

ICSU Regional Office for Africa - the IYCr legacy conference

The International Council for Science (ICSU) Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA) is mandated to promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of the ICSU family in Africa, thus fulfilling ICSU's mission of strengthening international science for the benefit of society on the continent. Since its inauguration in September 2005, ICSU ROA has been engaged in activities designed to showcase ICSU's work in strengthening partnerships in international research collaboration, science for policy and advocating the universality of science. The Office aims to promote the development and strengthening of science in the context of regional priorities, and endeavours to bring international scientific activities and programmes, especially those of the ICSU family, closer to the African scientists through collaborative ventures.

ICSU ROA supports the activities and planned programmes of International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) on the continent as IUCr is one of the active ICSU International Scientific Unions in Africa. The implementation of these activities is trans-disciplinary in nature; it is also designed to cut through national and continental boundaries, while taking into account the need to foster the enhancement of science in Africa by establishing and formalising an African Crystallography Association (AfCA) – a structure that will be a fully recognized affiliate of IUCr. ICSU ROA has supported a number of IUCr programmes in the region and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

The involvement of ICSU ROA in future activities of IUCr will include providing organisational support prior, during and after IUCr related events in the region; supporting the establishment of AfCA; as well as facilitating the interactions of regional and international crystallography communities (including those of AfCA) with other scientists, relevant networks and stakeholders in Africa through sharing of information. The Regional Office will be happy to be a partner in IUCr initiatives where it will play a pivotal role of providing guidance in identifying action agenda items as well as relevant experts and scientists from different corners of the region. As part of its commitment to promote smooth implementation of IUCr activities/programmes on the continent, the Office will avail its staff for any service that may be required, within its resource and capacity limits. ICSU ROA is prepared to support and endorse (to potential funders) proposals submitted by IUCr as well as direct the Crystallography community to potential sources for funding for its programmes. The Office will also readily share information about the regional activities where IUCr can contribute, in order to maximise the scientific impact of these on the continent.

ICSU ROA is honoured to take part during this "IYCr legacy" conference, which is being held in lieu of the "Closing" ceremony for the International Year of Crystallography, aimed at reviewing all the activities associated with IYCr2014 and discussing how to transform these into long-term sustainable actions with special focus on the African continent. The past year's activities went a long way to promote the discipline of Crystallography. The Office looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with IUCr for the implementation of future scientific activities on the continent, and to the further expansion of the discipline to have a footprint on the majority of countries on the continent.

Congratulations on what has been achieved so far



Edith Madela-Mntla

Director: ICSU ROA