Somalia! Over 30 years later, the socio-political turmoil of the 1990s has left deep scars on the country’s physics community. There is no longer a physics curriculum in any of the country’s universities and no physics department in any of the faculties. Physics is only offered as a minor subject within the Faculty of Education in some universities. This is the summary of our first contact with local physicists, detailed in the columns of your newsletter.

Elsewhere, from the banks of the Congo River to the Ébrié Lagoon, young physics enthusiasts are keeping hope alive and proposing solutions to inspire vocations. Such is the case of the sickle-cell Ivorian patient who became a space physicist – the young astronomer whose vital energy results from a constant competition between his dreaded illness, his passion for physics, and the transfer of knowledge to younger people.

Staying with the youth theme, we’ll introduce you to some of the young Africans who are achieving excellence around the world. We’ll be highlighting the key role played by the African School of Physics (ASP), a biannual capacity-building initiative in high energy physics for students across the continent, which has served as a trigger and had a major impact on their career trajectories. We extend our warmest congratulations to the promoters of the ASP. In the same vein, we invite you to appreciate the feats of three tireless capacity builders and physics advocates based in the Congo Basin and in Morocco. We close the chapter on capacity building with a detailed report of the recent African School on Electronic Structure Methods and Applications (ASESMA), the first post-COVID edition of this biannual event held in Kigali last June.

We then take you to the Western Desert of Egypt, where Egyptian geophysicists working on a national project to build a new desert city are using geophysical tools to explore and make good use of groundwater, i.e., to optimize site management and resource distribution. Water is a scarce commodity in arid lands and African physicists are making their mark with pragmatic solutions. A physicist from Burkina Faso ventures into the Saharo-Sahelian strip, where he is facilitating the conquest of “blue gold” in several of the sub-region’s counties and villages. This solar specialist and his team use photovoltaics to turn the sun’s rays into drinking water.

In southern Africa, Botswana is being tested as a potential place for innovative solutions and products within Africa for broader expansion across the continent. To this end, we present a succinct report of the recent visit of the founding president of Advanced Fluidics, a US-based high-tech company.
We conclude with an interview granted to us by the Editor-in-Chief of Nature Africa. In this interview, we discussed the publication’s establishment and the motivation behind the project. It was the occasion to pay tribute to Mohammed Yahia, its leading architect who recently passed away.

Share and Contribute News to the Newsletter

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to colleagues you think may be interested in hearing about the latest developments in physics in Africa. Subscriptions to the newsletter are free and open to both Africans and non-Africans. To subscribe go to https://go.aps.org/africanphysics.

Do you have a meeting, conference, school, award, etc. you would like posted? Do you have any other news or articles you would like to share with your colleagues? Click here for more information on how to submit this information to the newsletter and share it with colleagues across the African continent.