



TWAS Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa
Hosted by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in Nairobi, Kenya

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

5th TWAS-ROSSA Young Scientists' Conference on Exchanging Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in Africa: The Role of Networking

TWAS, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World - Regional Office for Sub Saharan Africa, (TWAS-ROSSA), will hold its fifth Young Scientists' Conference in Nairobi, Kenya from **6-8 December 2010**. The theme of the conference is *"Exchanging Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in Africa: The Role of Networking."*

The Conference will provide a forum for scientists to share their research findings on climate change in the region as well as outline effective networking mechanisms for the advancement of climate change research and implementation of scientific measures to reduce Africa' vulnerability

Objectives of the Conference

- Bring together scientists from various scientific fields in Africa to take stock of the advancements made in climate change research in the region.
- Assess the impact of their research findings in as far as it is implemented by policy makers, development partners and society at large.
- Assess the importance of collaboration/networking in climate change research.
- Outline strategies for improving collaboration so as to achieve an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral response to the challenges of Climate Change.

Conference Overview

In the last decade Climate Change has emerged as the major environmental threat facing the world to date. Experts agree that together with South Asia, Africa will suffer the most from the effects of climate change. Africa is more vulnerable to climate change both in terms of the impact of climate change and its capacity to respond to it. Africa has fewer resources than developed nations to meet the consequences of global warming such as floods, droughts and water shortages.

Due to the broad nature of climate change issues, scientists and experts will work together in a multi-disciplinary way to address the issues. The approach will also need to be multifaceted. Scientists are akin to working in areas relevant to their defined fields of specialty and likewise the dissemination of their research findings is confined to their peers working in those same fields. They do not often realize the need to exchange knowledge and ideas with scientists in other fields as well as the society at large. Scientists can no longer afford to work in isolation.

Climate change affects all sectors of the environment, human life and the economy. It is a threat to human health, agriculture and food security, clean water and energy supply as well as livelihoods. While scientific research is vital in gauging the impacts of climate change and in finding solutions for coping with the challenges, adaptation and mitigation measures can only be effective if they cut across the various scientific fields and, needless to say, are implemented across the various sectors. This is possible as there are scientists whose work is significant for these sectors – marine science, biological, physical and medical science, agriculture, engineering, to name but a few. Scientific intervention measures are required in health and sanitation, water resource management, agriculture, energy efficiency, plant and animal biodiversity on land and water.

Scientific networks can provide platforms for sharing information across scientific fields and different sectors. Networking can also drive the agenda for effective adaptation and mitigation in Africa by collaborating with policy makers, industrialists, other development partners and extension workers. This will ensure that the populace at large understands climate change issues and successfully implements measures to reduce vulnerability.

This conference seeks to bring together scientists from different fields to share information on the gains that have been made on studies on Climate Change in Africa as well as to discuss the extent to which adaptation and mitigation measures are being put into practice. It will identify the role of networking in this regard i.e. sharing information, building capacity and identifying strategies for implementing research findings on climate change in Africa.

Participation

The Conference is open to Young Scientists (**below 45 years of age**) from Sub-Saharan Africa who, within their respective scientific fields, are working on Climate Change issues in the region.

There will be keynote addresses in plenary sessions by renowned experts, followed by in-depth analysis in working group discussions. Selected applicants will also be requested to make presentations on their research work on Climate Change in the region. The sessions will be chaired by Senior Scientists who will also provide resource and guidance to the young scientists.

TWAS-ROSSA will cover travel (only from within sub-Saharan Africa) on economy class, accommodation, meals and local transportation *for selected participants*. This support has been made possible by TWAS Offices in Trieste, Italy. Self-sponsored participants should notify the TWAS-ROSSA office in advance i.e. when submitting their applications, that they will cater for their conference costs.

Application forms for the Conference should be filled and submitted electronically together with the applicants' **Curriculum Vitae**. All applications must reach TWAS-ROSSA office on or before **1st September 2010**. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

For any additional enquiries about the Conference, please contact:

Ms. Olivia Osula

TWAS-Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS-ROSSA)

o.osula@aasciences.org

Tel: (+254) 020 806 0674/5; 020 240 5150 Fax: (+254) 020 806 0675