

**PANGeA Workshop
(Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics),
Devon Valley Hotel, Stellenbosch, 21 November 2011**

**Remarks by Prof Russel Botman,
Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University,
and a Vice-President of the Association of African Universities**

Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for this opportunity to say a few words.

Firstly, from my side, welcome again to Stellenbosch. It is an honour for us to host our fellow PANGeA members:

- The University of Botswana;
- The University of Dar es Salaam;
- Makerere University;
- The University of Malawi; and
- The University of Nairobi.

And we are also glad to have with us this time:

- The University of Ghana; and
- The Liberia Teacher Training Programme.

Just by invoking the names of the countries represented here – Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa – one gets a real sense of a momentum that is building up across our great continent.

And judging by the calibre of the institutions involved, it is clear that we have a top-notch initiative here – one that holds great promise for the 1 billion people of Africa, the second largest and second most populous continent in the world.

Why do I say that? Why would it matter to the people at grassroots level what a bunch of stuffy old professors are doing in the lofty halls of academia?

When we signed the PANGeA Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding a year ago, I said that we desperately needed to score a victory, for Team Africa.

I said that the people of Africa want to beat poverty and hunger and disease. They want to lift the trophy of good governance and democracy and human rights.

And I said that it was up to us to give it to them – a victory in achieving fundamental human development goals by doing what we do best:

- By using the power of science, for society; and
- By working in unison to ensure that reliable knowledge is unlocked and unleashed to the benefit of the maximum number of people.

PANGeA, and its associated structures – the Graduate School and the African Doctoral Academy – have now been established. And now, I understand, you are gearing up to take this partnership to the next level, by:

- Building strong research networks;
- Improving academic mobility and exchange;
- Presenting joint projects and conferences;
- Doing joint publications; and
- Training PhD supervisors

As you well know, all of these things require a lot of financial resources, and it is therefore appropriate that funding requirements, models and joint fundraising strategies also feature high on your agenda.

The foundations of PANGeA have been laid; now the work of building the walls and putting on the roof begins.

The revitalisation of African scholarship is of strategic importance to Stellenbosch University. That's why we are pleased that we were part of the initial push to get PANGeA going through our institutional advancement campaign, the HOPE Project.

The PANGeA network takes all of our efforts to pursue excellence and relevance to a whole new level. It pools our strengths and allows us to collaborate, not just as individual researchers and academics, but as leading institutions of higher learning.

Good luck with the rest of your deliberations.