Fellows attending the general assembly, the induction of highest number of AAS Fellows on a single occasion, the highest number of Fellows running for position in the Governing Council which resulted in the replacement of the majority the Governing Council members. The

new Denis Sassou N'Guesso Africa Science Innovation Award (DSN-ASIA), sponsored by the Government of Congo, was also launched.



Prof. Berhanu Abegaz  
Executive Director of AAS

The second area is in implementing the programmatic activities in the six ST&I areas, namely, Climate Change, Health and Wellbeing, STEM, Sustainable Energy, Food Security and Nutritional Wellbeing, and Water and Sanitation where we had different levels of success. Our greatest success is in the first area (Climate Change) where we are implementing the CIRCLE program supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). The inception phase was completed

in 2014. It was then externally reviewed and subsequently approved for full implementation. At the end of 2014, we are happy to report that 34 Fellows were selected and we are ready to begin working with 30 institutions in 13 African countries. We have also made considerable advances in a several other programs, particularly in Health and Wellbeing as well as STEM. But very little has been done in the other three areas, i.e. Sustainable Energy, Food Security and Nutritional Wellbeing, and Water and Sanitation.

Our most pronounced success may very well be in building partnerships and relationships. Three MoUs were signed with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) and the Nigerian Academy of Sciences (NAS). NEPAD and AAS have partnered in a pioneering initiative to launch a funding platform for research called Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA). This initiative has won the support of three partners, namely, the Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and DFID. NEPAD and these partners have provided core funding that will allow the establishment of AESA under the auspices of AAS.

As we close this year, we are starting a rigorous recruitment process to hire key staff members, including, the AESA Director, a Chief Operations Officer, a Communications Manager, a Program Manager, a Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, a Grants Officer, Grant Accountant and a Program Administrator. These activities were made possible by securing two staff, namely Prof. Kevin Marsh and Dr. Marta Tufet, on secondment from Oxford University and the Wellcome Trust, respectively.

# I.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2014 Annual Report of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) presents how the academy is delivering on its programmes according to the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan. This is the second year of implementation of the plan and highlights the AAS's activities towards positioning itself for greater impact in Africa and pursuing a holistic vision for the future development of Africa's science, technology and innovation.

## I.1 Mandate

The mandate of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) focuses on three areas:

- Recognizing and promoting excellence in scientific and technological endeavours;
- Mobilizing and strengthening indigenous scientific and technological capacities for science-led development;
- Think-tank functions and leading campaigns for public policy change towards greater support for development oriented Research and Development (R&D).

On the one hand, the Academy is an honorific society which recognizes persons who have made significant contributions to science in Africa; on the other, it undertakes programmatic activities in order to develop, articulate and implement strategies, programmes and projects aimed at increasing the contribution of science to African development.

## I.2 Vision

Be a major player in driving sustainable development through science, technology and innovation (ST&I)

## I.3 Mission

To mobilise the entire science and technology community in Africa for sustainable development.

## 1.4 Objectives of AAS

1. To promote and foster the growth of the scientific community in Africa by recognizing, supporting and promoting excellence in scientific research performed by African scientists.
2. To stimulate and nurture the spirit of scientific discovery and technological innovation in Africa in order to promote sustainable development in the continent through research and development.
3. To promote contacts among African scientists, technologists, engineers and other scholars, and between them and the world scientific and technological community in order to facilitate regional integration and to serve the cause of global peace and security.
4. To facilitate, coordinate and undertake the publication and dissemination of scientific and technological achievements in Africa.
5. To improve Africa's capacity for management of research, development and public policy by bridging the gaps between natural, applied and social scientists, the private sector and governments.
6. To provide information on, and support for public awareness and understanding of science and technology, and to promote the development of a science culture in Africa.
7. To foster improved participation of women and youth in scientific fields.

## 1.5 Membership Categories

AAS has four categories of Memberships, namely:

1. Fellows
2. Associate Fellows
3. Honorary Fellows
4. Affiliate Members

**Fellows** are elected from among active African scientists who have attained the highest international standards in their fields. **Associate Fellows** are elected from among outstanding non-African scientists who have made significant contributions to the development of science in Africa. **Honorary Fellows** are elected from amongst persons of eminence who have made significant contributions to the objectives of the Academy. **Affiliate Members** are elected from among young promising scientists who have demonstrated prowess in the development and application of science in Africa.

## 2.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNING ORGANS

The governance organs of AAS comprises the General Assembly (GA), the Governing Council (GC), and the Management Committee (MC). The activities of these organs in the year under review are reported hereunder.

### 2.1 The General Assembly (GA)



Prof. Lamine Ndiaye speaking at the opening of the 9th AAS General Assembly

The GA is the highest decision making organ of the Academy, serving two critical purposes:

- Election of new officers of the academy and
- A forum for review of past and current activities and deliberations on issues of interest to the Academy.

The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) was hosted by the Government of Congo in

Brazzaville. The Government of the Congo generously hosted the AAS General Assembly and fully met the cost of stay of all AAS Fellows and also provided venue for the meetings. The theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> AAS General Assembly and conference was: Positioning AAS for better Impact in Africa.

The AAS General Assembly was hosted together with two other major events, namely, the Pan African Bioethics Congress (COPAB), and the extraordinary meeting of AMCOST, from 14 -18 April 2014. The week was designated as Africa Science Week and participants witnessed the colourful launch of the Denis Sassou N'Guesso Africa Science Innovation Award and the award ceremony of the Second Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Discovery and/or Technological Innovation.





The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly had four distinct sections:

1. A scientific session where presentations were made to an open audience,
2. An induction ceremony of newly elected fellows,
3. A business session, and
4. The award ceremony of the second Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific breakthrough and/or Technological Innovation.

## The Scientific Session

The session was highlighted by plenary lectures given by seven AAS Fellows:

1. **Prof. Paulus Gerdes:** African History as source of Inspiration for the Discovery of New Mathematical Ideas
2. **Prof. Aderemi Kuku:** K-theory, Representation Theory and Classifications of Various Mathematical Objects and Structures
3. **Dr. Baldwin Torto:** Chemo-ecological based tools for the Control of Vector-borne Diseases in Africa;
4. **Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim:** Science for Social Purpose: a New Agenda for New Time;
5. **Prof. Bassir Diop:** Geopolymers: Materials for African Future;
6. **Prof. Salim Abdool-Karim:** Envisioning the end of AIDS: Challenges and prospects;
7. **Prof. Viness Pillay:** Innovation of African-led Game-Changing Drug delivery Technologies.

