

Launch of the Finland-Africa Platform for Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Innovation)

**Presided by
Li Andersson, Minister of Education of Finland
and Rector Jukka Kola, University of Turku**

Main Campus, Agora building, Lecture hall XXI
(Yliopistonmäki, Vesilinnantie 5, Turku)
26-27 August 2019

PROGRAMME



**Get inspired
by science.**



Monday, 26 August 2019

Location: Lecture hall XXI (unless otherwise stated)

9:00 **Registration**

10:00 **Participant installation and programme overview**

Dr Pascal Doh, University of Turku

*(Coordination: Joni Koskinen, University of Turku
and Marceline Pirkanniemi, PhD Åbo Akademi University)*

Introduction to seminar: “Innovation for development”

10:10 Innovation for development in Africa – and the Finnish perspectives

Jussi S. Jauhianen, Professor, University of Turku

10:20 Innovation for development

Jumanne Mtambalike, CEO, Sahara Ventures (Tanzania)

10:30 **Welcome speeches**

Jukka Kola, Rector, University of Turku

Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku

*H.E Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), represented by
Mr Oliver Chinganya, Director of African Center for Statistics
and Acting Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural
Resources Management at UNECA*

Keynote speech

10:50 State of the Art: Finland–Africa cooperation for SDG9

*Liisa Laakso, Professor-Senior Researcher at the Nordic Africa
Institute (Sweden), Former Rector of the University of Tampere*

Plenary presentations

Chair (General Comment): Kimmo Nuotio, Professor at the University of Helsinki – Chair Strategic Research Council, Academy of Finland

- 11:00 Orientation, priorities and visions of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the role of Finland
Victor Konde, Head of Section, Green Economy, Technology and Innovation Section, UNECA
- 11:15 North–South partnerships of the Association of African Universities and the potential role of Finland as a partner
Felicia Kuagbedzi, Communications and Publications Officer, Association of African Universities (Ghana)
- 11:30 Funding instruments, business partners and the involvement of Finnish companies in sustainable solutions for developing countries: the role of universities
Birgit Nevala, Finnfund, Finland
- 11:45 Tanzania Resilience Academy: “Resilience Academy – Safe, Inclusive, Sustainable Cities”
Niina Käyhkö, Associate Professor, University of Turku and Tanzanian Team (World Bank participation online)

12:00 **Lunch break**

12:50 **Participant re-installation in Lecture hall XXI**

Opening ceremony

(Coordination: Niina Käyhkö, Associate Professor, University of Turku)

- 13:00 Statement of the Minister of Development Cooperation and Trade, represented by *Jarmo Sareva, Ambassador for Innovation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland*
- Statement of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe by Mr Oliver Chinganya, Director of African Center for Statistics and Acting Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management at UNECA

Opening speech – Launch of platform

Li Andersson, Minister of Education of Finland

Plenary:

Examples of Finland–Africa education and research cooperation

- 13:20 University of Turku – University of Namibia education cooperation
Erkki Sutinen, Professor, University of Turku and Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Namibia (from distance)
- 13:30 The University of Turku initiatives with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Thierry Amoussougbo, UNECA-Institute of Development Studies, Dr Pascal Doh, University of Turku and Professor Jussi S. Jauhiainen, University of Turku
- 13:40 Elements of sustainability in North–South cooperation
Seppo Holtta, Professor (Emeritus) of Higher Education Management and Administration, University of Tampere
- 13:50 The United Nations Technology and Innovation Lab and the collaborative role of Finnish educational, research and innovation institutions
Razi Latif, Laboratory Manager, United Nations Technology and Innovation Laboratory, Aalto University
- 14:00 **Group photos**

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Sustaining the Finland–Africa Platform for Innovation (SDG9)

14:10–15:00 **Workshop 1: Defining the missions and objectives of the platform**

Location: Lecture hall XXI

Chairperson

Moderator: *Seppo Holtta, Professor (Emeritus) of Higher Education Management and Administration, University of Tampere*

Rapporteur: *Irinja Paakkanen, Head of International Affairs, University of Turku*

Theme examples: objectives (innovation-focused development cooperation and knowledge diplomacy), the internationalization of Finland, education and innovation export, stakeholder identification and perspectives, resource mobilization approaches and financing, role of Finland and UNECA, challenges and perspectives

14:00–14:50 **Workshop 2: Practicalities and operationalisation of the platform**

Location: Granö lecture hall XV

Chairperson

Moderator: *Jukka Käyhkö, Professor, University of Turku*

Rapporteur: *Babila Sama Thomas (PhD), University of Helsinki*

Theme examples: role of different actors (related ministries and agencies, business, funding agencies, NGOs, UTU, Finnish universities, AMKs and NGOs), resource mobilization approaches and financing, synergies and partnership, affiliation, host, coordination and routine operations, governance (board), annual meetings and forums, other themes

14:50 **Coffee break**

Plenary panel discussion

15:00 The potential of a Finland–Africa Platform in innovation focused development cooperation and Finnish knowledge diplomacy in Africa (scope, impact, strategies, coordination, new actors, synergies-partnerships and funding perspectives)

Chairperson

Moderator: *Marko Nieminen, Professor, Aalto University*

Rapporteur: *Michael Danquah, Research Fellow, United Nations University (UNU-WIDER)*

Jyri Arponen, Senior Lead, Circular Economy, SITRA

Rosemond Boohene, Professor and Dean, University of Cape Coast (Ghana)

Johanna Hakala, Manager, International Affairs, Academy of Finland

Helena Laukko, Executive Director and Head of Organization, United Nations Association, Finland

Jarmo Sareva, Ambassador for Innovation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Kalle-Antti Suominen, Vice-Rector for research, University of Turku (or representative of the administration)

