St. Mary’s University (SMU) is organizing the 16th International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa in partnership with the African Union Commission, Association of African Universities, IICBA/UNESCO, IGAD, the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Education, International Network of Higher Education in Africa and the Ethiopian Airlines/Aviation Academy. The Conference aims at creating a platform for a wide-range of actors, educators, policy/decision-makers, higher education leaders, and partners engaged in the promotion of higher education to deliberate on issues pertinent to the enhancement of quality education in African institutions of higher learning. Accordingly, the Conference is expected to generate policy-relevant recommendations from various scientific research papers under different themes and sub-themes. It also provides opportunity for networking among researchers, educators and leaders in higher education institutions.

Therefore, interested researchers, educators, policy/decision-makers and educational service providers with research which fall within the themes of the Conference are cordially invited to register and send their papers using the Conference website (http://www.conference.smuc.edu.et) within the specified deadlines.

**Major theme:** Ensuring Employability and Entrepreneurship through Harmonized Quality Higher Education in Africa

**Sub-themes of the Conference**

A. Private higher education: Challenges and opportunities for skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship in Africa;

B. Perspectives and trends of investment on private higher education in Africa: Implications for accessibility, affordability, and quality;

C. Harmonization of quality assurance systems in African higher education institutions;

D. Internationalization and private higher education in Africa: Policies, strategies and implications for skills development/employment creation;

E. The state of science, technology and innovation in both private and public higher education sectors in Africa;

F. Life-long learning, learner needs, teacher development and success in higher education

**Submission Information:**

1. Abstracts should not exceed 300 to 400 words.
2. The length of full paper should not exceed 20 pages including references.
3. Abstracts should include title of the paper, selected sub-theme, authors’ affiliation and full address (email and telephone number).
4. Use font type of Times New Roman and font size of 12.
5. The paper should be submitted both in Word and PDF formats.

**Important deadlines**

Submission of abstracts: 1 April 2018
Notification of acceptance: 15 April 2018
Submission of full paper and power point: 10 June 2018
Publication of Abstract and program handbook: 25 June 2018
Conference dates: 25-27 July 2018

Venue: The conference will be held at the African Union Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia