



Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063

The Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference, 22-26 October, 2018

Venue: Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Nairobi Kenya

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Summary

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a pan African organization of 85 universities in 35 African countries. It is an impact oriented network of universities that seeks to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations that are responsive to demands of smallholder farmers. This is achieved through training of high quality researchers, impact oriented research and collaborative working relations among researchers, private sector, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments. Over the last 14 years, RUFORUM has demonstrated significant contribution to Africa's development agenda as espoused in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) among others. Since the declaration of the Agenda 2063 in 2015 during the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the RUFORUM network has taken bold steps towards an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent whose citizenry are critical players and active global players. As such, RUFORUM network supports Africa's transformation agenda and continues to strive towards an accelerated attainment of the Agenda 2063. Cognizant of the unique role that the Higher Education Sector in particular universities play in achievement of both national, regional and global development aspirations, the Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference will be held 22nd-26th October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference will be held under the theme "***Aligning African Universities to accelerate attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063***". The Conference will be held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya from 22-26 October, 2018. The conference will bring together 1200 participants from across Africa and beyond. Participants will be drawn from diverse sectors including universities, Civil Society Organizations-CSOs, national and international research organizations, development partners, and governments, continental and regional organizations including African Union Commission.

Background





Over the last decade, Africa has become an important investment destination, with a budding youthful population providing a labour base, natural resources endowment, diminishing political conflicts and civil strife as many countries especially those in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) enter into post-conflict reconstruction, a high returns market¹. For example between 2012 and 2014, an increase from 12% to 39% in terms of business considerations was realized², real incomes per person increased by 30% over the last 10 years, and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) increased from US\$15 billion in 2002 to \$37 billion in 2006 and \$46 billion in 2012³. These trends and patterns are changing the narrative about Africa from a hopeless to hopeful continent⁴ justifying the ‘Africa rising’ narrative. The under exploited agricultural sector which is the mainstay in many African economies especially in (SSA) remains a major focus of attention to drive economic growth including other priority areas such as entrepreneurship⁵. Though growth in Africa is impressive, it is differentiated with non-resource intensive countries growing faster than resource intensive countries with North Africa having higher growth patterns and FDI than SSA. In SSA, much of the growth is driven by agriculture yet the farmers remain low resourced, and often using rudimentary tools and technologies. More and more foreign investors in Africa see agriculture as an investment opportunity and can provide considerable number of jobs to African youth⁶.

The African Union Commission (AUC) Agenda 2063 has set a firm direction to catalyze education and skills revolution and actively promote science, technology, research and innovation, to build knowledge, human resources, capabilities and skills for the African century⁷. These efforts focus on ensuring that Africa is able to absorb its budding youthful population by expanding centres of innovation and strengthening the knowledge economy within Africa by Africans. By 2035, 350 million young Africans will enter the labour force⁸; higher education institutions especially universities and technical vocational and training institutions have a role in shaping the technical skills and careers of these youths. However, African universities are still riddled with bureaucratic delays, ring fenced mandates that propagate the ‘Ivory Tower’ mentality in their teaching and research processes as well as community engagement. In the current situation, African universities need to open their gates as innovation and revolution centres, increase partnership and community engagement as unique training models and approaches that increase vibrancy, relevance and effectiveness of training as well as impact of training at community level.

It is time for universities in Africa to demonstrate their capacity as innovation and revolution centres that can enhance educational value chain and can work together with and within the community appreciating the real needs whilst addressing both local and global knowledge demands. The transformation agenda is further critical to service the commitments to Africa’s Agenda 2063 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agenda 2063 presents a Pan African vision of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena” whose

¹ Africa continues to attract foreign investment: <http://www.pwc.co.za/en/press-room/africa-investor-destination.html>

² Africa continues to attract foreign investment: <http://www.pwc.co.za/en/press-room/africa-investor-destination.html>

³ A hopeful continent: <http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21572377-african-lives-have-already-greatly-improved-over-past-decade-says-oliver-august>

⁴ Positioning Africa as an Investment Destination: <http://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/06/20/positioning-africa-as-an-investment-destination/>

⁵ EY’s attractiveness survey Africa 2015 Making choices.

