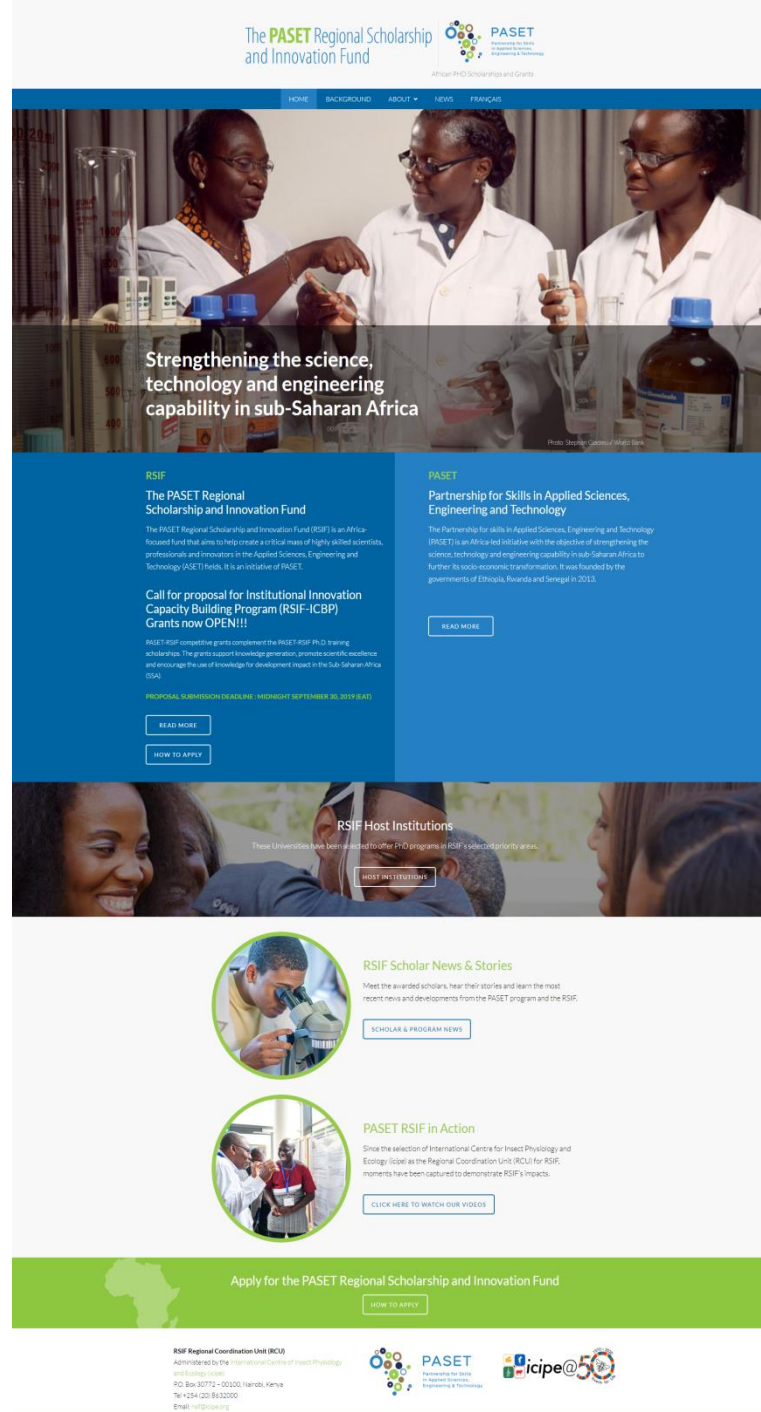


A QUICK REVIEW OF THE PASET REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP INNOVATION FUND WEBSITE

<http://www.rsif-paset.org>

Reviewed by Anselm Muchura
Web developer, MediaForce



Review Benchmarks

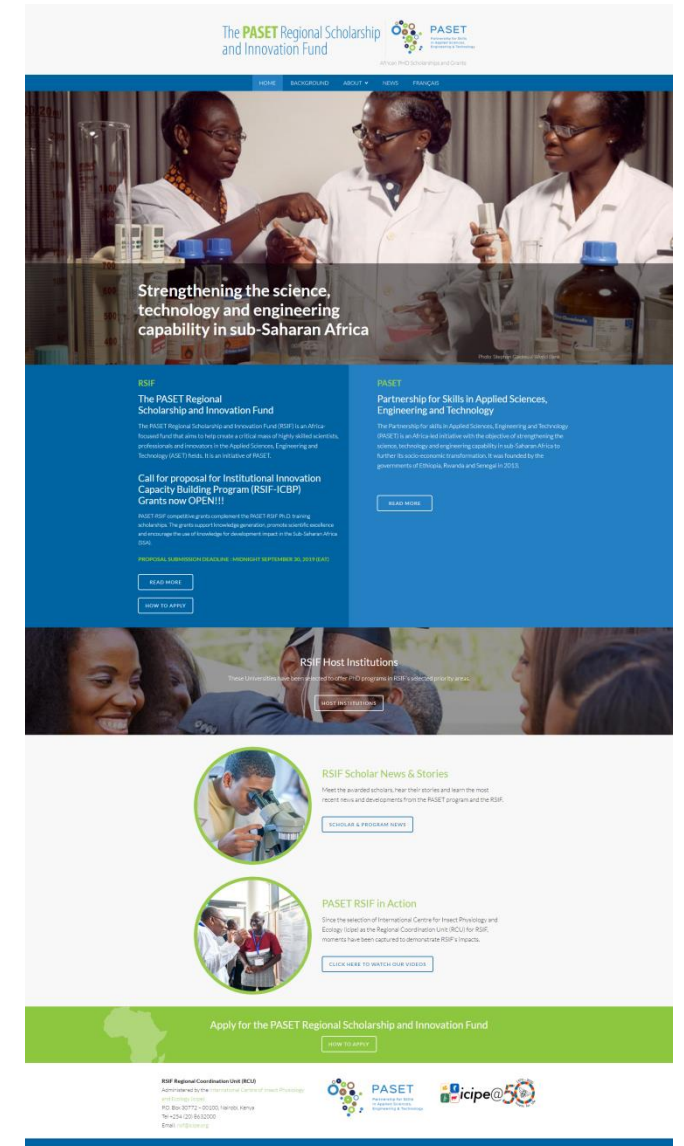
1. First impression
2. Searchability
3. Responsiveness
4. Navigation
5. Design
6. Content
7. Interactivity
8. Typography

First Impression

THE GOOD STUFF



- The navigation uses descriptive terms and therefore search engine friendly
- The website adapts fairly well to different screen sizes but has not been properly optimized.
- The website has fairly rich content
- The website loads on https an indication that it's secure and ranks higher on Google.



First Impression and interactivity

THE NOT SO GOOD STUFF

- The website has no character or clear identity (except its signature blue corporate color)
- The search button is hidden in the inside pages hence being underutilized
- No aesthetic appeal: The use of color, lines, white spaces, typography, images are out of sync and not in harmony.
- The choice of typography is poor but we will make changes to it.
- The fonts typeface is basic and not consistent throughout the website
- There are no links to any social media pages which these days is a must have feature for websites

