



Ushirika wa Maendeleo ya Elimu Barani Afrika
الرابطة لأجل تطوير التربية في إفريقيا
Association for the Development of Education in Africa
Association pour le Développement de l'Éducation en Afrique
Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Educação em África



WGHE WEBINAR SERIES

CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE FIRST WEBINAR ON THE 18TH AUGUST 2016

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Introduction

Education is generally accepted as a principal mechanism for fostering economic development and growth. Similarly, it is widely recognized that long-term economic growth in the global economy can only be achieved through investment in a highly skilled workforce while in the context of the knowledge economy, higher education has become particularly critical in this regard. For Africa, where growth is essential if the continent is to climb out of poverty, focused education is indispensable. African Universities have been recognized as key players in the global system due to the fact that they prepare citizens with vital knowledge and skills sets to enable them to contribute to sustainable development at individual, organizational, national and global levels.

Institutions of higher learning in Africa, however, have been criticized as ivory towers because they churn out graduates who are not fit for the job market. The situation is not peculiar to any particular African country as most countries have been accused of producing graduates whose skills are not really needed by industry and as such, many of those graduates end up being unemployed, as industry is not able to absorb them. The World Bank Group (2014) for example, reported that as many as 50% of graduates who leave Ghanaian universities and polytechnics fail to find jobs two years after their national service, and 20% do not find jobs even after three years. The situation is similar in Kenya and Mozambique, where the majority of university graduates rely on work in the informal sector, which is considered vulnerable employment.

Despite the increase in uncertainty in employability mainly brought on by the ever-increasing pace of advancements in various industrial sectors, many calls have been made for African Universities, in particular, to expose their students to the possibilities of creating their own jobs by deepening their entrepreneurial mindset.



Justification/Rationale

The lack of requisite manpower and the incomplete training of graduates to create their own jobs or have the required skills for the job market have led to a number of graduates from institutions of higher learning being unemployed and so use their skills and knowledge in forming radical pressure groups such as: the Association of Unemployed Graduates in Ghana, the Arab spring insurgency in Northern Africa, etc. All these contribute to an unstable and a politically volatile situation, which would need to be appropriately addressed to enable the graduates from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to use the relevant knowledge, skills and other attributes they possess to create their own jobs or gain and maintain a worthwhile employment instead of joining such pressure groups.

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's (GEM) annual comparative international studies, evaluating the importance of entrepreneurship to economies worldwide has over the years argued and presented support on the relationship between the level of entrepreneurial activity and economic growth. This annual research brings to the fore, the role entrepreneurship plays in every economy. Despite the importance of entrepreneurship in the economic development of a nation, African countries have not fully developed strategies to tap this resource. What the countries have, are unsystematic policies, which do not really reflect the significance of entrepreneurship to the development of their respective countries. This trend has fueled the notion that there is the need to promote entrepreneurship in all facets of human endeavours, including institutions of higher learning in this process. Although these institutions are not the only places in which innovation and enterprise can flourish, they have served as a conduit for many governments seeking to stimulate entrepreneurship.

Thus, there appears to exist a consensus among various stakeholders that entrepreneurship education and training has a vital role to play in the development of entrepreneurial attitudes, abilities, and related skills amongst staff and students. It is in this light that the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) through its Working Group on Higher Education (WGHE) -hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) - has developed an interactive web seminar to highlight the importance of promoting entrepreneurship in African Higher Institutions.



Objectives

The objectives of the WGHE webinar on promoting entrepreneurship in African Universities are to:

- a) Stimulate entrepreneurial mindset and spirit amongst staff and students in African Universities.
- b) Encourage innovation and generate jobs among university graduates.
- c) Educate African Universities on the need to commercialize research projects that may contribute to generate revenue and also contribute to the sustainability and progress of the institutions of higher learning.
- d) Actively promote entrepreneurship as an attractive and viable career option among Africa's graduate students.
- e) Challenge universities to incorporate entrepreneurship as part of their activities and curriculum.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the webinar are:

- a) Attitudinal change exhibited by Universities in Africa towards entrepreneurial education.
- b) Favorable environment created by stakeholders for entrepreneurship to thrive in African Universities.
- c) Entrepreneurship introduced as part of a University curricula by most Universities.
- d) Students accept self-employment as a career option (e.g. start-up companies).
- e) Institutions encouraged to establish incubators and industrial parks.

Deliverables

The deliverables of the WGHE entrepreneurship webinar are:

- a) Presentation on promoting entrepreneurship in African Universities.
- b) Interaction with various stakeholders on the presentation.
- c) Documented lessons from the presentation as well as questions and answer (Q/A) session.



INFORMATION ON THE WEBINAR PRESENTATION

Date: Thursday, 18th August 2016

Time: 10:00 GMT

Venue: Conference Hall, AAU Office, Airport Residential Area, Accra, Ghana.

Organizers: This Webinar is organized by the Association for Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) through its Working Group on Higher Education (WGHE), hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) and powered by TEDx Accra, Ghana.

Target Audience: The Webinars are open to all - most especially industry players, university scholars, students, youth organizations, academia, young entrepreneurs, small medium enterprises (SMEs), educational policy makers, government officials and others.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Register at www.aau.org/webinars
2. Live Tweeting and Event Hashtag

Join the conversation following #WGHETalks and share your comments and questions.

3. Follow our webinar via our social media channels:

Webinar Official Twitter handle [@TEDxAccraGH](https://twitter.com/TEDxAccraGH)

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For any further information please contact the following numbers for assistance. +233-302-774495/715588, +233-24329844 or you can contact us via kasam@aau.org or ndhlamini@aau.org



WEBINAR PRESENTER



Prof. (Mrs.) Rosemond Boohene is an Associate Professor of Enterprise Development at the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise Development (CESED), University of Cape Coast with more than eighteen years (18) experience. She is currently the Dean of International Education and also served as Head of Department, Management Studies and Vice Dean, School of Business at the University of Cape Coast. Prof. Rosemond Boohene holds a PhD in Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise Development from the University of New England, Australia, PDipCom and MCom (Accounting) from the University of Otago, New Zealand, BCom (Hons) and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana and a Diploma in Small Enterprise Development, Galilee College, Israel.

She has presented papers at both local and international conferences and conducted a number of studies on women, entrepreneurship and small enterprise development in Ghana. She was a member of the team, which conducted feasibility studies into the establishment, and use of small citrus processing plants in the Central Region of Ghana for the [Japan International Cooperation Agency](#) (JICA) and currently the Lead Consultant for the Graduate Enterprise Development Initiative (GEDI) project for the EXIM Bank (Ghana). She has also supported in writing business and strategic plans for numerous small firms and organizations in Ghana.

Prof. Boohene has worked with a team of consultants to develop a university-wide entrepreneurship course, involved in strategically harnessing entrepreneurial potentials of students into viable businesses. She has consulted for international as well as local institutions on business incubator development, academia- industry linkages and capacity building programmes for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

She has over the years also consulted and written proposals for various small firms to secure funding from the Council for Vocational Technical Education (COTVET), Skills Development Fund (SDF). Currently, she is managing a project on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Economic Development. A collaboration between the School of Business, University of Cape Coast, University of Nairobi and the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Applied Sciences, Germany.