



COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA



ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe • 23rd - 29th August 2020

AUGUST 2020 CAPA-ATUPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DATE: AUGUST 23 – 29, 2020

VENUE: VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

MAIN THEME: *“The Future of Jobs: Training, Workforce Development and Reskilling Africa”*

CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA), was established in 1978, following a resolution of the 7th Conference of Education Ministers held in Accra, Ghana in 1977. CAPA promotes technical skills and professional development in member countries, by providing a dynamic forum for sharing innovative ideas in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as capacity building initiatives and policy advocacy in favour of TVET. The headquarters seat of CAPA is at The Technical University of Kenya in Nairobi, under a Diplomatic Agreement with the Government of Kenya. CAPA is in the process of rebranding to Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) following a resolution to this effect by the General Assembly of Member Institutions taken on August 29, 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda. This is with the view to opening membership to institutions from all member states of the African Union (AU).

The purpose of this concept note is to bring clarity to the theme and sub-themes and to provide guidance and direction to contributors of papers and case studies. It is hoped in this way, that the outcomes of the 2020 CAPA international conference shall go beyond the repeated formulation of ideas and the rhetoric that has been heard over the years to providing pragmatic strategies and guidelines, even at the policy dialogue level.

CAPA has resolved to adopt the theme **“The Future of Jobs: Training, Workforce Development and Reskilling Africa”** for its August 2020 CAPA Victoria Falls International Conference.

THE FUTURE OF JOBS AND TRAINING IN AFRICA

The world is at the cusps of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Advancements in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, genetics, nanotechnology, robotics, and 3D printing, are tremendously reshaping the jobs landscape. This is the herald of a most wide-ranging change than anything before now. Patterns of production, consumption and employment inevitably shall change pose great challenges in keeping pace for individuals, organizations and governments. As whole industries adapt to these realities, most jobs are experiencing major transformation. Some occupations are threatened by redundancy while others are emerging, and existing jobs are also going through a change in the skill sets required to do them. Discussion on this revolution has caused division between those who foresee limitless new possibilities and those that foresee massive dislodgment of jobs. This calls for capacity of various stakeholders in technical and vocational education and training to manage change.

The impact of technological, demographic and socio-economic disruptions on business models will be felt in transformations to the employment landscape and skills requirements, resulting in substantial challenges for recruiting, training and managing talent. Several industries may find themselves in a scenario of positive employment demand for hard-to-recruit specialist occupations with simultaneous skills instability across many existing roles. In order to manage these developments effectively, there is a need for upskilling and reskilling talent from varied academic backgrounds in all trades.

CONFERENCE THEME

The conference shall be held under the theme “The Future of Jobs: Training, Workforce Development and Reskilling Africa”. This theme shall be discussed under the following sub-themes; -

- i. Internationalizing TVET: Aligning Local Training with Global Skills Needs
- ii. Youth and Women Engagement in TVET in the Era of Industry 4.0 & IoT
- iii. Greening TVET: Conserving the Natural World through Relevant TVET Skills
- iv. Access and inclusivity in TVET: Reaching the Marginalized and Underrepresented
- v. TVET Trainer Education: Challenges and Opportunities

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the conference are to:

1. enhance transferability of skills and qualifications and cross border movement by Vocational Education and Training Graduates;
2. raise awareness on the need for increased enrolment of women and the youth in TVET;
3. stress the importance of conservation of the Natural World by supporting the Blue & Green Economy;
4. promote focus in Skilling the Marginalized and Underrepresented with;
5. create a shared understanding of Challenges and Opportunities in TVET Trainer Education:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

To ensure a very successful outcome of the conference, a Local Organising Committee (LOC) is constituted, comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Zimbabwe TVET institutions. The LOC is headed by Dr. Tafadzwa Mudondo, Principal of Zimbabwe Polytechnic & Member of CAPA Executive Board. The conference is organized to include:

- i. The main conference (August 23 – 29) featuring plenary and parallel sessions on the theme “The Future of Jobs and Training: Workforce Development and Reskilling in Africa” and the cross-cutting issues.
- ii. A Special Forum for Ministers of Education, Permanent/Principal Secretaries and TVET Regulatory Authorities from African countries;
- iii. The involvement of Representatives from African Union Commission, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), AfDB, NEPAD, UNESCO-UNEVOC, and other key development organizations and CAPA partners;
- iv. A 2-day (August 24 – 25) Youth Leadership Development Forum in collaboration with Africa Union Commission on the theme: “Empowerment of Youth through TVET for Happy and Tolerant Communities”.
- v. The Finals of Pitch Africa 2020 Talent Innovation Competition for TVET Students;
- vi. An Exhibition (August 24 – 28) showcasing technologies and R&D innovations by TVET institutions, research institutes, industry and industry.

For more information:

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