These were very high level presentations and were well attended and appreciated.



A section of participants listen to presentations during the Scientific Session

## The Induction Ceremony

An afternoon session was devoted to the induction of new Fellows of the Academy. Twenty of the 62 Fellows that were elected during 2012-2013 were able to attend the induction ceremony and receive their certificates.



Group Picture of inducted AAS Fellows at the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Brazzaville, Congo



Induction of Prof. B. Torto



Prof. C. Babalola (holding certificate) poses with some members of AAS Governing Council after her induction

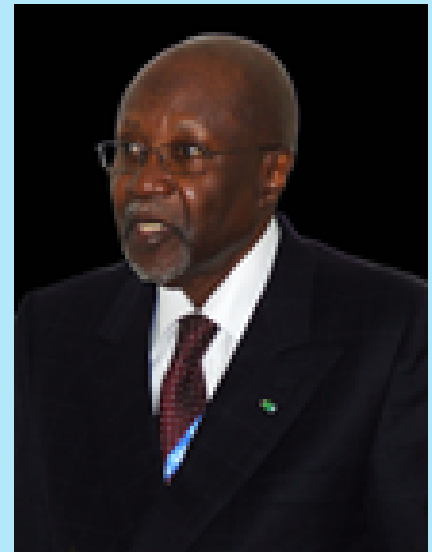
## The Business Meeting

The business meeting was open to Fellows of the AAS only. At the meeting, the Executive Director, Prof. Berhanu Abegaz, presented a report of the Academy to the General Assembly (GA) on behalf of the Secretary General, Dr Shem Arungu-Olende, who was unable to attend the meeting. This was followed by a report of the Treasurer on the finances and assets of the Academy. Both reports were reviewed and adopted by the GA.



## Remarks by the outgoing AAS President

The outgoing president of the Academy, Prof. Lamine Ndiaye, on behalf of the former officers, thanked all AAS Fellows for the opportunity to serve the Academy. In the words of Prof. Ndiaye, “looking at the situation of the Academy when we were elected and what we achieved these 3 years, we can be proud of what we have done. But a lot remains to be done”. According to Prof. Ndiaye, the first challenge of his administration was to mobilize all the fellows to get them more involved in the activities of the Academy. He thanked AAS Fellows for their cooperation in that regard and asked all to react more quickly to the issues of the academy.



Prof. Ahmadou Lamine Ndiaye

Between 2011 and 2014, a lot of major milestones were achieved. In 2012, the AAS constitution was amended and adopted - defining the mandate of AAS. For the first time since the Academy's establishment, the AAS constitution gave backing for the creation of an Affiliate Membership programme to formalize the academy's working with young scientists on the continent.

A new Strategic Plan, AAS Strategic Plan for 2013 - 2018, was developed in 2013. Some of the key points in the strategic plan are widening the fellowship base to have full Africa-wide representation, increasing the number of women fellows and increasing the number of members in under-represented countries. A very conscious AAS membership recruitment process was developed which now ensures nominations are submitted, processed and new AAS Fellows elected within one calendar year. The publication of AAS annual reports also resumed in 2011; as was the Academy's quarterly Newsletter publications, *Whydah*, which had stopped since 2006.

One of the notable changes since 2011 has been the increasing recognition of AAS. In November 2012, AMCOST recognized the work done by AAS and urged the African Union Commission to work closely AAS. The President and Executive Director of AAS held discussions with the AUC commissioner in this regard in June 2013. As a result of this increased recognition by the AUC, AAS is no longer an observer but a strategic partner of the AUC. AAS is also a member of the Pan African University Council. AAS assists in running the Kwame Nkrumah Continental Prize and has been mandated by the Republic of Congo to run the Denis Sassou N'guesso Innovation Prize.

## Report by the Chair of the Nominations Elections Committee

The Chair of the Nominations/Elections Committee, the late Prof. Paulus Gerdes announced the results of the electronic voting that had taken place during the weeks preceding the Brazzaville meeting. Initially there were 40 candidates but 14 withdrew for various reasons. Of the remaining 26 candidates vying for 13 positions, five were unopposed and automatically elected. The remaining eight positions were filled through majority votes. It was the first time that AAS was using electronic voting system. The use of electronic voting increased the participation of fellows in the voting process and made the process more transparent.

The outcome of the elections are presented below:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	Prof. Aderemi Kuku	President
2	Prof. Georges-Ivo Ekosse	Secretary General
3	Dr Thomas Maina Kariuki	Treasurer
4	Prof. Quarraisha Abdool-Karim	Vice President, Southern Africa
5	Dr Boitumelo Kgarebe	Regional Representative, Southern Africa
6	Prof. Mahmud Abdel-Aty	Vice President, Northern Africa
7	Prof. Chaibi Thameur	Regional Representative, Northern Africa
8	Prof. Robert Guiguemde	Vice President, Western Africa
9	Prof. Richard Awuah	Regional representative, Western Africa
10	Prof. Burton Mwamila	Vice President, Eastern Africa
11	Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim	Regional representative, Eastern Africa
12	Prof. Vincent Titanji	Vice President, Central Africa
13	Prof. Thomas Silou	Regional representative, Central Africa

## Remarks by Incoming President

In his acceptance speech, President-elect Prof. Kuku urged all Fellows to work as a team and suggested that as many Fellows as possible be involved in the activities of AAS since their expertise and resources were required .

