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FOSTERING INTRA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

DATE: Wednesday, 19 June 2024

TIME: 14h00 - 16h00

The webinar examines the importance of fostering intra-African partnerships in the education and training sector. The discussion will a) explore successful models of intra-Africa collaboration, b) How to overcome challenges in establishing and sustaining partnerships and c) Leverage technology and Innovation for cross-continental cooperation.

Introduction

Intra-African partnerships are crucial to the continent's sustainable development, growth and prosperity. Collaboration and partnerships among higher education institutions on the continent can assist researchers, students, and individual institutions in addressing historical challenges of inequality, and can contribute to an improved education system for all regardless of which side of Africa one is based. Intra-Africa partnerships promote inclusion through collaborations, sharing of resources, and capacity building.



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Dr Akanimo Odon holds a master's degree in environmental rehabilitation, a PhD in Environmental Management from Lancaster University, UK and business and enterprise certifications and fellowships from Cambridge University UK, Stanford University USA, and MIT USA. He specialises in cross-border education and innovations in research and is an expert in navigating, developing, and managing relationships between academia, government, and African industry for economic viability, research impact and sustainable innovations. He has been African strategy Adviser for Aberystwyth University, University of Strathclyde; and University of East Anglia; and currently he is the African Regional Adviser for the University of London, the African adviser for Lancaster University, and the African director for Zurich Elite Business School Switzerland.

He recently founded Flexy-Learn (www.flexylearn.com), a one-stop online shop for distance learning provision for Africa. He is the Principal Consultant of Envirofly Consulting UK (www.envirofly-group.com), a resident company at Lancaster University and he is the Strategic Adviser and Mentor of the Innov8 Hub and the Nigerian Government TETFUND funded TETFAIR Programme (https://innov8hub.ng/tetfair/). He is also Chair of the African Union Scientific Research and Innovation Council (UK) and sits on several international boards including the largest and most reputable Think-Tank organization in Africa, the Africa Technology Policy Studies Network, ATPS, headquartered in Nairobi Kenya.

In the last ten years, Odon has organized and facilitated over 50 Africa-focused international workshops and conferences; liaised and collaborated with government, industries and academia in over 30 African countries; developed over 100 strategic educational, research and commercial partnerships between UK and African organizations; facilitated and supported the setting up of over 30 African-focused SMEs; designed and implemented over 40 strategic capacity building and knowledge transfer schemes and programmes; delivered innovative research impact and management training to over a thousand African researchers and mentored over 2000 young African researchers and entrepreneurs. He has done through international funded projects having won in excess of 40 million pounds in funding.