



Concept Note

The 3rd African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management, 2020

(3rdACOSCM2020)

About ACOSCM

Annual African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management is a series that has started in 2018 as a result of partnership between the Kuehne Foundation and African Universities offering Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree programs. Kuehne Foundation takes the leading role in supporting this event by partnering with various African Universities to create a platform for academic discussions among academics and industry players primarily about African logistics issues. Partner universities from African countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal include Addis Ababa University School of Commerce and School of Pharmacy), Mekelle University, Logistics and Supply Chain Management Program, Mzumbe University, University of Nairobi, Strathmore University, Makerere University, University of Lagos, University of Rwanda-College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) and University of Dar Es salaam.

The first conference was held in Dar Es Salaam Tanzania at Julius Nyerere International Convention center while the second conference took place in Addis Ababa through joint involvement of the Kuehne Foundation and its partner EMG Consulting, Addis Ababa University (School of Commerce and School of Pharmacy), Mekelle University, Logistics and Supply Chain Management Program.

The opportunity to host and organize the third conference of ACOSCM is given to the University of Rwanda-College of Business and Economics and will be an opportunity to inaugurate and officially launch the new undergraduate degree program of Logistics and Supply Chain Management (BSc with Honours) developed in partnership with the Foundation.

3rd Conference Host: The University of Rwanda

The University of Rwanda (UR) was established by the Government of Rwanda through the law no 71/2013 of 10/09/2013. It resulted from the merge of the nation's seven public Higher Learning Institutions into a consolidated entity governed by the Board of Governors and an Academic Senate with strong staff and student representation, along with the Vice Chancellor who is the University's chief executive officer. The UR is a singular, multi-campus institution offering a wide range of academic studies. As such, it provides opportunities for students to pursue a variety of programs (Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Short courses and Professional Training) - some that are quite specialised in nature, others that are multi-disciplinary and/or problem-based in focus - and to undertake their studies at different locations across the country, both through classes at designated campuses and through access to distance learning. On May 26th 2016, the World Bank Board approved the award of 24, competitively-selected, African Centres of Excellence (ACEs) for 8



countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. Four of these Centres of Data Science, IoT, Energy and Mathematics are based at the University of Rwanda.

The College of Business and Economics

College of Business and Economics was officially enacted as part of University of Rwanda on Law 38 of 23/09/2013. It was formerly the School of Finance and Banking and has now been merged as part of University of Rwanda (UR). The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is one of the six colleges composing the University of Rwanda, a Rwandan public high learning institution, established by law NO 71/2013 of 10/09/2013 and determining its mission, powers, organisation and functioning. CBE proudly boasts of four main campuses, which include Gikondo, Huye, Nyagatare and Rusizi. CBE is therefore delighted that as a specialised institution in business, economics, Tourism and Hospitality realms is contributing substantially to the establishment of a critical mass of professionals that will steer the country and develop its own highly skilled and aggressive entrepreneurs who will establish businesses that will thrive in Rwanda and grow to become multinationals, active in East Africa, Africa and the rest of the world. Since its creation, CBE has quickly grown in number of programs, students and staff.

Vision, Mission and Core Values

The Mission of University of Rwanda (UR) is to deliver quality education and develop innovative teaching and research meant to address the problems of the population, the students, the nation, the region and the world. The College of Business and Economics vision, mission and core values are drawn from the University of Rwanda.

The Purpose of UR-CBE is to produce and enable competent and innovative professionals in the fields of Finance, Accounting and Economics through quality instructional, Co-Curricular and Community Involvement. Conducting problem solving research in the fields of business and economics through active involvement of stakeholders and Providing demand driven community and consultancy services to the community and stakeholders in the fields of business and economics

UR-CBE's Vision is to be a center of excellence in East Africa in producing competent and innovative professionals, in generating and adapting new and relevant knowledge to development in the areas of business, finance, economics and development.

The Mission of UR-CBE is to produce competent and innovative professionals in the areas of business, finance, economics and development through practical lifelong learning; to engage in research and community services and promote democratic culture to the development of the country.

