

**TOWARDS A COORDINATED VISION OF  
EUROPE-AFRICA EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIP:SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL  
CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA**

University Europe-Africa Development Co-operation :  
Some Critical Factors for Success

# Presented By

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Experience of the Author in University Co-operations
- Some Key Words and Interpretations
- European University Interests
- African University Interests
- Different Roles of European and African Universities
- Recent Trends
- Some Important Observations for the Future.

# BACKGROUND

Relevant Experiences of the Author Include Coordination/Team Leadership of:

SV/MHO – Nuffic

VLIR – Flanders IUC, Belgium.

SIDA – Sweden

DANIDA ENRECA, Denmark

GTZ/DAAD – Germany

SDC Switzerland

Carnegie Corp. of NY, USA.

MCArthur Foundation

Ford Foundation

Rockefeller Foundation

EU European-African University Joint Research

UNESCO

# Interpretation of Some Key Words

- *Coordinated Vision* – Need for co-ordination so as to effectively exploit strength, opportunities and redress weaknesses and constraints related to capacity.
- *Fostering Trust and Genuine Exchange*- This simply entails treating each other as equals and to respect each other's professional capacity apart from ensuring two way exchange.
- *Partnership* – Assumes that joint interests by both. The European and the African educational interests are maintained in the co-operation .Mutual respect must prevail to ensure no domination by the North.

# Critical Success Factors

- *European University Interests* – Research capacity, Professional development through wider and more global awareness, Increased capacity to jointly tender for global consultancy assignments, To identify good researchers through PhD or Post-doc research, Opportunity for Northern academicians and students to work with and in Africa and vice versa, Opportunity to undertake/do field tests at lower costs than in Europe and to publicize the capacity of the European University as well as meeting requisite performance criteria at home. Additional income from funding sources as well as enhanced attractiveness of European HE.

# Critical Success Factors Contd..

- *African University Interests* – Access to Research Funds, Capacity building for HR and the equipment, Realisation of staff development plans, Opportunities to jointly tender for consulting that African universities cannot go for on their own, to utilise/exploit the higher research management experience of the North, Capacity to guide their Govt. in Development enhanced, Capacity development for African university to undertake joint or solo assignments, Enhanced staff retention capacity through collaboration and exchange, Increase capacity of African university to train more PG students,

# Critical Success Factors Contd...

- *African University Interests* – Access to scholarships/fellowships, Improved Quality, Enhanced use of ODL mode of delivery, attract use of Africans in the diaspora, Enhanced capacity of African universities to undertake cutting edge or up to date research, Through the respective National Education and Research Networks, access data and knowledge from global universities without delays.
- Awareness of the *different strategic roles* of the African University and the European universities in terms of support of the national development efforts.

# Some Recent Trends in University Cooperation

- With exception of a few funding sources, nowadays university co-operation has entailed development of a sharper/more focused definition by either the Govt. or Funding Agency in a manner that is becoming non or less-participatory on the part of the African university, African Governments or even the Northern university.
- With exception of a few Non-Govt. funding sources, Govts from the North give funds to African Govts for the General Budget Support (GBS) with no guarantee that such funds find their way to universities even if they (univ.) are theoretically prioritised.

# Some Recent Trends in Univ. Co-op

- African universities are either not consulted or ignored during formulation of new co-operation programmes or when introducing a new programme. In some cases, it is The Southern Government that does not wish to involve their own universities in new programmes.
- Decision of some European universities to remove cooperation with Africa from their priorities upon change of top leadership. Ex. TU Eindhoven.
- Some funds have recently been passed to continental bodies like AAU or sub-regional bodies like IUCEA for thematic funding of common interest. This is a very good development that ought to be encouraged and some of the funds should be more competitive.

# Some Important Observations for the Future

- Need for closer coordination between AAU and the sub-regional bodies like SARUA, IUCEA e.t.c. as well as the ACDE.
- Critical role and importance of consultations with the counterpart African universities and the continental or sub-regional bodies as being done today and tomorrow.
- The necessity for university co-operations sustaining the interests of both the European and the African university even if capacity building of African Universities is a major focus.

# Some Important Observations for the Future Contd...

- Explicit indicators of capacity building are crucial to ensure a co-operation does not end up draining resources of the African universities without any benefit. Ex. of PUMPSEA Project funded by EU.
- Necessity to assess how much funds are spent in Europe for European researchers and how much for the African counterparts as well as how much is spent in Africa for the African researchers as well as for the European counterparts. This is done very well by SIDA and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

# Some Important Observations for the Future Contd....

- The necessity to ensure the collaborations last well beyond the period of validity of funding from Govts. or Institutions from Europe. Hence, the end of funding should not mean the end of collaborative efforts. As an example, I and another colleague from UDSM still bid jointly and have undertaken consultancy assignments with two different Dutch universities in two different continents.
- Need to brainstorm on how the collaborations be sustained beyond the project periods.

# Priorities, Needs and Roles in Development Co-operation

- Concepts and Development Policies that guide university co-operation today?
- Institutional and Regional Perspectives that affect university co-operations!!
- To what extent does development co-operation contribute to development?
- To what extent do African Govts. and Universities shape the capacity building programmes?

# Relevance of Capacity Building for African and European Universities?

- Why is this necessary? *The need to ensure it is two-way since there is capacity bldg. in the North even if this may not be the primary target!!*
- Any contribution towards meeting MDGs and other societal and economic needs of Africa? *This is indirectly very profound!!*
- Do programmes and policies in Europe reflect or consider the felt needs of African universities as key development agents in the South? *One may even wonder if in reality the universities are really recognised as such!!*

# Some Concluding Remarks

- Complex reporting requirements will make African universities continue to be unequal partners due to the heavy reliance on the skilled personnel from the north to deliver reports in a timely manner.
- Involvement of Local institutions in planning new support
- Need for more acceptable exit phases that should be more consultative. This will avoid the “pulling off the plugs “ style that is common nowadays.
- To accept the duo benefits of collaboration.
- It is high time to ensure the donor priorities are not sacrosanct to the extent of not being questioned.

THANKS TO PARTICIPANTS

**I Wish To Thank You for  
Your Attention**