

## Call for Applications 2015

### Science<sup>1</sup> Advice Workshop for African Scientists:

*A workshop geared towards scientists living and working in Africa to enhance capacities in providing science advice to governments*

**Date: 26-27 February 2016**

**Arabella Hotel, Hermanus, South Africa**

**The application will be open until 30 October 2015.**

**Travel, participation fees and hospitality costs are covered for the duration of the workshop and the IAP Conference and General Assembly taking place subsequent to the workshop.**

#### 1. Background

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) play a critical role in the attainment of national, regional and international development goals. To ensure effective and efficient STI policy formulation and implementation, aligning science evidence with policy is important. The role of science advice in the formulation and implementation of evidence-based STI policies is becoming increasingly recognised. Various types of science advisory bodies can be distinguished globally including collegial bodies (such as science councils), hierarchical research-based organisations (ranging from policy-oriented think-tanks and intermediary agencies), academies of science, and offices of presidential or chief scientific advisors. For Africa to position itself as a key player in the implementation of the global goals, it is vital for scientists and policy makers in the continent to develop robust frameworks on the role of science advice in the formulation of reliable and credible national policies, and collectively to contribute to the various STI developmental programmes of the continent.

The workshop on 26–27 February 2016, will bring together 50 scientists (young and established researchers) and key stakeholders for a dialogue on models of science advice, and promising practices for working at the interface between science and policy, and will form a basis for a network of science advice stakeholders in Africa. The workshop is coordinated by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) on behalf of the International Network for Governmental

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of science includes natural and applied sciences, engineering, technology, innovation, health, social sciences, and the humanities

Science Advice (INGSA) which is a newly formed network operating under the aegis of the International Council of Science (ICSU). Following the workshop, an international conference of IAP: the Global Network of Science Academies, themed science advice will take place on 28 February- 1 March 2016. Workshop participants are invited to attend this conference, which will bring together global leaders on science advice.

The programme committee for this workshop comprises Sir Peter Gluckman (Chair) Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of NZ and Co-Chair of the INGSA Development Group; Prof Roseanne Diab, Executive Officer of ASSAf; Prof Romain Murenzi, Executive Director of TWAS; Prof Julie Maxton, Chief Executive of the Royal Society London; Mr Daan Du Toit and Mr Cecil Masoka of the South African Department of Science and Technology; Prof Aggrey Ambali, Head of Science and Innovation Hub, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD); Prof Mahama Ouedraogo, Head, African Union Office of Science and Technology; Prof James Wilsdon, University of Sussex Science Policy Research Unit and Co-Chair INGSA Development Group.

### **Sponsors of the workshop**

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
The Department of Science and Technology, South Africa  
The Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom  
The Royal Society of London  
The International Council for Science (ICSU)  
The International Network for Government Science Advice

### **African Partners**

ASSAf  
The Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa  
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Science, Technology and Innovation  
ICSU Regional Office for Africa  
The World Academy of Science (TWAS) Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa (ROSSA)  
The National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), South Africa  
The National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa

## **2. Workshop Objectives**

- a. To enhance the capacities of African scientists in providing science advice to national governments;
- b. To create an African network of science advice stakeholders to governments that will serve as a platform for sharing best practices, and deliberating on challenges and solutions of the African science advisory landscape;
- c. To develop and share science advice principles and guidelines contextualised to the African STI sector.

## **3. Eligibility Criteria**

This call is open to researchers residing and working on the African continent. Applications meeting the following criteria will be prioritised:

- a. Have a science background (natural and applied sciences, humanities, social sciences, engineering, health and medical sciences);
- b. Be affiliated to institutions of higher learning, academies of science, government/statutory/private research/advisory institutes;
- c. Demonstrate the policy relevance of their area of research specialisation or professional expertise.

The following documents should be submitted electronically (via email):

- a. Brief biography (not more than 400 words);
- b. Comprehensive CV (including list of publications);
- c. Motivation letter (this should cover: current contributions to the science-policy interface, reasons to be considered to attend the workshop, and how the lessons learnt from the workshop would be disseminated and would benefit the applicant's country)
- d. Letter of reference supporting the application

Successful applicants will be notified by 15 January 2016.

#### **4. Contact Details**

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