

Developing learnability and employability at eLearning Africa

A large youthful population, disruptive innovative technology, and vibrant entrepreneurial activity hold the keys to unlocking Africa's future success. It's time to maximise their potential. Dedicated to examining the possibilities for using new communications technology to spread educational opportunity, eLearning Africa will be hosted in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 23 - 25 October 2019.



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Now in its 14th year, the theme for the annual pan-African conference is “learnability and employability”. The programme covers a range of topics, all linked to actions that must be scaled up today in order to create a better future for Africa tomorrow. Africa’s challenges and opportunities are immense. There is clearly no “one size fits all” approach to addressing them.

With the majority of Africa’s population millennial and younger, significant time will be dedicated during three days of intensive presentations, workshops, seminars and ministerial meetings to examining how the continent’s youth potential can be most effectively harnessed. Young Africans need to be well-prepared for the digital disruptions that are already transforming and will continue to transform the future of work in their countries. Which skills must they have to thrive in the digital future? In response to that question, there will be sessions focused, among other themes, on digital inclusion and how to make the Fourth Industrial Revolution a reality that benefits Africa. Others will explore how to develop students’ skills and attitudes that foster entrepreneurship, creativity, persistence and ambition.

With the role of quality teachers critical to the formation of young minds, the programme also focuses on strategies to enhance teaching and learning that are universally relevant, transcend traditional academic disciplines, and support diverse occupational and community needs. In that context, innovative methods that aim to improve teachers’ performance, whilst motivating and encouraging them to embrace innovation will be discussed.

Additionally, eLearning Africa 2019 will explore how interactive virtual tools can provide opportunities to practice laboratory techniques and perform authentic workplace tasks online, whilst promoting science education in an attractive and exciting manner. Connectivity, an essential element in the virtual world, is clearly still a major issue in Africa. The programme thus dedicates a session to highlighting solutions that provide affordable access to internet and offline educational services and content, anywhere.

Africa has no shortage of entrepreneurs. The challenge for Africa is to move from tackling unemployment to looking at how entrepreneurial activity can add value, employ more young people, and create sustainable livelihoods. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are also extremely important for the growth and development of Africa. However, SMEs face many challenges, some of which are related to a lack of appropriate training.

This year's programme therefore also explores different initiatives in Africa, which aim to provide entrepreneurs with the crucial knowledge and skills they need to grow their businesses and make them sustainable. Discussions will also address how the demand for entrepreneurial training and skills can be met outside traditional channels and explore different initiatives to attract both learners and entrepreneurs.

As always, there will be a lively discussion at the 'eLearning Africa Debate.' This year, the motion for debate, which is likely to be highly controversial is "This House believes Governments are failing to provide young people with the skills they need to prepare for the future."

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