Distance Education Association of Southern Africa
Open University of Mauritius

DEASA 49th Conference

4 to 7 December 2014
Open University of Mauritius - Curepipe, Mauritius

Open and Distance Learning
Towards Sustainable Development in the South African Development Community (SADC) Region
Distance Education Association of Southern Africa
Open University of Mauritius 49th DEASA Conference (2014) - Mauritius

Date: 04 - 07 Dec 2014
Venue: Open University of Mauritius, Curepipe Campus, Mauritius
Theme: Open and Distance Learning (ODL): Towards Sustainable Development in the South African Development Community, [SADC] Region

Sub-themes:
1. ODL capacity building for sustainable development
2. Ideology and philosophy of ODL for sustainable development
3. ODL innovations and best practices for sustainable development
4. Research imperatives in ODL for sustainable development
5. ODL pedagogy and technology for sustainable development

Scope of Conference:
To explore the dynamic interplay among ODL best practices, ideology, philosophy, pedagogy, technology, management, leadership, innovations, and sustainable development.
To come up with a framework to boost investment in ODL so as to achieve sustainable development at all levels, including local, national and global levels.
To deliberate on current development challenges and how ODL contributes towards solutions and sustainable development.
To bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners and other scholars from the region and beyond to share findings and experiences related to the themes and sub-themes of the conference.
To engage delegates in debates on ODL issues emanating from research findings and experiences.
To undertake a 2014 DEASA Mauritius Declaration on ODL and sustainable development in the SADC Region.

Pre-conference workshops: 04 December 2014
Workshop titles:
(i) ODL Research Writing
(ii) E-learning Skills Development Pre-conference fee: 200 ZAR per person per workshop.
Limited seats available: first come - first served.

Conference: 05 - 06 December 2014
DEASA AGM: 07 December 2014

Conference Fees

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<th>Members</th>
<th>Non Members</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>ZAR</td>
<td>800</td>
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<td>USD</td>
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Payment has to be made to DEASA: Distance Education Association of Southern Africa Standard Bank
Branch: Hatfield, Pretoria
Account number: 01 213 522 4
Branch code: 01 15 45
Swift code: SBZAZAJJ

Conference Information and Registration Support
Full conference information and registration: http://www.deasa.org.za
You may also email the Open University of Mauritius DEASA secretariat at university@open.ac.mu for further queries or details.
Information and Registration desks will also be available as from 04 Dec 2014 [07 30 - 16 00] at the Open University of Mauritius.
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Recommended Accommodation and Important Information

DEASA has negotiated preferential rates for rooms at the business hotels below. Participants are expected to book their rooms directly with the hotels and settle their bills before leaving the hotel.

Cash, VISA and Master Credit cards are most common and acceptable means of payment. For early morning arrivals, reservation of room with effect from the previous night may be required.

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<tr>
<th>HOTELS</th>
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<td>Bagatelle</td>
<td>Pooja Backory (Mrs)</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:pbackory@voilahotel.mu">pbackory@voilahotel.mu</a></td>
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<td>Tel: (230) 406 8021</td>
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<td>Quatre Bornes</td>
<td>Poroan Stralkou (Mrs)</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mountview6@intnet.mu">mountview6@intnet.mu</a></td>
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<td>Tel: (230) 464 9895</td>
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<td>Manoj Rajwani (Mr)</td>
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<td>Tel: (230) 427 3000</td>
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<td>Henessy Park Hotel</td>
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<td>Tel: (230) 202 4910</td>
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Full accommodation and airport transfer costs: visit www.deasa.org.za
Approximate travel time from the above hotels to Conference venue: 20 - 30 mins
Participants may opt for Beach resorts but have to budget for higher taxi fares.
Travel time from coastal hotels may exceed 40 mins as Conference venue is in the centre of the island.

Getting to the hotel
From SSR International Airport to the hotel, transfer by taxi costs around 1,200 MUR. It is advisable that you arrange with the hotel for the airport-hotel-airport trips. It takes around 45 minutes to reach the hotel from the airport on a normal day. Remember to get some Mauritian currencies before you board any taxi. This can be done at the arrival lounge of the airport.

Getting to the meeting place
Open University of Mauritius will provide a morning and evening shuttle service for participants from the recommended hotels to the venue of the conference. Exact departure times will be communicated in Mauritius.

Meals
Coffee breaks and lunch will be provided by DEASA/Open University of Mauritius during the conference. Gala Dinner: 5 December 2014.

Weather
The temperatures during this period are on average between 25 to 34 degrees Celsius.

Currency
Local currency: Mauritian Rupees (MUR or Rs), Exchange Rate: 1 USD = 30 MUR [appx.] You can exchange money at the airport and at money changers in Quatre Bornes. OU personnel will assist you if you need to go to the banks to make any withdrawal.

Communication
Sim cards, Internet packages and mobile pre-paid cards will be put on sale by Emtel at the Open University to enable you to communicate with your respective countries.
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Information about visiting Mauritius
For further information about Mauritius, climate in December, shopping, currency, places of interest and tourism in general, visit: http://www.tourism-mauritius.mu/

Visa Information
SADC countries need no visa to enter Mauritius except for Angola and Mozambique Please verify whether you need a visa for Mauritius. If so, we recommend that you apply for a visa at the relevant Mauritian Embassy or Consulate at your earliest possible date.

The Open University of Mauritius will be able to issue a letter to all participants who will require so in order to request for a visa from the authorities concerned. However the Full name, Institution and originating country should be mailed to the Open University of Mauritius at the following address for needful university@open.ac.mu

EBOLA Threat - Important Notice

The Government of Mauritius abides by the directives of the WHO with regard to the Ebola virus threat. Consequently visitors from the following countries shall NOT be allowed to enter Mauritius. Moreover, any person who, for the last two months, has travelled to those countries shall also not be allowed to enter Mauritius. Refer to circular from the Passport and Immigration Office.