



**Nominate your Candidate for  
The AAU African Higher Education Excellence Award (AHEEA)  
For Distinguished Contribution to Higher Education and Research in Africa**

### **Rationale**

Rapid increases in enrollment, static or shrinking public subvention, declining services and facilities, scant support for research, and unabated brain drain have had a marked effect on higher education in most parts of Africa. Despite these daunting challenges, many dedicated academics across the continent have inspired their peers by producing internationally acclaimed research work, helping to build vibrant teaching and learning conditions in African educational institutions, and providing outstanding institutional leadership and social responsiveness. Such exemplary contributions to knowledge production and to society have not been adequately recognized and acknowledged in Africa.

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has taken the initiative to launch, ‘**The AAU Award for Distinguished Contribution to Higher Education and Research in Africa.**’ Through this Award the AAU aims to stimulate the revitalization of the African academy through supporting outstanding research, teaching, social responsiveness, and innovative leadership by Africa’s academics. The AAU also hopes the Award will to raise levels of public awareness that will see a higher level of involvement by civil society, the public sector, and the emergent African private sector.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

The candidate must:

- Be a citizen of an African country.
- Be in active service or have served in an African institution of higher education and/or research institution.
- Be recognized for the breadth, originality, and diversity of scholarly publications, especially peer reviewed journal articles and books, or production in the arts.
- Be widely acknowledged for innovative leadership and distinctive contributions in institution building.

Be recognized for outstanding public service outside of his/her normal calling within the academic institution and have a sound record of ethical conduct and professional integrity.

### **Selection Process**

- The AAU invites all executive heads of higher education institutions in Africa to nominate **one** deserving candidate and submit the name together with the resumé/CV of the nominee, plus a substantiated testimonial clearly explaining why the nominee deserves the Award;

- An *International Panel of Judges* appointed by the AAU will compile the nominations, assess all candidates using the selection criteria, and recommend to the Executive Board of the AAU, the top five candidates ranked in order of merit and justified;
- The AAU Executive Board will review the contributions of the five shortlisted candidates; select in a secret ballot the best candidate, who shall receive the Award, and name the next two runners-up for honorable mention.

**Prize**

The AAU Laureate will receive a medal and funding to undertake a study tour.

**Award Venue and Date**

The Award, which was launched during the COREVIP at Tripoli, Libya in October 2007, will be presented to the Laureate during the 12<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the AAU, which will be held in May 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria.

**Call for Nominations**

The AAU invites all leaders of African higher education and research institutions to nominate a suitable candidate and submit their nomination to the AAU together with the complete curriculum vitae of their nominee and a one-page testimonial explaining the specific justification for the particular nomination. Nominations not accompanied with detailed current CVs of candidates and unsubstantiated testimonials will not be considered by the panel of judges.

**Deadline**

Nominations and accompanying documents should reach the AAU Secretariat, latest by **December 28 2008**.

**Address**

Send documents and inquiries to: Send documents and inquiries to:

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