

RUFORUM 4th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - 2014



Harnessing New Information & Communication Technologies



Concept Note

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a network of 42 universities in eastern, central and southern Africa. In 2008 RUFORUM launched its Information, Communication and Knowledge Management (ICKM) Program to support both the Secretariat and the member universities.

Purpose of the Side Event

The developments in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) continue to impact on how RUFORUM universities are teaching, learning, collaborating and researching. According to Sheets et al (2012), ICT has the potential to help universities do their business more effectively and efficiently – by changing how teaching and research are done to increase access, reduce costs and expedite degree completion. They argue that the challenge is that there have been no parallel innovations in the business models of institutions of higher education. In simple terms the way that higher institutions of education are organized for carrying out their business has largely remained the same. Sheets et al (2012) cite Christensen who said that “new technologies like these cannot achieve their transformative potential without compatible changes in their industry’s business models and value networks, which in turn may require shifts in the standards and regulatory environment”.

There are a number of emerging business models that may have potential to revolutionize higher education. These include “those represented by Western Governors University, MITx, Carnegie Mellon’s Open Learning Initiative and the leading for-profit institutions. These business models exhibit many of the features of what experts call multisided, unbundled, and open business models” (Sheet et al: 2012).

The purpose of this side event is to engage the participants in this exciting discourse concerning educational innovations and their potential to positively impact the business processes of the RUFORUM network universities. This side event will have speakers from the RUFORUM Network, Michigan State University, the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) and other partner institutions.

Objectives of the side Event

1. To motivate forward thinking in relation to new information and communication technologies and their roles in higher education
2. Provide a platform for reflection on where the RUFORUM member universities are in terms of harnessing new information and communication technologies
3. Learn from each other
4. Forge new partnerships in the field of educational innovations

Approach and Methodology

The side event will be conducted as a learning and networking event. It will incorporate a variety of participatory techniques including short focus group discussions, round table brainstorming sessions and small working groups.

Venue and Participants

The side event will be convened at the main venue of the RUFORUM 4th Biennial Conference, Maputo at the Hotel Grand VIP Maputo.

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Side Event Programme

SESSION 19.6: Friday 25 July 2014 Hall: Incomati		
MAIN THEME	Harnessing S & T Capacity for Innovation in Africa	
Time	Sub Theme	Responsible
10.30-10.40	Welcoming remarks	Nodumo Dhlamini
10.40-11.00	ICT in the RUFORUM Network: changing pedagogical paradigms, priorities and practices	Lisbeth Levey and Nodumo Dhlamini
11.00-11.20	Hybrid integration of ICT in higher education: A case of UTAMU.	Jude T. Lubega and Rehema Baguma
11.20-11.35	Discussion	
11.35-12.45	Viewing of ICT Posters and Exhibitions	
13.00- 14.00	Lunch	
14.00-14.30	Student innovation fellows framework: knowledge creation in a can	Rashad A. Muhammad
14.30-15.00	Agshare II: Strengthening critical value chains with AgShare open knowledge	Dr. Alice Barlow-Zambodla
15.00-16.00	Discussion	