

# A Call for Action: the Role of Science Academies

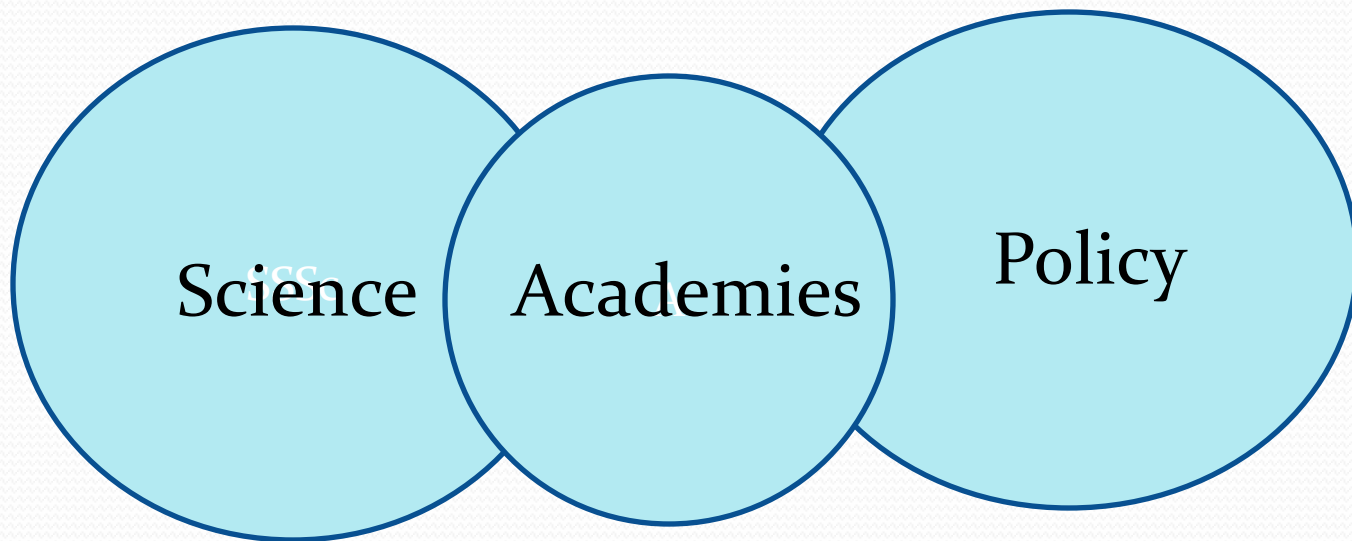
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Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

Manaus, 3-5 December 2014

# Outline

- “The Triple Alliance
- Qualifiers
- Ethiopian Academy of Sciences
- Country Ownership
- Climate Change
- Water
- Biotechnology
- Coping with the Ebola Epidemic

# “The Triple Alliance”



# Qualifiers

- Sciences
  - E.g. ‘Those who take major policy decisions in ignorance of relevant history are like a driver who commits to some manoeuvre in the road without looking into the rear mirror.’ Lord Butler, former UK Cabinet Secretary.
- Empirical rather than theoretical angle
- Poverty Eradication?
- Sustainable Development
  - Not to be confused with Growth
- Perspectives
  - EAS (Ethiopian Academy of Sciences), 2010-
  - AMASA (Annual Meeting of African Science Academies), 2005-2014
  - NASAC (Network of African Science Academies), 2001-

# Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

- One of youngest academies
- 17<sup>th</sup> member of NASAC
- 104<sup>th</sup> member of IAP
- Launched in April 2010
- Established by an Act of Parliament in March 2013
- Currently has 151 Fellows (incl. 49 Associate Fellows and 1 Honorary Fellow)
- Preparing to launch EtYAS



