



# 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the Association of African Universities

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The 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the AAU will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005 in Cape Town, South Africa. It is being organised in collaboration with and hosted by the University of Cape Town. The theme of this year's Conference is, **“Cross-border provision and the future of higher education in Africa”**. The Conference is expected to bring together over 380 participants from over 47 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, including the USA and Australia. Among the participants are Vice Chancellors, Presidents and other leaders of higher education institutions, policy makers, scholars and students, representatives of regional and international organisations, donor agencies, advocacy groups, as well as the media.

The AAU holds a General Conference of member institutions every four years. The Conference, which is the highest decision-making organ of the Association, decides on the policies and strategic orientation of the Association, approves its core programme of activities and the global budget for the next four years, rules on constitutional issues, and elects the President, Vice-Presidents and the Executive Board of the Association.

It has been the tradition of the AAU to hold its General Conference under a broad theme related to higher education. Issues arising under the broad theme are discussed in depth at a scientific forum constituted by the AAU's Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and University Presidents (COREVIP), which meets every two years, with every other meeting forming part of the activities at the General Conference.

In addition to the formal business and the scientific forum, the General Conference provides an opportunity for members, associate organisations and development partners to organise a series of parallel events of interest to the broad membership of the Association.

The 2005 COREVIP held under the 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference will feature presentation of 20 papers by experts from within and outside Africa, who will be discussing issues of cross-border provision of higher education such as internationalisation, quality assurance, access and equity, national autonomy, cultural identity and ICT-mediated provision. In addition, there will be parallel sessions sponsored by international and regional institutions such as the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), Commonwealth of Learning, UNESCO, the Department for Research Cooperation of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida/SAREC), the Africa-America Institute, and South African Regional Universities Association (SARUA). Issues featuring at the Parallel Sessions will include: improving access to African scholarly work, African Universities responding to HIV/AIDS, Pan-African research and education networking, optimisation and management of bandwidth, building ICT capacity of African higher education institutions, teacher education and research on differentiation and articulation in African universities.

A special event taking place during the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference is a “Meeting of Friends of the AAU”, which will bring together AAU’s principal partners and stakeholders to exchange views on the Association’s performance and future direction and the support it requires.

The Association of African Universities (AAU) is a continental membership organisation formed in 1967 by 34 African universities at a meeting in Rabat, Morocco. Since then the organisation has expanded and today has a membership of 179 higher education institutions, mostly universities, in 44 African countries.

For more details about the Conference, please visit the AAU website at: [www.aau.org/gc](http://www.aau.org/gc)