Searchability

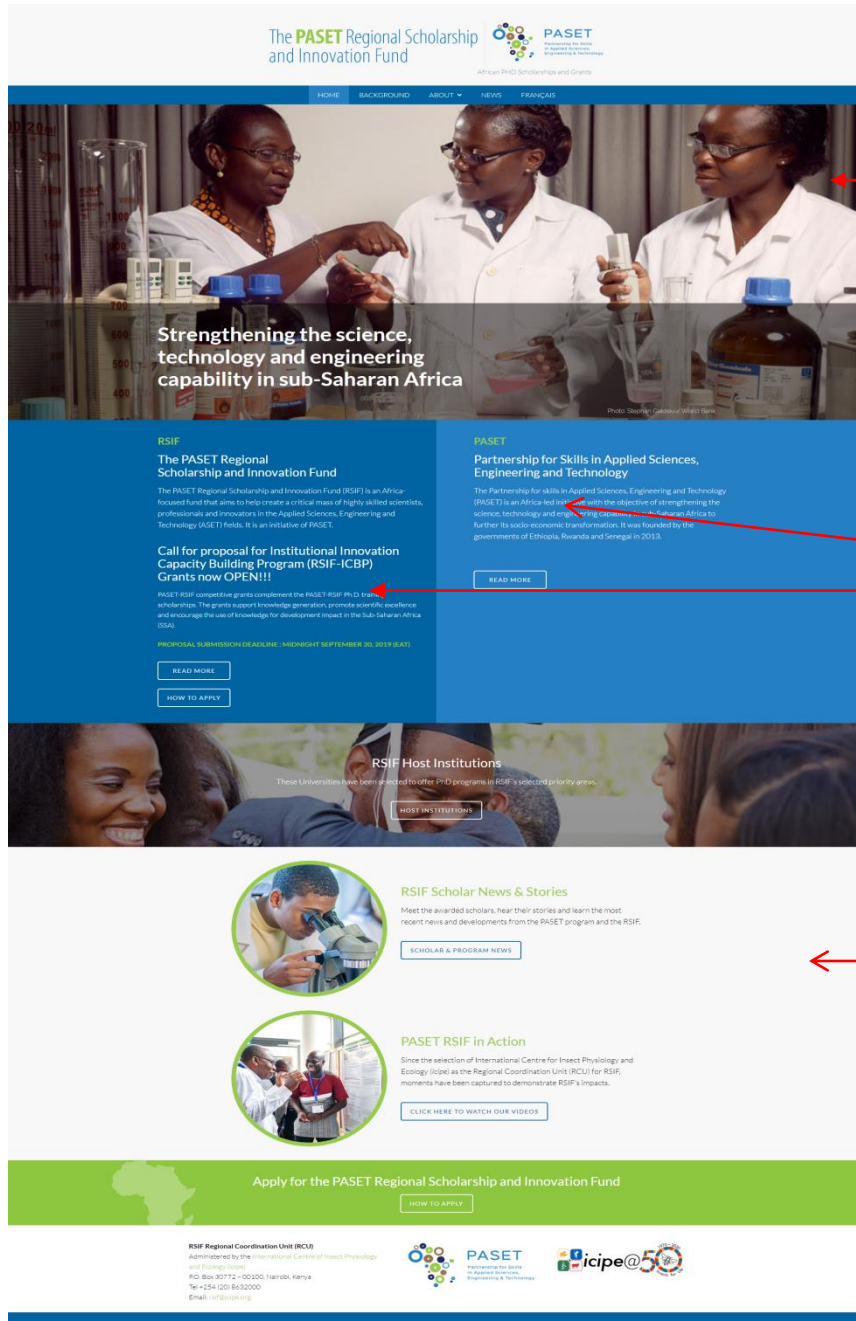
THE GOOD STUFF

- Generally, it is easy to find the RSIF website from Google which fulfils its purpose to have online presence but it does not do well with other keywords.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- There is no in page search feature to help find information within the website. Digging in from link to link can be exhausting
- A simple search button at the nav bar will do the trick. At the backend, the search feature must be very robust and highly customized to maximize its accuracy and speed. To keep things simple I will consider a premium wordpress plugin to do this.

Design and Typography



The choice image could be better, the current is not high resolution

The primary text is not appealing to the eye

Lack of consistency in colour

The background image does not provide enough contrast for the typeface

This space is not well managed

The logos at the footer are should be clickable; the space here could also be used to include links to other pages within the site

Background

PASET as an Africa-Led Solution

The Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) was launched in 2013 by the Governments of Senegal, Ethiopia and Rwanda with facilitation by the World Bank. It aims to address systemic gaps in skills and knowledge in Sub-Saharan Africa priority ASET fields, and to build the capacity of African education and training institutions to train high quality technicians, engineers and scientists to meet the demands of the economy. Since 2013, more than 25 African countries, as well as representatives of Brazil, China, India, Japan and Korea have participated in PASET's various activities.

Why is PASET needed?

There are already regional and national initiatives to build Africa's scientific and technological capacity, supported by international donors and countries. However, an operational platform like PASET was needed to effectively and urgently harness and harmonize these efforts to address specific priority sector needs.

PASET is also needed to leverage the knowledge and experiences of Asian, Latin American and other countries investing heavily in Africa, and raise the level of their assistance. It is rooted in the idea that African governments as well as private sector must take the lead in building B-ASET skills, using both regional and country-level initiatives as well as mobilizing international resources. They must also leverage best practices from around the world.



