

The
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NEWSLETTER



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National Sensitization Forum for the EAC Common Higher Education Area concludes in Tanzania



Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, PS Ministry of Education Tanzania, and Representatives from IUCEA Member Universities on 20th of November 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The National Sensitization Forum for the EAC Common Higher Education Area was concluded in the United Republic of Tanzania on 22/11/2024, marking a significant step toward enhancing regional educational collaboration. This pivotal event has attracted esteemed dignitaries, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the East African Community Affairs, highlighting the importance of a unified educational approach in the region.

Prominent figures such as Prof. Carolyn Nombo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, and Prof. Gaspard

Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), are leading discussions alongside Vice Chancellors and Rectors from various higher education institutions in Tanzania, representatives from the Tanzania Commission for Universities Education and the participation of student representatives.

Participants delved into critical topics surrounding the East African Community (EAC) Common Higher Education Area for three days. Key discussions focus on harmonizing educational standards, enhancing quality assurance measures across institutions, and developing a cohesive credit system in alignment

with national qualifications frameworks. These efforts aim to ensure that higher education institutions in the EAC are relevant and positioned to meet the evolving needs of society and the economy.

The primary objective of the forum is to cultivate awareness and understanding among higher education stakeholders in Tanzania about the opportunities and benefits of joining the EAC Common Higher Education Area and the IUCEA. "By coming together, we can strengthen academic partnerships, foster innovation, and elevate the quality of education across the region" said Prof. Carolyn Nombo.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona,

the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), emphasized the need for developing robust higher education policies to strengthen the educational framework in the region. Over the years, IUCEA has crafted several key documents that enhance the quality of education and promote harmonization among institutions in East Africa.

During his discussion on the "Guidelines for Mainstreaming East African Community Ideals into Teaching Curriculum in Universities in East Africa," Prof. Banyankimbona highlighted the importance of incorporating regional values and ideals into university curricula. This approach fosters a sense of identity and unity among students.

He also addressed the "Standards and Guidelines for Postgraduate Studies in East Africa," which ensure the integrity and quality of postgraduate education, making sure that advanced degrees meet rigorous educational standards.

Additionally, he discussed the Quality Assurance Handbook, a comprehensive resource aimed at guiding institutions in implementing effective quality assurance processes at all levels of education. He emphasized the Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance, which provide a framework for maintaining educational standards and accountability among higher education institutions.

Prof. Banyankimbona also highlighted the Quality Assurance Guidelines on Disabilities and Other Special Needs. This important document promotes inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that all students, regardless of their circumstances, receive a quality education.

Furthermore, he spoke about the East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, which facilitates the recognition and comparability of qualifications across the region, thereby easing the mobility of students and professionals.

Prof. Banyankimbona expressed a collective expectation that these initiatives will encourage a common understanding among all higher education stakeholders, drive the realization of a Common Higher Education Area, and ultimately contribute to the regional integration of the EAC as a powerful and cohesive bloc. By working together to implement these documents, we can ensure that our educational system meets the needs of our students and societies, preparing them to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

In conclusion, participation in the forum was crucial for shaping the future of higher education in Tanzania and the EAC region. It is a call to action for all stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration, ensuring that universities and colleges meet the highest standards and are equipped to effectively serve EAC's needs.

Regional Research and Innovation Workshop concludes in Tanzania



The IUCEA Executive Secretary and Representatives from EAC Partner states group photo during the workshop in Dar es Salaam on the 20th of November 2024

The regional three-day workshop on Research and Innovation Management and the Development of a Regional Research Repository that started on the 18th of November 2024 in Dar es Salaam concluded, marking a significant step towards enhancing collaboration and knowledge sharing within the East African Community.

Running from the 18th to 20th of November, the workshop was a vital platform for awareness creation on strategies for commercialization of research findings and technology transfer, sharing the draft East African University-Industry support Collaboration Strategy, and gathering insights on the establishment of the proposed Regional Research Repository.

Participants included representatives from National Councils/Commissions for Science, Technology and innovation, IUCEA member universities, National Research and Education Networks, UbuntuNet Alliance, and business associations. Together, they aim to foster a robust research and innovation ecosystem that elevates regional capabilities and boosts sustainable development.

