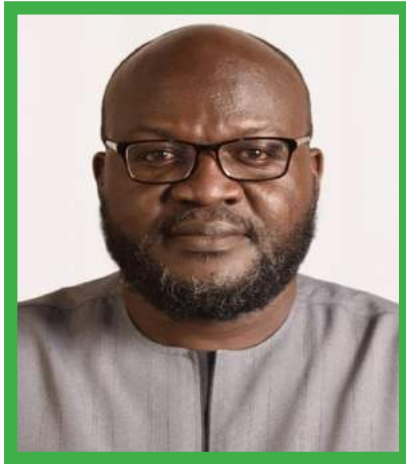


AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE ENTEBBE UGANDA



AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE



Mr. Robert Owino

*Conference Convener &
Institute Director
Africa Higher Education
Research Institute
(AHERI)*

Dr Vincent Ssembatya, Director-Quality Assurance and Accreditation, National Council for Higher Education Uganda
Dr Kevit Desai and all Directors of AHERI, Distinguished guests,
Greetings to you all!

Welcome to the 5th edition of the AHERI 2023 Conference
The AHERI series of conferences have been convened under the overarching theme of "Ideas to Action" since 2019. After each conference the scientific committee determines an outstanding idea that is implemented to demonstrate its impact to sustainable development. The ideas are either research projects or interventions which provide local solutions.

During the 4th edition of the AHERI Conference the participants drawn from different countries identified discussed experiences and perspectives on regional integration. It was evident that while regional integration has policy frameworks in place in most states, the benefits are not appreciated by most of the citizenry.

Two suggestions were proposed for action, a research project on integration aspects within the EAC and a conference focusing on regional integration.

Africa's cultural heritage and colonial boundaries present a unique background for regional integration. While regionalism demands territorial autonomy the complexity of regional integration can be reflected in such areas as the Flanders, Catalonia and Brittany. Regional integration is inevitable based on economic consideration and interests with the stronger and more powerful entities controlling the narrative. Until regional integration and initiatives become attractive to the majority, they remain ineffective and unsustainable.

There are a number of initiatives and policies that support regional integration from other jurisdictions. The conference through its discussions and presentations in the next 2 days will interrogate the gaps and overlaps in efforts to propose bold alternatives to ensure positive transformation. Regional integration has many facets and while we support upscaling and replication of best practices, suboptimal benefits and challenges demand a rethink and recommitment to the ideals of brotherhood and prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners in Uganda for their support and hospitality. This has shown the possibility of regional integration through partnership between academia, industry and government. Indeed, the country is home to key institutions such as IUCEA among other key institutions in higher education.

In 2020 we had the opportunity to convene the first online conference during the difficult period of the covid19 pandemic. Since then, we have noted the benefits of online engagement thus providing great opportunity for knowledge transfer. We therefore welcome our online audience as always and assure you of invaluable experience. We have structured the AHERI 2023 Conference to be interactive, with an aim of allowing broad contributions from various fields.



AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Mr. Robert Owino
*Conference Convener &
Institute Director Africa Higher
Education Research Institute
(AHERI)*

Mr. Owino holds a Bachelor's degree in Community Development from Daystar University; Master's Degree in Research and Development in Higher Education from Kassel University in Germany and is currently a PhD candidate.

He is the Founding Director at Africa Higher Education Research Institute (AHERI).

He has extensively worked on a number of national and international research projects while based at the International Center for Higher Education Research, Germany. Currently, he heads Africa Higher Education Research Institute.



**Dr. Vincent Aloysius
Ssembatya**
*Director Quality Assurance and
Accreditation National Council
for Higher Education*


Dr. Vincent Aloysius Ssembatya is the Director Quality Assurance and Accreditation at National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), the Higher Education Regulator of Uganda.

His current role involves overseeing the licensure and establishment, planning, development and strategic guidance of all Higher Education Training Institutions (Universities, Other Degree Awarding Institutions and Other Tertiary Institutions) in the Country.

