



THE 38TH AEAA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT IN AFRICA DAILY BULLETIN



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EDITORIAL



Welcome to day 3 of the 38th AEAA Conference. It is our sincere hope that all the delegates have now settled well in Livingstone. We are extremely happy to note that the Conference has attracted over 400 delegates from within the Africa region and beyond.

With the Conference now officially opened by His Excellency, Mr Hakainde Hichilema whose speech was delivered on his behalf, by Hon. Douglas Syakalima, MP. We remain focused to ensure that each delegate gets to present their paper without any hindrances.

Further, addressing the theme in seven (7) sub-themes will bring out evidence based data that will form part of what most assessment bodies are looking out for in terms of providing quality educational assessment and systems for the administration and management of assessment.

We take cognisance of the number of papers that have so far been presented in parallel sessions numerically over 35. This is a demonstration of the desire by those that see the problem and want to find solutions to the identified problem. The value of what is being shared at this Conference should remain in delegates attending the paper presentations up to the end of the conference.

Publicity Committee
AEAA Conference – Zambia

THE 38TH AEAA CONFERENCE OFFICIALLY OPENED

...as Over 400 Delegates Attend Conference



Hon. Douglas Syakalima delivers speech at the 38th gathering of the AEAA



AEAA President, Mr Patrick E. Areghan gives his speech during the Official Opening of the 38th AEAA Conference



AEAA Executive Secretary, Dr. Michael M. Chilala delivers his remarks

His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, was the Guest of Honour during the opening ceremony of the 38th Annual Conference of the AEAA. He was represented by Honourable Douglas Syakalima, MP who is the Minister of Education for Zambia. The ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness, Senior Chief Mukuni and his wife as well as various government officials. The Chief warmly welcomed the delegates to his Chiefdom. Gracing the occasion were learners from Zambezi Primary, Tongabezi Primary and St. Mary's Girls Secondary Schools. The learners performed various songs and poetry covering early marriages that have shattered the girl child's dream of attaining good education.

The Mayor of Livingstone Ms. Constance Muleabai also welcomed delegates. In her welcoming remarks, she thanked the organisers and all delegates for choosing Livingstone as the host city. She encouraged all to visit various tourist sites around Livingstone. During his address, the AEAA

Executive Secretary, Dr. Michael M. Chilala introduced to the gathering Mr. Newton Mutanekelwa who spearheaded the creation of the Examinations Council of Zambia as a semi-autonomous institution. Mr. Mutanekelwa is a co-founder of AEAA. Dr. Chilala also reminded delegates that most of the challenges faced by examining bodies are governance related, hence the Governance workshops that were arranged as part of the pre-conference activities.

In appreciating the conference themes, He described the 21st Century Skills as "Education that you get known for when you forget what you learnt in

class". He further mentioned that the 21st century Skills provide learners with survival skills in the modern environment. He also stated that the challenges facing most assessment bodies in the continent are those relating to the Management Boards and that it was imperative for all examining bodies to embrace good corporate governance.

The AEAA President also gave his address under which he also expressed his gratitude to all the distinguished invited delegates of the conference. He gave the background of the decision to assign the hosting of the 38th AEAA conference which was as a

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Group Photo of the Minister of Education, EXCO Members and Director ECZ

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First of The Three (3) Keynote
Addresses Delivered

ACCESS Arrangements a Part of
Conference

Over 35 Papers Presented at the on-going
AEAA Conference in Livingstone

FIRST OF THE THREE (3) KEYNOTE ADDRESSES DELIVERED



Prof. Sarah Howie delivering her keynote address to the 38th AEAA Conference in Livingstone

The first of the three planned AEAA conference keynote addresses was delivered by Professor Sarah

Howie. The address discussed what role the exit examinations of school-leaving qualifications in Africa can and should play in meeting the needs of the continent. She noted the evidence of the growing need for the education in areas previously considered as “soft skills”, and how the examining bodies, quality assurance bodies and assessment specialists can contribute to the improvement of the quality of education given the realities in Africa.

The keynote speech delivered set the theme of the entire event. The presentation stressed the need for assessment to be fit for purpose for the learners on the African continent to meet the demands of the 21st Century. Her speech was also dedicated to Prof. Tjeed Plom who contributed immensely to modern assessment approaches. One of the remarkable highlights of this keynote was the importance of 21st Century skills. These skills focus on what it is like to live and work in the modern world. To achieve the requirements for the 21st Century skills of imparting problem solving, critical thinking skills and intercultural communication, there should be alignment between curriculum

and assessment. Understanding how to develop 21-century skills may help assessors become more valuable and desirable in today's community.

The presenter stated that today's world requires a multi-dimensional approach to the learning experience. Soft skills are actually hard skills to teach, learn and assess. This calls for a holistic assessment framework. Assessments need to be responsive to Africa's needs.

She acknowledged that Africa is part of the complex global village but outlined the complexities that specifically affect Africa. Some of the complexities outlined included individualism/nationalism versus Ubuntu, independence and dependence, interconnectedness, transdisciplinary, access to internet and application of technology.

In looking into the future, a number of questions were asked that point to Africa being able to begin contributing to the public good in the areas of curriculum.

There is need to adopt principles that can be used for designing 21st Century assessments. The big question that each delegate was left with is “How then do we make Africa a leader and not a follower in assessment?”

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result of Kenya's national elections that were scheduled to take place in that country at the same time the conference was to take place. Zambia then took up the responsibility and the Chair was grateful for the gesture. He also announced that during the previously held Executive Committee meeting, his tenure as AEAA president was extended for another two years. He applauded the AEAA membership for their resolve to converge even with the covid-19 pandemic which still poses challenges. He introduced the executive committee members and mentioned that the next hosting country for the next conference was going to be announced at this session. He urged members to embrace the 21st conference and enable Africa to take its rightful place in managing its assessment business.

The Examinations Council of Zambia Chairperson, Professor Frank Tailoka indicated that Zambia was hosting the conference for a fourth time and noted that ensuring quality education was important in the achievement of SDG 4 and 21st century skills.

The challenges of the 21st century require building necessary competences and life skills for individuals to be productive beyond the classroom and thrive in today's world. It also requires providing opportunities for all, rethinking curricular and organisational culture. To produce learners with critical thinking skills, learner centred pedagogies must be employed by teachers. Therefore, current educational reforms must adapt to the present and future needs while adopting the breakthrough in technology. He ended the speech by urging business entities exhibiting at the conference to learn from one another. He also urged the delegates to sample and explore the various tourist sites in Livingstone.



Dr Moreetsi Thobega –AEAA Southern Africa Representative gives his speech at the Official Opening Ceremony



Senior Chief Mukuni giving his speech during the Official Opening Ceremony of the AEAA conference

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OVER 35 PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE ON-GOING AEAA CONFERENCE IN LIVINGSTONE



Paper presentation at the conference during a parallel session

Day two (2) was a hive of activities. From the official opening ceremony that was graced by Honourable Douglas Syakalima – MP, Minister of Education for Zambia, on behalf of His Excellency, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, the Conference proceeded to holding parallel sessions of paper presentations.

The presentations cut across the seven sub-themes of the conference theme. Among them were presentations on making large scale assessment work for candidates with special needs, the use of electronic assessment in public examinations: A case study of the West Africa Examinations

Council of Nigeria. Others were an evaluation of the implementation of School Based Assessment, the use of modern assessment tools in enhancing learning in the 21st Century Secondary School Classroom and another paper in aligning assessment feedback in teaching, learning and decision making at selected secondary schools.

The paper presentations sparked a lot of discussions which are envisaged to be a foundation for further improvements in the manner educational assessment is conducted within the African region and beyond.

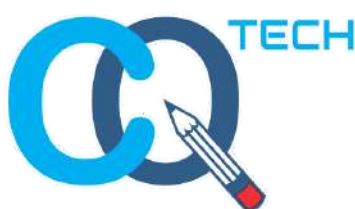
ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS - A PART OF CONFERENCE

In an effort to promote inclusiveness and ensure delivery of a successful conference, it is always important to ensure that there is clarity of the information presented for delegates. In order to ensure that the delegates with special needs are also incorporated, the Local Organising Committee for the Conference took a great step towards making the conference's message more accessible to the delegates with special needs by providing a Facilitator to interpret the conference message. The purpose was to ensure that all the delegates stay informed and up to date with the information shared at the conference.

Ms Hachinene, the sign language interpreter provided this information to delegates with special needs.



Ms Hachinene providing sign language during the conference official opening ceremony



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PHOTO FOCUS



Senior Chief Mukuni and Minister of Education –Hon. Douglas Syakalima, MP after a group photo



Delegates Discussing the presentations



St. Mary's Girls school pupils pose for a photo



Some ECZ LOC Members pose for photo as they wait to receive delegates at the Conference venue



A delegate responding to some of the presentations question during a parallel session



Hon. Douglas Syakalima MP, Minister of Education delivering his speech



Learners doing poetry during the Official Opening Ceremony



Some ECZ Officers at the Conference transport desk

PHOTO FOCUS



Delegate presenting a paper



Former ECZ Director, Mr Newton Mutanakelwa engages with speaker



Some delegates following through the presentations



Some of the delegates during the social event gathering at Royal Livingstone Hotel enjoying the spectacular Sunset on the banks of the Zambezi River.



Cultural Dance Troupes performing at the Official Opening Ceremony



AEAA President (3rd from right) discussing Conference presentations with other delegates



One of the LOC member takes a walk around the conference venue



Interactions and building synergies as delegates



Prof. Sarah Howie getting clarification on Conference proceedings



Some ECZ Officers at the conference venue



Some of the LOC Members pose for a photo

RE-ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT IN A DYNAMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT



Delegate engaging with the presenters during paper presentation sessions



Delegates listening to presentation

This is one of the sub-themes that is being focused on ensuring knowledge exchange takes place. A critical presentation of this sub-theme was given by Joseph G. Nyaga from Kenya National Examinations Council where it has been discovered that the majority of schools lack adequate and appropriate infrastructure including functional computers, internet connectivity and lack of teachers' capacity building.

The cost of downloading and printing the assessment tools for learners is among the key challenges affecting learners and the schools themselves.

To this effect, the presentation's recommendations were to ensure that Governments provide or enhance the relevant infrastructure including computers and printers in schools as well as provide sufficient and reliable internet connection to schools to enhance the utilization of web-based resources for learning and assessment.

Further, it was recommended that Teacher Professional Development (CTPD) programmes that focus on relevant ICT skills be actualised.

EXHIBITIONS

Some of the Conference Sponsors exhibiting various products and services at the Conference venue





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