IN Volving Young Scientists in Science Academies in Africa

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OUTLINE

- **Overview of NASAC**
  Who we are and what we do

- **Role of Young Scientists in Science Academies**
  Challenges + Opportunities = Priorities
NASAC: Our Mission & Members

Founded in **Dec. 2001** as independent forum for African science academies with a mission to **provide authoritative science advise for policy formulation towards economic, social and cultural development in Africa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17 member academies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>AAS (regional academy)</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<th>2 Potential members</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
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NASAC: Our Governance Structure

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
  (Presidents or their Representatives from all member academies)

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  (President, 3 Vice Presidents, & Secretary General)

- **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

- **NASAC SECRETARIAT**
  (Coordinator, Programme officers/assistants)

- **EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS**
  (From all member academies)
NASAC: What we do

- Establish Academies where none exist
- Independent platform for credible advise
- Voice of Science in Africa
- Empower Existing Academies
Key successes (2001-to date)

- Launching critical flagship programmes on water, women and science education
- Creation of an independent advisory Expert Group
- Enhanced members’ capacities at secretariat level
- Increased NASAC membership
- Commenced the process towards legal self sufficiency
Understanding the task at hand

SIZE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT COMPARED TO OTHER LAND MASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Square Miles</th>
<th>Square Kilometers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3,300,161</td>
<td>8,547,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>377,727</td>
<td>978,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2,966,189</td>
<td>7,682,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1,905,731</td>
<td>4,935,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. (Continental)</td>
<td>3,120,066</td>
<td>8,080,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,669,874</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,224,835</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,715,721</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,343,578</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This map was produced by the Map Design Unit of The World Bank. The boundaries, colors, denominations and any other information shown on this map do not imply, on the part of The World Bank Group, any judgment on the legal status of any territory or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.
Why involve young scientists

**Notable challenges** for academies in Africa include:

- Limited in resources and need to strengthen and transform them from ‘static private men’s clubs’ to **dynamic organizations**
- Very minimal membership/participation of younger scientists even with **academic merit**
- Act locally and in isolation even on common critical issues, with limited sense of **collective action**
What opportunities exist

- Existence of regional/international bodies and initiatives that are committed to science
- Acknowledgement by African Governments to support science from GDP
- Millennium Development Goals – global push
- Increased focus and interest in Africa – ‘USA’
- Improved communication through the ICT revolution – electronic age
**NASAC Priority 1:**

**Improve Communication**

- Simple succinct messages – let the voice of young scientists be heard by the science community
- Recognize contribution to science, policy and society – be part of the solution
- Facilitate participation in local and international forum – articulate your contribution
- Encourage networking – Act locally think globally
- Enhance interaction with policy and decision makers – enact pro-young-scientist policies
NASAC Priority 2:

Develop a Vision

- Provide strategic support to young scientists and academies by inclusion as potential members
- Encourage best practices for science to interact with society (science for society)
- Organize scientific meetings and roundtables with policy and decision makers (young scientists in and out of Africa)
- Develop and share expertise on funding opportunities for young scientists
- Encourage the creation of national science fund or foundation
**NASAC Priority 3:**

*Identify Strategic Partners*

- **TWAS/IAP**
  - Capacity Building
  - Science Edu.
  - Water Prog.

- **ASADI**
  - Partners
  - Annual Conferences

- **RS/Pfizer**
  - Mentoring
  - Training
  - Institutional support

- **Dutch Ministry/KNAW**
  - Secretariat Support
  - Increased membership

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**NASAC Members**
Overriding principle

NETWORK – NETWORK – NETWORK…

- Support networks in thematic areas critical to the sustainable well-being in Africa
  - share best practices
  - develop joint initiatives
  - identify capacity requirements for young scientists
In closing...

- Young scientists' potential is REAL...
- REACH for it!
Counting on your support...