

6th South Africa-Japan University Forum (SAJU 6)

27-29 August 2024

Stellenbosch



Fostering Sustainable Partnerships in Research, Innovation and
Impact

CONFERENCE REPORT

Watch the official SAJU 6 video:

<https://videos.files.wordpress.com/kwutqcTm/sajuv1.mp4>

© Picture credit: This image features the Japanese and South African flags surrounded by proteas and sakura flowers. It was created using artificial intelligence and Microsoft Designer. The prompt for the image included keywords such as 'Japan,' 'South Africa,' and 'Cooperation'. Inge Odendaal provided the original prompt.

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THE JOINT ORGANISING COMMITTEE (in alphabetical order)

Embassy of Japan in South Africa

Embassy of South Africa in Japan

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Kyoto University

Stellenbosch University

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

University of Tsukuba

Universities South Africa

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SAJU 6 SECRETARIAT: Stellenbosch University Japan Centre

BACKGROUND

Context

The 6th South Africa-Japan University Forum (SAJU 6) was hosted by Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch on 27-29 August 2024 with the theme of 'Fostering Sustainable Partnerships in Research, Innovation and Impact.'

The SAJU Forum provides a structured framework for collaboration between the higher education institutions of the two countries. As platform of engagement and exchange, its goals are to: (1) increase the mobility of researchers and students; (2) increase joint R&D collaboration; (3) establish exchange programmes among universities; and (4) institutionalise cooperation among universities between the two countries.

Launched in 2007 with the first meeting taking place in Hiroshima, SAJU has been held on regular basis as primarily a gathering of higher education institution representatives, with alternate hosts in Japan and South Africa. The 4th SAJU meeting saw the scope of the Forum expand to include representatives from government, industry and funding agencies.

The 5th SAJU Forum of 2022, held virtually, carried the theme of 'Open Collaboration and Innovation with Trust.' It built on the initiative of the preceding Forum and sought to strengthen networking between academic, industry and government stakeholders in Japan and South Africa.

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.

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. This requires trust-based and interactive partnerships between higher education institutions across borders.

The 6th SAJU Forum brought 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 was 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 were pursued through three sub-themes of the Forum:

- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Social justice and development**
- **Systems and technologies for the future**

Format and Participation

The 6th SAJU Forum took the form of an in-person conference with oral and poster presentations; plenary and networking sessions and thematic breakaway panels.

In overview, the Forum comprised:

- Four plenary sessions;
- 16 thematic panels on the conference's three sub-themes;
- Six networking sessions; and
- Three student-centred sessions.

Annexure A provides an overview of the programme.

A gala event was held at the end of the first day. The gala event took the form of a public lecture followed by a performance by the Stellenbosch University Choir.

Attendance and participation over the three days was as follows:

Number of delegates (in-person participation):	225
Attendance at Plenary 1:	175
Attendance at Gala Event:	450

Annexure B details the list of participating universities and institutions at the 6th SAJU Forum.

PLENARY 1

WELCOME, OPENING AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Date: 27 August 2024

Moderator: Prof. Hester KLOPPER, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs, Stellenbosch University (SU)

Opening and Welcome: Prof. Wim DE VILLIERS, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University

Speakers: Dr. Phetive MATUTU, Chief Executive Officer, Universities South Africa (USAf)

Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan

Mr. Shinsuke OKADA, Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEX)

Mr Kei ANDO, Counsellor, Economic and Development Section, Embassy of Japan in South Africa

Keynote Address 1: Prof. Ahmed BAWA, Professor, Human-Machine Interface, Johannesburg Business School, University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Keynote Address 2: Prof. Takahiro MORIO, Professor, Office of Global Initiatives, University of Tsukuba



Attendance at opening plenary (Photo credit: SU Corporate Communication and Marketing Division [CCMD])

Prof. Wim DE VILLIERS, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University opened the 6th South Africa-Japan University Forum (SAJU 6). In his opening remarks, Prof. DE VILLIERS noted that it is important to acknowledge the impact of SAJU on knowledge exchange and expansion. SAJU highlights the ties between academic and research communities across two countries (and continents). Stellenbosch's University's vision is to be the most research-intensive university on the African continent, and SAJU is a key aspect of this aspiration. As part of SAJU's commitment to sustained cooperation, SAJU continues to promote mobility of researchers and students between the two countries.

As moderator, **Prof Hester KLOPPER**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs at Stellenbosch University highlighted that SAJU is a means to build purposeful networks and strategic partnerships. The Stellenbosch University Japan Centre is a hub for both academic and cultural exchanges between South African and Japan. For its part, SAJU serves as a testament to the collaborations happening between South African and Japanese universities.

Dr. Phetiwe MATUTU, Chief Executive Officer of Universities South Africa (USAf) spoke of USAf's role as a representative body of the 26 public universities in South Africa and its role with SAJU. It has played a key role in making sure there is extensive participation within the SAJU framework. There has been a lot of success between the bilateral education and research relationship between Japan and South Africa. This has been underscored by significant publications arising out of SAJU's sustained cooperation as noted by Prof Wim De Villiers. The SAJU collaboration could be used to map out which universities focus on particular Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the South African side, USAf could explore this within its local network. There is room to extend future collaboration on issues such as: entrepreneurship, curriculum development (with a focus on decolonisation), and the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology in relation to teaching approaches. Dr. Matutu expressed USAf's commitment to working with Japanese partners.

Mr Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor in the Embassy of South Africa in Japan, noted that SAJU continues to be a valuable forum for sharing insights across a broad spectrum of concerns. It is important to remember that it was incepted 17 years ago in Hiroshima. This highlighted the continual need for the academic community to advocate for social justice (a theme of the SAJU conference). South Africa-Japan cooperation is a model of "North-South" partnership, underpinned by key aspects such as the importance of the SAKURA project. He expressed the ambition for future collaboration between South Africa and Japan in areas such as viticulture and nano-satellite development, among others. Cooperation in science and technology is significant, and the South African government is committed to this. Allocating more scholarships for post-graduate exchange between the two countries is important. Lastly, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an opportunity to showcase SAJU 6 outcomes.

Mr. Shinsuke OKADA, Director for International Cooperation, International Science and Technology Affairs Division at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) stated that it is the first time since 2019 that SAJU is being facilitated face-to-face, which is a good development. The SAJU forum plays a key role in fostering academic ties between South Africa and Japan. The hope for this Forum is to therefore serve as a platform to strengthen networks between South Africa and Japan.

Mr. Kei ANDO, Counsellor, Economic and Development Section from the Embassy of Japan in South Africa expressed the importance of SAJU as it transcends borders. It is important to acknowledge the achievements of SAJU 5 as we build on to SAJU 6, and it is important to thank

the team at Stellenbosch University for their work in sustaining the momentum. SAJU is part of international cooperation, and it takes place in the shadow of TICAD 9, to be held in 2025. South Africa participated in the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, held in Japan on 24-25 August 2024, during which the foreign ministers of the two countries exchanged views. TICAD has been a cornerstone for Japan's cooperation with Africa since 1993. A further facet of Japan's cooperation with the continent has been the MEXT and ABE educational scholarships. The latter has benefitted over 1000 African students. In this regard education is an important part of international cooperation. South Africa plays a leading role in science and technology collaboration within Africa under the auspices of Africa-Japan cooperation.

Keynote Address 1

Prof. Ahmed BAWA

Professor, Human-Machine Interface, Johannesburg Business School, UJ



Prof. Ahmed BAWA (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Prof. Ahmed BAWA started his address with the observation that Japan relates to the rest of the world on its own terms. This is the first post-pandemic SAJU meeting, highlighting the uncertainty now inherent in the world, as exemplified by both infectious diseases and lifestyle diseases. This underlines the importance of collaborative education and information sharing. He stated that SAJU is built on trust, mutuality and respect as opposed to other multilateral forums which are either: opaque, neocolonial, or elitist. Research collaboration between Japan and South Africa is

premised on natural sciences and applicable practical fields, which is underscored by significant postgraduate participation.

Knowledge knows no boundaries despite factors such as language and inequality. There is need for a new generation of researchers to address grand international challenges across international and regional borders. In this sense universities are 'bridges to societies.' Particularly since there has been a democratisation of higher education due to change over 50 years which has allowed for greater parity and participation. There is a shift towards higher education as public good. Therefore, universities must not be swayed by grand political discourse and agendas. Prof. BAWA emphasised that the decolonisation of education in South Africa must be addressed. SAJU will be shaped by these issues, especially as it does not operate within a vacuum.

Prof. BAWA noted that between SAJU 4 and SAJU 6 the word had changed. There is growing social distrust between the public and experts, i.e. a growing trust deficit. Open science is needed as well as the reimagining of higher education as public good. Universities should lead the discussion in this regard. There is the spectre of fragmentation in the world of science, a consequence of geopolitical fracturing. There are reversals in the infrastructure of globalisation and its instruments. Lastly, he noted the impact of changes in digital technologies on the nature of work, higher education and society. In such a context how will useful and impactful collaborations such as SAJU be protected?

The SAJU Forum has been successful, therefore what can we learn from this success? Furthermore, what is the SAJU Forum 'good for' as opposed to just 'good at'? Prof. BAWA noted that there are several recommendations for SAJU going forward:

1. Initiating a thematic area committed to the SDGs;
2. Developing a pan-African footprint and seeking alignment between the SAJU agenda and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD);
3. Placing more emphasis on the mobility of postgraduate students between South Africa and Japan;
4. Building South Africa-Japan institutional linkages on co-taught undergraduate programmes
5. Having annual meetings between SAJU and industry;
6. Developing university-based cultural and art exchanges;
7. Monitoring and evaluating and having continuous activities in the SAJU framework. In this regard, SAJU needs institutional homes in South Africa and Japan, in order to sustain and coordinate SAJU processes and there is need for a substantial and sustainable funding footing through South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and Japan's MEXT.
8. Developing a virtuous cycle between R&D, trade and investments, and exploring how to broaden the base of innovation and translating research into innovation.
9. Developing a programme on higher education studies.

Keynote Adress 2
Prof. Takahiro MORIO
Professor, Office of Global Initiatives, University of Tsukuba



Prof. Takahiro MORIO (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Prof. Takahiro MORIO noted that over the lifespan of SAJU, there has been a change in its nature. He detailed two types of exchange: (i) individual-based exchange as research collaboration and participation in projects; and (ii) institution-based exchange such as student exchange programmes and the organisation of projects. SAJU 1 to SAJU 3 was of this character.

Prof. MORIO then discussed top-down vs bottom-up approaches to research. Top-down research is mission-oriented and comprised of a clear vision, mission, and expectations. It also tends to be large scale and broadly specified; and can be related to broader (international) agendas such as AU 2063 and the SDG Challenges. Top-down research tends to support institutional cooperation and drives grant funding. On the other hand, bottom-up research is interest and issue-oriented. It involves a wide range of fields. It fosters the emergence of pioneering research (often individual-based research). Top-down research is geared to respond to localised and emerging challenges. It can be framed through a VUCA analysis:

- v- volatility
- u- uncertainty
- c-complexity
- a-ambiguity.

It is important to consider the linkage of research and academic communities and between the two approaches and types of exchange. The next generation of SAJU should seek matching and coordination opportunities; create gateways for newcomers; and move from platform (with SAJU a platform for exchange and discussion) to community (as an example, the Japan Africa Academic Network [JAAN]).

Prof. MORIO concluded by asking what can be done between SAJU Forums and noted that it might be interesting to explore cyberspace/online or even metaverse-based platforms to bridge SAJU conferences. The main message throughout being the call to action, to continue the momentum of strengthening South Africa-Japan partnerships and to ensure the sustainability of SAJU.

PLENARY 2
OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Mr. Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA, Director: Operations and Sector Support, Universities South Africa (USAf)

Speakers: Dr. Takehito HIGUCHI, Deputy Director, Paris Office, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

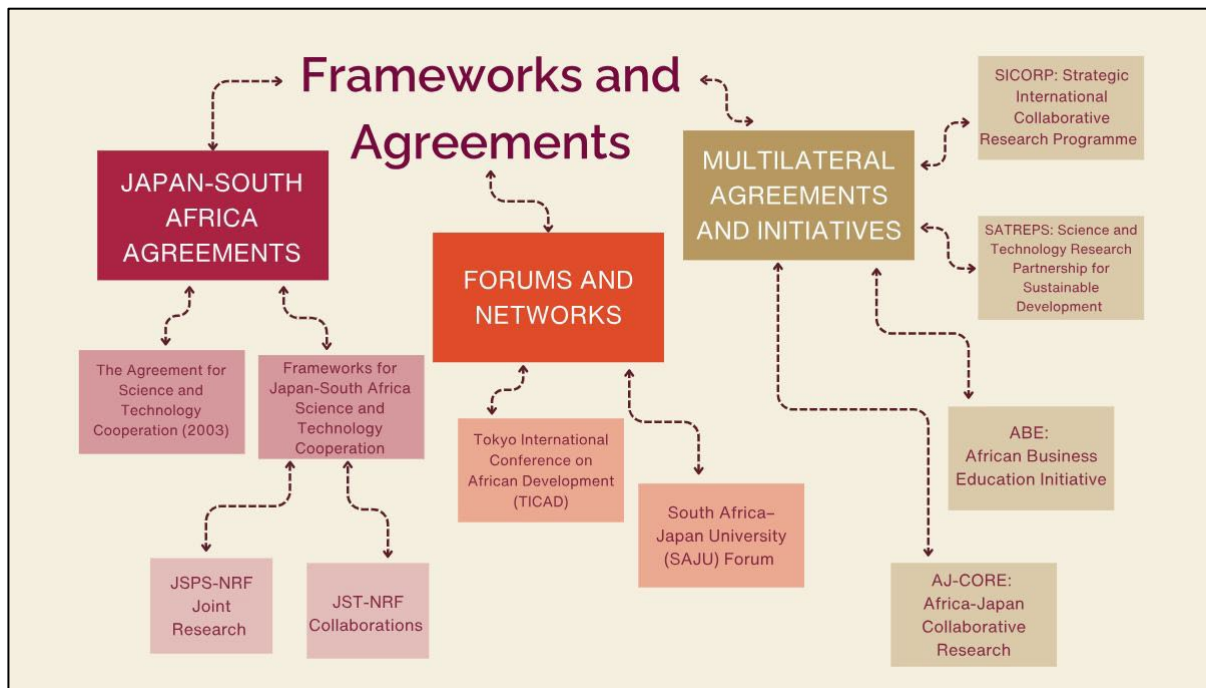
Ms. Kumiko TANSO-HIRABASHI & Mr. Junsaka HARADA, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Dr. Kyosuke HAZE, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

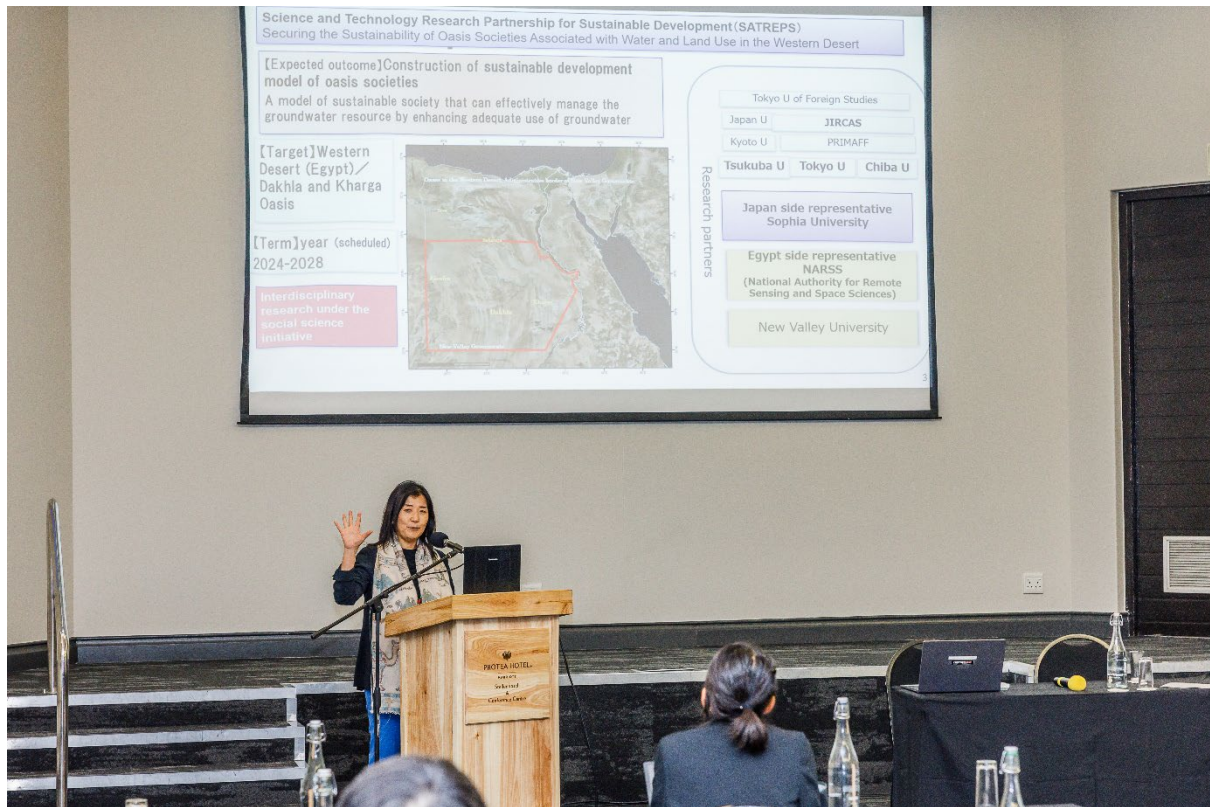
Mr. Michael NXUMALO, Manager: Science Networks and Research Links, South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF)

Mr. Kgomotso SEIKANENG, Assistant Director: Development Partnerships, South Africa Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)

In this session, participants presented the various bilateral, multilateral and inter-university partnerships that exist between Japan, South Africa and other developing countries in the higher education sector. These include research agreements, cooperative frameworks, education initiatives and public and scholarly funding. These are summarised below.



Japan-Africa Cooperation in Higher Education (Source: Stellenbosch University Japan Centre, www.sun.ac.za/japancentre)



Attendance and presentations at Plenary 2 (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

PLENARY 3

THE 4TH JICA CHAIR AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

- Date:** 29 August 2024
- Moderator:** Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, Director, Stellenbosch University Japan Centre
- Address 1:** Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, Director, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Address 2:** Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Professor, Center for African Area Studies Kyoto University and Professor Emeritus, Kobe University
- Address 3:** Prof Cheryll WALKER, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University

The JICA Chair lecture is an international lecture series facilitated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It creates a platform for Japanese experts to share information to global audiences regarding Japan's development and modernisation experience.

The third plenary at SAJU 6 comprised of the 4th JICA Chair to be hosted by Stellenbosch since the inaugural JICA Chair held in 2023.

It featured three eminent academics.



Photo credit: SU CCMD

4th JICA Chair Address 1
Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Governing Land Rights in Japan: Interventions from Above, Responses from Below



Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI delivering the first address (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

The sharing of Japan's experiences- should not be considered as prescriptive lecturing, but rather as the relaying of Japanese successes and challenges and sharing a history with broad implications. Japanese land reforms produced mixed results over time and this is relevant to Africa's current land reforms.

Land reform includes political and economic purposes, and is crucial for state-building.

There were two major land reforms in Japan:

- **The Land Tax reform (1873)** - Implemented during the Meiji restoration required landowners to pay taxes based on the value of their property. This land reform systematised land ownership and solidified the landlord system. It contributed to the modernisation of the Japanese economy as well as creating an additional revenue stream for the state.
- **Land reform of 1946** – This refers to the land distribution policy under United States (US) occupation. This land reform was redistributive in nature, dismantling the feudal-type system and allowing for landownership by tenant farmers.

During the 16th Century Japan's land ownership was in the feudal structure (large taxes to pay warriors/ elite classes for protection). There were strict controls on land use with bans on land markets, land division, and free cultivation. This system lasted until the Meiji Restoration.

1868 Meiji Restoration:

The new government adopted measures for modernisation and development.

Land tax reform: This saw the adoption of policies to enable property rights of the peasantry. It included:

- Determination of land borders;
- Determination of land values (Land Tax: 3% of the land value);
- Provision of land titles; and
- The establishment of a modern and impartial tax system (an attempt to catch up to Europe amidst fears of being colonised).

This had mixed consequences:

Positive

- There was an increase in agricultural production;
- There was a basis for new government revenue (at the initial stage); and
- It strengthened state-building.

Negative:

- Tenants were excluded from property rights;
- A high tenancy fee was maintained;
- There was differentiation among the peasant class;
- There was the establishment of a landlord system;
- It was accompanied by extreme poverty in rural areas (which contributed to the conditions for emigration to Manchuria).

Land distribution under US occupation

- This was applied to dismantle the landlord system;
- It led to the democratisation of rural societies;
- Land was confiscated and redistributed to tenants. It was a radical land redistribution programme but egalitarian and thorough;
- There was a significant reduction of the tenancy fee;
- It is not clear whether the reform contributed to the agricultural development in Japan at the time;
- Rapid urbanization during this period led to the reduction in overall numbers of peasant farmers.

These two reforms were an important element in Japanese 'modernisation'. They succeeded in pushing capitalist development and democratising rural societies. The results were mixed and cannot necessarily be copied. There was economic growth, poverty reduction and a change in social structure.

4th JICA Chair Address 2
Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Kyoto University

Lessons for Structural Transformation from below in Africa: Respect for Craftpersonship as a Key



Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI delivering the second address (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

The main and final goal of development should be the liberation of people from constraints caused by poverty and vulnerability. It should- enable people to have wider scope of choices of life for the purpose of achieving inclusive development. Broad-based industrial development is desired for structural transformation from below.

In contemporary Africa, however, we have to be concerned about the missing middle syndrome in manufacturing. This is a condition where:

- Many small and medium-sized businesses and a large informal sector employ the majority of workers;
- A few large enterprises employ few workers; often these are former state-owned enterprises in the natural resource industries; and
- There are very few medium to large size enterprises (the missing middle).\

Governments should support small-to-medium enterprise development and the formalisation of the informal sector with a long-term perspective. Africa can learn valuable lessons from Japan in this regard.

Modernisation, industrialisation and craftspeople in Japan:

The importance of workmanship as a value is that it fosters human propensity to pursue the general good. This is in contradistinction to corporations' tendency to seek profit.

Craftspeople traditionally prioritise quality, durability, safety etc whereas enterprises tend to optimize solely for profit. It can create the conditions for high economic growth based on wide-ranging manufacturing development. What lesson are to be learnt for Africa in this regard?

Japan was motivated by and learned western technologies through observing and using machines. It started with the arrival of US steamships in the 1800s. Japan learn through a process of reverse engineering.

The Japanese concept of *Takumi* (highly skilled craftsman or artisan) contributed to manufacturing development in Japan. These individuals became global business leaders. Japanese manufacturing giants started as MSME's (micro, small and medium enterprises). The founders often had little to no education, but learnt through experience and became leaders of massive corporations such as Toyota and Honda.

The characteristics of these Japanese giants were:

- They contributed to revolutionary changes to manufacturing and livelihoods, thus contributing to Japan's rapid industrialisation;
- They started from a low level of education and small enterprise sizes;
- As Takumi's contributed directly to production, they shared a culture of working at the grassroots. They understood the importance of ingenuity being generated at the site of manufacturing.
- They were encouraged to develop and innovate and received government support after their initial success;
- Japanese respect for Takumi's derives from that they made decisions based on own evaluation of their skill and innovation, not based on educational level or social status.

The role of craftspeople in the informal sector is to provide opportunities for industrialisation and innovation, and through this, employment and income for the wider community.

Key points:

- Focus on utilising the innovation of craftspersons to create structural transformation.
- The question remains: how do small, informal and micro-enterprises grow and become middle-to-large-scale enterprises?
- The future of African development hinges on whether Africa can release and mobilise the energetic innovation of African Takumi's and make use of their ingenuity for integrated national development.
- Informal SMEs are largely overlooked in Africa and rarely develop into innovative large-scale enterprises.
- Intellectuals, academics and students have a mission to change industrial culture through practice and research.
- Change the culture to internalise respect for Craftmanship.

4th JICA Chair Address 3
Prof. Cheryll Walker, Emeritus, Stellenbosch University

Bridging Siloes: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa



Prof. Cheryll WALKER delivering the third address (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Prof Walker's presentation 'Bridging Siloes: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa' drew on the book *Beyond Expropriation without Compensation: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa* which she co-edited with Olaf Zenker and Zsa-Zsa Boggendoel.

The book proposes that the debate on land reform in South Africa needs to move beyond the obsession with amending the property clause in the Constitution. It argues that a more equitable redistribution of wealth and resources in contemporary SA should include, but not define land reform. The publication is also shaped around concerns that although all three domains – law, land reform and redistributive justice – speak to each other, much of the serious academic and policy work on these issues takes place within siloes.

'Given the inequalities in SA, redistributive justice requires redistributive strategies to bring about this fair distribution. And this in turn, requires a hard-headed and multifaceted understanding of transformational change that recognises the need for strategic choices,' stated Prof Walker.

She highlighted major points discussed in the book. This includes the agreement among authors that the Constitution itself is not an impediment to land reform and that just and equitable compensation can legitimately be interpreted to mean zero compensation under certain

circumstances. Another significant theme is that land reform needs to be looked at in relation to other mechanisms for redistributive justice such as transformation tax (one-off capital levy on wealth above a certain threshold) and a basic income grant as an expression of citizens' rightful share.

'The argument is not that land and land reform are unimportant, but that conflating redistributive justice with the redistribution of land fails to appreciate the full complexity of contemporary social, economic and ecological conditions and the multi-dimensional nature of transformational change.

'Managing a transformational triage (hard choices about what you prioritise and how) calls for a strong state that is able to work strategically, negotiate trade-offs and manage the political fall-out that can be expected to follow as priorities are set. It also calls for strong and principled leadership to build a sufficiency of social consensus,' stated Prof Walker.

Although focusing on different historical periods in Japan and South Africa, the lectures all drew attention to the complex nature of socio-economic development and some of the major structural factors that can advance or impede societal change over time.

PLENARY 4

CLOSING CEREMONY: CONFERENCE REVIEW AND WAY FORWARD

Date:	29 August 2024
Moderator:	Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University and Emeritus Professor, Kobe University
Speakers:	Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, Director: Stellenbosch University Japan Centre Mr Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA, Director: Operations and Sector Support, Universities South Africa (USAf) Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan Mr. Michael NXUMALO, Manager: Science Networks and Research Links, South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF) Prof. Takahiro MORIO, University of Tsukuba Prof. Hester KLOPPER, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Corporate and Global Affairs, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN provided a detailed overview of the conference, noting the participation of 225 registrants. The first plenary session had 175 attendees, while the 4th JICA Chair session had 118 attendees. The Gala Event was a significant success, with 450 attendees. Virtual attendance also played a role, allowing broader participation from scholars across South Africa, Africa and Japan.

The conference featured scholars from a range of research-intensive universities in South Africa, Japan and beyond, including institutions such as the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology, Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology and Agriculture, Umeå University (Sweden) and Clemson University (United States of America). Funding institutions and public sector representation was also strong. This broad representation emphasised the conference's role in fostering international collaboration.

A recurring theme throughout the conference was the importance of sustaining the momentum built over the past 17 years of the SAJU partnership. There was a strong focus on promoting sustainability through increased research collaboration, securing funding, and ensuring that these collaborations remain viable in the long term. The discussions emphasised the need for strategic planning and institutional support to achieve these goals.

Mr. Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA reflected on the 17-year relationship between South Africa and Japan in the context of SAJU, which has been built on trust and sustained through continuous engagement. He noted the increasing participation of institutions and highlighted the common issues faced by both countries, such as land distribution and the broader challenges of global uncertainty and insecurity. He stressed the need for increased mobility and broader internationalisation activities, including co-teaching, co-supervision, and collaborative research.



Mr. Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA of Universities South Africa (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE emphasised the success of SAJU in enhancing collaboration between South Africa and Japan. He noted that SAJU brings on board all academic fields, including science, technology and innovation (STI), engineering, as well as the social sciences and humanities. He commended the strong attendance of early career scholars and young researchers, noting that they are the future of SAJU going forward. He also commended the spread of institutional representation at the 6th SAJU forum. He called for a continued search for funding and identified areas that need improvement, particularly in enhancing Pan-African cooperation. He also underscored the importance of involving industry partnerships in these collaborations to ensure their long-term success.



Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Embassy of South Africa in Japan (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Mr. Michael NXUMALO emphasised the need for a dynamic and inclusive university network within the framework of SAJU, which involves historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) as well as other type of educational institutions. There is also the need for inclusive SAJU governance structures. He stated that it is important that the SAJU agenda is responsive to national needs. Lastly, he noted the potential of seed funding for the fostering of a SAJU network.



Mr. Michael NXUMALO, South Africa National Research Foundation (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

Prof. Takahiro MORIO shared his observations on the surprising new participations and the importance of institutional and educational intersections. He highlighted the diverse range of participants, topics, and discussions that characterised the conference. He emphasised the critical role of young scholars and students in imagining, designing, and creating future societies. He encouraged them to take an active role in shaping sustainable relationships and research and academic communities.

Prof. Hester KLOPPER reiterated Stellenbosch University's commitment to internationalisation and comprehensive sustainable partnerships with others facilitated through collaborative education and training and the reciprocal mobility of students and staff, both academic and professional. She emphasised the importance of social justice, human rights, and preparing graduates to engage with the global workforce. Prof. KLOPPER also highlighted the significance of partnerships between business, industry, government, and civil society in addressing the challenges of unemployment and inequality in South Africa and beyond. She called for comprehensive partnerships that go beyond transactional relationships to achieve transformative outcomes.



Prof. Hester KLOPPER, SU Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy, Corporate and Global Affairs, delivering the closing address at SAJU 6 (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conference discussions underscored the **need for ongoing collaboration** and the development of **mechanisms to sustain** the rich discussions and innovative ideas generated during the event. Recommendations included establishing ongoing working groups and virtual collaboration platforms to maintain momentum and to foster deep, impactful partnerships between South Africa and Japan in research and innovation.

Participants expressed a strong interest in **expanding the scope of SAJU to include more partners from across Africa and other regions**. The potential for increased collaboration with the African continent was discussed, with a focus on inviting more colleagues from various African countries to participate in future SAJU events. The forthcoming 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) to be held in Yokohama in 2025 was noted as a potential opportunity to **showcase SAJU's achievements**.

The **importance of involving industry partners** in the collaboration was highlighted, particularly in relation to South Africa's trade advantage with Japan. Participants called for increased efforts to engage Japanese companies and other industry stakeholders in SAJU's initiatives.

There was a strong call for **the institutionalisation of SAJU to ensure its sustainability**. Participants discussed the **need for a standing administrative arrangement from both South Africa and Japan to coordinate the partnership effectively**. This would involve **continuous engagement with funding agencies and other stakeholders** to secure the necessary resources for future initiatives.

In conclusion, the 6th SAJU Forum successfully brought together a diverse group of scholars, students, and stakeholders from South Africa, Japan, and beyond. The discussions emphasised the importance of sustaining and expanding partnerships, securing funding, and **involving young scholars in shaping the future**. The conference reaffirmed the commitment to fostering sustainable partnerships in research and innovation, with a focus on social justice and human rights.

NETWORKING AND STUDENT SESSIONS

Over the three days of the conference, six (6) networking sessions, and three (3) student-centred sessions were held, alongside 16 breakaway panels and the four plenaries.

The details of these sessions are below.

NETWORKING SESSIONS

1. J-Bridge: Connecting South African Innovation to Japan

Date: 27 August 2024
Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, Director: Stellenbosch University Japan Centre
Speakers: Ms. Rikako NISHIURA, Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Johannesburg
Mr. Yannick GAYAMA, Head of Programmes, Double Feathers Partners
Ms. Anita NEL, Chief Director: Innovation and Commercialisation, INNOVUS
Mr. Brandon PASCHAL, Deputy Director: Spin-out Companies and Funds, Stellenbosch University LaunchLab

2. Closing the Gap between Research and Policymaking: A New Postdoctoral Initiative by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF)

Date: 27 August 2024
Moderator: Dr. Moloko MATHIPA-MDAKANE, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
Speakers: *Keynote address*
- Dr. Palesa MOTHAPO, Nelson Mandela University

Overview of programme
- Dr. Koena MOTLOI, Programme Representative, NRF

Presentations by Postdoctoral Fellows
- Dr. Lucia MASILELA, University of Johannesburg
- Dr. Phuti NGOEPE, University of Pretoria
- Dr. Sibongangani MNGOMEZULU, Nelson Mandela University
- Dr. Nhlanhla HLONGWA, University of Cape Town

3. From Friendship for Sustainable Partnership: University of the Western Cape (UWC)- Asahi University and Meikai University

Date: 27 August 2024

Moderator: Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Director, Centre for Global Engagement, Stellenbosch University International, Co-director, SU Japan Centre

Speakers: Prof. Katsuyuki OHTOMO, President, Asahi University
Prof Satoshi KAWANO, Asahi University
Prof. Dean Veerasamy YENGOPAL, Dean and Professor of Dentistry, University of the Western Cape (UWC)
Dr Suvarna INDERMUN, UWC
Prof. Umesh BAWA, Department of Psychology and Director of International Relations, UWC

4. Challenges and Prospects for Research and Education Collaboration between Universities in African Countries and Japan: Case Studies of JICA's Strategy to Strengthen Core Universities and Technical Cooperation

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Ms. Sarah RICHMOND, Senior Programme Manager, Unit for Global Engagement, Stellenbosch University International

Speakers: Mr. Daisuke UEDA, Deputy Director-General, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Dr. Takasei OKANO, JICA Chief Advisor, Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)
Ms. Mai N. TODA, JICA Expert, Jomo Kenyata University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

5. Japan's Exploration of Digitally Enhanced International Education: JV Campus and COIL Virtual Exchange

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Prof. Keiko IKEDA, Vice-Director for the Institute for Innovative Global Education, Kansai University Division of International Affairs

Speakers: Prof. Yasuhiro IWASAKI, Department of Chemistry and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering, Kansai University
Prof. Jiro NAGATOMI, Department of Bioengineering, Clemson University, USA
Prof. Tomoki FURUKAWA, Vice-Director, Center for International Education Kansai University Division of International Affairs

6. Sophia University Research

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Ms. Sarah RICHMOND, Senior Programme Manager, Unit for Global Engagement, Stellenbosch University International

Speakers: *Review of the research system of Sophia University and its expansion in the African region*

Prof. Yoshiaki TERUMICHI, President, Sophia University

Ms. Eri ITO, University Education Administrator, Sophia University

SATREPS project for ensuring the sustainability of Oasis Societies related to water and land use in western deserts Y2024-Y2028

Prof. Erina IWASAKI, Department of French Studies, Sophia University

Integrated study of flood risk reduction and wetland conservation

Prof. Guangwei HUANG, Dean, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Sophia University

STUDENT-CENTRED SESSIONS

1. Discussing South African Student Experiences in Japan

Date: 27 August 2024

Moderator: Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Director: Centre for Global Engagement, Stellenbosch University International, Co-Director, SUJC

Speakers: Mr. Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator: International Support, SUI/SUJC
Ms. Sarah RICHMOND, Senior Programme Manager, Unit for Global Education, SUI

Ms. Julia VISSER, Stellenbosch University

Ms. Kanon MORI, Stellenbosch University

2. The Africa Business Education (ABE) initiative – Reflecting on Its Impact on Former Participants

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Dr. Chizuko SATO, Institute of Developing Economies-Japan External Trade Organisation (IDE-JETRO)

Speakers: Mr. Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator: International Support, SUI/SUJC
Ms. Selina KUNGWANE, University of South Africa

Mr. Martin MANGANYANE, Japan International Cooperation Agency, South Africa

Dr. Joshua MAUMELA, Vodacom, South Africa

Ms. Mbali SEKWALE, Embassy of Japan in South Africa

3. Responsible Internationalisation and Student Mobility: Perspectives from South Africa and Japan

Date: 28 August 2024

Moderator: Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan

Speakers: Dr. Chihiro KUMASHIRO, Coordinator: Inter-University Exchange Project (Africa), lecturer, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Ms. Eri YAMAZAKI, University Education Administrator, Office of Sophia Future Design Platform, Sophia University
Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, SUI/SUJC

GALA EVENT

Date: 27 August 2024

Venue: Endler Hall, Conservatory, Stellenbosch University



Attendants at the SAJU 6 Gala Event, 27 August 2024 (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

At the conclusion of the first day of proceedings of the 6th SAJU Forum on 27 August 2024, a Gala Event was held.

It formed part of the programme for the 12th annual Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Honorary Lecture.

It was held in partnership with Stellenbosch University Japan Centre and the Frederik van Zyl Slabbert (FVZS) Institute for Student Leadership Development. The theme of the event was 'Reflecting on 30 years of democracy: How can African youth demonstrate leadership through constitutionalism'.

A keynote address was delivered by Ms. Tawakkol KARMAN, Nobel Peace Laureate 2011.

This was followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Cheryl HENDRICKS, Executive Director, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Ms. KARMAN, moderated by Ms. Rabia Abba OMAR, FVZS Citizenship Engagement Coordinator.



Ms. Tawakkol KARMAN delivers a keynote address at the SAJU 6 Gala Event (Photo credit: SU CCMD)



Panel discussion at the SAJU 6 Gala Event (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

A performance was delivered by the world-renowned Stellenbosch University Choir.



Stellenbosch University Choir performing at the SAJU 6 Gala Event (Photo credit: SU CCMD)

ANNEXURE A

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Plenary Sessions



PLENARY 1

Welcome, Opening, and Keynote Addresses



PLENARY 2

Opportunities for Research Collaboration



PLENARY 3

4th JICA Chair lecture session at Stellenbosch University



PLENARY 4

Closing Address, Summary, Conference Review, Reflections, and Way Forward

SAJU 6 Programme - Day 1

Tuesday, 27 August

09:00 - 10:30

Session 1: Welcome and Opening

Room: Magnifica 4

Welcome, Opening Remarks and Keynote Address

Prof. Wim DE VILLIERS, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University

Dr. Phethiwe Matutu, Chief Executive Officer: USAf

Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South African in Japan

Mr. Shinsuke OKADA, Director for international cooperation, International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Mr. Kei ANDO, Counsellor, Economic and Development Section, Embassy of Japan in South Africa

Keynote Speaker 1: Prof. Ahmed C. BAWA, Johannesburg Business School, University of Johannesburg

Keynote Speaker 2: Prof. Takahiro MORIO, Professor in the Office of Global Initiatives, University of Tsukuba

Moderator: Prof. Hester KLOPPER, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy, Corporate and Global Affairs, SU

10:30 - 11:00

Refreshment Break

The Bridges

2.1) Networking Session: J-Bridge: Connecting South African Innovation to Japan

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

*Ms. Rikako NISHIURA, Director, Japan, External Trade Organization (JETRO) Mr. Yannick GAYAMA, Head of Programmes, Double Feathers Partners
Ms. Anita NEL, Chief Director: Innovation and Commercialisation, INNOVUS
Mr. Brandon PASCHAL, Deputy Director: Spin-out Companies and Funds, Stellenbosch University LaunchLab*

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, Stellenbosch University Japan Centre (SUJC)

2.2) Thematic Panel: Discussing South African Student Experiences in Japan

Room: OMEGA

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

*Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Director: Centre for Global Engagement, Stellenbosch University International (SUI) & Co-Director, SUJC
Ms. Sarah RICHMOND, Senior Programme Manager, Unit for Global Learning, SUI Mr. Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator: International Support, SUI*

Moderator: Mr. Kirwan ADAMS, SUI

2.3) Panel: Health and Wellbeing - Physical Health

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Composition, size distribution and in vitro toxicological studies of ambient PM 2.5 levels in Southern Africa

*Prof. Janine WICHMANN, School of Health System and Public Health, University of Pretoria Prof. Peter MOLNAR, Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg
Prof. Johan BOMAN, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Gothenburg*

Application of Omics and Bioinformatics tools to Identify Pathogenic Gastrointestinal Helminths and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes: a One-Health Approach

Annette Imali ACHOLA, Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT), Durban University of Technology (DUT)

AfriWUIFire: Fire safe African homes on the Wildland Urban Interface

Dr. Natalia FLORES QUIROS, Postdoctoral researcher, Fire Engineering Unit, SU Department of Civil Engineering

Coping in crisis: The role of sense of coherence, life satisfaction, and resilience in the relationship between depression, perceived social support, fear of COVID-19, and perceived vulnerability to disease among nurses in South Africa

Prof. Bronwyn COETZEE, Department of Psychology, SU Dr.

Phillipa HAINE, Department of Psychology, SU

Prof. Ashraf KAGEE, Department of Psychology, SU

Ms. Lindokuhle SHONGWE, Department of Psychology, SU

Mr. Marnus JANSE VAN VUUREN, Department of Psychology, SU

Prof. Martin KIDD, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences, SU

Moderator: Dr. Paul WILLIAMS, Department of Food Science, Faculty of Agrisciences, SU

2.4) Panel: Social Justice and Development - Economy, Politics, Society

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

The Influence of purpose-driven advertising on consumer attitude and purchase intention

Ms. Isabella Cara BRröHM, Department of Business Management, SU & Dr. Debbie HUMAN VAN ECK, Stellenbosch University

Social relationships in the use of microfinance in rural Africa: Case studies of Burkina Faso and South Africa

Dr. Chihiro KUMASHIRO, Coordinator: Inter-University Exchange Project (Africa), lecturer, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Long-term implications of peacebuilding and disarmament: preliminary findings on the case of conflict recurrence in Mozambique

Ms. Monique BENNETT, Doctoral Candidate, Stellenbosch University

External barriers in Nigeria's entrepreneurial ecosystem

Ms. Josephine ILESANMI, Doctoral Candidate, Durban University of Technology

The Comprehensive Agricultural Reform Programme (CARP) of the Philippines: A potential model for South African land reform?

Mr Marcus VAN DER WALT, Stellenbosch University

Assessing the role of community participation in enabling effective implementation of IDP in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality

Ms. Nandiswa MPOLWENI, Durban University of Technology

Moderator: Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Director: Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Cultivar Restaurant

Session 3

3.1) Thematic Panel: Japanese Industry and Development in Africa

Room: OMEGA

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Invisible tandem for imagining Japanese Palate: An Afrasian history of fruits canning industry of Western Cape in the 1980s

Dr. Atsuko MUNEMURA, Department of Economics, Chiba Keizai University

South Africa's democratic developmental state aspiration and Japan's development experience

Dr. Tawanda SACHIKONYE, Research Consultant, Southern African Liaison Office (SALO)

Japan, the global automotive value chain, and Africa

Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC & Mr. Cüneyt Aksoy, Stellenbosch University

Moderator: Mr. Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator, International Support, SUI/SUJC

3.2) Thematic Panel: From Friendship for Sustainable Partnership: UWC-Asahi University and Meikai University

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Prof. Katsuyuki OHTOMO, President, Asahi University Prof.

Satoshi KAWANO, Asahi University

Prof. Koji SAKIYAMA, Meikai University

Prof. Dean Veerasamy YENGOPAL, Dean and Professor of Dentistry, University of the Western Cape (UWC)

Dr Suvarna INDERMUN, UWC

Mr Umesh BAWA, Department of Psychology and Director of International Relations, UWC

Moderator: Mr Umesh BAWA, Department of Psychology and Director of International Relations, UWC

3.3) Panel: Social Justice and Development - Human Security / Human Rights

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

The acceptance of human security idea in Japan: Its relevance in a polarized world

Prof. Yoichi MINE, Executive Director: JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development

Remembering and reimagining the Bomb: Lessons from Japan for South Africa

Prof. Jo-Ansie VAN WYK, Research Professor in International Politics, University of South Africa (UNISA)

A human rights foreign policy: Lessons for Japan from South Africa's past and present

Ms. Inge ABSALOM, Doctoral Candidate, Stellenbosch University

Exploring the importance of human security in two different contexts, namely Japan and South Africa

Dr. Ilze SLABBERT, Stellenbosch University

Moderator: Prof. Janis VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Stellenbosch University

3.4) Panel: Systems and Technologies For the Future - ICT/AI/Media and Society

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Imagine and create the human centric future through Sci-Fi thinking and making manga stories
methos - An Application project learning

Prof. Takahiro MORIO, University of Tsukuba

Pro-Poor digitalization: Empowering humanity, bridging divides and building opportunities

Andiswa DHLAMINI, Durban University of Technology

The power of social media: Exploring the positive and negative effects social media has on voter
behaviour

Ms. Husna B. Maswanganyi, Stellenbosch University

Infodemiology and its potential impact on digital wellness *Dr.*

Kurt MARAIS, Stellenbosch University

Moderator: Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, SUI/SUJC

Refreshments Available The Bridges

Session 4

4.1) Thematic Panel: COVID-19 and Africa: Multinational Collaborative Research Project between Japan and Africa

Room: OMEGA Time:

15:00 - 16:30

Exploration of practical wisdom and resilience overcoming downside risk: Collecting grassroots voices in Africa under COVID-19

Dr. Chizuko SATO, Institute of Developing Economies-JETRO & Dr. Kazuyo HANAI, University of Tokyo

Muting the discordant dirge: Politics of death during COVID-19 in Kenya and Tanzania

Dr. Kinyua KITHINJI, Sophia University & Maureen OBARE, Loyola Center for Media and Communications, Nairobi

Risk perceptions, resilience and evaluation of government policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Africa: A Study of the middle class

*Dr. Tomohiro HOSOI, University of Tokyo Prof.
Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC
Dr. Chizuko SATO, IDE-JETRO*

COVID-19: A perfect storm of downside risk for farmers' markets and livelihoods in Zimbabwe

Dr. Rangarirai Gavin MUCHETU, Rikkyo University

Moderator: Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

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4.2) Panel: Health and Wellbeing & Systems and Technologies For the Future - Environment/Biodiversity

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 15:00 - 16:30

Survey on Indigenous plants used in ethno-veterinary in treatment of cattle diseases from various areas in Mpumalanga province.

Dr. Elizabeth KOLA, University of Mpumalanga

Shedding light on mangrove biodiversity: An Africa-Japan CORE Partnership in metabarcoding research

Dr. Nasreen PEER, Department of Botany and Zoology, SU

Consumer perceptions, sourcing, and consumption frequency of indigenous leafy vegetables in selected rural households in Mangangeni Village, Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal

Ayanda Sthabiso Wesley HLEKWANE, Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences, Durban University of Technology

*Dr Heleen GROBBELAAR, Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences, DUT
Professor Carin NAPIER, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Social and Community Health, University of Auckland, New Zealand*

Sizwe Vincent MBONA, Department of Statistics, Durban University of Technology, ML Sultan Campus

Meta-omic characterizations of ultra-Deep biosphere hosted in Bushveld Complex: An NRF-JSPS bilateral research project

Ms. Tori WILLIAMS, University of the Free State

Dr. Julio CASTILLO, Senior researcher, Microbial Biochemical and Food Biotechnology, University of the Free State

Dr. Yohei SUZUKI, University of Tokyo

(SATREPS) Green ammonia production at South Africa: A proposal and challenge

Prof. Ken-ichi AIKA, National Institute of Technology (KOSEN) Numazu College

A new strategy for molecule-based gas purification

Prof. Yoichi HOSHIMOTO, Center for Future Innovation (CFi), Division of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

4.3) Networking Session: Closing the Gap between Research and Policymaking: A New Postdoctoral Initiative by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF)

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 15:00 - 16:30

Keynote address Dr. Palesa MOTHAPO, Nelson Mandela University

Overview of Programme: Dr. Koena MOTLOI, Programme Representative, NRF

Presentation by Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Lucia MASILELA, University of Johannesburg

Dr. Phuti NGOEPE, University of Pretoria

Dr. Sibongangani MNGOMEZULU, Nelson Mandela University

Dr. Nhlanhla HLONGWA, University of Cape Town

Moderator: Dr. Moloko MATHIPA-MDAKANE, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

4.4) Panel: Systems and Technologies for the Future - The Urban/Cities & Environment

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 15:00 - 16:30

Bridging divides, building futures: Lessons for South African cities from Japan for Inclusive digitalisation and smart city development

Mr. Perekamoyo T.K. MATALA-BANDA, School of Public Leadership, SU & Prof Tania AJAM, School of Public Leadership, SU

Developing an Artificial Intelligence algorithm for building low-cost houses using recycled polymer

Prof. K van der WALT, Centre for Sustainable Smart Cities, Central University of Technology (CUT)

Application of eDNA metabarcoding for assessment and prediction of faunal biodiversity in mangroves: The value of the Africa-Japan collaboration

Ms. Bernadeth PANANGANAN, Doctoral Candidate, Kagoshima RENDAI, Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus

Mixed-income housing developments in Africa: Lessons learned

Temitope OLANIRAN, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Architecture, Durban University of Technology

Assessing the feasibility of piezoelectric pavements in an interchanging node precinct, Warwick Triangle, Durban, South Africa

Nontobeko MDUNGE, Durban University of Technology

Moderator: Dr. Tawanda SACHIKONYE, Southern African Liaison Office

16:00 - 16:30

Busses depart from Protea Hotel for Gala Event

Refreshments will be available on arrival at the Endler Hall

17:00 - 21:00

Gala - Stellenbosch University Conservatory (Endler Hall)

The Gala Evening will consist of the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Honorary Lecture followed by a performance by Stellenbosch University's world-renowned choir. To read more, [see the following link](#). (Confirming attendance beforehand is required.)

21:00 - 21:30

Busses depart from the Endler Hall for Protea Hotel

SAJU 6 Programme - Day 2

Wednesday, 28 August

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary 2: Opportunities for Research Collaboration

Room: Magnifica 4

Mr. Shinsuke OKADA, Director for international cooperation, International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Dr. Takehito HIGUCHI, Deputy Director, Paris Office, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Ms. Kumiko TANSHO-HIRABASHI

Junsaka HARADA

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Dr. Kyosuke HAZE, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Michael NXUMALO, Manager: Science Networks and Research Links, South Africa National Research Foundation

Mr. Kgomotso SEIKANENG, Assistant Director: Development Partnerships, South Department of Science and Technology

Moderator: Mr. Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA, Director: Operations and Sector Support, Universities South Africa (USAf)

10:30 - 11:00

Refreshment Break

The Bridges

5.1) Thematic Panel: The ABE initiative - Reflecting on its impact on Former Participants

Room: OMEGA

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Mr. Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator: International Support, SUI/SUJC Ms.

Selina KUNGWANE, University of South Africa

Mr. Martin MANGANYE, Japan International Cooperation Agency, South Africa Dr.

Joshua MAUMELA, Vodacom, South Africa

Ms. Mbali SEXWALE, Embassy of Japan in South Africa

Moderator: Dr. Chizuko SATO, Institute of Developing Economies-JETRO

5.2) Thematic Panel: Discussion on Promotion of International Educational and Research Collaboration among Universities in Africa and Japan: Case Studies of E-JUST and JKUAT under the JICA Global Agenda

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Mr. Daisuke UEDA, Deputy Director-General, Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Prof. Amr ELTAWIL, Dean, School of Innovative Design Engineering, Egypt Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)

Prof. Daniel N. SILA, Principal, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

Moderator: Mr. Sarah RICHMOND, Senior Programme Manager, Unit for Global Education, SUI

5.3) Panel: Social Justice and Development - Politics/state/policy

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

African state-building: Actors, actions, performances

Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, Director: African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Horman CHITONGE, Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town

Shahid VAUDA, Centre for African Studies, UCT Chizuko

SATO, IDE-JETRO

Kana MIYAMOTO, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Japan's security policy in Africa: Is security becoming more evident in Africa - Japan relations?

Mr. Cüneyt AKSOY, Stellenbosch University

FOIP and Japanese contribution to Africa *Prof.*

Hiroki NAKAMURA, Musashino University

Moderator: Ms. Inge ABSALOM, Stellenbosch University

5.4) Panel: Systems and Technologies for the Future - Environment/Climate

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Student Climate Assembly for Decarbonization in Japan: Lessons for South Africa

Prof. Fumihiko SAITO, Faculty of International Studies, Ryukoku University

The long-term macroeconomic consequences of sustainable energy, water and food supplies in South Africa: Implications for Just Transition

Prof. Ogujiuba KANAYO, Faculty of Economics, Development and Business Science, University of Mpumalanga

Just Energy Transitions

Prof. Katileho MOLOI, Durban University of Technology

The roadmap to a Just Transition: Lessons for South Africa from Japan and Vietnam's energy cooperation

Dr. Cobus VAN STADEN, Research Fellow, Department of Journalism; SU & Managing Editor, China-Global South Project

The Adamastor Moss Garden Project: Seeing Cape Fynbos through a Japanese looking glass

Dr. Gert VAN TONDER, Neuroscientist and Moss Garden Designer, Kyoto

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Cultivar Restaurant

Session 6

6.1) Thematic Panel: Japan's Exploration of Digitally Enhanced International Education: JV Campus and COIL Virtual Exchange

Room: OMEGA Time:

13:30 - 15:00

Prof. Yasuhiro IWASAKI

Department of Chemistry and Materials Engineering Faculty of Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering, Kansai University

Prof. Jiro NAGATOMI, Department of Bioengineering, Clemson University

Prof. Tomoki FURUKAWA, Vice-Director, Center for International Education Kansai University Division of International Affairs

Moderator: Prof. Keiko IKEDA, Vice-Director for the Institute for Innovative Global Education (IIGE), Kansai University Division of International Affairs

6.2) Panel: Health and Wellbeing - Mental Health/Society

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Unmasking distress: An analysis of COVID-19's mental health impact on nurses in South Africa

Phillipa HAINE, Department of Psychology, SU

Prof. Bronwyn COETZEE, Department of Psychology, SU Prof.

Ashraf KAGEE, Department of Psychology, SU

Ms. Lindokuhle SHONGWE, Department of Psychology, SU

Mr. Marnus JANSE VAN VUUREN, Department of Psychology, SU

Prof. Martin KIDD, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences, SU

Assessment of positive mental health among university students in South Africa

Prof. Vagiri RAJESH, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Limpopo

Dr. Ohajunwa CHIOMA, Africa Centre for HIV and AIDS Management, Stellenbosch University Prof.

