

**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
TRUSTAFRICA
ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA
WEBINAR SERIES**

Thursday, 11th January, 2018

**PROMOTING DIVERSIFICATION, DIFFERENTIATION, AND
HARMONIZATION OF THE AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Introduction

The Association of African Universities (AAU) in partnership with Trust Africa and the Association for the Development of Education's Working Group on Higher Education (ADEA-WGHE) invites you to join a Higher Education Forum Webinar on "*Promoting Diversification, Differentiation, and Harmonization of the Higher Education Systems at the Institutional, National, Regional and Continental levels*". The purpose of this forum is to enable African countries consolidate and assure the quality of educational provision against locally, regionally, and internationally agreed upon benchmarks of excellence.

This forum specifically focuses on the 2nd Priority Area of the [1st African Higher Education Summit's Declaration and Action Plan](#). The forum seeks to bring together seasoned Higher Education Stakeholders and experts in Africa and diaspora to share ideas on benchmarking educational standards and systems at the institutional, national, regional and continental level in Africa.

Background

Key Pan-African organisations such as the African Union Commission (AUC), Trust Africa, the Association of African Universities (AAU), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and other international partners organised the 1st African Higher Education Summit under the theme "Revitalizing Higher

Education for Africa's Future" in Dakar, Senegal on March 10 -12, 2015 to confirm commitment to the objective of creating a continental multi-stakeholders' platform to identify strategies for transforming the African Higher Education sector.

The Summit had seven (7) objectives and it agreed on nine (9) priority areas to improve Higher Education in Africa.

Summit Objectives:

The following were the objectives for the 2015 summit:

1. Build a constituency for transformation and investment in Africa's Higher Education
2. Create a shared vision for the future of African Higher Education
3. Harness and highlight best practices and initiatives in African Higher Education;
4. Harness and build complementarities among the various efforts and interventions in African Higher Education
5. Spur, share and sustain innovation in African Higher Education
6. Create an African Higher Education movement as part of the continent's integration efforts and
7. Ensure coordination of the various initiatives, both by African actors and international development organizations, to reposition the sector

Priority Areas:

The following were the agreed priority areas:

1. Expand Higher Education to accommodate the growing population and also the needs for Africa's inclusive development.
2. **Promote diversification, differentiation, and harmonization of Higher Education systems at the national, institutional and continental/ regional levels.**
3. Increase investment in Higher Education to facilitate development, promote stability, enhance access and equity; develop, recruit and retain excellent academic staff and pursue cutting-edge research and provision of high quality teaching.

4. Pursue excellence in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, public service and provision of solutions to the development challenges and opportunities facing African peoples across the continent.
5. Commit to building capacity in Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation.
6. Deliberate policies developed by African governments and regional economic communities.
7. Pursue national development through business, Higher Education and graduate employability: Despite the rapid expansion of Higher Education enrolments, there are serious concerns about the ability of Africa's universities to produce the kinds of graduates who can drive the continent forward.
8. Ensure that Higher Education is at the centre of nation building processes and nurturing of democratic citizenship: As enshrined in the relevant sections of African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, 1981 and in the AU's Agenda 2063, the continent seeks to deepen the culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
9. Mobilize the Diaspora to be engaged in transforming Africa's higher education sector.

Webinar Objectives:

This forum seeks to explore and benchmark success stories associated with the 2nd Priority Area of the 2015 Dakar Summit Declaration: *Promote diversification, differentiation, and harmonization of Higher Education Systems at the National, Institutional and Regional /Continental levels:*

Institutional Level:

1. Keep to their assigned missions, develop a solid academic core and niches that are relevant to national requirements and student needs.
2. Embrace pedagogies that emphasize participation, creativity, invention, innovative citizenship and new technologies for teaching and learning.

National Level:

1. Establish legal framework and higher education act to oversee system structure, governance, study programmes, degree types and hierarchy as well as diversification and differentiation.
2. Develop criteria for categorizing institutions including research universities, comprehensive universities, university colleges and the vocational institutions such as polytechnics and community colleges.

3. Benchmark the standards of national quality and accrediting agencies, including national higher education councils or commissions with powers to sanction institutions for non-compliance.
4. Reinforce the capacity of differentiated institutions, develop clear criteria for moving from one type to another, and limit ‘mission creep’ and ‘academic drift’.

Governments Level:

Facilitate student and academic mobility by minimizing visa requirements or making visa issuing “much easier”.

Continental Level: African Union & Sub-Regional Groupings

1. Support differentiation and diversification of higher education.
2. Develop a continental system for enhancing student mobility and institutional comparison.
3. Provide guidelines for a harmonized classification of tertiary education institutions.
4. Support higher education in the areas of graduate training and quality assurance through the Pan-African University with centers of excellence in Africa’s regions contributing to strengthening and expanding research universities.
5. Establish Continental Agency (i.e. Pan-African Quality Assurance Framework -PAQAF) to refine and systematize academic data definitions, collection, monitoring and measurement, to allow for institutional, regional and international comparisons including rankings comparing similar institutions and taking into account the continent’s circumstances, to stimulate competition for institutional excellence.

