

Office of the Vice Chancellor

For Immediate Release

RWANDA TO HOST 2019 CAPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KIGALI AUGUST 23, 2019 - Rwanda Polytechnic through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with the Commonwealth Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA), is preparing to host an international conference under the theme of “Building Partnerships for the Promotion of TVET for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment in Africa”.

The Conference is scheduled to take place at Kigali Convention Centre from 25th -31 August 2019 and the opening ceremony on 27th August 2019 at 9 a.m. It will be attended by 20 African countries members of CAPA, Education Ministers, Technical Universities, Polytechnics and Technical Colleges and Vocational Training Institutes in Africa and other stakeholders in TVET.

After the Opening Session on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, **Education Ministerial Forum** will take place immediately. In the Education Ministerial Forum, the concept of transforming this Association into a Pan African Association of Polytechnics and Technical Universities will be a focal point of discussion.

The 2019 CAPA International Conference will be held in Rwanda in recognition of the tremendous strides in revamping and rebranding TVET by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Education. The Government has invested purposefully and intentionally in TVET both at lower levels of education and at post-secondary stage.

The objectives of the conference are;

- Bringing together scholars, industrialists, trainers and other stakeholders to share Case Studies and Country experiences.
- Enhance collaborations between academia and industry in the production of skilled workforce and technological innovations.
- Providing a platform on which member countries will dialogue and set standards and goals in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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In addition, a Youth Leadership Development Forum will be held within two days ((August 26 – 27) in collaboration with Africa Union Commission. The forum aims at contributing to achieving one of the pillars of AU Agenda 2063 i.e. youth networking and empowerment, being also one of CAPA’s fundamental objectives.

It will feature facilitators from AUC and CAPA as well as youth representatives. The themes shall focus on issues such as developing future leaders of Africa for the 21century; the role of youths in the implementation of the AU Continental TVET Strategy; and achieving peace and unity in Africa through appreciation of Africa’s religious and cultural diversity.

There will be also an Exhibition (August 27 – 30) of industrial technologies and R&D innovations by TVET institutions, research institutes and local industries.

CAPA is a professional organization represented in twenty African countries divided into three regions namely: Eastern Region (*Rwanda, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, Seychelles, Tanzania*); Western Region (*Ghana, Nigeria, The Gambia and Sierra Leone*); and Southern/Central Region (*Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia*). The current membership stands at over 200 Technical Universities, Polytechnics and Technical Colleges

CAPA was established through a resolution at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers held at Accra, Ghana on March 7, 1977. Since inception, the headquarters seat of CAPA has been at The Technical University of Kenya (formerly Kenya Polytechnic) in Nairobi, under a diplomatic agreement with the Government of Kenya.

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Notes to the editor

Over the years, CAPA has impacted positively on the growth and development of TVET institutions in the member countries.

Some highlights of its achievements include pioneering the introduction of entrepreneurship education in the curricula of the colleges; institution of the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) programme, a strong advocacy for improving access to women in technical and vocational education; capacity building for the adoption of competency-based education and training.

Other achievements include design and implementation of various management and leadership upskilling in the member institutions. CAPA also agreed on a road map for the future of the organization that is resolutely committed to making CAPA the flagship for a vigorous movement for a rapid industrialization and economic development in African countries – the “**Industrialise Africa Now**” campaign.