

Announcing the Africa regional quality assurance conference you have been waiting for- now in its 10th edition

Background

The 10th in the series of International Conferences on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa (ICQAHEA) will be organised in Yaoundé, Cameroon on September 17-21, 2018. Four professionally-enriching events have been bundled into the conference package. These are (a) the main conference; (b) six hands-on workshops; (c) symposium of Rectors and Vice-Chancellors; and (d) Annual Meeting of AfriQAN. The quad events are organised by the consortium of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI-Africa), Association of African Universities (AAU), African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN), Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), University of Yaoundé 1 and the Okebukola Science Foundation with funding support from the European Union Commission and Peregrine Academic Services. Gillette, WY, USA.

The theme of the conference is ***"Higher education quality assurance and the promotion of synergies among science, technology and humanities: Towards the attainment of the SDGs in Africa"***. The conference will provide a rare opportunity for the higher education community in Africa and partners to reflect on the modalities for promoting synergies between science and technology and the humanities and for enhancing quality in their delivery in the quest to achieve the SDGs.

The conference will follow-up the conclusions of the 5th Africa-EU Summit held in November 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire under the overarching theme: *"Investing in Youth for Accelerated Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development"*. Visibility will also be given at the conference to a number on-going continental initiatives on improving quality of higher education systems in Africa including (a) Tuning Africa; (b) Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) that supports the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework and the development of the African standards and guidelines for quality assurance; (c) the Erasmus+ programme; (d) the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Schemes; (e) the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the Jean Monnet projects; and (f) the Continental Strategy for Education for Africa 2015-2025 (CESA).

The conference will take stock of the progress made in implementing these initiatives and discuss the links that should be established between the results achieved and the activities foreseen for the period of 2018-2020 with emphasis on quality assurance and implementation of the SDGs. It should also be noted that students and alumni are expected to play a key role in the next phases of the AU-EU collaboration. A *"Study in Europe Fair"* will be organized as a parallel event to the ICQAHEA.

The conference and the other three collocated events will contribute to two major international conferences to be held in November 2018 in Paris and Barcelona respectively. These are: the UNESCO Global conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education; and the GUNI International Conference on Humanities and Higher Education: *"Generating Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities"*.

Objectives

The conference and workshops have the following objectives:

1. Review recent developments/achievements in promoting synergies among science and technology (S&T) and humanities and enhancing quality assurance in attaining the SDGs in Africa and beyond;
2. Promote awareness among the African higher education community of recent developments in enhancing quality assurance and accelerating regional harmonisation under the Africa – EU partnership, including the continental strategy for Education for Africa 2015-2025 (CESA); the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative; Tuning and Erasmus +; the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Schemes; the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions; and Jean Monnet projects.
3. Provide a platform for discussing the role of synergies among S&T and Humanities and quality assurance in higher education in attaining sustainable development goals in Africa;
4. Document best practices from other regions of the world on promoting synergies among S&T and humanities, and enhancing quality assurance in higher education in attaining the SDGs and draw lessons for the African region;
5. foster the acquisition of skills in (a) the implementation of the Addis Ababa Convention on mutual recognition of qualifications in Africa; (b) measurement and modelling of quality in higher education; (c) quality assurance of open and distance learning delivery systems; (d) strengthening effective implementation of LMD reforms; (f) setting up and running effective quality assurance units at the institutional level; (g) Tuning and Credit Transfer; and (h) developing project proposals for the Erasmus+ and intra-African academic mobility programs.

Sub-themes

1. Recent regional developments in promoting synergies among S&T and Humanities and enhancing quality assurance in attaining the SDGs: lessons from other region;
2. Regional Quality assurance and harmonization Initiatives in Africa : the continental strategy for Education for Africa 2015-2025 (CESA); the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative; Tuning and Erasmus+; the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Schemes; the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions; and Jean Monnet projects.
3. The role of synergies among S&T and Humanities and quality assurance in higher education institutions in attaining the SDGs in Africa and beyond;
4. Best Practices in Developing a Quality Culture at The Institutional and National Levels and Tackling Academic Corruption;
5. The role of research and development in promoting synergies among S&T and enhancing quality assurance in higher education institutions in attaining the SDGs

Expected Participants

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders in quality assurance in higher education in Africa as well as policy makers and practitioners from other regions of the world. Participation is open but not limited to:

- Ministers in charge of Education/Higher Education/Science and Technology/ICTs and Labour
- Permanent Secretaries/Directors-General of Education and Senior Officials
- Heads and management teams of national and regional quality assurance agencies
- Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and Provosts of higher education institutions

- Officers and Members of AfriQAN
- Officers in charge of higher education at the African Union Commission
- Quality Assurance practitioners
- Experts in ICT, teaching and research in higher education
- Civil society
- Staff Unions
- Students and Students' Associations
- Professional associations
- Employers or employers' associations
- Development Partners including the ADEA and the European Union
- Stakeholders in education in Africa
- Stakeholders in higher education from other regions of the world

Conference, Workshop, General Assembly and Symposium Dates

- **Arrival:** Monday, September 17
- **Conference, Workshops, Parallel Sessions, Special Sessions and Contributed Paper presentations** Tuesday-Thursday, September 18 and 20
- **AfriQAN Annual meeting:** Wednesday September 19
- **Symposium of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents,** Thursday, September 19
- **Excursion and Tours and Conference closing dinner** : Thursday, September 20
- **Closing ceremony and Departure: Friday;** September 21

Exhibition

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference.

Working Languages

The working languages of the events will be English and French.

Partners

- Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi-Africa)
- African Quality Assurance Network
- Association of African Universities
- Conseil africain et Malgache pour l'enseignement supérieur
- African Union Commission
- European Union Commission
- Peregrine Academic Services
- Okebukola Science Foundation
- More partners are encouraged

Conference Fee

A conference fee of \$250 (two hundred and fifty US dollars) will apply to all non-student participants. Students will be expected to pay \$50 (fifty dollars) for registration.

Venue

The conference will hold in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Information on the exact venue will be provided as soon as possible.

Accommodation

The Organising Committee will negotiate good rates with hotels located in close proximity to the conference venue with shuttle facilities. The list of selected hotels will be provided as soon as possible.

Call for Papers

Papers or posters on issues falling within the sub-themes outlined above may be submitted as contributions to the conference. Persons who wish to present a paper or poster at the conference should submit an **extended synopsis** (in English or French) of 800 words (i.e. two A4 format pages of single spaced typing or the equivalent, including any tables or diagrams and a few pertinent references) through the conference website on or before **30 June, 2018**. In addition, the synopsis should be sent electronically to the Conference Secretariat, email: jushabani@yahoo.fr and pokebukola@yahoo.com

Authors will be informed **mid-July** whether their paper/poster has been accepted for presentation by the Programme Committee. A subset of papers presented at the conference will be published subject to peer review. Further details will be provided after the extended synopses have been reviewed.

Conference website

The conference website is located at www.icqahea.org/ Please visit the site to register and receive updates on the conference, workshops, the AfriQAN annual meeting and the Symposium.

For Further Information

For further information please contact:

- Professor Juma Shabani (jushabani@yahoo.fr)
- Professor Peter A. Okebukola (pokebukola@yahoo.com)
- Professor Bertrand Mbatchi (mbatchibertrand@yahoo.fr)
- Professor Jonathan Mba (for AfriQAN-related inquiries) (jcmba@aau.org)