

## Media Monitoring: Extract of Press News on Higher Education in Africa

### 1. University World News

#### **Transdisciplinary collaboration critical for future of science (Africa-Global)**

Calls for investment in transdisciplinary research in Africa in order to achieve progress in science and innovation as tools to tackle challenges impeding social and economic transformation of the continent have dominated proceedings at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2022). The hybrid congress, taking place, in part, on the campus of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, has been convened in collaboration with the congress host, Future Earth, a global network of scientists, researchers and innovators focusing on sustainability, and the Belmont Forum, which is a partnership to enable environmental research, as a platform for enacting 'meaningful solutions' to societal challenges. The conference also heard that nurturing collaborations, both intra-Africa and with external actors, needed to be accelerated, noting that Africa needed to deploy science-based interventions urgently in tackling its most pressing challenges. The research community in Africa also needed as much support as it could muster from policymakers to come up with sustainable solutions that address, among other issues, climate change, social problems, food security, improved health, and environmental degradation, the event was told. "As scientists and as policymakers, there is a lot of advocacy work we ought to be doing to convince political leaders that the research we do is for the good of society, and they should, therefore, do more to raise investment in science and innovation." Read more [here](#).

### 2. Global Times

#### **Chinese language, culture inspiring Kenyan youth to reach higher (Kenya)**

Dressed in an elegant maroon suit and shiny leather shoes, Hansnick Omondi electrified the audience at Kenya's oldest university auditorium with an eloquent speech in Chinese that extolled the virtues of friendship and hard work. The 22-year-old Chinese language major at the University of Nairobi's Confucius Institute became a sensation at the Chinese language proficiency contest held on Friday with his refined mannerism, fashion sense and huge stage presence while delivering the speech. "It took me about four months to prepare for the speech and it touched on China-Kenya cooperation mainly in infrastructure development, our friendship and its benefits to all parties," Omondi told the Xinhua News Agency after he was declared the winner of the Kenya Division of the 21st edition of the Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students. The bubbly youth, who is also pursuing tourism at the University of Nairobi as a minor, will head to the next round, to showcase his mastery of spoken Chinese. Born and raised in a middle-income family in Nairobi, Omondi's curiosity to learn the Chinese language developed while in high school, thanks to inspiration from his elder sister who was studying it at the University of Nairobi. The elder sister who was pursuing a certificate course in Chinese used to recite it in the presence of Omondi, hence giving him a head start in mastering some basic expressions in the language. Read more [here](#).

### 3. The Tower Post

#### **Date Set for Hearing of Kampala University, South Sudan Students' Graduation Row (Uganda)**

Court in Uganda has announced that the first court session between Kampala University and its South Sudanese students at the Juba College is expected to begin on 11 July. This week, the university blocked about 1,000 students at its Juba branch from graduating. The students staged a peaceful protest after

they were denied graduation, saying they have been fooled into paying tuition fees for years at the controversial Kampala University of South Sudan. Stephen Nelson, one of the lawyers defending the protesting students, said the court in Kampala would hold the first hearing on the second week of July. “I am one of the lawyers representing about 1,000 students of the Kampala University college of Juba. They instructed us to handle their case three days ago and we managed to file three suits against the responding university where we are seeking the court of law in Uganda to look into the management of the university of not graduating the students of the Kampala University, college of Juba,” Nelson said. “To today (Thursday) we managed to set up the main case of hearing and it will be coming up on the 11th July 2022,” Nelson added. Read more [here](#).

#### 4. University World News

##### **‘Zero Hunger’ SDG: How this university became a leader (Japan)**

Hokkaido University, one of Japan’s oldest national universities situated on Japan’s northern-most island amid large swathes of farmland and originally established as a college to promote agricultural productivity and food security in a cold climate, has emerged as world class in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Now a large comprehensive university, it maintains research facilities throughout the island, including experimental farms, aquatic research stations and a 70,000 hectare forest for research purposes spread throughout Hokkaido and Wakayama prefecture. It has placed SDGs at the core of its mid-term plans over six years starting from April this year. The university came 10th in the UK-based Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022 released at the end of April – the highest placed Japanese university in these rankings, judged for its social contribution to achieving the SDGs. It has made particular advances in tackling SDG 2 on ‘Zero Hunger’, and was ranked first globally on this specific SDG. The Impact Ranking of universities is based on their work towards the SDGs and includes rankings for each of the 17 SDGs. This year’s list was topped by Western Sydney University in Australia, followed by Arizona State University in the United States. The original purpose of Hokkaido University, which was established in 1876, was to develop agricultural production and technologies to make Hokkaido into a major food production centre. Hokkaido University Executive Vice-President Atsushi Yokota said recognition for the university as a global leader in tackling Zero Hunger (SDG 2) was the natural outcome of a tradition of focusing on agricultural development as a way to develop Hokkaido Island and which also contributed to avoiding famine in Japan. “This tradition is now expanded globally,” he told University World News. Being recognised in the rankings was “a good opportunity for the university’s members to realise where the strength of the university lies and see their own research from the aspect of the SDGs,” he added. Read more [here](#).

