

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

EXPLORING FUTURE FRONTIERS FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN AFRICA

Date: 26th October 2022

Time: 15:00-19:30 EAT

Venue: Virtual

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3AUBlki>

**Contact: Professor Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary
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Background:

Higher Education plays a critical role in the generation of the requisite knowledge and skills to support agriculture, science, technology and innovation in Africa (Nyerere et al., 2016). To this effect, Africa currently has over 1,225 universities, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions and other post-secondary colleges. Like many sectors in African economies, the ST&I and agricultural Higher Education sector continues to face challenges. For example, the current tertiary enrolment rate across Africa stands at just over 12% which is below the global average of 32%. The sector is characterized by limited infrastructure for research and training, mismatch in the skills of the graduates produced and industry requirements, as well as low staff capacity to train, especially at doctoral level (Nakayiwa et al., 2016). Further, there is a lack of sustainable higher education financing models which are critical for developing and retaining talent on the continent. In addition, Africa still needs to achieve its full potential for creativity and innovation for its own social economic growth through efficient and effective intellectual property systems, accreditation and harmonization of academic qualifications, strengthening of ICTs and reducing the digital divide. Lastly, Africa's higher education system needs to be supported by inclusive policies formulated through rigorous consultations among multi-stakeholders including ordinary people of Africa and the academia, industry and policy. There is a need to examine the extent to which regional, national and institutional policies within higher education sector are taking into consideration the needs, cultures, experiences and lessons so far learnt, and adopting to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Within and outside Africa, several partnership initiatives and programmes have been designed and implemented with a view to address some of the identified challenges in the higher education sector. Among these are: 1) Partnership for Higher Education in Africa

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(<https://www.iie.org/en/Programs/PHEA>) funded by several USA Philanthropic organisations including Carnegie Corporation of New York, Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and The Kresge Foundation. The overall aim of PHEA was to strengthen the capacity of higher education in Africa with a focus on Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), Higher Education Regional Approaches to Postgraduate Training and Research, Higher Education Research and Analysis Developing, and Retaining the Next Generation of Academics. Carnegie Corporation of New York has continued to support several Higher Education initiatives in Africa including the RUFORUM Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme and indeed supported the founding and work of Alliance of Research-led Universities in Africa (ARUA); 2) Education Sub-Saharan Africa (**ESSA**) <https://essa-africa.org/about> ESSA, a partnership of institutions and networks within and outside Africa who share its vision of *high quality education in Sub-Saharan Africa that enables young people attain their ambitions and strengthen society*. ESSA aims to utilize data and evidence to improve education in sub-Saharan Africa and harnesses the power of universities and colleges to transform Africa's future; 3) Africa-US Higher Education Initiative was aimed at strengthening the capacity of African higher education through partnerships between African and U.S. Higher education institutions, over a sustained period for mutual benefit. This initiative facilitated deeper and more effective partnerships with a view to contributing more effectively to key priority development areas such as science and technology; agriculture, environment and natural resources; engineering; business, management and economics; health, and education and teacher training; and 4) other continental and global partnerships for higher education include: (i) Association of African Universities (AAU); (ii) Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), (iii) The European Alliance on Agricultural knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA), (iv) Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), (v) The Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL), (vi) Indian Agricultural Universities Association, (IAUA), and RUFORUM which all seek to advance higher education within the continent and regions where they operate.

These partnerships for higher education have undoubtedly contributed to the advancement of the sector in Africa through advocacy, joint resource mobilisation, human capital and infrastructure development as well as lesson sharing and joint learning. With the changes in the higher education landscape on the continent and across the globe, there is a need to reflect on the successes of past and current partnerships for higher education and identify new focus areas and approaches for future collaboration. Further, the time has come to incentivize and partner with the private sector for the provision of higher education in Africa through expansion of private universities & its contribution to research and innovation in public universities.

Meeting objectives and approach

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RUFORUM is organising a high level online convening that will bring together policy makers, thought leaders, experts and RUFORUM’s partners to dialogue and reflect on the past & present, and envision a transformed higher education sector that meets the global, continental, regional and national requisite skills and knowledge in agriculture, science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Specifically, the high-level convening will provide an opportunity to:

1. To share experiences and lessons on past and current partnerships in higher education in Africa and globally;
2. Identify new focus areas and approaches for strengthening collaboration in higher education; and,
3. To explore possible and available financing mechanisms to support existing & future higher education initiatives and partnerships.

Draft Programme

Time	Session/Topic	Responsible Person
Part 1: Moderator: Prof. Address Malata, Vice Chancellor Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Malawi		
1500-1510	Documentaries	
Session 1: Opening		
1510-1520	Welcome Remarks by Session Moderator	Prof. Address Malata , Vice Chancellor, MUST
1520-1530	Opening remarks and setting the scene	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu , RUFORUM Executive Secretary
1530-1550	Key Note Address: The African higher education landscape: current and emerging trends	Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira , Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Zimbabwe (TBC)
1550-1610	Discussion	
Session 2: Policy frameworks to promote Partnerships for Higher Education and Research for Development in Africa		
1610-1620	Perspective from Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission	Dr. Hambani Masheleni , Ag. Head of Science and Technology of HRST Department, AUC (TBC)
1620-1630	Perspective from EU (TBC)	
1630-1640	Perspective from an African Government	Her Excellency Prof Eléonore Yayi Ladekan , Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Benin
1640-1700	Discussion	
Session 3: Experiences and lessons from the past & current partnerships and initiatives		
1700-1715	Carnegie Corporation efforts in Strengthen human capital development in Africa: Past and Current Efforts	Ms. Claudia Frittelli , Programme Officer, Carnegie Corporation of New York

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1715-1730	The Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL), China	Dr. Li Li , Associate Professor, China Agriculture University, China
1730-1745	Partnership for Strengthening Health Training in Africa	Prof. Simeon Kipkoech Mining , Director of Research & Professor of Immunology, Moi University, Kenya
1745-1800	Discussion	
1800-1805	Documentary	
Part 2: Session Moderator Dr. Lucy Heady, CEO, Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA)-TBC		
Session 4: Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence for Global Impact		
1805-1820	Creating a Research and Development Oriented University: The Case of University of Free State, South Africa	Prof. Francis William Petersen , Rector & Vice Chancellor, University of Free State, South Africa
1820-1835	Perspective from Seoul National University: Korean Experience in Transforming universities to drive technology and innovation development	Prof Ju-Kon Kim , Dean, Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology, Seoul National University, South Korea
1835-1850	Financing education and skills development in Africa: opportunities through partnerships	Ms. Hendrina Doroeba Chalwe , Division Manager for Education and Skills Development, African Development Bank (TBC)
1850-1905	Discussion	
Session 5: Strengthening collaboration in higher education: envisioning new focus areas and approaches		
1905-1915	Thoughts on Moving Forward	Prof. Theresia Nkuo-Akenji , RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
1915-1925	Summary and wrap up	Prof. Prisca Mugabe , Deputy Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zimbabwe

References

1. Nyerere, J., Mfunne, O., Fuh, D., Mutisya, E., Yiran, G., Fadairo, O., & Odingo, A. (2016). The role of higher education in building a sustainable African society.
2. Nakayiwa, F., Osiru, M., Shibru, A., Sam-Amoah, L. K., Ochuodho, J., & Assogbadjo, A. E. (2016). Developing higher education systems in Africa-Selected country views.

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