

Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP),

International Association of Universities (IAU)

and

Addis Ababa University (AAU)

organize an

International Seminar

on

**Innovative Approaches to Doctoral Education and Research Training in
sub-Saharan Africa**

July 12-13, 2012

Rationale

The Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) and the International Association of Universities (IAU) are jointly organizing an international seminar which will be hosted by Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia. Based on both associations' work on this subject and counting on the collaboration of one of our African partners, Addis Ababa University, ACUP and IAU have decided to organize the seminar around the theme "Innovative Approaches to Doctoral Education and Research Training in sub-Saharan Africa".

The shared goals and research values of ACUP's project *African-Spanish Higher Education Management Platform*, financially supported by the Spanish Development Agency (AECID) and IAU's ongoing project on the *Changing nature of Doctoral Programmes in sub-Saharan Africa* funded by the Swedish International Development Association (Sida), enhance the strength of the current partnership between ACUP and IAU to undertake the organization of this seminar and to embark on new projects together. The seminar provides an opportunity for both associations and a selection of their African and Catalan partner institutions to come together to discuss what has been done in the last few years and where it can lead in terms of concrete project development, enhanced institutional partnerships, and continuation of open dialogue and information exchange amongst African higher education institutions.

Aim of the seminar

This two-day seminar will bring together the pilot institutions of both the ACUP and IAU projects as well as other experts from Africa and beyond in order to present the state of doctoral education and research training in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly at the participating institutions, and build on the progress being made. The main goal of the seminar is to compare and reflect on shared opportunities and challenges and to discuss innovative approaches, models, and instruments to overcome the obstacles facing doctoral programmes. The dialogue that ACUP and IAU seek to foster among African higher education institutions and higher education experts aims to inform the directions and nature of future projects amongst institutions participating in the seminar. Furthermore, ACUP and IAU will present their collaboration to create an interactive portal on doctoral education in sub-Saharan Africa.

The seminar seeks to determine the general and specific needs of higher education institutions operating on the continent and explore ways in which ACUP and IAU can most effectively serve the institutions as they strive to meet the demands of doctoral education in sub-Saharan Africa.

The seminar will be structured around the following three areas:

1.) State of Doctoral Education in SSA

The seminar will first focus on learning more about the current state of doctoral education and research training in sub-Saharan Africa. The main outcomes of the reports commissioned by ACUP and the IAU will be presented. The pilot institutions are invited to present their specific cases. The goal is to get an overview of the different approaches to doctoral education at the pilot institutions as well as to identify common challenges and thus to compare notes.

2.) Innovative approaches

The seminar will then focus on innovative approaches used in the area of doctoral education in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, ACUP and IAU will present a proposal for a common online interactive portal on doctoral education in sub-Saharan Africa and seek input on its structure, content and further development from the participating institutions. Some donor agencies will take part in the discussions and explain how they wish to foster innovation and better understanding of the field.

3.) Networking

Throughout the seminar, different possibilities for networking will be offered, bringing together representatives from different higher education institutions and initiatives in the area of doctoral education in sub-Saharan Africa.

Practical details

Dates: July 12th – 13th, 2012

Place: Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EIABC), Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Format: Working seminar

Participants: By invitation only

Invited institutions:

- Universidade Agostinho Neto, Angola
- Université des Sciences et Technologies du Benin, Benin
- Université de Douala, Cameroon
- Université de Yaoundé I, Cameroon
- Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, Equatorial Guinea
- Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Université de Bamako, Mali
- Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique
- Université Abdou Moumouni, Niger
- University of Ilorin, Nigeria
- National University of Rwanda, Rwanda
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal
- Université Gaston Berger de Sant Louis, Sénégal

Experts:

- Representatives of the Advisory Council of the ACUP project “African-Spanish Higher Education Management Platform”;
- Representatives from the IAU Task Force on the “Changing Nature of Doctoral Education in sub-Saharan Africa”;
- Representatives from the Catalan public universities.