



12TH

ANNUAL EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE FORUM

PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

THEME:

NURTURING EMERGING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH QUALITY ASSURANCE

05TH - 08TH SEPTEMBER 2023

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI



INTRODUCTION

The Post-2015 Education Agenda (2015), UNESCO has emphasised that the main responsibility of higher education institutions is to teach the right things in the right ways in order to produce responsible citizenship. This cannot be achieved or reached if Quality Assurance (QA) systems are not in place and well managed.

However, the effects of globalisation have increasingly affected the input, processes and outputs in the higher education sector especially in the developing countries. From changing labour market needs to shifting to online delivery, higher education institutions have to keep pace with the changing environment in which they function. This calls for the innovation of internal and external quality assurance systems and practices in order to remain relevant and useful for a rapidly changing and expanding higher education sector. The interventions are necessary across all levels including, institutions of higher learning, regulators and policy levels.

In order to maintain quality education, there is a need for deep reflection by higher education experts and managers on emerging trends in higher education in the region and beyond. The 12th Regional Quality Assurance Forum of the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) is premised on the need to ensure quality of emerging trends in the higher education sector through quality assurance. The Forum is scheduled to take place on 05th to 08th September 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The Forum will provide the opportunity to invite higher education professionals, experts and other stakeholders to reflect on the place of quality assurance in nurturing emerging trends in higher learning education not only in the region, but the continent and beyond.

It is envisaged that the 12th Forum will come up with sound recommendations and statements of commitment from higher education quality assurance practitioners and higher education managers to confront challenges that impede the achievement of the goal to establish and maintain quality assurance in higher education. The Forum will be guided by the following Theme, Goal and Objectives:

FORUM THEME

NURTURING EMERGING TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH QUALITY ASSURANCE

Higher education is witnessing rapid transformations driven by technological advancements, evolving learner expectations, and changing labour market and societal needs. Emerging trends such as online and blended learning, competency-based education, digitalisation regional and international accreditation are reshaping the higher education landscape. To effectively harness the potential of these trends, quality assurance mechanisms are crucial to guide, assess, and continuously improve them.

FORUM GOAL

Within the broader context, emerging trends in higher education have not received much attention until recently. However, its growing importance and anticipated market opportunities have moved most higher education institutions to put proposals for further inclusion.

The main goal of the 12th Forum is to identify and reflect on the emerging trends in Higher Education and share experiences on how to nurture them through quality Assurance systems.

It is generally expected that keynote speakers and paper presenters of this forum in each topic, will focus on how Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions can play a greater role in nurturing emerging trends in higher education in the region. More specifically, presentations and reflections of the participants are expected to focus on quality assurance systems in higher education institutions in aspects of online teaching and learning, accreditation, competency-based education, research and how pedagogical leaders and higher education institution managers commit themselves to produce a graduate who is transformational.

FORUM OBJECTIVES

- a) Stakeholders of higher education to deliberate on the impact of emerging trends in higher education on quality of education
- b) Conduct high level quality assurance dialogue involving Senior executives from governments, Commissions and Councils for higher education and Vice Chancellors from the region and beyond
- c) Strengthen collaborations, networking and capacity building among stakeholders involved in quality assurance in the region.
- d) Disseminate quality assurance practices and benchmarks in the EAC and African higher education areas.
- e) Learning and sharing experience of good practices and challenges in nurturing emerging trends in higher education
- f) Discuss possibilities and benefits of alternative quality assurance strategies to leverage expected outcomes of emerging trends in higher education in region, continent and beyond
- g) Foster cooperation and team spirit among all the Quality Assurance key stakeholders within the region and continent at large.
- h) Reflect on the internationalisation of higher education and quality assurance of emerging trends in higher education institutions
- i) Provide recommendations on how to enhance best practices in quality assurance to nurture emerging trends in higher education in order to produce graduates that are transformational.

