



**Australian Government**

**AusAID**

## **Australia Awards commits to Africa on African Union Golden Jubilee**

As the African Union celebrates its 50th anniversary under the theme '*Investing for Sustainable Success*', Australia Awards, the Australian Government scholarship program, continues to contribute to sustainable development in Africa through educating and training African professionals to help them prepare for leading roles in the development of their countries.

Commenting on this year's Africa Day celebrations, the head of Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) in Africa, Mr Jamie Isbister, emphasised Australia's commitment to the development of Africa through human resource development.

"Australia's development assistance to Africa is focused on building human resource capacity. This is why we have provided scholarships and fellowships to more than 4,000 African professionals since the 1970s," said Mr Isbister.

"Through Australia Awards, Australia has become a key contributor in assisting Africa build capacity in priority areas as it strives to meet the Millennium Development Goals," he added.

Australia Awards offers scholarships in areas where Australia is recognised as having world-leading expertise, including Agriculture, Health, Mining Governance, Natural Resource Management, Public Policy, and Water and Sanitation. Priority fields of study are agreed between the Government of Australia and partner governments in Africa.

The program offers long-term scholarships and short-term fellowships. It promotes equal participation by both women and men and aims to ensure that people are given a fair and equal opportunity to compete for and obtain scholarships.

In addition to training African professionals, Australia Awards has a Small Grants Scheme which offers financial support to Alumni as they become involved in development in their home countries.

The Australian Government has recently awarded funding for five projects to be implemented by Alumni from Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda in the first round of grants, with two other rounds expected later in the year.

More information on Australia Awards is available at <http://www.adsafrica.com.au/>

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