



**CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
**8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER  
EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

**CONFERENCE THEME**  
***MULTIDIMENSIONS OF INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA: TOWARDS  
ENHANCING QUALITY AND ACCELERATING REGIONAL HARMONISATION***

**Hosts: The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and the University of  
Namibia (UNAM)**

**Date: 20 – 23 September 2016**

**Venue: Nampower Convention Centre, Windhoek, Namibia**

## **Background**

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Quality Assurance is essential in higher education to ensure relevance and responsiveness of higher education institutions and systems, in order to address a variety of Regional and Global challenges, including Recent developments in higher education in Africa; the use of information technologies and quality assurance to accelerate the achievement of the 'Licence-Master-Doctorate' (LMD) reforms; continental and international perspectives to quality assurance in higher education in Africa; employability of graduates of African Higher Education systems; accreditation and quality assurance of research universities, centers of excellence and PHD training programmes; accreditation of Open and Distance Learning and the Pan-African University; Peregrine partnership on Quality Assurance Capacity in African Higher Education. The 8<sup>th</sup> ICQHEA Conference will address the above challenges and propose relevant strategies for building capacity for the effective use of innovations for enhancing quality and accelerating regional harmonization.

## **Objectives**

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The Overall Objectives of the Conference:

1. Review the different dimensions of innovation in Africa higher education that address quality and regional harmonization;
2. Promote awareness among the African higher education community of recent developments in accelerating regional harmonization under the Africa – EU partnership

including the continental strategy for Education for Africa 2015-2025 (CESA); the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework; Tuning and Erasmus +;

3. Provide a platform for the launch of key initiatives under the Africa-EU partnership especially Harmonization, Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA);
4. Train participants in modern and innovative methods of developing quality culture at the institutional and national levels;
5. Showcase innovative practices in teaching and learning; entrepreneurial thinking and practice; research; graduate employability policies and practices; funding; open and distance learning and management of higher education system from Africa, Europe and other regions of the world as experiences for participants to adopt and adapt;
6. Identify barriers to innovation in the African higher education system and strategies for breaking the barriers;
7. Address emerging challenges to quality in higher education in Africa including academic corruption and degree mills; and
8. Examine the impact of rating/ranking on the promotion of internal and external quality culture in the African higher education system.

### **Expected Outcomes**

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1. Participants would have deepened their understanding of the different dimensions of innovation that address quality and regional harmonization in higher education in Africa;
2. Awareness of the African higher education community would have been raised to be change agents in the support of implementation of recent developments in regional harmonization under the African-EU partnership;
3. The initiatives would have been launched and their visibility ensured at national, regional, and global levels;
4. Participants' capacity would have been developed and networking opportunities established to enable them to implement effectively innovative methods of developing quality culture at an institutional and national levels;
5. Participants capacity would have been developed to learn from modern and innovative methods and good practices in order to improve practices related to teaching and learning , research, entrepreneurship and management of higher education at national and institutional levels;
6. Documentation available at the various dimensions of innovation related to quality assurance and regional harmonization would have been enriched and expanded; and
7. Communique reflecting the conclusions and action plan arising from the debates and deliberations of the conference.

### **Expected Participants**

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- 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

## **Workshops**

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The following workshops will be held as part of the conference:

- No. 1: Establishment and effective operation of quality assurance agencies/units at national higher education and institutional levels
- No. 2: Beyond, Full, Interim and Denied: Towards New Models of Accreditation Decisions
- No. 3: Implementation of the revised Addis Ababa Convention
- No. 4: Use of the Tuning methodology for development and implementation of an African credit transfer and accumulation system
- No. 5: Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning
- No. 6: Strengthening and Accelerating Implementation of LMD Reforms
- No. 7: Opportunities and Partnerships on Quality Assurance with Peregrine Academic Services

## **Call for Abstracts**

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Participants are encouraged to submit Abstracts for Oral Presentations, corresponding to the following thematic areas of the Conference, as follows:

1. Recent regional developments in enhancing quality and accelerating harmonization;
2. Modern and innovative methods of developing quality culture at the institutional and national levels;
3. Innovations for enhancing quality in higher education teaching and learning;
4. Innovations in entrepreneurial thinking and practice;
5. Innovations in research;
6. Innovations in employability policies and practice;
7. Tuning: teacher education and good practices in teaching and learning;

8. Innovations in open and distance learning;
9. Innovations in funding;
10. Innovations in the management of higher education system;
11. Rating/ranking and the promotion of internal and external quality culture;
12. Innovation practices in managing national quality assurance agencies.

### **Abstracts must contain**

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1. **Title of paper** and the relevant **thematic area**;
2. Names of contributors and institutions they represent;
3. A **maximum 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);
4. **Completed Form A for submission of a paper and the participation Form B (both on the Conference website) on or before 15 July 2016;**  
**The abstract/synopsis should be sent electronically to the Conference Secretariat, email: [jushabani@yahoo.fr](mailto:jushabani@yahoo.fr) and [pokebukola@yahoo.com](mailto:pokebukola@yahoo.com)**
5. **Authors will be informed by July 31 whether their paper or 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.*