Anne OUMA, Umea University

Purpose in life and engagement in education or employment in relation to self-care capability in young people living with and without HIV: The South African collaborative cohort study

Dr. Dumile GUMEDE, Durban University of Technology & Prof. Janet SEELY, Africa Health Research Institute

Achieving health outcomes: Reflections from social work in health care

Dr. Laetitia PETERSEN, University of the Witwatersrand

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

6.3) Thematic Panel: Responsible Internationalization and Student Mobility: Perspectives from South Africa and Japan

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Dr. Chihiro KUMASHIRO, Coordinator: Inter-University Exchange Project (Africa), lecturer, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Ms. Eri YAMAZAKI, University Education Administrator, Office of Sophia Future Design Platform, Sophia University

Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, SUI/SUJC

Moderator: Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan, Department of Science and Technology

6.4) Panel: Systems and Technologies For the Future - Research/Education/Social Justice and Development

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Tokyo Metropolitan University: Building bridges for collaborative excellence

Prof. Masayoshi NOGUCHI, Vice President for International Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan University

The development of regional networks to promote International Virtual Exchange and COIL

Ms. Divinia JITHOO, International Education and Partnerships Office, Durban University of Technology

Lessons learnt from collaborative study on preparation of teacher teaching with technology

*Prof. Agnes CHIGONA, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Nyarai
TUNJERA, CPUT
Joyce KANYERERE, CPUT*

Case Study on Introduction of Japanese Engineering Education to African Universities - Focusing on E-JUST and JKUAT

*Ms. Mai TODA, JICA Expert: Project Coordinator/Higher Education Networks &
Dr. Takasei OKANO, JICA Expert: Chief Advisor*

Moderator: Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Director: Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University

15:00 – 15:30

Refreshment Break

Session 7

7.1) Networking Session: Sophia University Research

Room: OMEGA

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Review of the research system of Sophia University and its expansion in the African region

Prof. Yoshiaki TERUMICHI, President, Sophia University & Ms. Eri ITO, University Education Administrator, Sophia University

SATREPS project for ensuring the sustainability of Oasis Societies related to water and land use in western deserts Y2024-Y2028

Prof. Erina IWASAKI, Department of French Studies, Sophia University

Integrated study of flood risk reduction and wetland conservation

Prof. Guangwei HUANG, Dean, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Sophia University

Moderator: Mr. Robert KOTZÉ, Senior Director: Stellenbosch University International

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7.2) Panel: Systems and Technologies For the Future - Digital Infrastructure and Technologies

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Exploring patient acceptance of an innovative app-based telemedicine service for primary health care in South Africa

Ms. Grethe VAN TONDER, Stellenbosch University

A digital integrated report prototype of the national medicines policy

Mr. William K MODIBA, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tshwane University of Technology & Dr. Nontobeko P. MNCWANGI, Tshwane University of Technology

Integrating IoT and AI for precision agriculture: Enhancing water management and crop monitoring in small-scale farms

Ms. Bessie Baakanyang MONCHUSI, Department of Engineering and Smart System Engineering, University of South Africa (UNISA)

Ms. Tlhokaboyo INNOCENTIA-MOKWANA, Department of Engineering and Smart System Engineering, UNISA

Dr. Alfred KGOPA, School of Computing, UNISA

Aquaphotomics: A proposed approach for rapid water and food quality monitoring in agricultural systems

Dr. Paul WILLIAMS, Department of Food Science, Faculty of Agrisciences, SU

Research and innovation activities at the College of Engineering and Technology, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

Dr. James MUTUA, Department of Mechanical Engineering, JKUAT & Dr. Martin RUTHANDI, Department of Mechatronic Engineering, JKUAT

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

7.3) Panel: Social Justice and Development - Education

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Managing an academic project in a South African university: What can we learn from Japan

Prof. Wendy Setlalentoa, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Central University of Technology

Jumpstart research program as scholarship of teaching research: What can we learn from the Japan Context

Prof. Bekhitemba Dube, Director: Centre for Diversity in Higher Education, Central University of Technology

Product development of a sorghum and millet based instant breakfast cereal suitable for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)

Ms. Nqobile Ngcobo, Durban University of Technology

Food and nutrition sustainability knowledge and diet among students at the Durban University of Technology

Sanrika SAHADEO, MAppSci Food and Nutrition Candidate, Durban University of Technology

Moderator: Dr. Tawanda SACHIKONYE, Southern African Liaison Office

7.4) Thematic Panel: Japanese Popular Culture in Africa

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Internationalization of Japanese Content

Prof. Takahiro MORIO

Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (Respondent)

I am not cyberpunk

Ms. Sarah VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

Moderator: Mr. Thami Mahlobo, SUI/SUJC

17:00 –

Close for the day / Free Time

SAJU 6 Programme - Day 3

Thursday, 29 August

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary 3: 4th JICA CHAIR

Room: Magnifica 4

Governing Land Rights in Japan: Interventions from Above, Responses from below

Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, Director, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Lessons for Structural Transformation in Africa: Respect for Craftpersonship as a Key

Prof. Motoki TAKAHASHI, Director, Graduate School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University

Bridging Siloes: Law, Land Reform and Redistributive Justice in South Africa

*Prof. Cheryl WALKER, Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology,
Stellenbosch University*

Moderator: Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

10:30 - 11:00

Refreshment Break

The Bridges

Session 8

8.1) Panel: The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) - Prospects and Challenges

Room: OMEGA

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Prof. Pedro Miguel AMAKASU RAPOSODE MEDEIROS CARVALHO, Kansai University

Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, SUJC

Prof. Sadaharu KATAOKA, Waseda University

Prof. Hiroki NAKAMURA, Musashino University

Moderator: Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

8.2) Panel: Health and Wellbeing - Social Justice and Development

Room: Magnifica 3

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Decolonizing the Biomedical Sciences postgraduate curriculum: first steps...

Prof. Faadiel ESSOP, Division of Medical Physiology, BMRI, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Teachers' perceptions of precipitating factors for Substance abuse among learners in selected secondary schools in the Capricorn District of Limpopo Province, South Africa

Maphuti CHUENG, Department of Health Sciences, University of Venda
Merriam MOHLALA, Department of Health Sciences, University of Venda
Khuliso MATSHOVHANA, Department of Health Sciences, University of Venda
Valeria BALOYI, Department of Health Sciences, University of Venda
Azwinndini MUDAU, Department of Health Sciences, University of Venda

The presence of women in the leadership of listed manufacturing pharmaceutical companies with operations in South Africa

Dr Nsovo MAYIMELE, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tshwane University of Technology

Understanding the right to inclusion as a student with disabilities in TVET Colleges

Ms. Selina KUNGWANE, University of South Africa & Ms. Anneline KORF-TALJAARD, Boland Technical and Vocational Education Training College

Including Indigenous health knowledge within higher education curriculum as an issue of epistemic justice

Dr. Ohajunwa CHIOMA, Africa Centre for HIV and AIDS Management, Stellenbosch University
Dr. Vagiri RAJESH, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Limpopo
Dr. Anne OUMA, Umea University
Dr. Anthea HANSEN, Department of Health Professions Education, Stellenbosch University

Moderator: Prof. Ashraf KAGEE, Department of Psychology, Stellenbosch University

8.3) Panel: Systems and Technologies For the Future - Engineering, Adaptive Technologies

Room: Magnifica 1

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Developing an Artificial Intelligence algorithm for enhancing production efficiency in a factory of the future

Prof. H.J. VERMAAK, Stadio Higher Education & Dr. J. COETZER, Central University of Technology, Free State & Stadio Higher Education

Adoption of smart irrigation technologies by South African small-scale farmers

Dr. Alfred KGOPA, School of Computing, UNISA & Dr. Bessie Baakyanan MONCHUSI, School of Engineering, UNISA

Introduction into the technical cooperation in earth science and mining between South Africa and Japan since 1991: present (post-COVID19) and future

Dr. Yasuo YABE, Tohoku University & Prof. Musa MANZI, professor of Geosciences, Wits University

Using Artificial Intelligence in energy management of Smart Grids

Prof. Amr ELTAWIL, Dean, School of Innovative Design Engineering, Egypt Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)

Embedded machine vision for products' inspection and grading

Prof. Mohamed SAYED, Dean, School of Electronics, Communication and Computer Engineering, E-JUST

Moderator: Prof. Natasha Sacks, Professor of Advanced Manufacturing, Department of Industrial Engineering, Stellenbosch University

8.4) Panel: Social Justice and Development - Society/Social Relations/History

Room: Magnifica 4

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Street as the place for conviviality?: Relationships between people, products, and place in Cape Town CBD

Ms. Matsuri NAKAMURA, MA Candidate, Anthropology, UCT

Becoming Black: Reading Steve Biko in Japanese

Dr. Tomohiro KAMBAYASHI, Department of English, Konan University, Kobe

Japan's policy towards South Africa in the late apartheid period

Ms. Kumiko MAKINO-YAMASHITA, Senior researcher, IDE-JETRO

In search of recognition: Youth engagement in 'traditional' dancing in Nyanga

Rise TANINO, MA Candidate, Anthropology, UCT

Building the "rainbow nation" through mass media: television, cultural diversity, and national unity in post - Apartheid South Africa

Dr. Tomohiro HARA, Department of Economics, Musashi University

Moderator: Dr. Tawanda Sachikonye, Southern African Liaison Office

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12:30 - 13:30

Lunch Cultivar

Restaurant

13:30 - 15:00

PLENARY 4: Closing Ceremony, Summary and Conference

Review Room: Magnifica 4

Rapporteurs Reflections and

Way Forward

Panellists:

Mr. Mahlubi Chief MABIZELA, Director: Operations and Sector Support, Universities South Africa (USAf)

Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan; Department of Science and Innovation

Mr. Michael NXUMALO, Manager: Science Networks and Research Links, South Africa National Research Foundation

Prof. Takahiro MORIO, University of Tsukuba

Closing Address

Prof. Hester KLOPPER, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy, Corporate and Global Affairs, SU

Refreshments

ANNEXURE B

LIST OF PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

SOUTH AFRICA

- Boland Technical and Vocational Education and Training College
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Central University of Technology
- Durban University of Technology
- Jeffmotech Pty/UNISA
- Nelson Mandela University
- Sefako Makgato Health Sciences University
- Stadio Higher Education
- Stellenbosch University
- South African Astronomical Observatory
- Tshwane University of Technology
- University of Cape Town
- University of Johannesburg
- University of Kwazulu-Natal
- University of Limpopo
- University of Mpumalanga
- University of Pretoria
- University of South Africa
- University of Venda
- University of the Western Cape
- University of the Witwatersrand

* Multiple representation per institution

JAPAN

- Akita University
- Asahi University
- Chiba Keizai University
- Kansai University
- Hiroshima College
- Hiroshima University
- Kobe College
- Konan University
- Kyoto University
- Meikai University

- Musashi University
- Musashino University
- National Institute of Technology (NIT), NUMAZU College
- Osaka University
- Rikkyo University
- Ritsumeikan University
- Ryukoku University
- Sophia University
- Tohoku University
- Tokyo University
- Tokyo Metropolitan University
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus
- University of Tsukuba
- United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Kagoshima University
- Waseda University

* Multiple representation per institution

OTHER OVERSEAS/INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

- Clemson University, USA
- Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology and Agriculture (JKUAT)
- Umeå University, Sweden

* Multiple representation per institution

FUNDING AGENCIES

- Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF)

* Multiple representation per institution

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

- Embassy of Japan in South Africa
- Embassy of South Africa in Japan
- Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO)

- Institute of Developing Economies-Japan External Trade Organisation (IDE-JETRO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarters
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for ABE
- Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)
- South Africa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- South Africa Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)

* Multiple representation per institution

OTHER

- Africa Health Research Institute
- China-Global South Project
- DataBalk
- Double Feathers Partners
- INNOVUS
- Launchlab
- South Africa Department of Higher Education (delegate presentation)
- Southern African Liaison Office (SALO)
- Vodacom

ANNEXURE C

LIST OF RAPORTEURS

Ms. Inge ABSALOM

Mr. Cüneyt AKSOY

Mr. Daniel ECKSTEIN

Ms. Kanon MORI

Dr. Tawanda SACHIKONYE

Mr. Muhle THEMBA

Ms. Erin VAN DER MERWE

Ms. Julia VISSER

Ms. Maxine WENTZEL

Ms. Kaylee WYNGAARDT

ANNEXURE D

LIST OF POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster Session: 27-29 August 2024	
Title	Presenter(s)
<i>Student/Faculty Exchange Program with the University of the Western Cape: Exceptional industrial and academic development of the resource-rich RSA</i>	Katsuyuki OHTOMO, Asahi University School of Dentistry, Mizuho, Gifu, Japan
	Hiroshi SAKAGAMI, Asahi University School of Dentistry, Mizuho, Gifu, Japan; Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama, Japan
	Maki IZAWA, Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama,
	Yusei OTAKA, Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama
	Shinji KITO, Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama
	Hiroshi NAKAJIMA, Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama
	Shu FUJIWARA, Asahi University School of Dentistry, Mizuho, Gifu,
	Izumi DEN, Asahi University School of Dentistry, Mizuho, Gifu,
	Jun MIYATA, Asahi University School of Dentistry, Mizuho, Gifu, Japan; Meikai University School of Dentistry, Sakado, Saitama
	Katsuyoshi SUNAGA, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Josai University, Saitama
	Ryuichiro SUZUKI, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Josai University, Saitama
	Umesh BAWA, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
	Mr. Ghaleeb JEPPIE, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa in Japan; Department of Science and Innovation
<i>Life in the Deep Subsurface (PROTEA-ICDP project)</i>	Anazea ZAPKE, University of the Free State
	Tori WILLIAMS, University of the Free State

	<p>Dr. Julio CASTILLO, University of the Free State</p> <p>A GÓMEZ-ARIAS, University of the Free State</p> <p>D NISSON, NASA, USA; Devan T Kieft, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, USA</p> <p>Y YABE, Tohoku University, Japan,</p> <p>H OGASAWARA, Ritsumeikan University, Japan</p>
<p><i>Introduction into the technical cooperation in earth science and mining between South Africa and Japan since 1991: Past (from just after Apartheid to pre-COVID19)</i></p>	<p>Prof. Raymond DURRHEIM, South African Research Chair in Exploration, Earthquake and Mining Seismology at the University of the Witwatersrand</p> <p>Prof. Hiroshi OGASAWARA, Professor Emeritus, Ritsumeikan University & Chair Professor, Research Organization of Science and Technology, PI of ICDP DSeis project (2016 – ongoing), SATREPS project (2010-2015), and JSPS core-to-core Program (Asia-Africa)</p>
<p><i>Achievements and Challenges of South African Public Service</i></p>	<p>Tomohiro HOSOI, Project Researcher, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo</p>
<p><i>Understanding water conservation behaviour: Exploring awareness and determinants among final-year accounting students</i></p>	<p>Sylvia BANDA, University of Limpopo</p>
<p><i>Towards spatial policy reform and township housing transformation in post-apartheid South Africa</i></p>	<p>Boniswa P DUMA, Doctoral Candidate, Tshwane University of Technology</p>

ANNEXURE E

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

PAPER/ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Title: Adoption of smart irrigation technologies by South African small-scale farmers
Presenters and affiliations: Dr. Alfred KGOPA, UNISA School of computing (kgopaat@unisa.ac.za)
Dr. Bessie Baakanyan MONCHUSI, UNISA School of Engineering (monchbb2@unisa.ac.za)

Introduction

This project focuses on the adoption of smart irrigation technologies and how farmers may implement and utilize technology to improve irrigation systems, as well as their level of readiness and acceptance of smart farming devices such as drones, IoT, and AI for irrigation. Through an emphasis on the readiness and adoption, the project aims to pinpoint optimal approaches that can support skill evaluation and technology application, ultimately leading to water conservation and increased agricultural production. Small-scale Although smart farming technologies have many potential advantages, there are several challenges that prevent new South African farmers from implementing them. During the preliminary interviews we had with farmers, affordability, and a lack of knowledge are two primary challenges. These limitations make it difficult for farmers to take use advantages of smart farming technologies to improve food security, save water, crop yields, and reduce costs. It is important that these challenges are resolved to advance sustainable farming methods.

Nature of proposed project

The project will include a variety of the following phases.

1. Collect data from developing farmers to identify more themes that might prevent the utilisation of smart irrigation technologies.
2. Secured funds to purchase and deployment of smart irrigation systems in selected farms.
3. Equipping farmers with the skills and knowledge to efficiently use smart farming technologies such as drones, IoT, and AI.
4. Monitoring and analysing data on deployed technology.
5. Report the findings by publishing research papers.

Proposed sub-theme

The project will concentrate on the sub-theme "smart agriculture, sustainable water management and food security." These themes are consistent with the overall goal of encouraging effective water usage, guarantee food security and increasing the productivity of agriculture through technological innovations.

Relation to SAJU goals

The SAJU Forum seeks to enhance collaboration between South African and Japanese institutions by exchanging academic interests, successes, and viewpoints. The project will promote academic knowledge and innovation by bringing together experts from different universities and share insights on effective research, education, and training approaches.

Further collaboration?

This project aims to collaborate on smart farming by partnering with local and international universities and research institutions for cooperative studies and resource sharing. Establish partnerships with Japanese and worldwide institutions to share expertise and exploit basic smart farming technologies.

Title: Pro-Poor Digitalization: Empowering humanity, bridging divides and building opportunities
Presenter: Ms. Andiswa DHLAMINI
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology
Email Address: dhlaminiandi@gmail.com

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Digitalization has become an effective tool in recent years for addressing global inequality and advancing socioeconomic development. But even with its transformative potential, there is still a sizable digital divide, especially in areas like South Africa that are struggling economically. This presentation aims to explore the transformative potential of pro-poor digitalization and investigate how it can empower marginalized communities such as South African and promote inclusive development.

OBJECTIVES:

Understanding the Global context: The presentation aims to provide a global perspective of the digital divide, focusing on gaps in technology access, internet connectivity, and digital skills amongst different areas and populations.

Pro-poor digitalization as a catalyst for inclusive development: investigating how digital innovations and activities tailored to the needs of marginalized areas can reduce socio-economic disparities, empower individuals, as well as promote inclusive growth and development.

Success stories: exploring the benefits of implementing pro poor digitalisation projects around the world for poverty alleviation, healthcare delivery, education access, economic empowerment, and social inclusion.

Overcoming obstacles: discussing the barriers to implement pro-poor digitalization projects, such as infrastructure restrictions, digital literacy gaps, affordability issues, and regulatory restraints, and discussing methods for overcoming them.

Fostering collaboration and partnership: emphasizing the value of multistakeholder partnerships and collaboration among governments, academia, civil society, the commercial sector, and international organizations in driving pro-poor digitalization efforts and optimizing their impact.

How It Connects to the SAJU Forum's Objectives: By examining the role of pro-poor digitalization in fostering inclusive development and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, this proposal closely aligns with the theme of the SAJU Forum and makes a significant contribution to the forum's objectives. Additionally, this study intends to encourage participants to participate in cooperative efforts within their respective fields by offering strategies for improving partnership and collaboration, thereby advancing the goals of the SAJU Forum.

How I seek further collaboration: By promoting cooperation between various stakeholders, and promoting discussions, sharing of best practices, and collaboratively develop solutions to address the digital divide through a variety of techniques, including surveys, interviews, and case studies. Furthermore, by means of dissemination activities such as workshops, publications, and presentations, I hope to foster knowledge sharing, actively involve stakeholders, and create networks to augment the global impact of pro-poor digitalization initiatives.

Title: Just Energy Transition Proposal
Presenter: Katleho MOLOI
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology
Email: KatlehoM@dut.ac.za

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

1. Introduction

As the world faces the urgent need to address climate change and transition to sustainable energy sources, it is imperative to ensure that these transitions are not only environmentally sound but also socially just. Just energy transitions aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change while promoting equity, fairness, and inclusivity in the distribution of benefits and burdens. This proposal outlines a research project focused on exploring the concept of just energy transitions and identifying strategies for achieving them.

2. Objective

The primary objective of this research is to examine the principles, challenges, and opportunities associated with just energy transitions and to propose policy recommendations for fostering equitable and inclusive energy transitions at local, national, and global levels.

3. Research Questions

- What are the key principles and components of just energy transitions?
- What are the main challenges and barriers to achieving just energy transitions?
- How can policy frameworks and governance structures support the implementation of just energy transitions?
- What are the social, economic, and environmental implications of different energy transition pathways?
- What strategies can be employed to ensure that just energy transitions benefit marginalized communities and vulnerable populations?

4. Methodology

The research will employ a mixed-methods approach, including literature review, case studies, stakeholder interviews, and policy analysis. The literature review will provide a comprehensive overview of the concept of just energy transitions, drawing on existing research and theoretical frameworks. Case studies will be conducted to examine real-world examples of successful and unsuccessful energy transition initiatives, with a focus on identifying best practices and lessons learned. Stakeholder interviews will be conducted with policymakers, community leaders, industry representatives, and civil society organizations to gather insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with just energy transitions. Policy analysis will involve an examination of existing energy policies and regulations to assess their alignment with principles of social justice and equity.

5. Conclusion Just energy transitions are essential for addressing the dual challenges of climate change

and social inequality. This research project seeks to advance our understanding of the concept of just energy transitions and to provide actionable recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders working to promote equitable and inclusive energy transitions

Title: Introduction into the technical cooperation in earth science and mining between South Africa and Japan since 1991: present (post-COVID19) and future
Presenters and affiliations: Prof. Musa MANZI, University of the Witwatersrand & Prof. Yasuo YABE, Tokyo University

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract

Professor Nicolaysen (University of the Witwatersrand) proposed to the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) at the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics 1991 congress that South Africa's gold mines, the deepest in the world, be used as semi-controlled experimental sites to study earthquake generation and disaster prevention. As apartheid was coming to an end, there was renewed enthusiasm for collaboration with South Africa. Following IASPEI's endorsement, the Seismological Society of Japan sent an observation team to South Africa, marking the beginning of joint observational research. At that time, South Africa was beginning real-time digital earthquake monitoring to test routine real-time seismic hazard assessment. The detailed study of seismic faults exhumed at mine workings was also beginning to become routine. This attracted Japanese seismologists very strongly. South Africa's national programs, DeepMine and FutureMine, also included computational assessment of mining safety and examined how to prolong safe gold mining at great depths using the knowledge and technology of the time. To obtain results that would further contribute to the development of seismology and disaster prevention, Japan was expected to provide highly sensitive, wide-dynamic-range observation technology.

That was followed up by the **JST-JICA SATREPS project, "Observational Studies to Mitigate Seismic Risks in Mines (2010-2015)"**. Serendipitously, a M5.5 earthquake, the largest in the gold mining districts in South Africa, occurred in August 2014 beneath one of the SATREPS sites was very well recorded by a range on sensors. Not only JST and JICA but also International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) with UNESCO as an associated member highly rated the outputs of our SATREPS project. So, ICDP approved the project "Drilling into Seismogenic Zones of M2.0-M5.5 Earthquakes in Deep South African gold mines (DSeis; 2016-present)". This allowed South African and Japanese researchers and students to collaborate with internationally outstanding researchers and their students from around the world.

Our SAJU6 joint oral presentation follows up our two posters illustrating the past. In this joint oral presentation, Yasuo Yabe (Tohoku University) and Musa Manzi (University of the Witwatersrand) will report on ongoing and future collaborations.

Supplemental information

Internal Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project (SATREPS) July 2021

https://www2.jica.go.jp/en/evaluation/pdf/2020_0900997_4_f.pdf

Title: Introduction into the technical cooperation in earth science and mining between South Africa and Japan since 1991: How have students been inspired?

Presenters and affiliations: Ms. Anazea ZAPKE, University of the Free State & Ms. Tori WILLIAMS, University of the Free State

Corresponding researcher: Ray Durrheim or Musa Manzi

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract:

As the poster(s) by Ogasawara and Durrheim and the oral presentation(s) by Yabe and Manzi during SAJU6 show, South Africa and Japan have enjoyed technical cooperation in the geosciences at an internationally outstanding level. This has been the case since 1991, when the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) endorsed the deep South African gold mines as semi-controlled experimental sites for earthquake generation and seismic disaster mitigation. So far, the technical cooperation between the two countries has nurtured a large number of students not only from South Africa or Japan, but also from other countries around the world as listed below.

Master Degree	PhD degree
South Africa 6 or so (Wits Univ.)	3 (Wits. Univ.)
Japan 32 (Rits, Tohoku, Kyoto, Osaka)	3 (Kyoto, Tokyo, Rits. Univs.)
Germany	2 (GFZ)
Switzerland 2 (ETH Zürich)	
USA	1 (Princeton Univ.)
India	1 (IIT Hyderabad)

Supplemental information

Internal Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project (SATREPS) July 2021

https://www2.jica.go.jp/en/evaluation/pdf/2020_0900997_4_f.pdf

Title: Understanding the right to inclusion as a student with disabilities in TVET colleges

Presenters: Selina KUNGWANE

University of South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa

E-mails: selina7606@gmail.com; 36173967@mylife.unisa.ac.za; ORCID: 0000-0001-7380-9810

and

Anneline KORF-TALJAARD

Boland Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, Stellenbosch, South Africa

E-mails: at.career.test@gmail.com; annelinet@bolandcollege.com; ORCID: 0000-0002-1227-6034

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract

The right to be included in the education system is embedded in the constitution of South Africa. Inclusion of persons with disabilities should not be a privilege but a right. They need to be capacitated to understand their right and be awarded an opportunity to participate in education and training like any other citizens according to the Constitution of South Africa and White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Since its inception, the Department of Higher Education and Training in South Africa thrives to create an inclusive post-school education and training sector. Students with disabilities access colleges with lack of information of their rights and they find themselves being treated unfairly unlike their peers. Being knowledgeable about policies in place and their objectives with the focus on including them in education, they would better advocate for themselves. This study focused on investigating if students with disabilities in technical and vocational education and training colleges' right to education is promoted and if they are aware of any policies, guidelines, frameworks, etc promoting that right. Students enrolled at exit level and those who graduated participated in the study. Data was collected from colleges known to be performing better in terms of supporting students with disabilities. A questionnaire was utilized to collect the data. Online interviews were held with the participants. Those who could not participate in the interview on call for various reasons were forwarded questions via WhatsApp or email. Findings indicate that the right to education is promoted even though there are challenges and a need to improve. Some students are unfamiliar with policies promoting their right to education even though they believe it is promoted. The study cannot be generalized to all colleges because only six colleges of the fifty participated in the study. Further research is necessary to investigate the if students with disabilities are informed and knowledgeable about policies promoting their rights to vocational education.

How it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum:

This paper focused on the public technical and vocational education and training colleges. It investigated if students with disabilities are knowledgeable about policies in place promoting their right to education; in the case of colleges

How you seek to further collaboration in your area: We wish to collaborate with peers interested in disability support, student support, non-academic support with the focus on students with disabilities.

Title: Towards agricultural real estate financing in Uganda: The role of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Stakeholders
Presenter: Ronald KAWEESI
Affiliation: Department of Entrepreneurial Studies and Management, Durban University of Technology (DUT), P.O. Box 1334, Durban, 4000, South Africa
Email: 22384757@dut4life.ac.za

Sub-theme: Social justice and wellbeing

1. Nature of proposed research

Agriculture is central to the transformation for many developing economies yet agricultural financing is a challenge for financial institutions and investors in these economies due to agricultural real estate inherent risks. Financial institutions and investors are often unable to adequately assess agricultural real estate risks to develop “Fit for Purpose” financial products for actors in the agricultural value chain. Consequently, financial accessibility challenges among agriculturist emerge despite public sector interventions. The agricultural financing challenge necessitates interventions for transferring and spreading the inherent risk of ownership to access financing. REIT have been successful interventions at transferring and spreading risk in other real estate asset classes and jurisdictions. REIT interventions require assessment of the stakeholders and the power dynamics in the real estate and land markets to achieve their function of transferring and spreading risk to mobilise financing. The nature of this research employs qualitative techniques grounded in Activity Theory to conduct a stakeholder and gap assessment of REIT stakeholders in Uganda. In order to model agricultural REIT intervention for development, the study will indicate financial, investment and real estate power dynamics and identify gaps in the existing REIT stakeholders` structure for alignment towards efficient agricultural real estate securitization and financing in Uganda.

2. Agricultural financing in developing countries has attracted local and international collaborations to promote production and development through impacting livelihood and social fabric of these economies. This study will address the policy and governance issues that hinder alternative agricultural financing tools such as REIT that have been successful in other economies and real estate asset classes. The study will leverage on REIT application in other economies and real estate sectors through sharing achievements and perspectives. The study will also explore collaborations in REIT research with the aim to Foster Sustainable Partnerships in Research, Innovation and Impact.

3. The study will seek collaboration among the agricultural financing community by identifying the gaps in the division of labour among the stakeholders thus proposing REIT facilitating tools that necessitate collaboration from at the agricultural asset, national and international level where REIT regimes have been successful towards risk spreading and transfer.

Title: Application of Omics and Bioinformatics tools to Identify Pathogenic Gastrointestinal Helminths and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes: a One-Health Approach

Presenter: Annette Imali ACHOLLA

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Gastrointestinal helminths (GIHs) are parasitic worms that can cause helminthosis in humans and animals. The chronic nature of these infections, although often asymptomatic, leads to adverse health impacts. Chemotherapy using anthelmintic drugs, such as benzimidazoles and macrocyclic lactones, is the main strategy for their control in both humans and animals. However, the widespread anthelmintic resistance poses a significant challenge to the long battle against these infections at clinical and veterinary levels. Understanding the specific GIH species, their sources, and the anthelmintic resistance gene families linked to them is critical for developing effective targeted control and prevention strategies for GIH infections in Africa. This study proposes to incorporate metatranscriptomics and proteomics techniques, with the assistance of bioinformatics tools, to explore the taxonomic and functional profiles of GIHs in different specimens, by adopting a One-Health approach. This requires collaboration with stakeholders from diverse organizations, including the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), local governments, clinicians, veterinarians, and international partners. Through this research, a database of the pathogenic GIHs and their corresponding genetic resistance profile could be established, as well as the potential risk factors for infection, ultimately shaping public health policies and interventions to combat GIHs. Moreover, the partnership will play a key role in translating the project's research findings into actionable public health interventions. Involving diverse stakeholders enhances the project's collaboration by fostering a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to this issue. Positioned as a pilot initiative, the current proposal aims to assess its feasibility and impact, providing valuable insights into its potential outcomes and implications. By focusing on a specific geographical area and infectious disease, we can evaluate the project's success and identify areas for improvement.

