



Activity brief (December 2014)

Africa Update 2014

16 – 17 July 2014



Background: The Australian Government is keen to explore and foster partnerships with the private sector to achieve development outcomes and economic growth that benefit all of Africa.

Objective: The objective of the *Africa Update* conference was to facilitate information sharing between the Australia and Africa, and to develop strategic partnerships and practical outcomes within the framework of Australian-African cooperation.

Activity description: The conference served as a forum to generate ideas and initiatives from government agencies, NGOs, the diplomatic corps, business and academia.

The conference comprised four plenary sessions:

- opening and welcome;
- development models and export processing zones;
- science and technology in Africa; and
- health, nutrition and food security.

The Crawford School, based at the Australian National University, managed the activity.

Sector: Public policy

Outcomes:

- The conference addressed gaps in existing policies with the objective of proposing improvements or policy alternatives that can help create investment-friendly regulations and environment to foster business partnership and exchange of knowledge.
- The conference explored common priorities across Australia and African countries and identified priority programs and projects for taking strong partnerships forward.

- The conference provided high-level African input into deliberations and sharpened the utility of policy and business initiatives to come out of the conference.
- The conference raised awareness of Australia's contribution to Africa's economic and social development.
- The conference demonstrated how Australian technology and skills in areas such as sustainable energy can contribute to development.
- The conference provided a useful showcase for Australian know-how, both academic and business. The idea is that this know-how can be leveraged into concrete policy programs and/or business initiatives as a result of the conference, attracting funding to achieve sustainability.
- The conference identified sources of funding and venture capital for programs, projects and proposals that may emerge from the conference.

Date approved:	05/06/2014
Implementation partner:	Australia-Africa Universities Network, Australia Africa Business Council and the Crawford School (ANU)
Total cost:	AUD 35 000