

The Organisation of Southern Cooperation (OSC) Conference



The Organisation of Southern Cooperation (OSC) is an international intergovernmental organisation founded by countries across the global south. The first Session of the Conference of Associate Members held from 17th to 19th May 2023, served as a General Assembly that introduced the members of the committee, as well as the commemoration of the OSC Day, which coincided with the inauguration of the OSC's headquarters. NASAC attended as an associate member of the OSC and was represented by President Prof. Mahouton Honkonnou and Dr. Jackie Kado (Executive Director).

The programme agenda focused on provisions of the Constitutive Charter and General Assembly Resolutions “GA/RES/14” for establishing the Conference of Associate Members (CAM) and “GA/RES/21” on the rights and duties of Associate Members as adopted in December 2021.

The second event attended by Dr. Jackie Kado was the extraordinary General Assembly and summit 2023, in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, from 27th to 30th of June; this event hosted ministerial delegates and African heads of state.

The occasion was well attended by high-level representatives from Member States, Associate Members, ambassadors, and non-governmental organisations and hosted key dignitaries such as the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Misganu Arega, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn and former Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid and the President of the Union of the Comoros HE Azali Assoumani.

The ceremony marked the introduction of the “*third way of development, from the south by south for humanity*”, which aims at uniting the common agenda of member states in the development and cultivation of the global south. By focusing on the rehabilitation of education, the OSC aims at creating sustainable and financially inclusive frameworks to achieve its goal.

The discussions further led to the recognition of the important role of NASAC as a prominent influence in Africa for conveying the OSC’s goal as a voice for science education in influencing policy within Africa.

From the President

The Organisation of Educational Southern (OSC)



convened its first Conference of Associate Members (CAM) to act as a platform for

consultation and cooperation

among international civil society, research and academic organisations in support of the vision and mission of the organisation.

I was delighted to be elected the first chairman of CAM. OSC Secretary General Sheikh Mansour Bin Mussallam, described the CAM as a central subsidiary body of the Organisation that makes the OSC a truly trans-sectoral international intergovernmental organisation that brings together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

NASAC has continued to make strong contribution to global issues such as climate change and in partnership with InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) is conducting a study on Decarbonisation of road transport in Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

The aim of the study is to make recommendations on key priority actions for the regional bodies like the African Union, national, subnational and local governments including ministries of transport, environment and finance, international development and finance institutions among other stakeholders. The study working group members comprises of international experts nominated by academies from various scientific networks around the world.

I am also pleased to confirm that NASAC has secured financial support for the third phase of the Gene Editing Technology Initiative (GETI)

Project in partnership with Africa Harvest. We shall be engaging key stakeholders this August through virtual webinars and physical meetings where the GETI working group members shall provide expert opinions and literature on gene editing.

Our first quarterly meeting between NASAC member academies and the new secretariat of United Nations Development Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTBOLD's) took place in June. The academies present gave their progress reports and discussed on how Academies of Science in Africa can be strengthened through resource mobilization; this collaboration aims at building capacity through the "*Academy Development Initiative Programme*".

On behalf of the NASAC Board and Secretariat, we wish to send our sincere condolences to the African Academy of Science (AAS) upon the passing on of two esteemed colleagues, Professor Edward Ayensu and Professor Barthelemy Nyasse. We share our deepest sympathy during this time of loss.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Yours Faithfully,

PROF. MAHOUTON NORBERT HOUNKONNOU
President, NASAC

Activities and Events

Decarbonisation of Transport in Africa

NASAC in partnership with the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) held a three-day working group meeting on 13 - 15 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya as part of the ongoing study on decarbonisation of road transport in Africa.

The study shall come up with recommended priority actions for regional bodies like the African Union, national, subnational and local governments including ministries of transport,



Decarbonisation of Transport Working Group members posing for a group photo during the physical meeting at Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Nairobi Kenya

environment and finance, international development and finance institutions, and other stakeholders. The working group (WG) members comprise of international experts nominated by various science academies around the world.

The hybrid meeting had 20 participants and was attended physically by six working group members from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia, and virtually by two WG members from Ivory Coast and Kenya. NASAC and IAP also invited climate experts from the academia, private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

This consultative meeting produced vibrant discussions and expert recommendations that shall enrich the study.

