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PRESS RELEASE

African Gong Signs MOU with AIMS-South Africa: Strengthening our Partnerships for Pan-African Science Communication Advancement

African Gong has established a new partnership with **AIMS-South Africa** to further enhance the programmatic delivery framework of both organisations, with a particular focus on advancing the communication of Mathematics and upscaling the public engagement skills and capacities of AIMS Lecturers, Students and Researchers. The partnership has been formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document which was agreed on by both organisations, and adopted at a signing ceremony which took place on the 10 May 2019, at AIMS-South Africa, in Muizenberg, Cape Town, South Africa.

Present for the signing were Dr Elizabeth Rasekoala, signatory and President of African Gong and Prof. Barry Green, signatory and Director of AIMS-South Africa, while Dr Rejoyce Gavhi-Molefe, House of Science Manager at AIMS-South Africa witnessed the signing.



“The conceptualisation, adoption and signing of this ground-breaking MOU between African Gong and AIMS-South Africa is a strategic demonstration of African Gong’s commitment to its African-centric vision and mission of harnessing and leveraging the visibility, agency and capacity of African institutions and practitioners for the advancement of science communication, scientific outreach and scientific literacy in Africa. It is about the paradigm shift of ‘Not for Us without Us’....and the Can-do attitude of Africans doing for themselves!! This is the strategic way to sustainability and the enhanced impact and reach of our collaboration efforts in this joint enterprise between AIMS-South Africa and African Gong,” says **Dr. Elizabeth Rasekoala, President, African Gong.**

“As part of our turnaround strategy, we place a special focus on building partnerships with organisations with similar public engagement vision, mission and solidarity. This agreement with African Gong is highly critical particularly in the creation and growing of a pan-African footprint and enhancing the impact and reach for public engagement of AIMS programmes in South Africa,” says **Dr Rejoyce Gavhi-Molefe, House of Science Manager, AIMS-South Africa.**

The MOU will enable both African Gong and AIMS-South Africa to jointly deliver and implement three activity programmes, two of which have been conceptualised by African Gong (Africa Scientifique and WAFIRA) and a third which has been jointly conceptualised by both organisations (The Ishango Workshops on Mathematics Communication in Africa).

- **Africa Scientifique** - a unique Training and Capacity-building programme designed for young and emerging African scientists, scholars and researchers (Masters' and PhD's students), to advance research expertise and capacity on the continent, and to build advanced skills, expertise and practice of science communication and research dissemination with publics in Africa;
- **Women Advancement Forum: International Exchanges, Research & Academia (WAFIRA)** - a capacity-building programme for female academics and researchers;
- **The Ishango Workshops on Mathematics Communication in Africa** - "Communicating the 'M' in STEM in Africa".

About African Gong

Established in 2014, **African Gong** is the Pan-African Network for the Popularization of Science & Technology and Science Communication and aims to advance the Public Learning and Understanding of Science (PLUS), scientific outreach and scientific literacy on the African continent. It is developed with the strategic support of the UNESCO Africa Region. Since its founding in 2014, African Gong has gained a strong and dynamic reputation, locally, across Africa and internationally, for its unique voice, platform, and advocacy for the development of socio-culturally inclusive and empowering scientific outreach, public engagement and capacity-building programmes in Africa and internationally, that will particularly impact on and uplift disadvantaged and underserved communities and groups in society. For more information visit: www.africangong.org

About AIMS-South Africa

Established in 2003, the **African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)** is a Pan-African network of centres of excellence for postgraduate education, research and public engagement in mathematical sciences. The first AIMS centre was opened in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2003 as a partnership project among six local and international universities. Since then AIMS centres have been opened in Senegal (2011), Ghana (2012), Cameroon (2013), Tanzania (2014) and Rwanda (2016). The

pan-African network of AIMS centres is coordinated by the AIMS Next Einstein Initiative (AIMS-NEI) located in Kigali, Rwanda. The AIMS-House of Science with the secretariat based in AIMS-South Africa is a Coordination Hub of the AIMS Network for public engagement. For more information visit: www.aims.ac.za

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