FORUM OUTCOME

The main outcome of the 12th Regional Quality Assurance Forum is to determine the contribution of quality assurance in promoting transformational trends in higher education. The specific outcome are as follows:

- a) Enhanced understanding on the indicators of transformational trends in higher education.
- b) Enhanced collaborations and networking among Quality Assurance stakeholders
- c) Increased understanding of transformations in higher education quality assurance in a rapidly changing world
- d) Shared information on best practices of transformational higher education and quality assurance in the EAC and African Higher Education systems.
- e) Enhanced visibility of the quality assurance activities in the East African Common Higher Education Area.
- f) Increased information and awareness on quality assurance guidelines and tools to nurture emerging trends in the region, the continent and beyond

- g) Increased understanding of desired outcomes of emerging trends in higher education

FORUM ACTIVITIES

Keynote addresses: Every quality assurance area has experts who have a deep understanding of best practices. Experts will be identified to share their experiences with the participants on the key topics of the Forum. The experts will be identified from different regions, continents/countries specifically on the issue of emerging trends in higher learning institutions and quality assurance practices on nurturing the trends.

Paper Presentations on various topics: Presentations are good ways of sharing practices. On every topic, two or three presenters will be solicited through submission of papers to present at the conference session. One such presenter will be from the EAC and one other from the rest of Africa and continents for the purpose of benchmarking and sharing experiences.

Networking and cultural events: Human are social beings that must network and appreciate cultures. An arrangement will be made between the host country, IUCEA and EAQAN for networking. Physical events and virtual tours of the rich culture of the host country and the region will be organised.

The 12th EAQAN Annual General Assembly: EAQAN shall hold its AGM as stipulated in the Network Constitution. The Assembly will include all Quality Assurance Practitioners from country chapters and other invited guest from other parties.

The Higher-Level Quality Assurance Events: This Dialogue Event will be attended by Heads of National Commissions and Councils for Higher Education, Vice Chancellors, other higher education managers, development partners and other invited experts for the presentation of papers.

FORUM PROGRAMME

Monday, 04th September 2023

The arrival of Participants in Bujumbura.

Dinner at the Hotel – to be taken individually

DAY 1:

Tuesday, 05th September 2023

08:00 – 09:00 Registration of Participants

Session 1: Official Opening Ceremony

Master of Ceremony: Professor Michael Mawa, Chief Principal Quality Assurance & Qualifications Framework, Inter-University Council for East Africa

- 09:00 – 09:30
- Burundi Anthem
 - East African Community Anthem
 - Announcements and introduction of Participants
 - Welcome remarks by President, EAQAN
 - Statement by Development Partners:
 - President OBREAL Global, & Coordinator of the HAQAA Initiative
 - Regional Director of DAAD
 - Welcome remarks by Executive Secretary, CNEC Burundi
 - Opening Remarks by Executive Secretary, IUCEA
 - Official Opening Speech by Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Burundi

Session 2: Keynote Presentation

Chairperson: Prof Michael Mawa

09:30 – 10:45 **Nurturing Emerging Trends in Higher Education through Quality Assurance**

Keynote Presenter: Prof. Mike Kuria: Chief Executive Officer, Commission for University Education, Republic of Kenya

Second Speaker: Elizabeth Colucci Director, OBREAL Global & Coordinator, HAAQA Initiative.

Discussion

10:45 – 11:00 GROUP PHOTO

11:00 – 11:30 HEALTH BREAK

Session 3: Presentation on Transforming Teaching and Learning

Chairperson: Prof. Masoud Muruke, Former EAQAN President, University of Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

11:30 – 13:00 Presenter 1. Dr. Nhlanhla Thwala, Vice Chancellor/Provost
African Leadership University, Rwanda:

on Transforming Teaching and Learning: Innovative Pedagogies and Technologies .

Presenter 2. DAAD Presenter (TBC): “Transforming Teaching and Learning: Innovative Pedagogies and Technologies”

Presenter 3: “Utilization of digital technologies for postgraduate supervision – implication for quality assurance”, by Prof. Raphael Nyonje.

General discussion (10 Minutes)

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

Session 4: Presentation on QA and Ethics in Online Teaching and Learning

Chairperson: Prof. Justin Urasa, EAQAN Country Representative, United Republic of Tanzania and President TUQAF

14:00 – 15:30 Presenter 1: DAAD Presenter (TBC): Accreditation and Quality Assurance in the Digital Era

Presenter 2: Ethical Adherence through Quality Assurance in e-learning at Higher Education, by *Dr. Kassile Telemu and Dr. Julius Tweve*

15:30 – 17:00 General discussion (10 Minutes)

17:00 – 17:30 HEALTH BREAK

17.30 End of day One

DAY 2:

Wednesday, 06th September 2023

Session 5: Digitalization of QA in Higher Education and QA of Non-Teaching in HEI