Expected outputs

The Post-Dakar Declaration Webinar is expected to inform participants about the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Dakar Declaration most especially promoting diversification, differentiation, and harmonization of higher education systems at the National and Institutional levels by African countries and provide a new roadmap to achieve the broader objectives.

Deliverables

The deliverables of the webinar are:

- a) Presentation and Webinar Video

- b) Synthesized publication
- c) Interaction with various participants and stakeholders.
- d) Lessons learned from the presentation as well as the questions and answer (Q/A) session.

Information on the Webinar Presentation

Date: Thursday, 11th January, 2018

Time: 12:00 GMT

Venue: Online (Adobe Connect Platform)

Organizers: This Webinar is organized by the Association of African Universities (AAU), ADEA Working Group on Higher Education (ADEA-WGHE) and funded by Trust Africa.

Target Audience

This Webinar is open to all stakeholders in Higher Education in Africa, such as:- Vice-Chancellors, Academics, Students, Consultants and Experts, National and Regional Councils of Higher Education, Participants of the 1st African Higher Education Summit-Dakar, and key organizations in Africa that include Trust Africa, the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the Association of African Universities (AAU), the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), AUWA, SARUA, IUCEA, CAMES, RUFORUM, and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. Summit International Partners: Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), MasterCard Foundation, and the World Bank Group.

How to Participate

1. Confirm your participation by registering at <https://www.aau.org/webinars/trustafrika.php>
2. The webinar will be livestreamed on:
<https://meet53484183.adobeconnect.com/aautrustafricatalks/>
3. Make sure you have the Adobe flash player installed on your device (i.e. computer, tablet and smartphone)

Live Tweeting and Event Hashtag:

- 1) Join the conversation by following **#TrustAfricaTalks**, **#AAUwebinars**, **#WGHETalks** and share your comments and questions.
- 2) Follow our webinar via our social media channels:

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PANELISTS' PROFILES

Prof. Peter A. Okebukola - Lead Presenter



Peter A. Okebukola is professor of science and computer education at Lagos State University (Nigeria). He had his higher education at the University of Ibadan where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in 1973 followed by Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Science Education in the same university. He had specialised science and technology training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Harvard University, both in Cambridge, USA. He is a Fellow of the Science Association of Nigeria (SAN), a Fellow and President of the Nigerian Association for Environmental Education and Fellow and past President of the Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN). He is the President of GUNI-Africa. He won the prestigious 1992 UNESCO Prize for the Communication of Science. He has won several international gold medals in science and computer education. He was concurrently the Chairman of Council of four Nigerian universities. He is currently the Chairman of Council of Crawford University, Chairman, Board of Trustees of Caleb University and Executive Chairman, Okebukola Science Foundation. He has been awarded a number of honorary D.Sc. degrees. He serves on a number of international organisations as Consultant including UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank Group, African Union, European Union and UNDP. He is the immediate past Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC). He is the recipient of the National Honour of the Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR). He is the current Chairman of the

Advisory Council of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) International Quality Group (CIQG). His current research interest is in funding models for African higher education.

Dr. Violet Makuku - Panel Member

Dr. Violet Makuku is the Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative Project Officer at the Association of African Universities (AAU) headquarters in Accra,



Ghana. Dr. Makuku is a Zimbabwean by birth who holds a DED in Quality Assurance in University Education from the University of South Africa (UNISA, SA); and MSc. Ed-Curriculum Studies from the Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE, ZIM); a BSc. Geography Honours (BUSE, ZIM) and a Diploma in Secondary School Education from the Gweru Teachers' College (GTC, ZIM). She was also part of a working group on higher education quality

assurance experts, personnel, and administrators who kick-started the harmonization of quality assurance and accreditation for tertiary institutions in Zimbabwean around February 2016. Dr. Makuku recently designed continental training courses for higher education personnel to address various quality assurance related challenges in higher education and the associated organizations and associations that deal with African higher education quality, quality assurance, and accreditation. Some of the programmes have been launched during the International Quality Assurance for Higher Education in African (ICQAHEA), held in Windhoek, Namibia from the 19th to the 24th of September 2016. It was during the same event that the Harmonization of African Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative was also launched. Before joining AAU, Dr. Makuku was a Quality Assurance Director at the Bindura University of Science Education. Earlier on she was a lecturer of Curriculum Studies, Pedagogy, the Foundations of Education (Sociology, Philosophy, and Psychology), the History and Philosophy of Science and Research Methods for more than 10 years in the Faculty of Science Education at undergraduate and post graduate levels. She also supervised research projects for the same levels for more than 10 years.