⁶ Denting youth unemployment through agriculture: <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/special-edition-agriculture-2014/denting-youth-unemployment-through-agriculture>

⁷ Agenda2063: chrome-extension://oemmdcbldboiebfnladdacbfmadadm/http://archive.au.int/assets/images/agenda2063.pdf

⁸ <http://www.scidev.net/sub-saharan-africa/agriculture/opinion/making-agriculture-attractive-to-the-youth-in-africa.html>

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operationalization is defined around seven aspirations⁹ for the Africa we want. The Agenda 2063 calls to action as a collective vision and roadmap for Africa with a commitment to speed-up actions in a number of areas including among others: i) Eradicate poverty in a generation by 2025, ii) Catalyse Education and Skills revolution and actively promote science, technology, research and innovation, to build knowledge, human resources, capabilities and skills for the African century; iii) Transform, grow and industrialise our economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources; iv) Consolidate the modernisation of African agriculture and agro-businesses; v) Address Climate change and Preserve the Environment; vi) Connect Africa through world-class Infrastructure; and vii) Support Young people as drivers of Africa’s renaissance. These aspirations embodied in the Agenda 2063 have been re-echoed in the Global Sustainable Development as part of a commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner¹⁰; universities should therefore be at the forefront of supporting these processes in various dimensions.

The 2018 African Higher Education Week & RUFORUM Biennial Conference

The African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference has grown in size and thematic focus to become a continental convergence with immense contribution and impact to higher education, partnership development and agenda setting for Africa in Science, Technology and Innovation in its broad sense. RUFORUM organizes this conference to:

1. Collaboratively work with stakeholders to review African agricultural university performance and obtain feedback including from policy makers and private sector leaders;
2. Provide a platform for sharing the best practices and reforms within the higher education sector, from across the globe, but also within RUFORUM member universities;
3. Build professional ‘communities of practice’ that engage graduate students, universities staff, and stakeholders to improve value chains and higher education contribution to farm incomes; and
4. Provide a platform for students to share their research work and also identify mentors and other opportunities for their transitions out of school, into employment or entrepreneurship.

The Biennial Conference is RUFORUM’s most comprehensive meeting for the diversity of stakeholders in both agriculture and higher education sectors. It is especially dedicated to graduate students and their supervisors, grantees in RUFORUM member universities and alumni. It is a platform for peer review, quality control, mentorship, networking and shared learning.

The 2018 Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial conference approach

The Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference has transitioned from being primarily a scientific event focused on mentorship of graduate students to academia-policy-development interaction platform providing space for niching shared perspectives and visions for development with the active participation on universities. This 2018 Conference is designed from the high level policy and

⁹ Agenda 2063 Aspirations: 1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; 2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance; 3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; 4. A peaceful and secure Africa; 5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics; 6. An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth; and 7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner.

¹⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>





development discourse interspersed with scientific sessions and development practitioner and last mile actors consultation fora.

Conference themes for high level distinguished plenary sessions

1. *Towards Agenda 2063: Catalyzing university role in influencing policy and setting development agenda*
2. *Building high level skills to deliver on African Agenda 2063*
3. *Moving Africa's development agenda: Ingredients for success*

Conference sub-themes for parallel distinguished plenary sessions

1. *Converging the power of investment in Higher Education to transform Africa*
2. *Harnessing regional and global partnerships for higher education innovation in Africa*
3. *Unravelling University, Community and Private Sector Engagement for agricultural transformation in Africa*
4. *Skilling Africa's youth: the role of TVETS*
5. *Harnessing the Africa Youth bulge: Innovation, entrepreneurship and agribusiness incubation*
6. *Increasing the pool of women scientists in Africa*
7. *Harnessing the digital potential to drive agricultural/Higher education transformation in Africa*
8. *Building foresight capacity to guide Africa's development*
9. *Strengthening sustainable food and nutrition security in Africa in response to Climate Change*

Conference sub-themes for scientific and technical sessions

1. *Strengthening policy environment, policy analysis and foresight*
2. *Addressing climate change and extreme weather events in development*
3. *Harnessing the transformative potential of agricultural education, advisory services and community engagement*
4. *Harnessing ICT and digital potential to increase Africa's competitiveness*
5. *Increasing research, innovation and technology capacity in Postharvest management and value addition*
6. *Catalyzing competitive agribusiness, markets and trade*
7. *Increasing agri-foods systems productivity*
8. *Responding to Africa's emerging environment and natural resources sustainability challenges*
9. *Fostering multi-stakeholder engagement for impact*
10. *Facilitating the road to sustainable food and nutrition security*
11. *Fostering integrated and sustainable livestock production systems*
12. *Accelerating entrepreneurship, business incubation and financial inclusion*
13. *Strengthening recognition of gender, conflicts and cross-cutting development perspectives*
14. *Facilitating accelerated agricultural transition through mechanization and engineering*
15. *Strengthening productivity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture systems*

All discipline specific technical papers in the broader realm of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) including STEM such as agronomy and crop science, livestock production and production systems,





engineering, soil science, meteorology, climate change, environment and natural resources, forestry, entomology, nutrition, information and communication technologies-ICT, agricultural education and extension among others will be bench marked against the broader technical sub-themes as such research will be contributing to one or more of the sub-themes provided in this call. Researchers are therefore encouraged to submit discipline specific research.

