The African Network on Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics) was launched in March 2012, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The Network supports the expansion of the cadre of researchers able to conduct research on innovation and development and build institutional level capacity in African educational institutions in this field. This is towards an overarching vision of the network - supporting African countries towards developing and utilizing high quality research, conducted by African researchers, to enable more informed policy decisions to be made relating to the use of science, technology and innovation (STI) for economic and social development as well as efficient governance. To realize this vision, the Network works closely with like-minded relevant international and local researchers and research networks.

Since the Network’s launch, the Secretariat based at the African Centre for Technology studies (ACTS), in Nairobi, Kenya has been implementing a research capacity building (RCB) programme entitled “Enhancing research capacity on Innovation and Development in Africa”. This has been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

COVID – 19 message:
Like the rest of the world, the AfricaLics secretariat is following the developments of the worldwide Covid-19 health crisis closely and worry about the safety of all. We will aim to mitigate impact on planned activities and are in touch with our main funder (Sida) on how to deal with the situation. Fortunately, almost all activities planned for these months can be undertaken by mail, Skype, What’s app etc. For now, we still hope that it will be possible to implement face-to-face activities planned for the second half of 2020 and hence preparations for the AfricaLics PhD Academy in Ethiopia, for travel support for the Globelics conference in Costa Rica and for the PhD Visiting Fellow Programme (VFP) 2020 batch will continue. We will keep you up-dated via the AfricaLics web-site and other relevant social media channels.
The AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) is pleased to announce the new President of AfricaLics, Dr. George Essegbey who was constitutionally elected during the 8th ASB meeting held back to back with the 4th AfricaLics Conference at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania. Dr. Essegbey succeeds Dr. Bitrina Diyamett who has diligently served AfricaLics since its establishment in 2012. During the same meeting and in accordance with the Constitution, the Board also elected Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina as the AfricaLics Vice President.

The ASB and the secretariat are immensely grateful to Dr. Bitrina Diyamett for the energy, vision and compassion that she dedicated to the Network. During her tenure she was instrumental in spearheading the Network towards significant milestones one being the development of the current Constitution.

Dr. George Owusu Essegbey is the former Director of the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) of the Council of Science and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana. He was a member of the country’s National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). He holds a Ph.D. in Development Studies (University of Cape Coast) and M.A. in International Affairs (University of Ghana). He did Ph.D. internship at the United Nations University (Institute for New Technologies) in Maastricht, The Netherlands and a Commonwealth Fellowship at the Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (PREST) at the University of Manchester. He has several years of experience in Science and Technology (S&T) policy research, innovation studies, research on new technologies and other relevant fields. Dr. Essegbey has served various national and international organizations including UNCTAD, UNESCO, FAO, UNEP and the World Bank. He was involved in a project on Diffusion of Innovation in Low Income Countries (DILIC) coordinated through the Oxford University. Currently, he co-coordinates in Ghana the CONNECT Project on “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Information in Decision Making”, which the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC) is piloting in Africa. He has a number of publications to his credit including books, peer-reviewed journal papers, book chapters and conference papers.
Dr Geci Karuri-Sebina, was most recently the Executive Manager: Programmes at South African Cities Network, a peer-based thinktank established by South Africa’s largest cities to focus on improving urban development and governance. She previously worked with National Treasury, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – CSIR, the Human Sciences Research Council – HSRC, and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Advanced Policy Institute. Her interests span a range of development foresight, policy, planning and practice topics, particularly relating to urban governance, the built environment and innovation systems. She has over two decades’ experience working and publishing in these fields, including co-editing the Innovation Africa book series (Emerald Books 2016, 2019). Geci is a Council Member on the South African Council of Planners, a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Witwatersrand School of Governance, and a Research Associate of the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) and the National Research Foundation’s South African Research Chair on Innovation and Development. She is also a founding director of the Southern African Node of the Millennium Project, co-founder of ForesightForDevelopment.org Africa, an Associate Editor for the African Journal for Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (Taylor & Francis), and Africa Regional Editor for Foresight: The journal of future studies, strategic thinking and policy (Emerald).

Membership and election of new AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) members

In order to comply with the requirements of the Constitution, additional new board members were elected in 2019. We are happy to announce the elected members as follows:

The Board which is now made up of 16 members is expected to comprise of mostly African experts/researchers but it has positions for those from outside Africa in order to ensure awareness of global issues. To access the profiles of the AfricaLics Board members, use this link: https://www.africalics.org/scientific-board/
Following an ASB meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in October 2019, an agreement was arrived at to set up a Constitution Committee as provided for in the Constitution that would oversee implementation of different aspects of the current AfricaLics Constitution.