#### 5. Ahram Online

##### **Cairo University’s FEPS launches 3-day conference on Egypt’s sustainable development (Egypt)**

Cairo University’s Faculty of Economy and Political Studies (FEPS) launched on Monday a three-day conference on the impacts of the global economic crisis on Egypt, the country’s sustainable development, structural transformation, and young people empowerment. Titled ‘The New Egypt and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges’, the conference is organised in collaboration with USAID’s Economic Governance Programme and other sponsors. The seven-session, three-roundtable conference is being held under the auspices of Chairperson of Cairo University Mohamed Othman El-Khosht and Dean of FEPS Mahmoud El-Said. El-Said said the conference is being held within the framework of the FEPS’

keenness to be in constant touch with decision makers, opinion leaders, and development partners, noting that it covers all development dimensions (economic, social, and environmental). The event is being held right before the national dialogue that will kick-off in July, he noted, adding that the FEPS can contribute to conveying a large portion of the dialogue's agenda. Furthermore, the conference is a chance to propose new ideas and mechanisms with the aim of contributing to create a better future, El-Khosht said. He added that any process aiming to achieve sustainable development or economic, political, or administrative progress is not possible without changing the view of individuals about the world and changing the value matrix that governs the market. Read more [here](#).

## **6. Liberia Observer**

### **Liberia: Education, Sports Ministers Tour EU Funded TVET Facilities (Liberia)**

The Minister of Education, Prof. D. Ansu Sonii, and the Minister of Youth and Sports, D. Zeogar Wilson, on June 24, toured all ongoing construction and renovation works of EU-funded TVET facilities under the Youth Rising Project including, the William V.S. Tubman High School in Monrovia, the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) in Paynesville, and the Booker Washington Institute (BWI), TVET Center for professional Training, Research and Innovation (TCPTI) in Kakata, Margibi county. Both ministers were also joined by the superintendent of the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS). The tour was intended to ascertain the level of work being done at the various institutions. The projects, when completed, will demonstrate the government's determination to prioritize TVET to deliver quality education and to prepare Liberians for future employment and job creation opportunities. The day-long tour, which was led by staff of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), including its Deputy Project Manager, Anthony A. Nimely, as the implementing agency, aimed at providing an update and showcasing the level of work that has been done so far at the various TVET centers or facilities. Read more [here](#)

## **7. Inside higher Eds**

### **Global Universities Call for Academic Freedom (Global)**

The U7+ Alliance of World Universities, 45 research universities from around the world, has issued a new statement on academic freedom. "Academic freedom is an essential contributor to the advancement of knowledge and prosperity, yet it faces limitations around the world," the statement says. "Academic freedom has two interrelated components, institutional and individual. The resurgence of autocracy has stripped many universities of the institutional autonomy necessary to fulfill their core mission—the creation and dissemination of knowledge and education of future generations. The crisis of democracy, evident in rising political extremism and polarization, has threatened the freedom of some university faculty as individual scholars to address controversial topics in research and teaching. The U7+ is committed to working with the G7 in insisting that academic freedom, open and respectful dialogue and debate are critical to a well-functioning democracy. In particular, we call on the G7 member countries to act to ensure that university faculty are able to conduct their work free from domestic and international political interference, and that they receive sufficient protection in their role." Read more [here](#).

## 8. KBC

### **University students celebrate return of drama festivals after covid disruption (Kenya)**

Sunday marked the 2nd and the final day of the first university drama festivals since the global disruption by Covid-19. The festival that brought together seven universities from the Central and Eastern regions of Kenya was organized and held at Kenyatta University's Kitui Campus. University Education and Research Principal Secretary Amb. Simon Nabukwesi and Prof. Paul Okemo representing the Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University Prof. Paul Wainaina graced the closing ceremony. The students showcased talent in narrations, oral verses, modern/traditional dances and plays which reflected the current situation and happenings in the country. In his closing remarks, Amb. Nabukwesi thanked the students for showcasing talent through commitment, time consciousness, practice and discipline in promoting theatre and ensuring that presentations were of high standards "All of you made this exercise a success because you portrayed these values. University students are our mirror for the future; you are tomorrow's drivers of economy in various strategic positions," said the PS. Read more [here](#).

## 9. Inside Higher Eds

### **An 'Immediate Need and Clear Opportunity' (Global)**

The University of Hawai'i launches new efforts to tackle higher education disparities among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders struggle with low college participation and high attrition rates, yet scholars say these students have often been overlooked in wider discussions about equity gaps in higher education. But more attention is being paid to their unique challenges as higher ed leaders nationwide focus more on improving academic outcomes for underrepresented students on their campuses and collect better research and data about their needs. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are members of more than 20 ethnic groups indigenous to islands in the Pacific. More than half of those who live in the U.S. never attended college, according to a 2020 report by APIA Scholars, a nonprofit focused on academic success among Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Of those who enroll, many don't complete their degrees—half of Native Hawaiians, more than 58 percent of Samoans and 54 percent of Tongans who attended college left without graduating. Pearl Imada Iboshi, who directs the Institutional Research and Analysis Office at the University of Hawai'i system, said campus leaders noticed that degree attainment rates were especially low among their Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and among Filipino students, a major immigrant group in the state. Read more [here](#).

