African Higher Education Week & RUFORUM Biennial Conference
Side Event

Venue: Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)
Contact person: Dr. Ir. Sylvanus Mensah
Email: m.sylvanus@ruforum.org

Session Name: Discovering Your Talent and Abilities
Date: Sunday 21 October 2018
Time: 08:00 – 13:00
Venue: University of Nairobi
Room: LR101

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is organizing the 2018 Biennial Conference, which is expected to bring together over 500 delegates, including graduate students, Vice-Chancellors and Principals and Deans, policy makers, development partners and several other delegates from all over Africa. The overall focus is to build momentum for rural transformation and to discuss strategies for strengthening the African higher education sector and linking them more closely with economic development.

In a dynamic and competitive economies as today, self-awareness of one’s inner talents and abilities provides a winning edge that one can capitalize to nurture business and further build on it to establish meaningful and viable enterprises. However, discovering ones talent and/or a pool of talents and abilities is not such a simple task. While many young students express their willingness to contribute to reduced unemployment rate, many have not yet reached their full potential. One of the biggest challenges remains the uncertainties about what they should be involved in as entrepreneurs.

Discovering your talent and abilities has a number of significant positive consequences. First it helps realize one’s potential and capacity to harness limited opportunities. Second, identity and talents help make a great personal contribution to self and the society. Third, it makes it possible to become innovative and develop new entrepreneurial or economic opportunities. One main challenge, however, for youth and students in today’s competitive market, is the failure to create an environment in which talents could thrive and the abilities be improved. This involves
thinking about the positive aspects of personality positively, while helping in unleashing hidden potentials.

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this event is to help the students discover their inherent talents and abilities, and how to make use of available opportunities. The specific objectives are:

1. Familiarize students with broad level outlets or opportunities that match the current market needs
2. Bring student together (and possibly in teams) to work and understand how to make use of available opportunities using their talents and abilities

Expected outputs

- Inspired and encouraged students committed to make a difference in society

Annex 1: Draft Session Agenda

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Sunday 21 October, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30</td>
<td>Arrival of guests/ registration</td>
<td>RUFORUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
<td>RUFORUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Mr Johnson Mwakazi</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>TEA BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-13:00</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Mr Johnson Mwakazi</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-</td>
<td>LUNCH and DEPARTURE</td>
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