Conference organization

The Biennial conference is a co-hosted by the RUFORUM and the University of Nairobi. The RUFORUM Secretariat Organizing Committee (ROC) coordinates working groups under RUFORUM while universities constitute the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), based at the University of Nairobi, under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor. The Local Organizing Committee has representatives from other RUFORUM member universities in Kenya and other partners.

The Local Organizing Committee has the following subcommittees whose membership is drawn from universities and partner institutions:

- i) Scientific and exhibitions
- ii) Security and protocol
- iii) Resource mobilization
- iv) Hospitality
- v) Communications and publicity

The 2018 Biennial conference coordination contact details are as follows:

- a) RUFORUM Secretariat Organizing Committee (ROC)
 - i) Dr. Moses Osiru, (m.osiru@ruforum.org), RUFORUM Secretariat
 - ii) Dr Antony Egeru, (a.egeru@ruforum.org), RUFORUM Secretariat
- b) Local Organizing Committee
 - i) Prof. Peter M. Mbithi (ruforum@uonbi.ac.ke), Vice Chancellor
 - ii) Prof. S. G. Kiama (principal-cavs@uonbi.ac.ke), Principal, College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences

About the organizing institutions

RUFORUM (www.ruforum.org) is an association of 85 Universities in 35 African countries which envisions 'a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which produce high performing graduates and high quality research responsive to the demands of Africa's farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development'. RUFORUM also has collaborating partners in West Africa beyond its member Universities in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. RUFORUM is the African Union Implementing Agency for Priority Area One under the STISA2024. This mandate is provided through an operational MoU signed in 2014, Maputo in Mozambique. Through the 14 years of its operation, RUFORUM has trained over 476 PhDs and 1716 MSc graduates and reached over one million farmers and generated over 300 technologies, innovations and management practices. RUFORUM has also supported the development of several regional Masters and PhD programmes hosted at member universities to strengthen innovative training and research capacity in Africa.





The University of Nairobi (<http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/about>) is the premier university in Kenya. The university responds to the higher education learning needs in Kenya and the Africa region and has demonstrated a reputable acumen in training and scholarship. The university is one of the top 10 universities in Africa with diversified academic programmes and specializations in sciences, applied sciences, technology, humanities, social sciences and the arts. The University of Nairobi is an innovation leader in higher education delivery with extramural programmes and centres. The university has 35 Faculties, Schools, Institutes and Centres; 584 Programmes, 84,000 Students, 2,052 strong academic staff, 164 Professors, 264 Associate Professors, 5,525 Administrative and Technical Staff and 184,000 alumni.

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT; <http://www.jkuat.ac.ke/home-3/>) was started as Middle Level College (Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology (JKCAT)) by the Government of Kenya with the generous assistance from the Japanese Government. It was inaugurated as a university in 1994 with a vision to be a university of global excellence in training, research and innovation for development. The university has set a mission of offering accessible quality training, research and innovation in order to produce leaders in the fields of Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, Enterprise Development, Built Environment, Health Sciences, Social Sciences and other Applied Sciences to suit the needs of a dynamic world. JKUAT is host to the Pan African University (PAU); a university that represents a continental initiative of African Heads of State through the African Union Commission to revitalize higher education and research in Africa. JKUAT supports the Government of Kenya through implementation of the Vision2030 with flagship projects such as the Nairobi Industrial and Technology Park and the Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence.

Egerton University (<http://www.egerton.ac.ke/>) transformed from a Farm School founded in 1939 by Lord Maurice Egerton of Tatton, a British settler in Kenya in the 1920s. In 1950, the School was upgraded to an Agricultural College. The Government of Kenya and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded major expansion of the institution from 1979. In 1986, Egerton Agricultural College was gazetted as a constituent college of the University of Nairobi. Egerton University became a full-fledged University through an Act of Parliament in 1987. The University was chartered in 2013 under the Universities Act of 2012. The University currently has ten faculties offering a wide range of programmes at diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels. The University has over 25000 students comprising of both local and international students. The university also established and manages the Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development whose mandate include evidence based policy research, analysis and outreach. The institute is a center of excellence in agricultural policy based research addressing micro and macro-economic policy issues

Kenyatta University (<http://www.ku.ac.ke/>) is an impact oriented university guided by its philosophy of sensitivity and responsiveness to societal needs and the right of every person to knowledge. The university aspires to be a dynamic, an inclusive and a competitive centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity. It pledges to provide quality education and training, promote scholarship, service, innovation and creativity and inculcate moral values for sustainable individual and societal development as a realization to its mission. The university has 12 campuses in and around Kenya. It hosts the Young African Leadership Institute (YALI) Centre and Africa Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL). Kenyatta University stands out as one of the leading universities in Kenya as the most





transformational in terms of leadership and infrastructural development as well as the delivery of quality education and training aligned with the private sector needs.