The CBE stands for the Core values of the University of Rwanda which include, Innovation and Creativity, Excellence, Quality Academic Freedom, Environmental stewardship, Enabling



Commitment, Democratisation and participatory decision-making, Respect and support diversity and Cost effectiveness

Partnership between UR-CBE and Kuehne Foundation

Since 2018, the University of Rwanda-College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) entered in partnership with Kuehne Foundation-Global Logistics Education Program LEARN and Kuehne Logistics University of Hamburg, Germany to support the establishment of Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree program in the School of Business. The partnership went beyond the development of degree program and faculty members from the College of Business and Economics have been benefiting from the capacity building sessions organised by the Foundation either in Rwanda or abroad (Germany and Africa). Three faculty members of the School of Business have got PhD Scholarship offered by the Foundation as part of supporting the University of Rwanda to build the capacity of existing staff to ensure the sustainability of the new programs of Transport, Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

The Kuehne Foundation

The public-benefit Kuehne Foundation was established by the Kuehne family in 1976 and is associated with the world renowned and global TOP 10 logistics company Kuehne+Nagel from Switzerland. Prof. Dr. h.c. Klaus-Michael Kuehne is President of the Board of Trustees. The deed of the foundation specifies the following two main areas of support:

1. Support for training, further education, scholarships and research in the fields of transport and logistics
2. Support for medical sciences, humanitarian, charitable, and cultural projects.

Leveraging the premium and long-term gained expertise in logistics and transportation, the Kuehne Foundation has been cooperating with University of Rwanda since 2018 in the area of capacity building for academic degrees in logistics and supply chain management.

The Logistics Education LEED- Program of the Foundation

The Logistics Education – Emerging & Developing LEED-program aims to ensure sustainable high-quality logistics and supply chain education in emerging & developing countries. Kühne Foundation currently builds and develops LSCM study degree programs in eight countries in Africa – Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, and Tanzania. Further countries might be included in the future. In particular, Kühne Foundation provides three major paths in order to achieve higher education programs at international standards:

- Review and implementation of LSCM university programs,
- Delivery of LSCM seminars and training,
- Co-Supervision of local PhD candidates



The ultimate aim is to build self-sufficient and sustainable local education capacities. Kühne Foundation activities in a given country will be concluded, once the partner universities can operate independently and do not require further external support to deliver and sustain high quality LSCM degree programs.

It is in this context of partnership with the Kuehne Foundation LEED program, that the University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) has been selected and agreed to host the 3rd Annual African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management (ACOSCM) in Kigali, Rwanda.

4. Aim of the 3rd ACOSCM

The aim of the 3rd Annual African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management (ACOSCM) is to provide an open forum to discuss the recent disruptions of the global logistics and supply chain management and its impact on local and regional operations, transport and distribution of essential needs (goods and services), new solutions in humanitarian logistics, the role local and regional start up or companies in delivering essential needs (goods and services) during the lockdown period.

The conference platform encourages learning and collaboration within and across institutions; promotes system-wide improvements in organisations and the sector as a whole; identifies important research issues; and establishes priorities for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), corporations, and the government in terms of strategies, policies and investments in the area of national and regional operations and global supply chain management.

Representatives from the local and regional universities in partnership with the University of Rwanda and Kuehne Logistics Foundation, NGOs, foundations and private industry, and academia present diverse perspectives in operations and supply chain management challenges through keynote addresses, panel discussions, focused workshops, lunchtime group discussions, and interactive poster sessions covering a broad set of research topics and applications.

The 3rd conference is sure to bring together an abundance of researchers and professionals active in the operations and supply chain management sector from the African Continent and abroad. The Kuehne Logistics Foundation organises the event annually in collaboration with a local University in Africa and this year, the University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) will be the hosting institution.

Guest Speakers

- Rwanda Minister of Trade and Commerce or Minister of Education (TBC)
- Kuehne Logistics Foundation President or Director (TBC)



Academic Committee Members

1. Dr. Papias Musafiri Malimba, Acting Vice Chancellor, UR
2. Dr. Faustin Gasheja, Principal
3. Dr. Daniel Zapata, Kuehne Foundation
4. Dr. Lester Shawa, Kuehne Foundation
5. Dr. Benjamin, Nitsche, Technical University of Berlin
6. Prof. dr. Nico Vandaele, KU Leuven (TBC)
7. Prof Rama B Rao, University of Rwanda
8. Prof. Pierre Claver Kayumba, RCE-VIHSCM (TBC)
9. Dr. Domina Asingizwe RCE-VIHSCM (TBC)
10. Michaella Rugwizangoga, CEO Volkswagen Rwanda (TBC)
11. Yvonne Manzi Makolo, CEO RwandAir (TBC)

Organizing Committee Members

The organizing committee of the 3rdACOSCM2020 is configured with the following persons.

