

RUFORUM Annual General Meeting 2019

Sixteenth RUFORUM Principals and Deans Schedule of Activities

Thursday 2nd -6th December, 2019

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 120 universities from 38 African countries will be holding its 15th Annual General Meeting in Ghana 2nd -6th December, 2019. The event hosted by RUFORUM member universities¹ in Ghana and the Government of Ghana. The AGM is being held under the theme “*Delivering on Africa’s Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI): What will it take?*”. This is the first major RUFORUM network convening in west Africa as a result, the meeting has attracted a broad spectrum of participants including the academia (university managers; Vice Chancellors, Deans and Principals, Directors and young scientists including graduate students and Post-Doc fellows), development partners, private sector leaders, civil society, farmers and farmer groups as well as their representatives, young innovators from within west Africa. The purpose of this Principals and Deans Briefing note is to provide an activity schedule during 2-6 December, 2019 period. This is aimed to ensure that the Principals and Deans are in better position to realise the best use of their time during the convening. The following are the activities that in part are scheduled for the Principals and Deans:

1. Fostering Global Partnerships for Higher Education and Research in Africa (2nd December, 2019)

This session is focused on bringing convergence of development partners, practitioners and academia from the global south and global north including the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs) as part of strengthening and leveraging synergies. This event will feature key note address and will deal with issues on promoting international collaboration for impactful research for development and knowledge sharing, promoting global partnership for higher education and sharing best practices, and designing action agenda for strengthening partnership for higher education and research in Africa.

2. Entrepreneurship training and market place training session (Morning: 3rd December, 2019)

This training session is focused on strengthening entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial Universities in Africa. It is founded on the need for transformative universities in Africa in particular universities seeking to train graduates that are job creators as well as universities that appreciate the need to

¹ University of Cape Coast, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Development Studies, University of Education, Winneba and University of Ghana, Legon

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diversity sources of revenue for sustainably facilitating the quality of teaching, learning, innovation and engagement. This session will be facilitated by experts from E4IMPACT from Italy.

3. Address by Patrick Lumumba (Afternoon, 3rd December, 2019)

In this convergence address, Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba, a reknown Pan-Africanist will be delivering a Public Lecture under the theme *“Making Africa Work for Africa: What will it take?”*. This address seeks to reawaken the African spirit that had hitherto driven Africa’s development processes in the immediate post-independence era. It is purposively selected because Africa is in a phase where it needs a new and drastic renaissance if it is to stamp its hold on the global stage and define its path to economic, social and demographic freedom.

4. Reception/Dinner (Evening, 3rd December, 2019)

This Welcome to Ghana and Gold Coast Identity Dinner will provide the Principals and Deans with the appreciation of the culture and the peoples of Ghana. It is however beyond food and fund faire as it is strategically positioned to enable the broader to specific business deals development among and between partners. It will be hosted by the University of Cape Coast with conjunction with the relevant Government of Ghana agencies. It is expected that during the dinner, Principals and Deans are in position to network and build alliances for delivering effectively as well as for mobilizing resources within their respective universities.

5. Vice Chancellor’s Forum session (Morning of 4th December, 2019)

This high level session graced by Ministers and experts will be focused on making higher education, science and technology deliver for Africa. It will further deliberate on enhancing delivery of Africa’s Universities’ Agenda for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) and route for the need for re-engineering Universities in Africa to deliver transformative graduates and innovations. The Principals and Deans are pivotal in this session as they are the leaders in translating the dialogue and resolutions into action as the heads of programmes and activity centre points in the universities.

6. Scientific Session (Afternoon, 4th December, 2019)

This 15th AGM features a unique session of the scientific sessions that includes Pan-African programme events. In this regard, a special focus has been given to: i) Livestock and Livestock Production Systems, ii) Soil Fertility and Soil Health Systems in Africa, iii) Natural Hazards, Disasters and Environmental Crises, iv) Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biorisk Management, v) Agrifood Systems, and vi) Digital Innovations, Economics and Policy Analysis. Each of these sessions will be graced by a high level key note address that will provide the global and regional trends to stimulate discourse. The idea behind it

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is that the network should be in better position to respond and take deliberate action to address key issues within these thematic areas.

7. Principal and Deans Meeting (Morning, 5th December, 2019)

This is the business meeting of Principals and Deans of the RUFORUM network. It is a decision making event organ that provides for perspectives and futures for the network. The Principals and Deans meeting reviews implementation of issues at network level, receives feedback from the various National Forum meetings that have been held at country level and provides recommendations for action. The unique component of this Principals and Deans meeting will be its task to deliberate how to deliver on Vision 2030 (AHESTI). Guidance to the network and to the Secretariat is anticipated.

8. Official Opening of AGM (Afternoon, 5th December, 2019)

This is an official State event that will be graced by the President of the Republic of Ghana (H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo), Cabinet Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and members of the Diplomatic Community. In this event, the official launch of the ‘Unfinished Journey’ Book by Prof. Adipala Ekwamu will take place. Two recognition awards categories will be delivered; i) outstanding educationists for their long-term service to Africa in Education, Science, Technology, Innovation and Leadership, and ii) Government of Ghana for immense contribution to Pan-Africanism and support to higher education development in Africa.

9. AGM Business Meeting 6th Dec (whole day)

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