Effective Communication Strategy for Science Academies

Dr. Makhamisa Senekane
Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST)

13 June 2024
OUTLINE

❖ BACKGROUND OF LESOTHO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (LAST)
❖ DISSEMINATION OF A POLICY BRIEF ON COVID-19 NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS
❖ AFRICAN ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT: STRENGTHENING SADC SCIENCE ACADEMIES FOR BETTER SERVICE TO SOCIETY
WEBINARS
❖ MONTHLY WEBINARS WITH MEMBERS IN THE DIASPORA
  • IN COMMEMORATION OF AFRICA DAY (IP MANAGEMENT FOR AFRICAN RESEARCHERS AND TRANSFORMING AFRICA’S EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION 4.0)
  • THIS MONTH IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (TMISTI)
❖ IKS IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND POLICY: BRIDGING THE GAP IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA
❖ ADVOCACY FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY
❖ KEYSTAKEHOLDERS
❖ CONTACTS
• LAST was officially launched on the 15\textsuperscript{th} March 2021.
• Former Prime Minister Dr. Moeketsi Majoro led the official launch ceremony.
• The official ceremony was an initiative by NASAC AND UNTB-LDC to assist countries without academies to establish Science academies
• Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) provided technical support and guidance as contracted by NASAC.
BACKGROUND OF LAST

Former Prime Minister delivering keynote address during the official launch
• ASSAf in collaboration with the United States National Academy of Sciences (US NAS) while implementing PHASE 2B of a project **RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES (RTSL)** contracted LAST to host a dissemination event in a webinar form.

• As expected outputs of the webinar LAST engaged experts and policy-makers on key messages and recommendations of policy brief relating to COVID-19 that was relevant to Lesotho.

• LAST produced a policy brief and circulated it.

• By hosting the Dissemination Policy Brief LAST secured a 1300USD grant.
DISSEMINATION OF A POLICY BRIEF ON COVID-19
NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS

LESOTHO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (LAST)

invites you to join a webinar on the

DISSEMINATION OF POLICY BRIEF ON COVID-19
18th June 2021 at 10:00 am (SAST, GMT+2)

Dr Gertrude Mothibe
Chairperson-SAGMA

Dr. Tafadzwa Chakare
Technical Director - JHPIEGO

Hon. Minister Mr. Semano Sekatle
Minister of Health

Prof. George Mosotho
TSA MAHLALE

Mr. Lekhetho Ntsukunyane
Director-MISA

Register on https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4SY0827qQTuGUr8pcR16Aw

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LAST in collaboration with ASSAf hosted a side event during the margins of Word Science Forum with a theme, “AFRICAN ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT: STRENGTHENING SADC SCIENCE ACADEMIES FOR BETTER SERVICE TO SOCIETY” on 5th December 2022.

The side event was supported by SADC and DSI-RSA.

The main objective of the side event was to strengthen cooperation amongst SADC Academies and identify further partnership opportunities.
As an outcome of this event LAST and ASSAf virtually presented the outcomes of the event before joint SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training and STI 2023 meeting held in DRC on the 23rd June 2023.
AFRICAN ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT: STRENGTHENING SADC SCIENCE ACADEMIES FOR BETTER SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Prof Soodyall, Executive Officer: ASSAf delivering official opening remarks
As a strategy to achieve Effective Communication Strategy LAST has organised a series of webinars:

• Monthly webinars
• Webinars to commemorate Africa Day in partnership with other academies and institutions
• This Month In Science Technology and Innovation (TMISTI)
• LAST hosted a series of webinars with an objective of linking members in the diaspora with local members to identify areas of collaboration.
• In the last monthly webinar, LAST hosted Prof. Thabane who is based in Canada.
• LAST hosted a webinar with a theme, ‘Innovation & Intellectual Property Management in Advancing Agenda 2063 in African Researchers’ in collaboration with ASSAf, BAS and University of South Africa (UNISA) on 25th May 2023.
WEBINARS - In commemoration of Africa Day

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in collaboration with the Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST), Botswana Academy of Science (BAS) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) cordially invite you to a discussion on innovation and intellectual property management in advancing Agenda 2063 in Africa.

**Date:** 25 May 2023
**Time:** 14:00 - 15:20 (CAT)
**Venue:** Virtual Webinar using Zoom

**Background:**

- The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), in partnership with the Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST), Botswana Academy of Science (BAS) and the University of South Africa (UNISA), is pleased to host a webinar in celebration of the 2023 Africa Day.
- This webinar is themed on innovation and intellectual property management in advancing Agenda 2063 in Africa.
- It aims to provide a platform for increased partnerships and cooperation among African Academies.
- It seeks to enhance awareness and understanding of the immense scientific, technological and industrial potential of Africa.
- It focuses on the role of innovation and intellectual property in driving the development of Africa.