The workshop was more than just an event; it was an opportunity for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the establishment of lasting partnerships. By creating a Regional Research Repository, participants aim to streamline access to valuable research outputs and innovations, making them accessible to researchers,

educators, and policymakers across the region.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona emphasized the need for improvement in research management capabilities and the importance of fostering stronger collaborations between universities and industries. He noted that there is still much work to be done.

"This workshop is an important step in addressing these challenges and building the necessary capacities for managing research portfolios as well as enhancing the commercialization of research findings," said Prof. Banyankimbona.

This initiative is not merely about establishing a digital archive; it aims to create a



Participants during the Research and Innovation Workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on the 18th of November 2024

dynamic and collaborative space where researchers, industries, and institutions can exchange knowledge, foster innovation, and engage in cross-border partnerships to address regionally relevant challenges said Prof. Banyankimbona.

The establishment of this repository will enhance the visibility and impact of East African research, ensuring that our contributions are recognized on a global stage, highlighted Prof. Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary while opening the three-day workshop in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Dr. Salome Guchu, the Head of the Research and Innovation Unit at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), presented an overview of the factors motivating and constraining University-Industry Collaboration (UIC) within

EAC. Her discussion focused on the various influences on UIC from the perspectives of universities, business associations, and business enterprises.

Dr. Guchu identified several motivations for collaboration, including the need for diversifying sources of revenue, commercializing research, and improving access to intellectual property.

Additionally, she highlighted the importance of joint development and commercialization of intellectual property with industry, contributing to local and regional economies, and accessing new knowledge, ideas, or technological advancements from industry.

The presentation emphasized that collaboration helps improve research, development, and innovation capabilities while

providing access to wider national, East African Community (EAC), or international networks of expertise. Other benefits include gaining access to infrastructure and equipment from industry partners, exposing faculty and students to practical problems, and testing the impacts of research and development in real-world settings. Moreover, such collaborations can stimulate the creation of spin-offs and start-ups and enhance the reputation of universities.

Overall, Dr. Guchu's presentation underscored the diverse motivations behind University-Industry Collaboration, highlighting its significance in promoting research and development and enhancing the economic landscape. The feedback from attendees indicated a strong recognition of collaboration as a vital strategy for universities in the future.

IUCEA, RCoE-EANSI Forge Strategic Partnership to Enhance Academic Excellence in East Africa



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona , IUCEA Executive Secretary, with Prof. Melance Ntunzwebimana on the 4th of November 2024 at IUCEA Headquarters

On November 4, 2024, at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Headquarters, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of IUCEA, and Prof. Melance Ntunzwebimana, Coordinator of the Regional Centre of Excellence - East African Nutritional Sciences Institute (RCoE-EANSI), officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This milestone agreement represents a significant commitment to advancing research and academic quality in the East African Community (EAC) region. This agreement marks a significant

step forward in fostering collaboration between IUCEA and RCoE-EANSI, focusing on the advancement of research, enhancement of quality in postgraduate studies, and the facilitation of staff and student exchange programs.

The Memorandum of Understanding solidifies a collaborative partnership that will span five years, aimed at aligning the complementary goals and responsibilities of both institutions.

To achieve the aspirations outlined in the MoU agreement,

several specific initiatives have been identified. These initiatives will include but are not limited to, concerted efforts to facilitate and endorse the accreditation of EANSI's programs across the East African Community (EAC) partner states, as well as the development of impactful short-term training modules.

This partnership underscores a shared commitment to elevating educational standards and fostering academic excellence within the EAC region.

IUCEA Engages in High-Level EAC Heads of State Summit



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, sat with the delegation from other EAC Institutions and Organs during the 24th EAC Heads of State Summit in Arusha, Tanzania, on November 30, 2024.

The Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, attended the 24th Extraordinary Heads of State Summit of the East African Community (EAC) in Arusha, Tanzania, from November 29 to 30, 2024.

He was joined by other distinguished leaders from EAC institutions and organs, including Head of Legal, Mr. Alex Mukunzi, along with the IUCEA Communications Team. Their presence highlights IUCEA's commitment to fostering collaboration and advancing the regional integration agenda through higher education,

research, and innovation.

The summit, held under the theme of unity and sustainable development, marks a significant transition in EAC leadership. H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, officially assumed the role of EAC Chairperson, succeeding H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan. This handover underscores the commitment of EAC Heads of State to collective governance and shared responsibility for steering the region towards economic growth, peace, and integration.