Prof. Judith Sutz from Universidad de la República, Uruguay joins the AfricaLics constitutional committee following a ratification by the Board. She brings to the Network a wealth of experience based on an outstanding stewardship in the implementation of Globelics constitution. The committee will be meeting to propose constitutional changes for ratification at the next ASB meeting in 2020/2021.

For more information about AfricaLics interim constitution

AfricaLics is the acronym for the African Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems. AfricaLics brings together scholars, researchers and policy analysts who study development, innovation, learning and competence building in an African context.

The 4th AfricaLics conference took place in Tanzania from 22nd to 24th October 2019 and was hosted by STIPRO in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the Tanzania Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTECH). It brought together 150 leading scholars from 22 countries working on innovation and development in Africa with a number of scholars from outside Africa.

The Conference followed a successful pre-conference meeting that was held at UDSM on 17th April 2019. The purpose of this pre-conference was to sensitize on the conference and subsequently increase the number of successful applicants from Tanzania as the host country. The pre-conference was attended by 43 participants from academia, research institutions, government agencies and the private sector, of whom 22 were female and 21 were male.

The AfricaLics Conference 2019 programme comprised of interactive activities namely research paper presentation sessions, plenary sessions and a series of thematic sessions discussing ‘neglected’ topics in the field.

The 4th AfricaLics conference received over 300 full paper submissions from which 83 were selected for presentation. The selection of the 83 papers was based on a double-blind peer review process focusing on relevance to the conference theme and sub-themes, originality, research methods, relevance, academic and scientific quality and originality.

Conference proceedings can be accessed through this link: https://www.africalics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Tanzania-Conference-Proceedings.pdf
Competitive short-term fellowships for mentorship in innovation studies.

Based on our experience the number of African scholars participating in innovation related platforms has been very low. There are quite a number of reasons for this, some of which have to do with the design of relevant curriculum guiding teaching and research in African Universities. These are more complex and demand an overhaul in respective higher education systems in Africa. This notwithstanding, we have identified one practical barrier that may be contributing to this.

- Applicants struggle to place their work within the Innovation and Development (I & D) literature. They are often based on a specific problem in Africa related to agriculture, or health or a technical innovation, and the studies are portrayed as related to agricultural sciences, or engineering/technical fields and therefore end up rejected.

Mentorship has been identified as one way of improving the above challenge. With support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), AfricaLics research capacity building program includes activities that provide a holistic guidance to post graduate students and early careers researchers towards acquisition of skills that enable analysis of innovation activities related to their research; irrespective of the field. Consequently, this would enhance research outputs that are socially and economically relevant as well as transformative. The short-term mentorship activity is part of a long-term mentorship endeavor to build a critical mass of innovation scholars to enhance inclusive and innovation driven transformation of the African continent through research and innovation that is socially and economically relevant.

The call for applications was published and shared through online platforms where interested candidates were required to submit a full unpublished paper (in PDF) not exceeding 12,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) by 24th January 2020. Out of the 57 applications received 14 were successful for the mentorship programme. The selection of papers was based on a peer review process that focused on relevance, academic quality and originality.

Based on the nature of the applications received, the AfricaLics Secretariat paired the mentees and mentors. The mentors were drawn from a pool of established academics who have accepted to support in this endeavour. It is expected that the pair will develop a professional oriented relationship culminating to a successful acceptance of mentee’s paper for Costa Rica conference 2020 and possible publishing post-Costa Rica. Each mentoring relationship is geared towards meeting the strategic goal under AfricaLics capacity building goal - building a critical mass of innovation scholars in Africa who will eventually become mentors in their respective institutions/countries.
Seminar on: Science, Technology and Innovation Studies: Linking Academia and Industry

Building institutional capacity for computing research in Kenya (CB4ICT) project which is part of a global program “supporting Science, Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) research cultures in Africa” in collaboration with AfricaLics held a seminar on 28th January 2020 at the ICIPE Duduville Campus, Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the seminar was “The Relevance of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies: Linking Academia and Industry.”

The keynote speaker was Dr. Rebecca Hanlin of the AfricaLics Secretariat. She indicated in her talk that more intensive academic study by African scholars in collaboration with industry is essential to ensure start-up firms in the informal and formal sector reach maturity and for the established firms to maintain their position in a globalized marketplace. She provided examples of academic research from the fields of STI studies that have contributed to improved productivity and business bottom line as well as resulted in more supportive government policy. Her presentation was followed by a discussion with the audience on how industry academic interaction can be further promoted. A number of issues were raised that can inform an enhanced linkage between academia and industry, thereby promoting a vibrant STI ecosystem in Kenya.

