PROGRAMME

November

15th
10:30-14:00 GMT
13:30-17:00 EAT

16th
10:00-16:00 GMT
13:00-19:00 EAT

17th
10:30-15:45 GMT
13:30-18:45 EAT

African-led science, technology and innovation for contributing to the SDGs and stimulating global development
**SIDE EVENTS**

**Monday 15 November 2021**
**10:30-14:00 GMT / 13:30-17:00 EAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ONLINE ATTENDEES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open from 13:30 EAT</td>
<td>Participants start arriving online</td>
<td>Testing connection</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parallel meetings 14:00 – 17:00hrs EAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Meeting of RSIF International Partner Institutions (IPIs) and African Host Universities (AHUs). Contact: Dr. Everlyn Nguku, RSIF-RCU</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. RSIF PhD student session – communication and social media training Contact: Maureen Agena, RSIF-RCU</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Meeting of RSIF African Host University Vice-Chancellors Contact: Dr. Moses Osiru, RSIF-RCU</td>
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For more information on RSIF, please visit [www.rsif-paset.org](http://www.rsif-paset.org).
Tuesday 16 November 2021
Start at 10:00 GMT / 13:00 EAT

D A Y  1

SESSION DESCRIPTION ONLINE ATTENDEES

Open from 13:00 EAT Participants start arriving online
Short videos on UM6P and RSIF Share program information.
Bonface Nyagah
Lilian Igweta

OPENING SESSION

Open Session
(45 minutes)
13.30-14.15 EAT

Conference Welcome and Opening
Join in from the start as we set out the context and expectations; get reminded of our objectives and shared potential to impact on Africa's priority issues, such as Covid-19 and the power of science to change and shape our shared future in concrete ways.

Moderator: Dr. Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa

Brief RSIF video
• Welcome remarks by Dr. Moses Osiru, RSIF Manager, icipe
• Introductory remarks by President, UM6P, Hicham El Habti
• Opening remarks by Ms. Safaa El Kogeli, Education Practice Manager, Eastern and Southern Africa Region, World Bank
• Remarks by Prof. Aminata Sall Diallo, PASET Executive Director
• Statement by Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director, Human Resources, Science and Technology, The African Union Commission
• Official Opening Statement by Hon. Dr. Valentine Uwamariya, Minister of Education, Rwanda and PASET Governing Council Chair
Keynote: Covid in Africa – implications for higher education and research

Dr. Patrick Amoth, President of the WHO Executive Board

Moderator: Dr. Mercy Korir
Rapporteur: Prof. Gerald Misinzo, RSIF Coordinator, Sokoine University of Agriculture

The keynote and subsequent panel discussion will provide African ministers and higher education stakeholders with a global updated perspective on the current covid situation and foresight analysis. We will look closer at what is happening in Africa – what has worked, what has not and what strategies/ best practices are emerging. Specific attention will be given to the impact of covid on education systems and what should be pursued; as well as impact on students and what needs to be done.

Panel – Covid as a catalyst for science, technology and innovation response in Africa

Moderator: Dr. Mercy Korir
Rapporteur: Prof. Gerald Misinzo

- Panelist 1: Dr. Mark Rweyemamu, Sokoine University of Agriculture, RSIF AHU. The role of African universities in supporting response to the covid pandemic and similar epidemics/ pandemics in the future.
- Panelist 2: Dr. Amadou A Sall – Director, Institut Pasteur, Senegal. Why Africa should produce its own vaccines.
- Panelist 3: Dr. Shikoh Gitau, CEO Qhala and Member of ICT Advisory committee on Covid-19 in Kenya. Catalysing Africa’s digital future. What role for responding to covid and similar epidemics in the future.
- Panelist 4: Mr. Rafiq El Alami, Director of Digital Learning Lab, UM6P. University responses to covid: Online education and creation of MOOCs in Africa.
- Panelist 5: Dr. Danica Ramljak, Senior Science and innovation consultant, World Bank. Implications for the RSIF research strategy.

Moderated Discussion
### SESSION I  
**Session theme: Covid in Africa**

**HEALTH BREAK**

Video on RSIF and on UM6P

### SESSION II  
**Session Theme: Building Research Capacities in Africa**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>17:00-17:30 EAT</td>
<td><strong>Keynote from a global scientific leader from Africa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Geoffrey H. Siwo</td>
<td>Research Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame, USA.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire</td>
<td>Manager, ACE Impact Project, AAU</td>
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<td>Rapporteur: Prof. Julius M. Mwabora</td>
<td>RSIF Coordinator, UoN</td>
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<td><strong>Panel – The RSIF “sandwich” model</strong></td>
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<td>Moderator: Andries W. Coetzee</td>
<td>Michigan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapporteur: Fréjus Ariel Kpédétin Sodédji</td>
<td>RSIF PhD Student</td>
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<td>17:30-19:00 EAT</td>
<td>The RSIF doctoral scholarship programme has been designed using the best practices that have emerged from on-going programs globally, adopting a “sandwich” training approach that incorporates international and home-country study anchored in African institutions. There are currently 15 African Host Universities (AHUs), and 19 International Partner Institutions (IPIs). RSIF encourages partnerships and collaboration in training, research and innovation. What are the advantages of this model? What challenges can be expected and how can these best be managed and mitigated?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watching, possibility to ask questions</td>
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<td>Possible poll</td>
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SESSION II: Session Theme: Building Research Capacities in Africa

Panel – The RSIF “sandwich” model

Introduction by Ms. Sylvia Maina on her research placement in Korea.