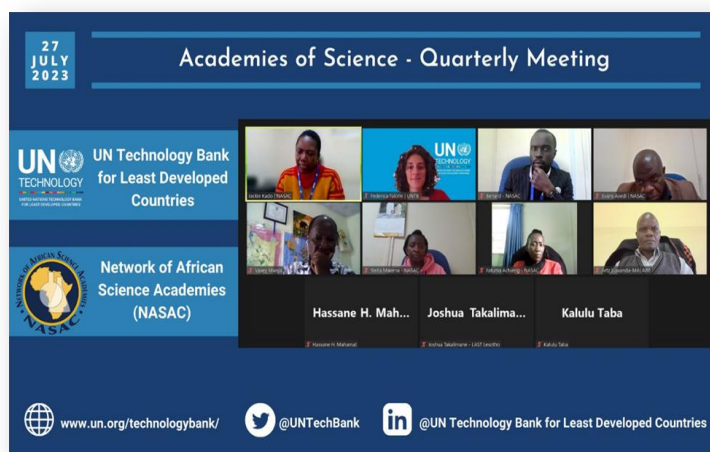
Gene Editing Technology Initiative (GETI)

NASAC in partnership with Africa Harvest has secured additional financial support for the third phase of Gene Editing Technology Initiative (GETI) project.

The focus of this project is to empower the working group of African Gene Editing Technology Champions to raise awareness and advocate for the adoption and utilization of this technology to improve food security in Africa.

The GETI working group members will have opportunity to disseminate this information during upcoming conferences, workshops, trainings, media interviews and any other Africa led initiatives in support of the Gene Editing Technology for sustainable Agriculture.

Academy Development Initiative Programme



NASAC in partnership with United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTBLC's) held their first quarterly meeting under the "*Academy Development Initiative Programme*".

The theme of the meeting was "*Strengthening Academy of Sciences in Africa: effective actions and*

resource mobilization” and was attended by the science academies of Lesotho, Malawi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya.

The Keynote speaker was Prof. Vasey Mwaja from the Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS). He encouraged academies to collaborate with governments, scientific organisations and the general public in promoting available innovations, science and technology.

ACCOS Capacity Building Grant Programme

The Congolese Academy of Science (ACCOS) in partnership with Congolese Young Academy of sciences (CYAS) organised a workshop on *“Contribution of Congolese academies of sciences to the development of higher education and scientific research in DR Congo”* on 13 June 2023.



ACCOS & CYAS workshop participants

The main objective of the workshop was to bring together, experts, researchers, university teachers and students to share knowledge, experiences and to look into means to straighten scientific research and high education sector in the country. Nine oral presentations and 18 posters were presented.

The workshop was an in person event and was attended by 430 students (both graduates and undergraduates), 10 members of CYAS, 16 professors including the university president. This high turnout denotes the importance that the university community accords to knowledge exchange and scientific research promotion.

GYA Annual General Meeting and International Conference of Young Scientists

The 2023 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in **Kigali, Rwanda** after a 10-year hiatus since the last [2012 GYA-AGM](#) which was convened in South Africa.

The AGM was held in connection with the International Conference of Young Scientists on the topic *“Technological Innovations for Discovering Solutions to the World’s Greatest Current Challenges”*. The Conference addressed current global challenges



From right, NASAC Executive Director Dr. Jackie Kado and other panelists

and how mid-career scientists and scholars could contribute to global, national and regional solutions using new technological innovations.

NASAC Executive Director Dr. Jackie Kado attended the event as a plenary panelist.

NASAC – INGSA PROJECT

The International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA AFRICA) in partnership with NASAC organised a meeting in Uganda Kampala on 19 June 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to build the capacity of committee members to enhance science advice in the climate change arena.

