



AFRICALICS

Report

on

AfricaLics preconference meeting

held on Wednesday, 17 April 2019

**Venue: University of Dar es Salaam
Confucius Institute (CI) Conference Room**

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Musambya Mutambala, STIPRO

Ms. Lanta Daniel, STIPRO

Introduction

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) co-hosted a preconference meeting at Confucius Institute Conference Room, UDSM as part of the African Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLICS) events.

Context of the preconference

The African Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLICS) aims to hold a research conference every two years at a minimum since its launch in 2012. The focus is primarily to learn the current state of research on Innovation and Development (I&D) in Africa. The network is more generally for the academic and the research community; but also targets the policy makers and the business community.

The Africalics conference aims to bring together scholars (between 150 - 200) working on innovation and development in Africa with some leading scholars from outside Africa usually in attendance, as well as policy makers and business community interested in this field. This year, the 4th AfricaLICS Conference is scheduled to take place from 22 - 24 October 2019 at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Objective of the preconference

Tanzania is the host of the upcoming 4th Africalics conference. However, previous Globelics conferences and AfricaLics events report a low number of successful applicants from Tanzania and low-income (LIC) countries in general. A number of reasons explain that situation, such as applicants struggle to place their work within the innovation literature, some papers lack methodological rigour and face language barrier. The organization of the preconference therefore aimed at

- increasing the number of accepted papers from Tanzania in the AfricaLics conference in 2019 (immediate goal),
- supporting development of quality papers for submission to subsequent AfricaLics and Globelics conferences and other relevant events (short/medium term), and

- explore medium and long term goals aimed at building a critical mass of scholars who attain some level of capacity to embed Innovation and Development (I&D) thinking in their respective research and academic circles

Participants

The conference was attended by 43 participants from academia, research institutions, government agencies and private sector. Among the participants, 21 were males and 22 females.

Proceedings

The meeting started with welcoming remarks from the host institutions. Dr Amelia Sylvery Buriyo, Deputy Director in charge of Innovation at the University of Dar Es Salaam Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (UDIEC), Prof. Mohamed Sheikh, Director of Research at the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and DR. Bitrina Diyamett, Executive Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organisation (STIPRO), all together, have presented warm welcome to the participants and in particular, to the facilitators from Globelics and Africalics Secretariat and to the Guest of Honour, Prof. Cuthbert Kimambo, Deputy VC Chancellor, Research, University of Dar Es Salaam (UDSM). Prof Kimambo honored the meeting by officiating the event despite his busy schedule.

The Guest of honour thanked the organizing committee from STIPRO, COSTECH and UDIEC for their commitment and collaboration; he particularly presented much appreciation to AfricaLics for accepting the organization of the 4th Africalics conference to be conducted at UDSM, Tanzania. He further informed that as it is the case for STIPRO and COSTECH for the promotion of innovation, UDSM is working hard to ensure innovation becomes a working tool for the improvement of the socio-economic situation in the country whereby the university sensitizes for the creation of hubs for innovation. He lastly urged participants to keep working together with the network and institutions that facilitate innovation, such as Globelics, Africalics, COSTECH, UDSM, UDIEC, STIPRO, NMAIST as these are also involved in providing support to grassroots innovators.

The opening speech from the Guest of Honour was followed by presentations from three speakers. First, Dr Ann Kingiri, from the

Africalics secretariat based at the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) informed that Africalics, as the network, was launched in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania during the "Tanzania National Workshop and All African Globelics seminar on Innovation and Development" that was jointly organized by STIPRO and Globelics in March, 2012, at the Kunduchi Beach Hotel and Resort. Since then, Africalics envisions to improving the development and utilization of quality research, carried out by African researchers, for more informed policy decisions for socio-economic development of the region. Major Africalics activities in building innovation and development research capacity include PhD academies, training of PhD supervisors, visiting fellow programmes and holding of conferences; the network also helps in the development of teaching materials on innovation and development for postgraduate courses; it also enables research partnership building.

Dr Bitrina Diyamett, being motivated by Tanzania as the host of the 4th Africalics conference, made a key note presentation on "Innovation and transformative capacities for growth and sustainable development in Africa". The paper mainly focused on clarifying key concepts of the conference theme as a way of helping participants better understand the major focus of the conference theme, and thereby helping them to submit quality papers for the conference. Key in these concepts is to address the tradeoffs between innovation for inclusive growth and innovation for environmental concern.

Dr Rebecca Hanlin shared the tips on "how to write a good quality paper" by urging the participants to fit their papers to the conference theme and utilize in the paper title and abstract the concepts from the sub-themes. Dr Hanlin further urged participants to have paper structure that contains all the sections expected in academic papers and observe call requirements before, as they write papers and before the submission.

