



LAUNCH

LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE AFRICAN WATER ASSOCIATION AND THE WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Date: 11 June 2021

Time: 15:00 – 16:05 CAT

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AYh05WOBS4yjsXdrM9Wd0A

Background

The African Water Association (AfWA) was established in 1980 to build partnership to ensure African people's sustainable access to potable water and sanitation services. While celebrating its 40th anniversary in Kampala, Uganda, in February 2020, AfWA announced the creation of the African Water and Sanitation Academy (AWASA), which stands as its Pan-African, specialized organ for research and training. AfWA and the Water Research Commission (WRC) will establish partnerships with other research and innovation partners in the continent to implement activities for the benefit of the AfWA members and the people serviced by the Water Services Institutions on the African continent.

The partnership between AfWA and the WRC was officialised in March 2021 as one of the important strategic partnerships established during the WRC's 50th anniversary. The WRC was established under the South African Water Research Act (Act No 34 of 1971), in order coordinate, guide and fund water and sanitation research and innovation programmes and projects addressing the national water challenges. The partnership aligns with both institutions' common interest of promoting and supporting the development of evidence-based research and innovation solutions for informed policy and water sector decision-making that will lead to improved water and sanitation service delivery in the African continent. Drawing on the partnership of other key and leading African partners and institutions this AfWA-WRC will facilitate collaborative activities and joint efforts that will lead to increased knowledge sharing and generation, accelerated uptake of the water and sanitation research and innovation solutions and improved policy and decision making by the AfWA members and other Water and Sanitation Services Institutions in the continent.



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The launch event will provide more information the partnership's value proposition, envisaged programmes and activities that will be implemented to ensure that cutting edge knowledge and innovative solutions are accessible and available to AfWA members and other Water Services Institutions.

Target audience: AfWA members, other Water Services Institutions operating in the African continent, knowledge generators/researchers, innovators, African policy makers, investors and funding institutions with interest to support water and sanitation research and innovation programmes in the African continent.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Programme Director: Dr Mamohloding Tlhagale, Head of International and Stakeholder Engagement, WRC

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
15:00-15:05	Opening of the event and house rules	Programme Director
15:05-15:10	Welcome Remarks	Dr Mandla Msibi, Group Executive: Innovation and Impact, WRC
15:10-15:20	The role of research and innovation in strengthening utility services	Dr Valerie Naidoo, Executive Manager: Business Development and Innovation
15:20-15:30	Partnership expectation and role of AfWA members and other African Water Services Institutions?	Dr Siméon KENFACK, Director of Programs, AfWA
Official launch of the partnership		
15:30-15:40	Play the launch video	
15:40-16:00	Launch Remarks	Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, CEO, WRC Mr Sylvain Usher, Executive Director, AfWA
16:00-16:05	Closing remarks	Programme Director