- Panelist 1: Prof. Maïssa Mbaye, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal (an RSIF AHU)
- Panelist 2: Prof. Abdelghani Chehbouni, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P) (an RSIF IPI)
- Panelist 3: Athol Swanepoel, HR Director and Donavin Hattingh, Technical and Production Division, Nestlé
- Panelist 4: Kazuo Sasaki, Challenge Co. Ltd., Japan.

Comments by Andrea Johnson, Program Officer, Higher Education and Research in Africa, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Moderated discussion

End of Day 1 Summary: Mr. Arun Sharma, Independent Consultant
### DAY 2

**Wednesday 17 November 2021**

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<td>13:30 EAT</td>
<td>Video</td>
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## SESSION III

**Session Theme: Science Funding in Africa**

### Keynote (30 minutes)

**Keynote:** The role of RSIF in Strengthening Africa's development with a focus on SDGs

Moderator: **Prof. Frans Swanepoel**, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Rapporteur: **Emmanuel Effah**, RSIF PhD Student

**Prof. Fulufhelo Nelwamondo**, CEO of the National Research Foundation of South Africa

The rationale for RSIF is that Africa requires world class scientists in priority thematic disciplines that are relevant to national economic growth across sub-Saharan Africa. How can a regional approach address critical national problems in developing research capacity? What is the role of national research funds in this respect? What are the lessons from the South African context for the continent?

### Panel 1 – Contributing Governments

Moderator: **Prof. Aminata Sall Diallo**, PASET Executive Director

Rapporteur: **Prof. Mwemezi Rwiza**, RSIF Coordinator, NMAIST

Join in for a focussed discussion on some leading African government perspectives. RSIF is the flagship programme of the African government-led Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology. Central in RSIF’s value proposition is the lower cost for high quality PhD training compared with different countries internationally and its focus on PASET’s priority areas for far-reaching impact in society. Integral in the design is increasing the institutional capacities of selected African universities and the wider national innovation systems to ensure sustainability and strengthen Africa's positioning.
### SESSION III

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<td><strong>1 hour 30 min</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14:30-16:00 EAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Panel 1 – Contributing Governments</strong></td>
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<td>Brief introduction by Dr. Moses Osiru, Manager, RSIF</td>
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<td>• Panelist 1: Korea: <strong>Dr. Kwangchul Ji</strong>, Director, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Government of Korea (Video).</td>
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<td>• Panelist 2: Kenya: <strong>Prof. Walter O. Oyawa</strong>, Director General - NACOSTI</td>
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<td>• Panelist 3: Mozambique: <strong>Prof. Eugénia Cossa</strong>, National Director of Science, Technology and Innovation</td>
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<td>• Panelist 4: Côte d’Ivoire: <strong>Prof. Aka Fulgence Nindjin</strong>, Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research</td>
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<td>• Panelist 5: Rwanda: <strong>Hon. Dr. Valentine Uwamariya</strong>, Minister of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderated discussion</td>
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| **1 hour 20 min** | Watching, possibility to ask questions |
| **16:10- 17:30 EAT** | Possible poll |
| **Panel 2 – Establishing an endowment fund for building STI capacity in Africa** |                  |
| Moderator: **Prof. Wole Winston Soboyejo**, Provost, Senior Vice President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boston |                  |
| Rapporteur: **Prof. Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin**, RSIF Coordinator, Bayero University, Kano |                  |
| The first pan-African science fund of its kind, PASET RSIF has the objective of establishing a permanent fund that can sustainably support applied scientific and engineering research in sub-Saharan Africa universities. RSIF design promises multiplier effects and reduced PhD costs over time, required to substantially increase the stock of highly skilled scientists, professionals and innovators for transformation to a knowledge economy. Join the discussion on ways for the partnership to raise long-term investments in Africa's science capacities in the post-Covid era – as we consider the proposed modalities for establishing the RSIF permanent fund. |                  |
SESSION III  
**Session Theme: Science Funding in Africa**

Panel 2 – Establishing an endowment fund for building STI capacity in Africa

Introduction on the rationale and case for a permanent Pan-African science fund

- **Panelist 1:** Dr. Mercy Karanja, Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Panelist 2:** Mrs. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli (MFR), Co-founder/Managing Partner, Sahel Consulting
- **Panelist 3:** Prof. Philip Cotton, Director, Human Capital Development, Mastercard Foundation
- **Panelist 4:** Mrs. Dora Waruiru, Head of Foundation Cooperative Bank

Moderated discussion

Comments by:
- **Mr. Joel Kibet Molel,** Principal Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Officer, African Development Bank
- **Mr. Marcel Mballa-Ekobena,** Sloan Fellow, London Business School, Investments, Markets and ESG Executive
- **Dr. Dorothy Nyambi,** President and CEO, MEDA.

HEALTH BREAK

Video
Closing (45 minutes)

18:00-18:45 EAT

Closing
Moderator: Ms. Ruth Charo, World Bank
Rapporteur: Dr. Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa

Make sure to tune in for the closing session for key take-aways from the discussions with lessons for Africa's higher education, science, technology, and innovation space. The meeting outcomes will inform our continued Covid-response and effective contribution to the SDGs and climate goals; Building of research capacity; and Way forward for science funding in Africa, and RSIF specifically. Together we lay out agreed actions and outcomes for the network as we look ahead to the upcoming RSIF Conference in Morocco in May 2022.

Reading of the Meeting communique
Closing remarks

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World Bank
PASET
THANK YOU

WEB

www.rsif-paset.org

CONTACT

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