



The Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2016

Strengthening Doctoral Training in RUFORUM Universities through DAAD

Concept note

Background

With only 20% of academic staff having PhDs in public higher education institutions in Africa, universities face difficulties in serving local needs and responding to the market demand in order to reduce poverty. Accordingly, universities need to harness higher education partnerships so as to address the current inadequacy for higher education systems in Africa and help universities provide quality training, particularly at graduate (Masters and Doctoral) level and to harness regional, continental and global lessons and experiences. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 60 universities in 25 African countries, has partnered with DAAD in a bid to strengthen the capacity for graduate training in African universities. The DAAD-RUFORUM partnership aims at promoting international academic exchange as well as educational cooperation with developing countries through various funding and scholarship programmes. The in-region/ in-country programme has largely focused on supporting the RUFORUM regional training programmes at various member universities. DAAD support also goes beyond RUFORUM but to the wider Africa, with students not only training in Africa but also in Germany. The DAAD support directly contributes into RUFORUM’s overall mission which is to enhance the quality and relevance of post-graduate education in Africa.

Purpose of the side event

The purpose of the side event is to provide a platform for interaction with the DAAD funded students and alumni and to discuss the progress of those still undergoing training and learn from those who have completed their studies.

Specific Objectives

- i) To review progress in the implementation of the DAAD Phase I & II support to RUFORUM

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- ii) To provide platform for interaction and networking among the beneficiaries of the project and the project facilitators (RUFORUM and DAAD).
- iii) To develop recommendations, as well as strategies for effective implementation of the remaining activities of the DAAD supported projects at RUFORUM Secretariat
- iv) Initiate discussions on how to support the settling in the grantees who complete their studies

Approach and Methodology

A series of Presentations will be made by project partners and selected students on their experiences in the implementation of the project. Open discussions will follow to tease out issues for synthesis which will inform decisions for accelerating the project implementation and impact.

Outputs of the meeting

- A lesson sharing meeting report to guide implementation of the DAAD supported project and other similar initiatives at RUFORUM
- Recommendations for improving quality of graduate training in RUFORUM Member universities
- Suggestions for future partnership between DAAD and RUFORUM

Venue and Participants

Venue: Century City Conference Centre, Meeting Room 2

Date & Time: Friday 21st October 2016 from 11.15-13.00, Meeting Room 2, CCCC.

The participants of the meeting will include, RUFORUM Secretariat staff, Officials from the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi, DAAD funded students and alumni and others.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

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CO-ORGANISERS:





Side Event Programme

SESSION: Hall: Century City Conference Centre, Meeting Room 2		
MAIN THEME: Strengthening Doctoral Training through DAAD in RUFORUM Universities		
Time	Sub Theme	Responsible
11.15-11.20	Welcoming remarks	Dr Solange Uwituze
11.20-11.30	Self-Introductions & Setting the Scene	Dr Solange Uwituze
11.30-11.45	Remarks from DAAD	Mr Bonface Nyagah
11.45-12.00	Project Overview - Presentation	Mrs Sylvia Mkandawire
12.00-12.10	Student Representative – Experience Sharing	Mrs Sylvia Mkandawire
12.10-12.20	Alumni Representative – Experience Sharing	Mrs Sylvia Mkandawire
12.20-12.45	Open Discussion	All
12.45-13.00	Way- forward	All

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