## 10. Independent

### **A'ibom Govt to Institute Tertiary Scholarship Scheme for Indigent Students (Nigeria)**

Akwa Ibom State Government has made public its plan to institute a Tertiary Scholarship Scheme for 500 intelligent but indigent undergraduate students of the state, studying in Public Tertiary Institutions in the country. The Scholarship Award is in the sum of N200,000 per session, and the scholarship is provided to link the tertiary education sector to the already existing Free and Compulsory Education Policy of government. The move was made public in a post exco release signed by the Hon. Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong and made available to our correspondent in Uyo on Tuesday. Issuing the mandate to the state Ministry of Education, Governor Udom Emmanuel reportedly tasked the ministry to ensure that the processes for the selection of beneficiaries for the program is transparent and free from any form of favouritism. "The Ministry of Education and State Scholarships

Board are to publish the eligibility criteria for candidates. EXCO mandated the HC-Education to ensure that the processes for the selection of the beneficiaries are transparent”. The release stated. Read more [here](#).

## 11. New Zimbabwe

### **Student takes UZ to court over SRC elections (Zimbabwe)**

A UNIVERSITY of Zimbabwe (UZ) student Alfred Ndlovu has approached the High Court seeking the suspension of Student Representative Council (SRC) elections. Ndlovu was barred from running for president in the vote which is slated for 1 July at the institution of higher learning. He has since cited the UZ students’ union and dean of students, Munyaradzi Madambi, as 1st and 2nd respondents respectively. Ndlovu said he was barred from contesting the elections on the basis that he is undertaking a second degree at University of Zimbabwe. He averred that Madambi this month put in motion the process of elections of the SRC where Ndlovu submitted his nomination papers after having been endorsed procedurally, as per the election process. “The elections to the SRC are done in terms of Schedule A of the 1st respondent’s constitution,” said Ndlovu. “I submitted my nomination papers contesting for the president position. I complied with all the requirements laid down in the constitution in general, and specifically as laid down in the schedule A, and also as per published Rules and Regulations governing elections published by the 2nd respondent.” He added that the selection criteria was on the basis that he is a qualified and registered student, having results averaging 2.2, had never been convicted of a criminal offence nor found guilty by the university of any disciplinary case while adding his name is also on the voter’s roll. “For the record, I was once a member of the SRC in the year 2019, when I was doing my first degree in political science. I later enrolled again in 2021 for my second and current degree program,” he said. Read more [here](#).

## 12. Morocco World News

### **UM6P Hosts Conference on African-Led Science, Global Development (M)**

Rabat - Morocco’s Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) will host, on June 28 and 29, the Pan-African Hybrid RSIF Conference, focusing on the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) program. The fund, which is the flagship program of the Partnership for Applied Skills in Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET), focuses on training researchers and professionals to contribute to Africa’s development goals. With a focus on food security, climate change, and energy, the fund hopes to tackle the continent’s most pressing issues through a combination of pan-African and international cooperation and strengthening higher education. The fund has provided over 250 PhD scholarships to date, with research grants to 15 African universities, from contributions from nine African countries, the Korean Government, European Union, and the World Bank. The conference to be held at UM6P will be themed “African-led science, technology and innovation for contributing to the SDGs and global development,” following up on the pre-conference held virtually in November 2021. In addition to the RSIF and UM6P, the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) will also be participating in the organization of the event. Read more [here](#).

### 13. University World News

#### Poor guidance, quota system keep good candidates out of HE (Nigeria)

The uphill battle of gaining admission into Nigerian public higher education institutions, especially universities, is intensifying due to factors such as limited facilities and a shortage of human resources to accommodate as many students as possible. However, many candidates believe that good O-level results and high scores in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and post-UTME stand them in good stead to secure admission to study their choice of courses. The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) said 3,135 candidates who sat the UTME and Direct Entry examinations in 2018, 2019 and 2020 scored 300 and above out of the total 400 marks but did not gain admission, according to a report in the online publication PUNCH. JAMB Registrar Professor Ishaq Oloyede blamed the development on, among others, wrong O-level subject combinations, low post-UTME screening scores, non-acceptance of admission offers, duplicated applications, absence from post-UTME screenings and catchment mismatches. A lack of proper counselling in the Nigerian school system also counts among the concerns. Raliya Bello, a professor in guidance and counselling at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, said wrong subject combinations would not arise if there were counsellors in secondary schools. “With counsellors, every student would be guided on which subjects they need to take at O-level based on their career interest and capability,” Bello told University World News. She called for intensified recruitment of qualified counsellors in secondary schools. “Ideally, counsellors should be available right from primary school level, but they should at least be in secondary schools. But if you have one counsellor to 1,000 students, there is no way such a person can be effective, no matter how hard they try to do their work. Read more [here](#).

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