49TH DEASA CONFERENCE Mauritius: 4th to 7th December 2014

THEME: Open and Distance Learning (ODL): Towards sustainable development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region

THE SCOPE FOR THE CONFERENCE

1. Open and distance learning is seen as the education system that promotes education for all (EFA) goals and enhances sustainable development. Sustainable development on the other hand is propelled by an increase of well-educated and skilled people that are able to contribute towards personal, community and national well-being through employment and employment creation as well as provision of solutions for development. The conference is expected to explore the dynamic and interplay between the realisations of ODL best practices in: ideology, philosophy, pedagogy, technology, management, leadership, innovations and sustainable development. The conference is envisaged to underscore the call for decision makers to invest more in ODL in order to contribute towards achieving sustainable development at all levels; that is at local, national and global level. The conference is also expected to deliberate on current development challenges and how ODL contributes towards solutions and sustainable development.

Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning: for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way.


THE AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference is to bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners and other scholars from the region and beyond to share research findings and experiences on ODL issues relating to how ODL influences personal, community, national, and sustainable development. Delegates are expected to engage and debate ODL issues emanating from research findings and experiences. Further the conference is expected to undertake a 2014 DEASA Mauritius Declaration on ODL and sustainable development in the SADC Region.
Sub Themes:

1. **ODL capacity building for sustainable development**
   
   The aim for this sub theme is for scholars to debate on how ODL develops organisational management and leadership practitioners that enhance sustainable development. Scholars are also expected to identify the competencies for ODL institution managers and leaders that enhance sustainable development at different levels.

2. **Ideology and philosophy of ODL for sustainable development**
   
   The aim for this sub theme is for scholars to debate the various issues including access, equity and other issues that are part of ODL ideology and philosophy as they relate to sustainable development.

3. **ODL Innovations and best practices for sustainable development**
   
   The aim for this sub theme is for scholars to demonstrate ODL innovations and best practices that improve quality and enhance sustainable development.

4. **Research imperatives in ODL for sustainable development**
   
   The aim for this sub theme is for scholars to explore evidence based research and methodologies in the light of education for sustainable development.

5. **ODL pedagogy and technology for sustainable development**
   
   The aim for this sub theme is for scholars to engage in ODL pedagogy and technology discourse that could enhance sustainable development.

**Call for Abstracts and Papers**

Abstracts are invited for the theme and sub-themes herein described. The presentations shall be in the form of:

- Theoretical or best practice papers based on research and review;
  - Case Studies;
  - Poster Presentation;
  - Keynote Address;
  - Audio-Visual, CD-Rom and Internet Demonstration.

**The Deadlines for Call for Abstracts and Papers are as follow:**

The Deadlines for Call for Abstracts and Papers have been extended as follow:

- Second Call for Extended Abstracts: 25 August 2014
- Due date for Extended Abstracts: 29 September 2014
- Results on Extended Abstracts: 31 October 2014
- Submission of papers for Publication: 29th January 2015

Participants should kindly note that they need to book their tickets very early in order to secure their flights. The holiday nature of Mauritius makes it difficult to leave booking of ticket till too late.
Your extended abstract must be 4-5 pages and include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sub-theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name/s of author/s</td>
<td>Institution affiliation</td>
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<td>e-mail address</td>
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<tr>
<th>Background</th>
<th>This includes the introduction and the context of the study</th>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>Concise review of what has been written about the subject/topic of your interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem statement</td>
<td>What is the problem that you are investigating?</td>
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<td>Aims and objectives (this can also include research questions)</td>
<td>What do you want to achieve in your research. A summary of the aims and objectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research design and methodology</td>
<td>Data collection processes. Major activities involved. Data analysis processes used.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Findings and discussions</td>
<td>What have you found in your studies? General conclusions and recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Major citations used</td>
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The Conference will be organized in sessions to include:-

- Opening and keynote address session;
- Plenary sessions;
- Parallel sessions.

All papers will be peer reviewed before being published in the conference proceedings.

Language use:
The conference will be mainly conducted in English. However, provision will be made for translations in French and Portuguese.

Abstracts and papers should be submitted to:
Dr. Nyaruwata, L.T- Chairperson: DEASA Research Committee  
Senior Lecturer, Higher Degrees Directorate, Zimbabwe Open University  
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nyaruwatalt@zou.ac.zw