



COMMONWEALTH TERTIARY EDUCATION FACILITY

## **A BRIEF REPORT**

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# **DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN COMMONWEALTH AFRICA – TOWARDS A POLICY REPORT**

A COMMONWEALTH TERTIARY EDUCATION FACILITY (CTEF) MEETING

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

HELD AT  
**RAMADA PLAZA DUA SENTRAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

NETWORK PARTNERS  
**COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Doctoral Education in Commonwealth Africa meeting is a platform for various stakeholders to provide insights in formulating a policy brief. Both local and international individuals gathered to discuss the way forward of a policy brief with regards to doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa countries. Stakeholders and network partners present were from the Commonwealth of Learning, International Association of Universities, Association of Commonwealth Universities, African High Commission (From Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius and Zambia), Ministry of Education Malaysia (Department of Higher Education), Africa-Asia Development University Network, as well as local and international universities and research centres.

Organised by the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility, this meeting brought forth substantial outcomes by deliberating on the current status of doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa, besides preparing the policy brief. The meeting attained constructive viewpoints from stakeholders during the discussion. This propelled a need to strengthen the policy brief as they *pooled* their thoughts together on doctoral education matters.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### Rationale of the Project

The Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility (CTEF) at the National Institute for Higher Education Research (IPPTN), Universiti Sains Malaysia, hosted a meeting among stakeholders and partners to discuss and formulate a policy paper on Doctoral Education in Commonwealth Africa. The CTEF envisages that this Policy Paper would be tabled at the June 2015 Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers when the Facility reports its progress to the Ministerial Conference.

A brief background, the Facility is tasked to collect, organise and disseminate information on the higher education sector of the Commonwealth. The main objective of the CTEF's activities is to assist in policy development, implementation and to encourage good practices among Commonwealth members. The Facility will act as the centre for the exchange of information on higher education between governments, institutions and regional organisations.

This meeting is one of several initiatives of the CTEF to contribute towards the development of and sharing good practices on Higher Education in the Commonwealth.

### Objectives

The meeting aims to formulate a policy paper for doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa drawing upon the collective experience and expertise of stakeholders and partners from the International Association of Universities, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and the Commonwealth of Learning. The meeting will specifically:

- i. Discuss and reflect on the current status of doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa

- ii. Garner perspectives from partners and agencies from Commonwealth Africa and those interested in Commonwealth Africa
- iii. Prepare a policy paper on doctoral education for Commonwealth Africa

#### Expected Outcome

The intended outcome of this meeting is to come out with a policy paper/policy brief on doctoral education for Commonwealth Africa.

#### Targeted Participants

The meeting aimed at gathering partners, scholars, administrators, policy makers and academics from various institutions and agencies which are involved in higher education.

#### **PROJECT COMPONENT**

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The meeting achieved all three objectives as participants diligently provide their standpoints on the progress of doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa and formulating a policy brief.

In total, there were 23 individuals who participated in the meeting and are attached to various affiliations, namely – the Commonwealth of Learning; International Association of Universities; Association of Commonwealth Universities; African High Commission (From Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius and Zambia); Ministry of Education Malaysia (Department of Higher Education); Africa-Asia Development University Network; local and international universities; research centres.

By the end of the meeting, participants were able to:

- i. Network among themselves for possible future collaborations
- ii. Understand and find out more about experts from various fields on doctoral education
- iii. Draft out a policy brief framework

#### **CONCLUSION**

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This enlightening and synergetic meeting has indeed aided in formulating a policy brief on doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa as we prepare to table the policy brief at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in June 2015. Together with the CTEF, a team of *resource individuals* is preparing the content of the policy brief. We hope this could be a strong foundation as we embark in enhancing higher education policy in the Commonwealth countries.

## Pictures



Participants listening attentively to a presentation on doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa



International perspective on doctoral education in Commonwealth Africa



Constructive discussion among participants on the way forward of a policy brief document



Participant providing opinion on the content of a policy brief



Standpoint of the high commission (Commonwealth Africa countries) on doctoral education



Discussion with the Director General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Malaysia



Group photograph  
(Final day)

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