



14 May 2018

INVITATION TO THE 17TH BOLESWANA INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM FROM THE NAMIBIA EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Namibia Educational Research Association (NERA), it is my singular honour to invite educational researchers from the SADC Region the rest of the world, to attend the 17th BOLESWANA International Biennial Educational Research Symposium. It will take place in Windhoek, the Capital City of the Republic of Namibia, from **10 to 12 July 2018**.

As you may have gathered from the call for abstracts, the educational research symposium's main theme is **RESEARCH FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION: TEACHING FOR EQUITY AND RELEVANCE** and the sub-themes are:

- i. **Research for Transformation of Teacher Education**
- ii. **Research for Transformation of Teaching for Equity and equality, and**
- iii. **Research for Transformation of Teaching for relevance in the 21st Century.**

Under the first sub-theme, we are inviting educational research presentations on issues such as innovative continuous professional development and strategies for meeting teacher demand in environments of limited material and financial resources. Our expectation under this theme is that educational researchers will share with their colleagues from the SADC Region and from other parts of the world research findings that speak to creative and transformative ways of delivering quality educational services and teacher support under stringent fiscal and economic conditions.

The second sub-theme invites educational researchers to explore and discuss, among other things, matters pertaining to equity and quality in education, challenges that many educational systems in the SADC Region and elsewhere face in implementing inclusive education in schools and school-community partnership in teaching and learning.

Here, we expect educational researchers to critically interrogate in their presentations not only equitable access to and distribution of educational goods and services but also frankly and openly share research findings on the extent to which educational systems they are familiar with provide quality basic and tertiary education.

The third sub-theme that is on *Research for Transformation of Teaching for relevance in the 21st Century* invites educational researchers to delve into 21st Century topical issues of digital competence in education, teaching for innovation and creativity, transformative and dynamic indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and public private partnerships in educational research for innovation. Educational researchers are, under this theme, asked to share educational research findings that could lead to innovation and the invention of patentable products such as new educational ICT software and IKS derived new ways of appreciating cultural heritage, teaching, learning and school and community interactions.

Given the three sub-themes, there is room for every educational researcher from the SADC Region and from anywhere else on the Globe to join in and share his or her research findings at the planned educational research symposium.

In addition to educational enrichment that participants may come to experience at the symposium, I invite all interested educational researchers to come and experience various beautiful vistas of Namibia, the land of the brave and the land of open wide spaces. You may come, attend the symposium, and then travel to the picturesque Namibian coastal towns of Swakopmund, Wavisbay and Henties Bay or visit the world-renowned Etosha Game Reserve.

NERA extends this invitation with open arms to all educational researchers who have been 'itching' to broadcast their research findings.

With kind regards,



Prof. Roderick F. Zimba

NERA Chairperson