

Concept Note on the 2020 Strategic Risk Conversations on Higher Education (STRLC-HE)

Envision 2030, our broadly benchmarked strategic blueprint, has set us on a journey of deliberate, purposeful dreams about a Society punctuated by mutually beneficial partnerships. Coated in the reality that spearheading a socioeconomic transformational landscape re-tilt – a task painstakingly arduous to embark on and complete – is a challenge we embraced as the DUT, in volunteering to host the 2020 Chapter of the SRLC-HE.

Unparalleled commitment to Excellence, and a lofty sense of dedication to Innovation, inspires our dream of a trendsetter Society – realised through mutually beneficial partnerships.

- That Society dreams of a higher education sector trudging with confidence, through complexity, in pursuit of the seemingly impossible.
- That Society includes industry that pins its hopes on research-premised innovative solutions, emerging from university-industry partnerships – mutually beneficial partnerships, to be exact!
- That Society includes Adaptive Graduates who lead with honour in their respective spheres of specialty and are decisive in their hope of carving a better tomorrow - whilst clearly leveraging on their employability skills and remaining global in posture.
- That Society gazes wider in search of innovative solutions, reflects deeper on proposals emanating from a counterparty, particularly a contrarian view, and deliberates with disciplined vigour – premised on professional humility – during a solution-seeking conversation.

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- That Society thrives when faced with unprecedented dilemmas that call for innovation, and taps on its entrepreneurial flair – and entrepreneurship initiatives – for knowledge that will generate sustainably impactful solutions;

Convening under the theme, “[Marrying the Science of Excellence with the Art of Risk \(Leadership\)](#)”, our 2020 Chapter is clearly intent on finding the sweet spot, within the midst of a seemingly-too-fluid territory to navigate through. Tapping on the unique experiences of a myriad of practitioners from a broad spectrum of industries and sectors, including some of the finest brains in the market (within our country and beyond), our 2020 Chapter is fully conscious of the difficulties naturally encountered in engineering the change we seek! And this is set to elevate conference deliberations to the next level.

The blessing with the globally outreached and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, engulfing us, is the opportunity it brings in recalibrating even the very new norm that we continually referred to in response to various disruptors in our world. Hence, the (Conference) Programme includes a panel discussion on lessons learned during the COVID-19 era, and contributing their perspectives is going to be thought-leadership practitioners from ¹varying contexts.

Mindful that we are educational institution, and thus a reservoir for resourceful knowledge, we will be tapping our Academics for support, in seeking to publish the outcomes of the conference in credible journals. That way, Society in her various walks- of-life, will be able to benefit – including those who would have not had an opportunity to be part this scintillating conference.

¹ The aspiration here is to have speakers from Italy, China, a sister African country, and our country as co-Panelists.

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Kicking-off on day of prime sentiment for us as an institution, viz. the International Day of People with Disabilities – December 03rd – the conference consciously seeks to sensitize Society/delegates on the essence of integrating the disabilities Agenda into their talent management strategies. It is also in this context that the marketing drive of the conference, spearheaded by our Corporate Affairs experts, will formally ascend to a higher-level effective September 01st – Casual Day, which is recognition of disabilities. Naturally, the Employment Wellness team, within our Human Resources Department, will be an equally prominent player in this regard.

The Risk Champions, across the institution, who play a pivotal role in crystalizing the concept of co-journeying – as part of organisational effort towards the deepening of risk culture – will be rising to the occasion. The responsibility of socialising this 2020 Chapter within their respective DUT Faculties and Sectors is a task they expectedly will shoulder with confidence.

Strategic steering will naturally emanate from our Vice Chancellor, who serves as the primary sponsor of this conference. Expert coaching from that Office, in conjunction with the institutional broader leadership team, will be instrumental to the DUT remaining true to her DNA, viz. as a trendsetter who continues to leveraging on her intestinal fortitude when faced with a steep and slippery slope!