## Comments made by AAS Fellows on the reports

Following the reports presented to the GA and remarks by the outgoing and incoming presidents, a general discussion ensued and a summary of comments and/or recommendations made by AAS Fellows on the progress and development of the academy are presented below:

- AAS Fellows can help enhance the visibility of AAS by making their research work more visible
- AAS Fellows should form not just a network of academics but of intellectuals who are committed to changing society
- AAS should engage Presidents of countries and universities to promote science
- AAS should explore more avenues of publicizing the activities of the academy
- AAS should lead in encouraging young people's interest in science, technology and innovation. The academy should encourage and mentor young scientists towards Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) since the youth form the bigger percentage of the population and will take the lead in the development of the continent
- AAS should play a central role in leading the science agenda for Africa
- Regional Representatives should enhance the visibility of AAS at national levels in the various regions they represent
- The Academy should consider developing its estate in Karen into an advanced center for science where scientists can conduct research
- The academy should consider the work done by its Fellows in advancing science in Africa
- The number of AAS Fellows involved in AAS activities should increase
- Fellows should assist AAS in fundraising, finding research projects as well as approaching organisations for research grants and research programs for AAS

Fellows expressed their satisfaction with the momentum the academy has gathered and expressed desire to help sustain it.

Prof. Abdul-Hakim R. Elwaer, the Director of Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union Commission arrived during the business meeting and requested an opportunity to speak to the Fellows. In his intervention he assured AAS Fellows that the AU would give AAS political impact so that it has a stronger presence in Africa. The relationship between AU and the AAS would be strengthened. The AU needs to collaborate with AAS to help implement AU's science oriented programs.

## 2.2 The Governing Council (GC)

The Governing Council of the AAS consists of the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the five Vice Presidents, the five Regional representatives, the immediate past president, and Executive Director (ex officio). The GC meets at least once a year under the chairmanship of the President of the Academy. It formulates and reviews the programmes of the Academy.

There were two GC meetings during 2014. The 29<sup>th</sup> GC meeting was held in Brazzaville on 14 April 2014; and the 30<sup>th</sup> was held 24-25 July 2014 in Nairobi. Some of the key activities, decisions, guidelines and recommendations made by the Governing council during 2014 include:

- i. The GC unanimously elected H.E. Denis Sassou N'guesso, President of the Republic of Congo, as honorary member of the AAS in recognition of the efforts made by him towards promoting Science and Technology on the continent;
- ii. Approval of the Financial Regulations and Finance Manual and the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual for the AAS;
- iii. Approval of a proposal to launch four commissions; and guidelines submitted by the Management Committee for establishing the Commissions;
- iii. Establishment of a three-man task force consisting of the Executive Director, Prof. Berhanu Abegaz, Dr Thomas Kariuki (Treasurer) and Prof. Kevin Marsh to lay the negotiations and other foundation work to create the Alliance for Excellence in Sciences in Africa (AESAs) platform;
- iv. Approval of two senior staff working at AAS Secretariat on secondment from Oxford University and the Wellcome Trust;
- v. Advising and urging members of the GC to pursue a vigorous fund raising for AAS;
- vi. Review and approval of the restructuring of the Membership Advisory Committees (MACs) and the creation of new MACs and appointment of Fellows into 9 MACs;
- vii. Approval of the award of the Olusegun Prize to Professor Viness Pillay;
- viii. Approval of the admission of 24 candidates to AAS Fellowship;
- ix. Assigning the Treasurer to seek legal services for the review the AAS constitution and recommending necessary changes;
- x. Approval of the AAS Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) charter;
- xi. Review and approval of AAS representatives at various levels in the Pan African University (PAU);
- xii. Approval of requests to review the salary and benefit levels of AAS Secretariat Staff.



## The AAS Governing Council



President  
Aderemi Kuku



Immediate-Past President  
Lamine Ndiaye



Executive Director  
Berhanu Abegaz



Secretary General  
Georges-Ivo Ekosse



Treasurer  
Thomas Kariuki



Vice President, Southern Africa  
Quarraisha Abdool-Karim



Regional Rep, Southern Africa  
Boitumelo Kgarebe



Vice President, Northern Africa  
Mahmoud Abdel-Aty



Regional Rep, Northern Africa  
Thameur Chaibi



Vice President, Eastern Africa  
Burton Mwamila



Regional Rep, Eastern Africa  
Ameelah Gurib-Fakim



Vice President, Western Africa  
Robert Guiguemde



Regional Rep, Western Africa  
Richard Awuah



Vice President, Central Africa  
Vincent Titanji



Regional Rep, Central Africa  
Thomas Silou

## 2.3 The Management Committee

The Management Committee is composed of the President of the Academy as its Chair, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Executive Director serving as the secretary in an Ex-Officio capacity. The Committee is responsible for the overall management of the Academy. It meets several times a year, on a need-to basis.

Mandatory meeting is held prior to any GC meeting in order to set the agenda, and also finalize reports that are to be presented to the GC. The MC met on several occasions prior to the GA meeting in Brazzaville. Most of these meetings were virtual meetings. Many of the topics detailed above under GC were first examined at the MC level. Other matters that were discussed and acted upon by the MC include the following:

- i. Financial matters relating to negotiations of interest for fixed deposits.
- ii. Due diligence carried out by the DFID called for the setting up of an External Audit Committee.

## 3.0 ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

### 3.1 Relations with the African Union Commission

Following the AMCOST 2.3.6 decision below:

*“AMCOST notes the work presented by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and urges the Commission to closely work with the AAS to tap from the pool of expertise, as a think-tank in the implementation of the CPA and setting up of panels of experts to undertake reviews and/or foresight studies, and assisting in running competitive prizes/awards under the auspices of the AU Commission”.*

Following the AMCOST decision and subsequent meetings between AAS and AUC officials in 2013, there has been a steady increase in the engagement level of the Academy in the activities of the Commission:

- The finalization of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA, 2024).
- The African Academy of Sciences attended and actively participated in the technical sessions preceding the AMCOST Extraordinary meeting (April 2014) held in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo.
- For the second successive year, AAS was requested by the AUC to set up the Jury for the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Continental Awards of 2014. Accordingly, AAS set up a jury of five experts which met at the AUC offices in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The Jury reviewed the applications that were received and recommended the names of two winners which was approved by the African Union Commission (AUC). AAS also submitted a report and recommendation for further improvement on the rules and procedure for this huge and prestigious award.
- AAS was represented by four members of its Governing Council, namely Prof. Ahmadou Ndiaye, Prof Thomas Silou, Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim and Prof. Quarraisha Abdool-Karim in the 10-member High Panel that was set up by the AUC to assist in the recruitment of the Pan-African University Rector and on the choice of the Rectorate country. This High Panel started its work in August 2014 with a meeting in Addis.