Heikki Uusi-Honko, Head, International Networks, Business Finland

Comments

Edward Mutafungwa, Aalto University, Finland

Yondo Mine Guy Raoul (Finland–African Alumnus, PhD Aircraft Engineering), Senior Aerospace Engineer, AIRBUS, Germany

Khuram Shahzad, Representative, Innovation Lab, University of Vaasa

Plenary presentations

(Coordination: Felicia Kuagbedzi, Association of African Universities (Ghana))

- 16:00 Innovation focused development cooperation:
the Finnish experience
Dr Lauri Hooli, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Turku
- 16:10 Digital services supporting value chain connectivity of
entrepreneurs in under-served communities
Marko Nieminen, Professor, Aalto University
- 16:20 IFAD investments and SDG9 in Eastern and Southern Africa:
potential for Finland–IFAD partnership
*Sauli Hurri, Regional Technical Specialist at International Fund
for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Kenya*
- 16:30 The importance of the national innovation system framework in
SDG9 and the potential role of Finland in Africa: experiences from
Scinnovent
Dr Maurice Bolo, Scinnovent (Kenya)
- 16:40 **Closing remarks and discussion**
(Sightseeing around the city of Turku: to be announced)
- 19:00 **Dinner (on invitation only)**
Restaurant NOMAD (Kristiinankatu 5, Turku)
www.nomadfoodandwine.com



Tuesday, 27 August 2019

Location: Lecture hall XXI (unless otherwise stated)

(Coordination: Ville Myllynpää & Dr Elizabeth Eta, University of Turku)

09:30 **Opening**

Jarmo Sareva, Ambassador for Innovation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland & Victor Konde, Head of Section, Green Economy, Technology and Innovation Section, UNECA

Opening presentation

09:40 Bridging knowledge and technology gaps in Africa:
The Next Einstein Forum in Africa

Esther Kunda, Policy, Innovation & Community of Scientists Manager at the Next Einstein Forum (Rwanda)

09:50 **Reports and resolutions of parallel workshops and panel discussion**

Plenary presentations

10:20 Perspectives on Finnish–African educational collaboration
Annika Sundbäck, Head of Impact Programme, EDUFI, Finnish National Agency for Education

10:30 Innovation activities of universities in Ghana: the tale of two universities
Rosemond Boohene, Professor and Dean, University of Cape Coast (Ghana)

10:40 Nordic companies in Africa: the potential of Nordic university–industry partnership for SDG9 in Africa
Flemming Sorensen, African Innovation Network, Copenhagen (Denmark)

10:50 Learning and university collaboration for catalysing innovation and impact in East-Africa
Antero Järvi, University of Turku

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:10

PANEL DISCUSSION

University-company partnership for SDG9 (innovation) in Africa

Chairperson

Moderator: *Heikki Uusi-Honko, Head, International Networks, Business Finland*

Rapporteur: *Emma Nkonoki, University of Turku*

Antero Järvi, Professor, University of Turku

Esther Kunda, Next Einstein Forum (Rwanda)

Sarah Laaru, Laaru Consulting, Helsinki

Katja Maetoola, Project Planner, HAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Abayomi Magbagbeola, Consultant, University of Lagos (Nigeria) and Finnish universities

Flemming Sorensen, African Innovation Network, Copenhagen (Denmark)

Ville Taajamaa, University of Turku, Future Technologies

Seppo Tikkanen, PoDoCo (Post Docs in Companies)

Comments

Maurice Bolo, The Scinnovent Centre (Kenya)

Eila Hannula, Regional Coordinator, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

Jussi Mertsola, Professor (Emeritus) of Pediatrics

Leena Plym-Rissanen, Aalto University

12:00 **Lunch break**

Presentation of individual and university projects

(Coordination: Anssi Malinen, University of Turku & Esther Kunda, Policy, Innovation & Community of Scientists Manager at the Next Einstein Forum, Rwanda)

- 13:00 The fusion grid platform: electricity, connectivity and digital services for entrepreneurs in rural communities in Africa
Antti Pinomaa, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Lappeenranta University of Technology
- 13:10 Innovating sustainable businesses: analysis of innovative entrepreneurs in Kenya
Paula Linna, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Jyväskylä
- 13:20 The Finnish University of Applied Science Model for higher education institutional differentiation in Africa
Fidelis Cho Ngwa, Professor and Director, School of Engineering, University of Bamenda (Cameroon)
- 13:30 The German experience of higher education cooperation in North Africa
Leonie Schoelen, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Germany) and Paris Descartes University (France)
- 13:40 EU Africa cooperation for sustainable development in infrastructure
Forti Bertrand, Institute of International Relations (Cameroon)
- 13:50 **Break**
- 14:00 Co-operatives as a tool for promoting sustainable socio-economic development: case Finland and Ethiopia
Shimelles Tenaw, Senior Adviser and Researcher, Omnia, the Joint Authority of Education in the Espoo region
- 14:10 Building sustainable and resilient communities through co-creation between universities and businesses in Tanzania and Finland
Sonja Vanto, Assistant, Projects and Study Affairs, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences and Elsa Keskitalo, Principal Lecturer and Project Manager, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
- 14:20 Climate service for Africa
Moammar Dayoub, Department of Future Studies

- 14:30 The prospects and perspectives of Finnish start ups in Africa:
case of Nigeria
*Reggie Rusan, Economic Operator with Finnish Start ups, Founder,
SimpleTec Solutions*
- 14:40 **Feedback, perspectives and closing remarks**
UNECA, MFAF, UTU and the participants
- 15:30 **End of seminar**

Support

University of Turku (sponsor)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Turku City Council

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

University Partnership for Development (UNIPID)