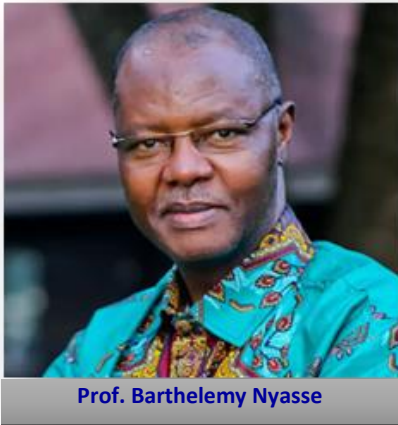
NASAC Executive Director Dr. Jackie Kado attended the meeting.



Announcements

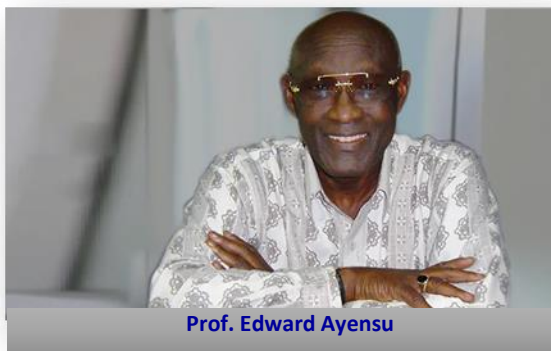
Celebrating the life and contribution of African Academy of Science (AAS) fellows

The African Academy of Science (AAS) is deeply saddened to announce the deaths of their fellows Prof. Barthelemy Nyasse and Prof. Edward Ayensu.



Prof. Barthelemy Nyasse

Professor Nyasse was elected as an AAS Fellow in 2013 and dedicated the last five years 2017-2022 serving as the Secretary General to the AAS, where he was tasked with overseeing elections and induction of new fellows; carrying out all correspondence on behalf of the AAS General Assembly (GA), convening the GA meetings and promoting and maintaining good relations between the Academy and other international, national academies, governments, international organisations and relevant institutions. He confidently guided the AAS through various meaningful developments and was an ardent supporter of good governance. His strong principles and aspirations are reflected in the practices of the AAS in not only building a better Africa but also a better world.



Prof. Edward Ayensu

Professor Ayensu was a founding Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. The AAS was conceived on 6 July 1985 when 22 prominent scientists met in Trieste, Italy, at the inauguration of the The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). A task force under the leadership of the late Professor Thomas R. Odhiambo completed and presented the constitution of the AAS within six months leading it to be ratified on 10 December 1985 at a meeting held at the TWAS headquarters in Italy. Thirty-three African scholars who had taken part in the July and December meetings became Founding Fellows.

Professor Ayensu was a renowned scientist. He completed his M.Sc. from George Washington University in 1963 and obtained his doctorate three years later in 1966 from the University of London.

On the Spotlight

NASAC President elected as the Chairman of Conference of Associate of Members

NASAC President Prof. Norbert Hounkonnou was elected as the first chairman of the Conference of Associate of Members (CAM) during the first Conference of Associate Members for the Organisation of Southern Cooperation (OSC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 May 2023. CAM is the central subsidiary body of OSC brings together governmental and non-governmental international organisations.



NASAC President Prof. Norbert Hounkonnou

The Organisation of Southern Cooperation (OSC) was established on 29 January 2020 by Latin American, Caribbean, African, Asian, Middle Eastern and Pacific Island countries at the International Summit on Balanced and Inclusive Education held in Djibouti.

The purpose of the OSC is to contribute to the equitable, just and prosperous social transformation of societies by promoting balanced and inclusive education, in order to attain the fundamental rights to liberty, justice, dignity, sustainability, social cohesion, and material and immaterial security for the peoples of the world. It therefore acts as an instrument of intellectual, technical and financial cooperation and solidarity between its Member States as well as its Associate Members.

The Secretary General of OSC Sheikh Manssour Bin Mussallam congratulated Prof. Hounkonnou and expressed that this collaboration would help to realize the shared vision of OSC and NASAC. The Secretary General recognized the great contribution made by Prof. Hounkonnou who actively participated in the formulation of the universal declaration for balanced and inclusive education and that the NASAC partnership would strongly contribute to influencing policy in science education in Africa.



