Conference and Annual General Meeting – Botswana 20 -22 Sept 2013: Strengthening Collaboration in Open and Distance Learning for development in the SADC Region

Conference Dates: 20 and 21st September 2013

AGM: 22nd September 2013

Theme: Strengthening Collaboration in Open and Distance Learning for development in the SADC Region

Sub-themes

1. **Collaborative research and research training in ODL**
   The aim is to identify institutions undertaking collaborative research and training; the areas of collaboration, the types of the research undertaken, the benefits accrued, and the challenges faced and to learn best practices for collaborative research and training in the SADC region.

2. **Leading and managing collaboration activities in ODL institutions**
   The aim is to understand the roles played by leaders in resource mobilization, planning, implementation, and support for collaboration in ODL institutions.

3. **OERs, ICT and online collaborations and the use of technology.**
   The aim is to understand how OERs, ICT and online learning are enablers or drivers for communities of practice (COP) for researchers/academics and students. The focus is on the role of technology, OERs, ICT & online platforms e.g.: social media, electronic devices etc., for research, teaching and learning in the 21st Century. Further, papers in this sub-theme are to explore the extent to which technology is increasingly being utilised in ODL institutions in SADC region: models, tools, achievements, challenges and mitigations.

4. **Integration of Academic and TVET through ODL and Industry collaboration**
   The aim is to understand efforts towards industry participation in ODL institutions towards the integration of academic and Technical, Vocational Education and Training through ODL, the types of linkages between ODL institutions and industry, relevance and responsiveness to realities obtaining within the SADC region.
5. **Building collaborative teams and stakeholders’ relations in ODL institutions.**

The aim is to understand the state of collaboration and relations between ODL institutions, industry and the community. Consider policy and practices that are creating opportunities or barriers to teamwork and institution–community relations. Explore policy and practices to enhance and harness collaboration for institutional growth and community development.

**Paper submissions to be sent to:**
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**Timelines for paper submissions**

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**Scope for the conference**

Collaboration among Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions globally and in particular Southern African Development Community (SADC), is a 21st-century phenomenon. Development of ODL institutions has created a mass flow of knowledge that is vitally important in sustaining economies of developed countries and advancing the education systems of emerging economies in which most SADC countries belong. The 48th DEASA conference explores the effect of collaboration and what impact the collaboration might have on the growth of ODL pedagogies, research output, leadership and management and linkage with industry and other stakeholders. The conference will provide the opportunity for delegates to debate the drivers and motivations for collaboration at institutional, national and international level. It also gives delegates the chance to consider how collaboration strategies at all levels might integrate, and support elements such as research, curriculum development, teaching, and the student experience and staff development.

**The aim for the conference**

The aim is to explore the level of collaboration within ODL institutions and their relations with industry and the community. Consider policy and practices that are creating opportunities or barriers to teamwork and institution–community relations. Explore policy and practices to enhance and harness collaboration for institutional growth and community development.

**Objectives for the conference**

- To evaluate progress made in collaboration between SADC ODL institutions, nationally and internationally.
- To build capacity of SADC ODL institutions’ academics, researchers, administrators, policy makers, and other interested stakeholders in the development and implementation of collaboration competencies.
- To explore the extent to which technology is used in ODL institutions in the SADC region.

**The following are the expected outcomes of the Conference:**

- Participants with comprehensive knowledge of collaboration initiatives of ODL institutions nationally and internationally.
- Participants with deeper understanding of collaboration and practical skills in the implementation of collaboration activities at institutional, national and international levels.
- Development of training workshops on collaboration competencies at regional, national and institutional levels.
- A comprehensive report about the conference