**Guest Speakers:**

- **Prof Caroline Nkula:** Professor of Intellectual Property at the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town, she holds the Department of Science and Innovation’s (DSI) National Research Chair in Intellectual Property and Innovation. She is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) Advisory Group on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, and serves as an expert to WIPO, the African Union, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

- **Prof Timothy Thomas:** Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and co-founder of the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) Plasma and Plasma Science Laboratory (PSSL). He serves as the Chair of the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) Plasma and Plasma Science Laboratory (PSSL). He is also a member of the UWC’s Advanced Materials Research Group (AMRG), and the UWC’s Centre for Advanced Materials Research (CAMR), and serves as the Chair of the UWC’s Advanced Materials Research Group (AMRG).

- **Dr Rodolfo Thembela:** Director of Science, Technology and Capacity Development, Joint Research and Development Unit, Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH). He is also a member of the BIH’s Management Committee. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of science, technology, and innovation, and has worked on projects related to the development of renewable energy technologies, including the production of green hydrogen using solar power and the development of new materials for use in the automotive industry.

- **Mr Agaya Nema:** Director of Innovation, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization, University of Namibia. He has held various positions in the field of science, technology, and innovation, including Senior Director of the National Research Foundation, and has worked in various capacities, including senior policy analyst in the field of science and technology.
WEBINARS- In commemoration of Africa Day

• As a continuation of ‘Innovation & intellectual Property Management in Advancing Agenda 2063 in Africa African Researchers’ LAST hosted a physical workshop with a hybrid component in collaboration with ASSAf, KEAS, BAS and SADC on 31st October 2023 in Maseru, Lesotho.

• The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI-Lesotho) provided financial assistance in organising the forum.

• High school learners participated by delivering presentations, engaging in debates and quizzes that were administered on IP.

• The exercise was intended to sensitize learners on IP ethics.
WEBINARS- In commemoration of Africa Day
LAST will host a new series of webinars with the theme, ‘This Month In Science Technology and Innovation (TMISTI)’

TMISTI dialogue is intended to be a monthly dialogue to a platform to engage in discussions that are related to Science, Technology, and Innovation, in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

With the current socio-economic challenges that the Kingdom of Lesotho is facing, there is the pressing need to provide a platform that would communicate STI.

TMISTI is envisaged to explore the use of Science, Technology, and Innovation as tools for development in the Kingdom of Lesotho.
The following are the envisaged outputs of the TWIST program:

- A scientifically well-informed populace
- Discussions on the use of STI to address societal problems
- Frictionless accessibility to STI knowledge
- Opportunity to promote careers in STI
- Opportunity to forge STI-related collaborations

**Contributing Partners**

- Department of Science and Technology
- Lesotho Young Academy of Science
- OSWD Lesotho Chapter
- Chemical Society of Lesotho
LAST in collaboration with ASSAf, KEAS and BAS hosted a side event during the South African Science Forum. The side event’s theme was, ‘IKS IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND POLICY: BRIDGING THE GAP IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA’. As a result of the event the collaborating academies jointly produced a proceedings report.

The objectives of the session were as follows:

• To deliberate on the role of traditional practitioners in mental health care and their contribution to holistic healing practices.
• To explore the integration of Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) and indigenous practices in national mental health policies and their acceptance within the broader healthcare community.
• To identify opportunities for meaningful integration.
• To work towards establishing a platform for mental health stakeholders within the SADC region.
• To share experiences, identify common ground, and address gaps in mental health, decision making and policies.
• LAST has participated in formulation of Research and Innovation (R&I) Policy.
• LAST has uploaded the draft R&I policy on its website and invited public opinion per request of Department of Science, Technology and Innovation.
Advocacy for Research and Innovation Policy

LAST launched by
HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

L esothen Academy of Science and Technology launched

Invitation for public comments

Department of Science, Technology and Innovation invites public comments on the draft of National Research and Innovation Policy. Comments may be submitted to Matsepo.rkhii@gov.ls on or before 28 of March 2024.

Download Research and Innovation Policy here
Email comment
KEY STAKEHOLDERS
LAST regularly updates its website to communicate regarding the initiatives and activities it is rolling out. The website address is www.last.org.ls
Thank you!

For more information, please contact the NASAC Secretariat:

P.O. Box 201-00502 Karen
Nairobi, Kenya

Located at
Zamani Business Park
Tree Lane, Karen
Office No. B.1.1.

EMAIL
nasac@nasaconline.org

WEBSITE
www.nasaconline.org