



Association of African Universities  
Association des Universités Africaines  
الاتحاد الجامعات الأفريقية

Issue No. 11

17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2004

# AAU e-Courier

An electronic update on Higher Education events, services and products

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*A merry holiday season  
to all our readers !!!*

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*Joyeuse saison de fête  
à tous nos lecteurs!!*

## AAU e-Courier

For publicising you higher  
education events, services, and  
products.

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## AVU Job Vacancy for Manager: Academic Program Development and Management

The African Virtual University (AVU) is an Intergovernmental Organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. Our mission is to be pivotal to a leading continental educational network of higher education institutions, all engaged in enhancing their capacity to utilize innovative Open, Distance, and e-Learning (ODEL) systems and methodologies to increase equitable access to demand driven, flexible, affordable, sustainable and cost effective programs in African post secondary institutions. To achieve this mission, the AVU is seeking a mid career creative and dynamic individual (preferably in the age range of 40-50 years) who is conversant with print based Distance Education and Open Learning and the role of ICTs in ODeL. The individual should be prepared to think outside the ‘box’ to provide academic leadership to our team and network on the African continent in Academic Program Development and Management. If you identify with this mission, have operated at the level of a Director, Dean or above in a university, have more than four years of working in ODeL environments, have a demonstrable and sustained passion for improving the provision of post secondary education and training in Africa and you can speak, read and write in both English and French, we

## Job Description

The person we are looking for will be responsible for providing leadership in Academic Program Development and Management in a dynamic and dispersed physical and virtual environment. Key competencies for the position will include the following: •Design frameworks, systems and procedures for quality assurance, accreditation, assessment, examinations and certification of Academic Programs •Design and nature systems for a community of practice in ODeL in African universities •Liaise with the IT Unit and the In-Country Strategy and Research and Evaluation units to develop appropriate learning architectures for ODeL in the AVU network •Work closely with the following units: the Partnership and Institutional Development Unit, the ODeL, In-Country Strategy, the Research and Innovation Facility and the Finance Unit to ensure an efficient delivery of demand driven, cost-effective, scalable, affordable, flexible and sustainable Academic Programs across the AVU network •Spearhead the contextualization of current external academic programs and develop capacity enhancement programs required in the AVU network of Learning Centers to achieve this process •Liaise with the Research and Innovation Facility in initiating, supervising, conducting and disseminating state of the art basic and applied research in ODeL.

## Qualifications and experience required

### A. Academic Qualifications

An earned PhD in any one of the following areas: Educational Management ▪Comparative and International Education▪ Curriculum Studies▪ Program Design, Development, Management and Evaluation preferably in Education ▪A post graduate qualification in Distance Education and Open Learning or ODeL plus a PhD in Educational Management or Curriculum Studies.

### B. Relevant Experience

Experience as a Director/Dean or above in a Faculty of Education or Distance Education Unit, or College of Distance Education or Open University ▪Experience and knowledge of African Higher Education in Francophone and Anglophone countries especially in Distance Education and Open Learning ▪Experience in setting up distance education and open learning units to operate in a dual or mixed mode in an African university ▪Knowledge and experience of traditional Distance Education and Open Learning as well as e-Learning in at least two countries ▪Knowledge and experience of how Learning Centers in a dispersed or virtual environment operate in an African context ▪Knowledge and experience of setting up student and tutor support and feedback systems including the digital library ▪Knowledge and experience of program and project design, development, management and evaluation in African higher education ▪The ability to think strategically and experience in developing concept papers and policy documents especially in Distance Education and Open Learning to be shared within the AVU network is essential ▪Knowledge of (and involvement in) current research activities and continental initiatives in Distance Education and Open Learning in Africa at the university level.

### Remuneration

A salary package commensurate with experience and qualifications and in line with the AVU's job grading will be offered to the successful candidate.

### Method of application

Qualified applicants should send a detailed curriculum vitae including age, nationality, telephone contacts, email address, salary history and a one page summary indicating how they meet the above requirements to: [hrprogram@avu.org](mailto:hrprogram@avu.org), before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004. Applicants who responded to our earlier advertisement need not apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The AVU is an equal opportunity employer. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

## Call for Proposals for Panels

### Conference on "Knowledge and Science in Africa"

*Conference of the "African Studies Association in Germany (VAD)"*

*Frankfurt am Main, July 13-16, 2006*

The African Studies Association in Germany (VAD), founded in 1969, is a scholarly association dedicated to current African problems and their historical conditions. The association supports Africa-related educational and public relations programs in Germany. The VAD is interdisciplinary and cooperative.

