



19TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

ENHANCING ACCESS, EQUITY AND QUALITY OF AFRICAN HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

Date: 31st October 2023 (11:00-13:00 GMT+1)

Venue: The Tripartite Room, Palais de Congrès, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/446G5U1>

Concept Note

Contact:

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Background

Africa's working-age population is estimated to be growing at 3% per annum and will generate approximately 450 million young people ready to work by 2035¹. Yet Africa's economy can only employ 3 million annually, according to the African Development Bank. Work life transitions in Africa are also changing from formal to self-employment. Studies by the Brookings Institute show that three-quarters of new entrants into Africa's labour market will be self-employed or in microenterprises and only 20% will be wage-employed by the service sector, while about 4 to 5 % will be wage employed by industry. Overall, only 100 million of the 450 million young Africans expected to reach working age by 2035, will find decent work. African higher education sector must therefore develop the appropriate training/skilling programmes that produce workers for today and tomorrow. Agriculture being the largest sector where most of these youth are, and with a high potential to create wealth and self-employment, must invariably be the target for skilling tomorrow's workforce. But in comparison to the rest of the globe, Africa has a small proportion of higher education institutions. There is need to rebalance the human resource pyramid that was distorted by transformation of many Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) institutions into universities, locks out many youths from gaining the skills they need for self-employment. Further, gender and cultural biases, especially affect girls, increasing the employment inequity. Africa's research output has also remained low contributing only 3.5% of scholarly publications, a sign of limited training and research. By utilizing these and other opportunities and challenges for its transformation, the higher agricultural education sector in Africa has a window of opportunity to efficiently educate the next generation workforce.

¹ Harnessing Africa's youth dividend: a new approach for large-scale job creation

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Africa’s higher education, especially in the agricultural sector needs to be relevant to the skills and knowledge needs of the sector to enhance employability. It should also be provided in an inclusive and equitable manner in an appropriate quality in terms of competencies, skills and knowledge. Making higher education relevant requires among others, close collaboration in design and delivery of higher education with the industry and the wider employment sector among other delivery models. Achieving inclusive and equitable access requires among others, national and institutional policies and training procedures that enable vulnerable groups such as physically challenged, economically disadvantaged groups of students to access education. Technological innovations such as use electronic and digital systems can enable access by all social groups in African society. To effectively derive returns from higher education, monitoring of quality of education in all its aspects from curriculum design and delivery to infrastructure and capacity of teachers needs to be enshrined into the education system at all levels. In addition, the young people from higher education institutions need to be supported to smoothly transition to the world of work either in dignified and fulfilling formal or self-employment. However, the African continent, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa is lacking. In terms of access, Recent gross enrolments at tertiary levels were estimated at 9% in SSA compared to 42% in Middle East & North Africa compared to 52% in Latin in America & Caribbean, 70% in Europe & Central Asia and 86% in North America². Both local and international higher education is not inclusive to all social and economic strata in society³. Attempts to address quality and harmonisation issue which the continent faces is the focus of the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation⁴. University-industry collaboration for training, research and innovation has been proposed as ways for enhancing relevance despite several challenges it faces across Africa and globally⁵.

Objectives of the scientific session

The scientific session has been organised to provide new knowledge and promote collaboration in implementing appropriate policies, practices and models for equitable access to inclusive and relevant higher education in Africa.

Specifically, the session will:

- a) Provide a platform for scientists to share and learn from each other on the latest knowledge on models, policies and practices in providing equitable access to relevant and quality higher education in Africa;
- b) Provide a synthesis of what works to be scaled out across the African continent, and
- c) Foster networking and collaboration among researchers, professionals, practitioners, and policy makers on what works across the continent.

Themes and sub-themes of the scientific session

²<https://oxfordhr.com/thought-leadership/higher-education-in-sub-saharan-africa-challenges-and-prospects-salah-khaled/>

³https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368893465_IMPROVING_ACCESS_AND_EQUITY_IN_EAST_AFRICAN_HIGHER_EDUCATION_THROUGH_INTERNATIONALIZATION

⁴<https://haqaa2.obsglob.org/asg-qa-users-guide/>

⁵<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11301-023-00349-1>

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The scientific knowledge will be shared in the themes and sub-themes below

- 1) **Transformative education: Experiences across the continent** in which scientific papers will be shared in the following sub-themes:
 - a) University-industry-community engagement for skilling young people;
 - b) Inclusion and diversity by training programmes;
 - c) Reaching masses through innovations such as digital education among others, and
 - d) Harmonised quality, credit accumulation and transfer for graduate and undergraduate education.
- 2) **Strengthening work transitions for Africa’s youth** in which scientific papers will be shared in the following sub-themes:
 - a) Skilling for the market: University-TVET strategic partnerships;
 - b) Internships and community engagement, and
 - c) Entrepreneurship.
- 3) **Leveraging local capacity for building capacity** in which scientific papers will be shared in the following sub-themes:
 - a) RUFORUM’s Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program;
 - b) The Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET), and
 - c) African Centres of Excellence Phase I and Phase II.