The report of this seminar can be accessed here

Research Seminar: building innovative, transformative, integrated and sustainably developed Africa with the global value chain in the 4th Industrial Revolution

The first research seminar of the EU Horizon 2020 project “Catching up along the Global Value Chain” (Cat/Chain): Model Determinants and Policy Implication was held in Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) on 29th January 2020.

The research seminar was a follow up of an earlier conference held in University of Bocconi in Italy. TUT is the only partner on this project from the African continent. Participants were drawn from various spheres including students, academicians, diplomats and government officials. The theme of the seminar was “Building Innovative, Transformative, Integrated and Sustainably Developed Africa with the Global Value Chain in the 4th Industrial Revolution”.
Mammo Muchie, Professor, SARChI-Innovation Studies and a member of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) chaired two of the sessions. In his inaugural speech, Prof. Muchie stressed the relevance of Global Value Chain (GVC) in South Africa as well as broader African context.

The seminar ended with closing remarks from Prof. Muchie on the future course of action and the TUT’s participation in terms of high-quality research outputs from the project.

**AfricaLics participation in the UK Development Studies Association Conference**

Dr. Rebecca Hanlin of the AfricaLics Secretariat attended the UK Development Studies Association Conference held at her old university in Milton Keynes, the Open University. There were an extremely interesting set of discussions at the event with keynotes that questioned approaches to development and how dominant world views influence these approaches. There was a useful session for PhD students and Early Career researchers on how to get published. Three editors from different development studies journals gave their three top tips. Please access the video of this session through this link http://www.open.ac.uk/ikd/dsa2019

Please read more on Dr. Hanlin blog on advice on getting published in development studies: https://www.africalics.org/advice-on-getting-published-in-development-studies/

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**AfricaLics Knowledge Bank**

The contents of the AfricaLics Knowledge Bank are intended to form a set of materials that provide background and a starting point for discussion and analysis on innovation and development issues facing Africa.

AfricaLics Research Capacity Building Project Phase I with funding from Sida developed a series of free teaching and learning materials for those teaching and studying at post-graduate level at universities in Africa. These materials have been developed with a view to being adapted to the individual context of a post-graduate programme or university more broadly. These materials can be accessed through this link: https://www.africalics.org/free-materials/
Since 2015, 18 African PhD students have participated in the AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme. This includes 7 female and 11 male PhD candidates from the following countries: Ethiopia (3), Ghana (3), Uganda (1), Nigeria (3), Kenya (4), Congo (1), Benin (2), Zimbabwe (1).

The call for the PhD VFP 2020 resulted in 91 submitted applications. The screening process involved an advisory committee, which included ASB members. In February 2020, members of the AfricaLics Secretariat/AfricaLics team at Aalborg University interviewed eight candidates and made the final selection of three candidates. The three candidates are:

- Betty-Ann Ananeh-Frempong from Ghana, who works on innovation capabilities in West African Firms and on improving indicators on innovation capabilities in Africa
- Fabiyi Oluwasegun Tope from Nigeria who works on value chain development and agricultural innovation with focus on cashew nut production, and
- Mrosso Rofina Martin from Tanzania who works on women and food production in Tanzania.

The three candidates will arrive in Denmark by 1st September 2020. In Denmark, they will have the opportunity to work on their PhD dissertation work, present their work to and interact with mentors and other scholars working in the field of Innovation and Development. Participation in seminars and a few selected PhD course activities are part of the programme, but conditional to approval by course organizers.

Pilot programme on early career development: The AfricaLics pilot programme on early career development is progressing well in the sense that all three post-docs selected for participation in the programme continue to develop their research activities in their different locations. As part of the programme, they are currently receiving support for the joint guest-editing of a Special Issue of the journal Innovation & Development with the title: "Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects".
2018 AfricaLics Visiting Fellow (VFP) Selected as the Next Einstein Forum (NEF) Ambassador for Ghana

Justina A. Onumah was one of our four 2018 AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellows at Aalborg University, Denmark. She is a Senior Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) of the CSIR-Ghana. Justina is also a PhD (Development Studies) Fellow at the University of Ghana under the German Academic Exchange (DAAD) programme and holds a Master of Philosophy Degree in Agricultural Economics. Her research interest is in the areas of innovation, poverty, technology transfer, research-policy-industry linkages, productivity studies and food security. Justina’s passion is to see more action put into science through a strong research-policy-industry linkage.