The "African Studies Association in Germany" meets every two years to discuss current developments and the status of research in Africa within the framework of an international conference. At the conference planned for 2006, various conceptions of "knowledge" in the broadest sense are to be dealt with, whereby local concepts of knowledge are to play just as much a role as the knowledge accumulated and institutionalized by academics. Central topics are the production, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. But also questions concerning the power to define what "knowledge" is and how this knowledge has changed in the history of African studies are to take center stage at the conference: Which questions are posed by African and non-African scholars/scientists, and which thematic priorities condition their research? Under what political and economic conditions is scholarship conducted in Africa, and what attempts have been made to achieve forms of cooperation in terms of equal partnership? Does Africa need more scholarship/science to solve its problems – and what role can be played by the research on Africa pursued at universities? In addition to the thematic focus on the networking of local and academic conceptions of knowledge, interdisciplinary panels are to receive special attention in Frankfurt.

The "Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Africa (CIRA)" will host the conference ([www.ziaf.de](http://www.ziaf.de)).

The conference will be divided into panels with a relatively variable scope. Decisions concerning the acceptance of panels will be made at a meeting of the executive committee and board of the VAD on April 4, 2005.

German, English, and French are allowed as conference languages. Out of consideration for foreign guests, all presenters will be required to submit an English abstract, which is to be no longer than one page. For presentations in French, a more detailed English abstract modeled on the outline of the presentation will be required.

Please submit your **proposals for panels** no later than **March 20, 2005** to Dr. Stefan Schmid ([s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de)) with the following information:

- Classification under a topic heading
- Estimated duration (2/4/6/8 hours) and estimated number of presenters
- Short description (half a page).

Once a panel is accepted, each panel coordinator will have the opportunity to post a call for papers on the VAD homepage ([www.vad-ev.de](http://www.vad-ev.de)). The panel coordinators are urged to give special consideration to young scholars when organizing their panels. They are emphatically encouraged to invite African presenters, in which case early correspondence with the conference coordinator is necessary. In order to complete the DFG application to finance the costs for foreign guests, all relevant information must be submitted to the conference organizer no later than **May 15, 2005**, even if such information has only a provisional character.

#### **Suggested Topics**

- *Theme 1: Production, communication and adaptation of knowledge*
- *Theme 2: Changing 'sites' of knowledge*
- *Theme 3: Knowledge, development and shaping the future*
- *Theme 4: Transmission of knowledge*
- *Topic 5: Environmental Changes and Environmental Knowledge*
- *Topic 6: Generation and Transfer of Religion-Knowledge*
- *Topic 7: Knowledge and Action in the Context of Disease and Poverty*
- *Topic 8: International Science/ Scholarship Cooperation and International Knowledge Exchange*
- *Theme 9: African studies in Europe: A by-product of the (post-) colonial experience?*

For more details, visit: [www.vad-ev.de](http://www.vad-ev.de)

### **Appel à Propositions de Panels**

### **Conférence sur "Savoir et Science en Afrique"**

*Conférence de «l'Association des Africanistes d'Allemagne» (VAD)*

*Francfort / Main, du 13 au 16 juillet 2006*

L'Association des Africanistes d'Allemagne (abrév. allemande VAD), fondée en 1969, regroupe des scientifiques qui s'intéressent aux problèmes actuels de l'Afrique et aux conditions historiques de leur apparition. Elle a pour vocation de développer l'enseignement sur l'Afrique et de renforcer la présence médiatique du continent africain en Allemagne. La VAD est interdisciplinaire et basée sur la coopération, au sens où elle cherche à surmonter le cloisonnement du questionnement scientifique de rigueur entre les différentes disciplines universitaires. Dans ce sens, elle établit à l'échelle internationale une collaboration dénuée de tout préjugé.

L'Association des Africanistes d'Allemagne se réunit tous les deux ans dans le cadre d'une conférence internationale pour faire le point sur les évolutions et l'état de la recherche en Afrique. La conférence prévue en 2006 sera consacrée aux différentes conceptions du « savoir » au sens large. Les concepts locaux du savoir y joueront un rôle aussi déterminant que les connaissances accumulées et institutionnalisées par les universitaires. La production, la transmission et la préservation du savoir seront les thèmes centraux des échanges, mais aussi les questions concernant le pouvoir de définition de ce qu'est le « savoir » et la manière dont ce savoir a évolué au cours de l'histoire des sciences sur l'Afrique: Quelle est la problématique des chercheurs d'Afrique et du reste du monde? Quels sont les thèmes prioritaires dans leurs travaux? Dans quelles conditions politiques et économiques la recherche a-t-elle lieu en Afrique? Peut-on voir les premiers signes de nouvelles formes de coopération menant au partenariat? L'Afrique a-t-elle besoin de plus de science pour résoudre ses problèmes - et quel rôle pourrait y jouer la recherche sur l'Afrique menée dans les universités? La conférence de Francfort favorisera par des panels interdisciplinaires l'interconnexion des conceptions locales et universitaires sur le savoir.