These include, institutional and curriculum accreditation, monitoring and evaluation and coordination and mentorship of the leadership and governance of over 250 accredited Higher Education Training Institutions (both public and private).

He holds a PhD from University of Florida.

He has previously served at Makerere University as a lecturer and senior lecturer, Dean Faculty of Science and Director of Quality Assurance.



AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Dr. Kevit Desai

*Member – AHERI Advisory Board
Former Principal Secretary (PS)
State Department of East Africa
Community (EAC)*

Dr. Kevit Desai is the former Principal Secretary in the State Department of East Africa Community in the Ministry of East Africa Community and Regional Development. He is also the founding chairman of Linking Industry with Academia (LIWA).

Dr. Desai was the Chairman of Council, Technical University of Mombasa and Chairman of The Board of Governors – Karen Technical Training Institute for the Deaf.

He is Chairman of the Board of Young Scientists Kenya. He also serves as the Chairman of Board of Trustees at the United States International University Africa (USIU).



Mr. Barrack Otieno

*Director Partnership and ICT Africa
Higher Education Research Institute
(AHERI), Kenya*

Mr. Barrack Otieno is a Trustee of the Kenya ICT Action Network. He is a Management Information Systems graduate of the Multi Media University of Kenya.

Mr. Otieno served at the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum in Geneva, Switzerland as a Fellow as well as a consultant between the years 2010 and 2011 and was involved in the preparation of the fifth and sixth Internet governance fora in Vilnius Lithuania and Nairobi Kenya respectively.

He was also a Commonwealth Fellow to the fourth Internet Governance Forum in Sharm El Sheikh Egypt in 2009. In addition he has also been part of the organizing teams of the Kenya, East African and Africa Internet governance fora for the last ten years.



AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

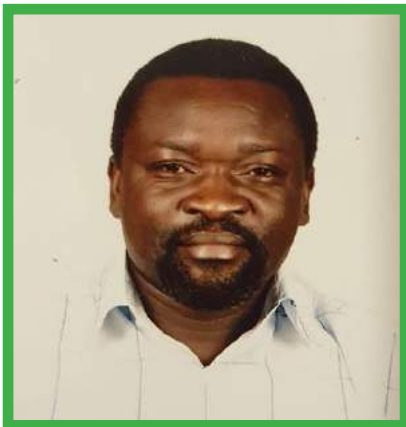


Prof. Hellen Inyega
*Associate Professor at the
University of Nairobi*

Prof. Inyega is an Associate Professor - Language, Literacy, Special and Early Childhood Education at the Department of Educational Communication Technology at the University of Nairobi. She is also a Language, Literacy, Numeracy, Special Education, Early Childhood Education and Learning Assessment Consultant.

She holds her Masters of Education in Special Education (1999 – 2001) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

She also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) (1995- 1996) from Kenyatta University. From her undergraduate studies she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature in English and Kiswahili (1988 -1991).



Prof. John Obiero Ogone
*Professor of Linguistics – Jaramogi
Oginga Odinga University of Science
and Technology (JOOUST), Kenya
AHERI Advisory Board*

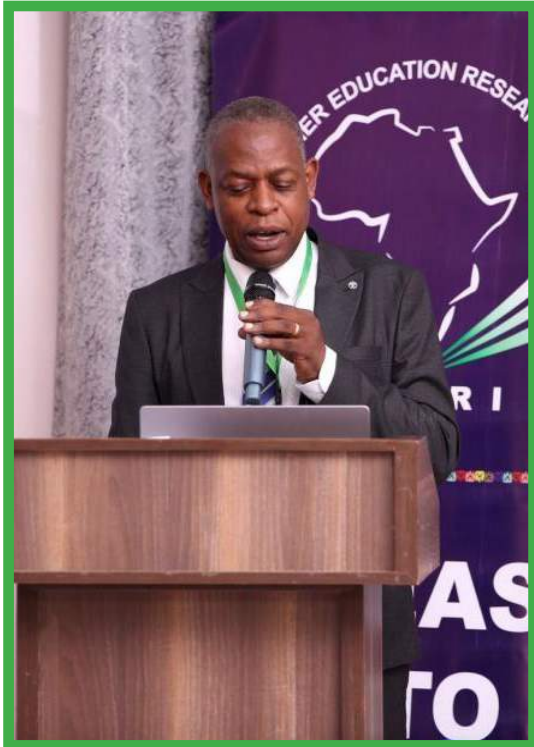
Prof. John Obiero Ogone (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST – Kenya). Ogone is a DAAD alumnus having undertaken his doctoral studies from Leipzig University between 2007-2010.