The Africalics community congratulate Justina for being selected as the 2019/2021 Next Einstein Forum (NEF) Ambassador for Ghana. NEF Ambassadors are the NEF’s public engagement champions, highlighting the science and technology coming from their countries. This gives her a unique opportunity to attend the NEF Global Gathering alongside Nobel Prize winners, Heads of State, leading scientist and representatives from leading global corporations. She will also lead the planning and organization of the Africa Science Week in Ghana, with the support of NEF staff and resources. The position also gives her a global visibility by sharing her research, speaking opportunities, research collaborations with top scientists, social scientists and technology leaders from around the world. She will also have the opportunity to influence science and technology policy, mentor and inspire other young exceptional scientific talents from Africa. Once again, we congratulate her for achieving this big feat and wish her the best in her new position. Follow this link for more information: https://nef.org/ambassador/justina-adwoa-onumah/

For more information about VFP programme

The aim of the visiting fellowship programme is to help African PhD students working in the field of innovation and development to strengthen their academic/research qualifications; improve quality of their dissertations and prepare for a career in innovation and development either within academia or outside (e.g. in the private sector or in government/policy making).

https://www.africalics.org/visiting-phd-fellowship-programme/
7th AfricaLics PhD Academy 2020

The 7th AfricaLics PhD academy will be hosted by University of Gondar, Ethiopia, from 11th to 25th Novembers 2020.

The purpose of the Ph.D. Academy is to support the training of African Doctoral students engaged in research in academic field of innovation and development. Students working in the field of innovation and development and principally interested in how innovation relates to economic and social development in Africa are the main target group for the Academy. The Academy also aims to stimulate awareness of policy and management issues related to this burgeoning field of research.

The AfricaLics Ph.D. Academy sessions will include the following activities:

- Lectures by senior researchers on areas ranging from research methodologies to the latest theories and empirical research in the fields of innovation, innovation management and science policy.
- Presentations by Doctoral students of their work with feedback from the senior scholars facilitating at the event.
- Sessions focused on enabling interaction between the students and practitioners and policy makers on innovation and development issues

Participants and qualification requirements

The Academy will host around 25 - 30 students from Africa and a handful of students from the rest of the world. The Academy will invite frontier researchers in the field of innovation and development from around the world to provide lectures and mentor students. To qualify for participation, the applicant should fulfil the following requirements:

- be at least in the beginning of his/her second year at the time of the academy
- work explicitly on issues related to policy-oriented analysis of science, technology and innovation
- be able to present an original paper reflecting his/her research and/or thesis work

To improve diversity in the emerging academic community on innovation and development studies research in Africa, we encourage female scholars and those from low income countries to apply.

Paper submission

Participants must submit an extended abstract of not more than 5 pages. Abstracts should be typed double-spaced in French or in English with font size 12. The abstract should state the objectives, methodology, expected results and conclusions of the student's PhD, including supporting figures and main references.

The abstract must be submitted together with the applicant’s CV and a recommendation letter from the principal Ph.D. supervisor or a senior scholar who knows the applicant's work. The call for applications will open in March 2020. Please keep checking the AfricaLics website and monitor our twitter postings for notification of the call opening.
Call for papers - 17th Globelics Conference, Heredia, Costa Rica

Paper submission deadline: 10th April 2020.

The 17th Globelics Conference will be held in Heredia, Costa Rica from 4th - 6th November 2020. The conference will be hosted by the International Center of Economic Policies for Sustainable Development, CINPE, an institute of the National University; one of the main universities in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica will be the first Central American country to host the Globelics Conference. The Conference has been organized before in other Latin American and Caribbean countries, as Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Cuba. We see a big opportunity with the conference for the analysis of strategies to promote innovation aimed at defining new strategies of growth, social welfare and environment. There is also a big opportunity to strengthen the cooperation among the conference participants with other key actors in the innovation system, promoting relevant discussions.

Conference theme

The main conference theme for Globelics 2020 is “Innovation Systems and Sustainable Development: new strategies for growth, social welfare and environmental sustainability”.

The conference invites papers addressing the role of different types of actors such as the State, local authorities, continental entities, knowledge institutions, firms, industries, and political and social actors in shaping innovation and capacity building so as to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. In particular, it aims to explore whether we need new approaches to study inequality, sustainable development, the role of SMEs and specific approaches for Latin American and other developing countries.