AAS has also participated in the Steering Committee meeting of the Pan-African University in December 2014.



### 3.2 Relations with NEPAD

The AAS and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has enabled the two organisations to establish the Alliance for Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA). This new funding platform is to be set up within the Academy with financial support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and additional support expected from DFID and Wellcome Trust.

The platform will identify challenges that hinder rapid scientific advancement in Africa, run open calls for proposals with transparent review processes, actively manage grants and evaluate and measure the impact of such investments.

Recognizing that more than 60% of the continent's population is youthful, the platform will develop youth-centered programs such as early and mid-career fellowships that will inspire young people and engage them to contribute intellectually and practically, to critical areas of STI for Africa's development. The platform will initially focus on health

research, and later expand to other areas such as food and nutrition, energy, and environment.

The platform will also leverage funding from African sources and other funding partners from within and outside Africa so as to guarantee long-term sustainability. It will capitalise on increasing African commitments to science and technology as has been highlighted in the Declaration of African Head of States (2007), the Algiers Declaration (2008), the Bamako Call for Action (2008) and in the African Union (AU)'s Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

AESA, which is Africa-centered, Africa-led and Africa-focused in its agenda for strategic research and development, will forge strong alliances globally with organizations that have similarly aligned objectives and interests. It is aiming to secure the buy-in of the AU, NEPAD structures, the eight Regional Economic Communities (EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, AMU, EAC, COMESA, IGAD), and member states of the African Union.

### 3.3 Relations with the Government of Kenya (GoK)

AAS maintains good relations with the Kenya government, the Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS), and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. AAS and NACOSTI's valuable partnership is demonstrated on numerous occasions by invitations

to both organizations into the many activities that they organize. In 2014, NACOSTI provided financial support to AAS for the second workshop on capacity building in cell biology and regenerative medicine.

### 3.4 Relations with other Academies

#### Ethiopian Academy of Sciences



Prof. Fetene, Executive Director (ED) of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, at the office of Prof. Berhanu Abegaz, ED of AAS

AAS signed MOU with the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) in 2013. Prof. Masresha Fetene, Executive Director of EAS paid a working visit to the AAS in February 2014 and met with the Executive Director of AAS to discuss collaboration between EAS and AAS. This enabled both Academies to work on the project “Developing an enabling Scientific Equipment Policy in Africa”. Under this project, the EAS conducted a country study on science equipment policy in Ethiopia and later organized a joint workshop with AAS in Addis Ababa to present the findings of the study.

#### Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS)

AAS signed an MoU with Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) in 2014. GAAS also participated in the workshop on

“Developing an enabling Scientific Equipment Policy” in March 2014 in Accra where the Ghana country study was presented.

#### Nigerian Academy of Sciences

AAS signed an MOU with the Nigerian Academy of Sciences (NAS). AAS and NAS jointly submitted two proposals to the Nigerian government on:

- Organising an Africa-wide ICT conference to be held in Nigeria
- Awarding a Prize to recognize young African women in ICT

#### Kenyan National Academy of Sciences (KNAS)

Following the MOU signed in 2013, AAS received notification from IAP on the success of a proposal on CB/RM jointly submitted with the Kenyan National Academy of Sciences (KNAS) and INSA. Following this, AAS and KNAS began implementation of the project in 2014.

#### The World Academy of Sciences (twas)

TWAS and AAS have a well-developed relationship with the AAS hosting the sub-Saharan Africa regional office of TWAS. AAS implemented a number of activities such as the Young Scientists Conference, TWAS prizes on behalf of TWAS.

## Global Young Academy (GYA)

AAS Program Officer Dr Benjamin Gyampoh represented AAS at the First Africa Young Academies Regional Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2-5 February 2014. He gave an Invited Lecture on 'Science for development in Africa: Priorities and enablers – an African perspective'.

## 3.5 Relations with UNESCO

Two meetings were held at the AAS and the UNESCO office in Nairobi in an effort to explore mechanisms by which the two organisations can work on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The two organisations agreed to work towards the creation of monthly seminar/lecture series to be jointly convened by AAS and UNESCO. UNESCO Nairobi Office also provided funds to two AAS Fellows to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Director of UNESCO Office in Brazzaville was a speaker at the opening ceremony at the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.



UNESCO officials meet with the Executive Director of AAS at the AAS secretariat

## 4.0 RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

AAS continues to increase the number of Fellows admitted into the Academy in its effort to meet the target of 600 Fellows by 2018. Whilst increasing the absolute numbers of Fellows, the academy is paying particular attention to the issue of gender balance and to have more Fellows from under-represented countries and disciplines.

In 2014, the Academy received 40 nominations for AAS Fellowship of which 24 were successful as indicated in the Table below:

Field	Number nominated	Number Approved
Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences	5	2
Biosciences	6	5
Chemical Sciences	4	2
Cultural Sciences Humanities and Social Sciences	2	2
Engineering Technology and Applied Sciences	2	2
Geological, Environmental, Earth and Space Sciences	2	2
Medical and Health Sciences	5	4
Mathematical Sciences	4	1
Physical Sciences	1	1
Policy Sciences	3	3
Incomplete nominations	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>



Some AAS Fellows receiving their certificates during the induction in 2014



New Fellows of AAS, 2014

**Biosciences**



Bukusi, E. (Kenya)

**Biosciences**



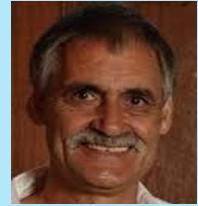
Cherry, M. (RSA)

**Biosciences**



Cloette, E. (RSA)

**Biosciences**



Gelderblom, W.

**Biosciences**



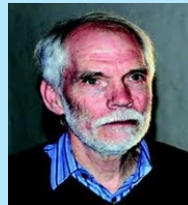
Lall, N. (RSA)

**Biosciences**



Sang, R. (Kenya)

**Chem Sciences**



Coville, N. (RSA)

**Chem Sciences**



Khalid, S. (Sudan)

**Agric Sciences**



Dakora, F. (Ghana)

**Agric Sciences**



Viljoen, A. (RSA)

**Agric Sciences**



Von Braun, J.