PASET's 10-Year Goals

At the first PASET Forum in Dakar, Senegal in June 2014, its stakeholders unanimously adopted a Call to Action that outlined these medium-term goals:

- Support training of at least 10,000 new PhD holders in ASET fields in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).
- Establish an SSA-wide regional post-graduate scholarship program in ASET programs.
- Double the number of students in ASET programs in at least 10 countries in SSA.
- Support high quality ASET programs and centers of postgraduate studies and applied research in ASET disciplines in at least five additional universities in SSA.
- Develop at least five regional TVET centers of excellence in priority fields to train TVET faculty, enable resource sharing, quality assurance, and specialized training.
- Develop a regional quality assurance mechanism for ASET programs, benchmarked to comparable systems globally.
- Establish high quality data systems and benchmarking of ASET programs and institutions in at least 10 countries in SSA.

PASET's Initiatives

- Regional TVET Initiative:** PASET's flagship program focused on developing technical-vocational skills for new industries and services, as well as for modernizing agriculture. The initiative aims to support the development of highly specialized TVET programs at the diploma and degree levels for training of technicians and TVET faculty, as well as industry-recognized short-term training for regional priority sectors. It is currently being financed as a World Bank project initially for the East Africa region.
- Regional Benchmarking Initiative for SSA Universities:** This initiative aims to improve the quality and relevance of higher education by encouraging institutions to identify their strengths and weaknesses and assess and monitor their progress relative to similar national, regional and global institutions. Read more [here](#) [Download Briefing Note].
- Forums, learning events, workshops, exchange visits:** These events make a strong case to governments, private sector and other institutions on the importance of capacity building in ASET fields. They also promote regional and cross-regional knowledge sharing. [Check here for upcoming events](#).
- Technical Assistance:** PASET provides technical assistance to countries through its Country ASET Action Plan (CAAP) program which supports countries to develop country-level plans for ASET skills development and mobilize funding accordingly, and through the Knowledge Sharing Program led by the Korea Development Institute to help countries prepare human resources development plans for priority sectors.

PASET's Governance

PASET has a nimble governing structure with a Governing Council comprising Ministers from Sub-Saharan African governments, the World Bank and other contributing partners to provide strategic direction and thought leadership. It includes an Executive Board, which serves as the key managing body responsible for overseeing implementation of PASET's activities. A Consultative Advisory Group comprising high-level technical, scientific and other experts from Africa and other regions provides advice to the Governing Council and Executive Board. The World Bank hosts the interim Secretariat.



Members of the PASET Board of Directors and Executive Committee, representing education and higher education ministers of Senegal, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and Kenya and the World Bank Secretariat, on November 27, 2014 in Niger, Niamey, Republic of Niger.

[PASET BRIEF \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[PASET BRIEF \(FRANÇAIS\)](#)

Download the Charter of the partnership for skills in applied sciences, engineering and technology (PASET) below:

[PASET CHARTER \(ENGLISH\)](#)

[PASET CHARTER \(FRANÇAIS\)](#)

Now Accepting Applications

Apply for the PASET Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund now and become a part of Africa's economic transformation!

[APPLY HERE](#)

Program & Scholar News

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

August 7, 2024

Delegation from the German Bundestag (Federal Parliament) visits KCE
April 29, 2024

Scholarship Opportunities for African Scientists
June 21, 2024

Africa has the power to harness winds of change
May 22, 2024

The PASET Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) is seeking international experts to review RSIF applications for African Host Universities, PhD scholarships, Research Grants & Innovation Grants
March 29, 2024

SEARCH

Search this website

SEARCH

Lack of consistency in font colour and typography

The search button placement is not prominent and may not be used effectively

There is a lot of white space

The use of images that are not clear makes the website look cheap and unprofessional

An Africa-led Solution for an African Challenge

researchers in the world, with just about one scientist or engineer per 10,000 inhabitants. The resulting shortage of qualified faculty in African universities, especially in the Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (ASET) fields, affects the quality of graduates entering the industry workforce. With 11 million new graduates entering the African job market annually, this generation of talented youth must be equipped with the skills to develop African solutions for African challenges.

In 2015, PASET introduced the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), launched by Senegal's President Macky Sall with initial commitments from Senegal, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.

How is RSIF Different?

- Many current scholarship programs in Africa provide funding for training abroad, and while a good start, they are unable to train the required number of highly skilled technical professionals. RSF will address this gap by enhancing the research, teaching, and innovation capacity of competitive African universities with ASSET programs in priority fields.
- Most African scholarship programs are driven by international development partners and tend to focus on health and agriculture. RSF is more sustainable because it focuses on a broader range of disciplines and is Africa-driven.
- To build research capacity in African universities, RSF aims to take the experiences of fast-growing economies through partnerships with their universities that have excelled in applied sciences, engineering and technology. It will do so through "sandwich" training options with its partnering international universities, incorporating both international and home-country study.
- Merely training PhD students is not enough. RSF will help graduates from its PhD programs continue their education in Africa, either through on-the-job training at universities, or allow them to start their own business ventures and facilitates their placement with firms to help their entry into the workforce.