Title: Invisible Tandem for Imagining Japanese Palate: An Afrasian History of Fruits Canning Industry of Western Cape in the 1980s
Presenter: Atsuko MUNEMARA
Affiliation: Senior Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, Chiba Keizai University, Japan
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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing: History and food systems

1. Abstract

Canned Fruits produced in the Republic of South Africa (South Africa), especially canned peaches, once used to be a target of the Japanese boycott movement against the Apartheid regime in the 1980s. Although the history of their production in the Southwestern Cape was renowned around the Japanese competitor before the Second World War, Japanese consumers got familiar with them in the late 1970s when their food culture adopted European-styled sweets in-home cook dishes, ready-made meals, and even school meals. Nowadays, South Africa's canned peach dominates a large proportion of the processed fruit market in Japan. This research unveils why many South African canned yellow peaches came closer to the Japanese palate, despite an international economic sanction.

Unlike white fresh peaches, yellow peaches initially were scarcely familiar in the Japanese fresh fruit market. However, South African canned peach symbolizes "exotic" fruits in the 1980s. When tracing the measure General Trading Companies' histories, which have sought to trade with South Africa, I find a footprint that Mitsui Co. & Ltd (Mitsui Bussan) once provided local companies with technical guidance as the Development and Import schemes so that "South Africa's canned yellow peach should suit to the Japanese palate." Since then, a local company in the Southwestern Cape has undertaken several prominent Japanese canning companies for the midstream processing line before the labeling under outstanding strict management norms. This presentation shows that their sharing process of Japanese palate included a multi-layered network of Japanese GTCs.

2. How it relates to the goal of SAJU Forum

This study tracks the historical footprint of Japanese General Trading Companies, which were indirectly connected to the local fruits canning industry during the late Apartheid era. Although their ties continue even after Covid-19 and further developed after the crisis of closing a factory under an announcement by the food and beverage commercial group Tiger Brand in 2022, how they constructed a unique big market and permeated Japanese food culture has been overseen in scholarship of Japan and South Africa. Through this forum, the presenter sees the achievements of interviews with Japanese industry and South African counterparts in the Japanese history of Develop-and-Import, sharing the understanding of the present food system and Japanese trading history.

3. How you seek to further collaboration in your area

The presenter attempts to write the past and present of South African Fruits canning industry, challenging as a member of the bilateral Grants-in-aid for Scientific Research (Kaken-hi) group which will be applied for September. For this reason, the presenter collects comments from the South African

scholarship side and at the same time, reporting to the research collaborators for connecting further interview in depth and in the forthcoming future.

Title: Consumer perceptions, sourcing, and consumption frequency of indigenous leafy vegetables in selected rural households in Mangangeni Village, Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract

Indigenous leafy vegetables (ILVs) consumption play a significant role in ensuring sustainable livelihoods in South Africa, and has been part of rural communities diets for decades. Negative perceptions about ILVs such as “food for the poor” have impacted consumption and resulted in the underutilization of ILVs. There is limited community-based information and programs aimed at influencing consumer perceptions towards ILVs. This study was set out to assess consumer perceptions, sourcing practices, and consumption frequency of ILVs. A total of 118 households were selected from the rural Mangangeni community using a snowball sampling method. Data was collected through door-to-door visits, and the questions were extracted from the structured sociodemographic questionnaire and ILVs survey. The results of descriptive statistics showed that all households (100%) perceived ILVs as food items with a pleasant taste, healthy and offering nutritional benefits. The pumpkin leaves were frequently cultivated during spring and summer, and peak cultivation was observed in October, whereas other indigenous leafy vegetables were collected from cultivated lands. Half of the participants (50.8%) showed that they consume ILVs at least once per week, followed by 33.9% of the households who consume ILVs twice per week, and 15.3% of the households who consume ILVs at least three times a week when they are in season. The results showed pumpkin leaves, amaranth, and blackjack were the most consumed indigenous leafy vegetables in the community. Positive consumer perceptions significantly impact the decision-making process related to the sourcing and consumption of indigenous leafy vegetables. Increasing consumption levels and fostering positive perceptions towards ILVs can contribute to promoting dietary diversity, enhancing food and nutrition security, and increasing the availability of such vegetables at retail outlets. Policymakers should consider ILV education programs aimed at consumers and retail outlets to promote the variety selection and intake of ILVs.

Keywords: Indigenous leafy vegetables, underutilization, sourcing, perceptions, consumers

Presentation outline:

The chosen sub theme is agriculture under the main conference theme “health and well-being.

This presentation addresses the need to enhance consumer perceptions and consumption of indigenous leafy vegetables (ILVs) in rural South Africa, focusing on Mangangeni Village, KwaZulu-Natal. Despite their benefits, ILVs are underutilized due to modern dietary shifts and negative perceptions. Using surveys and focus groups, the study identifies factors affecting ILV consumption and suggests interventions like community education, school programs, and health practitioner collaborations. Highlighting ILVs' role in food security and nutrition, the research advocates for South Africa-Japan collaboration to promote sustainable agriculture, share nutritional knowledge, and develop educational initiatives, enhancing public health and resilience in food systems.

Title: Enhancing Consumer Perceptions and Consumption of Indigenous Leafy Vegetables in Rural South Africa: A Case Study of Mangangeni Village, Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal.

Introduction

Background of the Study: Indigenous leafy vegetables have been part of rural South African diets for decades. South Africa is rich in diversity of indigenous leafy vegetables with more than a 100 species available in the country. There is a need to highlight importance of Indigenous Leafy Vegetables (ILVs) in South African diets

Problem Statement: Negative perceptions, underutilization impacting ILV consumption

Research Objectives

Assessing consumer perceptions of ILVs

Understanding sourcing practices of ILVs

Examining ILV consumption frequency in rural households

Methodology

Study Location: Mangangeni Village, Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal and the Sampling Method chosen was Snowball sampling with quantitative paradigm employed for the study. Data Collection method involved Door-to-door visits where current members in the study identified other groups to be included using structured sociodemographic questionnaire, ILV survey

Results

Consumer Perceptions of ILVs were found to be positive in this community. The sourcing Practices: Cultivation and collection happen seasonally which indicates seasonal availability more prevalent in spring and summer. The ILV Consumption Frequency indicated that the households consume ILVs at least once a week when they are on season.

Discussion

Positive Perceptions Impacting ILV Consumption this correlates with the findings by Qwabe and Pittaway (2022) who highlighted that ILVs are part of rural diets and rural households have the positive perception towards them, more prevalent to older generations who hold more knowledge of ILVs. The seasonal variation in consumption was supported by Zulu et al. (2022) who reported seasonal consumption of ILVs. Most Consumed ILVs: Pumpkin leaves, amaranth, blackjack and I Mungofa et al. (2022) concurs that ILVs provides dietary diversity and Food Security.

Relevance to the Goals of the South Africa-Japan University Forum

The relevance includes the promotion of sustainable agriculture, by highlighting the importance of indigenous crops. Moreover, it provides insights on addressing and enhancing food security and encouraging diverse food consumption. This knowledge will encourage fostering cultural exchange by sharing knowledge and practices related to traditional foods.

VII. Collaboration Opportunities

This presentation highlights the importance of enhancing consumer perceptions and consumption of indigenous leafy vegetables (ILVs) in rural South Africa, using Mangangeni Village as a case study. The research identifies gaps in awareness and consumption due to modern dietary shifts and cultural perceptions. Proposed solutions include community-based education, school feeding programs, and health practitioner partnerships. Emphasizing ILVs' role in food security and nutrition, the study calls for South African-Japanese collaboration. This includes knowledge exchange on sustainable agriculture, joint nutritional research, educational outreach, and creating a bilateral ILV promotion network to strengthen sustainable food systems and public health.

Conclusion

Summary of findings Recommendations for Policy and Practice: ILV education programs, support for retail outlets. This calls to action the policymakers and retail outlets to promote positive perceptions and increased availability and consumption of ILVs.

Title: Jumpstart research program as scholarship of teaching research. What can we learn from the Japan Context
Presenter: Prof. Bekithemba DUBE
Affiliation: Central University of Technology

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Abstract

This reflection paper couched in sustainable learning environments explored the jumpstart research program as an ideal to increase quality research among early scholars in University of Technology (ToU). The early scholars in ToU experience various challenges which is reflected by lack of publication culture which affects the academic project of the university. Through a participatory action research approach, I responded to two questions, what are the challenges faced by emerging scholars in ToU and how has universities in Japan addressed low productivity among academics? A total of 6 participants who successfully underwent through the jumpstart program partook in the study. The results indicated that a new approach to teaching research is critical to bridge knowledge gap on research in ToU. Based on the findings, the paper argued that there is a need to rethink approach to research where emphasis should be placed on the pedagogy of care and tap into best practices from the Japan context to improve research.

Title: Integrating IoT and AI for Precision Agriculture: Enhancing Water Management and Crop Monitoring in Small-Scale Farms"

Presenters and affiliations: 1st Bessie Baakanyang MONCHUSI, 2nd Tlhokaboyo Innocentia MOKWANA, 3rd Alfred KGOPA

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Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract

Managing water effectively in small-scale farming is essential for keeping crops healthy and making the best use of resources. This paper outlines an IoT-based smart irrigation system specifically designed for small-scale farms to boost water efficiency and crop yields. The system incorporates vital IoT components like soil moisture sensors, weather stations, water flow meters, and automated irrigation controllers, all linked via a cost-effective, energy-saving wireless network. These elements allow for real-time data gathering and analysis, enabling precise irrigation schedules based on soil conditions, weather predictions, and crop water requirements. The system's architecture combines edge computing for initial data processing with cloud computing for advanced analytics, ensuring efficient and responsive irrigation management. Farmers can access real-time monitoring, control, and data visualization through a user-friendly mobile app and web dashboard. Early findings show notable improvements in water efficiency and crop health, highlighting the transformative potential of IoT technology in small-scale farming. The study also tackles potential hurdles such as cost, technical complexity, and connectivity issues, offering suggestions to improve system adoption and effectiveness.

Title: Social Relationships in the Use of Microfinance in Rural Africa: Case Studies of Burkina Faso and South Africa
Presenter: Dr. Chihiro KUMASHIRO
Affiliation: Specially Appointed Junior Lecturer, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline of presentation:

The purpose of this presentation is to reveal the social relationships surrounding the use of microfinance from the case studies of rural Burkina Faso and rural South Africa. While the economic achievements of microfinance are highly regarded, the socio-cultural impacts are not yet fully revealed. African societies, especially in rural area, are built on social relations that function as mutual aid, and there are mechanisms for distributing and equalising food and goods to avoid owning more wealth than others, but microfinance (financial inclusion) has the potential to disrupt these social relations or create new type of social relationship. Using Burkina Faso and South Africa as case studies, this presentation will examine the socio-cultural impact of microfinance on local communities by revealing the social relations on which microfinance users base their use of microfinance, and how this use creates or breaks social relations. Since 2008, I have conducted my field work in Burkina Faso and I have just started my field work in South Africa since 2023. In this presentation, I will share the results of the new attempts I have made so far, as well as the prospects for future research. To seek the further collaboration in my study, I would like to exchange the achievements with the scholars who conduct the close research with my theme in the different region. Different societies and communities have different ways of being and having social relations, different ethics about money, different ways of using money and different progressions in digital finance. Since not many studies have focused on the socio-cultural aspects of microfinance, it is important to examine them from case studies of different regions. I would like to participate in the SAJU Forum and interact with participants not only during the presentation time but also outside of it to network and find possibilities for further collaboration in the future.

Title: Including Indigenous health knowledge within higher education curriculum as an issue of epistemic justice

Presenters and affiliations: Dr. Ohajunwa CHIOMA; Chioma@sun.ac.za (Stellenbosch University) Dr. Vagiri RAJESH; Rajesh.vagiri@ul.ac.za (University of Limpopo); Prof. Anne OUMA; anneouma77@gmail.com (Umeå University); Dr. Anthea HANSEN; akhansen@sun.ac.za (Stellenbosch University)

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

The concept of epistemic injustice as presented by Miranda Fricker, describes the unjust positioning of individuals as bearers of knowledge. Hence knowledge hierarchies are created, with certain knowledge privileged and aligned to benefit from epistemic resources, than other knowledge systems. This has a twin track effect on both the marginalized knowledge, and the bearers of that knowledge. These, Fricker refers to as ‘hermeneutical’ and ‘testimonial injustice’. In her later work she refers to the twin track marginalization as ‘discriminatory’ and ‘distributive’ dimensions of epistemic injustice.

In this panel discussion, we invite experts and practitioners in the field to explore the curriculum in higher education as a space where ‘discriminatory’ and ‘distributive’ dimensions of epistemic injustice can be addressed. Students within higher education are faced with these hierarchies and realities within the classroom engagement. Therefore, not only do what is taught and how it is taught within higher education exclude certain narratives and ways of being, it equally alienates students who emanate and are informed by this knowledge that are located as inferior knowledge. These have implications for the learning and becoming of these students concerned.

We present that the inclusion of indigenous health knowledge within higher education curriculum, as an issue of epistemic justice, addressing the structural bias experienced within discriminatory injustice in terms of individuals as knowledge bearers, and distributive in terms of unjust distribution of epistemic goods and ascribed privilege to certain knowledge above the other. We will explore how the curriculum can be used to address the issues of epistemic in/justice through the inclusion of indigenous health knowledge and worldviews as transdisciplinary knowledge.

The area of indigenous knowledge have been historically marginalized and subjugated, and although there are approximately 476 million indigenous people around the world across more than 90 countries who exist in and utilise various indigenous knowledge, they still suffer from the effects of this hierarchy and marginalization presently. Through a social justice lens, the curriculum can be used a means to inform a more wholesome approach to address the inequality embedded within the discriminatory and distributive dimensions of epistemic injustice.

The focus of this discussion speaks to the SAJU goals of - exchanging insight on innovation and best practice in research, education and training. It also aims to seek joint solution to the problems caused by systems of accumulation that negatively impact on marginalized groupings as well as the factors that exacerbate social ills.

Title: The Roadmap to a Just Transition: Lessons for South Africa from Japan and Vietnam's Energy Cooperation
Presenter: Dr. Cobus VAN STADEN
Affiliation: Research Fellow: Stellenbosch University Department of Journalism; Managing Editor: China-Global South Project
Email: cobus@chinaglobalsouth.com

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline:

In 2021, South Africa became the world's first signatory of a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) agreement with the Group of Seven developed countries. Since then, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, and Senegal have also signed up. JETP agreements are cross-cutting, comprehensive initiatives aimed at involving a wide range of public and private sector actors to transition high-emitting keystone developing economies towards sustainable energy sources. The JETP process is laudable for its broad ambitions and inclusivity, and yet significantly complicated by them at the same time.

While the South-North cooperation built into these agreements have delivered encouraging innovation, vested interests, infrastructural weakness, and regulatory complexities in recipient countries have slowed down progress.

Japan's cooperation with Vietnam on its JETP process has illustrated both these sides. While actors like the Japan International Cooperation Agency is funding a range of exciting projects, institutional barriers within Vietnam present challenges. Very similar dynamics are complicating South Africa's JETP engagement with the G7 (led by EU states.) This paper will use the Japan-Vietnam interaction as a frame through which to identify learnings that could aid South Africa's own path towards a carbon-neutral future and to identify possible opportunities for Japan-South Africa cooperation towards this goal.

This work follows [my earlier research](#) on South Africa and Senegal's JETP interactions with the EU in the context of China's rising influence in Africa. The aim is to foster conversations between Global South and Global North researchers about how to facilitate just transitions in developing countries. Focusing on Japan-Vietnam cooperation opens the opportunity for Africa-Asia peer learning and knowledge exchange. This is in line with SAJU's greater work of encouraging academic and research collaboration between South Africa and Japan on issues including development, and social justice.

Title: Japan's Security Policy in Africa: Is Security Becoming More Evident in Africa-Japan Relations?
Presenter: Cüneyt AKSOY
Affiliation: MA Candidate, Stellenbosch University
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Different factors have shaped Japan's foreign policy in Africa throughout the decades, such as domestic political context and policymaking, economic prospects, other political actors and the broader geopolitical context. In recent years, the geopolitical context has been in turmoil, especially with major conflicts and the rise of new actors that have had a spillover effect on the global geopolitical environment. Ramifications of this environment are already apparent in Japan's broader security policies, with a significant shift and aspiration for an overarching strategy in the security arena. Security has also been one of the primary pillars of Japan's African diplomacy since its inception; however, since the last decade, the emphasis on issues and policies regarding security has become more evident. In this light, this paper aims to track the increasing visibility of "security" in Japan's Africa Policy. TICAD, as Japan's primary diplomatic tool in Africa, forms the basis for this analysis as TICAD documents allow a word frequency analysis to be conducted to track the increase in terms related to security in policies. Aside from TICAD, other relevant government documents, policy papers, leader speeches, and secondary data regarding Japan's Africa Policy were utilised in content analysis to provide context.

Through SAJU 6, I would like to engage with other researchers on Japan's Foreign and Security Policies and draw on the insight of participants.

Title: A semiotic framework for edutainment cinema
Presenter: Dr. Robin GENGAN
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology
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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing: Arts

Abstract

The film industry is one of the most impactful creative sectors in modern social influence. It has relational effects on knowledge and psychological impact on the youth. Much focus in current filmmaking is either in fictional drama or documentary. The purpose of this article is to combine the two into a third genre; edutainment in which film is approached as a visual educational text. Similar to language text, cinema can be applied to semiotic reading. Film interpretation is a phenomenological order, unique to each viewer. There are cultural norms and tropes that are more universal between the practice of semiotic reading, symbolism and interpretation. Film semiotics and narration are a juxtaposition of moving visual texts and sound to create meaning through film codes and social conventions to form an educational narrative that makes the medium effective for learning and teaching. The aim of this article is to explore and set precedence for more creative building-blocks into future research on edutainment cinema. This will further stimulate and benefit innovative entrepreneurial filmmaking and future academic research.

Keywords -: cinema. edutainment, epistemology, multimodality, semiotics, structuralism

Goals and collaboration: Innovative educational local independent filmmaking for the South African film industry.

Title: Purpose in life and engagement in education or employment in relation to self-care capability in young people living with and without HIV: the South Africa Collaborative Cohort Study

Presenters and affiliations:

Dr. Dumile GUMEDE (PhD), Durban University of Technology, dumileg@dut.ac.za

Prof. Janet SEELEY (PhD), Africa Health Research Institute, janet.seeley@ahri.org

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Outline of presentation

Recent evidence shows that 'purpose in life' is associated with positive health outcomes [1,2]. A synthesis paper notes that purpose in life creates and sustains health and wellbeing [3]. In Japanese culture, purpose in life, known as Ikigai, is consistently associated with improved health and wellbeing [2]. However, in South African cultures, the form purpose in life may take and the outcome of the achievement of such purpose is unclear. Lack of employment and education opportunities [2] plus threats to physical and mental health [4] continue to affect the lives of South African young people.

Young people (aged 18 - 24 years) are at a unique developmental stage [5] of managing identity exploration, sexual debut, employment, and conflicting world views [6]. During this period, individuals frequently explore various paths their lives might take, including future areas of study and career [7]. The number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is +3 million in South Africa [8]. Being NEET can create psychological, emotional, financial, and health challenges affecting successful transitions into adulthood [9]. Moreover, the interconnectedness of young NEETs and HIV remains a significant public health issue in South Africa. Thus, extended periods of disconnect from employment, education or training opportunities may increase young peoples' risk of being trapped in income poverty and poor self-care capabilities.

The proposed mixed method study, using in-depth qualitative methods coupled with psychometric and self-care capability scales will: (a) explore a cultural and contextual understanding of purpose in life in the South African context; (b) compare local understanding of purpose in life with Japanese Ikigai; and (c) investigate whether having a purpose in life enhances health and wellbeing and nurture the self-care capability in young people of different employment or education and HIV status in South Africa. A multilevel sampling strategy will be used to select a broad spectrum of young people (aged 18 – 24 years) from urban and rural settings in KwaZulu-Natal, in a cohort of Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI).

For this project, we seek to explore possibilities for strong scientific collaboration between researchers in South Africa and Japan to contribute to new knowledge in South Africa and add to the international knowledge base regarding purpose in life and self-care capability. Our intention is to embed purpose in life as a cross-cutting theme to inform self-care interventions for young people in different settings.

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Title: Survey on Indigenous plants used in ethno-veterinary in treatment of cattle diseases from various areas in Mpumalanga province.
Presenter: Prof. Elizabeth KOLA
Affiliation: University of Mpumalanga
Email: Elizabeth.kola@ump.ac.za

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing: Biodiversity

This paper presents several indigenous medicinal plants and they're of mode of preparation and administration used to treat cattle related diseases. The study was carried out in the Mpumalanga province in three selected areas, Nkomazi, Clau-Clau Trust and Tjakastad. The study was conducted using interviews (formal and informal), questionnaires, and voluntary participatory observation. Several cattle farmers (informants) use indigenous medicinal plants to treat cattle related diseases. The current study identified 29 plants belonging to 20 different families. The medicinal plants were used to treat various cattle related disease like retained placenta gastrointestinal parasites, coughing, diarrhoea, gall, and constipation. The results of the study outlined that informative people about medicinal plants are mostly elders, and they are highly susceptible to mortality putting indigenous knowledge at risk of extinction. The frequently used plant parts for the treatment of cattle related diseases were leaves and roots. The plants were prepared in different methods, boiling, squeezing their juices, grounding, drying, mixed with other non-plant materials and soaking. After preparation the medicinal plants were administered orally, topically and some plants were administered orally and topically. Findings from this study revealed the rich biodiversity of plants useful for managing livestock diseases among the different mentioned areas. This study requires network in government, policy makers and industry (pharmaceuticals). This study is very good for SAJU forum since biodiversity is more important. There is a need for biodiversity conservation.

Title: Building Peace through Entrepreneurship. A case Study of Internally Displaced Women in Burundi
Presenter: Mr Ezechiel NYABENDA
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology, International Centre of Nonviolence (ICON)
Email: : 22173798@dut4life.ac.za or nyabenda.ezec@gmail.com

Sub-theme: Social justice and development: Peace, justice and institutions (Peacebuilding)

1. Abstract

During times of armed conflict and recovery from it, women carry the lion's share of the responsibility for meeting the needs of their families. The purpose of this presentation is to explore the involvement of women in post-conflict recovery and violence prevention, based on their experiences of entrepreneurship in one internally displaced persons' site in Burundi. The research draws on semi-structured interviews conducted in April 2023 with women living in the Kiyange IDPs site who are engaged in small business development. In addition, two focus groups were conducted, one with internally displaced men and another with internally displaced females living in Kiyange. The findings show that amidst daily struggles for survival, for security and for identity, and despite opposition from their male partners, entrepreneurship amongst displaced women in Kiyange IDPs site has become an important vehicle for peacebuilding and remains pertinent to women's empowerment.

2. Keywords

Violence; internally displaced persons; women; entrepreneurship; peacebuilding; Burundi.

3. Presentation Outline

I. Outline of presentation on specifying the Nature of existing or proposed research/project

The focus is on the effect of ongoing armed conflicts in DRC and Burundi on women. The proposal is quite skeletal.

II. Outline of presentation specifying how it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum;

It focuses on the social development and justice theme addressing issues of inequality, human security, peace and justice.

III. Outline of presentation specifying how I seek to further collaboration in my area

This presentation seeks to meet the first goal of SAJU forum of sharing research interest, and achievements prospects. The applicant seeks collaboration in the area of social justice through access to training opportunities or exchange on innovative research practices and possible research funding altogether contributing to peacebuilding and problem solving in communities.

IV. Contents

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5.1 Life is very tough in Kiyange IDPs site

5.2 Men's beliefs and behaviour

5.3 Consequences for women

5.4 What women did?

5.5 Outcomes

6. Reflection

6.1 Being a displaced woman in patriarchal society

6.2 The factual role of displaced woman in fostering peace

7 **Conclusion**

8 **Reference**

Title: Collaboration and Knowledge Creation Processes Through Co-authored Scientific Articles Between South Africa and Japan
Presenters and affiliations: Dr. Francois VAN SCHALKWYK (fbvschalkwyk@sun.ac.za) and Isabel BASSON (ibasson@sun.ac.za),
Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST), Stellenbosch University

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

There is an established tradition of using bibliometrics – that is, the use of quantitative methods to analyse data extracted from various aspects of scholarly publications – for the evaluation of research performance. However, bibliometrics also has the potential to provide valuable quantitative insights to support evidence-based decision-making in strategic planning across various domains of research. Stellenbosch University established in 2023 the Stellenbosch University Japan Centre (SUJC). SUJC aims to be a leading hub for academic, research and cultural exchange between South Africa and Japan. Among other ambitions it seeks to encourage research collaboration between South Africa and Japan in all fields of study through bilateral and multilateral higher education networks at institutional and national levels. In this paper, we adopt a bibliometric approach to identify and analyse historical research collaboration at two levels: (1) between South Africa and Japan, and (2) between a specific university (Stellenbosch University) and universities in Japan. The focus is on scientific collaborations resulting in published, peer-reviewed articles in academic journals indexed in Dimensions between 2004 and 2022 and which were co-authored by scholars affiliated with universities or research organisations in South Africa and in Japan. We also analyse changes in institutional affiliations. We ask the following questions to inform decisions about the nature of future collaborations between researchers in Japan and South Africa, with a focus on the University of Stellenbosch, on where productive knowledge exchange is established or emerging: How many journal articles were published? What are the main scientific fields in which articles were published? What are the main funding organisations? What are the mobility trends of researchers in the case of Japan/Japanese universities and South Africa/Stellenbosch University? In answering these questions we also identify the limitations of the available data, tools and infrastructures, and how researchers in South Africa and in Japan can collaborate to resolve these limitations and develop new information system and methods for the use of bibliometrics to improve strategic planning and production research relationships between South Africa and Japan.

Title: Student Climate Assembly for Decarbonization in Japan: Lessons for South Africa
Presenter: Prof. Fumihiko SAITO
Affiliation: Faculty of International Studies, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan
Email: fumis96@world.ryukoku.ac.jp

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

South Africa and Japan face different situations. Yet, both countries face climate crisis, arguably the most serious civilizational crisis ever in human history. South Africa, one of the most carbon-intensive emerging economies, struggles to achieve sustainability. De-industrializing Japan faces tremendous difficulties to make just transition to sustainability. Thus, it is very worthwhile to share experiences of respective decarbonization attempts. Climate crisis is a wicked problem, and does not allow easy solutions. Deliberative processes are thus essential to build much needed learning opportunities. Deliberation allows political and economic democracy, which is indispensable for our wellbeing. Climate assembly (CA), in which citizens participate in exploring pathways for decarbonization, has recently been attracting much attention. CA arguably supplements drawbacks of mainstream representative democracy. CA has mainly been organized in Europe. The first CA in Japan was held in Sapporo city, Hokkaido in 2020.

Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan, has organized CAs annually since 2021. Ryukoku CAs are the only Japanese example in which deliberation is coordinated by trained student facilitators. After the first CA, Ryukoku in January 2022 declared its carbon-neutrality by 2039 (commemorating the 400th university anniversary). The Ministry of Environment awarded Kyoto as one of the Innovative Examples of Decarbonizing City in 2022. Now, Ryukoku has co-engaged in a pioneering local regeneration project serving as a decarbonization model case.

The Ryukoku CAs generate interesting insights. The success of CAs is enabled by the University President's belief in which bottom-up deliberation significantly supplements formal decision-making mechanisms. This experience suggests that commitment of top leadership, as well as securing the legitimacy of deliberation within complex decision-making processes, are indispensable for successful governance reforms. The Ryukoku experience, moreover, is critical both theoretically and practically in Asia and Africa. As democracy is essential for wellbeing, the notion of agency must be critically scrutinized in cultural contexts. More nuanced understanding of agency embedded in social relations may facilitate deliberation more effectively in countries beyond Europe.

This consideration is highly relevant for South Africa. Protest culture, which was nurtured during the Apartheid era, does not necessarily encourage deliberative culture in our time. Even if it is by no means easy, encouraging deliberative processes still appears essential for contemporary South Africa that still faces varieties of social divisions. Organizing CAs in South African may prove useful, because the youth, who proportionately suffer more from climate crisis, can become agents for just transition toward more sustainable future.

Key words: climate crisis, climate assembly, deliberation, democracy, agency, decarbonization.