He has been teaching Linguistics since 2001 at various universities including Maseno, University of Nairobi, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, USIU, Al-Jouf and JOOUST universities.

He also holds a Master of Arts in Linguistics from Maseno University. From his undergraduate studies, he holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in English Language and Literature from Moi University.

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Keynote Address



Dr. Vincent Aloysius Ssembatya

*Director Quality Assurance and Accreditation
National Council for Higher Education*

In the present context, the African continent's abundant resources necessitate an intensive effort to unlock their full potential.

It is necessary that our institutions undergo a profound transformation, reorienting their curriculum and research efforts towards the vision outlined in Agenda 2063 – The Africa we want.

We must also work tirelessly to raise awareness about the Vision 2050 targets, charting a course for our collective future.

A stark reality confronts us – there exists a notable deficit in research output and spending in African universities. It is high time we escalate our commitment in this regard. We must invest more in research and development, fostering an environment where innovation thrives.

Moreover, the alignment of university education with economic needs is supreme. Our universities should become hubs that produce graduates ready to tackle the challenges of the job market. High levels of unemployment demand our immediate attention, and through strategic alignment, we can work towards reducing these alarming figures.

I call upon governments to recognize the crucial role of universities as public goods. It is essential to increase funding, making education accessible to all. Furthermore, the proposition of establishing differential tuition pricing and targeted aid aims to break down financial barriers, ensuring that education is not a privilege but a right for all.

In crafting the way forward, comprehensive policy frameworks are indispensable. We must devise strategies to increase enrollment, improve financing mechanisms, and enhance curricula. A special emphasis on STEM disciplines is crucial, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the future.

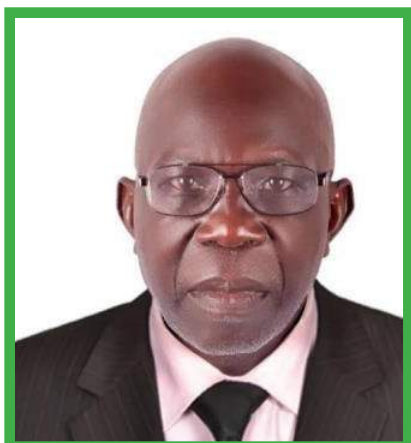
Regional collaboration stands as a corner stone for progress. Let us forge partnerships among African nations, leveraging our collective resources to propel our universities to new heights. Internationalization, too, is key; it opens doors to global collaborations and exchange programs, placing African universities on the world stage.

Finally, let us not forget the imperative of gender and equity considerations. Our educational reforms must foster inclusivity and equal opportunities for all, breaking down barriers that hinder the full potential of every individual.

The journey ahead requires a multifaceted. Together, let us embark on this transformational towards a brighter future for African universities, one that aligns with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and Vision 2050.



Panelists



Prof. David K. Olema
*Dean Faculty of Science and Education
Busitema University, Uganda.*



Dr. Catherine Promise Biira (PhD)
*University Secretary – St. Ignatius University
Kabale (IGUKA), Uganda.*



Dr. Joshua Isiko
*Team Leader Productivity and Acceleration Science
Technology and Innovation
Secretariat, Uganda.*



Fr. Dr. Abel Beinomugisha
*Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs St.
Ignatius University Kabale (IGUKA) Uganda.*



Dr. Chikas Dafulani
*Senior Lecturer, Department of Religion
and Philosophy University of Jos Nigeria.*



Presentation 01

HARMONIZATION , QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN AFRICA



Ms. Marie Eglantine Juru
*Project Officer, Higher Education at the
Association of African Universities (AAU)*

ABSTRACT

Harmonization of quality assurance and accreditation processes-is a critical endeavor for enhancing the educational and research landscape in Africa. This paper delves into the challenges and trends associated with harmonization efforts on the continent. Challenges include diverse institutional contexts, varying regulatory frameworks, and limited resources, which hinder a seamless integration of quality assurance practices.

