

# ACADEMIA-PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FORUM AND EXHIBITIONS 2017

## *“The East African Common Higher Education Area: Opportunities for Industrialization through Academia-Public-Private Partnerships”*

October 19-20 2017

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### **Introduction**

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the East African Business Council (EABC), the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), and the East African Development Bank (EADB) are jointly organizing the Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2017, which will be held under the theme *The East African Common Higher Education Area: Opportunities for Industrialization through Academia-Public-Private Partnerships*. The Forum is expected to provide an avenue for stakeholders to strategize, deliberate and reinforce the EAC Partner States’ commitment to the wide range of aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as essential ingredients in driving industrialization and sustainable development. Subsequently, putting a distinctive emphasis on knowledge generation, translation and realization, bringing closer convergence between research, innovation and sustainable development.

The Forum will comprise of plenary sessions, breakaway sessions and exhibitions.

### **Plenary Sessions**

Selected Key Note presentation/s reflective of the Theme of the APPPF 2017 will be made in this session following presentations by the Organizing Team led by the EAC Secretary General, and the Key Note Address by the Guest of Honor, in accordance with the applicable protocol

### **Breakaway Sessions**

Specific sub-themes contributory to the Theme of the Forum will be structured into breakaway sessions where leading speakers will be divided per sessions in accordance with the area of expertise and experience as follows:

- i) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as a catalyst for transformation of the production systems and outputs
- ii) Contribution of small, medium and macro enterprises to ensure optimization of productive potential for sustainable economic growth
- iii) Education ecosystems for knowledge management and information sharing within the EAC industrialization processes
- iv) Role of centers-of-excellence initiatives in the EAC Partner States in industrialization

### **Exhibitions**

The plenary and breakaway sessions will run in parallel with exhibitions, in which processes, products and services emanating from research and innovations from universities, research institutions and private sector, both large scale and SMEs, will be showcased as a way of promoting and enhancing academia-public-private partnerships. The key message in the exhibitions will carry the notion that whereas publication of research findings in peer reviewed journals is good, translating these research findings into innovative products and services that can be commercialized and/or inform policy as well as used, is greater. On the other hand, the notion that innovative products and services need to continuously undergo scrutiny through research for improvement and enhanced competitiveness. The

exhibitions will therefore clarify the interface and modalities for joint or separate roles and actions among the academia, public and private players.

### **Rationale**

As the economies of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States evolve from traditionally agricultural, natural resources based and low-value manufacturing activities, research and innovation will remain critical pillars on which economic growth would increasingly depend. Articles 79 and 80 of the EAC Treaty, the Protocol for the establishment of the EAC Common Market, and the EAC Development Strategy, clearly articulate the region's commitment to transform the EAC economies through promoting human resource development, research and innovation, and supporting industrialization. This commitment also synergizes with the *EAC Industrialization Policy and Strategy 2012-2032* that calls for public-private sector participation in industrial development against a backdrop of extensive programmes in research, technology and innovation. This is also in line with the EAC Vision 2050, which provides the roadmap and strategies for transforming the Community into an upper-middle income region. Furthermore, the recent declaration of East Africa as a Common Higher Education Area has potential for consolidating the EAC integration agenda, anchored on comparable, compatible, coherent and harmonized systems of higher education. Effective operationalization of the Common Higher Education Area is expected to contribute significantly in the production of highly skilled human resources for the socio-economic transformation of the region because of the effective sharing of Higher Education resources in the EAC region pool, as well as enhanced usage of the human resource across the region because of mutual recognition of credentials.

In 2011, IUCEA and EABC entered into a partnership aimed at providing the point of connection between knowledge and human resources produced by higher education institutions in the region on the one hand, and the dissemination of the same to the private sector for their eventual diffusion into the productive, social and service sectors on the other. The partnership focuses on (i) enhancing linkage between the academia, research institutions, and public and private sector enterprises; (ii) promoting the utilization of higher education research output and innovations by the private sector/business community; (iii) promoting consultative engagement in curriculum and research development and implementation and (iv), jointly organizing dialogue forums and exhibitions. The pioneer Forum organizers – IUCEA and EABC- were joined by EADB in 2013 and EASTECO in 2017. These Forums have provided a cross-fertilisation engagement for promoting the utilization of higher education research outputs and innovations by the private sector/business community as well as by the public sector. The first jointly organized forum was held in October 2012, where it was resolved that the Forum will be held on annual basis.

This Forum will be used for consolidation of the partnership that has been evolving over the last several years, informed by the status of implementation of deliberations and recommendations of the previous forums, and the framework for roles to be played by various stakeholders.

### **Participation and Registration for the Forum and Exhibitions**

The Forum will be open to all stakeholders in East Africa and beyond, with specific focus on the participants from the academia, public and private sectors and the respective stakeholders, among the EAC Secretariat, Organs and Institutions; higher education institutions; African Centers of Excellence; employers, manufacturers and other players in the wide industry value chain and business community in general, National Commissions and Councils for higher education and national commissions and councils for science and technology in the EAC Partner States; other relevant government institutions and ministries; international organizations; NGOs; academics; researchers; innovators; students; SMEs; private individuals; the media; and any other stakeholders in academia and the private and public sectors in the EAC Partner States. Participation will be at the participants' own full cost, except in a few specific cases where the costs will be covered by the organizers (EABC, EASTECO, EADB and IUCEA as well as the Giz).

Members from among the earmarked stakeholders are invited to participate in the Forum and/or Exhibitions, by registering online at [www.iucea.org/forum](http://www.iucea.org/forum) by September 16 2017. Prospective participants who may be unable to register online should inform the organizers using the following e-mail addresses: [forum@iucea.org](mailto:forum@iucea.org).

### **Sponsorship and Support**

The Forum organizers hereby appeal to the private sector, the general business community, government institutions and international organizations, member institutions of IUCEA, EABC, EADB, EASTECO, and individuals, for financial contributions or any other support to facilitate organization of the Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2017. Support in kind (e.g. by supporting one or more of the Forum social events, procurement of T-shirts, banners, and other Forum materials, or supporting the publication of the Forum Catalogue) as well supporting any among the wide range of the forum's stakeholders is also welcome. Amongst other benefits, firms providing funding and any other support will be provided with ample advertisement space in the Forum Catalogue and during the Forum and Exhibitions sessions. Details on sponsorship will be found on a *link specific* for the sponsorship.

### **Forum Organizers**

#### **Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)**

IUCEA is an EAC Institution whose mission is to promote strategic and sustainable development of higher education systems and research for supporting East Africa's socio-economic development and regional integration. Its vision is to become an EAC strategic institution responsible for promoting, developing and coordinating human resources development and research in the region. The objectives of IUCEA are to facilitate networking among universities in East Africa, and with universities outside the region; provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of academic and other matters relating to higher education in East Africa; and facilitate the maintenance of internationally comparable higher education standards in East Africa so as to promote the region's international competitiveness. The functions of IUCEA include advising the EAC Partner States on higher education matters so as to contribute towards meeting national and regional developmental needs, coordinating inter-university cooperation in East Africa, and promoting internationally comparable higher education standards and systems for sustainable regional development.

#### **East African Business Council (EABC)**

EABC is the umbrella organization of the Private Sector in East Africa and is at the forefront in facilitating Private Sector participation in the EAC integration process. EABC members are drawn from the Private Sector in the EAC Partner States, consisting of companies, business associations and government agencies involved in facilitating trade. EABC projects and programmes are designed to; (i) bring together potential business partners by developing critical contacts and business relationships; (ii) provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas; (iii) raise East Africa's investment profile both regionally and globally; and (iv) address issues that limit private sector competitiveness in trade and investment. The strategic focus of EABC is to bring all private sector associations under EABC fold in order to (i) give the EAC private sector a stronger voice; (ii) enhance private-public sector dialogue with a view to ensuring that the private sector plays its rightful role in driving the EAC integration agenda; (iii) work towards a business environment that is conducive to trade and investment; (iv) enhance the capacity of EABC national focal points and other trade support institutions to be competent advocates for the private sector; and (v) improve private sector competitiveness through provision of regular business and trade information.

### **East African Development Bank (EADB)**

The East African Development Bank was established in 1967 under the Treaty of the then East African Co-operation that established the former EAC. In 1980 EADB was re-established under its own Charter, following the breakup of the former EAC in 1977. Under this Charter, the role and mandate of EADB were reviewed and its operational scope expanded. Under this expanded operational scope, EADB offers a broad range of financial services in the Member States of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda, with an overriding objective of strengthening socio-economic development and regional integration. The four Member States own EADB. Other shareholders include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), German Investment and Development Company (DEG), SBIC-Africa Holdings, Commercial Bank of Africa, Nairobi, Nordea Bank of Sweden, Standard Chartered Bank, London, and Barclays Bank Plc., London.

### **Contact**

All inquiries in regards to the Academic-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2017 can be made to the following contacts:

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