Chairperson: Prof. Maurice Okoth, Vice President, EAQAN

08:30 – 09:40 **Topic 1:** A Comparative Analysis of Traditional and Digital Quality Assurance in Ugandan Higher Education, by *Brian Kasozi and Musoke David*

Topic 2: Digital literacy gaps in promoting 21st century skills among students in higher education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from literature, by *Placidius Ndibalema*

Topic 3: Quality Assurance of Non-Teaching in Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions. By *Prof. Justin Urasa*

General Discussions

Session 6: Accreditation and QA in the Digital Era and Role of QA in Promoting Research and Innovation

Chairperson: Dr. Robert Ayine, Senior Qualifications Framework Officer Inter-University Council for East Africa

09:40 – 10:30 **Presenter 1:** DAAD Presenter (TBC): Role of Quality Assurance in Promoting Research and Innovation

Topic 1: Barriers hindering effective assessment feedback in blended learning at the University of Rwanda (UR), Graduate Nursing Programme.

By Jean de Dieu Uwimana, Jacqueline Nyirandegeya, and Pierre Celestin Bimenyimana.

Topic 2: Challenges faced by Research and Implementation of findings in Private Higher Education Institutions. Case of Selected Ugandan Private Higher Education Institutions. *By Sarah Kizza-Nkambwe, Joseph Brian Kasozi, Male Henry K, and Patrick Lugemwa*

General discussion

10:30 -11:00 Health Break

Session 7: Competence Based Education in Higher Education

Chairperson: Dr. Julius Tweve, Secretary General, EAQAN

11:00 - 12:30 Topic 1: The Role of Quality Assurance in Responding to the Global Emerging Trends Among Higher Learning Institutions in Rwanda. A Case of the University of Rwanda (UR), Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA), University of Kigali (UoK), and Kepler College. *By Cyeze Emmanuel, Manirakiza Jean Baptiste, and Kihumulo Grace Patrick.*

Topic 2: Effective Teaching Methods for Higher Education Level in the 21st Century. *By, Jacklyne Okello Alari and Euphrasia Mutsotso*

Topic 3: Empowering Non-teaching Staff in Enhancement of Quality in Higher Education: A case of Kabarak University, Kenya. *By Dr. Antony Somba, Prof. Gladys Kiptiony and Prof. Henry Kiptiony Kiplangat*

General Discussion

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Break

Session 8: DAAD DIES Programme

14:00 - 15:30 Chairperson/Moderator: *Dr. Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN*

Topic 1: Presentation on DAAD DIES Programme

Presenter: *Dr Leonie Schoelen, Senior Desk Officer, Higher Education Management Development Cooperation: Partnership Programmes, Alumni Projects and Higher Education Management, DAAD Bonn*

Discussion

Session 9: Africa Continental Harmonization and the Implications for QA in East Africa: Results and Opportunities under the HAQAA Initiatives

15:30 - 17:30 Chairperson/Moderator: *Dr. Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN*

Topic 1: HAQAA1/2 results - ASG-QA, User's Guide and PAQAA (Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency) progress presented

Presenter: *Prof. Youhansen Eid, co-author of the ASG-QA and former president of NAQAAE, Egypt*

Topic 2: Dissemination and multiplication of the results of HAQAA2 training activities in East Africa:

1. Implementation of new quality assurance references (ASG-QA) and training of all staff at University of Burundi in quality assurance. By Jean Chrysostome NDAMANISHA,
2. Capacity Building of Kenyan QAA and HEIs in the Development and Application of Quality Assurance Tools for Accreditation and Quality Monitoring of ODeL Centres and Academic Programmes in Universities. By Beatrice Odera-Kwach
3. Final Results of the ASG-QA Mapping and Dissemination- HAQAA2 QA Network Project- RAFANAQ/EAQAN/CNAQ. By Mr. Abdou Cisse, Secretary General RAFANAQ.

