DISTANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DEASA)

58th CONFERENCE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

THEME: ODeL for Sustainable Future

Date: 4th to 6th September, 2024.

Venue: Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC), Lilongwe, Malawi.

AIM OF THE DEASA CONFERENCE

The DEASA Conference aims to champion the discourse in ODeL, embracing innovation and technological trends, such as artificial intelligence, by bringing together ODeL practitioners, leading academics, researchers and research scholars, consultants, industry players, policy makers, among others, to share knowledge, experiences, research findings and best practices to strengthen collaborative efforts in maintaining quality distance education design and delivery. It also provides a platform for delegates to present and deliberate on practical challenges, and explore opportunities for education transformation through ODeL. Local hosts are the Malawi College of Distance Education, under the ODeL Directorate of the Ministry of Education, and the Open and Distance Education Association of Malawi (ODEAMA).

SUB-THEMES

A. ODeL, a catalyst for economic viability, global collaboration and job market readiness

This sub-theme focuses on examining affordability and flexibility of ODeL in providing pathways to an enhanced global collaboration, employability and entrepreneurship, contributions to sustainable economic development, preparing students for the evolving global job market and an opportunity to solve emerging industrial, national and global challenges.

B. Widening access, equity and inclusion through community engagement in lifelong learning

Papers under this sub-theme should discuss the role of ODeL in increasing access and promoting equity and inclusion through community engagement in lifelong learning that includes, but not limited to Continuous Professional Development as key to building resilient communities and achieving sustainable development goals. Papers can also position ODeL as a pathway that removes barriers in accessing education among the marginalized.

C. Re-aligning education governance systems to comprehensively embrace distance education

Authors contributing to this sub-theme should focus on analyzing policy frameworks, regulations, and governance structures that support the adoption and establishment of ODeL in dual mode institutions and at national and regional levels to promote sustainable development. Addressing recurrent issues of funding, staffing and infrastructural development for an effective ODeL system.

D. Student Support Services in Distance Education: Current Trends

The subtheme covers student support in ODeL in general, highlighting personal, academic, administrative support while focusing on good practices and emerging issues.

E. Innovative pedagogies and Instructional Material Development in Distance Education

This sub theme covers ODeL pedagogies and Instructional Materials designing and development processes, Developers incentives, policies, guidelines...

F. Evidence-based ODeL practices

This sub-theme explores the intersection of evidence generated from research on ODeL and how ODeL is implemented in practice. For ODeL to contribute to a sustainable future, it has to build upon evidence.

G. Artificial intelligence and ODeL transformation power

The authors will explore emerging trends in AI as used to enhance ODeL.

TYPES OF CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED

a.Theoretical papers based on research and review
b.Empirical papers
c. Poster presentation
d. Keynote address
e. Audio-Visual, Internet Demonstration

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

a. Opening and keynote address session Plenary sessions
b. Parallel sessions
c. DEASA AGM
d. Excursion
e. Farewell cocktail dinner

CONFERENCE PAPERS

All papers submitted for the Conference will be peer reviewed before being published in the Conference proceedings.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

DEASA Members & Early Birds: **$250**
Non members, Late Risers and Conference day payment: **$300**
Payment Inquiries and proof of payment: **+27829040029 or willem.cronje@up.ac.za**
Invoices will be issued to institutions on request.

MODE OF SUBMISSION AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Please submit an abstract of up to a maximum of 300 words, including author (s) name, affiliation and email address of the corresponding author. Additionally, the abstract should clarify how the research being submitted links to the main conference theme, and the chosen sub theme.

All papers will be peer reviewed. Other full papers will be considered for the DEASA Journal.

All abstracts should be sent to:
achizengo@mubas.ac.mw **and** fgondwe@unima.ac.mw

Abstract submission: 30th April, 2024
Decision on Abstracts: 14th May, 2024
Paper submissions: 30th June, 2024
Paper peer review: 20th July, 2024
Final submission: 20th August, 2024

For enquiries:

Dr Fidelis Makaula: **fbmakaula@gmail.com (+265888210783)**
Alice Gondwe: **gondwe.alice@gmail.com (+265999560850)**
Japhet Simbi: **simbijp@gmail.com (+265888181083)**

Forex Account
Distance Education Association of Southern Africa
Bank : **Standard Bank**
Account: **012135224**
Branch: **Hatfield**
Branch code: **1545**
Swift code: **SBZAZAJJ**

MCDE LET KNOWLEDGE GROW

ODEAMA OPEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI