

The African Renaissance Institute of Science & Technology (ARIST)

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Introduction

- ARIST → A partnership of science & engineering leaders from the **Diasporas** and from **African institutions** united in a desire to work together for capacity building in Africa.
- ARIST is now a registered ***non-profit educational*** organization with a secretariat in Princeton, New Jersey, USA.
- The inaugural meeting of ARIST took place at Princeton University in **December 2008**.
- ARIST is coordinated by an **African Renaissance Committee (ARC)** that includes scientists from some of the leading institutions in Africa and around the world.

ARIST Mission

- **To help *Africa* train *Africans* to solve *African* problems in *Africa* → Knowledge for wealth creation in Africa.**
 - Assist in the economic transformation of Africa through targeted entrepreneurship-based advanced S&T education and research.
 - Help train a critical mass of Africans with the capacity to solve problems and add value to Africa's natural resources → **Capacity Building.**
 - Help refocus emphasis on quality S & T education/research in support of **economic & technological developments** in Africa for poverty alleviation.

The ARIST Approach

- **Mobilize scientists and engineers** in Africa and in the Diasporas in support of ARIST mission.
- Employ a model involving the development of a **Network** of ***Centers of Excellence*** throughout Africa.
- The Centers are based in ***existing African Institutions*** that agree to partner with ARIST & serve as nodes of excellence → MOUs

ARIST Approach (Contd.)

- The centers focus on ***interdisciplinary S&T education & research areas*** that address regional needs → global opportunities.
- ARIST is interested in **partnering with existing institutions, organizations**, and capacity building **networks** in Africa → ***RISE Network, AMMSI, AAS.***
- **Solicit for funding** from agencies around the world to support ARIST mission.

Recent Developments

- **Signed MOU and helped in developing MS & PhD curricula** → the International Institute for Water & Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Burkina Faso.
- Mobilized academics to teach two ARIST graduate courses at 2iE:
 - A course on ***Advanced Water & Wastewater Treatment***.
 - A course on ***Environmental Aspects of Mining, Mineral Processing & Extractive Metallurgy***.

Recent Developments (contd.)

- Signed additional MOUs with the following institutional partners:
 - Science Initiative Group (SIG) – RISE Network → SSAWRN, AMSEN, WIO-RISE, AFNNET, & SABINA.
 - University of Connecticut, USA
 - National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), Abuja, Nigeria
 - African Institute of Science & Technology (AIST) – Arusha, Tanzania.***

Current ARIST Special Cases

- **AIST – Arusha, Tanzania** – Prof. Burton Mwamila (VC) and leadership team.
 - Assist in development of new degree programs & curricula.
 - Assist in recruiting faculty → International.
 - Plan for faculty & student exchange programs.
 - Help identify international funding sources and write joint grant proposals.
- **University of Liberia** – Prof. Emmet Denis (VC)
 - Help reactivate their engineering programs.
 - Assist in development of degree programs and curricula
 - Collaborate to raise funds globally
 - Help develop faculty exchange programs with Diaspora scientists

Recent Developments (Contd.)

- Currently negotiating MOUs with:
 - Kwame-Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana.
 - University of Benin, Nigeria.
 - Alexandria University, Egypt.
 - Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
 - MINTEK, Inc., South Africa

Recent Developments (Contd.)

■ Additional Institutional Partners:

- Princeton University, USA
- Institute for Advanced Study, USA
- Tuskegee University, USA
- Penn State University, USA
- Massachusetts Inst. of Tech., USA
- Stanford University, USA
- University of California - San Francisco, USA
- University of Chicago, USA
- University of New South Wales, Australia
- ISMANS, France
- University of Nance, France
- University of Mines & Technology, Ghana
- University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
- Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- Federal University of Technology – Akure, Nigeria
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Rhodes University, South Africa
- University of the Witswatersrand, South Africa
- Mintek, South Africa

Current ARIST Leadership

- **African Renaissance Committee** → The governing body of ARIST (15 members).
- **Executive Committee** → day-to-day Administration:
 - Prof. Wole Soboyejo – Chair
 - Prof. Nosa O. Egiebor – Vice Chair
 - Ms. Arlen Hastings – Secretary
 - Profs. Haile Debas & Paul Ginies - co-Directors, Fund Raising Committee.
 - Prof. Francois Tsobnang and Dr. Kunle Soyemi – co-Directors, Europe
 - Prof. Soji Adesina – Director, Australasia
 - Prof. Amadou Hama-Maiga – Director, Africa

Conclusion

- The next **African Renaissance Committee** meeting is scheduled for December 2009.
- ARIST extends invitation to interested **individuals, organizations, & institutions** to explore partnership & collaboration possibilities.