**Mathematics**



Messaoudi, S. (Algeria)

**Geo Sciences**



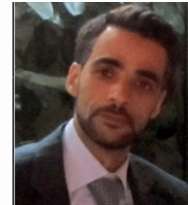
Diab, R. (RSA)

**Geo Sciences**



Stevens, G. (RSA)

**Engineering**



Djefal, F. (Tunisia)

**Engineering**



Zobaa, A. (Egypt)

**Med Sciences**



Fahal, A. (Sudan)

**Med Sciences**



Noor, A. (Kenya)

**Med Sciences**



Nadifi, S. (Morocco)

**Phys Sciences**



Geyer, H. (RSA)

**Policy Sciences**



Bakibinga, D. (Uganda)

**Policy Sciences**



Van Der Walt, A. (RSA)

**Social Sciences**



Lategan, B. (RSA)

**Social Sciences**



Nyamnjoh F. (Cameroon)

# 5.0 DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



AAS has continued to explore various media platforms to communicate internally and externally on its activities, receive feedback and new ideas. A growing and regularly updated database of stakeholders including national and regional media houses exists.

## AAS Website

The Academy’s website, [www.aasciences.org](http://www.aasciences.org) which is regularly updated with information on ongoing activities.



## “Science\*Policy\*Africa” Newsletter

The year saw increased article contributions not only from the AAS Fellows but also from others. The distribution list has increased and, more AAS Fellows are featured in the newsletter. In 2014, four issues of the quarterly Newsletter were produced in soft and hard copies.



## Social Media

The African Academy of Sciences began utilising social media to popularize science and disseminate information on the Academy to its stakeholders and the global community.

The Academy’s Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/aasciences](http://www.facebook.com/aasciences)) and twitter (@AASciences) have growing population of followers who regularly interact with the academy and follow the activities of the academy.



## Mass media

The relationship between AAS and local and international media continues to be strengthened through regular contacts in the form of Press Releases and Media Advisories from AAS. As a result there is rise in coverage of AAS activities and Fellows by the media.

## 6.0 PRIZES

### 6.1 Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Breakthrough and/or Technological Innovation



Prof. Pillay receiving the Olusegun Obasanjo prize for scientific discovery and/or technological innovation

Prof. Viness Pillay of the University of the Witwatersrand won the second Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Breakthrough and/or Technological Innovation. The award ceremony took place during the 9<sup>th</sup> GA on 17 April 2014 in the presence of the Minister of State, the Honorable Isidore Mvouba, Ministry of Industry and the Development of the Private Sector, and the honorable Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation

H.E. Jean Bruno Richard Itoua, and other important government officials of Congo, UN representatives, ambassadors and NGO representatives.

### 6.2 TWAS Prizes

AAS hosts TWAS Regional Office for Sub Saharan Africa and has carried out various activities in this regard. Among these are the competitions for the TWAS Regional Prize, the Young Scientists Prize and the TWAS Young Affiliates.

#### The 2014 TWAS Regional Prize in Science Diplomacy



Prof. Peter Ndimbirwe

Prof. Peter Ndimbirwe Mugenyi, a renowned scientific researcher on HIV/AIDS, won the 2014 TWAS Regional Prize in Science Diplomacy. TWAS established the Science Diplomacy prize in 2014 to honour teams who have collaborated on a transboundary research project contributing to, or made possible by, good international relations. The aim is to begin to bring the term 'science diplomacy' to the attention of both the research and diplomatic communities in developing countries.

Prof. Mugenyi is the Executive Director, Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) which is one of Africa's largest HIV/AIDS treatment and research centres. Prof. Mugenyi has set up a highly successful partnership between JCRC and other institutions in Africa, USA, Europe, Japan and other parts of Asia.



## 2014 TWAS-ROSSA Young Scientists Prize in Applied Sciences



Dr Denis Zofou

Dr Denis Zofou, won the 2014 TWAS-ROSSA Young Scientists Prize in Applied Sciences. The prize was awarded in recognition of Dr. Zofou's studies on anti-malarial natural products for the treatment of drug resistant malaria. His re-search focuses mainly on malaria drug discovery from Medicinal plants of Came-ron and Africa.

### TWAS Young Affiliates

TWAS Young Affiliates selected by TWAS-ROSSA for the period 2014 – 2018 are:

1. Dr. Sophie von der Heyden - marine biologist at the Evolutionary Genomics Group, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
2. Dr. Atunga Nyachieo – Reproductive Health biologist at the Institute of Primate Research (IPR), Kenya.
3. Dr. Adewale Adewuyi - Industrial Chemist at the Redeemer's University, Nigeria.
4. Dr. Chabi Adéyèmi M. S. Djagoun – Wildlife Ecologist and Conservationist at the University of Abomey Calavi, Benin.
5. Dr Adejuwon Adewale Adeneye - Pharmacologist at the State University College of Medicine, Nigeria.

# 7.0 CAPACITY BUILDING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (ST&I)

*“One of the key objectives of AAS is: “To improve Africa’s capacity for management of research, development and public policy by bridging the gaps between natural, applied and social scientists, the private sector and the national governments”*

Towards this goal, AAS has implemented a variety of capacity-building initiatives, along with key emerging issues identified as most critical to Africa’s development. AAS has initiated and sought partners to host a number of workshops and trainings to help realize this strategic requirement.

## 7.1 Nurturing Africa’s Emerging Scientific Talent

### Elsevier – AAS activities

AAS and Elsevier agreed to work together to Support Researchers through Publishing Training Programmes. The two organisations are working on a joint initiative to support African researchers’ drive for quality research output.

As part of this new joint initiative Elsevier is providing AAS members with access to a host of research capacity building services including:

1. Access to the “Elsevier Publishing Connect” training module information. Topics include:
  - Introduction to Scholarly Publishing;
  - How to get published in high impact journals;
  - Research and Publication Ethics;
  - Successful Grant Writing;
  - How to review manuscripts; among others.
2. Support for AAS to host live, online webinars to their network of researchers across Africa in skills such as those mentioned above.