Reference:

Saito, F. et al, "Student Climate Assembly at Ryukoku University: Decarbonization through Dialogue," in Murata, K. ed. *Designing Resilient Society through Dialogue*, (Tokyo: Nihon Hyoron-sha), (Original in

Japanese 齋藤文彦、的場信敬、村田和代、川井千敬、江欣樺、山崎暢子 2022 「龍谷大学学生気候会議：対話を通じた脱炭素社会の形成」村田和代編著『「対話」を通じたレジリエントな地域社会のデザイン』日本評論社 2022)

Title: Exploring patient acceptance of an innovative app-based telemedicine service for primary healthcare in South Africa
Presenter: Ms. Grethe HEYNS
Affiliation: Stellenbosch University
Email: gretheheyns1510@gmail.com

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Nature of the research: An exploratory sequential mixed methods study

Relation to the goals of the SAJU Forum: We believe that the study yielded valuable insights pertaining to patients' acceptance of app-based telemedicine for primary care, especially in the context of South Africa's public healthcare sector. Since telemedicine in general is considered a novel technology innovation in South Africa, and much of the population is not yet familiar with the concept, we believe the insights gathered through our research is especially timely.

Possibilities for collaboration: We believe that the study can be complimented by insights pertaining to technology and software for delivering mobile app-based primary care, including payment methods and secure storage and handling of patients' medical records and medical information gathered through their use of the service. An opportunity for further collaborating with medical insurance providers is also identified.

Exploring patient acceptance of an innovative app-based telemedicine service for primary healthcare in South Africa

Telemedicine services provide people, especially in underserved populations/less developed countries, with access to healthcare like never before (Waller & Stotler, 2018:8). Bestsenny, Gilbert, Harris and Rost (2021) argue that a global surge in the use of telemedicine services has been recorded since the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic with continued growth in such service demand also evident in South Africa. More affordable healthcare services can be accessed more readily by means of telemedicine provision, especially for individuals who have difficulty to access healthcare services due to, for example, geographical, logistical and financial constraints (Percept, 2020). Accordingly, in South Africa, telemedicine services could especially provide for the healthcare needs of patients who might be uninsured and generally fully reliant on the overburdened public sector healthcare systems for their medical needs.

However, up until present, the antecedents of South African patients' acceptance of an app-based telemedicine service for primary care have not yet been identified, and research on the consequent relationships between telemedicine service acceptance and important outcomes for telemedicine service providers, such as satisfaction and continuance intention, is scant.

This novel study investigated the relationships between telemedicine service acceptance, perceived value, patient participation, patient satisfaction with a telemedicine service, patient trust in telemedicine services and two dependent variables as possible outcomes of patient satisfaction and trust, namely continuance intention towards both a telemedicine service and the service provider. The research was conducted in the context of a South African telemedicine service, Kena Health, which provides mobile application-based primary care (Kena Health, 2022) and its client base, predominantly

representing patients who are typically reliant on public healthcare sector services for receiving medical care.

A theoretical model for empirical investigation, drawing on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), UTAUT 2, Innovation Diffusion Theory and Self-efficacy Theory, was proposed. A mixed methods (exploratory sequential) approach was followed.

Eight antecedents of telemedicine service acceptance were identified by means of a literature study and thematic analysis of qualitative data collected through semi-structured interviews. These identified antecedents were included for quantitative measurement in the empirical research model in relation to the other variables under investigation to also determine which of the identified antecedents had the strongest effect on patients' telemedicine service acceptance in the context of the Kena Health App. A self-administered online questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data, and the PLS-SEM technique was applied for the quantitative analysis.

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Title: FOIP and Japanese contribution to Africa
Presenter: Prof. Hiroki NAKAMURA
Affiliation: Associate Professor, Musashino University
Email: hirokinakamura78@hotmail.com

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline

As Japan cannot increase drastically ODA, it has to complement the approach to Africa with a value-based diplomacy to maintain its presence.

Since late Prime Minister Abe announced the FOIP (Free and Open Indo-Pacific) strategy in TICAD VI held in Kentsajuya in August 2016, it became a central concept of Japanese diplomacy. As the term "FOIP" is often cited by Indian Prime Minister Modi or U.S. President Biden, it is considered to be diplomatically successful.

Even though official narratives deny, FOIP is often considered to be a countermeasure against Chinese One Belt One Road Initiative. FOIP has been seen as a Japanese invention to contain Chinese expansionism in Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. However, since current Prime Minister Kishida took office in 2021, he tends to emphasize much more on "Free and Open International Order" rather than FOIP. Main reason of this change is the Russian invasion to Ukraine. Japan is one of the fiercest detractors against Russia and follows most of G7 sanctions against it. In this context, the concept of FOIP which has geographical limitations was not suitable to denounce the Russian action in Europe.

With this removal of geographical limitations, FOIP was elevated to a value which should be promoted rather than a only diplomatic strategy. This change coincides to the timing when Japanese diplomacy in Africa needs a value to be promoted for its presence. "Free and Open International Order" can become this value.

This research will furthermore focus on concrete measures that Japan can take to promote "Free and Open International Order." The central idea of this concept is the rule of law. In this regard, maritime security projects such as "Project for the Enhancement of Ability in Maritime Safety and Security signed between Japan and Djibouti" is particularly interesting. According to JICA, this project aims to improvement of maritime safety and security in Djibouti's territorial waters. As illegal fishing, trafficking and smuggling are common challenges that African coastal countries are facing, this kind of cooperation could be highly needed and appreciated. The research will try to analyse the possibilities of further development of this kind of cooperations. The presentation for the possibilities for collaborations between Japan and Africa will meet to the goals of SAJU Forum.

Title: Exploring the importance of human security in two different contexts, namely Japan and South Africa
Presenter: Dr. Ilze SLABBERT
Affiliation: Stellenbosch University

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Human security is a basic human right and should be seen as a multidimensional concept focusing on the safety and empowerment of human beings. Several personal, social, political and economic factors affect human security. In this proposed study the researcher wants to explore the concept of human security within the context of Japan and South Africa. These two countries have distinct historical backgrounds, socio-economic influences and unique challenges. By exploring specific challenges and approaches utilised in these two countries this study aims to provide a better insight into the complexities of maintaining or achieving human security.

Japan, for instance is a country who is technologically advanced with a rich cultural heritage. Human security in Japan is closely linked with societal cohesion and preparedness for disasters such as the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011. This disaster underscored the importance of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of people. Emphasis has now been placed in Japan on disaster risk reduction, investing in early warning signs of potential disasters, community resilience programmes and the improvement of infrastructure to lessen the impact of future disasters. Japan also has an aging population and declining birth rates that pose challenges to social security. Innovative initiatives of different service providers such as medical staff and social workers are necessary to ensure sustainable programmes to ensure social security.

In contrast, South Africa grapples with the legacy of Apartheid, corruption, inequality and alarming high levels of crime and violence, all a threat to human security. All South African citizens do not have access to basic services and a significant number of them live in poverty and are unemployed. Furthermore, security challenges such as organised crime, gender-based violence and political instability require comprehensive approaches to improve the social security of South African citizens.

Despite the contrast between Japan and South Africa, there is a common goal, namely, to promote human security. Collaboration and knowledge sharing between these two countries can allow for opportunities to address threats to human security. In this study the researcher will explore the specific challenges and opportunities of each country in an attempt to ensure the social security of all its citizens. This study would hopefully foster a sustainable partnership between researchers in Japan and South Africa. The researcher has contact with colleagues in Japan. She is going to present a lecture at Kobe College and will then also discuss ways to partner and conduct a study together.

Title: A Human Rights Foreign Policy: Lessons for Japan from South Africa's Past and Present
Presenter: Ms. Inge ABSALOM
Affiliation: PhD Candidate, Stellenbosch University
Email: 20652305@sun.ac.za

Sub-theme: Social justice and development: Global governance

During the last 16 years human rights have been under attack worldwide. Despite this trend, Japan adopted a value-based diplomacy with minimal effect. This is what the current Japanese Prime Minister Kishida has pledged to change. In the light of this recent promise to make a more active commitment to global human rights as a pillar of Japan's foreign policy, this study seeks to investigate what the Japanese government's best options are for positioning Japan as an effective advocate for human rights on the international stage. Possible pitfalls will also be considered in this respect. Towards this end it can be useful to examine the human rights diplomacy of a state, such as South Africa, that has long professed their dedication to the adherence of the principles of human rights and participated actively in the human rights regime. Although South Africa's often asserted focus on a human rights foreign policy has been marked by persistent controversy, the country has incorporated human rights in its foreign policy for 30 years. Consequently, pivotal lessons (both negative and positive) can be extrapolated from South Africa's past and present practice.

This research is critical as it will contribute to the literature of South African and Japanese relations and will address the lacuna of lessons to be learned with regards to human rights diplomacy between these countries. Thus, the objective of this contribution is in conformity with the goals of the South African-Japan University Forum. The advancement of human rights through foreign policy is an issue area that concerns both countries. The research seeks to share and exchange South African experiences on human rights diplomacy. Possibilities for further collaboration on the area of human rights and foreign policy can be explored by building networks with different stakeholders to encourage a cross-fertilization of ideas on the best practises for effective human rights diplomacy.

Key words: Japan, South Africa, human rights, foreign policy, human rights diplomacy

Title: Importance of eco-entrepreneurship as a tool for climate action and low-carbon transition in developing countries
Presenter: Ms. Josephine ILESANMI
Affiliation: PhD Candidate; Durban University of Technology
Email: 22384684@dut4life.ac.za

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Presentation outline:

My current research investigates the external barriers in Nigeria's entrepreneurial ecosystem responsible for the slow growth rate of small-to medium scale eco-enterprises that generate sustainable business model innovations required to significantly contribute to the decarbonization of economies. My research keys into the theme (Systems and technologies for the future) of the 6th South Africa-Japan university forum as it illuminates disruptive and innovative interactions of actors and players in the entrepreneurial ecosystems to generate strategic multi-sectoral partnerships, collaborations and also promote a bottom-to-top governance initiatives that collectively facilitate innovations and broaden financial channels, two important drivers for successful implementation of sustainability and decarbonization practises.

Importance of eco-entrepreneurship as a tool for climate action and low-carbon transition in developing countries

Climate change poses socio-economic, legal, and environmental vulnerabilities such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, increase poverty rate, loss of property and livelihood. Hence, global consensus advocate for decarbonisation and low carbon transition in all economic sectors as an effective mitigation strategy for climate change. To lower carbon emissions, leading cooperation's and organizations have focused on mitigation projects that regulate activities of cooperate actors and big CO₂ emitters such as the oil and gas conglomerates.

However, the United Nation Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) promotes a transformative bottom-up approach to address climate change via citizen participation to educate and train ecopreneurs who participate and engage in strategic entrepreneurship projects designed to actively decarbonize economies. These ecopreneurs generate home-grown sustainability-focused small and medium scale eco-enterprises (SMEEs), also called energy citizens that can develop sustainable business model innovations, solutions, technologies, and green jobs needed to drive the low carbon transition in key CO₂-emitting economic sectors.

While several studies have examined the importance of eco-entrepreneurship as a tool for decarbonizing all economic sectors in countries like United Kingdom, an in-depth examination of how transformative governance can comprehensively amplify the role and contribution of eco-entrepreneurship towards achieving climate action and low carbon transition plans in most developing countries is absent. This article fills a gap in this regard. It examines the characteristics, nature and benefits of eco-entrepreneurship. After which a profile of the barriers slowing the growth of eco-entrepreneurship is identified within the PESTEL framework, it then proposes examples of a transformative strategy captured in the five transformative features: diversity, connectivity, polycentricity, redundancy and directionality to interrogate and overcome entrepreneurial ecosystem barriers towards successfully supporting the raid growth of eco-entrepreneurship.

Sub-themes: Transformative governance, Eco-Entrepreneurship, Small to medium scale eco-enterprises (SMEEs), Energy Citizenship, Sustainability, Green energy, environment, social governance (ESG), Energy transition, Decarbonisation, Entrepreneurial ecosystem

Title: The influence of purpose-driven advertising on consumer attitude and purchase intention

Presenters and affiliations: Ms. Isabella Cara BRröHM^{a*} and Dr. Debbie HUMAN-VAN-ECK^{a* & b}
Department of Business Management, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Email: ^{a*} 23538767@sun.ac.za; ^b dhuman@sun.ac.za

Sub-theme: Social justice and development: The importance of purpose-driven advertising and environmental causes

Purpose-driven advertising is the form of advertising which has a deeper role at its core and is grounded in a social or societal issue, and involves a cause with greater outcomes than profit maximisation (Hajdas & Kłeczek, 2021; Charles, 2021). The objectives of the study were to determine the influence of purpose-driven advertising on purchase intention and on consumer attitudes toward the brand, the campaign and helping others. A mixed-method approach was utilised, comprising of both qualitative (comprising of focus groups) and quantitative research types (a pre- and post-test experiment). The experiment involved manipulating the independent variable (purpose-driven advertising approaches), resulting in four levels within the independent variable. The target population was South African adults, aged eighteen to twenty-four years old, as this age group forms part of Generation Z, who are conscious of their purchases and their environmental. The sample size of the quantitative research was 120 subjects.

The null hypotheses of the study did not present enough evidence to be rejected. Therefore, the study showed that the approach to purpose-driven advertising did not have a significant effect on the consumers' attitudes and purchase intentions. The study rather showed that the presence of purpose-driven advertising was what consumers desired, more than the manner in which the purpose-driven advertising was presented.

This research study is related to the conference in the social justice and development sub-theme. The study highlights the importance of purpose-driven advertising to consumers, and how they react favourable to the presence of a cause or purpose-driven activities in advertising. Furthermore, the specific cause involved in the study, the Rainforest Alliance, is an environmentally focused cause. Concern for the environment is growing among consumers, as the effects of climate change become increasing apparent in daily life. Consumers feel motivated to bring change and this study highlights how consumers react to brands also encouraging change. Exploring how to engage with consumers on causes that will better society and the Earth are of vital importance in today's context.

This study was conducted in South Africa, specifically within Stellenbosch. Therefore, the results may have been influenced based on the location of the study. By conducting this study in different countries, one may obtain more inferable and globally representative results. Furthermore, examining the effects of the cause central to the purpose-driven activities may also produce insights into how the nature of the cause affects consumers' purchase intention and attitudes.

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Title: Composition, size distribution and *in vitro* toxicological studies of ambient PM_{2.5} levels in Southern Africa

Presenters and affiliations:

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Outline of presentaion

Nature of existing or proposed research/project

Clean air is an indispensable component of sustainable development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), exposure to air pollutants is responsible for one in every eight deaths worldwide.

Epidemiology studies conducted by Janine Wichmann and her postgraduate students revealed higher risks of hospital admissions and mortality in Cape Town, South Africa, compared to Europe or the USA, despite similar levels of PM₁₀ and NO₂. This suggests that the local population may be more vulnerable to the effects of air pollution or that the mixture of air pollutants in various locations may be more toxic, e.g. due to different chemical compositions and interactions. Unfortunately, very few studies globally used PM samples collected in African cities in toxicology studies. The risks were also not the same on days with low and high temperatures, indicating a complex interaction between ambient temperature and air pollution. This has implications for climate change human health effects.

The updated WHO air quality guideline report communicated the need for more epidemiology and toxicology studies to investigate the relative importance of components of PM to their toxicities.

Janine Wichmann's postgraduate students collected PM_{2.5} filter samples every third or sixth day at 20 locations thus far. Sampling periods covered 2 months to nearly 4 years. Johan Boman conducted the XRF analyses to determine the trace element content of the PM_{2.5} filter samples. Peter Molnar provided training to the postgraduate students to conduct air pollution source apportionment studies. Some of the results were published already; others are under review and many still need to be written up.

How it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum

The Forum will bring together researchers, students, university administrators, research funding agencies, and other stakeholders from the industry and government sectors. 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.

Our presentation, in the sub-theme Health and Wellbeing, link with the goal of the Forum, especially to find Japanese collaborators. Our presentation focuses on public health, air pollution and climate change.

How we seek to further collaboration in our area

We are looking for Japanese collaborators to be part of *in vitro* toxicological studies using ambient PM_{2.5} filter samples collected at various locations in South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Title: Remembering and reimagining The Bomb: Lessons from Japan for South Africa
Presenter: Prof Jo-Ansie VAN WYK
Affiliation: Research Professor in International Politics, Department of Political Sciences, University of South Africa (Unisa), Pretoria, South Africa
Email: vwykjak@unisa.ac.za

Sub-themes: Social justice and development, and health and wellbeing

Presentation outline:

The research planned for presentation to the conference emanates from Prof van Wyk's Research Professorship. As a Research Professor, her research programme focuses on nuclear colonialism, South Africa's nuclear past and future, and the establishment of Nuclear Humanities and Nuclear Heritage Studies in South Africa. Given Japan's unique nuclear history and the advanced development of Nuclear Humanities and Nuclear Heritage Studies in and about Japan, the paper intends to explore the lessons from Japan to South Africa. See Abstract (below) for more details.

Relation to conference: Japan's atomic bomb experience is relevant to all three themes of the conference. Moreover, the paper, like the conference's objectives, aims to highlight areas of common concern and areas of collaboration, share research findings, and conduct innovative research.

Collaboration: The cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima are both so-called nuclear cities. In South Africa, the cities of Pretoria and Cape Town can, due to their historical links to South Africa's nuclear weapons and nuclear energy development, be described as nuclear cities too. Therefore, collaboration could involve these four cities in remembering and reimagining their nuclear pasts and future, joint Japan-South Africa academic research in the field of Nuclear Humanities and Nuclear Heritage Studies and sharing academic supervision of students.

Abstract

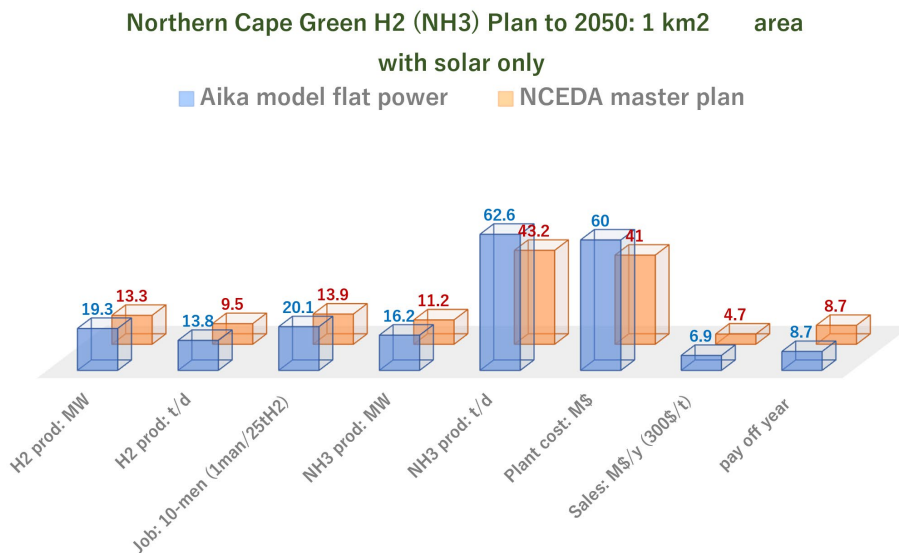
Like Japan, South Africa possesses a unique status in the history of nuclear energy. The devastation of Japanese cities and its impact on the country remain immeasurable. South Africa has not been isolated from the events of August 1945. Britain, for example, lobbied South Africa in the 1940s to secure uranium for the Anglo-American atomic bomb programme. Moreover, the atrocities against Japan resonated with South African liberation movements and often mentioned when referring to global injustice and the asymmetry of the international order. In the third instance, South African plastic surgeon, Dr Jack Penn, was intimately involved in the treatment of survivors of the atomic bombs in Japan. Unlike Japan, South Africa developed nuclear weapons. However, unlike Japan, South Africa does not officially recognize and commemorate its nuclear past. South Africa's nuclear heritage is, at most, mentioned in international fora in the context of the country's voluntary nuclear disarmament, and the post-apartheid government's focus on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, nuclear non-proliferation, and the prohibition on nuclear weapons. Despite these international pronouncements, the consideration of the country's nuclear past and nuclear future remains absent from public, civil and academic deliberations on heritage, memorialisation, commemoration and compensation. In the absence of public initiatives concerning nuclear heritage in South Africa and academic neglect thereof, the paper intends to analyse Japan as an instructive Nuclear Humanities case study to South Africa. Therefore, the paper intends to review Japan's nuclear heritage and Nuclear Humanities in and regarding Japan before proceeding to outline South Africa's nuclear past. The third section of the paper intends to highlight selected aspects of Japan's nuclear heritage to establish and promote Nuclear

Humanities and Heritage Studies in South Africa to propose future collaboration and contribute to the global debate on and efforts to secure nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Title: Green ammonia production at SA: A proposal and challenge
Presenter: Ken-ichi AIKA
Affiliation: KOSEN Numazu [National Institute of Technology, Numazu College, Japan], Green Ammonia Research C
Email: kenaika@c01.itscom.net

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future: Innovation and infrastructure

Both SA and Japan have deepened their hydrogen road maps by adding ammonia aiming practical zero carbon society toward 2050. SA is the best place for green hydrogen (and ammonia) production, while Japan is developing ammonia usage technology recently. SATREPS has started through such background. Last October Northern Cape government published green ammonia masterplan.¹⁾ They write that inputs are wind, solar, and sustainable carbon, and main product is H2 which might be used directly or turned to other derivatives including NH3 depending on the energy (electric power, heat) or chemical demand. The grid also must have some role. The actual implementation might depend on the infrastructure, economics, and politics of SA. They cannot tell the detailed story at present. But it is no doubt that the major challenges are how we get the cheap green hydrogen and ammonia.



I have reported an idea how to utilize the North Cape site at the 4th Intern conf of electrolysis last august.²⁾ This time I tried to compared my idea with NCEDA master plan. Surprisingly both plans coincide each other quite well as is shown in the picture. One of key challenges is a technology to store the daytime solar energy and utilize it at night economically. I try to show the details of such process and rough plant cost for the discussion.

- 1) Zamani Saul et al., Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Masterplan, October 2023, NCEDA
- 2) K. Aika et al., Green Ammonia Production at SA, 4th ICE, Aug 27, 2023, Sun City SA

Title: Japan's policy towards South Africa in the Late Apartheid Period
Presenter: Ms. Kumiko MAKINO-YAMASHITA
Affiliation: Senior Researcher, IDE-JETRO
Email: kumiko_makino@ide.go.jp

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

This presentation focuses on Japan's policy towards South Africa in the late apartheid period. Japan was one of South Africa's largest trading partners in the late 1980s, making it a major target of international criticism. During this period, the Japanese government introduced additional regulatory measures against South Africa in three phases. These Japanese responses have been generally understood either as reactions to *gaiatsu* (external pressure) or as superficial attempts to deflect criticism from the international community. However, there are few empirical studies on the background of the introduction of these measures utilizing diplomatic and other archival documents.

In order to fill these research gaps, this presentation explores the perceptions, negotiations and considerations behind the decisions to introduce these particular measures, using archival documents from the Diplomatic Archives of Japan and the Liberation Movements Archives in South Africa, among others. Based on the analysis of these archival documents, I argue that the first and second phases of additional regulations should be understood in the context of policy coordination within the Western bloc. In the third phase, however, Japan tightened trade restrictions due to *gaiatsu* from the United States, which was considering introducing sanctions against Japan under the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act. I will also examine the impact of Japan's contact with the African National Congress (ANC), which was then a liberation movement organization, on Japan's policy toward South Africa.

The presenter aims to extend the research scope by incorporating an analysis of South Africa's policy towards Japan, as well as the roles of social movements in foreign policies, and sees the SAJU 6 as a wonderful opportunity to network with researchers in South Africa and Japan who are interested in the trajectories of South Africa-Japan relations. I strongly believe the research collaboration on this topic would contribute to better and deeper mutual relations between the two countries based on a firm understanding of their historic contexts and a shared commitment to social justice and development.

Title: Infodemiology and its potential impact on digital wellness
Presenter: Dr. Kurt MARAIS
Affiliation: Stellenbosch University
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Sub-themes: Systems and technologies for the future; health and wellbeing

Internet users have become a global supermajority having reached 5.44 billion users as of April 2024. With access to so much information, it is becoming increasingly important to investigate the spread of information in the digital world and its impact on Internet users, particularly as it relates to public health and wellbeing. The science of studying the spread of information through the Internet and specifically in relation to public health is known as infodemiology. Infodemiology (a portmanteau between the words “information” and “epidemiology”) has been applied to studies using social media posts for tracking health misinformation, to predicting disease outbreaks from Internet search engine queries.

However, the way in which individuals use the Internet is not universal and is dependent on geographical, social, and technological factors. The context that informs our use of digital technologies may have a role to play in our overall wellbeing. For example, South Africa and Japan represent two different digital landscapes and online behaviours; yet, according to the Ipsos Global Happiness 2024 report, South Africa and Japan are two of 12 countries in their 30-country study that cited levels of happiness below the global average.

I am currently researching the presence of depression on social media and its potential spread to other online users using social media data. Few studies consider mental health crises as part of public health when conducting infodemiological research. Hence there exist opportunities to collaborate further with researchers, technology developers and health authorities to investigate the wellbeing of Internet users across various social contexts. The Internet has become an integral part of how we communicate and connect with other human-beings. This presentation will offer a reflection of my own research using natural language processing in the digital space and share information on the digital landscape of South African and Japanese Internet use. The ability to extract insights from the way we use the Internet can aid in developing effective health interventions and policies, identifying emerging health concerns and provide a continuous cycle of improvements to interventions to foster higher levels of wellbeing.

Title: Achieving Health Outcomes: Reflections from Social Work in Health Care
Presenter: Dr. Laetitia PETERSEN
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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract:

Innovative collaborative practices in addressing health outcomes, inequalities and adherence require reflective and responsive policies, governance strategies and a transdisciplinary approach. Social work in health care has been instrumental in addressing the requirements of the social development approach in ensuring social justice, and the social determinants of health in aiding treatment compliance and access to health care. Despite this, social work in health care has been marginalised and overlooked as a pivotal role player in collaborative practices. The subsequent contribution to the sustainable development goals has remained undervalued.

Drawing from the findings of an explanatory mixed method study comprising out of survey and phenomenological research designs, the role of social work in health care settings was linked to achieving the social development agenda and addressing the social determinants of health. The quantitative arm utilised a cross-sectional survey which yielded forty-five (45) completed questionnaires that were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science. The qualitative arm included semi-structured interviews and two focus group discussions. Interpretative phenomenological analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data.

The major findings indicate that social workers employ creative collaborative strategies with stakeholders in resolving major experienced challenges of clients and as a result of unilateral top-down policy implementations. Positive associations were observed between the social determinants of health and social development approach, and that with increased knowledge about these approaches an increase in competences are noted. Social work in health's dichotomous role of being important in discharge planning and yet occupying a secondary role adds to the confusion of the role of social work in achieving health outcomes. At the core of the service delivery were social justice and empowerment. The social determinants of health were proactively addressed by using a biopsychosocial approach to ensure compliance. The study established a convincing link with not only the social development approach and the social determinants of health but also with addressing *goal 3: good health and wellbeing* of the sustainable development goals. In conclusion the role of social work is imperative for achieving health outcomes.

In considering the themes and goals of 6th South Africa-Japan University Forum, this presentation resonates with the theme of health and wellbeing and the goals of sharing research and contributing to a best practice approach in achieving health outcomes. Collaborations are sought regarding addressing and expanding on the social determinants of health and the contribution to the sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Health and Wellbeing, Social Determinants of Health, Social Development Approach, Social Work in health care, Sustainable Development Goals

Title: Teachers' perceptions of precipitating factors for Substance abuse among learners in selected secondary schools in the Capricorn District of Limpopo Province, South Africa

Presenters/Authors: ¹Maphuti CHUENG, ²Merriam MOHLALA, ²Khuliso MATSHOVANA, ³Valeria BALOYI and ⁴Azwinndini MUDAU

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Abstract:

Globalisation has brought the world closer. As a result, most of the goods including drugs from one continent to another have increased. Every drug available in the world is within reach and thus has led to early access to drugs in South African schools. This study aimed to explore and describe the teachers' perceptions of precipitating factors of learners' abuse of substance abuse among selected Schools in the Capricorn district of Limpopo Province, South Africa. A qualitative, explorative, descriptive, and contextual research design was utilised. The schools were purposively selected based on the high percentage of learners who abuse substances. Additionally, the researchers conveniently sampled teachers to participate in the study. While the sample of 23 participants was determined by data saturation. Subsequently, the researchers collected data through in-depth one-on-one face-to-face interviews and an audiotape was used to the responses while the field notes were captured to obtain the accurate records. The data were analysed using thematic, Tesch's method. The study took measures of trustworthiness in this study. Moreover, results of this study indicate that the learners 'abuse substances owing to the influence of peer pressure, and inappropriate role models; learners feel wiser and more courageous to deal with personal issues when they are under the influence and feel that substances can enhance confidence and performance. Learners who abuse drugs mostly live in, households headed by elder brothers and sisters; parents usually reside far away from home due to work related issues. Alcohol, cigarettes, inhalants, and marijuana are drugs mostly used by learners at the selected high schools. The study recommends that schools implement substance/drug abuse policies that learners can easily communicate with and understand.