Session Approach, themes and sub-themes

The session will start with a plenary session where a Keynote address on **“Enhancing Access, Equity and Quality of African Higher and Tertiary Education”** will be presented followed by respondents and a brief questions and answer session with the audience. Three breakout sessions based on the three themes of the sessions. In the breakout sessions, papers providing new knowledge in the listed sub-themes among others. A synthesis of new knowledge emerging from the scientific papers will be generated to inform policy and practice among actors engaged in higher education in Africa. A synthesis from each of the three themes will be presented in a plenary to generate a synthesis of models on policies and practice for enhancing access to equitable and quality higher and tertiary education in Africa.

Expected Outcomes

- 1) knowledge that enhances access to equitable and quality higher and tertiary education in Africa advanced;
- 2) A synthesis of working models for policies and practice that are scalable across the African continent;
- 3) Participants motivated and inspired to continue generating new knowledge that informs enhances equitable access to quality higher education;
- 4) Contribution to evidence-based policymaking, shape regulations, and guide future actions that enhance access to equitable and quality higher and tertiary education, and

- 5) New collaborations and networks fostered among researchers, professionals, practitioners, and policy makers to develop and implement new research and capacity development projects and programmes and jointly publish new knowledge.

Participants

Participants will include researchers, scientists, academics, development partners, policy makers and Government Officials, industry representatives, Non-Profit Organizations, professionals, and graduate students.

Organizers

The event is organized RUFORUM, with support from the Government of Cameroon and RUFORUM member universities in Cameroon. **Contact persons:** Ms Selma Nghituwamhata (s.nghituwamhata@ruforum.org) and Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo (m.majaliwa@ruforum.org).

Programme

TUESDAY 31 ST October, 2023	
PLENNARY SESSION 1	
VENUE: The Tripartite Room	
REGISTRATION LINK: https://bit.ly/446G5U1	
CHAIR: Prof. Brice Sinsin, University Abomey-Calavi, Benin	
RAPPORTEUR: Waswa ⁶ Moses, Emmanuel Okalany ⁶ and Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata	
Time	
8:30 – 8:45	Opening Address Prof. Jean Kouliadiati, Rector of the Pan African university, African Union Commission
8:45-9:05	Key Note Address Title: Enhancing Access, Equity And Quality Of African Higher And Tertiary Education in Africa. Dr. Dennis Murekachiro, Director of Higher Education Programmes, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
9:05-9:10	Respondent: Prof. Emeritus Agnes W. Mwang'ombe, University of Nairobi, Kenya
9:10– 9:15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
Session 1: Transformative education: Experiences across the continent	
VENUE: The Tripartite Room	

⁶ All issues regarding rapporteuring should be address to Waswa and Okalany

<p>REGISTRATION LINK: https://bit.ly/3OW1qeI CHAIR: Dr. Guillaume Nyagatare, University of Rwanda, Rwanda</p>	
<p>RAPPORTEUR: Emmanuel Okalany and TBC-Cameroon</p>	
<p>9:15 – 10:30</p>	<p>Key note address: Education Collaboratives for Transforming Education in Africa Ms. Pauline Gangla, Head, Higher Education Collaboratives, Mastercard Foundation</p> <p>Discussion: Lead Discussion Paper. From an experiment to a global aggregator of transformative learning institutions: Experiences from EARTH University Dr. Naboth Bwambale, Director of the Mastercard Foundation-EARTH Fellowship Program, EARTH University</p> <p>Panel discussion one: Education Collaboratives: Lessons for Success</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Justine Namaalwa, Makerere University 2. Prof. Patience Mshenga, Egerton University 3. Prof. Eija Laitinen, HAMK, Finland <p>Panel discussion two: Integrating private sector into university education to enhance work transitions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Maria Sassi, University of Pavia, Italy 2. Mr. Adnane Mohammed, Mohamed VI Polytechnique University (UM6P), Morocco. 3. Roos Hogenkamp, Manager, Nuffic Global
<p>Session 2: Strengthening work transitions for Africa's youth</p> <p>VENUE: Complex A REGISTRATION LINK: https://bit.ly/3OFs4Hv CHAIR: Dr. Tim Chancellor, University of Greenwich, UK RAPPORTEUR: Yamungu Boniface Alongo and Cameroon-TBC</p>	
<p>9:15 – 10:30</p>	<p>Panelist 1: Skilling for the market: University-TVET strategic partnerships Prof. Nancy Mungai, Egerton University/Baraka College</p> <p>Panelist 2: Internships and community engagement Prof Duncan Ongeng, Gulu University</p>



	<p>Panelist 3: Entrepreneurship (agripreneurs and other self-employers) Prof. Taimourya Houda, Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II, Morocco</p>	
<p>Session 3: Leveraging local capacity for building capacity in Africa VENUE: Meeting Room E REGISTRATION LINK: https://bit.ly/3qxIEAV CHAIR: Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi, University of Buea, Cameroon RAPPORTEUR: Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata and Cameroon-TBC</p>		
9:15 – 9:30	<p>Key Note paper: Leveraging local capacity for building capacity in Africa Prof Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary, IUCEA</p>	
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Panelist 1: RUFORUM’s Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program Prof. Jackson Majaliwa</p> <p>Panelist 2: The Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET), Dr. Everlyn Nguku, PASET-icipe</p> <p>DISCUSSANT 3: African Centers of Excellence (ACE II), Prof. Ambrose Kiprop, Center of Excellence in Phytochemicals, Textiles and Renewable Energy, Kenya</p> <p>DISCUSSANT 4: Building plant breeding capacity for Africa Dr Richard Edema, MARCCI</p>	