The conference will also consider the need to tackle new challenges related to innovation and capacity building and the organisers encourage papers studying how systems of policies can be implemented at different levels and across different countries to innovate in order to promote inclusive growth, social welfare and environmental sustainability.
Sub-themes

- Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development: policy and practice.
- Agricultural innovation systems and development of rural areas.
- Strengthening national, regional and local innovation systems: the role of key actors.
- Creative industries, smart cities and sustainable urban development.
- Economic and social upgrading: trade policies, FDI, value chains and innovation networks
- Entrepreneurship, employability and innovation management.
- Innovation for inclusive development: gender dimension, indigenous knowledge, informal economy, micro and small enterprises.
- Systemic innovation policies, complexity, transformative innovation policies and mission oriented innovation policies in developing countries.
- Industry 4.0, digitalization and automatization: impacts and challenges for less developed countries.
- The green economy, environmental technologies and renewable energy.
- Catching-up, leapfrogging and structural transformation.
- Democracy and science, technology and innovation research and policy agenda.

Paper Submission

We encourage scholars at scientific institutions, universities, enterprises and public sector institutions to take this opportunity to present their work to leading scholars in the field of innovation and development. We especially encourage young researchers to submit papers.

Papers for oral presentations and poster presentation must be written in English, and the selected ones must be presented at the conference in English. Submission of full papers (in PDF) not exceeding 12,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) should be made via the online submission system (ConfTool) available from 1st March 2020 at the Conference website: http://www.globelics.org/events2/annual-conference/ and the deadline for submissions will be on 10th April 2020.

Selection of papers will be based on a peer review process that focuses on relevance, academic quality and originality. Globelics reserves the right to use available software to control for plagiarism and to take appropriate action in such cases.
Call for PhD Proposals - Trilateral Chair PhDs Scholarships in JOOUST

2 PhD scholarships in Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development (2020)

The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) in collaboration with the AfricaLics, currently based at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Nairobi is offering two (2) fully funded PhD scholarships. These scholarships fall within a 5-year trilateral research programme on Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development that is funded by the South African National Research Foundation and the British Council, United Kingdom. The Programme is a partnership between the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa, AfricaLics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex in the UK. It seeks to strengthen African scholarship on transformative innovation and policy in the context of the 4th industrial revolution and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The PhDs will support in the articulation of the overall project’s agenda.

The deadline for application is 17th April 2020.

Please follow this link for more information: https://www.africalics.org/trilateral-chair-phds-scholarships/

Models, determinants and policy implications in the Era of the fourth industrial revolution

The CatChain research project is funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 to investigate the development of Catching-up process both from the developed as well as developing countries’ perspective at the country, sector and firm level. The project is coordinated by ICRIOS in Bocconi University with global partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe with countries such as Greece, the Netherlands, Estonia, France, Spain, Brazil, India, Costa Rica, Malaysia, South Africa and Republic of Korea.

The African Journal of Science Technology Innovation and Development (AJSTID) calls both those who joined the secondment of the EU-Horizon 2020 Cat/Chain GVC and other scholars to submit research papers for peer review of the first special issue that includes the presentations that have been made in the first cat/chain GVC Research Seminar on January, 29, 2020 with the TUT-FMS.

Submission deadline is on 31st August 2020

Prof. Mammo Muchie, a member of the AfricaLics Scientific Board (ASB) forms part of the editorial advisors and handling editors for the AJSTID. More information about the call is available through the AfricaLics website: https://www.africalics.org/call-for-papers-for-the-special-issue-on-catching-up-along-the-global-value-chain-models-determinants-and-policy-implications-in-the-era-of-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/

If you have any academic opportunities you would like to advertise to the network, please email them to secretariat@africalics.org
Please check out the AfricaLics blog page. Here are some of the most recent blogs that have been posted:

- **Digitalisation in the Corona era.** – By Dr. Margrethe Holm Andersen
- **On Cities’ 3rd Helice: The Role of the Knowledge Industry in City Development** – By Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina.
- **The African Integrated and Sustainable Innovation and Development System** – By Prof. Mammo Muchie.
- **Measuring Innovation through the Eyes of the Informal Economy: lessons from some African countries** – By Dr. Oluseye Jegede.
- **Innovation of what, for what: Reconnecting innovation, industrialization and sustainability in Africa** – By Dr. Gussai Sheikheldin, Mr. Musambya Mutambala and Dr. Bitrina Diyamett.
- **Advice on getting published in development studies** – By Dr. Rebecca Hanlin