Cette conférence est organisée par le „Centre Interdisciplinaire de la Recherche sur l'Afrique“ (ZIAF).

La conférence sera composée de panels de tailles variables. Contrairement à la précédente conférence du VAD tenue à Hanovre en **juin 2004**, celle-ci ne sera plus organisée par sections. Désormais, les responsables de chaque panel pourront à quelques détails près organiser librement les activités de leur groupe de discussion (communications, débats publics, films, spectacles, etc.). Un petit panel durera max. deux heures (en comptant la pause), ce qui correspond environ à trois interventions plus un débat. La durée standard équivaut à une manifestation d'une demi-journée avec double programme. De plus grands panels sont envisageables mais dépendent largement de la disponibilité des locaux et de la demande des participants. Les suggestions de panels seront examinées au cours d'une réunion du conseil d'administration ou de l'assemblée générale de la VAD le **4 avril 2005**.

Les langues de communication de la conférence seront l'allemand, l'anglais et le français. Par égard pour nos invités étrangers, chaque intervenant/e devra présenter un résumé en anglais d'une page max. Les communications en langue française devront être complétées par un résumé

détaillé en anglais correspondant au plan de la communication.

Merci d'envoyer vos suggestions de panels au Dr Stefan Schmid ([s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:s.schmid@em.uni-frankfurt.de)) avant le **20 mars 2005** dernier délai, en précisant les points suivants :

- le thème principal dans lequel s'inscrit votre panel
- sa durée (2/4/6/8 heures) et le nombre d'intervenants approximatifs
- un bref exposé (une demi-page A4)

Une fois sa suggestion acceptée, chaque responsable de panel aura la possibilité de publier une recherche d'articles sur le site Internet [www.vad-ev.de](http://www.vad-ev.de). A cet égard, les responsables de panels sont tenus de prendre particulièrement en compte les jeunes chercheurs dans la composition de leur groupe de travail. En outre, la VAD valorisera expressément l'invitation de conférenciers africains. Dans ce cas, le responsable de panel devra en parler suffisamment tôt au coordinateur de la conférence. Toutes les informations nécessaires à un dossier de demande de financement par la Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG) devront parvenir au plus tard le **15 mai 2005** aux organisateurs, même si leur caractère en est encore provisoire.

#### Thèmes principaux proposés

- *Thème 1: Produire, transmettre et adapter le savoir*
- *Thème 2: Lieux du savoir et leur évolution*
- *Thème 3: Savoir, développement et conception de l'avenir*
- *Thème 4: Transmission du savoir*
- *Thème 5: Mutations écologiques et connaissances sur l'environnement*
- *Thème 6: production et transfert de savoir religieux*
- *Thème 7: Savoir et action concrète dans un contexte de maladie et de pauvreté*
- *Thème 8: Coopérations et échanges scientifiques internationaux*
- *Thème 9: Les sciences sur l'Afrique en Europe: un sous-produit de l'expérience (post-) coloniale?*

Pour de plus amples informations, visiter:

[www.vad-ev.de](http://www.vad-ev.de)

## ROAP

### Your Gateway to International Visibility

ROAP is the AAU's database of African experts.

#### Purpose

- To enhance the international visibility of African experts
- To facilitate easy access to a rich diversity of African expertise for AAU's member institutions, African governments, regional and international organizations, and other partners who seek consultants, advisors, teachers, external examiners, researchers, resource persons, and other professionals
- To enable the AAU identify suitable professionals for its programs and services
- To promote networking and collaboration within Africa's higher education community
- To facilitate easy dissemination of announcements calling for African expertise.

#### Who is eligible for inclusion in ROAP?

##### Any professional

- With a qualification of a master's degree or higher
- With a minimum of two or more scholarly publications
- Working and living in Africa.

#### How to include your biodata in ROAP

- Simply fill in the online biodata form at <http://www.aau.org/roap>, or
- Download and send the completed form to [info@aau.org](mailto:info@aau.org) or
- Update your CV to incorporate ROAP queries and email it to [info@aau.org](mailto:info@aau.org).
- **Sorry, but we are unable to process CV hard copies!**