The summit convened leaders from EAC Partner States and heads

of EAC institutions to discuss critical issues, such as regional infrastructure development, trade facilitation, peace and security, and the promotion of socioeconomic progress. IUCEA's involvement is particularly important as it aims to contribute to the conversation on strengthening the role of higher education and research as catalysts for innovation and regional competitiveness.

This engagement reflects the EAC's vision of a cohesive, prosperous, and integrated East African region, driven by sustainable development and cooperation among its member states.

IUCEA Hosts Strategic Dialogue with GIZ Tanzania Delegation



Prof. Banyankimbona with the delegation from GIZ on the 5th of November 2024 at IUCEA Headquarters

On November 5, 2024, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Headquarters hosted a delegation from GIZ Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC) for a pivotal meeting. The discussions, held with IUCEA Executive Secretary Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona and EASTECO Deputy Executive Secretary Muyambi Fortunate, explored transformative strategies to enhance education and innovation in the region.

The dialogue focused on key initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality and relevance of education across the East African region. Among the primary topics were strategies to upgrade selected educational programs and align

teaching methodologies with the evolving demands of the global workforce. These efforts are critical to ensuring that students in the region are well-prepared to contribute effectively to their respective economies.

Another central theme of the discussions was the promotion of regional mobility for students and professionals. This initiative seeks to foster greater cross-border collaboration, enabling participants to leverage diverse experiences and opportunities across the region.

A particularly notable aspect of the meeting was the shared commitment to advancing public-private partnerships in artificial intelligence research. By fostering

innovation in this transformative field, the partnership aims to position the region as a hub for cutting-edge technological advancements. The development of comprehensive policy recommendations to support these efforts was highlighted as a critical component of the discussions.

These collaborative engagements reflect a unified commitment to elevating education, fostering innovation, and driving sustainable development in East Africa. By strengthening partnerships and implementing forward-looking strategies, the region continues to pave the way for a more competitive and inclusive educational and economic landscape.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona Engages in Key Dialogue on Higher Education Quality in Africa



Prof. Banyankimbona with stakeholders during the committee conference in Brussels on the 11th of November 2024

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), represented the East African Community (EAC) at the Harmonisation, Quality Assurance, and Accreditation in Africa (HAQAA3) Initiative Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting took place on November 11, 2024, at the DAAD Office in Brussels, Belgium.

The HAQAA3 Initiative is pivotal in addressing educational harmonization, quality assurance, and accreditation across African universities. Its overarching goal is to ensure that higher education institutions across the continent adhere to internationally recognized standards, fostering enhanced student mobility and academic collaboration among

member countries.

Prominent figures, including Prof. Saidu Madougou, Director of Education Science Technology and Innovation at the African Union Commission, joined Prof. Banyankimbona in these critical discussions.

Their presence highlighted the collective commitment to advancing the quality and relevance of education across Africa.

The HAQAA3 initiative is supported by a distinguished team of implementers, including OBREAL Global, the Association of African Universities (AAU), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Together, these organizations are driving efforts to strengthen educational standards

and encourage the exchange of best practices across the continent. This initiative forms part of Africa's broader agenda to bolster its education systems, align them with global benchmarks, and address unique regional challenges. By fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, African nations aim to enhance the competitiveness of their educational frameworks and equip students and institutions to thrive on the global stage.

Prof. Banyankimbona's active participation underscores the EAC region's dedication to elevating higher education and reflects a unified effort to empower African universities as catalysts for innovation and sustainable development.

Pictorials



■ On November 20, 2024, IUCEA Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Tanzania with representatives from IUCEA member universities in Dar es Salaam.



■ The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Tanzania took a group photo with female participants during the sensitization conference in Dar es Salaam.



IUCEA staff members posed for a photo with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Tanzania on November 20, 2024.



The IUCEA Executive Secretary met with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Tanzania on November 20, 2024.



■ The IUCEA Executive Secretary delivered the opening remarks at the sensitization workshop held in Dar es Salaam on November 20, 2024.



■ Dr. Salome Guchu, the Head of Research at IUCEA, gave a presentation during the Research and Innovation Workshop in Dar es Salaam on November 18, 2024.



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