

Internationalization of SAUT

Concept Note

1. **The Purpose:**

- Kehm and Teichler (2007) postulate that higher education consists of a broad array of academic activities in teaching and research which may take place by cooperation with scholars both at national and international level and or international partners. The cooperation may allow both partners to visit each other at their physical environment in the course of implementing their mutual agreement and enjoy the benefits of the same.
- In the past two decades Globalization and Internationalization processes have received much attention in scope, volume and complexity due to increase in demand and supply. Internationalization and globalization are viewed as different terms but they are related processes where the later is a dynamic part of the environment in which the international aspect of Higher Education (HE) is getting more significance (Knight, J. 2004; Gohar, Tariq & Amira, 2018).
- Traditionally, universities create and disseminate knowledge through formal processes of learning. However, due to higher demand of global citizenship the visions and missions of the higher learning institutions are changing to focus on stakeholder's requirements. Thus, internationalization of the university is the change of the operations, structures and systems of a higher learning institution from "inside out perspective to outside in perspective".
- Higher education is now a product which is sold and bought at the global level. While some countries are exporting and others importing, business and industry related researchers like Bloom (1956), Anderson, (2001) and Hossain, (2017) question the level of competence of the skilled manpower produced by the tertiary education compared with the global demand of innovations and development. Recent studies are even more focused on the sustainability of the educational institutions and their impacts on green development and global warming. Thus SAUT like many other universities and other learning institutions has to undergo some changes to match with the growing demand of its growing global stakeholders.

2. **Problem:** SAUT face a strategic challenge because there is a few or no comprehensive strategy for reaching out to its international stakeholders. In a meeting with the Vice

Chancellor – Ambassador Prof. Costa Ricky Mahalu, on 19th July 2020 such challenges were discussed and the following were the recommended actions:

2.1. *Internalization of the University*

- To introduce the international dimension in the life and personality of SAUT – in its mission and in its community
- An international institution with an international community will increase the presence of SAUT in global spheres
- And therefore enhance its international impact as a recognized, well-established brand.

2.2. *Think global act Local*

- To promote international culture and skills in all groups of the SAUT community through utilization of space.
- Improve visibility and encourage mobility.
- Be an international organization that encourage the sale and buy of the global products to the global citizen

2.3. *To internationalize teaching, research and technology transfer*

- To increase the internationalization of teaching and technology transfer
- Introducing and valorizing development cooperation as a new type of international activity.
- On the understanding that research activity is already highly internationalised, we wish to use it as an engine for internationalizing the rest of the missions

2.4. *To intensify strategic partnerships and external alliances*

- To foster external alliances that can increase and improve the international activity of SAUT and the groups that form part of it.
- Encouraging this search for and consolidation of strategic partnerships will be a two-way action that will allow us to make visible and position our activity, realise its potential, improve its results in the international sphere, and attract talent and projects.

2.5. *To develop the right tools and resources for internationalization processes*

- Internationalization requires specific procedures in some cases.
- In other cases, there are more general and/or common processes
- In other areas of activity that require adaptation or flexibility to respond to the requirements of international activity.

3. Objectives

3.1. *To internationalize the institution*

- To implement a system of governance of the Internationalization Plan.
- To take action to improve the SAUT position in international rankings.
- To keep the SAUT website updated and appropriate for internationalization.
- To take advantage of the internationalization of the SAUT community to improve the University's recognition.
- To encourage the development and implementation of the internationalization strategies of the SAUT departments and institutes that have a strategy.

3.2. Think Global act Local

Mobility

- To increase the number of incoming students.
- To increase the number of outgoing students.
- To increase the mobility of outgoing teaching, research and administrative staff
- To design strategies for attracting international talent (students and teaching and research staff).
- To improve the reception of incoming persons from abroad.

Internalization at home

- To promote the internationalization of the academic curriculum.
- To introduce IAH in internal quality systems.
- To review and implement the current language policy plan for foreign languages.
- To encourage, strengthen and guarantee the quality of teaching in English.
- To organise events that promote cultural and linguistic exchange involving the presence of the international community at SAUT.
- To promote a culture of sharing international experiences.

3.3. *To internationalize teaching, research and technology transfer*

Teaching

- To design an internationalisation strategy for each level of study (bachelor's and master's degrees).
- To find means of increasing the international reach of master's degrees.
- To promote innovative teaching in subjects related to internationalization.

Doctoral degrees

- To find means of increasing the international reach of doctoral programs .
- To set up an international Summer School for internal and external doctoral students.
- To specifically organize doctoral mobility.

Research and technology transfer

- To increase the presence and participation of SAUT in international forums on issues related to research and technology transfer policies.
- To encourage collaboration between SAUT and international partners
- To promote the organisation of activities to foster relations with Strategic research and technology transfer partners.

Development of Cooperations

- To adapt the rules governing development cooperation and the tools through which it is carried out at SAUT in this new framework.
- To promote awareness and debate at the UPC on the Agenda 2030 adopted by the United Nations.
- To promote the visibility and dissemination at SAUT of research related to sustainable human development.

3.4. To intensify strategic partnerships and external alliances

- To increase the SAUT's membership of strategic alliances through agreements with other universities.
- To promote and/or consolidate strategic projects for international promotion of SAUT
- To implement and promote a network of international ambassadors of SAUT.

3.5. To develop appropriate tools for carrying out internationalization activities

- To analyse and carry out a new internal organisation of international relations at SAUT.
- To update the processes and procedures associated with the internationalization of SAUT.

4. The Structure

In a summary the office of international cognizance shall deal with the following major sections

4.1.1 Mobility: This will involve activities in regards to internalization of the university to help bring exposure in and out of the university. Hence this unit will handle the following;

- Academic and non- academic exchange programs. This will be a platform to engage all staff members in activities that will give them exposure through interactions with various industry experts and academic staff in and out of the country
- Study Abroad programs this will be mainly for students to travel to another country for either a semester or short study duration with the aim of giving them different exposure and to develop their mindset
- Global Alliance programs, this will be through various MOUs signed with other universities to offer their Postgraduate programs in partnership with SAUT. This can be done through 2+1 or 3+0 arrangement in order to enable our students to acquire from degree at a cost effective platform
- Supervision, this will offer a joint platform for our lecturers and other external lecturers to have joint supervision especially in postgraduate courses. This aims to help both the student and SAUT lecturer to tap into resources and skills in other universities across the globe.
- Scholarships this will be to connect staff and students to various study funds available for them to further their studies in and out of the country to help in their academic growth
- Admission of International students, the aim is to attract international students to come and study in SAUT for their postgraduate and undergraduate program. This will be done through various marketing opportunities and also MOUs with prospect universities that offer similar courses with SAUT where a student can undertake a semester in a partner university.
- Employment of International academic staff, in collaboration with human resource department and faculties the office shall facilitate process of recruitment so that various faculties can tap into the skills and the knowledge that expatriate will bring.

4.1.2 Research and Development: This unit will be in in charge of issues in regards to the development of students and staff in their growth in career and academics. The duties of the unit shall be the following;

- Industry Research and Innovate programs here staff and students shall be in involved in various industry activities that are going on following an agreement signed by the university in order to help them take part in various innovations aimed at improving livelihood.
- Set up of technology driven centers, this will be an avenue for various faculties to able to connect with the industries so as to utilize the resources to

teach and upscale their skills and knowledge. This centers will connect the university to various organizations that technology driven.

- Community oriented projects, here students and staff will be able to take part in various ongoing community projects in and out of the country in order to develop their soft skills and be able to develop a wider network.

4.2 Pictorial Presentation of the Unit

