

EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (EASA) 2014 CONFERENCE

1st ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Annual Conference of EASA will be held from 12-15 January 2014 at the Golden Gate Hotel in the picturesque Eastern Free State.

YOU are hereby invited to participate in this Conference – by the Conference Committee of the University of the Free State. The organising team is pleased to welcome you to be part of this promising and possibly powerful learning, sharing and networking experience.

THEME

***The long walk to freedom:
complexities and successes on the road
to improve education in South(ern) Africa***

Nelson Mandela had a long walk of 75 years to political freedom, of which 27 years were spent in prison. It appears as if the road to "educational freedom" for South(ern) Africa may be as arduous?

A number of successes on the road have been reported in early childhood education, school education, FET-College education and higher education since the 2011 Sun City EASA Conference that deliberated about turning the tide around in education. However, a number of serious challenges arose during this period which are indicative of the complexities of education in the South(ern) African region: the Limpopo text book debacle was uncovered, the Eastern Cape Department of Education was placed under administration, the FET-College throughput at NC(V) level remains appalling and space for further studies at higher education institutions is under huge pressure.

It seems as if the Rector of the University of the Free State, Prof Jonathan Jansen shares Nelson Mandela's vision that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – he has made it a priority during his term of office to get education right - and is allocating serious resources to put money where his mouth is.

In the spirit of Mandela and Jansen, the EASA 2014 Conference at Golden Gate Hotel in the tranquil Eastern Free State, wishes to make a significant contribution the effort of "getting education right" in South(ern) Africa to ensure real freedom for all. It is the conference organisers' view that all stakeholders should work relentlessly towards this goal to ensure a better future for us and our descendants. For this purpose, a specific invitation will go out to

the Departments of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training to attend - together with academics and educators. The following **sub-themes** will be focused on in the different levels of early childhood education, school education, FET-College education as well as higher education:

- Complexities impacting on improving education, and success stories in this regard
- Human complexities impacting on improving education, and concomitant success stories
- Sociological, psychological and political complexities of South(ern) Africa impacting on education – and possible solutions
- Multi-level analyses of contributing complexities
- Simple responses to some complexities?
- Interventions that show promise to improve classroom practice and pedagogy
- The relationship between education and freedom

Theoretical, philosophical, research-based and practice-oriented contributions are invited from all who share the passion to improve education on all levels in the South(ern) African region.

Let us come together to deliberate about making the long road to educational freedom shorter! And perhaps simpler?

DATES

12-15 January 2014

VENUE

Golden Gate National Park Hotel

ABSTRACTS

TYPES OF CONTRIBUTION

In addition to the keynote speakers and a panel presentation, the conference will also include papers from academics, teachers and researchers.

Abstracts are invited for

- Oral paper presentations (20min) followed by a discussion (10min)
- Round table discussions (60 minutes)
- Poster presentations (a poster session will be scheduled on the programme)

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Selection of contributions will be done using the following criteria:

- Is it relevant to the conference theme?
- Is the key theme, purpose/ rationale and method (where relevant) clear?
- Is it significant and original?
- Does it comply with the technical requirements?

Please Note:

We only accept abstracts sent by e-mail on the Abstract Submission Form. Even if accepted, no abstract will be included in the Book of Abstracts if full payment for registration has not been received by ?

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be submitted electronically (by e-mail), in MS Word format on the Abstract Submission Form to the conference administrator at the following e-mail address:

conferencepl@gmail.com

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACTS

- All authors interested in presenting a paper are invited to submit an abstract as an e-mail attachment on the attached Abstract Submission Form.
- Full contact details and institutional affiliation of authors must be given (see form).
- Format of Abstract: electronic format as MS Word document
- An abstract in English: 150-300.
- English will be the medium for presentations.
- All abstracts will be reviewed and may be selected for presentation.
- Notification of acceptance/non acceptance will be e-mailed to the Author(s).
- Failure to register by the presenting Author will automatically render the Abstract not be included in the final programme.
- Please note that submission of an abstract entails a commitment to attend and present the paper should the abstract be accepted.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date to submit abstracts:

12 September 2013

Acknowledge receiving of abstracts:

Within 3 working days

(Each delegate will receive a mail confirming receipt and the abstract number.)

Please use the abstract number in all correspondence.

Notification of abstract acceptance:

1 October 2013

Closing date for registration to attend:

1 November 2013

Confirmation within 3 working days. An invoice will be issued on request.

Final date for payment of registration fees:

15 November 2013

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Pay it directly into the bank account (bank deposit or electronic payment):

Banking details will be made available with the next announcement.

Deposit the appropriate fee into the bank account and fax/e-mail a copy of the deposit slip or proof of electronic transfer and your registration form to: Ms Petra Lawson, fax 086 541 1173, email conferencepl@gmail.com on the same day the deposit is made.

REGISTRATION FEES

R2 750.00 per EASA member: 3 Days: Including refreshments, lunch, conference material and gala dinner.

R3 000.00 per non-EASA member: 3 Days: Including refreshments, lunch, conference material and gala dinner.

R1 200.00 Day registration

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the delegate to ensure that a payment is made and proof of payment is submitted to Petra Lawson at conferencepl@gmail.com or fax to 086 541 1173

DISCLAIMER

The organisers reserve the right to change or cancel the published venue, programme, dates and/or fee due to unforeseen circumstances.

CONTACT DETAILS

ENQUIRIES: ABSTRACTS, REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFORMATION

Mrs Petra Lawson
Conference Administrator (EASA 2014)
Fax to mail: 086 541 1173
Phone: 083 231 6538
E-mail: conferencepl@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION

All delegates are responsible for their accommodation arrangements and payment (not included in the conference fee).

Accommodation is available at the conference hotel as well as in various B & Bs in Clarens and Phuthaditjhaba. Delegates may find the following websites helpful:

<http://www.hotfrog.co.za>;

<http://www.saexplorer.co.za/south-africa>

TRANSPORT

All delegates are responsible for their transport arrangements and payment (not included in the conference fee).

SPONSORSHIP AND/OR EXHIBITION

Interested companies are invited to showcase their products at the Conference. Please contact the Conference Administrator for more information regarding sponsorship and exhibition opportunities.