



*Applying scientific thinking
in the service of society*



Human Scientific Talent Africa
Presented by: Mr Stanley Maphosa

Academy of Science of South Africa

Brief Overview - ASSAf

- Inaugurated in May 1996 by the former President of South Africa and patron of the Academy, Nelson Mandela.
- Formed in response to the need for an academy of science congruent with the dawn of democracy in South Africa - activist in its mission and using science for the benefit of society.
- The Academy encompasses all fields of scientific enquiry and it includes the **full diversity of South Africa's distinguished scientists**
- The mandate of ASSAf is double fold- honorific and science advice to government
- Is the official national Academy of Science of South Africa and represents the country in the international community of science academies.



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Brief Overview - ASSAf

- Gender in STI is a strategic priority of ASSAf
 - OWSD and GIS under this overall strategic priority
- ASSAf membership is reported on male and female quarterly to the Department of Science and Technology.
 - The academy aims to increase the numbers of women members.
 - 26% (140) female vs. 74% (401) male
- Academy has national partnerships with:
 - government departments,
 - universities,
 - science councils,
 - parliament,
 - civil society
 - and business



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- ASSAf supports the young scientists work/early career scientists through various activities and the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)
- Internationally the academy is affiliated to:
 - the Network of African Science Academies
 - and the InterAcademy Partnership
 - ASSAf and IAP produced a book on Women in Science Academies and the results were not pleasing in many national academies
 - <https://www.assaf.org.za/index.php/publications/proceedinas-reports>



Title: Women for Science: Inclusion and Participation on Academies of Science

Published by: ASSAf

Publication date: 2016

Publication type: Survey

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- ASSAf works with
 - BRICS,
 - G20
 - and Commonwealth country Academies.
- ASSAf is also linked to the:
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - and the African Union (AU)



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- The Academy has always hosted roundtable discussions on gender matters in science meetings:
 - Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA),
 - TWAS Regional Young Scientists Conference,
 - Annual Young Scientists Conference etc.
- In that way, ASSAf has influenced human scientific talent in Africa towards fixing the numbers, the policies and the institutions towards gender equality and equity
- The academy has been assisting in reporting on international frameworks like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) from a science point of view

Hosting of Organisations that have a Gender component

*OWSD South African National Chapter
GenderInSITE Southern African Regional Focal Point*



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OWSD South African National Chapter



Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) South African National Chapter

- The SA National Chapter was established in 2009
- Constituted by a group of OWSD members who aim to:
 - increase and promote female participation in:
 - science and technology (S&T) professions,
 - scientific leadership,
 - the decision-making process at the national level.
- ASSAf provides OWSD with secretariat and administrative assistance to coordinate and promote its activities.



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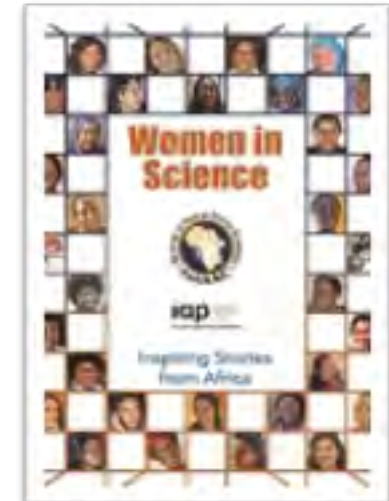
OWSD South African National Chapter



- Has ≈ 200 members in SA; OWSD international has ≈ 6000 members
- A national chapter can be established when there are >20 members (individuals)
- The objectives of the OWSD-SA National Chapter are to:
 - increase participation of girls and women in STI research, teaching, learning, and leadership
 - promote recognition of STI achievements of women
 - promote collaboration and communication among women in STI, nationally and internationally
 - promote development in SA through participation of women in STI
 - increase understanding of the role of STI in supporting women's lives & livelihoods

OWSD South African National Chapter - Outputs

- Recognition of Women Scientists
- Partnering with other organisations
- Promotion and awareness raising
- Networking and Mentoring Events



GenderInSITE

Gender in science, innovation, technology, and engineering (SITE)

- An international initiative to promote the role of gender in SITE
- Aims to demonstrate how applying a gender lens to SITE can provide deeper insights, more effective programmes and more sustainable outcomes in the context of development.
- Regional focal points – Latin America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa
- GenderInSITE is coordinated by the OWSD SANC, hosted by ASSAf
- GenderInSITE in South Africa is a project of the OWSD National Chapter

GenderInSITE

Activities focus on:

- Policy development
- Human capital development in response to SITE
- Promotion and raising awareness of SITE
- SITE for all
- Engagement with key stakeholders

GenderInSITE - Outputs

Gender and Innovation: Implications for Sustainable Development

- Report provides a summary of the workshop and the main findings and conclusions.
- Took place from 4-6 September 2018 at the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) in Pretoria, South Africa, was
- Organised by ASSAf, the GenderInSITE regional focal point for Southern Africa, in collaboration with the GenderInSITE Secretariat.



GenderInSITE – Way Forward

Gender and Innovation: Implications for Sustainable Development

- To identify the most promising practices from the work already done on gendered innovations in the North, and how they these might be adapted to the South in order to help countries reach the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To collect case studies from the southern region in order to inform policy makers and work towards actions for attaining the SDG's



Link to Gender Strategy

As host organisation, ASSAf:

- Enhances the visibility of hosted organisations among emerging and established scientists, policymakers and media through the organisation of:
 - public lectures,
 - discussion meetings with local newspapers/magazines and other fora.
- Identifies eminent scientists in the region for nomination as mentors, fellows, young affiliates and for awards.
- Ensures that senior women scientists mentor young scientists and young scientists also mentor girls in high school.

Link to Gender Strategy

As host organisation, ASSAf:

- Assesses the vitality and effectiveness of activities nationally and within the SADC Region.
- Organises activities in areas of science and technology that are of critical importance to the region.
- Creates linkages for the National Chapter with other chapters for example in Nigeria, Rwanda and Mauritius
- Supports the creation of National Chapters for OWSD and WISET in the SADC Region and beyond
- For example, ASSAf supported Swaziland in the establishment of their WISET National Chapter
- Is involved in compiling Gender Protocol monitoring factsheets for the SADC Member countries.

Past and Ongoing Activities



- Past
 - Gender Panels at SAYAS hosted events:
 - Science Symposium
 - Food Security Workshop
 - Italy-SA Roundtable Discussion
 - Partnering with the National Research Foundation and Istituto Italiano di Cultura
- Ongoing
 - PhD and Early Career Women Scientists Fellowships
 - Links to mentoring of fellows by OWSD and SAYAS and ASSAf Members

Planned Activities



- Ongoing
 - Mentoring: Looking to expand our mentoring network to younger girls in science – steps towards mending the leaky pipeline
- Planned
 - Gender Sessions at RUFORUM, Science Forum South Africa.
 - Leadership capacity building workshops for OWSD SANC ExCo to then provide same capacity building to OWSD members in their regions
 - Regional Networking meeting for OWSD members/ early career women scientists as pre-event for Science Forum South Africa.

Thank you



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