# Country Ownership

- Theme of AMASA 10 ( Uganda 10-12 Nov. 2014)
- The precedents
  - SAP
  - MDG
- Hence the Consensus Study on Country Ownership
- 5 Major Levers of Development
  - Community engagement
  - Education
  - Health
  - Capital, broadly defined
  - Institutions, NOT leaders
- The Declaration

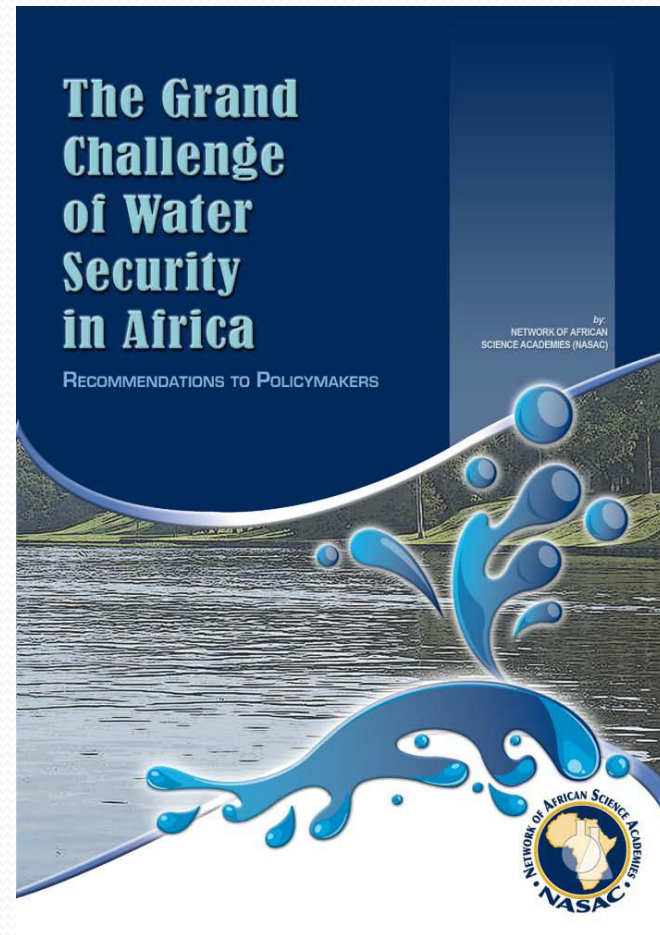
# Climate Change

- Theme of AMASA 8 (Abuja 2012)
  - Declaration
    - Low emission, yet disproportionate burden, esp on agriculture and health
    - Role of science academies in engaging African governments to cope with climate change
- EPCC
  - Launched in February 2014 at request of relevant Government ministry
  - Designed to assist CRGE
  - Modeled after IPPC
  - Engaging 66 scientists
    - Physical Science
    - Agriculture and food security
    - Health
    - Environment
  - Preliminary Report tabled at first Plenary, 20-21 Nov. 2014



# Water

- NASAC 2014 Document
- Sequel to IAP Water Programme Meeting of March 2009
- 9 Key Messages, incl.
  - Importance of Water
    - For food, health and energy
  - Access to safe water and sanitation
  - Managing trans-boundary water systems
  - Financing





# Biotechnology

- The hyped debate
- The African context
- Theme of AMASA 9 (Addis Ababa 2013)
- Salient Features of Declaration
  - For an objective view of the benefits and challenges of biotechnology
  - Loosening policy environment for research on biotechnology
  - Establishing regional biotechnology networks and strengthening those that already exist
  - Encouraging sign of impact on Govt policy
  - Followup with workshop on agricultural biotechnology



# Coping with Ebola

- Ethiopia's preparedness
- Community engagement
- Science in lieu of hysteria
- Panel Discussion jointly organized by EAS and EPHA
- Over 300 people turned out
- The social dimension of the problem
  - Occupation
  - Gender
  - Class
  - Residence




## በኢሶላ ቫይረስ በሽታ ላይ ገለጻና ውይይት

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