



11th Ministerial Round Table
“Towards a Knowledge-Based Economy”
September 26, 2018
Kigali Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda

Please note, the Ministerial Round Table is an invitation-only event.

MRT PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 26th September 2018

‘Towards a Knowledge-Based Economy’

General Description:

The theme for this year’s eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table is ‘*Towards a Knowledge-Based Economy*’.

Technology is connecting Africa, creating an opportunity for education to transform the continent and prepare Africans for the world’s ‘fourth industrial revolution’. African economies are growing rapidly but, with the pace of technological change, recent achievements could soon be undermined. What will allow African countries to continue to grow and, indeed, what will enable them to leapfrog their competitors is a determined emphasis on education, training, skills and workplace learning. The task is not simply to encourage African workers and students to acquire new skills, but to build whole new sectors of the economy in which a skilled workforce is the most prized asset, capable of being leveraged to develop new opportunities, create new partnerships and attract new investments.

How can this be done? How can African countries get ahead of the game? How can they turn today’s positive economic prospects into tomorrow’s reality? What economic reforms should they implement to attract and support investors? Can Africa become a resource pool of highly skilled workers in the industries of the future? How can we create a new momentum for the development of regional trade within Africa?

How can digital technology and education help to break down barriers to competitiveness? How can technology enable African countries to build interlinked knowledge markets?

With the world’s most youthful population, Africa is on the threshold of an era of unparalleled prosperity.

This year’s eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table will examine how, together, we can set about building the highly skilled Africa of the future.

Opening Session: 09:30 – 11:00

How African countries, businesses and workers can take advantage of rapid change to get ahead of their competitors

Description:

The world is on the brink of a so-called 'fourth industrial revolution,' in which change will be rapid, comprehensive and unrelenting. At the same time, many African economies have recently experienced a long period of steady economic growth. Should Africans feel anxious or confident about the future? What steps should be taken now, so that Africa can leapfrog its competitors? How can rapid change in the global economy work to Africa's advantage?

Chairperson: Dr Kathy M. Kantengwa, FAWE, Rwanda

Panellists:

- Hon. Dr Eugene Mutimura, Minister of Education, Rwanda
- Hon. Jean de Dieu Rurangirwa, Minister of Information Technology and Communications, Rwanda
- Roland Lindenthal, Head of the Division for Education, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Coffee Break: 11:00 – 11:30

Session 2: 11:30 – 13:00

How improving quality and expanding access to education, training and skills can attract investment and create jobs

Description:

Africa has the advantage of an increasingly youthful population. If it can give its young people the skills they need to compete in the markets of tomorrow, it will be able to sustain economic growth in the long term and bring a permanent end to poverty on the continent. How can new opportunities to access education and training be spread to people across Africa? How can we develop the highly skilled youth Africa needs? How can we ensure that the skills young Africans acquire are the right ones for tomorrow's jobs and markets?

Chairperson: Albert Nsengiyumva, ICT4D & Skills Development, Rwanda

Panellists:

- Ann Therese Ndong Jatta, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Kenya
- Nicolas-Louis Boël, Altissia, Belgium
- M'Hamed Cherif, Invest in Africa Now!, Belgium
- Roger Clark, Appliansys, Belgium

Lunch: 13:00 – 14:00 in the Auditorium Club 1st Floor

Session 3: 14:00 – 16:00

A Vision for Africa's Youth: How to turn today's young Africans into tomorrow's highly skilled workers

Description:

Young Africans need new skills but they must be the right ones. Which skills will be needed by employers and consumers in tomorrow's markets? How can we predict what is likely to be most in demand in an era of increasingly rapid technological change? How can we create a new education and training culture, in which young people constantly embrace learning? How can we encourage the flexibility which will be needed not only by tomorrow's entrepreneurs and innovators, but also by workers in the unpredictable labour markets of the future?

Chairperson: Charles Senkondo, Tanzania Global Learning Agency (TaGLA), Tanzania
Panellists:

- Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah, Special Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ethiopia
- Hendrina Doroba, Division Manager, Education, Human Capital and Employment Division, African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Ivory Coast
- Patrick Nsenga Buchana, CEO AC Group Ltd, Rwanda
- Ahmed El-Sobky, Vice-President for Developing ICT Markets, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), Egypt

Exhibition Tour: 16:00 – 17:00

Wednesday Opening Plenary

Uniting Africa: Learning Together, Growing Together: 18:00 – 19:30

Description:

In the past, division has held Africa back and stifled growth. Now Africans want to end divisions and overcome barriers. What role can education and technology play in uniting Africa? What are the benefits of sharing knowledge across Africa? How can we get Africans to learn together?

Chairperson: Novella Nikwigize, News Anchor, Rwanda Broadcasting Agency – Rwanda TV, Rwanda

Panellists:

- Roland Lindenthal, Head of the Division for Education, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- Elliott Masie, The MASIE Center, USA
- Dr Mamphele Ramphele, Reimagine SA, South Africa
- Hon. Dr Eugene Mutimura, Minister of Education, Rwanda
- Guest of Honour, Rwanda

Ministerial Round Table Dinner: 20:00, in The Larder, Radisson Blu Hotel