Lastly, Prof Edward Lorenz, Globelics Board member, shared major achievements from the implementation of Africalics and Globelics. He informed that Africalics activities receive funds from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) that support PhD students in different programmes and enable conferences, events and partnerships on research projects.

Major meeting outcomes

- Participants expressed their interest to submit papers for presentation during the October 2019 Africalics conference. The facilitators urged them to get inspired by the quality of the publications found on special issues and Africalics website
- There emerged the idea of creating "NationLics", a platform of national actors - academic and the research community - more generally working on Innovation, Economics and Development. The idea was inspired by experience from STIPRO in terms of capacity building through conducting internal seminars. "TanzaniaLics" was therefore suggested to academia and research community actors to come together to discuss papers and issues related to innovation and development. As a starting point, UDIEC volunteered to convene such meetings.
- Similarly, participants expressed the need to create Whatsapp group that could facilitate communications and information sharing among STI scholars
- Papers on Gender issues from innovation perspective were encouraged.

Closing remarks

Following the whole day of presentations and active discussions, was closing remarks from Dr Adalgot Komba, STIPRO Board Chairperman. He thanked both the participants and the conference facilitators for their commitment and contributions toward improving the quality of papers for the AfricalICS Conference 2019 from Tanzania. He further urged the government of Tanzania to support such initiatives and others that aim at building national capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

Dr. Komba was happy to observe that most of the participants were young people who have adequate time to learn and build their expertise in innovation and development research. He urged them to work hard, as they have long way to go. He lastly commended the conference collaborators, namely STIPRO, COSTECH and UDSM for a successful organization of the preconference event, and that he is looking forward for the forthcoming conference in October 2019 and others in the near future. With these few words he declared the preconference meeting closed.

Event Programme

Event Facilitator: Prof. Bavo B. Nyichomba, CoET, UDSM

Time	Topic	Details	Proposed speakers
8:30-9:00	Registration	ALL	ALL
9:00-9:07	Welcome remarks	UDSM	Dr. Ambrose Itika Director, UDIEC
9:07-9:14		COSTECH	Dr. Amos Nungu D.G COSTECH
9:14-9:20		STIPRO	Dr. Bitrina Diyamett Executive Director, STIPRO
9:20-9:30	Opening Remarks	UDSM	Prof. Cuthbert Kimambo DVC Research and Knowledge Exchange, UDSM
9:30-10:00	General introduction to AfricaLics	History of AfricaLics, Conferences and Background to the Conference in 2019	Dr. Ann Kingiri, AfricaLics Secretariat, ACTS, Kenya
10:00-10:15	Tea Break		
10:15-10:45	Plenary session	Setting the scene key note - Innovation and transformative capacities for growth and sustainable development in Africa	Dr. Bitrina Diyamett, STIPRO, Tanzania
10:45-11:00	Developing a good quality paper	Introduction: How to write a good quality paper	Dr. Rebecca Hanlin Secretariat, ACTS, Kenya
11:00-13:15	Discussion		Facilitator/all
13:15-14:15	Lunch		
14:15-15:00	Way forward	Next steps: -Developing papers for the Conference	Dr. Rebecca Hanlin Secretariat, ACTS, Kenya
15:00-15:45	Mentorship	Mentorship ideas -as a long-term objective of building capacity in I & D in Africa	Prof. Edward Lorenz, Globelics Board, France
15:45-16:00	Closing remarks	-	Dr. Adalgot Komba, Board Chairman, STIPRO, Tanzania, and IDS, UDSM

16:00	Tea Break and departure	
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List of Participants

S/N	Names	Position	Institution	Contact
1	Dr. Pendo Bigambo	Lecturer	UDSM	0765818884; pbigambo@gmail.com
2	Dr. Athuman Mgumia	Ag Director, CDTT	COSTECH	0754687067; mgumia@yahoo.com ; athuman.mgumia@costech.or.tz
3	Ms. Magreth Kinyau	Agr. Research Officer	Kibaha Research Institute	0713540093; kinyaum@yahoo.com
4	Dr. Flower Msuya	Senior Researcher	Institute of Marine Technology Zanzibar	0762022356; fmsuya1@gmail.com
5	Dr. Lilian Pasape	Lecturer	Nelson Mandela	0754364675; liliane.pasape@nm-aist.ac.tz ; lilypasape@yahoo.com
6	Mr. Godwin Nsemwa	Ass. Lecturer	UDSM	0764507472; nsemwagoodwine@yahoo.com
7	Dr. Irene Mkini Luggalo	Lecturer	UDSM	0753242490; irenemkini@hotmail.com ; lugggala.irene@udsm.ac.tz
8	Ms. Leah Marwa	Ass. Lecturer	UDSM	0714030700; marwaleah@gmail.com
9	Dr. Theresia Jumbe	Lecturer	SUA	0754804010; tjumbe@sua.ac.tz ; tjumbe2000@yahoo.com
10	Mr. Agapiti Manday	Director - R&I	Tanzania Data Lab	0782444122; agapiti@dlab.or.tz
11	Ms. Theresia Herman	Student	UDSM	0714872056; cyrilherm@gmail.com
12	Ms. Ghanima Chanzi	Ass. Lecturer	UDSM	0683018613; 0654136369; ghanimac777@gmail.com
13	Mr. Joshua Mwakalimo	Director	MASA	0716368040; joshua.mwakalikamo@gmail.com , joshua.mwakalikamo@masa.co.tz
14	Dr. Emmanuel	Lecturer	UDSM	0754567143;

