



EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK

THE 8TH EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE FORUM

(EAQAN)

May 7-10, 2018

Kigali, Rwanda

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTRODUCTION

The East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN), a network of quality assurance practitioners in East Africa, is pleased to announce a call for papers for its Eighth Annual Regional Quality Assurance Forum 2018. The forum seeks to provide a unique and an important opportunity for quality assurance practitioners, senior administrators of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), executive members of national accreditation bodies, higher education researchers, and faculty and policy makers to share ideas on quality assurance issues, systems, practices and challenges in promoting quality higher education in East Africa.

The 8th EAQAN Forum shall emphasize on issues of promoting ICT in enhancing active and innovative learning, use of ICT-mediated teaching as a pedagogical tool to enhance access and teaching large classes, evaluation of functionality of institutional quality assurance systems and creating public-private-partnership for institutional sustainability and quality product. In addition, the forum will address issues related to strengthening postgraduate studies in higher education institutions.

FORUM GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The main *Goal* of the Forum is to foster dialogue through sharing of ideas on higher education policies, QA practices, challenges and prospects for promoting quality higher education in the region.

The specific objectives of the forums are to offer academics and practitioners in quality assurance the opportunity to:

- a) Strengthen collaboration, networking and capacity building among stakeholders involved in Quality Assurance work in the region. Specific emphasis of capacity building through keynotes and training workshops offered will include *Promoting active and innovative learning and, use of ICT to enhance teaching and learning.*
- b) Discuss policies concerning quality assurance in the East African HE system and their impact on the practice of quality assurance.
- c) Share lessons learnt during the ten years of quality enhancement in higher education sector in East Africa particularly on effectiveness of Internal QA Systems in Higher Education Institutions
- d) Discuss opportunities available for university partnership with Industry for improved quality of graduates and institutional sustainability.
- e) Reflect on issues of curricula harmonization through development of benchmarks.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Conference papers are invited from quality assurance practitioners, senior administrators of Higher Education Institutions, executive members of national accreditation bodies, higher education researchers and faculty, and policy makers. Those whose papers will be accepted should commit to be present at the conference, planned from 7th to 10th May 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda and hosted by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Rwanda. The Forum Organizing Committee and Peer Reviewers will only accept quality papers which are well thought and researched. The best of these papers will be published in reputable QA journals.

FUNDING FOR ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

Funding preference for accommodation to attend the conference will be given to EAQAN members whose papers have been accepted for presentation at the conference and have paid up their annual subscriptions. Non EQAN members will be required to fully fund themselves and pay registration fee of 100 USD.

KEY THEMES/TOPICS

Papers are invited that address the following topics:

a) The Role of ICT in Enhancing Quality in Higher Education:

Science and Technology are expected in the near future to drive the world economies where ICT is expected to play a leading role. In response to this expectation, universities in EA are increasingly embracing ICT in teaching in order to cope with the growing needs for higher education which has resulted into increased enrolment to absorb all needy students. This has resulted into teaching of large classes, dominated by lecture teaching methods with less student-teacher interaction, impacting on the quality of graduates. Thus this forum is facilitating dialogues on the improving quality of teaching by embracing ICT in order to meet

the overall goal of ensuring that East African graduates meet stated learning outcomes of critical thinking, problem solving, innovative and creative thinking.

b) Effectiveness of Internal QA Systems in Higher Education Institutions – Experience from Universities in East Africa

It is about ten years since quality assurance in higher education initiative was launched by IUCEA in collaboration with DAAD, HRK and national Commissions and Councils in the EAC countries. Many institutions developed QA policies, established QA units and appointed QA officers with the objective to operationalise internal quality assurance systems. Having operated for 10 years now, we need to reflect on the following questions: Is there evidence that the internal QA systems in universities are working for the better? What is the relationship between universities and national higher education regulatory bodies? What experience can we share and learn from each other?

c) University-Partnership with Industry for improved Quality of Graduates and Institutional Sustainability.

Academic-industry partnership was highly rated by Quality Assurance Officers as one of the important issues for discussion during the 8th QA Forum in Kigali. Universities are keen in establishing strong collaboration with industries/private sector in the form of research link, provision of public services, collaborative training and internships. Examples of impact of such collaborations need to be highlighted for discussion and sharing knowledge in relation to institutional funding and sustainability, and quality and relevance of graduates. Accepted papers will have their abstracts included in a book of programme and abstracts to be distributed at the forum, so should be well edited.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES:

The abstract proposals should:

1. Identify the title of the paper and which should relate to any of the three key themes,
2. Identify the author(s) with full titles and, in the case of co-authored papers, indicate the author who will be responsible for presenting the paper at the conference,
3. Identify the organization of the author(s) and give their contact information,
4. Provide an abstract of 400-500 words. The paper submitted should be in New Times Roman Font 12.
5. For presentations of original data or synthesis of existing research, the paper should specify the questions addressed, the methods used, and the main findings and their interpretation. Papers for non-data-based presentations should include clear statements on the practical logic and goals informing the work, the nature of the main issues to be presented, and how those issues advance knowledge, practice, and/or policy in advancing the quality of higher education management in East Africa.

TIME LINES

- a) **March 15th, 2018:** All abstracts must be submitted in Word format to: Prof Lily Njanja at lnjanja18@gmail.com, lnjanja@spu.ac.ke and a copy to the EAQAN President at hsmuruke@gmail.com and the General Secretary at lucydr86@gmail.com. Abstracts received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete abstracts will not be reviewed.
- b) **April 7th, 2018:** Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all with notification of further details for the paper submission and presentations.
- c) **April 20th, 2018:** Submission of full papers (whose abstracts were accepted) and presentation slides.
- d) **May 7-10, 2018:** QA Forum and training takes place in Kigali, Rwanda.

QA CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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MORE INFORMATION

For further information, please visit EAQAN's web page on the link below:

<http://www.iucea.org/EAQAN>