Keywords: Teacher's perceptions; Precipitating factors; High School; Substance Abuse

Title: Street as the Place for Conviviality?: Relationships between People, Products, and Place in Cape Town CBD
Presenter: Ms. Matsuri NAKAMURA
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline

Nature of existing research

This study investigates how people and products from different socio-cultural backgrounds encounter, interact, and share the same urban public space, focusing on the street called St. George's Mall in the Cape Town Central Business District (CBD). This street is lined with stalls, operated mainly by migrants, for tourists selling souvenirs and for locals selling fresh fruits and second-hand clothes. Thus, the street embraces various people, including local people, migrants, and tourists, to use, pass, and survive every day as a space filled with multiple and unforeseen encounters.

By mainly focusing on the street traders who are 'street-wise' through their long-term interactions with the street, this research analyses St. George's Mall as a place of motion, contact, and interchange and examines what extent and in what ways the street, as a meeting point for fulfilment-seeking incompleteness in the city, fosters/fails convivial relationships and what it means as a space.

The relation to the goal of the SAJU Forum

The aim of this research, examining how conviviality is realised/failed in the midst of myriad encounters, has implications for more collaborative relationships. Moreover, in line with the convivial scholarship, the partnership this Forum aims to create should not only be with academics but also with people in the research field, both in Japan and South Africa. In this research, I, as one of the actors in the field, have participated in the day-to-day work and learned knowledge based on 'popular epistemologies' from the community. Exploring such exchanges based on the acknowledgement and embracement of our incompleteness and the necessity of relationships with other ways of being can be the basis for decolonial knowledge production and partnership beyond hierarchies emphasising a single 'complete' story.

Further collaboration

I look forward to further collaboration on the research of conviviality in different places and different research perspectives. For example, how do convivial relationships demonstrate/fail on the streets of Tokyo, where myriad people and things intersect in mobility every day? What about analysing conviviality in the same places from different disciplines? The more we investigate conviviality from different standpoints with an emphasis on the interconnectedness and compositeness of knowledge production, the deeper this concept will be to building a world where diverse people can live together based on the recognition of incompleteness and the mutuality of debt and indebtedness.

Title: Assessing the Role of Community Participation in Enabling Effective Implementation of IDP in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality
Presenter: Ms. Nandiswa MPOLWENI
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology
Email: [22176197@dut4life.ac.za/](mailto:22176197@dut4life.ac.za) narndzmpolweni@gmail.com

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future: Policy and governance

Outline of Presentation:

Nature of Existing or Proposed Research/Project:

The proposed research aims to assess the role of community participation in enabling effective implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality (NMMM). The research will utilize qualitative methods such as document analysis and stakeholder interviews to explore the extent of community engagement in the IDP process, identify the impact of such participation on development outcomes, and highlight challenges and strategies for enhancing community involvement.

Relationship to the Goals of the SAJU Forum:

This research aligns with the goals of the SAJU Forum, particularly in the sub-theme of Policy and Governance under the Social Justice and Development category. The proposed research aims to assess the role of community participation in enabling effective implementation of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality (NMMM). It focuses on exploring the extent of community engagement, identifying the impact of such participation on development outcomes, and highlighting challenges and strategies for enhancing community involvement. This research directly relates to policy and governance as it examines the effectiveness of community participation within the IDP process, which involves policy formulation and implementation. By investigating community engagement and its influence on development outcomes, the study contributes to the understanding of governance practices and policies that can foster social justice and sustainable development within the NMMM context.

How You Seek to Further Collaboration in Your Area:

Through this presentation, the aim is to foster collaboration and engagement with fellow researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in community participation, local governance, and sustainable development. This research seeks to invite stakeholders to share their experiences, insights, and best practices related to community engagement in IDP processes. I believe that collaboration is essential for developing effective strategies to enhance community participation and strengthen local governance systems. I encourage knowledge sharing, learning from diverse perspectives, and building partnerships to collectively work towards improving IDP implementation and service delivery outcomes in various contexts.

By presenting research findings and engaging in discussions during the SAJU Forum, I seek to create a platform for collaboration and exchange of ideas. I invite participants to share their knowledge, experiences, and research in community participation and local governance, fostering a network of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers committed to sustainable development. Together, we can generate insights, develop innovative approaches, and advocate for policies that empower communities and promote inclusive and sustainable development practices in the NMMM and beyond.

Title: Shedding Light on Mangrove Biodiversity: An Africa-Japan CORE Partnership in Metabarcoding Research
Presenter: Dr. Nasreen PEER
Affiliation: Dept. of Botany and Zoology, Stellenbosch University

Sub-themes: Systems and technologies for the future; Health and wellbeing

Mangrove ecosystems provide several significant ecosystem services, especially to coastal communities. The provision of these services is dependent on healthy biotic communities. Monitoring mangrove biodiversity can be time-consuming, costly, and inefficient although new tools are being developed and trialled. Metabarcoding of environmental DNA is an example of a potential monitoring tool and warrants further exploration.

In 2019, a trilateral partnership was formed between colleagues at the University of Ryukyus (Japan), Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal) and Stellenbosch University (South Africa) to collaboratively develop this tool, to improve the usefulness of this tool in an African context, and to develop student capacity around molecular ecological analyses.

In this talk, we reflect on an almost-5 year partnership studying our African mangrove ecosystems, and we highlight the strengths and challenges of this cross-continental collaboration as we plan for ongoing co-operative research.

Title: AfriWUIFire: Fire safe African homes on the Wildland Urban Interface
Presenter: Dr. Natalia FLORES QUIROZ
Affiliation: Fire Engineering Research Unit, Department of Civil Engineering, Stellenbosch University
Email: nataliaflores@sun.ac.za

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing: Risk mitigation and management

The Fire safe African homes on the Wildland Urban Interface (AfriWUIFire) project is an initiative funded by the Africa-Japan Collaborative Research ("AJ-CORE") on Environmental Science. This project is a product of the collaborative efforts between the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Its primary objective is to co-develop the knowledge necessary to support decision-makers and foster societal change by addressing common challenges faced by African nations.

The AfriWUIFire is a three-year project that seeks to improve fire resilience of homes and structures in communities located in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas within Southern Africa, specifically in South Africa and Botswana. Our focus is on a phenomenon known as Firebrand Attack, a specific type of fire spread which is often seen in WUI fires. Through extensive studies of fires in various countries, it has been established that 60% of all home ignitions during WUI fires are linked to firebrands. Therefore, a thorough understanding of this phenomenon within the African context is vital.

Despite the long-standing recognition of the impact of firebrand attacks on WUI fires, research in this area has been limited. This is primarily due to the challenges associated with replicating firebrand attacks in a controlled environment. Over the past decade, Japan has emerged as a leader in firebrand research, particularly in firebrand generation and the identification of home vulnerabilities. In this project, the Japanese team will share their expertise with the teams from Botswana and South Africa. Together, we will apply these advanced methods to our region, aiming to improve our understanding and management of firebrand attacks.

How it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum: We believe that it will be a good opportunity to show an innovative approach to this type of disasters, it is also very likely that we could find potential collaborations opportunities for this or following projects.

How you seek to further collaboration in your area: Fire protection engineering is a relatively unknown area. By showcasing our research, other researchers could see the benefits and even the necessity of considering fire protection engineers into their research projects.

Title: Assessing the feasibility of piezoelectric pavements in an interchange node precinct, Warwick Triangle, Durban, South Africa
Presenter: Ms. Nontebeko MDUNGE
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

This research investigates the feasibility of implementing piezoelectric pavements along Julius Nyerere Road in the Warwick Triangle, Durban, South Africa. The proposed sub-theme is sustainable urban infrastructure and renewable energy solutions. The location's high traffic volume, informal trading community make it an ideal site to explore the potential of piezoelectric energy generation. Although piezoelectric materials show promise as sustainable energy solutions, their practical application in high-traffic urban areas, particularly in developing countries, remains underexplored. The study integrates feasibility assessment, and urban planning considerations to evaluate the viability of piezoelectric pavements in this transport node. A comprehensive literature review examines existing studies on piezoelectric energy harvesting technologies, pavement design principles, and urban infrastructure planning, contextualizing them within the challenges of the Warwick Triangle. The primary objective is to assess the technical and economic feasibility of implementing piezoelectric pavements along Julius Nyerere Road. This assessment considers various factors such as pavement material selection, energy policy modifications, sustainable transport planning, and potential impacts on transportation infrastructure. The methodology employs a mixed-methods approach, involving site surveys, in-depth interviews with stakeholders, and on-site observations to gather data on traffic patterns, pedestrian flow, and environmental factors. Stakeholder engagement is integral, with discussions held with local authorities, transportation agencies, urban planners, environmental experts, and informal traders. These consultations aim to address concerns, solicit feedback, and explore potential synergies between piezoelectric energy generation and the needs of the informal trading community. The outcomes of the study are expected to provide insights into the technical feasibility, economic viability, and views of piezoelectric pavements in the Warwick Triangle. The research aims to offer a sustainable energy solution aligned with the community's needs. This research aligns with the goals of the SAJU Forum by promoting sustainable development and fostering innovative solutions for urban infrastructure. The SAJU Forum emphasizes collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to solving urban challenges, and this study embodies these principles by integrating diverse perspectives. Additionally, the research seeks to further collaboration by engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including local authorities, municipal departments, environmental experts, and the informal trading community. Through these collaborations, the study aims to address local needs and concerns while promoting the adoption of sustainable energy solutions in urban settings. In conclusion, this research assesses the feasibility of piezoelectric pavements in an interchanging transport node, the study seeks to advance knowledge and promote the adoption of sustainable energy solutions in transportation infrastructure planning and development.

Title: Product development of a sorghum and millet based instant breakfast cereal suitable for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)
Presenter: Ms. Miss Nqobile NGCOBO
Affiliation: Durban University of Technology
Email: 21801982@dut4life.ac.za

Sub-themes: Social justice and development; Health and wellbeing

The study proposes to develop a cost-effective, highly nutritious instant breakfast porridge for the NSNP. To achieve this, the need for breakfast in the NSNP will be assessed. Thereafter, a range of products will be developed through trials and these will undergo sensory evaluation, nutritional analysis microbiological and shelf-life testing. A trained sensory panel will be used to give detailed description of the products sensory attributes. Lastly, the breakfast cereal will be presented to the learners for final sensory analysis to determine sensory acceptability using a 7- point facial hedonic scale. The study proposes to include learners aged 7-18 years from four schools that participate in the NSNP in KwaZulu-Natal, iLembe district, namely Groutville Secondary, Dr BW Vilakazi, Oinisani High in Ndwedwe and Magogolo Primary in Maphumulo.

The SAJU Forum aims to promote the well-being of children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The breakfast porridge will support education by providing nutritious meals that equip children to focus and learn in school, contributing to their educational success. The NSNP is an important initiative aiming to reduce hunger and improve food security among vulnerable children. The SAJU Forum advocates for policies that address poverty and inequality in South Africa, and the breakfast porridge will help alleviate some of the burdens faced by these children and their families. The study also aims to promote community development by partnering with local stakeholders and organizations to build capacity and foster partnerships within communities.

Collaboration among researchers, nutritionists, food technologists, farmers, grain processors, suppliers, food safety experts, marketing and distribution professionals, and nutritionists is crucial for developing a successful breakfast porridge for the NSNP. This involves ensuring that the porridge is nutritious, meets food safety standards, effectively marketing and distributing the porridge to schools, and monitoring its effectiveness in promoting healthy eating habits among children.

In conclusion, the development of a breakfast porridge for the NSNP aligns with the SAJU Forum goals by improving nutrition for children, supporting education, addressing poverty and inequality and promoting community development. Collaboration among researchers, nutritionists, and stakeholders is crucial for ensuring the successful development of a breakfast porridge that is suitable for the NSNP which will contribute towards the attainment of SDGs 2, 3, 4, 10, and 12.

Title: The establishment of a sustainable campus pharmacy at a higher education institution
Presenter: Dr. Nsovo MAYIMELE
Affiliation: Tshwane University of Technology
Email: xnmayimele@gmail.com

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Introduction

The increasing demand for accessible and sustainable healthcare on university campuses highlights the need for integrating health with environmental and economic sustainability. Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), one of nine universities in South Africa with an accredited pharmacy school, has five campuses across three provinces but lacks an on-campus pharmacy. Current healthcare services are limited for students and staff needing affordable pharmaceutical services. Additionally, these facilities overlook sustainable practices, leading to environmental effects. The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at TUT aims to establish a pharmacy that meets the university healthcare needs while prioritising sustainability, economic viability, and inclusivity.

Methodology

The project will follow a phased approach: planning, design, construction, and operation. Initially, a needs assessment and feasibility study will define healthcare needs and sustainability goals. The design will integrate green building standards and energy-efficient technologies. During construction, sustainable materials and practices, such as solar panels and water-saving fixtures, will be used, along with digital systems to reduce paper waste. The operational phase will provide pharmaceutical services and promote health and sustainability through community engagement. Regular audits will ensure continuous improvement.

Anticipated Results

Enhanced access to healthcare and pharmaceutical services and medicines will improve the overall health of the TUT community in the Arcadia Campus. The integration of green technologies and sustainable practices will reduce the pharmacy's carbon footprint while minimising waste generation and promoting responsible consumption. The pharmacy is anticipated to be economically viable through efficient resource use and cost-effective pharmaceutical services. It is expected to benefit from sustainability grants and partnerships. Increased health awareness and community engagement will foster a culture of sustainability and wellbeing within the campus and the local community.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The establishment of a sustainable campus pharmacy at TUT represents a significant step towards integrating healthcare with sustainable development. The pharmacy will meet the immediate healthcare needs of students and staff and serve as a model for sustainable healthcare practices in educational institutions. By aligning with the SDGs and focusing on sustainability, the TUT campus pharmacy will contribute to a healthier, more sustainable future for the university and its community.

Title: The presence of women in the leadership of listed manufacturing pharmaceutical companies with operations in South Africa
Presenter: Dr. Nsovo MAYIMELE
Affiliation: Tshwane University of Technology
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Introduction: The Sustainable Development Goal 5 is aimed at achieving gender equality by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. The representation of women in leadership positions is a critical measure of gender equality in the corporate sector. This study investigated the presence of women in leadership roles within listed manufacturing pharmaceutical companies (MPCs) globally.

Methodology: The list of MPCs with operations in South Africa was obtained from the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). The MPCs listed on any global stock exchange were identified for easy access to their information. A desktop review was conducted to evaluate the profiles of the MPCs, focusing on aspects such as revenue, company size, employee count, and the professional backgrounds and gender orientation of individuals in strategic leadership roles, including board and executive positions.

Results: The findings of the study reveal a limited representation of women in leadership positions of MPCs around the world. The MPCs under review were headquartered in eleven countries distributed across Asia (3), Africa (1), North America (1), and Europe (6). Individuals with expertise in commerce, sciences, and engineering filled the strategic leadership roles within MPCs. Despite women constituting a significant portion of the pharmaceutical industry workforce, they occupy 26% (282; N=1098) of senior leadership roles. Furthermore, of the 542 board members observed, only 143 (26%) were female. Within the executive teams, only 139 of 556 leaders were women (25%). Five (5) of the 49 MPCs did not have female board members, while 11 did not have female executive leaders. This gender disparity persists across various geographical regions, with slight variations that do not significantly alter the overall trend.

Conclusion: The limited presence of women in leadership roles highlights the urgent need for targeted policies and initiatives to promote gender diversity in the pharmaceutical industry. This research indicates the importance of encouraging inclusive leadership environments that can leverage diverse perspectives to drive sustainable growth and innovation. The findings direct towards action to bridge the gender gap and ensure equitable opportunities for women in leadership positions within the manufacturing pharmaceutical sector.

Keywords: Gender Diversity, Pharmaceutical Industry, Leadership, Women in Leadership, Corporate Governance, Gender Equality.

Title: Migration Intention and the Quest for Entrepreneurial Startups among Nigerian Youth
Presenter: Olaolu Peter OLUWASANMI
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Abstract

In an era where migration is increasingly prevalent, international migration significantly influences activities within national borders, particularly among younger generations. This research explores the intersection between migration intention and the pursuit of entrepreneurial startups among Nigerian youth. Given the persistent economic challenges in Nigeria, including high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities, many young Nigerians face a decision between pursuing entrepreneurial ventures and seeking opportunities abroad. Using Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Theory and Push-Pull Theory of Migration, this study aims to understand how migration intentions influence entrepreneurial activities and vice versa among Nigerian youth. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach. It will collect data from a survey of young Nigerians, as well as in-depth interviews with aspiring entrepreneurs. The study examines the motivations behind migration intention, such as economic prospects, educational opportunities, and quality of life, and compares them with the incentives driving youth towards entrepreneurship, including independence, innovation, and community impact. The findings of the study will suggest a complex relationship between migration intention and entrepreneurship startups. Additionally, the study will identify various challenges and support systems influencing entrepreneurial pursuits, such as access to funding, mentorship, and government policies. The research will contribute to understanding the aspirations and challenges faced by Nigerian youth in the context of international migration and entrepreneurship. It will also provide insights for policymakers and development organizations aiming to foster a conducive environment for young entrepreneurs, potentially reducing the desire for migration while promoting sustainable economic growth within Nigeria.

Keywords: International migration, migration thinking, Entrepreneurial startups, economic challenges, government policies

Title: Aquaphotomics: A Proposed Approach for Rapid Water and Food Quality Monitoring in Agricultural Systems
Presenter: Dr. Paul WILLIAMS
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Email: pauljw@sun.ac.za

Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Nature of Proposed Research Project

Our proposed research aims to develop rapid, sensitive, and cost-effective methods for detecting bacterial contamination in water and food using aquaphotomics. This novel scientific discipline, founded by Professor Roumiana Tsenkova from Kobe University (KU), Japan, utilizes near infrared (NIR) spectroscopy and spectral analysis for non-destructive measurement of water-based systems. We plan to collaborate with Prof. Tsenkova to develop tools for rapid water quality assessment using NIR spectroscopy instruments at both Stellenbosch University (SU) and KU. Our research questions will include:

- Can we detect bacteria in water and food systems using NIR spectroscopy and aquaphotomics?
- Can we identify different bacterial strains relevant to both water and food safety?
- Can we detect the stage of bacterial development in agricultural water systems and food products
- How can aquaphotomics improve agricultural water management and food safety practices?

Relation to SAJU Forum Goals

This proposed project aligns with the SAJU Forum's goals by:

- Increasing mobility of researchers and students: We aim to train postgraduate students in state-of-the-art technology applicable to water, agriculture, and food sectors.
- Increasing joint R&D collaboration: Our planned partnership between SU and KU will combine expertise in NIR spectroscopy, chemometrics, and advanced data analytics across multiple disciplines.
- Establishing exchange programmes: The project will facilitate knowledge exchange between South African and Japanese institutions in water management, agriculture, and food safety.
- Institutionalising cooperation: Our collaboration will strengthen ties between SU and KU, potentially leading to long-term partnerships in agricultural and food sciences.

Furthering Collaboration

To initiate and further collaboration in this area, we propose:

- Submitting a new funding application for the Japan-SA Bilateral program, expanding on our previous 2018 submission to include food safety and agricultural applications.
- Expanding the research network to include experts in agriculture and food science from both countries.
- Organizing joint workshops on aquaphotomics applications in water management, agriculture, and food safety.
- Developing a student exchange program focused on interdisciplinary applications of aquaphotomics.

This proposed research has global significance, potentially leading to improved methods for monitoring water and food quality, enhancing agricultural practices, preventing foodborne diseases, and contributing to food security. By combining South African and Japanese expertise, we aim to address critical challenges in water management, agriculture, and food safety, ultimately contributing to the health and wellbeing of both nations and beyond

Title: Bridging Divides, Building Futures: Lessons for South African cities from Japan for Inclusive Digitalisation and smart city development

Presenters and affiliations:

Mr Perekamoyo T.K. MATALA-BANDA, Stellenbosch University, School of Public Leadership, perekamoyo@sun.ac.za

And

Prof Tania AJAM, Stellenbosch University, School of Public Leadership, tajam@sun.ac.za

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract

Digital technology has revolutionized societal interactions and economic behaviours, offering countries numerous social and economic opportunities. However, unchecked digital transformation can exacerbate inequalities, corruption, misinformation, and polarization (UNDP, 2023). Vis-à-vis the dominance of companies from the Global North, the Global South – and Africa in particular – is likely to be particularly vulnerable given the significant technology and institutional gap in the face of the unprecedented pace of technological development and the convergence of technologies (Odeh, 2010).

Japan has recognized the importance of inclusive digitalization, calling for a digital transition that is inclusive by design; one that deliberately places people at the centre, mitigating potential risks and ensuring the benefits are accessible to all (OECD, 2019). As a leader in digital infrastructure and advanced technologies, Japan offers valuable lessons for promoting inclusive digitalization and smart city development especially for developing nations such as South Africa.

Critiques of the current South African smart city initiatives highlight their techno-centric nature, which overlooks the digital exclusion faced by most citizens. These initiatives are often top-down, driven by the state and technology vendors, rather than involving grassroots community participation (Musakwa, 2018). Moreover, they primarily focus on enhancing municipal business and delivery models' efficiency rather than fundamentally altering governance relationships and promoting collaboration and co-production (South African Cities Network, 2020). Japanese smaller cities' approaches to addressing these issues could provide valuable lessons for Western Cape municipalities, despite Japan having a more educated and homogeneous population compared to South Africa.

The research interest focuses on Japan's successful strategies in addressing the digital divide and promoting sustainable urban development, particularly examining their relevance to municipalities in the Western Cape, South Africa. Unlike other provinces, Western Cape municipalities are financially sustainable and possess institutional stability, enabling innovation and collaboration. The study aims to understand Japan's efforts in digital tool adoption, digital skills promotion, and digital access for vulnerable groups like the elderly and disabled (Kovacs, 2022). Case studies of Japanese strategies will be analysed to identify implementation requirements, assess feasibility for Western Cape municipalities, manage implementation risks, and monitor progress. The research aligns with the SAJU Forum's goals of exchanging insights and best practices, aiming to provide actionable strategies for policy-making and urban planning in the Western Cape and beyond.

Furthermore, our research endeavours to catalyse collaboration among academia, government, industry, and civil society stakeholders in both South Africa and Japan that will ultimately result in a

publication of an article in an academic journal as well as policy briefs which can be made available to forums such as the South African Cities Network Communities of Practice and to policymakers in the Western Cape Provincial Government and municipal councils. We envision opportunities for knowledge exchange through exchange visits, joint research projects, and capacity-building initiatives focused on inclusive digitalization and sustainable urban development. Through partnerships and leveraging expertise, we aim to explore innovative solutions that address common challenges and promote inclusive growth in both regions.

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Title: Unmasking distress: An analysis of COVID-19s mental health impact on nurses in South Africa

Presenters and affiliation:

Dr. Phillipa HAINE, Prof. Bronwyne COETZEE, and Prof. Ashraf KAGEE

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract

Background: Nurses have faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic which have the potential to adversely affect their mental health. Promoting the mental health of nurses is crucial not only to safeguard their wellbeing, but also to ensure the delivery of optimal patient care.

Objective: This study sought to ascertain the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nurses in South Africa.

Methods: Participants were a convenience sample of 264 nurses working at four public hospitals in the Western Cape province. Flyers were placed at each of the hospitals and participants could complete the survey on hard copy or online. The survey collected demographic data and included a comprehensive battery of psychological measures, such as fear of COVID-19, Perceived Vulnerability to Disease, Anxiety, Depression, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Alcohol Use, and worry about COVID-19 infection.

Results: The mean age of participants was 34 (SD = 7.99), the majority of whom were female (82%). Age was positively correlated with hopelessness, perceived vulnerability to disease and life satisfaction, but negatively associated with fear of COVID-19 and symptoms of anxiety, PTSD, alcohol use and depression. Nurses in the public sector reported higher levels of hopelessness and PTSD than nurses in private, while married and partnered nurses reported reduced levels of anxiety and hopelessness compared to unmarried counterparts. Higher education levels were associated with reduced adverse mental health outcomes.

Conclusion: Psychological distress among nurses was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Potential areas of concern are highlighted, indicating the need for targeted interventions.

Keywords: *alcohol use, anxiety, COVID-19, depression, nurses, posttraumatic stress*

Motivation

This research directly aligns with the goals of the SAJU conference by: (1) sharing research interests, achievements, and perspectives related to the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nurses in South Africa. Specifically, it contributes valuable insights into the challenges faced by nurses and the potential adverse effects on their mental wellbeing, which is crucial for informing future research and interventions. Additionally, (2) it offers an exchange of insights on innovation and best practices in addressing mental health issues among healthcare workers, particularly in the context of a global health crisis. By presenting findings from a comprehensive study utilising various psychological measures, the research fosters discussion on effective strategies for supporting nurses' mental health during and beyond the pandemic. Moreover, (3) the study provides a platform for exploring possibilities for collaboration among researchers, healthcare institutions, and policymakers to develop

targeted interventions and support systems for nurses. Through sharing findings and engaging in discussions at the conference, we aim to foster collaborative efforts to address the mental health needs of nurses and enhance the delivery of optimal patient care in similar contexts worldwide.

Title: Coping in crisis: The role of sense of coherence, life satisfaction, and resilience in the relationship between depression, perceived stress, fear of COVID-19, and perceived vulnerability to disease among nurses in South Africa

Presenters and affiliation:

Prof. Bronwyne COETZEE; Dr. Phillipa HAINE; and Prof. Ashraf KAGEE

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract

Background: Despite the formidable challenges posed by the pandemic, many healthcare professionals adeptly coped with the substantial stressors it presented.

Objective: This cross-sectional study sought to examine the protective role of life satisfaction, sense of coherence, and resilience in the relationship between depression, perceived social support, fear of COVID-19, and perceived vulnerability to disease among nurses in South Africa.

Methods: Participants involved a convenience sample of nurses ($n = 264$) working at four South African hospitals in the Western Cape province. Data were collected by means of an electronic survey and analysed using structural equation modelling. Participants completed the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS), the Sense of Coherence scale (SOC), the Connor-Davidson Resilience scale (CD-RISC), the Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale Revised (CESD-R), the Perceived Social Support scale (PSS), the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S), and Perceived Vulnerability to Disease Scale (PVDS).

Results: We found that higher levels of fear of COVID-19 were associated with depression among the sample; sense of coherence and perceived social support had significant negative relationships with depression indicating that these represent potential protective resources; perceived social support had positive relationships with sense of coherence, satisfaction with life and resilience. While fear of COVID-19 significantly impacted depression, it did not show a significant relationship with other mental wellbeing measures such as satisfaction with life, sense of coherence, resilience or social support. Sense of coherence acted as a mediator between perceived social support and depression.

Conclusion: While higher levels of fear of COVID-19 was a robust predictor of depressive symptoms, factors such as sense of coherence, and perceived social support emerged as protective resources. These protective factors have the potential to alleviate the mental health impacts of pandemic-related stressors among nurses.

Keywords: *depression, nurses, social support, sense of coherence, satisfaction with life, South Africa*

Motivation

This research directly contributes to the SAJU conference goals by: (1) sharing research findings on the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic among nurses in South Africa. Specifically, it presents findings that highlight the protective role of various psychological factors such as life satisfaction, sense of coherence, and resilience in mitigating the adverse effects of pandemic-related stressors on nurses' mental wellbeing. Additionally, (2) the study facilitates the exchange of insights on innovation and best practices in addressing mental health issues within healthcare settings. It provides valuable insights into potential protective factors that can inform future research and intervention strategies aimed at promoting nurses' mental health resilience. Moreover, (3) the study opens avenues for collaboration by identifying potential protective resources such as sense of coherence and perceived social support.