	Elia			elia@udsm.ac.tz ; mklmakala@yahoo.com
15	Dr. Kelefa Mwatimwa	Senior Lecturer	UDSM	0713665112; mwantimwa@udsm.ac.tz
16	Mr. Joseph Ngowi	Ass. Lecturer	UDSM	0754978328; jngowi@udsm.ac.tz
17	Dr. Amelia Burio	Deputy Director, Innovation - UDIEC	UDSM	0762271775; buriyo@udsm.ac.tz aburiyo@gmail.com
18	Dr. Joseph Cosmas	Lecturer	UDSM	0684697697 joseph.cosma@udsm.ac.tz
19	Dr. Mariam Nchimbi	Senior Lecturer	UDSM	0758461028; 0786234484; mariamn261@gmail.com
20	Ms. Leonila John Raphael	Lecturer	UDSM	0784448873; ljoaness2@gmail.com
21	Ms. Juliana Machuve	Ass. Lecturer	UDSM	0755704686; jullymac@udsm.ac.tz
22	Mr. Jimy Shabani	Student	UDSM	0752520371; jimmy_shabano2000@yahoo.co.uk
23	Ms. Promise Kaale	Co-Hub Manager	BUNI - COSTECH	0684991881; mwakale.baby@gmail.com
24	Dr. Matilda Sabayi	Lecturer	Mkwawa University	0754649039; matisaba2002@yahoo.co.uk
25	Dr. Bitrina Diyamett	Executive Director	STIPRO	0784420850; bitrina.diyamett@stipro.or.tz
26	Dr. GussaiSheikheldin	Research Fellow	STIPRO	0754515226; sgussai@stipro.or.tz
27	Mr. Musambya Mutamba	Researcher	STIPRO	0755722890; musambya.mutambala@stipro.or.tz
28	Ms. Lanta Daniel	Ass. Research Fellow	STIPRO	0713571028; lanta.daniel@stipro.or.tz
29	Mr. Innocent wawa	Researcher	STIPRO	0718352752; innocent.wawa@stipro.or.tz
30	Mr. Heric Thomas	Researcher	STIPRO	0713169547; heric.thomas@stipro.or.tz
31	Ms. Sulamba Shaaban	Finance manager	STIPRO	0755646358; sulamba.shaban@stipro.or.tz

32	Ms. Mariana Lugemwa	Secretary	STIPRO	0714516116; info@stipro.or.tz
33	Dr. Ann Kingiri		ACTS	ankingiri@gmail.com
34	Dr. Rebecca Hamlin	Senior Research Fellow	ACTS	+254702142130; rebecca@africalics.org
35	Prof. Edward Lorenz	Prof	Aalborg University, Denmark / France	+33680850544; ned.lorenz@gmail.com
36	Mr. Isaac Goima	Business Developer	TALANTA International Ltd.	0767383328; info@talanta.co.tz
37	Mrs. Magreth Mziray	Agri. Research Officer	Kibaha Research Institute	0659153114; mmziray@gmail.com
38	Prof. Sheiky Mohamed	Director - Research	COSTECH	0778200900
39	Dr. Daniel Maeda	Lecturer	UDSM	0756217824; danielgmaeda@gmail.com
40	Prof. Bavo Nichomba	Prof	UDSM	0784272341; bavonyichomba@gmail.com
41	Prof. Cuthbert Kimambo	DVC	UDSM	
42	Mrs. Leila Lwiza	Agr. Research Officer	Kibaha Research Institute	0717690652; leylwiza07@gmail.com
43	Dr. Adalgot Komba	Senior Lecturer	UDSM	0767414586; akomba@udsm.ac.tz ; komba.auson@gmail.com

