

(Photo credit: ICTP Photo Archives/Roberto Barnaba)

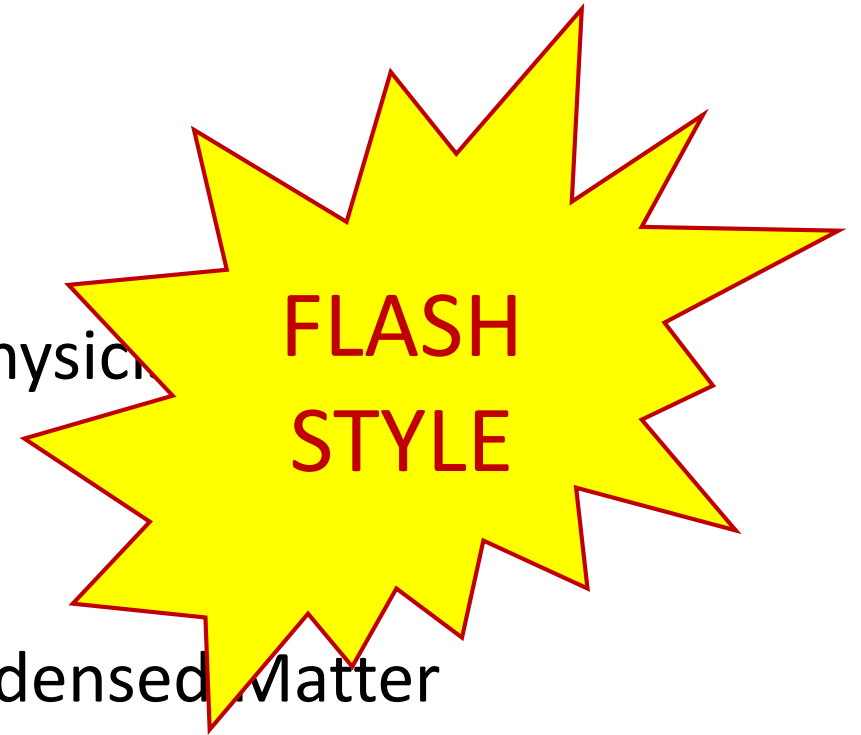


Francis Allotey (1932-2017)

Nithaya Chetty

University of Pretoria, South Africa

- Theoretical and computational solid state physics
 - Electronic properties of 2D systems
 - Density functional methods
 - Physics education
- Editorial advisory board Computational Condensed Matter
- Vice President International Union for Pure and Applied Physics
- Oversight board African Physics Newsletter
- Past president of South African Institute of Physics
- Past Deputy Chief Executive Officer of National Research Foundation
- A founding organizer of ASESMA together with Scandolo and Martin



Reviving the African Physical Society

Physics in Africa project (2017)

Steering Committee:

- Prof. George Amolo, Technical University of Kenya, Kenya
- Dr. Ketevi Assamagan, Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA
- Dr. Amy Flatten, American Physical Society, USA
- Prof. Collince Fouokeng, Institut Universitaire de la Côte, Cameroon
- Prof. Eric Garfunkel, Rutgers University, USA
- Dr. James E. Gubernatis, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA
- Prof. Oumar Ka, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal
- Dr. David Lee, European Physical Society
- Mr. Brian Masara, South African Institute for Physics, South Africa
- Dr. Joe Niemela, International Center for Theoretical Physics, Italy
- Mr. Tajinder Panesor, Institute of Physics, UK
- Dr. Hery Tiana Rakotondramanana, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Dr. Sandro Scandolo, International Center for Theoretical Physics, Italy
- Prof. Adel Trabelsi, Tunis University, Tunisia

Sponsored by:

American Physical Society
European Physical Society
South African Institute of Physics
International Center for Theoretical Physics
Materials Research Society

Key outcomes

- Communication
- Physical societies
- Experimental physics
- Physics education
- Physics and society

The existence of the African Physical Society complicates the discussion of physical societies in Africa. The creation of this society was well intended, but in retrospect, was it the society Africa wanted and needed? Instead of a pan-African society, would regional societies, with existing African societies at their cores, be more sustainable and effective? Would a grouping of heads of physics departments within each country or across Africa who network, share ideas, and collaborate as needed be a more sustainable and effective alternative or supplement?

