



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS AFRICAINES

اتحاد الجامعات الافريقية

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Accra, 26 August 2005

Dear Participant,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in the first Conference on *African Research and Education Network Infrastructure* to be convened by the Association of African Universities. The Conference has been organized as a parallel session to the World Summit on the Information Society and will be held at the Corinthia Khamsa Hotel in Tunis on November 14. It will be sponsored by IDRC, OSISA, the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa and SIDA.

Through its focus is on connectivity within the African education and research community, the Conference complements other WSIS parallel events - in particular the Open Forum of the Association of Francophone Universities and the Conference on the past, present and future of research in the information society organised by the Global Science Forum, ICSU and other partners.

The AAU Conference will bring together over 100 key African and international players to examine critical bandwidth constraints to African education and research networking at four levels, namely, the campus, the national, the regional and the continental. Conference discussions will contribute to two important outcomes:

- a coherent and catalytic AAU ICT programme targeted at exploiting promising opportunities to advance networking at any of the four levels; and
- commitment of key players to partnerships in support of access to increased bandwidth for education, research and outreach within the region.

The draft programme is attached.

While the AAU has secured support for the organisational costs of the conference, invited participants are expected to cover their own travel and living expenses.

We look forward to receiving a positive response from you by September 16, and to meeting you in Tunis in November. To expedite the process, it would be appreciated if you could fill out our online registration form located at <http://www.aau.org/tunis/register/> with your response. The site will require a username "wsis" and a password "aauguest". Alternatively you could also email or fax your response to us.

With kind regards,

Akilagpa Sawyerr  
Secretary General