



THE 38TH AEAA CONFERENCE

ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT IN AFRICA

DAILY BULLETIN



Issue No. 1

Tuesday, 23rd August 2022

EDITORIAL



We welcome you all to the 38th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Conference. Zambia is pleased to host this prestigious annual gathering of test developers, administrators, curriculum specialists, researchers and educationists. The Conference is running from 21st to 26th August 2022 under the theme; "Educational Assessment for Developing 21st Century Skills." It gives us pleasure that the Zambian Government through the Ministry of Education and The Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ) have been accorded an honour to host you all here in the tourist town, Livingstone.

This August gathering is indeed important for all involved in the education systems at country, regional and global level. The benefits cannot be overemphasized knowing that the interactions and presentations at this conference will spark innovations and change in educational assessment.

We encourage the delegates to interrogate the 2022 AEAA Conference theme which has been packaged in seven sub themes in order to share best practices so that the AEAA can move forward in achieving the desired educational levels within the African region and beyond. It will be necessary to continue seeking for solutions that could help in dealing with challenges hampering the development of the education sector. As such, delegates should interact more to learn from others who have overcome any such challenges they are facing.

Interesting to note is that this conference is running with exhibitions from major education service providers who are displaying and offering information to AEAA member countries and those beyond the African region to be able to adopt systems that will contribute to the development of the 21st century skills.

As Local Organising Committee, we want to wish you a successful conference. It is our sincere hope that all the delegates will have a remarkable stay in Zambia and fruitful deliberations even on Day two (2) of the Conference.

Publicity Committee
2022 AEAA Conference – Zambia

Item Response Theory (IRT)

Recommended for Reliable Test Construction

...as Conference holds Psychometrics in Educational Assessment Training



Prof. Zarko Vukmirovic takes Psychometrics in Educational Assessment Training

Psychometrics in Educational Assessment is an important aspect in test development in the 21st century. As a part of the 38th Annual Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA), delegates were accorded an opportunity to attend a pre-conference workshop on Item Response Theory (IRT) and its application in Test Development, scaling and equating. Over 120 delegates attended the workshop which was facilitated by renowned expert in psychometrics, Professor Zarko Vukmirovic, Senior Technical Advisor at Creative Association International.

Two measurement models were presented: Classical Test Theory (CTT) in which experimental control is provided by matching and randomisation; and Item Response Theory (IRT) which solves the problem of control by statistical adjustment.

Differences between the two models were explained and the benefits of using IRT in test development. IRT is a mathematical model and its main advantage is that it brings characteristics of people and

characteristics of instruments into the same mathematical model.

The participants were trained in theoretical principles of IRT including 1-parameter (PL), 2-PL and 3-PL models, its application in designing tests with mixed item formats such as multiple choice and constructed response formats, scaling and equating.

The facilitator explained that IRT brings characteristics of persons and items into one pool and relies on three parameters, namely:

- Difficulty of items
- Discrimination – how well the items separate high performing students from low performers

- Pseudo guessing parameter

The various applications of IRT were also outlined as follows:

- Evaluating items and test properties in the process of test development
- Designing score scales suitable for reporting (scaling)
- Establishing comparability

Equating principles were also discussed as a necessary procedure in test construction. Strategies used in equating include post equating (using data from operational administration) and pre equating (using data from pilot administration). As a conclusion, participants had a hands on experience in IRT item calibration using IRT software.

The workshop recommended the use of IRT as a reliable model in test construction because it brings the characteristics of people and characteristics of items together.



Delegates pose for a group photo after the Psychometrics in Educational Assessment Training Workshop

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AEAA Embraces Capacity Building in Corporate Governance

63rd EXCO Meeting Held at AVANI

Other Conference Activities

AEAA EMBRACES CAPACITY BUILDING IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



Amb. Mumba Kapumpe conducting the Corporate Governance Training

For the first time in the history of the association, the 38th AEAA Conference has come back from the two years recess of the COVID-19 Pandemic by including training workshops meant to build capacity in all that are involved in educational assessment.

One of the training workshop held yesterday focused on corporate governance in organisations and was presented by Ambassador Mumba S. Kapumpa and Mr. Danny Luswili. Over 112 delegates attended the training which provided an overview of corporate governance and its importance in the running of organisations. It covered the pillars of corporate governance namely; accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, Integrity and fairness, responsibility, transparency and recognition of stakeholder rights.

One of the remarkable highlights of this training was how the role of the Board was addressed and emphasized to the summary as “to provide entrepreneurship and leadership of the entities within a framework of prudent and effective controls.” The Board is expected to create momentum, movement, improvement and direction for the operations of the institution.

