

# Call for Papers

## 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Africa Unity for Renaissance (AUR)

May 22-25, 2016  
UNISA CAMPUS, Pretoria, South Africa

### ORGANIZING SPONSORS

**Africa Unity for Renaissance Partners Network(AURPNET)**



### Theme

**The Knowledge, Spiritual and Struggle  
Heritage for Re-imagining Innovative Africa**

**The theme of our 6th International Conference on  
African Unity for Renaissance is designed to:**

- 1) Debunk the negative narrative that Africans have made no substantial contribution to science, knowledge, history and civilisation
- 2) Systematically document African knowledge creation, spiritual and struggle heritage and draw relevance for African structural transformation by employing grounded and context-specific approaches and conceptual and theoretical frames
- 3) Relate how knowledge, spiritual and struggle heritages can change the current fragmented governance, institutions, leadership and systems into a united and robust pan-African direction
- 4) Look back to glorious achievements of struggles, knowledge and spirituality of Africa in order to move ahead and re-imagine the continent as competent, independent and innovative continent.
- 5) Appropriate and apply positive data and history to help deal with and respond to various global influences that Africa faces from knowledge transfer instead of knowledge creation; reliance on donor aid; failure at achieving the MDGs and now moving to the SDGs
- 6) Provide a forum for networking on Africa Liberation Month by opening the opportunity for vast education using Africa Expo Day so that all Africans globally

can learn to find shared Pan-African solutions where the 54 states currently can learn to develop a united voice.

## **Background**

The rejuvenated African Union was launched in Durban on 9 July 2002: African leaders agreed to chart a new future for the continent. New institutions such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Peace and Security Council and the Pan-African Parliament were established. These notwithstanding, Africa continue to depend on aid from the so-called developed economies... African leaders have, unfortunately, further deferred the unity of the continent to 2063! And 2063 is indeed too far! Africa remains in a precarious position in the global order and many challenges remain.

Today more than ever, Africans need to look back, in order to successfully go forward. What do Africans see when they look back? They are often overwhelmed by the 500 years of de-humanisation and destruction. Annually, African Liberation Month of May should provide the time when Africans learn to appreciate, recognise, and promote the positive and constructive African knowledge, spirituality and struggle heritage. Who in Africa knows that Africa is the origin of humanity? Who in Africa knows that Africa has made many discoveries in mathematics, astronomy, science and technology? Who knows Africa is the origin of universities. It is about time positive narratives replace dominant negative narratives by resurrecting the glorious and rich knowledge, spiritual and struggle heritages. The more Africans learn to unite and stand up together, the more the opportunity will be opened to all Africans to resurrect the positive struggles, knowledge and spiritual heritage data to bring about constructive transformation and futures.

Africans have invented spirituality and religion. African spirituality is very holistic. Truth and justice, honesty and scholarship are expressed by Ma'at. Both Ma'at and Ubuntu provide the spiritual foundation to life for all humanity in the world. The Ubuntu philosophy is built on the foundation of: "I am because you are". Ubuntu sends the message that Africans are very associational in building human relations. Humanity will be saved by values that originated from Africa. Africa radiates the spiritual landmark and frontier of the world. This spiritual heritage must be resurrected to help decolonise and reconstitute all the systems, incentives, capabilities, leadership, institutions and governances of Africa as a whole.

2015 marks the 70s year of the 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress, the 60s year of the Bandung Conference and the 70s year of the birth of the post-war United Nations. The relevance of the African struggles in varied forms from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the period of political decolonisation in the 1960s to the African quest for realising full freedom remains to be explored. Little is known about the rich Africa struggle heritage let alone the need to draw lessons to build a better African future. It is urgent that the constructive and positive heritage of liberation struggles from every part of Africa be excavated, recorded, studied and resurrected in order to re-educate and wean generations of Africans to know that Africans have continued to sacrifice throughout the over 500 years of conquest, destruction, slavery, and subjection to varied forms of oppression, exploitation and plunder. The glorious past, particularly of early Africa and resistance to numerous imperial advances, and the stolen legacy should be recovered. One example of the successful resistance against colonialism is the battle of Adwa in 1896 – The Ethiopians chased out Italians in a humiliating defeat when Italians attempted to conquer Ethiopia. Another example of the successful resistance against colonialism is

the Anglo-Zulu War, Impi YaseSandlwana (Battle of Isandlwana), which culminated to another humiliating defeat of the English by the Zulu nation. Among memorable moments that Africans should celebrate is the first Haitian republic declared in 1804. Between 1801 and 1802, Napoléon Bonaparte sent the largest colonial venture of his reign: the Leclerc expedition to remove the famous revolutionary Toussaint Louverture from office and possibly bring back slavery. Napoleon's huge army was defeated under the leadership of General Toussaint Louverture and his lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who remained the most revered historical figures in Haiti to this day. The African anti-colonial struggle is global and continues to remain so until Africans are fully liberated everywhere on this planet.