Both of the above initiatives aim to help the AAS deliver a wider program to their research network, support the growth in publishing skills across institutes in Africa and drive for continued increase in quality research output.

## 7.2 Climate Change

AAS's activities under the Climate Change thematic area are currently led by the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) programme. The CIRCLE programme has three main objectives:

1. To strengthen research capacity in sub-Saharan African research institutions to support early career researchers and develop a coordinated and strategic approach to climate change research
2. To strengthen the capacity of a gender balanced pool of African researchers to undertake research on climate change and its local impacts on development.
3. To strengthen the capacity of the African Academy of Sciences to set and implement research programmes based on credible commissioning and peer-review processes

More information on the CIRCLE is available at <http://aasciences.org/index.php/projects/circle>

### The Six-month Inception Phase

The 6-month inception phase of the CIRCLE project ended on 31 January 2014. The inception phase was used to assess the demand for CIRCLE within Africa. This was done through an open call for Expression of Interest (Eoi) to gauge both the level and

range of demand for the programme among institutions and potential fellows.

At the end of the inception phase, the response to the call was extremely positive and generated many more submissions than had been anticipated, and considerably more than the programme could accommodate.

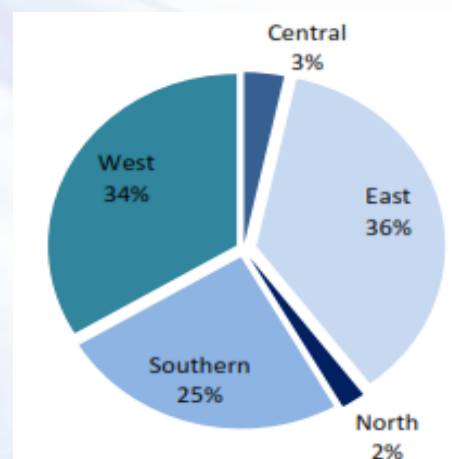
### Expression of Interest (Eoi)

#### Results

Individual Researchers: In total 619 Eoi submissions were received from individual researchers out of which 342 were considered eligible; 28.4% females and 71.6% males.

#### Home Institutions:

A total of 148 institutions submitted Eois to nominate their staff to participate in the CIRCLE programme. Eighty per cent (80%) of institutions that submitted Eois were either universities (60%) or research institutes (20%). Other institutions included government bodies, NGOs and charities.



Regional distribution of institutions that submitted "Home" Eois

Countries that had three or more institutions submitting Eols were:

Nigeria	-	30
South Africa	-	19
Kenya	-	17
Tanzania	-	12
Ethiopia	-	12
Ghana	-	9
Zimbabwe	-	9
Uganda	-	7
Cameroon	-	4
Zambia	-	3
Burkina Faso	-	3

### Host Institutions

Eighty-two institutions were represented by 112 submissions (30 submissions were multiples with 16 institutions registering two or more submissions). Most institutions (81%) that submitted an Eol to host CVFs also indicated an interest in nominating their staff for Fellowships. A higher proportion of host institutions were either universities (71%) or research institutes (17%).

Countries with three or more institutions submitting 'Host' Eols were:

South Africa	-	14
Nigeria	-	13
Kenya	-	11
Ghana	-	8
Tanzania	-	6
Zimbabwe	-	6
Ethiopia	-	5
Burkina Faso	-	3

### End of Inception Phase Review

In February 2014, an independent team of reviewers from DFID visited AAS to assess the

outputs of the inception phase of CIRCLE. The reviewers assessed AAS on the key outputs for the inception phase. These were:

- List of potential home and host institutions to work within the programme;
- A framework for collaboration among the home and host institutions with clear set of obligations and responsibilities;
- Indicative number of potential Fellowship candidates based on expressions of interest; and
- A detailed work plan with sequencing of calls and related budgets

Following a successful review, DFID agreed to continue with the CIRCLE programme as per the projected scope and scale.

### Implementation Phase: Call for Applications

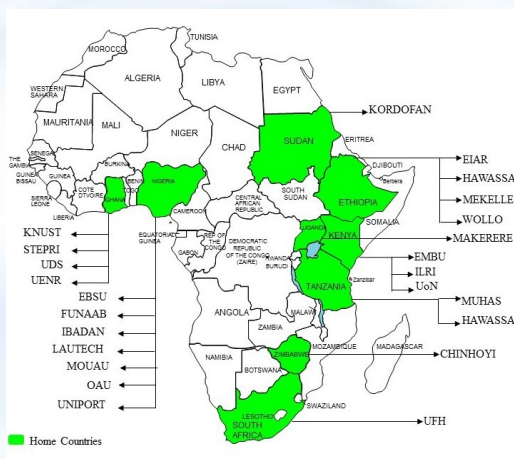
Information obtained from the Eols was incorporated into a point-system and used to rank and shortlist institutions that were invited to submit their formal applications to be part of the CIRCLE programme. Fifty (50) institutions were invited to apply as home institutions and also nominate their staff to also apply for CVF positions in the first cohort whereas 40 institutions were invited to apply as Host Institutions. The call for applications was done in June 2014 with varying deadlines for Host and Home Institutions in July 2014. At the end of the deadlines, the applications were reviewed and successful individuals and institutions informed.

## Awarding of Fellowships

The Climate Impacts Research and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) programme has offered 34 early career researchers a one year Fellowship to undertake research in climate impact in African Institutions. The first cohort of CIRCLE Visiting Fellows (CVFs) will commence their Fellowship from 1 January 2015 and will last for one year, ending on 31 December 2015.

## Home Institutions and CVFs

The 34 CIRCLE Visiting Fellows (CVFs) are from 23 institutions in Africa from 9 African countries; Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Out of the 34 selected CVFs for the cohort I of CIRCLE, 44% are females and 56% are males. Also 44% are offered Post-Masters Fellowships whilst 56% of them are offered Post-PhD Fellowships. The CVFs are expected to complete their proposed research within one year; comply with reporting and evaluation requirements and work collaboratively with all programme stakeholders to ensure a successful Fellowship.



