WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

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Forum on Regional Networks in Africa & RISE Student Scientific Conference
5-8 October 2010 – Benoni, Gauteng, South Africa
What is an Academy?

- Assembly/fellowship of intellectuals/scientists dedicated to the advancement of scientific knowledge within the society (nationally/globally)
- Champions economic and social development through application of STI
- Phenomenon of 17th and 18th century
  - Academia Nationale dei Lincei of Italy – 1603
  - Royal Society of London of England – 1660
  - L’Academie Royal des Sciences of France – 1666
  - German and Swedish Academies – 1700 & 1739 resp.
Identity of an Academy

- Provide a public voice for the promotion of both scientific excellence and science-based development
- Demonstrate existence of a strong scientific community that enables citizens to address critical societal issues
- Empower both scientists and society (education, STI, dissemination, recognizing achievement)
- Independent, objective, rational and non-partisan
- Provide evidence-based positions on topical issues
Academies in Africa

In Africa, the oldest academy is the *Madagascar’s National Academy of Arts, Letters and Science* – established in 1902

What an Academy is not a:

1. Research institution or University
2. Lobby group
3. Government department
4. Investment club
5. Consultancy firm
6. Professional association
Role of science academies

- **Learned Society** – honorific association of scientists for science with limited set of disciplines

- **Advisor to Society** – policy for science, and science for policy – extends to societal issues

- **Manager and facilitator of Research** – provision of advise on relevant research to fulfill both societal and policy needs
Regular Governance Structure

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
  - All members

- **GOVERNING BOARD/COUNCIL**

- **WORKING/STUDY GROUPS**

- **COMMITTEES**

- **SECRETARIAT**
  - Employed staff
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