



THE 7TH AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE (RCE) CONFERENCE: Lusaka, Zambia

2nd to 4th August, 2017

VENUE: Cresta Golfview Hotel Lusaka

THEME: “Regional Centres of Expertise and Education for Sustainable Development Initiatives: Milestones for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals”

BACKGROUND

As countries of the world transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it has become imperative to take stock of the progress that African countries are making. This concern arises from the 2016 UNDP Report that an analysis of the performance of African countries on MDGs revealed uneven performance (and even performance reversal). The concerns raise questions about the sustainability of the progress achieved by African countries and strengthen the call for structural transformation and a sustainable approach to development. This underscores the importance of setting milestones that spell out initiatives and strategic actions for achieving sustainable development among African countries, such as innovation, resource mobilization and action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference of Regional Centres of Expertise provides a forum through which experts from across the African continent can meet, align, coordinate, innovate, and report on various education for sustainable development initiatives they are working on to implement Agenda 2030. Experts from African RCEs have been meeting annually to deliberate and reflect on this fundamental role. Two years ago participants who met at the 5th African RCE Conference held in Entebbe, Uganda reflected on successes, challenges and opportunities of implementing ESD within a post 2015 perspective. Last year, delegates to the 6th African RCE Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya focused on developing capacities of African RCEs for the implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. This year’s conference will focus on spelling out milestones that the African RCE network needs to follow to meet the sustainable development agenda through education. It explores ways of strengthening African RCEs as multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling up innovation, resources and action to deliver the SDGs in local and regional contexts.

CONFERENCE THEME:

The theme for the 7th African RCE Conference is “**Regional Centres of Expertise and Education for Sustainable Development Initiatives: Milestones for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals.**”

The Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) global network provides useful opportunities for implementing education for sustainable development (ESD) as a mechanism for achieving the SDGs. Education is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and essential for the success of all SDGs. Recognizing the important role of education, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights education as a stand-alone goal (SDG 4) and also includes targets on education under several other SDGs, notably those on health; growth and employment; sustainable consumption and production; and climate change. In fact, education can accelerate progress towards the achievement of all of the SDGs and therefore should be part of the strategies to achieve each of them. The renewed education agenda encapsulated in Goal 4 is comprehensive, holistic, ambitious, inspirational and universal, and inspired by a vision of education that transforms the lives of individuals, communities and societies, leaving no one behind.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

As indicated earlier, the 7th African RCE Conference explores ways of strengthening African RCEs as multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling up innovation, resources and action to deliver the SDGs in local and regional contexts. The event aims to highlight and promote the role of ESD in achieving the SDGs at local and regional levels. It will bring together multi-stakeholder learning experiences and expertise on the implementation of ESD and the SDGs. The event will also showcase the work of the African RCE network on ESD.

The specific objectives of the conference are to:

1. Mobilize national, regional and global efforts that aim at achieving effective and inclusive partnerships in African RCEs
2. Show case the work of African RCE network on Education for Sustainable Development
3. Establish a sector-wide and multiple sector approach for assessing and reporting RCE activities
4. Share ESD opportunities and challenges associated with implementation of the sustainable development goals.
5. Discuss roles adults and youths can play in RCE activities
6. Review action plan for African RCEs.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Effective coordination and common agenda for implementing RCE activities
2. Increased capacities on assessing and reporting RCE activities
3. Shared strategies on implementing SDGs through ESD
4. Publication of articles in RCE Bulletin and journals
5. Strategies on how to involve the youths and adults alike in RCE activities
6. Revised action plan for African RCEs

THE VENUE

The conference will be held at Cresta Golfview Hotel in Lusaka. The 78 roomed hotel is situated in Munali area next to Chainama Golf course. It is a three star hotel, located 16 km from Kenneth Kaunda International Airport along Great East Road. Its location makes it very accessible to most of the central business district. The University of Zambia, Manda Hill Shopping Centre, Arcades Entertainment Centre and the new East Park Mall are situated with- in a 5 minute drive from Cresta Golfview. The hotel offers full conference services to both local and international guests.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference Organising Committee (COC) invites presentations on projects based on the ESD initiatives as milestones for achieving SDGs at the 7th Africa RCE Conference under the following subthemes:

1. Capacity development initiatives on integrated and coherent approaches to implementing ESD in Africa.
2. RCEs: towards a Strategic Action for achieving SDGs.
3. RCEs: Policies and Initiatives on Education for Sustainable Development
4. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Education and RCEs
5. ESD opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of the SDGs.

TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS

(a) Oral Presentations

The conference will comprise plenary sessions with key note speeches focusing on the RCEs and ESD initiatives as milestones for achieving SDGs. Plenary sessions will also feature paper presentations and panel discussions. Paper presentations will focus on how RCEs are implementing the GAP and SDGs through their community engagement practices, long term and short-term projects. Time allocated for oral presentations (other than key note addresses) is 15 minutes, including questions from the audience.

Projection means: Each room will be equipped with a projector and a fixed computer for direct projection. The computers are equipped with Windows and Microsoft Office 2007 or later versions (Word, Excel, and Power Point) and with USB drives. Speakers, who would like to use special software or use their PC, should contact the Secretariat, at least 30 minutes before the session.

(b) Poster Presentations

Poster exhibitions as usual will form part of the conference presentations. Each poster session author will be provided with a poster board area and mounting pins. The poster number and title will be indicated on the board. Authors will be responsible for mounting their posters the morning of their presentation and removing them at the end of the day.

Should you wish to make oral and/or poster presentations on any of the subthemes, please indicate as such on Registration Form.

Towards the end of the conference, a closed meeting to look at a road map for African RCEs will form part of the conference.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

- 25 June (midnight, CAT): Deadline application for those applying for fund support. *Please note that incomplete or delayed applications may not be counted as candidates for the fund support.
- 27 June: Announcement of the selection result for the fund support.
- July 16: Deadline for case abstracts for those who do not need fund support/ Registration deadline for all participants

CONTACT (S):

Conference secretariat:

rceusaka@gmail.com

Global RCE Service Centre: rceconference@unu.edu