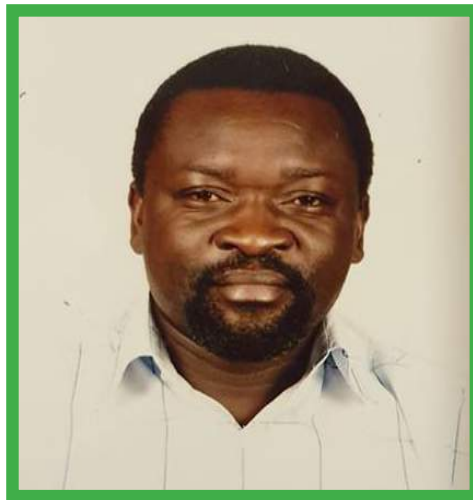
However, the evolving trend towards harmonization emphasizes the need for standardized quality assurance mechanisms, mutual recognition of qualifications, and collaborative accreditation frameworks across African nations.

This abstract explores the initiatives and strategies aimed at achieving harmonization, such as the establishment of regional accreditation bodies, the adoption of common quality standards, and the promotion of information sharing. Recognizing and addressing these challenges while capitalizing on the emerging trends will be essential for fostering a unified and robust higher education and research environment in Africa.



Presentation 02

TOWARDS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONALISM MODELS TO PROGRAMS



Prof. John Obiero Ogone

Professor of Linguistics – Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kenya

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the need of capacity building for research within African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and endeavors to transition from conceptual models to actionable programs. The paper outlines the pressing need for enhanced research capabilities in African HEIs, considering factors such as historical challenges, resource constraints, and the evolving global research landscape.

Drawing from various conceptual models, the paper explores frameworks that provide a foundation for effective capacity building initiatives. These models encompass strategies for faculty development, infrastructure improvement, and fostering a research-centric culture within institutions. Transitioning from theory to practice, the paper clarifies on concrete programs designed to build research capacity in African HEIs.

It addresses the practical implementation of mentorship programs, collaborative research networks, and the integration of technology to facilitate research dissemination and collaboration. Furthermore, the paper discusses the role of partnerships, both international and intracontinental, as catalysts for sustainable capacity building.

In conclusion, this paper contributes to the discourse on strengthening research capacity in African HEIs by bridging the gap between theoretical models and actionable programs. By offering insights into effective strategies, the paper aims to guide institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable initiatives that propel African higher education towards a research-intensive future.



Presentation 03

ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ,RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN PROMOTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA



Ms. Mwende Njiraini

African Initiative Coordinator Diplo Foundation

ABSTRACT

This paper explores the interconnected roles of higher education, research, and innovation in fostering regional integration across the African continent. Recognizing the transformative potential of collaboration, the paper delves into how these elements contribute to breaking down barriers, promoting cross-border cooperation, and addressing shared challenges. The paper emphasizes the crucial role of higher education institutions as catalysts for regional collaboration. It highlights the impact of academic partnerships, joint research initiatives, and student exchanges in fostering a sense of shared identity and purpose among nations.

The role of higher education in nurturing a skilled and adaptable workforce capable of contributing to regional developments is also underscored. Research is identified as a cornerstone in promoting regional integration, serving as a bridge between nations by addressing common issues and leveraging collective expertise. The paper explores collaborative research projects, knowledge-sharing platforms, and the establishment of regional research networks as key mechanisms for enhancing cooperation and understanding among African countries.

