

## 6<sup>th</sup> SOUTH AFRICA-JAPAN UNIVERSITY FORUM (SAJU 6)

### THEME AND GOALS

The context for academic collaboration in the current era is one shaped by the challenges and uncertainties of the contemporary international environment. The COVID-19 pandemic struck at a time of globalisation when the need for structural transformation had become ever more pressing. The pandemic simultaneously exposed and exacerbated the fault lines of the global system, particularly evident in inequality between and within countries.

Geopolitical and other events of the past few years, moreover, have put the spotlight on the interrelationship between knowledge, production and power, and how these are determinant of livelihoods and social prospects across the globe. We have seen the spectre of ‘science blocs’ and the emerging threat of the geographical concentration of knowledge production, often to serve narrow interests.

At the same time, such challenges offer signposts and opportunities for collaboration that address the major issues of our era. These include seeking joint solution to the problems caused by systems of accumulation that negatively impact ecosystems as well as the factors that exacerbate social ills. It also entails supporting, through research and scholarship, efforts towards a healthy and sustaining global commons.

The 6th SAJU Forum will bring together researchers, students, university administrators, research funding agencies, and other stakeholders from the industry and government sectors under the theme of **Fostering Sustainable Partnerships in Research, Innovation and Impact**. The goal is three-fold: To share research interests, achievements and perspectives; to exchange insight on innovation and best practice in research, education and training; and to explore possibilities for collaboration.

These goals will be facilitated through three sub-themes of the Forum:

#### **Health and wellbeing.**

- Topics can relate to: medical science; public health; water, energy food and urban systems; biodiversity; sports; arts; culture; education; transportation and logistics; infrastructure; agriculture; risk mitigation and management; policy and governance; engineering; the natural environment.

#### **Social justice and development.**

- Topics can relate to: just energy transitions; food security; water security; ecology; climate action; migration; citizenship; addressing inequality; human security; policy and governance; decent work and economic growth; economic systems; diversity; peace, justice and institutions; global governance.

#### **Systems and technologies for the future.**

- Topics can relate to: climate studies; data and computational thinking; information systems; economics and business management systems; engineering; industry, innovation and infrastructure; sustainable cities and communities; governance of the global commons.

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