By sharing findings and engaging in discussions at the conference, we aim to foster collaborative efforts to develop and implement targeted interventions that leverage these protective factors to support nurses' mental health in South Africa and beyond.

Title: Decolonizing the Biomedical Sciences postgraduate curriculum: first steps...
Presenter: Prof. Faadiel ESSOP
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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Abstract

There is an increased interest to decolonize curricula at medical schools around the world. The process of decolonization is complex and multifaceted and includes attempts to make curricula more inclusive, and to confront past injustices that occurred with scientific and medical advancements. For example, colonialism contributed to and perpetuated false beliefs about racial hierarchies and differences in physiology based on race. Such ideas historically influenced medical education and practice, resulting in discriminatory treatment of some patients. However, decolonizing university courses such as the biomedical sciences can be challenging as existing curricula are rooted in Eurocentric perspectives and historical traditions. Moreover, as such complex disciplines require an in-depth understanding of biological principles and concepts, integrating diverse perspectives and contexts while maintaining scientific rigor and accuracy can be difficult. As an initial attempt to decolonize the Department of Biomedical Sciences' BSc (Hons) curriculum at Stellenbosch University's medical school, two (discussive) lecture sessions (forming part of the Features of Science module) were introduced regarding this topic. Student feedback regarding the decolonization sessions was assessed by completion of an anonymous survey and a thematic-type analysis (anonymous) of self-reflective journals. The survey data showed that around two thirds of the class possessed a moderate understanding regarding decolonization in the science and medical context. A thematic analysis of comments revealed that such sessions made students realize the negative impact of colonialism in terms of the development of medical knowledge for e.g. scientific racism, suppression of traditional knowledge, and the exploitation and experimentation on indigenous populations. Furthermore, the students indicated that the inclusion of decolonization sessions may add value to their future careers by enhancing their critical thinking and awareness of social and cultural contexts in science and medicine, and their professional responsibility to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and ethical conduct in their workplace. The students also felt that such sessions provided an opportunity for greater self-awareness and for embracing new ways of thinking in their discipline. Our findings show that incorporating conversations on decolonization into the biomedical sciences curriculum can promote students' personal growth and awareness, while also creating opportunities for greater inclusivity by fostering an environment of open discussion and learning in classes.

Keywords: Biomedical sciences; Colonialism; Curriculum renewal; Decolonization; Postgraduate BSc (Hons) students; Inclusivity.

Title: Assessment of Positive Mental Health among University Students in South Africa

Presenter and affiliations:

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Proposed Research:

Mental health issues among university students are increasingly recognised as a significant public health concern globally. However, there is a lack of comprehensive research specifically focused on positive mental health (PMH) and well-being among this demographic, particularly within the South African and Japanese context. The mental well-being of university students in South Africa and Japan is a pressing concern, influenced by a myriad of factors including academic pressures, socio-economic challenges, and the transition to adulthood. This multi-year project seeks to address this issue through a comprehensive assessment of PMH among university students, exploring its implications, and implementing interventions to enhance their well-being. The primary objective is to assess the current state of PMH and identify determinants impacting university students' well-being in South Africa and Japan. Secondary objectives include exploring coping mechanisms, evaluating access to mental health services, and examining the relationship between positive mental health and academic performance. Through a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and participatory action research, the project aims to generate data-driven insights from the selected universities in South Africa and Japan. Expected outcomes include a deeper understanding of PMH among university students, the development of evidence-based interventions, and improved accessibility to mental health services. By addressing these objectives, the project aims to foster a supportive environment conducive to the overall well-being and academic success of South African and Japanese university students. The proposed research explores novel forms of rational well-being by investigating the factors that contribute to PMH among university students. This includes examining subjective well-being, emotional resilience, social connectedness, and self-efficacy, among other dimensions. By identifying and promoting these aspects of rational well-being, the research offers insights into the diverse pathways to mental flourishing and provides a foundation for developing targeted interventions to enhance positive mental health outcomes. By explicitly defining the problem and focusing on PMH indicators, the research fills a critical gap in the literature and offers a nuanced understanding of mental health beyond pathology and illness.

Alignment with SAJU goals: This research aligns with the goals and objectives of the SAJU Forum by making positive contribution in addressing pressing societal challenges such as mental health issues faced by young people in both countries.

Collaborations: We wish to seek interdisciplinary collaboration by bringing together researchers from diverse fields such as psychology, public health, education, sociology, and cultural studies from South Africa and Japan. By integrating insights and methodologies from various disciplines, a more comprehensive understanding of PMH can be achieved, leading to innovative research approaches, interventions, and solutions.

Title: Developing an Artificial Intelligence algorithm for enhancing production efficiency in a factory of the future

Presenters and affiliations:

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Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

The factory of the future is being reshaped by the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), ushering in an era of unprecedented efficiency, flexibility, and innovation in manufacturing processes. AI-powered technologies are revolutionizing every aspect of production, from design and planning to assembly and quality control.

At the heart of this transformation are AI-driven predictive analytics, which leverage machine learning algorithms to forecast demand, optimize inventory levels, and schedule production schedules in real-time. By analysing vast amounts of data from sensors, supply chains, and customer feedback, manufacturers can anticipate market trends, reduce lead times, and minimize waste, thereby enhancing overall productivity and profitability.

Moreover, AI-enabled robotics and automation are redefining the role of human workers on the factory floor. Collaborative robots, or co-bots, work alongside human operators, augmenting their capabilities and handling repetitive or dangerous tasks with precision and efficiency. This collaborative approach not only improves productivity but also enhances workplace safety and employee satisfaction.

Nevertheless, existing manufacturing systems often grapple with uncertainties like fluctuating demand, unforeseen machine breakdowns, or disruptions in the supply chain. This challenge is further pronounced in environments producing customized products or variants of a similar item. Addressing this, the proposed project aims to explore the development of AI algorithms capable of adapting to dynamic production settings, particularly focusing on their capacity to adjust and optimize production schedules in response to unpredictable events.

Aligned with the objectives of the South Africa-Japan University Forum, the project shares research insights on operating a smart manufacturing environment, explained through a case study of a water bottling plant. This platform serves to highlight the project's accomplishments thus far, including the establishment of a protocol for collaborative decision-making in smart manufacturing environments.

Furthermore, the project seeks to glean insights and foster potential collaborations from the forum regarding the development of cutting-edge, sustainable, resilient, and human-centric solutions. These efforts aim to prepare South Africa for the forthcoming 5th Industrial Revolution, ensuring readiness to embrace transformative technologies while prioritizing the well-being of its workforce.

Title: Developing an Artificial Intelligence algorithm for building low-cost houses using recycled polymer

Presenters and affiliation:

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Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in manufacturing low-cost housing from recycled polymer holds immense promise for addressing global housing shortages and environmental concerns. This is especially true in a South African context. By leveraging AI algorithms, manufacturers can optimize the production process, minimizing waste and maximizing efficiency.

Recycled polymer, derived from post-consumer or post-industrial plastic waste, presents a sustainable alternative for various applications. By diverting plastic from landfills and oceans, recycled polymer mitigates environmental pollution and conserves natural resources. Its versatility allows it to be moulded into various products, including packaging, construction materials, and consumer goods. Additionally, advancements in recycling technologies enhance the quality and purity of recycled polymer, making it increasingly viable for widespread use. Embracing recycled polymer promotes a circular economy, where materials are reused and repurposed, reducing the reliance on virgin resources and minimizing the ecological footprint of human activities.

This project proposes the use of AI tools and algorithms which can analyse vast amounts of data to identify the most suitable types of recycled polymer for construction, considering factors like durability, insulation properties, and cost-effectiveness. This ensures that the housing units are both structurally sound and environmentally friendly. Additionally, AI-powered robotics and automation can streamline the manufacturing process, reducing labour costs and construction time. These robots can precisely manufacture and assemble polymer components using a layered extrusion process, resulting in flexibility in the approach to directly manufacture high-quality housing units. It also allows for the manufacturing of panels for assembly on site.

Aligned with the objectives of the South Africa-Japan University forum, the project shares research insights and expertise from the Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM) at the Central University of Technology, Free State on various aspects of Additive manufacturing.

Furthermore, the project seeks to glean insights and foster potential collaborations from the forum regarding the development of cutting-edge, sustainable, resilient, and human-centric solutions. These efforts aim to assist South Africa in meeting the high demand for adequate, safe and affordable housing for its masses in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-11.

Title: In Search of Recognition: Youth engagement in ‘traditional’ dancing in Nyanga
Presenter: Rise TANINO
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development

I am presenting on my ethnographic research I have done as part of my Masters program in Social Anthropology. This ethnographic study examines the experiences of young Black South Africans in seeking recognition through engagement in ‘traditional’ dance. Based on six months of ethnographic research with a group of young ‘traditional’ dancers in Nyanga township, Cape Town, it investigates the strategic use of dance and strategies deployed by a group of young people to gain recognition as accomplished social adults. In a context in which young people must compete to fit across various ever-shifting expectations of accomplishment, ‘traditional’ dancing offers them a creative space to activate collective agency, negotiate visibility, remain relevant and participate in community. Building on research about youth, dance, and recognition, I argue that youth in Nyanga employ economic, artistic, and organizational strategies in their ‘traditional’ dancing to gain recognition. These strategies enable them to accumulate resources to be acknowledged in the consumerist context while also striving to achieve outcomes worthy of respect in contexts not solely measured by financial gains. Presentation of this research will foster conversation to explore the concepts and theories related to youth and recognition, allowing us to unpack complex experience of young people in the modern world. It addresses the conference’s primary theme of Health and Wellbeing by investigating how youth engagement in dancing equips them with ability to take care of physical, mental, and social wealth. Additionally, it delves into the theme of Social Justice and Development by examining the nuanced experiences of youth in marginalized communities, exploring their journey towards dignity and agency. Although this research is contextualized in South Africa, the findings speaks to experience of youth in Japan, therefore motivate discussion for innovation in articulating both experience. This research does not only promote insight exchange in academia but also fosters collaboration with community initiatives to enhance their effectiveness and expand opportunities for youth.

Title: Lessons Learnt from Collaborative Study on Preparation of Teacher Teaching with Technology

Presenters/Collaborators and affiliations:

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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing; Social justice and development: Education

With preparation of future teachers teaching with technology as a common interest, this presentation introduces our Japan-South Africa joint research project which is exploring the actual situation and challenges of training teachers with knowledge of teaching with digital technologies through a comparative study. This international joint research project started in 2023 and is financially supported under the agreement between the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). In November 2023, three Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) researchers visited Japan to observe ICT-enabled teacher preparation and STEAM education efforts at the flagship teacher education college. In March 2024, four Japanese researchers from Hiroshima University, Osaka University and the Institute of Technology – Hiroshima College, visited Cape Town where they had the opportunity to visit an Information Communication Technology (ICT) model school, observe a class on the use of ICT at the University of Cape Town School of Education and learn about teacher development initiatives at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI). Although the joint fieldwork was conducted once in both countries and each lasted about two weeks, it became clear that institutions in South Africa and Japan have unique teacher preparation initiatives. These examples demonstrate the advantages of diverse initiatives against the trend towards uniformity for quality assurance and equality in education. Apart from the fruitful field work, the collaboration continues through monthly online meetings to stay updated and discuss progress and research outputs. The trust and empathy gained from the monthly accumulation are invaluable. The collaborators already have futuristic plans for some activities aligned with the joint project goals. In October 2024, the South African team will visit Japan and jointly present the findings on the project at the Japan Society for Africa Educational Research Conference. A book based on the project will be published in 2025 by Routledge as an output of the collaboration.

Title: African state-building: Actors, actions, performance

Presenters/Collaborators and affiliations:

Prof. Shinichi TAKEUCHI, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies,
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Dr. Chizuko SATO, Institute of Developing Economies – JETRO,

Kana MIYAMOTO, African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

After more than 60 years from independence, building a state that enables political stability and economic development remains a fundamentally important challenge in Africa. The characteristic feature of African state-building lies in the motive and process of reclaiming the "state," defined and operated by European powers and white settlers, by Africans themselves. Although discussions on African states have traditionally emphasized their weaknesses and challenges, such arguments have been reconsidered recently. In previous research, there has been a tendency to underestimate the African states' capacities to capture the population. In addition, the ordinary people's approach towards the state tends to be overlooked.

This research project addresses these criticisms by focusing on the dynamic process of state-building based on detailed historical analysis. In this regard, comparative studies will be conducted in four African countries, namely Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, and South Africa, focusing on the relationship between the state and the society (or the population). Concretely, this research project will examine which actors are advancing state-building efforts through what actions and whether these efforts contribute to strengthening state functions.

In conducting comparisons, the following working hypotheses are set. First, the main concerns of state-building are organized into territorial governance and resource management (or development), aiming to strengthen and streamline them. Second, state-building progresses as an interaction between "top-down" intervention by political elites and "bottom-up" mobilization and resistance movements in local communities. With these working hypotheses in mind, African and Japanese scholars will conduct the research in four countries. All Japanese scholars are specialists in the country of the research.

Studies conducted in the four countries will be examined and compared by all team members in research meetings held at the UCT. The discussions in the meetings will be critical to understanding African state-building. The UCT functions as a research hub in this project connecting South Africa, other African countries, and Japan. As the issue of state-building is highly important in and linked to many fields, we are willing to expand the academic network of this research topic.

Title: Food and nutrition Sustainability knowledge and diet among students at the Durban University of Technology
Presenter: Ms. Sanrika SAHADEO
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Sub-theme: Health and wellbeing; Social justice and development

The two major problems that humanity is currently facing are increasing levels of food insecurity and the adverse effects of climate change. However, a change in land use is no longer an option to feed the estimated population of approximately 9.6 billion people by 2050. Consequently, consumers must play an important role to reduce the anthropogenic effect and promote green consumerism (Ranganathan et al. 2018). The purpose of this study is to create transformative ideas for sustainability, climate change goals, and enhanced health that address both the SDG 2030 and Agenda 2063 goals at a consumer level. In this cross-sectional developmental study, sustainability will be examined from the perspective of the young adult South African consumer. The study will investigate consumer perceptions, attitudes, and understanding of food and nutrition sustainability and food choice drivers in South Africa through a survey. Thereafter, diet will be recorded using the 24-hour food recall questionnaire and diet quality will be assessed through the diet quality score. The environmental impact of the diet will be assessed using online environmental calculators to determine greenhouse gas emissions. Lastly, an appropriate food and nutrition sustainability tool will be developed and tested among university students.

In this cross-sectional study, data will be collected from students at a specific point in time to investigate the relationship between heterogenous variables. Quantitative data will be analysed and reported as frequencies and proportions for categorical variables.

Title: Imagine and create the human-centric future through sci-fi thinking and making manga stories method: An application to project-based learning
Presenter: Prof. Takahiro MORIO
Affiliation: University of Tsukuba, Japan
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Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract

In the Project (Problem)-Based Learning (PBL), there are ways to set up a desired future in which a given issue has been solved and then backcast from there to find out what needs to be done to solve it. So far, there have been some methods to imagine, speculate and predict a future society such as macro trend analysis and scenario planning. Both have been utilized to project the future on a societal level. However, as they are focused on society as a whole, individuals were seen as symbols and there was a lack of reality in the vision of the future as an individual story. Furthermore, as these methods predict the future based on current data, it is difficult to envision unexpected situations which often happen in the recent VUCA society. In order to solve the challenges and allow students to imagine the future with broad ideas, I have been introducing Sci-Fi thinking (prototyping) and Manga story making to PBL. Sci-fi thinking is free thinking without constraints or assumptions, considering not only possible futures but also improbable futures, desired and undesired futures in equal measure. In the Sci-Fi prototyping, we focus on a certain social issue or science and technology and set up a future society and worldview based on scientific knowledge. By creating a story on this basis, we create a vision of the future from an individual perspective. Future societies that deviate from reality are also taken into account. With the features of manga, we will be able to add a clear personality and inner life, giving the story a realistic and concrete image. Here I will present some example of application of the future with Sci-Fi thinking and Manga story making to PBL and discuss the possible cooperation with scholars and educators in South Africa.

Keywords: Project (Problem)-Based Learning, Backcasting, Sci-Fi thinking, Manga story making method

Title: South Africa's Democratic Developmental State aspiration, and Japan's developmental experience
Presenter: Dr. Tawanda SACHIKONYE
Affiliation: Research Consultant, Southern African Liaison Office (SALO)
Email: tawandasachi2@yahoo.com

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Nature of proposed research:

South African post-apartheid leaders and policymakers have been informed to a significant extent by Japan's modernisation process and post-World War II development. The subsequent impact on contemporary South African economic development policy is highly evident, as underscored by the adoption of a state-backed industrial policy (under the auspices of the National Industrial Policy Framework and subsequent Industrial Policy Action Plans) in 2007, as well as the inception of a development-oriented trade policy¹ in 2010 by the South African government (championed by the governing party, the African National Congress). These policy approaches are directly influenced by the notion of a "developmental state", which originates from Chalmers Johnson's (1982) conceptualisation and analysis of Japan's post-World War II development². Furthermore, influential leaders such as former president Thabo Mbeki³ have extolled the self-motivated and transformative modernisation process which underpinned Japan's transition to a developed country. Omano Edigheji propounds that the South African state 'expressly' commits itself to the creation and establishment of a developmental state (2010:125). This paper seeks to explore the appeal, relevance, and influence of the developmental state framework (as underscored by Japan's developmental experience) within the post-apartheid economic development policy context, which has resulted in a policy-based commitment by the South African state to initiate the formulation and establishment of a Democratic Developmental State (DDS)⁴.

How proposed research relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum:

It seeks to contribute towards enhancing both South Africa-Japan relations and (knowledge-based) collaboration by exploring the ideational aspects that tie the two countries together, particularly in relation to notions around economic development. Furthermore, it is hoped that the proposed research will highlight the importance of Japanese studies for South African (and African) students, academics, and policymakers. Areas of further collaboration: The researcher seeks to ascertain whether Japanese scholars and policymakers have an awareness and appreciation of the salience and influence of the developmental state framework within South Africa. Therefore, there is scope for much needed collaboration with Japanese interlocutors in order to gain a deeper and nuanced understanding of the influence and legacy of the Japanese developmental experience in post-apartheid South Africa. Particularly considering Japan's present developmental challenges. (word count excluding footnotes and reference list- 4

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Title: Testing a commercial grain farming competency model with emerging farmers
Presenter: Thapelo MOLOI
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Sub-theme: Social justice and development: Food security

Nature of existing or proposed research/project:

Against the backdrop of the crisis with food security for the developing world, the challenge of increasing the number of commercial grain farmers to produce food continues. This is targeted as one of the SDGs by the United Nations as well as African Union 2063. Additionally, South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030 envisages increasing the number of commercial farmers primarily from the previously marginalized communities. Therefore, a model has been developed and covers aspects related to the skills, knowledge and personal attributes that commercial grain farmers need to possess. The sample for that study comprised of commercial farmers, emerging farmers, farm workers, farmers whose businesses went under and agriculture experts. The size of the sample comprised of eighteen individuals selected from a province famous for being a breadbasket of the country.

The purpose of this proposal is to test the recently developed model with the emerging grain farmers so as to use it to advance their competency level to reach that of the commercial grain farmers. Since the development of the model employed classic grounded theory from a qualitative approach, the current proposal intends to employ a descriptive study which will use a survey as a data collection method and analyse the data quantitatively. The proposed sample size of the study is intended to be about 150 emerging grain farmers randomly selected from GrainSA's register of grain farmers undergoing developmental programme. The significance of this proposal is that besides testing the model, the tool for use in advancing grain farming competency will also be validated.

How it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum:

To explore possibilities for collaboration.

How you seek to further collaboration in your area:

Especially within entrepreneurial competency, I would like to collaborate with someone having expertise in quantitative data analysis and interpretation of results.

Title: Building the “rainbow nation” through mass media: television, cultural diversity, and national unity in post-Apartheid South Africa
Presenter: Dr. Tomohiro HARA
Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, Musashi University, Japan
Email: tomohiro.hara@cc.musashi.ac.jp

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Nature of proposed research:

I quantitatively examine impact of television broadcast on cultural and political choices in post-Apartheid South Africa. Balancing cultural diversity and national unity creates political challenges. Television broadcasts in South Africa in post-Apartheid era promote both cultural diversity and national unity. I investigate the effects of television broadcasts on two outcomes—language choices in elementary schools, which are associated with cultural identities, and voting shares of political parties that espouse opposite views on national unity. I digitize locations and features of television transmitters, leverage topographical variations that determine television broadcast coverage and time variations in construction of television transmitters, and using an applied econometrics approach (difference-in-differences) to estimate the effects of broadcasts on the two outcomes listed above. I find that exposure to television broadcasts increases the use of native languages in schools, which contributes to cultural diversity and also to voting shares for the political parties that promote national unity, indicating suggestive evidence that unity and diversity are coexisted through television broadcasts.

How it relates to the goals of the SAJU Forum:

As a Japanese economist working on South African political economies, I aim to share my research findings to discuss my approach and results with South African scholars who have deep knowledge of the South African context.

How I seek to further collaboration in my area:

I am interested in conducting further research in South Africa, especially regarding issues related to racial inequality and attitudes towards migrants from other African countries. I seek potential collaborations with scholars in South Africa who share common interests. As my research interests and approaches are interdisciplinary, I would like to collaborate with wide-range of scholars in social sciences, as well as beyond social sciences such as anthropologists (who may be interested in qualitative approaches to examine racial issues) and computer scientists (who may be able to consider machine-learning approaches to digitize and process text data that has not been used for qualitative analysis).

Title: Managing an academic project in a South African University: what can we learn from Japan?
Presenter: Prof Wendy SETLALENTOA
Affiliation: Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Central University of Technology

Managing University academic project has become a serious challenge in the context of human rights and student activism. Consequently the managers in University face various trajectories such as rejection, depression and isolation. It is critical that a comparative study is done to tease new ideas of leading academic project in the face of disruptions. In this presentation, I look at various strategies which have work in the international context especially in reference to Japan. The argument underpinning this presentation is that wellbeing of managers of academic project should be central to any dialogue that ensures sustainable and progressive universities. In doing so, a comparative study is critical to benchmark how universities in Japan have deals with burnout, stress, and depression as a result of disturbances in higher education.

Title: A digital integrated report prototype of the national medicines policy

Presenters/Collaborators and affiliations:

William K. MODIBA^{1*}, Nontobeko P. MNCWANGI², Mammo MUCHIE³, Eugene I. OLIVIER¹, Lema RASMUS⁴, Tatenda ZINYEMBA⁴

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Sub-themes: Systems and technologies for the future; Health and wellbeing

Abstract

This paper describes the digital prototype conceptual design of an integrated reporting tool for national medicine policy. It is intended to address poor data quality stemming from previous templates and optimise and integrate policy-generated data using artificial intelligence and robotics to support decision-making and learning that will enable the long-term sustainability of the pharmaceutical policy life cycle. This digital integrated reporting tool envisages capturing the policy-making process, enabling policy assessments, gauging policy options, and taking advantage of opportunities to set policy direction and priorities. This digital system was developed using empirical qualitative methods, such as collaborative modelling approaches. This is an integrated system model using multi-stakeholder participation (Evers, 2012) to provide a basic understanding of the integrated system to support evidence-based stakeholder dialogue throughout the policy life-cycles. The prototype concepts and algorithms are discussed, and the architecture of the system is presented, describing the main components. The developed system will then be tested and validated.

Keywords: integrated reporting tool, national medicines policy, artificial intelligence, robotics

Title: A New Strategy for Molecule-Based Gas Purification
Presenter: Prof. Yoichi HOSHIMOTO (PhD)
Affiliation: Center for Future Innovation (CFI), Division of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Osaka University, Suita, Japan
Email: hoshimoto@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Outline of presentation

Gas separation/purification processes are especially important in modern/future industries, and thus the development of environmentally harmless and efficient separation/purification procedures has been continuously awaited. Herein, we report a nickel complex bearing *N*-phosphine-oxide-substituted imidazolylidenes, which can be applied for reversible, reusable, and pressure-swing CO chemisorption at room temperature.¹ We also report the triarylborane-catalyzed hydrogenation of heteroaromatic compounds under the crude H₂ atmosphere, including excess CO and CO₂, i.e., the direct separation and simultaneous storage of H₂ from crude H₂ to liquid organic hydrogen carriers have been achieved.² These results will contribute to the efficient conversion of hydrocarbon resources, including biomass and wastes, to H₂ and thus to the realization sustainable and greener society, a key goal of the SAJU Forum. To this end, we are seeking an opportunity for research collaboration with Prof. Dr. Naidoo and colleagues.

References

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Title: Becoming Black: Reading Steve Biko in Japanese
Presenter: Dr. Tomohiro KAMBAYASHI
Affiliation: Lecturer, Department of English, Konan University, Kobe, Japan
Email: tomohirok@konan-u.ac.jp

Sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline of presentation

This paper will reveal the Japanese anti-apartheid activists' understanding of 'blackness' by examining the translation and reception of Steve Biko's works. The Japanese translation of Biko's *I Write What I Like* was published in 1988, and *Cry Freedom*, the film based on his life, was premiered in Japan the same year. Biko's activities and thoughts came to be known in Japan. Biko's idea of being black was influential among Japanese anti-apartheid activists, who criticized the situation where Japanese people in South Africa were treated as "honorary white" due mainly to its economic power.

Through a detailed analysis of the translation of Steve Biko's writings into Japanese and their reception, as well as the reactions following the Japanese release of the film *Cry Freedom*, this study will demonstrate the profound impact of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa on Japanese anti-apartheid activists. It will be argued that the act of reading Biko and watching *Cry Freedom*, a film told from a white perspective, served as a powerful mirror, forcing them to confront their role as oppressors. This self-awareness explains their attraction to Biko's claim to be black, which demands a break from the oppressive regime and seeks its overthrow.

Previous studies on the history of South African-Japanese relations have yet to analyze how people engaged in the anti-apartheid movement in Japan perceived their own racial categorization. Indeed, researchers who examined diplomatic ties between the two countries have focused on the treatment of Japanese residents in South Africa as "honorary whites". However, this focus on how the Japanese became "white" led to neglecting thorough examination of Japanese anti-apartheid activists' attempts to show solidarity with the anti-colonial movements in Asia and Africa as "people of colour". This study will fill the gap by analyzing the Japanese reception of the Black Consciousness Movement based on the writings of anti-apartheid activists in Japan and interviews with them.

By sharing the findings so far, the presenter seeks further collaboration among South African and Japanese researchers on the topic of Afro-Asian solidarity. In this sense, this paper contributes to the goals of the SAJU Forum.

Title: Mixed-Income Housing Developments in Africa: Lessons Learned
Presenter: Mr. Temitope OLANIRAN
Affiliation: Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment,
Durban University of Technology, Durban, South Africa
Email: Temitopeo@dut.ac.za

Sub-themes: Systems and technologies for the future; Social justice and development

Abstract

Mixed-income housing developments have gained prominence as a strategy to address housing inequality and foster social integration in urban areas across the globe. In the African context, where rapid urbanization and informal settlements continue to pose significant challenges, mixed-income housing developments have emerged as a promising solution. This study aims to analyze and distill valuable lessons learned from various mixed-income housing projects in Africa, shedding light on their successes, challenges, and the potential for broader applicability. Drawing on a comprehensive review of existing literature and case studies, this research identifies key themes and trends in mixed-income housing development across the African continent. It examines factors contributing to successful implementation, such as effective governance, community engagement, financial sustainability, and design considerations. The findings underscore the importance of a contextualized approach to mixed-income housing development in Africa, acknowledging the diversity of socio-economic, cultural, and political landscapes across the continent. By synthesizing experiences from different African contexts, this study contributes to a broader understanding of the potential and challenges associated with mixed-income housing, ultimately facilitating more equitable and resilient urban development in the region.

Keywords: Mixed-income housing, Africa, Socio-economic disparities, Rapid urbanization, Inclusive housing

PROPOSED SUB-THEME: Social justice and development.