Innovation is positioned as a driving force for economic integration and shared prosperity. The paper discusses how fostering a culture of innovation within higher education institutions contributes to the development of solutions to regional challenges and the creation of a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem. The paper also addresses the importance of supportive policies and frameworks that facilitate regional integration efforts in higher education, research, and innovation. It discusses the role of governments and regional bodies in incentivizing collaboration, harmonizing standards, and removing regulatory barriers.

In conclusion, this paper advocates for a holistic approach that recognizes the synergies between higher education, research, and innovation in promoting regional integration in Africa. By leveraging the collective strengths of nations and investing in collaborative initiatives, African countries can harness the transformative power of education, research, and innovation to build a more integrated and resilient continent. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders committed to advancing regional integration in Africa.



Presentation 04

THE ROLE OF KENYA IN THE TRANS-AFRICAN SPREAD OF THE MAIZE STREAK VIRUS A



Dr. Daniel Pande

*Senior Lecturer Biological and Biomedical Science
Technology Department, Laikipia University*

ABSTRACT

The role of Kenya in the trans-African spread of the Maize Streak Virus A (MSV-A), a devastating pathogen affecting one of Africa's staple crops. The paper outlines the context of the research, acknowledging the significance of maize in the continent's agricultural landscape and the economic importance of addressing viral threats. Utilizing molecular and epidemiological approaches, the study examines the genetic diversity and transmission patterns of MSV-A in Kenya. Through comprehensive genomic analyses, the research sheds light on the evolutionary dynamics of the virus and its potential routes of dissemination across national borders.

The paper underscores Kenya's unique position as a key player in the regional spread of MSV-A, considering factors such as trade networks, agricultural practices, and climatic conditions. Insights gained from this study have broader implications for understanding the dynamics of viral transmission in agricultural ecosystems and inform strategies for mitigating the impact of Maize Streak Virus A on food security in Africa.

By clarifying the role of Kenya in the trans-African spread of MSV-A, this research contributes valuable knowledge to the development of region-specific intervention and management strategies, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to address the complex challenges posed by viral pathogens in crucial staple crops across the African continent.



Presentation 05

CHALLENGES AND TRENDS IN RESEARCH FUNDING FOR AFRICA



Ms. Ruth Dickson

*Project Officer Science Granting Councils Initiative
Capacity Building Programs, Association of African
Universities, Ghana*

ABSTRACT

Research funding in Africa faces a myriad of challenges and is shaped by dynamic trends that impact the continent's scientific and technological progress. This paper explores the key challenges and emerging trends in research funding for Africa. The challenges include limited financial resources, unequal distribution of funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and a lack of infrastructure.

Despite these obstacles, trends such as increased international collaboration, the rise of public-private partnerships, and a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary research are shaping the landscape of research funding in Africa. Additionally, the importance of addressing local priorities, promoting innovation, and fostering sustainable development has gained prominence.

Understanding and addressing these challenges while leveraging emerging trends will be crucial in unlocking the full research potential of the continent and fostering a knowledge driven future for Africa.





AHERI 2023 CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE



Dear Participants,

As we conclude the Africa Higher Education Institute 2023 Conference, I am inspired by the rich knowledge shared and the spirited discussions on the crucial role of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation in promoting regional integration.

The diverse perspectives have shown that education is a transformative force, shaping a united future for our continent.

The commitment of speakers, presenters, and participants to advancing higher education for Africa's collective prosperity is commendable.

Our institutions are catalysts for positive change, adapting curricula, encouraging collaboration, and harnessing research for regional integration.

The following key highlights and recommendations emerged from the conference sessions:

- There is need to develop a Policy Framework for Regional Integration.
- Institutions of Higher learning need to embrace public-private partnerships.
- Research Capacity and research funding need to be upscaled.

These recommendations serve as a roadmap for future collaborative efforts in shaping a united, prosperous, and harmonious Africa. As we leave, let's translate our passion into action, carrying the seeds of collaboration, insights, and partnerships for a more interconnected, prosperous Africa.

The next AHERI Conference will be held in Kigali Rwanda and the theme will be

"The AI Paradigm: Opportunities for Research and Development in Africa."

Thank you for your commitment to advancing higher education, research, and innovation in Africa.





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