The Conference will be organised in sessions to include:

- Opening and keynote address sessions
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel sessions

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

The conference venue:
The conference shall be held in the resort town of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird: (Closes March 31, 2014)
- ACDE Members: USD 250
- Non-Members: USD 300
- Students: USD 50

Late Registration: (From April 1st, 2014)
- ACDE Members: USD 300
- Non-Members: USD 350
- Students: USD 75

The registration fee will cover conference materials, lunches and tea/coffee breaks.

Payment Details

Account Name: Zimbabwe Open University
Account Number: 01120005100050
Bank: CBZ Bank Limited
Branch: Kwame Nkrumah
Swift Code: COBZZWHAXXX
Sort Code: 6101
Country: Zimbabwe

Accommodation
Victoria Falls has a vast network of safe and comfortable hotels and lodges close to the conference venue. These include The Zambezi River Lodge, The Kingdom Hotel, Elephant Hills Hotel, The Gorges Lodge, Ilala Lodge, Victoria Falls Hotel, Rainbow Hotel, etc.

Weather
The weather at Victoria Falls is beautiful especially for those getting away from the long winter months of the Northern Hemisphere. There is plenty of sunshine on average 8 hours per day which is ideal for most of the activities that are there to experience in that area however, Zimbabwe will be just coming out of winter but Victoria Falls is normally warm at this time of the year.

Travel Information
Book your ticket through any travel agent to direct Victoria Falls or to Harare International Airport in Zimbabwe. The popular airlines are South African Airways, Kenya Airways, Emirates, British Airways etc. from Harare you can fly to Victoria Falls using our local airline or you travel by road catching the glimpse of our wonderful landscapes.

Tour packages
Zimbabwe is endowed with vast national parks and game reserves. Participants will be granted to explore the rich bio-diversity and enjoy seeing the fauna and flora including organized tours to the Victoria Falls rainforest. Other places worth visiting include the Hwange National Park and the Crocodile Farm. Participants can also enjoy a flight over the Zambezi river code named “The Angels flight”, not to mention bungee jumping.
On behalf of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) wishes to announce the 4th ACDE Conference and General Assembly, which will take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 6th to 9th June 2014.

THEME:

CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION THROUGH OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING IN AFRICA
Open and Distance Learning (ODL) the learning mode of the moment is on the increase throughout the continent. There is no doubt that it is a tool for socio-economic development. Its ability to foster the continental integration of Africa is a subject to be explored by this conference.

SUB-THEMES:

1. THE PHILOSOPHICAL CONTEXT OF ODL
This sub-theme explores the philosophical context of ODL in its dynamic nature. As a force contributing to social and economic development, open and distance learning is fast becoming an accepted and indispensable part of the main stream of educational systems in both developed and developing countries. This growth has been stimulated in part by the interests among educators and trainers in the use of new internet based and multimedia technologies and also by the recognition that traditional ways of organising education need to be reinforced by innovative methods.

2. THE RATIONALE FOR OPEN ACCESS AND EMPOWERMENT
Presentations under this sub-theme articulate the rationale for open access and empowerment as occurs under ODL. The ODL mode of education allows access to education by one and all regardless of class, race or age. It is affordable and, therefore, capable of empowering the vast majority of our people in all forms of circumstances.

3. INCLUSIVE ODL PHILOSOPHY VIS-À-VIS ELITISTS’ PHILOSOPHIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
The focus of this sub-theme is to debate on the inclusivity of ODL philosophy and the elitist philosophy of higher education. The ODL system must devise ways which go beyond its intrinsic openness, flexibility and cost-effectiveness to give the learners who are disadvantaged due to social, economic and geographical factors a chance to partake in the same educational experiences as is available to their more advantaged peers. Open Universities can be viewed in many respects as forerunners in tackling the challenges that confront the higher education system worldwide.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT: THE ROLE OF ODL
This sub-theme explores the role of ODL in the socio-economic context of higher education. The major areas where the use of ODL can be incorporated as a vehicle to deliver Higher Education and Training which, in turn, will accelerate socio-economic development include reducing unemployment which is a threat for social instability and wastage of human resources. ODL also aims to upgrade the skills and knowledge of existing workforce and to create human capital in order to remain competitive in the globalisation process and trade liberalisation.

5. ODL: THE VIRTUAL EMPOWERMENT MODEL IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Empowering students from all walks of life is vital to any nation in developing effective and ethical human resources. Student empowerment ensures that students are fully integrated in mind, body and spirit with the teaching and learning process. This is assured under the ODL mode of education. Presentations under this sub-theme discuss this vital role played by ODL. It is important to note that the ODL mode of education does not require the learner to present himself/herself to a physical space for learning, and does not require the learner to have physical contact with the teacher.

6. QUALITY ASSURANCE ACROSS ODL PROGRAMMES
Quality Assurance is a must in today’s Higher Education institutions. Both programmes and processes of ODL must be quality assured in order to produce a quality end product. Under this sub-theme, presentations shall cover methods and processes of quality assuring ODL programmes.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES
Submission of abstracts: 30th September, 2013

Authors of papers are invited to send abstracts and full papers to the address given below. An editorial review panel will scrutinise all abstracts and all full papers before being published in conference proceedings. Those presented at the conference and are found to be valuable for a wider readership will be considered for publication in a special Zimbabwe International Journal of Open and Distance Learning. The main objective of this conference is to share experiences and knowledge in key areas related to Open and Distance Learning (ODL), and how ODL can harness the energies and best minds of the Africans to gear Africa for competitive development in the world.

Abstracts and papers should be submitted to:
PVC, Academic Affairs
A/Director, Centre for ODL, Research and Scholarship
4th Floor, Bryanston House, 9 George Silundika Ave
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 4 793002/3/7, 796464
Email: acde@zou.ac.zw or research.scholarship@gmail.com or
bcchisaka@yahoo.co.uk

“Continental Integration through ODL in Africa”

4th ACDE Conference, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Call for abstracts and papers
Abstracts and papers are invited on the theme and sub-themes described above. The presentations shall be in the form of:-
- Theoretical papers based on research and review
- Case studies
- Poster presentation
- Keynote speakers
- Audio-Visual, CD-Rom Internet demonstration