

Editorial

Huria Journal Volume 18 is a special issue of the Journal. This volume exclusively contains selected papers which were presented at the 3rd DEATA (Distance Education Association of Tanzania) conference which was held at Moshi University College of Cooperative and Business Studies (MUCCOBS), Kilimanjaro, Tanzania on 22nd to 23rd August 2013. This third DEATA conference brought forward some very interesting ideas, thus proving that, the idea of having such conferences is very important for developing Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in Tanzania and Africa in general.

Altogether 42 papers were presented at the conference. The papers were peer reviewed and only those which were found to be of good quality and which conformed to the Huria Journal Format were accepted for Publication in **Huria Journal Volume 18**. The DEATA mandated Huria Journal to peer review and publish the proceedings. The Editorial Board wishes to thank DEATA for entrusting this job to Huria Journal.

The main theme of the conference was “**Blended Learning: Convergences of Distance Education and Conventional Learning through Open and Distance Learning (ODL)**”. In this volume papers are arranged according to two subthemes as follows.

1. Innovations and Developments in blended learning: E-learning, teleconferencing, online learning, video conferencing, mobile phone, parallel programme, evening programmes, executive programmes etc. (Paper 1-6)

Under this subtheme, there are six papers which were accepted for publication. The authors presented the use of mobile phones to increase students’ use of mobile learning technology and to enhance environmental friendliness. Convergence of Distance Education and Conventional Learning. The use of solar power for Online Content Accessibility and Sustainability. Interactive experience as the best and effective processes for the blended learning environment, how innovations in the provision of Executive Masters Degree Programmes may expand the impact of the higher learning institutions in the communities and labor markets and how e- learning can provide a horde of educational opportunities ranging from creating exciting and meaningful learning experiences for students to reinforcing understanding, increasing student interaction and engagement, stimulating self directed learning, to providing resources and supportive collaboration from a distance.

2. Quality Assurance systems in blended learning (Paper 7-11)

The subtheme focused on Quality Assurance challenges faced in the convergences of Distance Education and Conventional Learning through Open and Distance Learning (ODL). Five papers were accepted for publication under the subtheme. Papers are on the need for an assessment framework for Blended Learning delivery mode. Challenges faced by Adult learners enrolled in blended learning. Student perception on intensive face to face sessions. Student perception on the quality of distance learning and Building Competitive Advantage in Academic Programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Institutions.

Prof. Emmanuel S.P. Kigadye

Editor-In-Chief

Huria Journal