



SECRETARIAT:

The Namibian Open Learning Network Trust

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Namibian Open Learning Network Trust (NOLNet)

4th Open and Distance Learning Conference

23 -25 October 2019

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) – Auditorium 1
Windhoek, Namibia

Conference Theme: ***“The Role of Open, Distance and eLearning in the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR)”***

The Namibian Open Learning Network Trust (NOLNet) was established in July 2001 to support the development of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in Namibia. The following are partner institutions: Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) through the Centre for Open and Lifelong Learning (COLL) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) through the Centre for Open, Distance and e-Learning (CODeL).

The Trust brings together all the government funded ODL institutions in the country under one umbrella to collaborate and facilitate the sharing of scarce resources and expertise in the ODL field, in the most cost-effective manner. This innovative and unique concept of NOLNet has been widely recognised and attracted many positive compliments from other ODL Practitioners within the SADC region and beyond.

Conference Brief:

Open, Distance and eLearning (ODeL) institutions and practitioners have always emphasised their role in shaping the future use of technology in ODeL by being at the forefront of innovation in fulfilling the expectations of educating future generations.

The world is moving into the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) which is characterised by a fusion of technologies that blurs the lines among the physical, digital, and biological spheres. Both conventional education and ODeL have contributed significantly to the current levels of industrial evolution and technological advancement. However, for ODeL to provide future generations with the right set of skills and knowledge, an imperative question has to be asked regarding how ODeL would be affected by the 4th Industrial Revolution and how the design and delivery of education will be transformed.

Reviewing what we as ODeL Institutions and practitioners design, develop and deliver through teaching, research and community service and how we engage with industry has become more necessary. It is no longer an option to keep doing things the conventional way. Innovation and accepting change is a prerequisite for survival and should now, more than ever before, remain at the core of all our strategic objectives.

Aim of the conference:

The ODL Conference aims to bring together ODeL practitioners to share knowledge, research findings and best practices to strengthen collaborative efforts in maintaining quality distance education design and delivery.

ODL conference has the following specific objectives.

This Conference will offer participants the opportunity to:

- a) explore how institutions in Namibia, regionally and internationally are responding to the challenges presented by the 4IR;
- b) understand the demands of industry;
- c) hear the voices of students;
- d) showcase innovations in ODeL; and
- e) network with all stakeholders.

Sub-themes:

1. The 4th Industrial Revolution: International Experience and Trends

The sub-theme will explore the aspects related to the 4th Industrial Revolution, specifically international experience and trends. The abstracts must focus on the following:

- The use of augmented reality (AR) - (e.g. intelligent robots, autonomous drones, driverless cars, 3D printing and smart sensors),
- The delivery of MOOCs and OERs to provide stand-alone instruction (e.g. the internet of things, services and data management),
- Innovative talent in ODL (e.g. individual genetic make-up and bio-printing).

2. The 4th Industrial Revolution: Implications for Open, Distance and eLearning

The sub-theme will explore the aspects related to implications for open, distance and eLearning in the 4th Industrial Revolution. The abstracts must focus on the following:

- Openness and Connectedness in ODL,
- Technology in the 4th Industrial revolution and how it will impact ODL,
- Governance and Quality Assurance of ODL institutions and programmes,
- The profile of the ODL students in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

3. University-Industry Partnerships in the Changing World of Work

The sub-theme will explore aspects related to University-Industry partnerships in the changing world of work. The abstracts must focus on the following:

- Industry involvement in programme development,
- Programme responsiveness to industry needs,
- Capacity building for re-skilling,
- Cooperative education (Work Integrated Learning and Traineeship/ Internship),
- University/Institution - Industry partnerships.

4. The 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Futures

The sub-theme will explore the following concerns related to the 4th Industrial Revolution and sustainable futures. The abstracts must focus on the following:

- Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development,
- Lifelong Learning for Social Justice,
- Equal access to technical/vocational and higher education,
- Lifelong learning for Inclusiveness.

Call for Abstracts and Papers

Abstracts are invited for the sub-themes herein described.

The presentations shall be in the form of:

- Theoretical papers based on research and review
- Case studies
- Poster presentation
- Keynote address
- Audio-Visual, Internet Demonstration

The Conference will be organized in sessions to include

- Opening and keynote address session
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel sessions

All papers will be peer reviewed before being published in the Conference proceedings.

Deadlines for Call for Abstracts and Papers are as follows:

Abstracts: 30 June 2019
Acceptance of Abstracts and Notification: 31 July 2019
Submission of Papers: 31 August 2019

Registration fees:

Early Bird: (Closes 31 August 2019)

Delegate (only):	ZAR/NAD 1200
Delegate (presenter):	ZAR/NAD 1000
Students (proof required):	ZAR/NAD 250 ⁱ
Pre-conference:	ZAR/NAD 300

Late Registration: (01-13 October 2019)

Delegate (only):	ZAR/NAD 2400
Delegate (presenter):	ZAR/NAD 2000
Pre-conference:	ZAR/NAD 600
Students:	ZAR/NAD 500 ⁱⁱ

Conference Secretariat:

All communication concerning the Conference should be sent to:

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ⁱ This does not include students performing remunerative work on a part-time or permanent basis

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