



The 2nd Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa is a fitting occasion to celebrate a new partnership between the Science Initiative Group (SIG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE).

RISE is a project of SIG, an organization dedicated to fostering science in developing countries. SIG is based at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, USA. RISE was established in 2008 with the goal of strengthening science research and education in sub-Saharan Africa by increasing the population of qualified academic staff in the region's universities. RISE's broader goal is to build capacity in science, technology and innovation to stimulate economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

RISE is currently made up of five university-based networks in sub-Saharan Africa, each focused on a particular research area. The program supports scientists pursuing PhDs and master's degrees on the continent through these research and training networks. While each RISE student receives his or her degree from one university, all students have access to the complementary instruction, research opportunities, and laboratory facilities available at each institution within their networks. RISE scientists have reaped the benefits of participating in information and material exchange, scientific consultation, and collaborative research.

In 2014 the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI) was designated a RISE Affiliate Network. Established in 2004 by SIG in partnership with The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the African Academy of Sciences, AMMSI is a distributed network of mathematics research, training and promotion throughout Africa, with six regional offices from Rabat in the north to Gaborone in the south.

RISE was designed with African needs and challenges in mind. The five networks' areas of scientific training—materials science and engineering, natural products research, biochemistry and bioinformatics, water resources, and marine science—target some of Africa's most pressing ecological problems and technological deficits. As an affiliate, AMMSI adds a mathematics component, enhancing the research taking place within the five core networks, in addition to broadening RISE's geographic reach.

Since the project was launched in 2008, 25 women and 59 men have earned one or more degrees through RISE, and the majority of graduates are employed in academic positions at African universities or in scientific industries, working on projects relevant to Africa's development. There are currently 36 women and 59 men pursuing advanced degrees through RISE.

To date, RISE has been supported by grants from Carnegie Corporation of New York totaling over \$15.4 million and in-kind support from the Institute for Advanced Study, in addition to funds leveraged by the individual networks.

The partnership between SIG and AfDB will facilitate the expansion of RISE into North Africa and Francophone West Africa. Through this partnership, RISE will become firmly rooted on the African continent and more fully Africa-owned.



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