

# AU Honors Women Scientists

Thursday, September 9th, 2010 at 4:40 pm

*Five African women scientists were honored Thursday at the African Union's 11th anniversary celebration.*

*A.U. chairman Jean Ping told the crowd he wanted to do more to encourage women to participate in fields that have been dominated by men.*

*The five honorees include Genevieve Barro, the first female mathematics professor at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Salimata Wader, an award-winning Senegalese nutrition scientist, and Mary Abukutsa, an expert on producing indigenous vegetables in poor countries.*

*Hassina Mouri, a geology professor in South Africa, said she and the other the honorees hope to act as role models to inspire young girls to work hard.*

*Grace Murilla, a Kenyan working on drugs for parasitic diseases, urged young women to set goals, find a mentor and "never give up."*

*Each received a \$20,000 prize.*

*The A.U. says it will offer this award each year at anniversary celebrations.*