



The Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2016

RUFORUM INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL (IAP) MEETING

Concept Note

Background

Established in 2004, The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of 60 African universities whose vision is ‘a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which produce high performing graduates and high-quality research responsive to the demands of Africa’s farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development’. The Network has several unique features for building Africa’s innovation capacity and for engaging universities in development process and practice; i) It is owned and managed by Africans; ii) It derives its agenda largely from the continent wide policy frameworks especially of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the New Partnership for African Development’s (NEPAD) Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), The African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), Africa Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025, the Sub regional Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programmes, The National Strategy Papers of the member States and Governments and constant review of global trends and foresight planning to ensure Africa has the required capacity for global competitiveness; and iii) it allows for joint action by the member universities and stakeholders in higher education and agricultural sectors.

RUFORUM’s vibrancy emanates from its own character, which a) allows for ownership and direction of network activities by member universities, b) for identification of priorities from national level to inform regional thrusts, c) ensures broad consultation and consensus on regional level activities by members, and d) promotes sharing of resources, rather than competition, across the network for capacity building in agriculture.

CO-ORGANISERS:





The International Advisory Panel (IAP) a sub-committee of the RUFORUM Board, plays a key role in supporting the Board and the Secretariat to position the RUFORUM network to take advantage of the opportunities in, particularly, the external environment. Composed of eight individuals from both within and outside Africa, the IAP brings together high level individuals with a wealth of experience and that are strategically placed to support RUFORUM better understand the external environment. The IAP meets regularly through physical, as well as on-line meetings.

Purpose of the Side Event

The RUFORUM Strategic and Business Plan (2015-2020) which was launched in August, 2015 in Windhoek, Namibia highlights the key issues that require consideration and positioning by RUFORUM network in order to remain effective against a background of fast changing donor landscape. The International Advisory Panel (IAP), a Policy organ that guides the strategic orientation of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Development in Agriculture (RUFORUM), will meet to review recent development in the agricultural and higher education sectors which RUFORUM needs to position itself to respond to so as to increase the relevance of RUFORUM and higher education for sustainable development in Africa.

Objectives of the side Event

The specific objectives of the 16th October 2016 IAP meeting will be the following:

1. Receive updates from the Secretariat;
2. Consider key programmatic challenges facing the Secretariat programming and make recommendations for improvements;
3. Provide advice to the Board and Secretariat on how to best position the RUFORUM network in its international policy engagements in support of Higher Education in Africa.
4. Discuss and provide input into the:
 - a. RUFORUM Capacity Building Strategy;
 - b. How RUFORUM can engage with TVET
 - c. Key input on possible meeting of committee of 10 Heads of State championing higher education in Africa.
 - d. Provide guidance on the meetings with key development partners slated for 19th October, 2016

CO-ORGANISERS:





5. Provide guidance on key issues for reflection by the Secretariat and the Board in line with the new Strategic Business Plan (2015-2020) especially Resource mobilisation

Approach and Methodology

The side event will be convened on 16th October, 2016. The meeting will be guided by the above agenda, and the Chair for meeting deliberations. The closed meeting will discuss and provide recommendations to the Board and Secretariat in line with the above objectives. I

Venue and Participants

Venue: Century City Conference Centre, Meeting Room 6, Cape Town, South Africa.

Date & Time: Sunday 16th October 2016 from 0830-1300

The meeting will be attended by the IAP members and representative of the Secretariat

Side Event Organizers and Contact

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