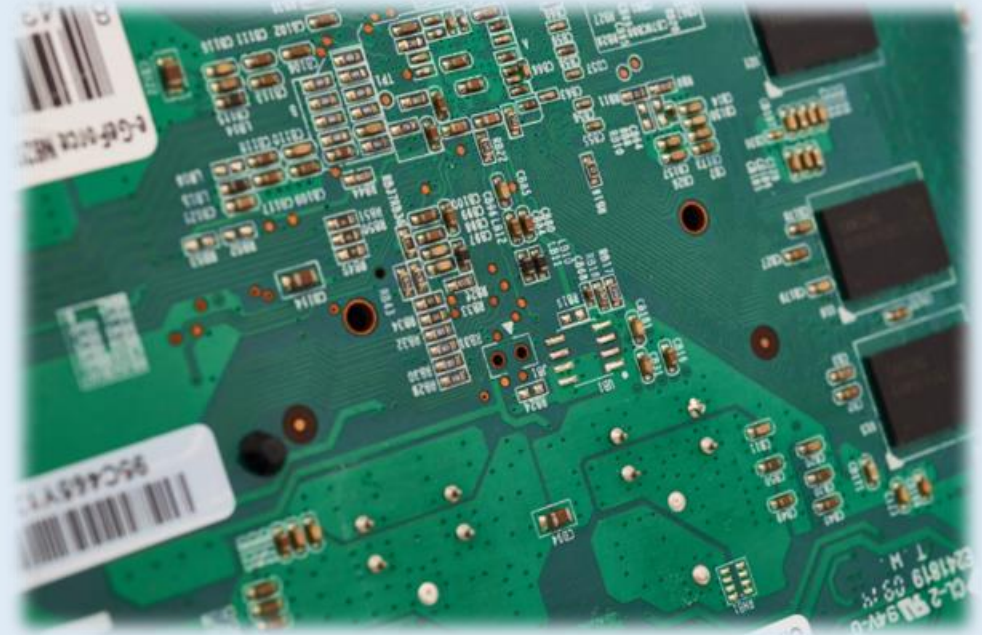




ZAMBIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



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ZaAS NEWS

Esteemed Members,

This is a gentle reminder about our upcoming 2024 Science Breakfast Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 7th March 2024, at the Grand Palace Hotel along Thabo Mbeki Road (near East Park Mall) from 07:30 to 09:40 hrs.** As valued members of the Zambia Academy of Sciences, your presence and active participation are highly anticipated. **We kindly request members to acknowledge their attendance/non-attendance to the Secretariat.** Your contributions and engagement are crucial to the success of this event. Kindly note that the breakfast meeting is at no cost to the members.

In other news, ZaAS has partnered with the Zambia National STEM Foundation to host a one-day STEM Fair to commemorate the International Day for Women and Girls in Science on **Friday, 23rd February 2024.** The STEM Fair is aimed at encouraging young female minds to take up STEM related fields. Members are welcome to attend this event and can contact Secretariat for more information.

We hope to see you at both of these enriching events.



SCIENCE NEWS

Africa-wide Ban on Donkey Skin Trade: Safeguarding Donkeys and Livelihoods

Animal welfare organizations have praised the Africa-wide ban on the donkey skin trade, which prohibits the slaughter of donkeys for their hides, primarily driven by demand for the traditional Chinese medicine Ejiao. The ban, approved at the African Union summit, aims to protect dwindling donkey populations and preserve the livelihoods of millions of people who rely on these animals for transportation and livelihood in impoverished rural communities across the continent. [Read More](#)

Discovery of Most Luminous Quasar Challenges Understanding of Early Universe

The discovery of the most luminous object ever detected in the distant Universe, a quasar named J0529-4351, powered by a colossal black hole 17 billion times the mass of the Sun, has been confirmed by observations from the Very Large Telescope in Chile. This quasar's extraordinary luminosity, equivalent to consuming one solar mass daily, highlights its voracious appetite and challenges scientists to understand the early growth of supermassive black holes. [Read More](#)

PUBLICATIONS

COVID-19 in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

The paper discusses the historical context of pandemics, highlighting the significance of mitigation strategies in reducing their severity due to the time it takes to develop treatments and vaccines. It explores how emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), fifth generation networks, and big data analytics can be leveraged to control future pandemics. [Read More](#)

Protecting Science in Times of Crisis

The paper from the International Science Council's Centre for Science Futures discusses the critical need to safeguard the global scientific community amidst escalating geopolitical conflicts and natural disasters. It emphasizes the importance of protecting scientists, institutions, and knowledge repositories, particularly in conflict zones and areas vulnerable to climate-induced extreme weather events. [Read More](#)

Larvicidal, ovicidal and antifeedant activity of crude cashew nutshell liquid against fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. smith), (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae)

This study explores the insecticidal properties of cashew nut shell liquid extract on *Spodoptera frugiperda* larva and eggs, as well as its antifeeding properties. The results suggest that cashew nut shell liquid can be an effective and eco-friendly alternative to synthetic pesticides for managing *S. frugiperda* outbreaks. [Read More](#)

Quote

The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge

- Stephen Hawking

MEMBER FOCUS

PROFESSOR KENNETH K MWENDA, PHD, LLD, DSC(ECON)

