



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Australia Africa Association Conference

16 – 17 October 2014

**Background:** The capacity skills gap in many African countries is a critical impediment to better development outcomes. Australia is focusing on this through the Australia Awards and extractives programs, but finding other linkages with private sector and universities to improve educational outcomes for Africans could also provide better economic gains for Australian businesses. This fits with the Australian Government’s policy of economic diplomacy – pursuing economic prosperity for all.

**Objective:** The Australia Africa Association’s purpose was to develop prosperous relations between Africa and Australia that enhance business and life opportunities.

The objective of the Conference was to build partnerships and teamwork; review progress of existing programs; and hold strategic workshops in the areas of development, education, and food security and health that would identify research and exchange priorities for 2014-15.

**Activity description:** This two-day program provided an intimate setting for high-level executives and key stakeholders to discuss opportunities and strategies for enhancing Africa-Australia relationships in education, training and related industries.

Over 150 individuals participated in the Conference.

**Sector:** Public policy

**Outcomes:**

- Created linkages between educational sectors and industries invested both in Australia and Africa.
- Promoted business opportunities.
- Facilitated industry engagement and people-to-people linkages.

- Identified market opportunities for industries and educational sectors.
- Promoted international education and student exchange opportunities.
- Fostered strong partnership opportunities between educational institutions.
- Promoted sustainable education and training pathways to increase workforce participation and the supply of skilled workforce to industry sectors such as mining, health and agriculture.
- Explored ways to improve both the university and the vocational education and training sectors to respond to business and workforce needs.
- Provided an opportunity to directly interact with a number of influential African government representatives and heads of education sectors.
- Created a platform for Australian executives and companies currently active in Africa to share ideas and practical experiences.

**Date approved:** 19/08/2014

**Implementation partner:** Australia Africa Association and Victoria University

**Total cost:** AUD 15 000