University of Eldoret (<http://www.uoeld.ac.ke/karibu/>) was founded in 1946 by the white settlers as a Large Scale Farmers Training Centre. In 1984, it was converted to a teachers’ training college and renamed Moi Teachers’ Training College to offer Diploma Science Teachers Training. Due to the double intake crisis, the College was taken over by Moi University as a Campus in 1990, renaming it Chepkoilel Campus. From 1990, the University made it a campus of Natural, Basic and Applied Science programmes. In August 2010 the President, through Legal Notice No. 125 of 13 August 2010 upgraded the campus into a University College with the name Chepkoilel University College, a Constituent College of Moi University. Upon the award of Charter by the President on March 2013, the University College was renamed University of Eldoret.

Moi University (<https://www.mu.ac.ke/>) is envisioned as the University of Choice in nurturing innovation and talent in science, technology and development. The university’s mission is to preserve, create, and disseminate knowledge, conserve and develop scientific, technological and cultural heritage through quality teaching and research; to create conducive work and learning environment; and to work with stakeholders for the betterment of society. The university was started in 1985 and has then witnessed phenomenal growth from its initial one faculty in 1984, to a total of 15 Schools, nine Directorates and two Institutes presently. The total student population currently is over 52, 000, distributed across Diploma, Undergraduate, Masters, Postgraduate Diploma and Doctorate of Philosophy programmes in diverse fields. The university has four campuses, namely: Main Campus, Town Campus, Eldoret West Campus and Odera Akang’o Campus and two constituent colleges, namely Garissa and Rongo that also offer unique undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (<http://www.mmust.ac.ke/>) was founded through Harambee spirit in 1972, as Western College of Arts and Applied Sciences (WECO) under the stewardship of the former fiery MP, Masinde Muliro. As chairman of the project executive committee, Muliro worked with Prof. Reuben J. Olemba (then Head, Department of Botany University of Nairobi) as secretary. The establishment of the College was in response to the needs of the people of Western province to have a College which would provide a training ground for technical manpower requirements for the province and the nation. The College was also expected to inculcate a sense of self-help and self-reliance among its students and facilitate active participation of youth in national development. The university has evolved from one college to include several centres of excellence including the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CDMHA), Open Learning and Continuing Education (SOLACE), Science and Technology Park and Industrial Linkages with a vibrant postgraduate training.

Karatina University

Karatina University (<https://www.karu.ac.ke/>) is a chartered public university in Kenya. Situated 15km North off Karatina town, the University aspires to be one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Kenya and beyond. It is developed on the vision to be a University of global excellence, meeting the dynamic needs and development of society. As such, Karatina has purposed to conserve, create and disseminate knowledge through, training, research, innovation and community outreach. The university offers quality education that is in tandem with the needs and aspirations of the global village as captured in our Vision, Mission and Core Values. Karatina University

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locality is rich in Agricultural soils and endowed with tourist attractions within the vicinity of snow-capped Mount Kenya. The serene environment makes it an ideal place for learning. Karatina University started in 2007 as Mount Kenya Campus of Moi University. It had succeeded a Tea Training institute. In 2010 it became Karatina University College, a Constituent College of Moi University and in 2013, Karatina University was awarded a Charter. The University has five Academic Schools namely: Agriculture & Biotechnology; Business; Education & Social Sciences; Natural Resources & Environmental Studies; Pure & Applied Sciences. The University has campuses in Kagochi (Main) and at Karatina town, Itiati.

South Eastern Kenya University

South Eastern Kenya University (<http://www.seku.ac.ke/>) is a fully-fledged Public University with Charter awarded in March, 2013. The University Main Campus is located in Kitui County in a serene and conducive learning environment, 12 Kilometers off Kwa Vonza Market, along the Kitui-Machakos main road. SEKU envisions to be a globally competitive Centre of Excellence in Teaching, Research Innovation and Service. In so doing, aspires to provide quality education through teaching, research, extension, innovation and entrepreneurship with emphasis on dry land agriculture, natural resources and environmental management. Further, South Eastern Kenya University seeks to become a center of excellence in sustainable regional and national development through the advancement and expansion of opportunities for higher education and research in dry land agriculture, forestry, mining, energy, water and environmental sciences with emphasis on arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs); achieved by way of collaboration, community service, participatory approaches, appropriate technology transfer and innovation. The university has witnessed tremendous growth and currently offers various certificate, diploma, undergraduate and post graduate programmes. The University has other campuses namely Kitui Town Campus, Machakos Town Campus, Wote Town Campus, Mtito Andei Campus and Nairobi Town Campus. The University currently has about 6,000 students registered in the various campuses with the bulk of them being at the University main campus.

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