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Nature of existing research: This forms part of PhD research titled "A framework for enhanced mixed-income housing in South Africa. The study investigates the efficiency of mixed-income public-private housing models in addressing housing shortfall in South Africa, and in constructing more integrated mega-housing settlements. The study examines MIH as a strategy to improve housing delivery in South Africa. The Cornubia MIH in Durban will be used as a case study for this study. This investigation adopts the mixed-method approach (qualitative and quantitative approach) and triangulation technique (documentation analysis, household survey, semi-structured interviews, and field-work observation) to collect data. The interviews will involve stakeholders (who have extensive experience of policy and development projects), while the household survey will involve residents (who have extensive experience of living in these housing settlements) in the selected mixed-income housing development.

Alignment with SAJU: This is relevant as it aligns with Social Justice initiatives and Sustainable Development Goals.

Collaboration: Further collaborate with both local and international stakeholders to gain insights into key issues around the research.

Title: Collaborated research capacity strengthening for postgraduate students

Presenters and affiliations:

June Rose-Ngcobo, June-rose.ngcobo@up.ac.za

and

Anna Siwela

University of Pretoria, Anna.siwela@up.ac.za

Sub-theme: Social justice and development: Education

In 2019, the average degree completion periods for the University of Pretoria (UP) Faculties ranged from 3.9 to 5.6 years for doctoral degrees; 2.4 to 3.4 years for Master's by research degrees; 1.3 to 3.9 years for Master's by coursework and 1.1 to 1.7 years for Honours degrees. This impacts negatively on the University's output data and subsidy, and also on the students' career progress as well as bursary funding.

Challenges:

- Drop-out rate of postgraduate students
- Throughput
- Bottlenecks: students who take long to graduate

The number of students who drop-out before completing their degrees indicate the extent to which UP retains enrolled students. It is therefore imperative that efforts to shorten postgraduate degree completion periods are intensified in order to effectively address challenges faced by postgraduate students that hinder their success.

The collaborative approach between the Department of Library Services and the Postgraduate Office for Research Capacity Strengthening Program offers comprehensive academic support, that encompasses library services and products, as well as financial assistance, to facilitate their timely completion of studies. Additionally, the program provides psychosocial support through wellness training and facilitates access to diverse digital resources offered by the library. Furthermore, it addresses ethical considerations in utilising these resources, particularly in light of the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, which present both opportunities and challenges. The holistic approach of the postgraduate support program empowers students, and exposes them to wider resources, peer support that enhances their academic experience beyond what they would have typically received solely from academic supervisors, had they not been exposed to the program.

Providing the holistic support to postgraduate students empowers them and impacts them in the following ways:

- Addresses shortfalls in throughput
- Enhances quality of produced postgraduate students
- Builds a pipeline of academic staff
- Builds supervisory capacity
- Benefits the University through subsidies
- Enhances research capacity, particularly in STEM and critical skills for the country

The latest evaluation report indicates an increase in the number of journal articles that were published by students who participated in the collaborated training workshops. This was evident in their

workshop attendance register and their ORCID numbers. There is evidence on improved access to eJournals, eBooks, and research data uploads and downloads.

In addition, facilitators of the training workshops attested to an improved quality of write-ups that students submitted in the writing retreats that they facilitated.

The Programme has contributed to shortened postgraduate degree completion periods, increased throughput rates, ensured an enjoyable student experience at UP, as well as enhanced quality of graduates produced by the University.

Title: The Long-Term Macroeconomic Consequences of Sustainable Energy, Water and Food Supplies in South Africa: Implications for Just Transition
Presenter: Prof. Ogujiuba KANYANO [Lead Researcher]
Affiliation: Faculty of Economics, Development and Business Sciences, University of Mpumalanga, South Africa
Email: Kanayo.Ogujiuba@ump.ac.za

Sub-themes: Social justice and development; Systems and technologies for the future

Abstract

Critical implications for a just transition are revealed by analyzing the long-term economic effects of sustainable energy, water, and food sources in South Africa. Ensuring sustainable access to these resources while managing socioeconomic inequality and environmental deterioration has proven to be extremely difficult for South Africa in recent years (Bruns, A., Meisch, S., Ahmed, A., Meissner and Romero-Lankao, 2022). Twenty percent or more of South Africans do not have access to clean drinking water, which exacerbates health problems and impedes economic growth. In addition, unstable energy infrastructure has limited industrial production and stunted economic growth in addition to causing frequent power outages. South Africa needs to address sustainability problems — **Energy, Water and Food Supplies** — immediately to restart economic development and get back on track. In addition, even if structural improvements are required to adequately address these concerns, a just transition framework is required. The objective of the study is to clarify the intricate connections between sustainable energy, water and food supplies and Just Transition policies as well as the cascading impacts of these issues. The study would answer 5 questions: How do changes in energy, water, and food prices affect Income/Wealth Distribution in South Africa; How do changes in energy, water, and food prices affect Resource Efficiency in South Africa; How do changes in energy, water, and food prices affect Social/Economic Resilience in South Africa; How can community-based approaches to sustainable development be leveraged to promote economic empowerment, job creation, and social cohesion in marginalized areas; What policy frameworks, regulations, and incentives are needed to promote the adoption of sustainable energy, water, and food practices in South Africa, and how can these policies be aligned with the principles of a Just Transition; and How can South Africa engage with international partners, research institutions, and multilateral organizations to access technical expertise, capacity-building support, and best practices in sustainability and Just Transition planning? To tackle these issues, a multimodal strategy combining social fairness and economic development with sustainable resource management is needed. The study would use econometric models/quantitative qualitative analysis to answer the research questions. Making the switch to sustainable methods could have a positive economic impact by creating jobs, boosting agricultural output, and lowering medical expenses related to waterborne illnesses. By addressing the research questions, we can gain important knowledge about the long-term economic effects of sustainable food, water, and energy supplies in South Africa. We can also use this knowledge to inform evidence-based policy decisions that support development pathways that are equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. Making the switch to sustainable energy, water, and food sources presents encouraging chances for social inclusion and economic revival.

Title: Tokyo Metropolitan University: Building Bridges for Collaborative Excellence
Presenter: Prof. Masayoshi NOGUCHI
Affiliation: Vice President for International Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
Email: partnerships@jmj.tmu.ac.jp

Sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Outline of Presentation:

Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) is the only public university established and supported by the Government of Tokyo. At TMU, we are dedicated to shaping the global future from the heart of Japan's vibrant capital. Our influence extends beyond Tokyo, impacting social, cultural, economic, and technological landscapes worldwide.

TMU prides itself on a diverse and dynamic campus community, with approximately 650 faculty members and over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students from around the globe. This diversity fosters an environment rich in intellectual stimulation and cross-cultural exchange. Our mission is to innovate in education and research across a wide array of disciplines, emphasizing close interactions between faculty and students.

We offer seven academic divisions encompassing humanities and social sciences, economics and business management, law and politics, natural sciences, urban environmental sciences, systems design, and health sciences, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Of particular interest to our South African colleagues may be our programs in Astrophysics, Space Science and Engineering, Tourism, Japanese Pedagogy, and Japan Studies.

At TMU, internationalization is not just a goal; it is our guiding principle. It influences every aspect of the university, from education and research to our societal contributions. We firmly believe that collaboration with exceptional students and researchers, both locally and internationally, accelerates research and drives innovation. We actively promote student mobility through exchange programs and study abroad opportunities, and we are committed to recruiting outstanding scholars from around the world. By sharing our findings with the global academic community and the broader public, we contribute to societal advancement, creating a virtuous cycle that connects students, faculty, and social development.

TMU is now eagerly seeking opportunities to collaborate with South African counterparts for the first time. Our goal is to engage meaningfully, leveraging our expertise to enhance existing initiatives on both sides. Through fostering collaboration and driving cutting-edge research, we aim to enhance our global impact and propel society forward. Together, we can advance society and share a brighter global future.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

NETWORKING SESSIONS AND THEMATIC PANELS

Title of panel: The ABE Initiative: Reflecting on Its Impact on Former Participants

Proposed sub-theme: Social justice and development

Overview

The year 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the ABE initiative. To date 85 Japanese universities have accepted ABE students and 400 Japanese companies have accepted ABE students for internships. So far 1,600 people have been accepted to the ABE Initiative program. ABE Initiative has accepted participants from all 54 countries in total. Join us on a panel discussion with ABE Initiative scholarship recipients.

- Welcome and Introduction
- ABE Alumni (5-minute PPT presentation by moderator)
- Self-introductions
- Panel Discussion: How has being an ABE Initiative scholarship recipient impacted your career?
- Q & A
- Wrap Up

Participants

- Ms Mbali SEKWALE, Economic Clerk: Economic and Development Section Embassy of Japan, South Africa
- Ms Selina KUNGWANE, Public service employee at the Department of Higher Education and Training: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Branch
- Mr Thami MAHLOBO, Coordinator of Internationalisation Support at Stellenbosch University and the Stellenbosch University Japan Centre
- Mr Martin MANGANANYE, Accounting & Procurement Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) South Africa
- Dr Joshua MAUMELA, Senior Machine Learning Engineer at Vodacom

Title of panel: **The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) – Prospects and challenges**

Proposed sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline of the panel

Since its inception in 1993, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) has become one of the pillars in Japan-Africa relations. Over the years the forum has expanded in scope and agenda, yet its main objectives have centred on advancing growth through private sector activities; fostering African ownership and autonomy in development; promoting south-south cooperation; and encouraging knowledge transfer from Asia to Africa. TICAD has also been a vehicle for promoting the human security agenda in Japan-Africa relations.

In current times, TICAD stands out among other international development forums in that it is multilateral and a platform for engagement on African development issues for a broad range of stakeholders, including African and other governments, international development and financing institutions, and civil society.

The last gathering, TICAD 8, held in Tunisia in August 2022, came at a critical juncture in international politics as well as Africa's development trajectory. More recent geopolitical developments, moreover, including the eruption of major regional conflicts, further amplify the multiple security, health and geo-economic challenges that the world currently faces. The African continent is vulnerable to many of these challenges.

This panel draws together a group of experts on Japan-Africa relations to discuss the history and dynamics of the TICAD process over time, the role of TICAD in Japan-Africa relations, major achievements of the forum over the years, and prospects for TICAD 9 in the current global context.

Panel members:

Prof. Pedro Miguel AMAKASU RAPOSODE MEDEIROS CARVALHO, Kansai University, p_raposo@kansai-u.ac.jp

Prof. Scarlett CORNELISSEN, Stellenbosch University, sc3@sun.ac.za

Prof. Sadaharu KATAOKA, Waseda University, sken3ji@gmail.com

Prof. Hiroki NAKAMURA, Musashino University, hirokinakamura78@hotmail.com

Title of panel: COVID-19 and Africa: Multinational, collaborative research project between Japan and Africa

Proposed sub-theme: Health and wellbeing

Objective and proposed content of the session:

This panel discusses the trajectory and some findings of a collaborative research project between Japanese and African researchers who are based in both Japanese and African academic institutions. This 3-year collaborative research project was initiated by the core members of the Japan Society for Afrasian Studies (JSAS) who secured funding from the Hitachi Foundation in December 2021. Led by Dr Kazuyo Hanai, current president of JSAS, the research project explores the risk perceptions and grassroots resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic in 7 African countries, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

This panel consists of 3-4 presentations and will present our experiences of participating in a unique collaborative research project. It is a collaborative project between Japanese and African scholars based in academic institutions in Japan. These scholars carry out research in 7 African countries in collaboration with African scholars based in academic institutions in Africa. The first presentation explains the origin of the project, its overall aim and implementation structure, and the progress so far. Then, members of the Kenyan and South African teams present some findings from their research respectively. The Zimbabwean team may also join the panel pending the availability of travel funds. The panel hopes to explore the opportunities and challenges of deepening research collaboration in the field of social sciences between Japan and Africa.

Titles of presentations and presenters:

- (1) "Exploration of Practical Wisdom and Resilience Overcoming Downside Risk – Collecting grassroots voices in Africa under Covid-19", by Kazuyo Hanai (University of Tokyo) and Chizuko SATO (Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO)

- (2) "Muting the Discordant Dirge: Politics of Death during COVID-19 in Kenya and Tanzania", by Kinyua KITHINJI (Sophia University) and Maureen Obare (Loyola Center for Media and Communications – Nairobi)

- (3) "Risk Perceptions, Resilience and Evaluation of Government Policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Africa: A Study of the Middle Class", by Tomohiro HOSOI (University of Tokyo), Scarlett CORNELISSEN (Stellenbosch University), and Chizuko SATO (Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO)

*The person whose name is underlined will make a presentation.

Names, affiliations and email address of presenters:

Chizuko SATO, (Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO), Chizuko_sato@ide.go.jp
Kinyua KITHINJI (Sophia University), labsgithinji@sophia.ac.jp, labsgithinji@gmail.com
Tomohiro HOSOI (University of Tokyo), tomohirohosoi724@gmail.com

Abstracts of Kenyan and South African teams' presentations:

Title: Muting the Discordant Dirge: Politics of Death during COVID-19 in Kenya and Tanzania

How was death treated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how did people respond to it in Kenya and Tanzania? What kinds of realities does the study of death during the pandemic reveal about the state's response to the pandemic and ordinary people's aversion to and ability to safeguard themselves from the downside risks of the pandemic? In this paper, we focus on the politics of death, noting that "the effects of the pandemic were not so much about the state's measures against the disease as how the state responded to the behaviour of ordinary people." By focusing on how the state and ordinary people treated and reacted to death, we get to understand the deeper realities of COVID-19 risks in ordinary people's daily lives.

The analysis of the politics of death reveals not only grassroots shifts in attitudes towards death during the pandemic but also the state's brutality in its attempt to safeguard its people. It uncovers the causes of death during the pandemic beyond the official statistics that indicated how many people died of the COVID-19 infection. We establish this through qualitative methods with the respondents from informal settlements in major cities in both Kenya and Tanzania who were directly affected by COVID-19 and the confinement and mishandling of anti-COVID measures. Death also provides an understanding of what people learned from the previous pandemic, notably HIV/AIDS, which was mainly perceived to have faded from the collective memory of the new generation of East Africans. To do this, we briefly employ a story-telling technique as a method that assists informants in recalling and retelling the HIV/AIDS deaths in the 1990s and comparing them to the COVID-19 deaths.

This study also looks at death from two divergent perspectives in the two countries. In Tanzania, the denialist regime of President Magufuli shaped public perceptions of COVID-19 as initially non-existent. However, his death signified a key turning point, with the rumours surrounding his death pointing to the possibility of COVID-19. We focus on attitudes shaped by the state-led denialism of COVID-19 and consider the change after Magufuli's demise. In Kenya, the political class reigned in redefining the rituals around death, as various measures were put in place to prevent the spread of the disease by the mourners. Nevertheless, the brutal deaths of the two brothers from Kianjokoma at the hands of the police, under the guise of enforcing the curfew, became a focal point of conflicting politics as their final rites became an arena of anti-state gathering that wholesomely ignored the stipulated regulations.

By examining these politics around death, we uncover the sociopolitical dynamics of the pandemic and how ordinary people navigated these challenges. This approach helps us understand the broader implications of the pandemic and social governance in East Africa, providing insights into both state policies and grassroots resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Title: Risk Perceptions, Resilience and Evaluation of Government Policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Africa: A Study of the Middle Class

South Africa recorded the highest numbers of confirmed cases of the COVID-19 infections and casualties on the African continent. While the pandemic affected everyone, its impacts differed significantly according to one's socio-economic position and gender. Many scholars highlighted the severe economic impact of the pandemic, especially on the poor population who suffered job losses or lost sources of livelihoods. Higher levels of psychological stresses and anxiety were also reported. Introduction of comprehensive policy measures by the South African government in order to prevent

the spread of the pandemic and to mitigate the negative socio-economic impacts also contributed to the different experiences of the pandemic among populations.

This study focuses on the middle class, defined by income criteria as well as subjective social status, a group that is relatively understudied in an otherwise large emerging body of scholarship on pandemic and post-pandemic South Africa. It assesses their risk perceptions and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, evaluations of the government policies during the pandemic, as well as the mitigation and coping strategies adopted, by analysing quantitative and qualitative interview data. Through the discussion of the middle class views and experiences during the pandemic, the study explores not only the sources of resilience of the South African middle class, but also their roles in the society as a provider of resilience.

Title of panel: **Japan's Exploration of Digitally Enhanced International Education : JV-Campus and COIL/Virtual Exchange**

Proposed sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Objective(s) and proposed content of the session

The Japanese Government recently conducted the Meeting of the Council for Creating the Future of Education, led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. During this event, they compiled and publicized their second proposal, "Initiative to Promote Study Abroad for Young People to Create the Future" ("JMIRAI"). This initiative seeks to establish ambitious Key Performance Indicators for both inbound and outbound student mobility, particularly at Higher Education Institution level. It also emphasizes the importance of digitally enhanced international education practices, including COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning). One of the highlighted to achieve the outcome is the digital transformation (DX) of international education, and the other is promoting blended mobility programs by utilizing new online practices enabled through DX with study abroad.

The purpose of the panel is to share new developments above to the audience and offer valuable insights. The panel also shares good practices from a Japanese HEI that reflects on J-MIRAI. In addition, the panel will bring in another new updates from Japan with regards to digitally enhanced education. In response to the impact of COVID-19, Japanese HEIs, with the support of the Ministry of Education, have launched a novel online international educational platform, JV-Campus. The discourse regarding its development process includes topics like digital credentialing (micro-credential), assessment methods, and quality assurance for online teaching and learning. Furthermore, it covers multidimensional policy dialogues and collaborative initiatives. The presentation will include specific examples - some from our university among others - to illustrate the ongoing transformations in international education efforts in Japan today.

Names, affiliations and email addresses of panellists

Panel Chair and Speaker:

Keiko IKEDA

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Speakers:

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Title of panel: Closing the Gap Between Research and Policy Making: A New Postdoctoral Initiative by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF)

Proposed sub-theme: Social justice and development

PANEL DESCRIPTION

In the realm of governance and decision-making, the integration of scientific research into the policymaking process is critical for fostering sustainable development and social justice. Evidence-based research is crucial for creating and implementing effective policies, but there is often a wide gap between research findings and policy decisions, leading to missed opportunities for positive societal impact. Recognizing this challenge, the DSI and the NRF have launched a new postdoctoral programme aimed at bridging the divide between research and policymaking. This panel will explore the significant contributions that scientists, particularly postdoctoral fellows, can make in developing evidence-based policies. Central to this initiative is the promotion of evidence-based research as a key driver for informed policy decisions. By ensuring that policymakers have access to credible and up-to-date research findings, the programme seeks to enhance the quality and effectiveness of policies across various sectors. Through collaboration with researchers and experts in different fields, the DSI and NRF aim to create a more synergistic relationship between research and policymaking.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Explore the challenges and opportunities in bridging the gap between research and policymaking
- Showcase the DSI-NRF postdoctoral initiative as a pioneering model for research-policy integration
- Share insights from postdoctoral fellows on navigating realities of academia and policy
- Foster collaboration and dialogue among attendees towards fostering a more integrated research-policy landscape

PROPOSED CONTENT OF THE SESSION:

The session will kick off with a thought-provoking keynote address delving into the significance of bolstering the connection between research and policymaking. This keynote speaker will set the stage for the discussions to come and inspire attendees to consider new pathways for impactful collaboration between academia and policy spheres. Following the keynote, a dynamic panel discussion will be hosted, featuring a selection of DSI-NRF postdoctoral fellows, sharing their unique perspectives and experiences at the intersection of research and policy. This interactive panel will invite audience participation, encouraging lively discourse and the exchange of innovative ideas.

Title of Panel: Sophia University Research

Proposed sub-theme: **Systems and technologies for the future**

Outline of panel discussion:

In a global society, we believe that learning from the African experience is essential for the future. We should refer to the experience such as what kind of knowledge is being developed in Africa or what kind of solutions are being proposed in response to the challenges facing the global community today.

In this panel, we will review the research system of Sophia University and its expanding in the African region. Then two researchers will make presentations. This research is aimed at solving water problems in the North African region, where the effects of climate change are significant.

Then, the panel session will discuss the expansion of research that can be achieved through a "learning from Africa" attitude and explore further possibilities for collaborative research.

1. the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) Project for Ensuring the Sustainability of Oasis Societies Related to Water and Land Use in Western Deserts Y2024 - Y2028

Large-scale groundwater exploitation is currently being carried out in the Western Desert region of Egypt. The objective of this endeavor is to increase production and meet the demand for staple food items. However, the pursuit of this goal has given rise to issues related to the protection of groundwater resources and the accumulation of salt.

This project was approved in 2023 for funding by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This research endeavor aims to investigate "oasis knowledge" for sustainable groundwater utilization through collaboration between Japanese universities and research institutions and the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences and New Valley University in Egypt. This center was established to serve as the project's focal point.

The originality of the project is its focus on oasis and organizing interdisciplinary collaborative research led by the social sciences. The project's objective is to examine the "oasis knowledge" of sustainable water utilization in partnership with other Japanese academic institutions and research establishments, as well as the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences and New Valley University in Egypt.

2. Integrated Study of Flood Risk Reduction and Wetland Conservation

Africa has been experiencing flood disasters and the degradation of its wetlands. To achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063, Africa must develop better water governance and effective management. Integrated studies of flood risk management and wetland conservation and wise use have been progressing at Sophia University in collaboration with researchers in various countries over the past decade. The presentation outlines fundamental concepts and main activities of several water-related studies conducted in Sophia with a focus on its contribution to SDGs. Furthermore, ways forward to promote collaborative studies with Africa countries are proposed. In particular, a call for action is to work

together to enhance Africa's water security through sound water governance, smart water infrastructure development and societal transformation.

Names:

- PhD, Professor Yoshiaki TERUMICHI, President of Sophia University
- PhD, Professor Guangwei HUANG, Dean of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies of Sophia University
- PhD, Professor Erina IWASAKI , the Department of French Studies, of the Faculty of Foreign Studies of Sophia University
- Ms. Eri ITO, University Education Administrator of Sophia University

Title of panel/ networking session: J-Bridge, Connecting South African Innovation to Japan

Proposed sub-theme: Systems and technologies for the future

Objective(s) and proposed content of the session:

Background

JETRO is a government-related organization under the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry tasked with promoting trade between Japan and the rest of the world. To that end, JETRO Johannesburg implements several projects aimed at the SADC region, one of which, named J-Bridge, relates to promoting open innovation.

J-Bridge is a business platform to facilitate collaboration between Japanese companies and foreign startups and aims to support cross-border open innovation for accelerating digital and green transformation.

J-Bridge's Japanese corporate members (from various industries, both large companies and SMEs) have a particular interest in the following fields:

- Digital: Mobility, Health Tech, Life Sciences, Agri-Tech, Retail Tech, Smart Cities, Fin-Tech, Robotics, Information Security
- Green: Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation, Storage Batteries, Hydrogen, Smart Infrastructure, Greening & Conservation Technologies

Startups that meet the basic criteria to join the platform will have their company profile shared to the 1,500 Japanese corporate J-Bridge members and will get exclusive invitations to seminars and reverse pitch events. For particularly outstanding startups JETRO can also arrange online business meetings with J-Bridge corporate members.

Cooperation between Japanese companies and startups are typically through business alliances (joint R&D, technical cooperation, etc.) or capital alliances (investment, JV, etc.).

Objective

- Create awareness in the Stellenbosch startup ecosystem of JETRO's relevant capabilities and activities.
- Meet and network with potential startups, VCs and incubators.

Content

The proposed content will vary depending on which platform is selected, we propose the following for the respective platforms:

1. Panel discussion through which J-Bridge is introduced by discussing various topics such as, establishing partnerships with Japanese companies, best practices in pitching to Japanese corporates & what to expect when working with Japanese corporates. Success cases from different countries could also be discussed. Panellists could include VCs, relevant private sector stakeholders and academia, startup founders, incubators.

2. Networking session with relevant University Departments, local VCs, incubators and founders. The networking session could also include a pitch event, where three to four local startups are invited to pitch to a JETRO panel, after which if minimum criteria is met, the startups are signed up to J-Bridge. JETRO could leverage its current network of VCs.

Title: From Friendships for Sustainable Partnerships: UWC-Asahi University and Meikai University

Panelists:

Jun MiYATA (Chairman, Asahi and Meikai University)

President Katsuyuki OHTOMO (Asahi University)*

President Hiroshi NAKAJIMA (Meikai University)

Prof Koji SAKIYAMA (Meikai University)

Prof Satoshi KAWANO (Asahi University) *

Dean Veerasamy YENGOPAL (Dentistry, UWC) *

Prof Penny MARTIN (Nursing UWC)

Dr Jaco WALTERS (UWC)

Ms. Melitta GQADA (UWC)

Dr Suvarna INDERMUN (UWC)*

Mr. Umesh BAWA (UWC)*

*** On the panel**

Abstract:

This panel will discuss how the friendship with the rugby legend and UWC coach, Chester Williams led to a successful institutional partnership between the Faculty of Dentistry and Department of Nursing at UWC at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). The panel will discuss the strengths, achievements, and challenges in establishing this intercultural partnership, and the manner in which creative engagements resolved these initial hurdles.

The successful intercontinental partnership with Japan and South Africa, with the support of the South African Embassy in Japan will be examined, and the support of the Japanese Science and Technology (JST) Directorate and the Sakura discussed. Of critical importance, will be the exploration of the student and staff-led initiatives in Dentistry and Nursing between the two institutions, that have resulted in equitable partnerships and warm engagements, contributing to compassionate relations for mutual benefit. These epitomise both the kindness of Chester Williams and his contribution to the post-apartheid landscape, both at UWC and globally.

Title of Panel: Discussing South African Student Experiences in Japan

Proposed sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline of panel discussion:

Japan offers various initiatives for students and young people from South Africa to take part in an international experience in Japan. Examples of such opportunities are:

- Young Leaders' Program (YLP)
- Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme
- Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Study in Japan under Agreement)
- MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) scholarships

Through these initiatives Japan makes a positive contribution to the development of human capital globally and the development of globally minded citizens.

This panel session will be a facilitative discussion with South African students, who have taken part in some of the above initiatives. By sharing the experiences of students, we hope to achieve the following:

- Showing the transformative potential of international initiatives for young people and students.
- Making students aware of opportunities and encouraging them to take it up.

Names:

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Title of Panel: Responsible Internationalization and Student Mobility: Perspectives from South Africa and Japan

Proposed sub-theme: Social justice and development

Outline of panel discussion:

“Last year, prime minister Kishida reinvigorated the country’s three decades-long policy of internationalisation, announcing ambitious new [targets](#) to increase the number of international students in Japan to 400,000, and to send 500,000 Japanese students abroad by 2033.”

(Polly, 2024)

“South Africa has long been the major education hub on the continent, enrolling close to 41,000 international students in higher education in 2019, the vast majority from Sub-Saharan Africa (especially Zimbabwe). But internationalisation has lost some steam within South African universities.”

(ICEF Monitor, 2023)

As indicated in the above quote from Polly, Japan has big plans to increase the number of student mobility over the next few years. Although South Africa does not have the same student number targets as Japan, South Africa has been an important destination on the continent for international students.

To reach these targets and attain these positions as preferred study destinations strategic collaboration and partnerships will be needed. It will also be important to think about responsible internationalization, to ensure that considerations of equity, sustainability, fairness and inclusion are considered. Internationalization with the aim of attaining these targets and positions, should therefore not merely be perceived as a means to an end.

The latter matter of responsible internationalization can be approached and discussed on various levels, namely research, teaching and learning and aspects surrounding student mobility. Aspects of student mobility include ethical student recruitment, integration of international students and preparing students in terms of studying abroad.

This panel discussion will bring together young internationalization practitioners from Japan and South Africa to share perspectives on the meaning of “responsible internationalization” in the context of student mobility, taking into account the considerable differences in context between the two countries. Focus will be specifically given to integration and inclusion.

The panel hopes to achieve the following:

- Clarify the meaning of responsible internationalization in the context of student mobility in Japan and South Africa.
- Identify responsible ways of navigating a complex world through responsible collaboration to achieve meaningful student mobility.

Names:

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Representatives of Japanese and South African Universities

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Important PPT about J-Mirai (Japan-Mobility and Internationalisation: Re-engaging and Accelerating Initiative for future generation):

- <https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kyouikumirai/pdf/230427outline.pdf>
- <https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/kyouikumirai/pdf/230427jmirai.pdf>

See Nafsa presentation: Japan Rising: Can the Country's Ambitious Ten-Year Plan for Internationalization Be Realized?

Ideas surrounding Responsible Internationalization:

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RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONALIZATION BASIC ROADMAP



Source: Stallivieri, 2018.