Oxford's Exeter College, steeped in centuries of academic tradition, recently bestowed its highest honour upon Zambia's distinguished scholar, Professor Kenneth K Mwenda, PhD, LLD, DSc (Econ). At 54, Professor Mwenda stands as the first and sole Zambian scholar to receive the esteemed title of Honorary Fellow at the renowned institution. This accolade, reserved for individuals of exceptional eminence in academia or public life, reflects not only Professor Mwenda's outstanding achievements but also his profound contributions to society. His election to this prestigious fellowship not only signifies his personal triumph but also elevates Zambia onto the global stage of intellectual prowess. Professor Mwenda's journey, from his early years at Oxford to his present-day role as an extraordinary professor and world-renowned expert, exemplifies a life dedicated to scholarly pursuit and societal betterment.



Professor Mwenda's extensive resume, spanning prestigious universities across three continents and his remarkable contributions to fields as diverse as law, economics, and international relations, underscore the depth of his expertise and the breadth of his impact. As an Honorary Fellow, Professor Mwenda joins the ranks of esteemed individuals whose work has left an indelible mark on humanity. His humility in receiving this honour is matched only by his commitment to mentorship, philanthropy, and the advancement of young scholars worldwide. Through his words and deeds, Professor Mwenda epitomizes the ethos of academic excellence and service to humanity, embodying the highest ideals of Oxford's scholarly tradition.

Source: [The Daily Nation](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Top Reasons to Start Cycling in 2024: Tips for Beginners

1. Cycling is a "miracle cure," burning fat, strengthening the heart and lungs, and reducing the risk of various diseases such as dementia, cancer, and heart disease.
2. Cycling aids in weight loss, with significant calorie burning even at moderate speeds, making it an effective exercise for shedding pounds and reducing body fat.
3. Cycling has been shown to specifically reduce abdominal fat, which is associated with serious health risks like diabetes and heart disease.
4. Being low-impact, cycling is suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels, making it an enabling exercise even for those with joint issues or injuries.
5. Cycling engages various muscle groups, including quadriceps, glutes, calves, and core muscles, leading to better balance, and reduced risk of injuries.
6. Tailoring cycling routines to personal preferences, lifestyle, and schedules fosters enjoyment and consistency, crucial for long-term adherence to exercise.

Source: [The Telegraph](#)

Opportunities: ISC

- [Call for expressions of interest](#) from oceanographic experts interested in joining the Ocean Observations Physics and Climate Panel, which is a scientific expert advisory group to the Global Ocean (GOOS) and Global Climate (GCOS) Observing Systems and the World Climate Research Program **(Deadline: 1 March 2024)**
- [Sign up](#) for a free webinar training series providing specific knowledge and case studies on the intersection between climate change, migration, and health in Latin America and the Caribbean **(Start date: 5 March 2024)**
- [Apply](#) for International Brain Research Organization's (IBRO) Parenthood Grant supporting early-career Principal Investigators on parental leave or approaching parental leave by providing supplemental laboratory funding **(Deadline: 15 March 2024)**
- [Apply](#) for the International Brain Research Organization's (IBRO) Diversity Grants program awarding grants for activities or events that promote regional and gender diversity in neuroscience **(Deadline: 15 April 2024)**

Opportunities: Awards

UN FAO Innovation Awards

Nominations are now open for the UN FAO Innovation Awards. On 18 June 2021, the FAO Conference, at its Forty-second session, decided to establish a "FAO Award for Innovation" to recognise ground-breaking innovation in areas under FAO's mandate to a broad spectrum of awardees including Members or non-state partners. Innovation consists of doing something new and different, whether solving an old problem in a new way, addressing a new problem with a proven solution, or bringing a new solution to a new problem. **(Deadline: 1 March 2024)** [Read More](#)

TWAS-Fayzah M. Al-Kharafi Award

This annual award, named after the TWAS Fellow Fayzah M. Al-Kharafi, recognizes women scientists from Scientifically and Technologically Lagging (STL) countries. It carries a cash award of USD4,000 generously provided by Professor Al-Kharafi and will rotate among various fields of science. In 2024 the award will be given for achievements in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Engineering Sciences. **(Deadline: 10 May 2024)**. [Read More](#)

Opportunities: Fellowships

Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity

Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity are a community of global leaders that understand the foundations of health inequity. Fellows use the knowledge and connections they have gained through the program to build more equitable communities while continuing to support each other in the fight for fairer, healthier, more inclusive societies. The program will build and support a group of global, multidisciplinary leaders equipped with the technical knowledge, skills, and network to advance health equity in their organizations and communities. The program will select 15-20 fellows per year. **(Deadline: 11 April 2024)** [Read More](#)

Opportunities: Employment

Vacancy: IRDR Executive Director

ISC Affiliated Body, the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme, an international scientific programme aiming to mobilize science for the reduction of all types of disaster risk, building resilience and reducing vulnerability, is seeking a new Executive Director. The ED will head the International Programme Office based in Beijing, China, and oversee its secretariat. An excellent command of written and spoken English and a working knowledge of Mandarin are required. **(Deadline: 18 March 2024)**. [Read More](#)