1. Prof. Rama B. Rao, Chair
2. Dr. Jonas Barayandema, Vice-Chair
3. Stany Banzimana, Secretary
4. Dr. Francois Niragire, Member
5. Benoit Kanyangira, Member
6. Barigye Vianney, Member
7. Mbabazi Maureen, Member
8. Byabagamba Edouard, Member
9. Jorida Shehu
10. Dr. Andre Kreie

5. Conference Theme: Responsible Supply Chain Management in Disasters and Pandemics.

With reference to the recent global pandemic of COVID-19 and lockdown as measure to contain the pandemic, the global logistics and supply chain has been affected and the entire operation and flow of goods and services within country, cross-borders transport and international purchasing, transport and distribution were seriously affected. This year's conference will discuss how



operations and supply chain management at country, regional and global level were affected, how flexible were operations management being done under the global lockdown period and what would be the lesson learnt from the recent global logistics disruptions. Specific tracks of the 3rd ACOSCM will be detailed in the Call for Papers to be issued soon, however, tentatively the following are in pipeline.

1. Health and Humanitarian Supply Chains
2. Agricultural Supply Chains
3. Industrial/ Business Operational Supply Chains
4. Optimisation of Logistics Costs of Landlocked Countries

The submission of papers to this conference is not limited to the tracks mentioned as long as the contributors address their papers to the theme of the conference.

6. Conference venue and date

The 3rd Annual African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management (ACOSCM) is tentatively scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda in March 4-5, 2021. In close collaboration with the Kuehne Foundation (our partner and sponsor), Marriott Hotel was identified and selected as the best conference venue.

7. Conference Budget

From the two previous conferences, the total budget is estimated to 45,000 USD. The organising committee considers about 10,000 to 15,000 USD for travel and accommodation of abroad and non-Kigali based conference participants and about 25,000 to 35,000 USD for the conference itself. The Kuehne Foundation (Main sponsor) confirmed its financial support to cater for travel; accommodation of abroad and non-Kigali based guests and conference venue related costs in the sum of USD 45,000 while the hosting institution will cater for welcome Cocktail or welcome dinner and a Culture Troop social event prior to the conference.

The University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) considers hosting the 3rd Annual African Conference on Operations and Supply Chain Management (ACOSCM) in Kigali, Rwanda as a great opportunity for the country, the EAC region and the Continent at large to network, learn from international researchers, academicians, policy makers involved in operations (transport, distribution, etc) and supply chain management and for conference participants to learn from home-grown solutions and initiatives that are contributing to keep cross-border supply chain activities running during the lockdown period.

For more information about the University of Rwanda, please visit us on <https://ur.ac.rw/>

For more information about the Kuehne Foundation, please visit us on www.kuehne-stiftung.org

For questions and clarifications, please contact the following persons from the College of Business and Economics:



- Maureen Mbabazi, Member of the organising Committee, e-mail: mbamaureen@gmail.com, Phone +250788500059
- Vianney Barigye, Member of the organising committee, e-mail: barivia@gmail.com , Tel: Phone +250788855448
- Stany Banzimana, Member of the Organising Committee, e-mail: stanybanz@gmail.com, Phone +250788690864

For the Kuehne Foundation-related enquiries, please contact

- Mrs. Jorida Sheau, Member of the organising Committee, email: Jorida.shehu@the-klu.org
Phone +49403287070
- Dr. Andre Kreie, Member of the organising Committee, email: andre.kreie@kuehne-stiftung.org
Phone +4915152032102

8. Conference Agenda

Day 1: see attached program file

Day 2: see attached program file

9. Conference Proceedings or Book Chapters

One of the key outcomes of the 3rd ACOSCM is the collection of all research papers and its publication either in scientific journals in the area of Logistics and SCM or to be published by renowned publisher as a peer reviewed and edited book of chapters. In addition a book of abstracts of the papers shall be released in the conference. This will give more credits to the conference and the University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics (UR-CBE) in closer collaboration with our partner KLF will work together to ensure that this core activity is implemented.

10. Conference Homepage

The Kuehne Logistics Foundation will support the University of Rwanda (UR-CBE) as a hosting institution to develop and maintain a homepage that will be used for advertisement, marketing and communication and participants registration. Once the homepage is available, it will be extended to the University of Rwanda website to increase the visibility of both institutions (UR-CBE and KLF).

11. Conferences key dates

The following are important dates for conference activities:



- Launch of Call for Papers: 06th November 2020,
- Submission of Abstract: 11th January 2021,
- Selection of Abstracts: 18th January 2021,
- Information about accepted Abstract: 22nd January 2021,
- Submission of Full Papers: 24th February 2021,
- Submission of Conference Presentation: 02nd March 2021

12. Other Admin and Logistics activities

The conference organizing committee has a plan of having virtual meeting (bi-weekly) to discuss the conference preparatory activities progress.