



# **“Advancement of Quality in Higher Education”**

**Dr. Cosam Chawanga Joseph**  
**Chief Principal, Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework**

**Inter-University Council for East Africa**  
**Institution of the East African Community**

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# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- **Inter-University Council (IUCEA) For East Africa and its Roles**
- **Harmonization of Higher Education in EAC: The Regional Agenda**
- **Dynamics in higher education and the overall human resources development agenda In East Africa**
- **How IUCEA has responded**
- **Regional Quality Assurance and Harmonization of Higher Education in East Africa**
- **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education and its Purpose**
- **Need for Paradigm Shift**

# **Inter-University Council (IUCEA) For East Africa and its Roles**

**IUCEA is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) responsible for coordinating the development of higher education and research, whose roles include:**

- Advising the EAC on higher education matters**
- Facilitating networking among higher education institutions in the EAC Partner States, and with external institutions**
- Facilitating maintenance of quality standards and harmonization of higher education systems for promoting regional integration**
- Providing support for the development of higher education systems and research**

**In undertaking its roles IUCEA works in close collaboration with the national commissions/councils for university/higher education in the EAC Partner States: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda**

# Harmonization of Higher Education in EAC: A Regional Agenda

**The coming into force in July 2010 of the Protocol for the Establishment of the EAC Common Market prompted the need to harmonize higher education systems in the Community, among other, in order to enable the operationalization of Article 11 of the Protocol which requires development of systems for facilitating easy mobility of learners and labour across Partner State borders.**

**Harmonization of higher education systems is also aimed at transforming the EAC region into a common higher education area by the end of 2015.**

## **What Harmonization of Higher Education in East Africa Entails**

**Establishment of regional systems that would facilitate comparability of higher education in the East African Community Partner States, the systems comprising the following frameworks:**

- **Regional Quality Assurance Framework/System Consisting of:**
  - **Guidelines, Standards, and procedures**
  - **Programme benchmarks**
  - **Policy framework (Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in East Africa)**
- **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education as a human resources development tool guiding the higher education systems in East Africa**

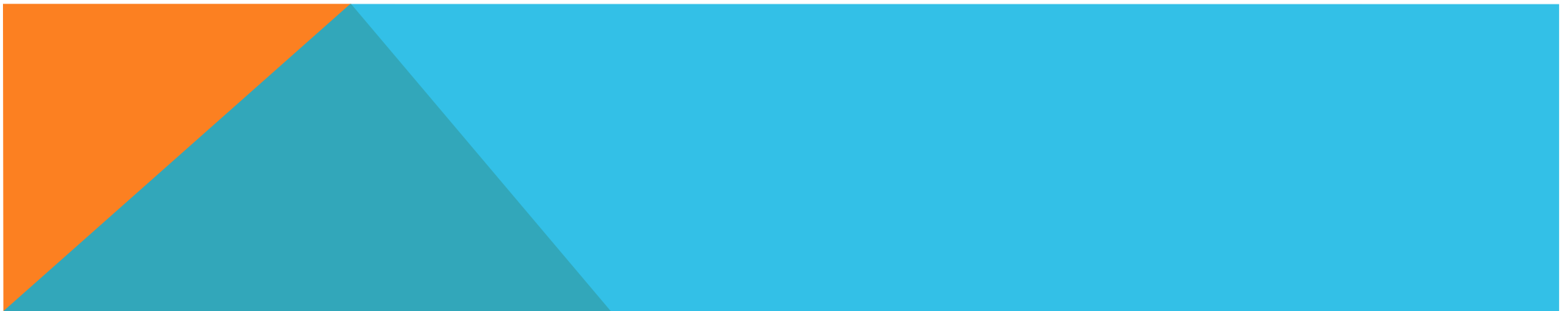
# Higher Education Dynamics and East Africa's Human Resources Development Agenda

- **Expansion of tertiary education systems leading to exponential student enrolment amidst scarce financial, human, and educational resources**
- **Diversification of higher education provision systems and providers, including cross-border education, franchising, multi-campus institutional systems, etc.**
- **Emergence of more heterogeneous student bodies, e.g. those inherent with lifelong learning including reskilling of the labour force**
- **Commodification of higher education**



# Higher Education Dynamics and East Africa's Human Resources Development Agenda...

- Growing competition for programme orientation between universities and polytechnic institutions leading to some polytechnic institutions transforming into universities and vice versa
- increasingly there is evident shrinkage of the traditional job market, which maps well with the apparent emergence of new job types and opportunities, many of which are anchored on ICT led SMEs, commerce and trade; and
- This has led to the *“jobs without workers and workers without jobs; and wealth without workers, and workers without wealth”* syndrome across the globe.



