

# Press Release



29<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021

## RUFORUM Triennial Conference and 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Higher Education Week



The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is pleased to share the final program schedule for the Triennial Conference and Africa Higher Education Week slated for 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin under the Theme ***‘Operationalising Higher Education for Innovation, Industrialisation, Inclusion and Sustainable Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action’***. It will be a blended event involving face-to-face meeting in Benin and virtual.

The Triennial conference aims to; 1) Catalyse investment in Higher Education for strengthening Africa’s Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity, 2) Promote international linkages and partnerships for strengthening Higher Education in Africa, 3) Promote youth employment and skills acquisition for development, and 4) Strengthen University-Private sector business linkages.

As part of this Triennial convening, a number of events will be held, notably; (i) a series of skills enhancement training for University researchers, students and other actors, (ii) exhibitions to profile research for development outcomes, (iv) specific convening to discuss topical issues affecting science, technology and innovation development in Africa; (v) meetings with policy and

private sector leaders; and (vi) RUFORUM governance meetings. A number of pre-Conference events have already been held (see details in the <https://www.ruforum.org/Triennial2021/>)

Some of the key Triennial events include the following:

1. Promoting Intra-Africa and Global Partnership for Higher Education in Africa: [Link](#)
2. University-Private Sector Engagement: [Link](#)
3. Ministerial Round Table Dialogue: [Link](#)
4. RUFORUM Board Meeting that will elect a new Board Chair and Vice-Chair to serve for the period 2022-2024: [Link](#)
5. High level policy dialogue on Tracking Agriculture Development in Africa: [Link](#)
6. High level policy dialogue on Building ST&I Capacity in Africa: [Link](#)
7. Official Opening Ceremony of the Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference by President of the Republic of Benin and Recognition awards to 17 individuals making impact on Africa's Development: [Link](#)
8. Reflections on Promoting inclusivity in Research and Development in Africa: [Link](#)
9. RUFORUM Business meeting: [Link](#)
10. Envisioning the future: A call for Action: [Link](#)
11. Recognition Awards for outstanding farmers and upcoming Scientists from Benin: [Link](#)

RUFORUM invites you to participate face to face or virtually and you can also follow the proceedings through our communication platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Flicker](#) and the Conference [Website](#))

DAY	MORNING SESSIONS 8:30-10:30	BREAK	MID-MORNING SESSIONS 11:00-13:00	LUNCH	AFTERNOON SESSIONS 14:00-17:00	BREAK	EVENING SESSIONS 19:00- 21:00
MONDAY 06 <sup>th</sup> -Dec- 2021	Exhibitions and Poster setup <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>		Setup Exhibitions and Poster <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>		Formal Opening of the Exhibitions and Posters ( <i>by one of the Benin Ministers</i> ) <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>		Interactive session for University Leaders and Policy Makers (Dinner)
	Symposium: Global Partnership for Higher Education in Africa <b>Venue:</b> video conference (link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9">https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9</a> )		Symposium: Global Partnership for Higher Education in Africa <b>Venue:</b> video conference (link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9">https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9</a> )		Symposium: Global Partnership for Higher Education in Africa <b>Venue:</b> video conference (link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9">https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9</a> )		
	CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b>		CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b>		CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b>		Address from Reeta Roy, Mastercard President (TBC)
	Meeting of Governments' Technical Experts <b>Venue:</b> Physical meeting (venue TBC)		Meeting of Governments' Technical Experts <b>Venue: Physical meeting (venue TBC)</b>		Press briefing with TVs and Other Media Houses <b>Venue:</b>		

	Interdisciplinary Training for Postgraduate Students Venue: UAC		Interdisciplinary Training for Postgraduate Students Venue: UAC		Interdisciplinary Training for Postgraduate Students Venue: UAC		
<b>TUESDAY 07<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2021</b>	<p>University-Private Sector Engagement <b>Venue: TBC, Blended</b> (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc">https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc</a>)</p> <p>CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b></p> <p>Side event: Virginia Tech Partnership with Egerton University and Others <b>Venue: video conference</b> (link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3gfpGXu">https://bit.ly/3gfpGXu</a>)</p> <p>Enhancing the knowledge economy through universities – private sector partnership (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc">https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc</a>)</p>	<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<p>University-Private Sector Engagement <b>Venue: , Blended</b> (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc">https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc</a>)</p> <p>CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b></p> <p>Side event: Virginia Tech Positive youth development <b>Venue: video conference</b> (link: <a href="https://bit.ly/37Y5MvE">https://bit.ly/37Y5MvE</a>)</p> <p>Enhancing the knowledge economy through universities – private sector partnership (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc">https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc</a>)</p>	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<p>RUFORUM Board Meeting <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>Ministerial Round Table <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>PBL interaction with the Principals and Deans <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>CARP Principal Investigators Meeting <b>Venue:</b></p> <p>Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b></p>	<b>16:30-17:00</b>	Ministerial Dinner

