



**AFRICA
EVIDENCE
NETWORK**

*Only together can evidence-
informed decision-making
become reality.*

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National decisions should be made on evidence-based research

Professor **Kwaku Atuahene-Gima**, the founding President and Executive Dean of the **Nobel International Business School** (NIBS), recommends that governments should ensure national decisions are based on **research evidence** to improve the quality of policies in a country. Research is the major driving force to development argues Atuahene-Gima, hence the formation of the NIBS that aims to equip people with the necessary competencies and expertise for evidence-informed decision-making. He was addressing graduates at the third doctoral graduation ceremony in Accra, which had the theme 'The future of work and workforce.' His key message was that each country should back up their policy decisions with research.



Nobel International Business School Graduates at the third doctoral graduation ceremony in Accra.

Photo: **Nobel International Business School**

Africa Evidence Network member Eric Ngang writes a **blog** about how the integration of local indigenous knowledge and practices (LIKPs) assist communities in Cameroon adapt to climate change and support their climate resilience. His work focuses on addressing the gap relating to what LIKPs actually consist of, and how they are established, sustained, and shared.

In a recent **blog**, **Elizabeth Kahurani** from the **African Institute for Development Policy** gave some highlights from the **8th African Population Conference**, which focused on the importance of population in development. There was an emphasis on the significance of investing in research for use as evidence in informing development priorities.

The **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries** in Uganda, has received support from the **United States Agency for International Development** to put in place the National Food and Agricultural Statistics System as part of their **climate change strategy**.

At a **training workshop** in Nairobi **Sylvain Boko**, the principal regional advisor on development planning for the **Economic Commission for Africa** said the Commission is committed to helping member states meet their objectives and strengthen their capacities. The focus of the workshop was on strengthening African governments' capacities for integrating accountability in development planning.

Putting the spotlight on...

...a new member! **Iain Watt** Chair of **IFLAPARL**, a global organisation of parliamentary library and research services, joined the AEN because of his professional interest in evidence-use in parliaments.

Want to spotlight you or your organisation? **Let us know** and you could be featured.

Mark your calendars

30 January: **South African SDG Hub Public Lecture**, Pretoria, South Africa.

4 March: **Non-Communicable Disease Research Symposium**, Cape Town, South Africa.

17-18 March: **Cochrane South Africa National Symposium**, Cape Town, South Africa.

21-25 September: **Evidence 2020**, Uganda.

Mokgophana Ramasobana and Nagnouma Nanou Kon from the **Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa** write this month's **blog**. View all blog posts **online** and use the Network to share your work – submit your AEN blog **here**.

New training model launched to support stakeholders and policymakers

The **McMaster Health Forum** has launched a **new training model**, which combines online training as well as interactive webinars to effectively find and use the best available evidence to support stakeholders and policymakers. The intention of these interactive webinars is to initiate the ideas and then strengthen the capacity of participants to promote policymaking. This initiative was a response to a request from the World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Europe and it has been a success. The Forum encourages associates from all parts of Canada draw on this model as an alternative to in-person training for small groups of trainees.



Launch of a new training model
Forum launches new training model to support stakeholders and policymakers.

Photo: McMaster Health Forum

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

In the wake of the 2019 **Nobel Prize for Economics** going to randomised control trial leaders from the **Jameel Poverty Action Lab**, **Kim Starkey Jonker** comments on the **promise that the youth** of all three laureates' careers holds for leveraging the Nobel Prize for impact. Climate change and using digital data to inform decisions are two specific challenges mentioned.

There are five lessons about strengthening the global evidence ecosystem that can be learned from South Africa, writes **Ruth Stewart and colleagues** in a recent **London School of Economics** blog post. The first lesson according to the authors is how networks can compensate for resource constraints in the evidence ecosystem, while the fifth lesson is that the collective power of committed organisations is what makes for a successful evidence ecosystem.

Under the National Drought Management Authority and using the **County Climate Change Fund (CCCF)** established in 2013, a group of state and non-state organisations are **integrating local people's knowledge** and priorities into climate policy and planning using **participatory mapping tools**. Ibrahim Jarso writes in a recent **blog post** how this process is being replicated in other regions within Kenya and how it disrupts the status quo.

Hot off the press

Brunton et al: 'Adding value to core outcome set development using multimethod systematic reviews'

Khalid et al: 'Stakeholders' experiences with the evidence aid website to support 'real-time' use of research evidence to inform decision-making in crisis zones: a user testing study'

Oronje et al: 'Strengthening capacity to use research evidence in health sector policy-making: experience from Kenya and Malawi'

Opportunities

- Apply now for the **network meta-analysis workshop**.
- **Call for proposals** open at JPAL.
- **Nominations** for the Africa Evidence Leadership Award close 7 February.
- **Post-doctoral fellowships** available at the National Research Foundation.
- Submit **abstracts and proposals** by 27 March for **Wales' Future**.