

## RUFORUM Annual General Meeting 2019

### RUFORUM Skills Enhancement trainings at University of Cape Coast, Ghana

29<sup>th</sup> November- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

#### Concept Note

##### Background

Human capital development is crucial and necessary since it drives the nation to the envisioned vision and mission. It is a major challenge in the effort of developing people in order to achieve developed country with our own identity and able to compete at global level. A quality human capital comes from a quality education process. A properly designed and well planned higher education system is vital in developing such human capital. Instilling skills into the lives of future generation is aimed at developing their knowledge, understanding, values and skills which are the essence of education for sustainable development. Education in Africa is largely about the books and mugging things up for the exams while the rest of the world is focused more on skill development and preparing the youth for what they would actually face in the professional sphere. It is high time African Higher Education institutions started following the footsteps of the rest of the world and begin to understand the importance of skills enhancement to face as well as thrive in the competitive times of today. This doesn't at all mean that academic knowhow has lost its significance. But the fiercely rising competition demands practical skills along with the academic knowledge. Employers, today, wish to hire candidates who are ready to take up the responsibilities of the job with minimal in-house training. And this is possible only when educational institutions provide the students with an environment where besides gaining from the academics, they also get to gain an exposure into the actual corporate world.

Practical knowledge and skills, today, are the life and breath of the professional world. Being ready with the book knowledge is no longer the only thing required to be self-sufficient. When stepping out from a graduate-school, students in the twenty-first century are required to be prepared with not only the literature but also the practical skill set that will help to enhance their job-landing capacity and is also essential for the all-round working experience. Our scientists has got the potential, all that is need to be done is to show them the right path and equip them with the right skills. No matter what field of employment, skill enhancement is a pre-requisite to a successful career. The

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	<p>importance of developing skills is thus today being taken as the topmost priority and this is why most reputed educational institutions are now focusing more on making their students equipped with the basic working knowledge while they are still in their study mode.</p>
<p><b>Aims and Objectives of the side Events</b></p>	<p>The main objective of this skill enhancement training course is to familiarize the participants with the conceptual understanding of proposal development, scientific writing and presentation, scientific data management, project management and development of interdisciplinary skills. Specifically, the skills enhancement trainings are aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build self-confidence</li> <li>• Encourage critical thinking,</li> <li>• Foster independence and help the candidates to communicate more effectively.</li> <li>• Develop the skills needed to find and acquire a position and be successful in the workplace</li> <li>• Develop essential employability and workplace competencies</li> <li>• Develop an understanding about the demands of the workplace</li> <li>• Explore personal strengths and interests, related to future life and career opportunities</li> <li>• Provide occupational preparation for entry into the world of work</li> </ul>
<p><b>Approach and Methodology</b></p>	<p>The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in collaboration with the University of Cape Coast and the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa (FAWoVC) is planning three skills enhancement trainings for Post Doc fellows, emerging scientists and graduate students at University of Cape Coast, Ghana. The training focus is divided into three categories namely;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <a href="#"><u>Proposal development, scientific writing and presentations for Master students</u></a></li> <li>ii. <a href="#"><u>Scientific data management for PhD Students and recently recruited staff with Masters or PhD</u></a></li> <li>iii. <a href="#"><u>Project management and development of interdisciplinary skills for Post Doc Fellows and emerging scientists.</u></a></li> </ol>

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	<p>These training courses are essentially activity-based and learner-centred incorporating interactive teaching and learning activities in various forms of instruction. The 5-day activity will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Colloquium and plenary presentations</li> <li>ii) Interactive input with workshops and cooperative group activities</li> <li>iii) Enrichment activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs/ outcomes</b></p>	<p>The skills enhancement courses are expected to yield the following outputs with evidences of participants’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the fundamental concepts behind experimental/survey designs and statistical data analyses within the context of developing countries</li> <li>• Understanding of the concept and rationale of integrating interdisciplinary skills in emerging sciences</li> <li>• Knowledge of developing draft papers for submission to preferred journals</li> <li>• Change of values, attitudes, interests, motivation in teaching by incorporating human values in Science, Technology and Innovation education.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venue and Participants</b></p>	<p>The different skills enhancement trainings will take place in three different venues at University of Cape Coast namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sasakawa Guest Centre</b> for the <i>Project management and development of interdisciplinary skills for Post Doc Fellows and emerging scientists</i> training</li> <li>2. <b>CODE Seminar Room 1A</b> for the <i>Scientific Data Management Training for PhD students and Young Scientists</i></li> <li>3. <b>CODE Seminar Room 1B</b> for the <i>Proposal development, scientific writing and presentations for Master students</i> training</li> </ol> <p>The participants will be RUFORUM Post Doc fellows, emerging scientists and graduate (MSc and PhD) students from Ghanaian Universities who are member of the RUFORUM Network.</p>

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**Side Event  
Organizers  
and Contact**

The organisers of these side events are RUFORUM, University of Cape Coast and the FAWoVC.

The facilitators will be:

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