



The Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2016

Building Africa's Human Capital for Accelerated Rural Development

A meeting of Women Leaders of RUFORUM to discuss challenges and opportunities facing the network in the next decade

- Prof. Mabel Imbuga (RUFORUM Board Chair and Universities perspective)
- Dr. Mary Shawa (RUFORUM Board member and public sector perspective)
- Ms. Bongwiwe Njobe (RUFORUM Board member and private sector perspective)
- Prof. Agnes Mwangombe (University perspective)
- Prof. Kay Muir Leresche (RUFORUM Technical Committee Chair, research and scholars perspective)
- Dr. Mercy Karanja (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, partners' perspective)

Concept Note

Background

The RUFORUM network has been successful in assisting its member universities to transform: producing better skilled graduates, becoming more relevant to local communities, leading the higher education field and becoming more integrated in their societies. This process is ongoing and the evidence of its impact is already visible. Furthermore RUFORUM has become a recognised champion of higher education on the continent and has contributed significantly to raising the profile of universities and the importance of investing in the production of high-level skills that are relevant to Africa and to local communities.

The contribution of RUFORUM to linking universities closely with communities by expanding their agricultural and rural research through increased and enhanced post-graduate programmes is at the heart of their success. As RUFORUM assists its universities to harness new technologies and address challenges and take advantage of new opportunities, it needs time to reflect on the way forward. It also needs to consider how best it can position itself to provide services that will

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help it to sustain itself while remaining true to its own goals and values.

Objectives of the meeting

The overall objective of the meeting is to share ideas on the way forward for RUFORUM in the next decade. We all want to ensure that RUFORUM is sustainable and that it continues to be an important platform, facilitating the growth and development of higher education and its contribution to society.

The specific objectives of the meeting relate to how best RUFORUM can position itself to mobilise resources for its sustainability from the sectors represented by the small group at the meeting. We need to consider what actions and activities we can undertake to help to support our champions in ways that will advance both RUFORUM’s goals and those of the institutions it is working with.

Approach and Methodology

This is an informal meeting which will take place after a lunch together. At the meeting each participant will put forward some of their thoughts on how best RUFORUM can engage to mobilise resources and ensure sustainability in the government, private, university and donor sectors. No Minutes will be taken to ensure opportunity for open and frank discussion, but a joint brief of key points will be prepared later. Following the meeting, the group will take a field trip where they will be able to discuss some of the future challenges and opportunities for African development that RUFORUM should be considering as its programme evolves including, among others, capacity skills support and nutrition research for the Blue economy which falls under Agriculture.

Venue and Participants

Venue: Proposed is Boschendal Gardens, Pniel (weather permitting)
Alternate Venue: Jordan Wine Estate Restaurant

Date & Time: Monday 17th October 2016, from 1300-1730

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Side Event Organizers and Contact

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
P.O Box 16811 Wandegaya - Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256-417-713-300 (Office)
Professor Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary
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Side Event Programme
Day One

Date: Monday 17 October 2016 Time 13:30-17:30		
Time	Activity	Venue
13:30-14:30	Drive across the Helshoogte Pass to Boschendal for lunch to arrive before 2 p.m.	Boschendal Historic Winery Gardens
14:30-15:30	Perspectives shared on what RUFORUM should be doing to engage in different sectors to mobilise resources and enhance its impact	Boschendal Gardens (Or Jordan Wine Estate)
15:30-17:30	Continue discussions while touring some of the interesting properties in the area and return to CCCC	
OPTION for the Evening	Dinner – at a seaside restaurant with view of Table Mountain and Robben Island	

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