OSC first meeting of CAM



OSC Secretary General, Sheikh Manssour Bin Mussallam

Member Academy Feature

ASCAD Workshop on Gene Editing Technology for Food Security in Ivory Coast

The Ivorian Academy of Sciences, Arts and Cultures of Africa and the Africa Diasporas (ASCAD) organized a workshop on “*Gene Editing Technology for Food Security in Ivory Coast*” on 27 April 2023 in line with the ASCAD-NASAC Project based on sharing relevant policy briefs with targeted audiences. It aimed to promote the exchange of experience gained in this field between different research teams working in the country.

The Ivorian law on Biosafety, adopted in 2016, includes significant restrictions concerning the commercial exploitation of both plant and animal GMOs given that science research has so far not formally established the long-term safety of GMOs on human health. Gene editing on the other hand, being a very recent scientific advancement, has on many occasions been assimilated or even confused with genetic engineering technology, which strictly concerns GMOs.

The Ivorian government has however permitted further explorations on GMOs which then allows scientists in the country to discover more scientific knowledge in the field. In this regard, any progress made in understanding Gene Editing Technology, will greatly contribute to credible and evidence-backed policy and decision making on its adoption in the country.

Hence the onus is on ASCAD to explain, with pedagogy, the difference between these two technologies to stakeholders i.e., the researchers including, academicians, developers, political decision-makers, parliamentarians, members of the National Commission of Bioethics and the general public.

In this regard, NASAC supported ASCAD with a capacity building grant of US\$5,000 which consisted of building a network of national partnerships and collaborations with universities, learned societies, scientific associations of young researchers and relevant national regulatory authorities, in order to promote understanding on research findings on genome editing in the country and eventually facilitate evidence backed policy review on Biosafety in Côte d'Ivoire.

The success of Gene Editing cannot be assured by science alone. Its acceptance and application must first comply with the local legislation in force. Despite the key role of technological advancement in modern agriculture in Africa, the continent still remains the most affected by malnutrition, with crucial challenges to be addressed such as patents on genomics, emerging and re-emerging biotic and abiotic stresses linked to the intensification of agriculture and climate change.



The Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) was established on 13 December 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya and is currently the affiliate Network for InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) in Africa.

NASAC is a consortium of merit-based science academies in Africa that aspires to make the “voice of science” heard by policy and decision makers within and outside the continent. NASAC is dedicated to enhancing the capacity of existing national science academies and champions in the cause for creation of new academies where none exist

As at January 2023, NASAC comprised of the following twenty-nine members:

1. **African** Academy of Sciences (AAS)
2. **Algerian** Academy of Science and Technology (AAST)
3. Académie Nationale des Sciences, Arts et Lettres du **Bénin** (ANSALB)
4. **Botswana** Academy of Sciences (BAS)
5. Académie Nationale des Sciences du **Burkina** (ANSB)
6. **Burundi** Academy of Sciences and Technology (BAST)
7. **Cameroon** Academy of Sciences (CAS)
8. Académie Nationale des Sciences et Technologies du **Congo** (ANSTC)
9. Académie Congolaise des Sciences (ACCOS) - DRC
10. Académie des sciences, des arts, des cultures d'Afrique et des diasporas Africaines, **Cote d'Ivoire** (ASCAD)
11. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, **Egypt** (ASRT) – *Provisional Member*
12. **Ethiopian** Academy of Science (EAS)
13. **Ghana** Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS)
14. **Kenya** National Academy of Sciences (KNAS)
15. **Madagascar's** National Academy of Arts Letters and Sciences
16. **Mauritius** Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)
17. Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology in **Morocco**
18. Academy of Sciences of **Mozambique** (ASM)
19. **Nigerian** Academy of Science (NAS)
20. **Rwanda** Academy of Sciences (RAS)
21. Académie des Sciences et Techniques du **Sénégal** (ANSTS)
22. Academy of **Science of South** Africa (ASSAf)
23. **Sudanese** National Academy of Science (SNAS)
24. **Tanzania** Academy of Sciences (TAS)
25. Académie Nationale Des Sciences, Arts Et Lettres Du **Togo** (ANSALT)
26. **Tunisia** Academy of Sciences Arts and Letters
27. **Uganda** National Academy of Sciences (UNAS)
28. **Zambia** Academy of Sciences (ZaAS)
29. **Zimbabwe** Academy of Sciences (ZAS)

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