In order to achieve sustainable

performance, organisations should ensure integration of economic, social and environmental performance. Viability of any particular business initiative must be considered in terms of Costs, Impact on stakeholders, Environmental consequences (externalities) and social implications resulting from the project. Strategy, Policy, Oversight and Accountability were outlined as responsibilities of the governing body which result in ethical culture, good governance, effective control, and legitimacy.

The facilitator outlined the role of the Chairperson, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Senior Management in an organisation. The distinction between the Board and Management duties were clearly outlined which brought out qualities of a good Chairperson. Among others, a good chairperson of the board of an organisation ought to be one who has

exceptionally good interpersonal skills. In corporate governance, the CEO should be appointed by the board. The CEO's primary job mission is personification of the organisation. As such the CEO should never shy away from making decisions, including critical decision. The Senior Management team as implementers of decisions made by the CEO form the backbone of the organisation.

Further, the training espoused the need for the board to conduct annual evaluation of its performance and that of its key committees. It was advised that the Evaluation criteria linked to board and committee responsibilities and goals should be set forth in the charter and governance policies.

In corporate governance, the company secretary in an organisation, is key to intra-Board information flow and performs the duty of board advisor.

It was concluded that good Corporate Governance dictates that Governing Bodies govern organisations in a way that maximises shareholder value and in the best interest of society. Therefore, Corporate Governance should not be viewed as an issue for companies only but is applicable to all organisations.



Mr Danny Luswili Conducts Part II of the Corporate Governance Training



Delegates pose for a photo after the Corporate Governance Training Workshop

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63RD AEAA EXCO MEETING HELD AT AVANI RESORT

The Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Executive Committee meeting was held on Sunday, 21st August 2022 and was presided over by Mr Patrick E. Areghan, AEAA President.

At this meeting, AEAA Executive Committee discussed the welfare of the association which included its continued strides to grow the membership. Other African countries that are not yet members of the association were encouraged to join the association. It was noted that the association had extended an invitation to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Senegal among other African countries to join the AEAA.

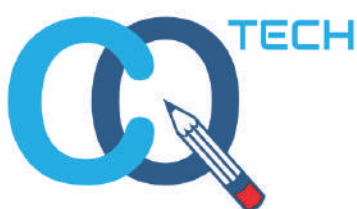
The meeting further discussed the hosting of the next annual

Conferences, the 39th AEAA Conference to which it was agreed that Kenya would host while the 40th Conference was proposed to be hosted by UMALUSI in South Africa.

The Local Organising Committee in Zambia also gave a report on the preparations for the 38th Conference to which it was reported that over 155 abstracts were received out of which 13 were rejected. A total of 80 full papers were received from different countries for presentation at the Conference. In terms of delegates and participation, the LOC indicated that the 38th Conference was expected to host over 300 delegates and that preparations had reached advanced stage but on-going.



Some of the AEAA EXCO Members in attending the meeting



Examination Consultancy Services

PHOTO FOCUS



Some of the delegates pose for a photo at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport on arrival



Delegates pose for a photo near the Avani pool side



Delegates confer after a training workshop



Some of the delegates preparing to attend a training



Local Organising Committee Member, Gay M. Phiri discussing conference exhibitions with some of the exhibitors.



Local Organising Committee Members planning for the afternoon conference activities



Avani serves snacks to Delegates



LOC Chairperson, Mr Shadreck Nkoya in blue suit confers with some Delegates



AEAA Executive Secretary, Dr Michael M. Chilala appears on National television to discuss AEAA Conference preparations

PHOTO FOCUS



AEAA Executive Secretary, Dr Michael M. Chilala pays courtesy visit at His Royal Highness Chief Mukuni to announce the hosting of the conference under his Chiefdom.



Delegates having a light moment after registration at the Conference venue



Dr Brilliant Habeenzu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Technology and Science attending a Corporate Governance training with other delegates.



Exhibitors from CQ Tech. Examination Consultancy Services at the Conference



Delegates having a light moment after registration at the Conference venue



LOC Members preparing delegate IDs



Delegates pose for a photo



A delegate collecting conference materials



The Ngoni Warrior Cultural group entertaining a delegate at the conference venue.



Registration of delegates for the Conference

Official Opening – 23rd August 2022



Official opening Ceremony Set for Today – Tuesday , 23rd August 2022
The Official Opening of the 38th AEAA Conference will be graced by **His Excellency, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.**

Keynote Speakers



Professor
David Mwanza



Professor
Sarah Howie



Professor
Nicky Roberts

EXHIBITIONS



The conference will run side-by-side with exhibitions in:

- Innovation and Technology
- Curriculum Development and Assessment of 21st Century Skills
- Financial Services
- Education support services

Excursions - 26th August 2022

All set for the Excursions on Friday....register to visit the Victoria Falls, National Park, Museum, Reptile park and Boat Cruise



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