

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another Roadmap For Arts Education - Africa Cluster OFFICIAL LAUNCH EVENT

Saturday 25 July 2015 at 3pm

**Nagenda International Academy Of Art & Design (NIAAD)
Lutembe Beach Road, Off Entebbe Road, Namulanda.**

Supported by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SBFI) and the Nagenda International Academy of Art & Design (NIAAD).

Scholars and practitioners of arts education from across the African continent come together to produce and share critical knowledge about and through the arts.

The Another Roadmap Africa Cluster are scholars and practitioners of artistic and cultural education, working across the African continent, who have come together to pursue a joint programme of research into arts educational practice in Africa that is critically informed and grounded in historical analysis. The group's aim is to produce and to share important knowledge about artistic and cultural education in Africa, and to make this knowledge available both across the continent and worldwide. <http://www.another.zhdk.ch/africacluster>.

The official launch Another Roadmap Africa Cluster's upcoming programme of activities will take place at the Nagenda International Academy of Art & Design (NIAAD), Lutembe Beach Road, off Entebbe Road, Namulanda, Uganda, on Saturday 25 July 2015 at 3pm.

The official launch event will include:

- 'Towards the Decolonization of Art Education, Research and Design' - an keynote address by the celebrated Zimbabwean radical scholar, political analyst, cultural critic George Shire;
- an introduction to the Another Roadmap School by Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Director of Research at NIAAD; and
- a presentation of 'Decolonizing Arts Education' - A NIAAD/Zurich University Of The Arts Research Project.

The launch event will be followed by a party. Refreshments will be served.

Arts Education in Africa: The Case for Research

'Africa's teachers and practitioners continue to face serious difficulties in accessing high quality locally relevant research into arts education', explained Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Director of Research at NIAAD and Convenor of the Another Roadmap Africa Cluster. 'This has serious ramifications:

- 'Important innovations go undocumented and unrecognised beyond their immediate locality. Because the work and ideas of Africa's practitioners is insufficiently documented and systematised, their knowledge is not easily made available to others or preserved for future generations.'
- 'The lack of good quality, affordable and locally accessible resource materials means that the curricula for formal arts education in Africa's schools and universities remain overwhelmingly Eurocentric. Not only can this result in teaching of profoundly questionable relevance to students, but it can also instil and reinforce damaging and unjustified feelings of cultural inferiority.'
- 'Over the past 20 years, art education has evolved into an influential global discourse. And yet the knowledges of Africa-based practitioners and scholars continue exert too little influence on the development of policy at supranational level.'

- 'Our participation in the 1st Regional Conference on Art Education, organised by NEPAD (the development agency of the African Union) in March 2015 made visible the high demand and urgent need for in-depth, high quality research on arts education in Africa from which policy can be devised.¹ Africa's policy makers cannot continue to rely on research and on concepts that have little or no relevance to their local contexts.'

The *Another Roadmap Africa Cluster* will pursue a joint programme of research into arts education in Africa, focusing on 3 key areas:

- i. The analysis of policies and practices of arts education currently influential or prevalent within different African contexts;
- ii. The assessment of the continuing hegemony of colonial westernised arts education in Africa;
- iii. The plotting of alternatives and the development of other paradigms for practice and research in arts education in Africa.

With this programme, the *Another Roadmap Africa Cluster* aims to make a lasting impact on arts education in Africa by creating a vibrant forum for exchange between Africa's cultural scholars and practitioners and by producing research that is specifically targeted at Africa-based practitioners and policy makers.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Another Roadmap for Arts Education is a network of practitioners and researchers working towards arts education as an engaged practice in museums, cultural institutions, educational centres and grass-roots organisations in 23 cities on 4 continents. The Another Roadmap Network is working to critically analyse the 'Road Map for Arts Education' - as presented by UNESCO in Lisbon in 2006 and elaborated in the 'Seoul Agenda for Arts Education' in 2010 - in terms of its history and terminology, subtexts and paradigms, as well as the application of these policies in different parts of the world. The Another Roadmap Network contends UNESCO's recent policy documents reflect the lack of substantial, nuanced research on art education practices in varying socio-political contexts, and an insufficiently critical engagement with the history and the persistent hegemony of western concepts of art and education within the field.