## **The Response .....**

**It is therefore imperative that these dynamics are addressed by reviewing the way the higher education system is managed and its role in the development of human resources and innovations that are appropriately supported by purposeful research.**





## How IUCEA has Responded .....

**Developed tools for guiding harmonization of higher education for East Africa to operate as a common higher education area.**

**The tools consist of:**

- **Regional quality assurance policy framework**
- **East African quality assurance system**
- **Programme benchmarks**
- **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education**



## **How IUCEA has Responded .....**

**As a response, IUCEA has established partnership with the private sector through the East African Business Council, in order for the two worlds to jointly address issues related to the development of human resources and in supporting innovations based on research carried out by the academia.**

- The two institutions and later joined by the East African Development Bank, now jointly organize academia-public-private partnership forums and exhibitions on an annual basis.**
- The forums have become important platforms bringing together the academia and the public and private sectors to dialogues on that range from graduate employability to the need for the private sector to be actively involved in the human resources development and research functions in higher education institutions.**

## **How IUCEA has Responded .....**

**Based on the ideas and resolutions from these forums, IUCEA in collaboration with the East African Business Council and the East African Development Bank are now developing a capacity building programme in research and innovation that will focus on, among others developing human resources capacity through postgraduate training (at postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma, and Masters and PhD levels), postdoctoral research programmes, and reskilling human resources for adaptation into the new labour market, and supporting the development and strengthening of SMEs.**



## **NEED FOR DIALOGUE .....**

**IUCEA considers it important to engage in dialogue on higher education dynamics in East Africa and what needs to be done to *“Develop a Graduate for the Future”***



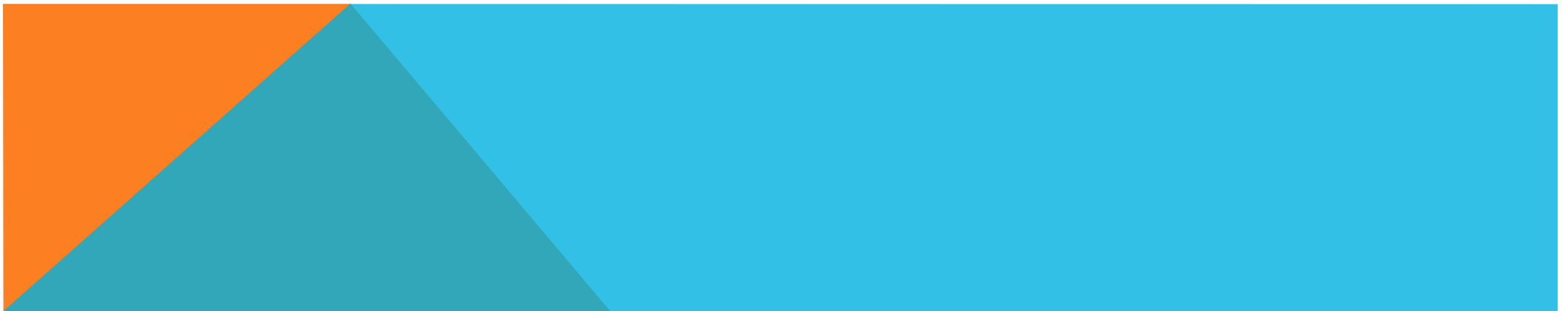
## **East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education: Purpose**

**IUCEA has developed an East African Qualifications Framework in Higher Education in order to:**

- Facilitate mutual recognition of education and training systems and academic qualifications attained in the EAC Partner States as well as outside the EAC region, hence promoting mobility of labour across borders in EAC and outside EAC**
- Provide mechanisms for harmonization of education and training systems in EAC, thereby transforming EAC into a common higher education area**
- Institute generic instrument for the region onto which the Partner States' national qualifications frameworks will be anchored for the purpose of harmonization and synchronization of education and training systems, and the qualifications attained in the Community.**

## East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education: Purpose ...

- It is not a replacement of the national qualifications framework or similar instruments of the Partner States, nor is it a prescription for each Partner State to make her national qualifications framework exactly the same as the EAQFHE.
- It is an instrument to guide the Partner States' qualifications framework for alignment with the regional framework, so that the regional education and training systems and the qualifications attained are appropriately harmonized



## Impact of a Qualifications Framework ...

- **Tool guiding human resource development schemes**
- **Driver for the need for higher education reforms**
- **Used for accreditation purposes**
- **Qualifications framework challenges the set notion between the paper qualification and what the holder is able to do**



# Impact of a Qualifications Framework ...

- **Paradigm Shift**
- **Power Shift**
- **Redefining (Higher) Education Boundaries**





**Thank you for your attention**