Prof. Michael Oladimeji Faborode - Panel Member

Michael Oladimeji Faborode, a Professor of Agricultural Engineering and Registered Professional Engineer,



is currently the Secretary-General of the Association of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU/CVC). He served a 5-year tenure as Vice Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, (2006-2011). Before

then, he was Dean of Engineering (2002-2006) and Head of Department of Agricultural Engineering (1996-2002). He was President of the West African Society for Agricultural Engineering, 2002-2004, former Vice President, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), and a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering. Professor Faborode received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. Degrees at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and his Ph.D. at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom.

Prof. Mohammed Salifu - Panel Member

Mohammed Salifu is a Professor of Transport Engineering and the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE). He is a former Head of Department of Civil Engineering at the Kwame



Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He has chaired several committees at KNUST tasked to review academic, administrative and overall governance issues at the University. Prior to taking up full-time appointment with KNUST he was Principal Research Scientist in-charge of the Traffic and Transportation Engineering Division at the CSIR Building and Road Research Institute in Kumasi. Prof. Salifu is a long standing member of the International Road Federation Group of Experts on Road Safety. He also served for a long period as Editor-in-chief/Editor of several academic and professional

journals in Ghana. He is an editorial board member of five (5) of the "Research India" suite of journals, including the International Journal of Civil Engineering Research as well as Reviewer/External Assessor for "Discovery and Innovation", a journal of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS).

Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman - Panel Member



Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyeman, is the former Minister of Education of the Republic of Ghana, and the first female Vice-Chancellor of a State University in Ghana, University of Cape Coast. She had her secondary education at the Wesley Girls' High School in Cape Coast from 1964 to 1971 where she was the School Prefect in her final year. Prof. Opoku-Agyeman has a Diplome Superiere d'Etudes

Francaises from the University of Dakar, Senegal in 1976 and B. A. (Hons) with a Diploma in Education at the University of Cape Coast in 1977 and obtained her Masters and Doctorate degrees from York University

in Toronto, Canada in 1980 and 1986 respectively. She taught and worked at the University of Cape Coast from 1986 and held various academic positions including Head of the Department of English, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Warden of Adehye Hall, Valco Trust Fund Post-Graduate Hostel, and the Founding Dean of School of Graduate Studies and Research. Prof. Opoku-Agyeman in 1997 held the position of Academic Director of the School for International Training in the History and Cultures of the African Diaspora. She chaired over 20 Boards and Committees including the Council of the University College of Education, Winneba 1998-2002; Joint Co-coordinator of the Specialist Programme in English Language and Ghanaian Culture for Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers 1991-1993.

Prof. Opoku-Agyeman also chaired the Adjudication Committee, VALCO Literary Awards, Ghana 1993-1998; Board of Governors, Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development (CDDGhana) since its founding in 1998; and Board of Governors, Wesley Girls High School 1994-1998. She is a member of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences; University Teachers Association of Ghana; English Studies Association; African Studies Association, USA; African Literature Association, USA; and the International Fulbright Scholars Association. She has been a member of the Governing Board of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Selection Committee of the African Humanities Project of Carnegie Corporation, USA. She has also been an Exchange Professor, Eastern Washington University, USA and Director of Ohio University's Teach in Ghana Program. She was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study and Research into the African Humanities, North Western University, USA (1994). She was a Fellow of the American Summer Institute, Northern Illinois University, USA (2003). Prof. Opoku-Agyeman was honoured with honorary degrees from the University of West Indies and Winston Salem University. She also received an award for Global leadership from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She researched and published extensively in areas including Literature by women from Africa, Oral Literature in Ghana and on issues relating to Higher Education in Ghana and Africa as well as on the Trade in Enslaved Africans.



Mr. Shem Okore Bodo- Panel Member

Mr. Shem Okore Bodo is the Acting Executive Secretary of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) since June 2017, providing strategic leadership to the Association. Shem is confident and achievement-driven, with solid knowledge in sector analysis and management information systems development. A results-oriented individual with proven analytical, writing, technical and

organisational skills and management experience; an effective team player and trainer with high level communication and diplomatic skills.

He has been a Senior Programs Officer since joining the ADEA Secretariat in June 2015, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience in leadership and management. He also provides coordination of ADEA's Working Groups and Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQNs) in program implementation. Shem works to strengthen the capacity of African Ministries of Education through technical assistance, training and information sharing.

He has over 15 years' experience in capacity building, EMIS assessments and education sector analyses. This is in addition to a rich institutional memory having been with ADEA's Working Group on Education Management and Policy Support as Program Manager for many years. He continues to be the focal point for ADEA's support to the African Union in the implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA 16-25), Agenda 2063 and the SDGs 2030 agenda.

Shem has also conducted studies and facilitated policy dialogue forums on peace education in African countries. He has led teams of experts in conducting EMIS peer reviews supported by the SADC and ECOWAS education desks, on behalf of the African Union.

Education: M.Sc. in Management Information Systems from University of Phoenix, USA, 2006. B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Nairobi, Kenya, 1985. Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, AiTech Inc., Zimbabwe, 2003.

Prepared by

Mr. Kwesi Acquah Sam (M.Phil. Education)

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Association of African Universities Secretariat

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