Home Institutions/CVFs for CIRCLE

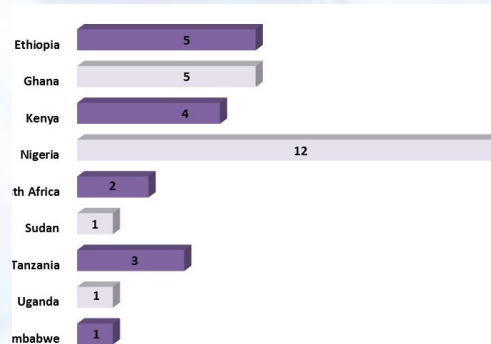
oratively with all programme stakeholders to ensure a successful Fellowship.

The institutions are also required to commit to supporting early career researchers and strengthening research culture in the institution through the active and full participation in the Institutional Strengthening programme (ISP) component of CIRCLE.

## Host Institutions

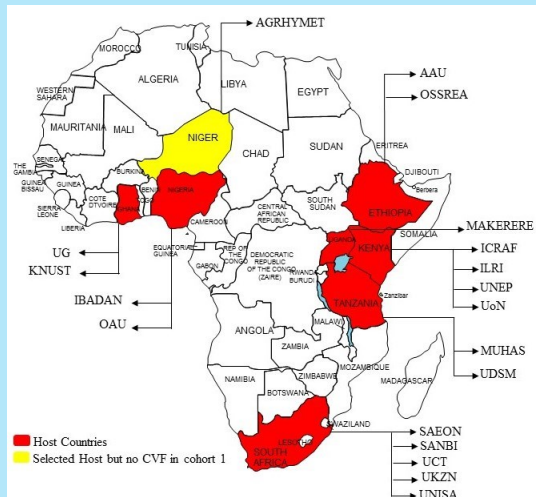
The 34 CVFs in the cohort I will be undertaking their one year research Fellowships in 13 African Host Institutions, in 7 African countries. The CIRCLE programme envisages working with 19 host institutions by the end of the programme. The Host Institutions will;

- Appoint a senior researcher to be the supervisor of the CVF for the one year stay at the institution
- Make available space and facilities to the CVF to undertake research within the institution for the fellowship period.
- Assist the CVF by providing training and access to courses available to support and develop the research skills of the CVF.



Country distribution of CVFs for cohort I





Host Institutions for CIRCLE

institutions about the programme. This online programme was the first institutional engagement event of the CIRCLE programme and it was expected that representatives from all of the home and host institutions will participate. The webinar outlined the background, structure and key objectives of the programme and also clarified the roles and responsibilities of the principle stakeholders within the programme.

## Institutional Strengthening

CIRCLE emphasizes providing critical support for institutions participating in the programme to capitalise on the skills and knowledge gained by their returning researchers and build partnerships with reputable advanced research institutions in Africa which offers training to the researchers. By concurrently strengthening the capacity of institutions to manage, organise and support the career development of 'next generation' researchers, it is intended that the CVFs will return to a more enabling and sustainable environment for further research. This focus acknowledges the importance of nurturing early career academics to the long-term future development of university research, while also offsetting some of the common disadvantages they face in obtaining funding and time for scientific enquiry.

## Briefing for senior representatives

A webinar was held on 17 November 2014 to brief senior representatives of all participating

## Briefing for Supervisors and Mentors

A second webinar was held in December 2014 to provide Supervisors and Mentors with information on the strategic context for mentors and supervisors within the CIRCLE project; how to maximize career development potential; developing the researcher as well as the research and introduced them to tools that will be useful for their role in CIRCLE.

## Start of Cohort I of CVFs and programmes for 2015

AAS coordinated the logistical arrangements for the CVFs departure from Home Institution to Host Institution by working closely with the CVFs, Home Institutions and Host Institutions. AAS also coordinated with the Host Institutions in making all logistical arrangements for settling of CVF in the Host Institution/ Country as well as financial arrangements. Work has started for inaugural workshops to be organized in February 2015.

### 7.3 Healthcare and Wellbeing



The Academy together with IAP, TWAS, INSA, and CAS are collaborating on the Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine project. The project is currently implementing a mentorship scheme between young African health professionals and experts in the field of cell biology and regenerative medicine from Brazil, China, India and South Africa. AAS is optimistic that this will go a long way in addressing the career development needs of young Africans interested in the field.

A second workshop on Training and Mentoring African Scientists in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research was held in August 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The resource persons who took part in the workshop and also serve as mentors include:

- Prof. Dorairajan Balasubramanian from L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, India;
- Prof. José Garcia Abreu and Prof. Fabio Almeida from the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- Dr. Anjali Shiras from the National Centre for Cell Sciences, India;
- Prof. Susan H. Kidson, University of Cape Town, South Africa;
- Dr. Venant Tchokonte-Nana, Stellenbosch University, South Africa; and
- Dr. Hiba BadrEldin Khalil Ahmed from Al Neelain University, Sudan.

There were a total of 33 participants. The workshop consisted of a series of lectures over two days with a third day devoted to demonstrations and hands on practical work.





## 8.0 ACTIVITIES OF AAS SECRETARIAT

This section deals with a brief narrative description of the seasonal activities of the Secretariat.

The first part of the year (January-February 2014) was devoted to revisions of our Personnel and Finance policies as well as others that were required as response to the due diligence exercise that were conducted by DFID. This was also necessary as part of the preparation for the external review that was to take place early in the year at the end of the inception phase of the CIRCLE Project. The revised policies were then approved by the GC on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

During the months of February-March 2014, the Secretariat was engaged in working together with the International Science Foundation in Sweden and with partners in Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana that were conducting their respective “Country Study” of the procurement, installation, servicing and related policies of scientific equipment. These activities were prerequisites for three back-to-back

workshops that were planned in the three countries in March-April. Subsequently the Nairobi meeting was held inn 28-29 March, followed by the Accra meeting 31 March – 1 April and finally the workshop in Addis 3 - 4 April 2014.

During the month of March the Secretariat was deeply involved in planning the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Academy and also finalizing the arrangements for the announcement of the winner of the Olusegun Obasanjo Prize. The Executive Director traveled to Brazzaville to discuss and work with the Congolese authorities who agreed to cover the local hospitality of AAS fellows during the meeting. This was followed by a successful meeting during 15 - 19 of April.