					Enhancing the knowledge economy through universities – private sector partnership <b>Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc">https://bit.ly/2ZzMiwc</a>		
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>08<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2021</b>	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> <b>Theme:</b> <i>Fostering Agricultural Transformation in Africa-Mapping progress to date (country case studies)</i> <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres : Blended ( <b>Link :</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3mVE6A9">https://bit.ly/3mVE6A9</a> )  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres  Side event: LEAP4NFSS <b>Venue : Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3">https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3</a> )	<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> <b>Theme:</b> <i>Higher Education: Building Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity</i> <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres : Blended ( <b>Link :</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3mVE6A9">https://bit.ly/3mVE6A9</a> )  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congrès  Side event: LEAP4NFSS <b>Venue : Blended Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3">https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3</a> )	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Official Opening Ceremony of the Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference ( <b>Address and Recognition Awards by H.E. Patrice TALON, The President of the Republic of Benin),</b> <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres : Blended ( <b>Link :</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3AVfWdk">https://bit.ly/3AVfWdk</a> )  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres  Side event: LEAP4NFSS <b>Venue : Blended Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3">https://bit.ly/3zSvdu3</a> )	<b>17:30-21:30</b>	State Reception ( <b>by Government of Benin</b> ) <b>Venue:</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>09<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2021</b>	Parallel Scientific Sessions (see details in the programme booklet to be shared) <b>Venue : Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU">https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU</a> )  Young Innovators side event <b>Venue:</b>  Exhibitions and Poster viewing	<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Parallel Scientific Sessions (see details in the programme booklet to be shared) <b>Venue : Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU">https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU</a> )  Young Innovators side event <b>Venue:</b>  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue:</b> Palais des Congres	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Parallel Scientific Sessions (see details in the programme booklet to be shared) <b>Venue : Blended (Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU">https://bit.ly/3t9PzwU</a> )  Young Innovators side event <b>Venue:</b>  Reflections on Promoting inclusivity in R&D in Africa	<b>17:30-21:30</b>	Reflections on the RUFORUM Journey and Envisioning the Future (Dinner) <b>Venue:</b>  Evening Event for Women Leaders and Selected Guests

	<b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>  An Integrated Approach to Workforce Education and Development: The Experience of Virginia Tech's Center for International Research and Development International Engagements <b>Venue :</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3oK4NIS">https://bit.ly/3oK4NIS</a>  Country / Policy dialogues <b>Venue:</b>  DESIRA LIFT side event <b>Venue :</b>		Country / Policy dialogues <b>Venue :</b>  DESIRA LIFT side event <b>Venue :</b>		<b>Blended: Palais des Congres</b> (Link : <a href="https://bit.ly/2WhsBYR">https://bit.ly/2WhsBYR</a> )  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>  DESIRA LIFT side event <b>Venue :</b>		<b>Venue:</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2021</b>	RUFORUM Annual General Meeting <b>Venue: Blended (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/39FKdAF">https://bit.ly/39FKdAF</a>)</b>  Evaluating the Impact of Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Training <b>Venue:</b>  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>	<b>10:30-11:00</b>	RUFORUM Annual General Meeting <b>Venue: Blended (Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/39FKdAF">https://bit.ly/39FKdAF</a>)</b>  Evaluating the Impact of Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Training <b>Venue:</b>  Exhibitions and Poster viewing <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Closing Ceremony:</b>  Thoughts on a future Africa: A Call for Action  Recognition Awards for Young Innovators & Farmers from Benin and outstanding contributors to Africa's development  Launch of Higher Education Book <b>Venue: Palais des Congres</b>	<b>17:30-21:30</b>	Gala Dinner by the Government of Benin (TBC) <b>Venue:</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2021</b>	TOURS and Field Visit	<b>10:30-11:00</b>	TOURS and Field Visits	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Meeting of LOC, ROC, and 2022 AGM Team from Zimbabwe <b>Venue: Blended</b>	<b>16:45-17:30</b>	

## Notes to Editors:

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### About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 129 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014 RUFORUM signed an MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. RUFORUM has supported the training of 2053 MSc, 627 PhD graduates and 229 BSc, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$236.3 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information.

For additional information see contact below.

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### Contacts:

**Name:** Evaline Acan

Corporate Communications  
and Advocacy Officer

**Email:**

[communications@ruforum.org](mailto:communications@ruforum.org)

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