The Another Roadmap Africa Cluster operates under the aegis of the Another Roadmap School, an initiative launched by the Another Roadmap Network in 2014 which aims to provide open spaces for trans-regional exchange and learning in arts education as an engaged practice committed to social change. Over the course of the 3-year pilot phase (2015-2018), the participating working groups of the Another Roadmap School are carrying out practice and research projects, contributing to a trans-regional arts education 'glossary' and sharing their results in the form of 'learning units', publications and a travelling exhibition.

The following organisations and individuals are currently participating in the Another Roadmap Africa Cluster:

- Ayo Adewunmi, Enugu Institute of Management and Technology / Art-is-Everywhere, NG (Lagos Working Group)
- Andrea Thal, Contemporary Image Collective, EG (Cairo Working Group),
- Chike Obeagu, Department of Visual Arts, Federal University, Lafia, NG (Lagos Working Group)
- Christian Nyampeta, Artists Home, RW/NL (Nyanza Working Group)
- David Andrew, Wits School of Art, University of Witwatersrand, ZA (Johannesburg Working Group)
- Emeka Egwuibe, Enugu Institute of Management and Technology, NG (Lagos Working Group)
- Emeka Ogbob, new media artist & cultural entrepreneur, NG (Lagos Working Group),
- Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, International Academy of Art & Design, UG / Zurich University of the Arts, CH (Kampala Working Group)
- Lineo Segoeete, Ba re e ne re Literary Festival, LS (Maseru Working Group)
- Patrick Mudekereza, Picha Arts Centre/Biennale de Lubumbashi, DRC (Lubumbashi Working Group)
- Peju Layiwola PhD, University of Lagos / WYart Foundation, NG (Lagos Working Group)
- Rana El Nemr, Contemporary Image Collective, EG (Cairo Working Group),
- Rangoato Hlasane, Keleketla! Media Arts Project, ZA (Johannesburg Working Group)
- Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi PhD, visual artist and art historian, NG/US (Lagos Working Group),

¹ NEPAD 1st Regional Conference on Arts Education, SADC Region', Johannesburg, South Africa, 11-13 March 2015. <http://www.nepad.org/sites/default/files/CONCEPT%20NOTE%20-%20NEPAD%20Regional%20Conference%20on%20Arts%20Education.pdf>. Last accessed 23 April 2015.

George Shire. A radical scholar, political analyst, cultural critic and decolonial thinker, George Shire studied at the University of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), the University of Oxford, the University of Surrey, and the Institute of Education University of London. He has for the last 30 years taught, supervised research and held academic appointments in the fields of cultural studies, visual culture and post-colonial studies in various Universities across the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

The Nagenda International Academy of Art & Design (NIAAD) offers a range of diploma and certificate courses in art, design and art education at its campuses in Namulanda and Masaka. Approximately 90 students are currently enrolled at NIAAD, where they are taught by a faculty of 20. This extremely low student-to-teacher ratio enables the development of strong, productive relationships between staff and students and an individualised approach to teaching. The academy's inspectors and external examiners consistently rate the standard of students' work at NIAAD to be of a similar or higher standard than that of students enrolled on degree courses elsewhere in Uganda.

One of NIAAD's founding aims was to offer educational opportunities to young people who, for social and economic reasons, are frequently at a disadvantage in the present Ugandan education system - despite their prodigious creative talents. Vigorous fundraising enables NIAAD to offer full or partial scholarships to nearly 50% of students in every intake.

The official launch of the Another Roadmap Africa Cluster will begin at 3pm on Saturday 25 July and end at 8pm.

The official launch and the inaugural meeting of the Another Roadmap Africa Cluster have been made possible thanks to the generous support of Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SBFI) and the Nagenda International Academy of Art & Design (NIAAD).

For further information regarding the project, please contact:

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