



UNAM EDUCATION CONFERENCE (EDUCON)

17-19 September 2024 | Windhoek (venue to be announced)

Theme: "Fostering Innovative Skills-Based Education in the 21st Century for a Sustainable Future"

1. BACKGROUND

The 21st century has witnessed unprecedented and disruptive changes that have impacted lives worldwide. These changes have included, among others: high levels of globalization, rapid changes in information and communication technology, 4th and 5th Industrial Revolution, the shift towards a knowledge-based society, disruptive crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and protracted wars in Ukraine and the Gaza strip, as well as global market competition fueled by Neo-liberal policies. The unprecedented and disruptive changes have constructed a particular kind of society, a highly complex society, that demands mankind to possess a particular set of skills to successfully navigate one's way around it and to achieve sustainability.

On the education front, the new and highly complex society demands a new kind of graduate, one with a particular set of skills or attributes to survive in the new society. Higher education, and education in general, are expected to produce a new kind of graduate, one with attributes such as: creativity, versatility, innovativeness, critical thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, and a positive disposition towards team-work. Equally, the world of work has been redefined the world of work across all sectors of the economy, requiring transformation in our daily routines and practices of work. Present day complex society therefore calls for innovative skills-based education for a sustainable future. Through its bi-annual education conference, the EDUCON., the University of Namibia School of Education intends to explore the call of fostering innovative skills-based education in the 21st century for a sustainable future.

2. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the conference is to provide a platform for educators, researchers, policy makers, and education stakeholders to explore the various avenues and possibilities of fostering innovative skills-based education in the 21st century for a sustainable future.

The objective will be explored through the following tracks:

Track 1: Early Childhood and Junior Primary Skills-based education

- Emotional Intelligence and sustainable Leadership in Early Childhood education
- Community education as foundation for early childhood education
- Skills-based education and employment creation in early childhood and junior primary education

Track 2: Intermediate, Technical and Vocational Skills-based education

- Emotional Intelligence and sustainable Leadership in Technical and Vocational education
- Leadership and managing talent in ITVE skills-based context
- Skills-based education and employment creation in ITVE

Track 3: Secondary Skills-based Education

- Emotional Intelligence and sustainable Leadership in secondary education
- Politics and law in skills based education
- The role of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in a skills-based society
- Learning schools, organizations and human resources
- Education for human rights and gender-based education in a troubled world
- Promoting psycho-social supports for teaching and learning
- Leadership and managing talent in secondary school skills-based context

Track 4: Higher Education Studies Skills-based Education

- Emotional Intelligence and sustainable Leadership in higher education
- Fake News, Disinformation and Misinformation in higher education
- Politics and law in skills based higher education
- Nurturing higher education systems, processes for skills-based driven economy
- Leadership and managing talent in a skills-based context for higher education
- quality assurance management in higher education

Track 5: Adult Learning, Community Development Skills-based education

- Planning, development, implementation and evaluation of a skills-based adult learning and development curriculum
- Embracing adult learning and development to promote social development
- Skills-based education and employment creation for community development
- Indigenous Knowledge systems

Track 6: Organisational learning and Development Skills based education

- Emotional Intelligence and sustainable Leadership in organisational learning and development
- Project management as a new tool to manage education in a digitized world
- Politics and law in skills based education for learning and development
- Organizational Learning and development as a tool for workplace learning
- Corporate strategy and the learning organisation

Track 7: Generic track

- Religion, morality and skills-based education
- Fake News, Disinformation and Misinformation in education
- Restoration of teacher-professional image and ethics
- Planning, development, implementation and evaluation of a skills-based teacher education curriculum
- Fostering Assessment and evaluation for skills-based education
- Education for a sustainable future
- The digital landscape, including the disruptive technologies of the 4th & 5th IR, Artificial Intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT) and how they construct and re-define the context of learning and teaching, work in general, and life in society at large;
- Curriculum transformation for skills-based education and a sustainable future
- Innovative learning and teaching that foster skills-based education and a sustainable future
- Skills-based education from the perspectives of critical pedagogy
- Green Energy and Technologies Education

3. EXPECTED CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

- Acquisition of new knowledge, insights and practices in skills-based education
- Publication of conference proceedings to reach a wider audience

4. MODE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference will be blended, combining face-to-face and online virtual platforms.

5. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- Academics in higher education institutions
- Higher education leaders (Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department, etc.)
- Teachers and other education stakeholders
- Government officials
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Business sector
- Development partners
- Students and Student Organizations
- Parents
- Community development officials
- Learning and Development practitioners
- Officials responsible for Adult Education programmes
- Organizational Development (OD) Practitioners

6. CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Extended Abstracts Deadline:** 15 July 2024
- Full Papers: 10 August 2024
- Submission Guidelines: See conference website

7. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND FEES

Prospective participants are expected to register online by following the link <https://forms.gle/r3SGjmrXTTrUoWZq9>

Kindly follow the instructions on the link. A Conference registration fee is payable by all participants using the account details provided on the registration form.

The fees are payable as follows:

- Namibians & SADC members early bird (May-June) registration fee N\$2500.00
- Namibians & SADC members late registration fee (after June) N\$2800.00
- Non-SADC participants early bird registration (May-June) N\$3000.00
- Non-SADC participants late registration fee (after June) N\$3300.00

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, visit our Conference Website:

<https://www.unam.edu.na/educon2024>,

Alternatively, contact our Conference Coordinators through email address:

Conference Chairperson:
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