Who Benefits from the RSIF?

- › Academic staff of African universities who lack PhD training.
- › Young African scientists and engineers entering academia, industry, or the business world.
- › African universities which will train the PhD students and become internationally recognized in ASET fields.

For each Call for Applications, the target group may vary.

How Will it Work?

RSIF WILL OPERATE WITH THREE GRANT WINDOWS:

1: PhD Training

Targets new students as well as existing junior faculty in priority ASET fields

2: Research

Facilitates recipients to undertake applied research to support priority development sectors within Africa.

3: Innovation

Provides support to help recipients innovate for businesses or establish their own enterprises

As a culmination of the first window, RSIF's first cohort of PhD scholars at selected African universities with competitive ASET programs, is scheduled to begin in October 2017.

See how you can apply to become an RSIE scholar.

RSIF FACTSHEET

To learn more about how RSIF will work, download the below factsheet (PDF).

RSIF FACTSHEET (ENGLISH)

RSIF FACTSHEET (FRANÇAIS)

► IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

► PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

► [HOW TO CONTRIBUTE](#)

Now Accepting Applications

Apply for the PASET Regional
Scholarship and Innovation Fund now
and become a part of Africa's economic
transformation!

APPLY HERE

Learn about becoming a contributor
and contact us to express your interest.

Program & Scholar News

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

August 7, 2019

Delegation from the German Bundestag (Federal Parliament) visits icipe
July 23, 2019

Scholarship Opportunity for African Scientists
June 26, 2019

Africa has the power to harness winds of change
May 21, 2019

The PASET Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) is seeking international experts to review RSIF applications for African Host Universities, PhD scholarships, Research Grants & Innovation Grants
March 28, 2019

SEARCH

 Search this website

SEARCH

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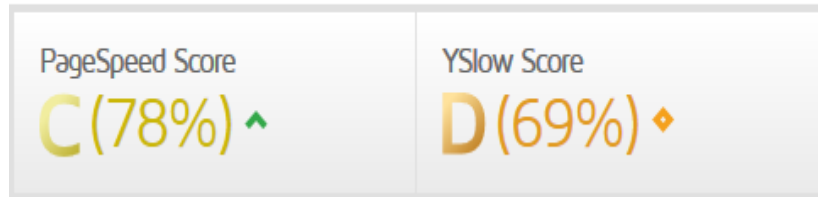


- Unnecessary space, shows lack of layout balance

In this section, opportunities for better content presentation have been missed

SPEED AND RANKING

Performance Scores



Performance

We will optimize the website for faster load time.



Our Verdict

- It is evident the current RSIF Paset website has served its purpose well over the years. The team behind it did a fairly commendable job and the staff members who updates content have also been doing well to keep the website up to date.
- With the latest technological advancements, design and communication trends are anything to go by, the site has a sloppy looking design that makes it hard to navigate and fully interact with the rich content it hosts. A clear design principle that reflects the values of the institution must be established and adopted in the revamp.
- We wish to access the website backend analytics to see how audiences have been interacting with the current site. That way we can develop a new user interface and experience (UX/UI) that works for new and repeat visitors.
- We are ready for the task

KEY REVAMP AREAS

To develop a website that meets the new age technological advancements while maintaining an interactive and user friendly interface, we have identified some key revamp areas for RSIF Paset website:

1. Compelling homepage, complete with a video introduction if we must (We have a robust production unit to do this)
2. User experience – intuitive navigation, easy to read text, responsive and mobile friendly with strong calls to action.
3. Knowledge hub – Improved content presentation of the knowledge materials produced by RSIF Paset, increase engagement with the resources
4. Website security - Security is about risk reduction, not risk elimination, and risk will never be zero. We put all our clients behind a firewall.
5. Clear contacts placement on the homepage
6. Lead capture forms
7. Secretariat Profiles – professionally taken portraits, Improved content presentation
8. Accolades



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Powering Digital Transformation
and Storytelling in Africa

