



Official Opening Ceremony of the 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting

Concept Note

Date: 5 December 2019

Time: 1500-2130

Venue: New Examination Centre, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Session Chair: Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR)

Master of Ceremonies: Mrs. Mary Ama Bawa

Session Rapporteurs: Dr. Sylvanus Mensah, Dr. Emanuel Afutu, and Mr. Waswa Moses

Contact: a.mweetwa@ruforum.org, f.otto@ruforum.org

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)¹ will hold its 15th Annual General Meeting in Cape Coast, Ghana on 2-6 December 2019. This is the first time the AGM is being held in West Africa and offers renewed commitment to strengthening higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation in Africa. The overall theme of the 15th AGM is to ***Delivering on Africa's Universities Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESI): What will it take?***

This year's AGM is special in two ways: First, it is the first time since RUFORUM's creation to be hosted in West Africa following the strategic geographical expansion in 2014 to collaborate with Universities and partners in Benin, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. This meeting therefore presents an opportunity for RUFORUM network to show case its benefit to Higher Education landscape in West Africa and bring on board key strategic partners in West Africa. Secondly, the AGM coincides with RUFORUM's 15th anniversary as a network, a year after a year after the ratification of the RUFORUM Vision 2030 strategy and its Operational Plan 2018-2022. During the AGM meetings, RUFORUM shall be consolidating

¹ The RUFORUM Network increased its membership in a phased way from 10 in 2004 to 16 in 2009, 32 in 2013 and is now (2019) at 121 in 38 African countries. RUFORUM has therefore rapidly grown over the years from its founding in 2004 by 10 university Vice Chancellors of Africa University (Zimbabwe), Eduardo Mondale (Mozambique), Makerere University (Uganda), Moi University (Kenya), Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Egerton University (Kenya), University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe), University of Nairobi (Kenya).

CO-ORGANISERS:





achievements, reflecting and learning from implementing the programmes for the past 15 years and forge/ envision how to move forward with the new Vision 2030.

The meeting will bring together over 400 delegates from across Africa and beyond including Ministers of Agriculture; Higher Education and Training; Finance; Science, Technology and Innovation and their respective Permanent Secretaries/Chief Directors; Vice-Chancellors/Presidents/Rectors; Principals and Deans; Heads of development institutions, private sector leaders; farmers and farmer representatives; emerging and early career researchers and young entrepreneurs from especially Ghana and other West African countries; and other key invited stakeholders.

Several key sessions will be hosted during this year's AGM. However, the opening ceremony has been slated for afternoon of 5th December 2019. There will be recognition awards for outstanding educationists who have made significant contribution to higher education in Africa. Over the years, RUFORUM Board decided to periodically recognize individuals who have made significant contribution to Africa, in various capacities including leadership and institutional management, or research and teaching excellence and service to society. Separately, a recognition award will be given to the Government of Ghana for its exemplary support to the education sector in Ghana and for promoting Pan-Africanism.

Specifically, the objectives of the opening ceremony are:

1. Recognise the contribution of the Government of Ghana to Higher Education in Ghana, RUFORUM and Africa at large.
2. Recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution to the higher education sector in Africa.
3. Advocate for policy engagement to strengthen higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation in Africa.
4. Galvanise the higher education sector in support of national development priorities and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Meeting Approach

In this meeting, key higher Education stakeholders, Ministers, will give keynote addresses at galvanizing support to strengthen agricultural higher education, science and Technology. This will be followed an overview to the Launch of Prof. Adipala Ekwamu's Memoirs "The Unfinished Journey". Recognition awards to be handed to four outstanding educationists who have made significant contribution to the higher education sector in Africa, and another award to the Government of Ghana for its immense contribution to Pan-Africanism and support to higher education development in Africa. His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana will grace the official opening of the AGM. He will deliver the official AGM opening addresses on galvanizing intra-country and intra-regional cooperation in the field of Higher and Tertiary Education in Africa. This will be followed by an official photograph session with the President and thereafter, a cocktail function hosted by the Government of Ghana to crown the day's activities. The programme for the official opening ceremony is shown in annex 1.

Expected outputs:

CO-ORGANISERS:





1. Recognition awards to four (4) outstanding individuals who have made tremendous contribution to the higher education sector in Africa.
2. Recognition award to the Government of Ghana for its immense contribution to Pan-Africanism and support to higher education in Africa.

Proposed programme (Venue: New Examination Centre, University of Cape Coast, Ghana)

Official Opening Ceremony for Fifteenth Annual General Meeting Session Chair: Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR) Master of Ceremonies: Mrs. Mary Ama Bawa Session Rapporteurs: Dr. Sylvanus Mensah, Dr. Emanuel Afutu, and Mr. Waswa Moses	
1500-1530	Arrival of Guests /Refreshments
Conference Welcome Remarks	
1530-1540	Ghana National Anthem
1540-1547	Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah, Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast , Ghana
1547-1554	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
1554-1600	Sir. Dr. Sam Jonah, Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Conference Address	
1600-1615	Remarks by Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education, Republic of Ghana
1615-1625	Remarks by H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission (TBC)
1625-1640	Remarks by Representative of Visiting Ministers Present: Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Government of Namibia (TBC)
Book Launch	
1640-1700	Prelude to the Launch of Prof. Adipala Ekwamu’s Memoirs <i>“The Unfinished Journey”</i> : Megan Lindow, Writer
Recognition Awards	
1700-1730	a. Four outstanding educationists for their long-term service to Africa in Education, Science, Technology, Innovation and Leadership
	b. Government of Ghana for immense contribution to Pan-Africanism and support to higher education development in Africa
Official Opening of AGM Address	

CO-ORGANISERS:





1730-1800	Official Opening of AGM Address: H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
1800-1830	Official Photograph with the H.E. Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
1800-1900	Health Break
1900-2130	EVENING FUNCTION by Government of Ghana- Cocktail/Dinner (TBC)

CO-ORGANISERS:

