



Session Brief

Topic	Training Students for the Knowledge Economy in Africa
Session lead	<p>Speakers/Presenters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Matogo: Global University Programs Leader for Africa, IBM 2. Rosemary Gatahi: Senior Innovation Manager, WFP Kenya 3. Constance Swaniker: CEO, Design and Technology Institute (DTI) Ghana <p>Facilitator: Prof. Robert Gateru, Vice Chancellor, Riara University</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ashesi University.</p>
Synopsis	<p>The session seeks to help participants understand and appreciate the emergence of the Knowledge Economy and its implications on training at the higher education level. With the rapid changes in the skills needed by industry, the emergence of the 4th Industrial Revolution technologies, the existing skills gaps, and the alternative avenues of accessing training (such as industry-led courses, boot camps, MOOCs, among other emerging ones), HEIs need to be equipped with the requisite knowledge, tools and partnerships to align their training with the requirements of the knowledge economy.</p> <p>The key question to answer is: <i>how can HEIs in Africa respond to close the skills gaps among the graduates, faculty and other points of contact, to ensure HEIs remain relevant providers of training for current and future jobs in the knowledge and digital economies in Africa and beyond.</i></p> <p>At the end of the session, participants are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Fully understand what the Knowledge Economy is and the trends driving it at the continental and global levels. ii. Be cognizant of ongoing initiatives to prepare graduates for the knowledge economy in the continent and globally. iii. Understand what different institutions are doing to prepare graduates for impact and employability. iv. Be able to review their environments to determine whether they are preparing graduates for the knowledge economy and the practical steps that they can take to address any identified gaps.

<p>Session questions</p>	<p><u>Questions to be asked to the panelists:</u></p> <p>John:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Knowledge Economy and how does it apply to diverse sectors including higher education? • IBM has gone very heavy on training programs across higher education institutions as well as independently. What informed this and is this a threat to higher education institutions? • How does IBM ensure students acquire the requisite skills in its training programs? • IBM is a global organisation with its pulse on the cutting edge of employability trends, what does IBM see in terms of skills demands for the knowledge economy now and in the future? Feel free to share any statistics or trends. • You have worked with many HEIs across Africa, including Riara, from your experience, what advice would you give HEIs present here on how they can train graduates for the knowledge economy? <p>Rosemary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindly outline for us what the Skills Development programme at WFP is all about and the areas of focus. • What informed these programs and how do they fit within the growth and development aspirations of Africa, especially around youth employability. • What do you see as the skills demands for African economies currently and in the future, including skills required for attainment of Agenda 63. • What are some of the global trends that you are seeing around the Gig Economy and what is this Gig Economy? • How can African higher-ed institutions align themselves with the skills demands of the continent, especially around job creation and impact? <p>Constance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell us more about DTI, your ethos, and your approach to training. • How do you ensure that skills are developed among the graduates that you produce and what feedback have you received from the market? • What informed DTI's approach to training? • Have you encountered any major challenges in imparting skills in your niche areas and how are you addressing some of these challenges?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons would you wish to share with participants on what has worked for you and what they can experiment in their environments? <p><u>Question to all panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities lie for Africa in the knowledge economy and how can African HEIs align themselves to take advantage of these opportunities? <p>After the panelists have been asked diverse questions, the participants will be free to engage them for questions, clarifications, additions, among others.</p>
Format	The session will take the form of a Panel Discussion. However, panelists will be allowed to project any data or other relevant information that they may want to project. However, such presentations should be kept at no more than 10 minutes each.
Date	15th June 2022
Time/duration	15:15-16:45 GMT
Materials needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projectors • Microphones • Writing materials • Power Extension Cables • Extra screen for all panelists to see in case one of them is presenting anything. • Capabilities to support an online “quiz” where participants can express their expectations at the beginning of the session. • 4 sets of post-its.
Room arrangement	<p>Normal panel discussion style with comfortable chairs at the front with side tables where presenters can place their laptops, notebooks, water bottles, etc.</p> <p>Participants will sit theater style.</p>
Flow of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists will be invited to take their seats approximately 10 minutes to the start of the session and be made comfortable. • The facilitator will call the session to order and welcome all participants.

- The facilitator will give an overview/synopsis of the session and clarify other expectations from the audience through an online poll. Physical post-its can also be used.
- Secretariat will analyse the feedback from the audience and prepare a summary for the facilitator for review later in the session.
- After the poll, the facilitator introduces the panelists one by one and starts asking questions.
- The facilitator will ask a maximum of 2 questions to each panelist at a time to allow them to rest and other panelists to come in as well.
- Participants will be given a 5 minute break after approximately 45-60 minutes.
- During the break, the facilitator and secretariat will analyse the expectations from the audience and revise the questions for the remaining part of the session (if need be).
- Participants will also be allowed to ask their own independent questions directly to the panelists during the last part of the session.