Title:
The Challenges and Prospects of African Higher Education in the 21st Century

Abstract:

Higher education in Africa is undergoing major transformation wrought by massive expansion. Whether by design or popular demand, “massification” of higher education is the hallmark of the sector in virtually all parts of the world. Countries around the world are striving to build their higher education systems to meet mounting demand, as is the case in Africa, or as part of their strategic development plan to enhance global competitiveness, as is the case in the developed and emerging countries. Unquestionably, building a strong higher education system is not a luxury for which countries can now be chastised for indulging, but a national imperative that is critical for national development and global competitiveness. What makes Africa’s growth unique is that it has seen a “flash flood” of growth with consequent implications that range from quality to funding, from governance to employment. Africa thus must do more in facing the dual and contradictory challenges of increased expansion and improved quality at the 21st Century. This inaugural lecture speaks to the challenges and prospects of African higher education in the 21st Century—with emphasis on South Africa.

Brief Bio:

Damtew Teferra, is Professor of Higher Education at the Higher Education Training and Development (HETD) at UKZN and the Founding Director of the International Network for Higher Education in Africa, which is jointly hosted by HETD and the Center for International Higher Education, Boston College, USA—where he got his terminal degree and also served as an Associate Professor. Teferra is Founder and Editor-in-Chief of two African higher education journals—DHET recognized Journal of African Higher Education (formerly) and the just launched International Journal of African Higher Education which is supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College and UKZN. Teferra is an editor and author of more than 10 books, including the Conover-Porter Award of the African Studies Association based in the United States and numerous articles regionally and internationally. He is also the Editor of the Chronicle of African Higher Education and a member of a number of professional associations regionally and internationally. He has consulted extensively for ADEA, DAAD, EU, GIZ, NORAD, VLIR (Belgium), and UNESCO, among others. He was also featured on 60th Diamond Edition of Who is Who in America (2005).