In 2016, it will be 120 years of Adwa's African decisive Victory. Like the war against the British fought in South Africa until 1986, the Adwa African Victory against colonialism and for African liberation took place on March 2, 1896 as indicated earlier. It has come to be recognized as one of the most significant African liberation struggles that took place during the time of the European Scramble for Africa. The Adwa Victory reinforced Ethiopianism and Ethiopianism reinforced pan-Africanism, and both Ethiopianism and Pan-Africanism reinforced the Africa Renaissance. They are one in three and three into one. The best highway of African liberation is symbolized by the successful resistance of the 1896 Adwa Victory. Africans must value and cherish their history. The Adwa Victory has to live on until Africa is fully free and united. The lessons from Adwa Victory make Africans never to give up resisting all varieties of injustice that Africans are still subjected to. The African spirit of liberation will continue to shine ever brighter by remembering all the liberation struggles that the great African Adwa Victory represents.

It is envisaged that the Patron of the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, former President H.E Thabo Mbeki, would address the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Unity for Renaissance Conference with a focus on 120 Years of Adwa's African liberation victory. Other eminent people would also address the conference.

#### **Website**

Visit the official website of AUR in TMALI, [www.unisa.ac.za/tmali](http://www.unisa.ac.za/tmali)

#### **Deadlines**

Abstracts Deadline is **January 15**. Full papers must be submitted by **April 25, 2016**.

#### **Abstracts, Papers, Posters and Projects**

Abstracts for full papers, posters and project presentations will be accepted and will be reviewed. Abstracts and full papers will be double blind peer reviewed. Abstracts must be between 200 and 500 words. Please denote abstract category upon submission, full paper, project or poster.

Special Pre-Conference Workshop: **May 21, 2016**

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA - SYMPOSIUM (By invitation only)

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SPECIAL PANEL BY DST ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

Brand South Africa will continue the breakfast show cases of new developments in its work.

**Submit abstracts and papers to:** [tmalisubmissions@unisa.ac.za](mailto:tmalisubmissions@unisa.ac.za)

Deadline for Receipt of abstract for full paper, poster and/or project: **January 15, 2016**

Deadline for full papers: **March 25, 2016,**

Notification of decisions on papers, posters & projects: **April 30, 2016**

<b>Paper categories</b>	<b>Some Suggested Topics</b>
Africa Knowledge Heritage	Includes Knowledge Heritage in the education Curriculum, Pan-African Education system; The Knowledge Heritage for governance, systems and institution building
African Spiritual Heritage	The Relevance of Spirituality with Ma'at, Ubuntu and different traditional values for creating well-being anchored African Development, African ethics and culture Decolnising the mind-set software, removing the colonial virus, and making African change-makers
The African struggle Heritages	The significance of the different struggles to create a united, strong and independent Africa, The Significance of the 120 Years of Adwa Victory for African Unity and Renaissance
African indigenous Knowledge	Traditional Medicine, food security and, pharmaceuticals and disease prevention
STI Policy for African development Innovation systems and Innovation Indicators	From Knowledge Transfer to Knowledge Exchange, The Various Innovation Plans and their Limitations African context specific innovation indicators, why are some economies more innovative than others?
Africa moving from MDGs to SDGs	Is African Unity Necessary to make up for failures in the MDGS during the implementation of SDGs?
Making the Education System Relevant	Creating a Pan-African education system Deficiencies of the current system, Government, university and industry linkages
Social Entrepreneurship	Creativity, innovation, incentives and capability for youth employment, poverty and inequality eradication

<b>Early Registration – by January 1, 2016</b>	<b>Normal Registration - by May 15., 2016:</b>
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Participants and presenters would fund own travel. Conference organizers would cover accommodation and meals during the conference. All participants will pay registration fees of R300 – students are exempted.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION WOULD BE PROVIDED IN DUE COURSE.