It was during the first week in May that initial contacts were made with Prof. Kevin Marsh from the Wellcome Trust and Kedest Tesfagiorgis of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) that later on led to the development of AESA. Preliminary ideas about AESA were presented to members of the Management Committee



when the latter met in June. This led to the establishment of the AESA planning Committee, consisting of Prof. Kevin Marsh, Dr. Tom Kariuki and Prof. Berhanu Abegaz

The new Governing Council meeting was held in July with a record attendance of all but one council member attending. The Council gave a full mandate to the AESA committee to work towards the establishment of AESA and to undertake the necessary negotiations with the three partners, Wellcome Trust, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and DFID. Among other decisions, the GC also approved the setting up of an Audit and Risk Committee

During the months of August and September, proposals associated with AESA were developed. A working visit to the NEPAD offices in Pretoria were held. A key strategic decision was reached during the meeting with NEPAD agency officials to establish AESA as a joint initiative of AAS and the NEPAD agency, with

the latter playing greater advocacy role to the initiative and to get the buy in of the African Union and other bodies. Further meetings between the Funders, AAS and NEPAD were held in London and Seattle. In October, Professor Marsh was formally appointed on secondment from the University of Oxford as senior Advisor to AAS. This was soon followed by the Wellcome Trust appointing Dr. Marta Tufet as Change Manger to assist with the establishment of AESA. These appointments have benefitted the Academy tremendously.

The months of October and November were also devoted to the finalization of the recruitment of AAS Fellows. This included receiving the reports of the ten MACs, consolidating the reports, liaising with the Governing Council, circulating profiles of recommended candidates to the general Fellowship and finally receiving the votes which led to 24 candidates getting approved as New Fellows of AAS

2014.

During November and December AAS was working closely with the AUC assisting in the setting up of the Jury to adjudicate on the Africa Union Kwame Nkrumah Science Prizes. AAS was also requested to do a review of the rules and procedures for these prizes.



It was also during the last two months of the year that AAS began hearing from the partners about the success of the proposals that were submitted for funding. Indeed AAS received the first tranche of the grant funds from BMGF.

## 8.1 Meetings, workshops and conferences

This section reports on meetings, workshops and conferences organized by the Secretariat at venues as indicated below:

	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Day and Month</b>
1	Circle Programme Inception Phase Review Meeting by DFID	AAS Secretariat	12 February
2	Pre-visit meeting Brazzaville	Brazzaville	13 - 17 March
3	IFS-AAS Workshop on Developing an Enabling Scientific Equipment Policy In Africa –Kenya Country Study	AAS Secretariat	28 - 29 March
4	IFS-AAS Workshop on Developing an Enabling Scientific Equipment Policy In Africa – Ghana Country Study	STEPRI, Ghana	31 March - 1 April
5	IFS-AAS Workshop on Developing an Enabling Scientific Equipment Policy In Africa –Ethiopia Country Study	EAS Secretariat	3 - 4 April
6	9 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AAS	Brazzaville	15 April 2014
7	29 <sup>th</sup> AAS Governing Council meeting	Brazzaville	14 April 2014
8	AAS Management Committee meeting	AAS Secretariat	9 - 0 June
9	Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	CS Office, Nairobi	11 June
10	30 <sup>th</sup> AAS Governing Council Meeting	AAS Secretariat	24 - 25 July
11	Meeting between the AUC Commissioner and AAS	Addis Ababa	23 August
12	Workshop on training and mentoring African scientists in stem cell and regenerative medicine research	AAS Secretariat	4 - 6 August
13	1st meeting of the review of the Headquarters agreement with the Government of Kenya and AAS	NACOSTI HQ	12 September
14	2nd meeting of the review of the Headquarters agreement with the Government of Kenya and AAS	NACOSTI HQ	19 September
15	ISP Reference Group meeting	AAS Secretariat	17 - 20 November



## 8.2 Infrastructure Improvement

AAS's asset base is now estimated at ca \$8.5 million which consists of 5.3 ha of prime plot in Nairobi, buildings, and invested monies.

AAS being a small organization did not use all the spaces that are available in the premises. Therefore, the extra spaces were rented out to other organizations, i.e. NASAC and Aquasoft Drilling Company. In 2014 it was decided to free the section of the building that had been rented out to Aquasoft in order to meet the space needs of AESA in 2015.

NASAC continues to use the prefab facilities.

The Academy undertook upgrading, repair and maintenance activities in 2014 which included;

- Upgraded the reception area by painting with the AAS blue color. The courtyard behind the reception area was turned into a suitable area for taking group photographs by putting an insignia of the AAS logo and painting the blue color around the area.
- Created a storm water drainage and foundation water proofing systems to prevent water from seeping around the wall as the plastering was deteriorating. This was diagnosed as a lack of proper drainage. Other steps taken to rectify the damage was the extension of down pipes and trenching around the building.
- Repaired the lightning arrestors

- Repaired the AAS Server that had broken down
- Purchased several desktop computers

## 8.3. Staff

The secretariat in 2014 had a total staff of 19; nine professional and 10 general service staff as listed below:

- Berhanu Abegaz, Executive Director
- Benjamin Gyampoh, Programmes Officer
- Hannah Ngugi, Finance and Admin Manager
- Henry Neondo, Communications Officer
- Kennedy Ochola, Finance and Admin Asst
- Nelly Mbugua, Finance and Admin Asst
- Olivia Osula, Programmes Assistant
- Janet Kariuki, Executive Assistant
- Lucy Aketch, Front Desk Officer
- Francis Okello, Logistics Officer
- Gordon Ochieng, Logistics Officer
- Joyce Owino, Office Assistant
- Millicent Achieng, Office Assistant
- Sammy Osotsi, Gardener
- Aggrey Sifuna, Security Guard
- Lawrence Odhiambo, Security Guard
- Fredrick Otieno, Security Guard
- John Odour, Security Guard

## 8.4 Audit

The audit for year 2013 was completed and AAS received unqualified report from the auditors. The issues raised from the management letter have been addressed.

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- Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST)
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- Nigerian Academy of Sciences, NAS
- The Wellcome Trust
- The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



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