There is a need for an AfPS

- Needs to be better functioning, more effective
- Needs to be more relevant for African needs

- Physics for Africa Project should help frame this discussion

AfPS

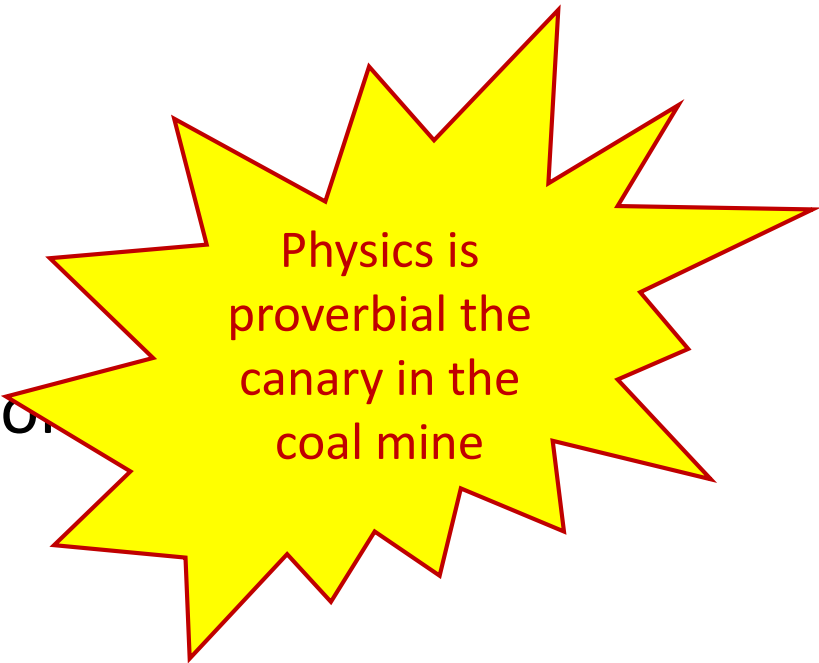
- This needs to be structured in a sustainable and self-financing way
 - Individual membership is not sustainable
 - Confederation of national physical societies can work more effectively
 - Already have 9 national physical societies
 - Can have regional representation based on national physics committees
 - AfPS can be reconstituted within 12 months from now
 - Interim Council
 - New constitution
 - Establish stronger buy-in during this interim period
- Needs financial support from international bodies, governments, AU, IUPAP
 - Confederation system will be low cost
 - Council meets face-to-face once per year; other meetings virtual
 - Needs an administrative home, e.g. AIMS, EAFIR, ICTP, SAIP, etc



South Africa
will support a
grass roots
level
approach

AfPS

- Mission should not overlap or compete with national societies which remains a priority
- Pan-African in scope
 - Speak on behalf of physics in Africa
 - Organise continent-wide or regional meetings
 - Secure funding from international sources
 - Facilitate establishment of national physical societies
 - Engage with Africa Union
 - Promote importance of physics in Africa
 - Plays facilitating role



Physics is
proverbial the
canary in the
coal mine

THE
AFRICAN PHYSICS
NEWSLETTER



The African Physics Newsletter

- Outcome of Physics in Africa project

Will be a means for African physicists to communicate with physicists outside of Africa, for African physicists to communicate among themselves, and for physicists and organizations outside of Africa to communicate with those in Africa.

The African Physics Newsletter



Will be
launched in
Jan 2019

- Oversight Board
 - Jim Gubernatis (USA), Ahmadou Wague (Senegal), Nithaya (a)
- Editorial Board
 - George Amolo (Kenya), Sylvester Danour (Ghana), Mourad Zghal (Tunisia), Igle Gledhill (South Africa)
 - Editors represent E, W, N, S of Africa, also Anglophone and Francophone Africa
 - Central Africa?
 - Editor-in-Chief to be appointed on annual rotational basis
- Will publish quarterly and electronically
- APN hosted by APS for 5 years
 - Thereafter some other organization must take this over

APN template

- Items announcing conferences, schools, appointments, research findings, noteworthy publications
 - Brief summary + link to relevant article and website
- The editors can identify focus topics to highlight special developments.
- Editors board may appoint guest editors for these featured items.
- Each editor may appoint an assistant editor.
- Opportunity for unsolicited submissions for publication.



Please
support the
APN

IUPAP membership

- South Africa, Tunisia, Ghana, Algeria, Ethiopia, Senegal
- Recently exited: Egypt, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya
- Proposal: Regional membership in developing world where 2 or 3 countries share a single share
- 50% reduction for countries listed on UN LDC
- There should be an implicit understanding that the bigger physics countries will, through the IUPAP, help develop physics in the smaller physics countries through cross-subsidization and cross-fertilization.