Topic 3: HAQAA3 snapshot and forthcoming opportunities for QA professionals: IQA and EQA training, the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (PAQAA), the pilot of the African Credit Transfer System (ACTS), and HE Data for policy analysis

Presenters: Apiyo Okwiri, OBREAL Global/Marie Eglantine Juru, Association of African Universities

Discussion

DAY 3:

Thursday, 07th September 2023

East African Quality Assurance Network General Assembly

08:00 – 09:00 Registration of Participants

Chairperson: Dr Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN

09:00 – 09:05 Constituting the 11th General Assembly of EAQAN
- Dr. Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN

09:05 – 09:30 Opening Remarks and Report on EAQAN Activities
- Dr. Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN

09:30 – 09:45 Receiving the Report of the Executive Committee - Resolutions
-Dr. Julius Tweve, Secretary General, EAQAN

09:45 – 10:00 Receiving Financial Status Report
- Dr. Amaal, Finance Secretary, EAQAN

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion on the Reports of the Executive Committee

10:30 – 11:00 HEALTH BREAK

11:00 – 12:00	Receiving the Report of National Chapters – Focusing on achievements and challenges faced in the last year (10 min. per Chapter) + Discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burundi • Kenya • Rwanda • Tanzania • Uganda • South Sudan
12:00 – 13:00	Discussion on Resolutions and recommendations from chapters
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 18:00	Excursion (Site TBD)
19:00 – 21:00	The arrival of participants for the High-Level Dialogue Team Gala Dinner & Cultural Event
21:00	END OF DAY 3

DAY 4:
Friday, 08th September 2023

HIGH-LEVEL QUALITY ASSURANCE DIALOGUE EVENT

08:00 – 08:30 Registration of Participants

Session 1: Opening Session

Master of Ceremony: Prof. Idris Rai, Deputy Executive Secretary - IUCEA

- 08:30 – 09:30
- Burundi National Anthem
 - East African Community Anthem
 - Statement by Dr. Baguma Abdallah, EAQAN President
 - Statement by President OBREAL Global, & Coordinator of the HAQAA Initiative
 - Statement by Director, DAAD Regional Office for Africa, Kenya
 - Statement by Executive Secretary, IUCEA
 - Opening address by the Guest of Honour, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Burundi.

Session 2:

09:30 – 10:30

Keynote Presentation

Nurturing Emerging Trends in Higher Education through Quality Assurance

Presenter: keynote speaker Prof. Mike Kuria, Commission Secretary, CUE
Discussion

10:30 - 11:00 GROUP PHOTO & HEALTH BREAK

Session 3:

Chairperson: Dr. Nhlanhla Thwala, Vice Chancellor/Provost, African Leadership University, Rwanda:

11:00- 12:00 Implications of Emerging Trends in Higher Education for Higher Education Management

Panel Discussion

Panellist 1: Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda

Panellist 2: Vice Rector, Islamic University in Uganda

Panellist 3: Rector, University of Burundi

Panellist 4: Vice Chancellor, University of Juba

Panellist 5: Vice Chancellor, Sokoine University of Agriculture

Panellist 6: Vice Provost, The Aga Khan University

Session 4:

Chairperson: Dr Robert Ayine

12:00 - 13:00 Accreditation and Quality Assurance in the Digital Era
Presenter: TBC from DAAD

Panel Discussion

Panellist 1: Executive Secretary, TCU - Tanzania

Panellist 2: Permanent Executive Secretary, CNES - Burundi

Panellist 3: Commission Secretary, CUE - Kenya

Panellist 4: Executive Director, NCHE - Uganda

Panellist 5: Director General, HEC - Rwanda

Panellist 6: Director General, NCHE - South Sudan

Panellist 7: Executive Director, NQAA - DR Congo

13:30 - 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

Session 5: Transforming Teaching and Learning: Innovative Pedagogy and Technology

14:30 -15:30 Chairperson: Dr Baguma Abdallah, President, EAQAN

Utilization of digital technologies for postgraduate supervision – implication for quality assurance, by Prof. Raphael Nyonje.

Panel Discussion

Panellist [5 minutes for each]

Panellist 1: Director of Doctoral School, University of Burundi

Panellist 2: Representative of Postgraduate Students

Panellist 3: Vice Chancellor University of Dar es Salaam

Panellist 4: Vice Chancellor Zetech University

Panellist 5: Employers' Association of Burundi

Panellist 6: Representative of QA Practitioners

Session: 6 Closing Session

Chairperson- Dr. Julius Tweve, EAQAN Secretary General

17:00 - 17:30

- Statement from EAQAN President
- Statement from -Executive Secretary CNES, Burundi
- Vote of Thanks -QA Director appointed by participants
- Closing Remarks -Executive Secretary, IUCEA

17:30 - 18:00

HEALTH BREAK

18:00

END OF DAY 4

DAY 5:

Saturday, 9th September 2023

The departure of Participants from Bujumbura, On own time according to flight schedules