CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme: Ensuring Quality through Enhanced Public-Private Partnership/Regional Cooperation

Private higher education institutions (PHEs) in Africa are playing critical roles in producing trained workforce needed to fuel socioeconomic growth and transformation of the continent. However, private providers of higher education face a number of formidable challenges related to national roadmaps, access to resources, external support, and infrastructure including ICT, all of which have implications for quality, affordability, accessibility and relevance of higher education. In this regard, there is a pressing need to strengthen national and regional cooperation to address these challenges, particularly through sustained public-private partnership in research, curriculum development and performance appraisals. Consultative platforms such as conferences, workshops, seminars and similar events provide ample opportunities for dialogue and sharing best practices/lessons on issues relevant to higher education vis-à-vis its role in sustainable development, peace-building and regional integration.

Cognizant of this fact, St. Mary’s University (SMU) has been organizing different national and international research fora to facilitate dialogue on the state of higher education. The International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa, which began in 2013, is one of such annual platforms going on uninterrupted for the last decade and a half. Looking back to the achievements of the past fifteen years, SMU is proud to have ensured the continuity and sustainability of this forum which is attracting a large number of contributors and participants from different parts of the globe.

The 15th International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa is being organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the Association of African Universities (AAU), the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA)/UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Education (MoE). All interested researchers, academics and development experts are kindly invited to submit Abstracts (maximum 400 words) and Papers or Posters on any of the following sub-themes:

Sub-theme I: Public-private partnership; regional/international cooperation, and the role of the Diaspora in African higher education;

Sub-theme II: Equity, accessibility, and affordability of private higher education in Africa;

Sub-theme III: Quality and relevance of private higher education; life-long learning; and teacher development in African higher education systems;

Sub-theme IV: The role of Research, ICT, science, technology, and innovation in regional integration;

Sub-theme V: Academic mobility, academic integrity, skills portability, youth employment, and migration studies in African higher education institutions;

Manuscript Preparation

- The Title Page of the Manuscript/Abstract should include the Sub-theme under which the paper will be presented.
- The Manuscript should have an Abstract of 300-400 words. Where applicable, the Abstract should indicate the main subject, objectives, methodology, major findings and conclusions of the research.
- The paper should be 20-22 pages including bibliography or list of references.
- The font should be Times New Roman (12 points) submitted in both word and PDF formats.
- Number of tables and figures should be kept to the minimum (3 to 5 tables per paper) with appropriate headings and number of tables), and
- Authors should take necessary caution to ensure academic honesty. All sources should be acknowledged. For internal citations please use author, date and page number, for direct quotations and author, date system for paraphrased ideas.

Please, observe the following deadlines:
1. Abstract submission 01 March 2017
2. Notification of acceptance of Abstract 18 March 2017
3. Online registration 01 May 2017
4. Submission of Full Paper & Power Point Presentations 15 June 2017
5. Publication of Abstracts and Program and Handbook 10 July 2017
6. Conference date 25-28 July 2017

Abstracts/papers or posters should be submitted by email to the Research and Knowledge Management Office (RoKMO), St. Mary's University at rakmo@smu.edu.et or rakmo.smu@gmail.com