

Concept Note on the 2020 Strategic Risk Conversations on Higher Education (STRLC-HE) 2021

Envision 2030, our broadly benchmarked strategic blueprint, has set us on a journey of deliberate, purposeful dreams about a Society practically committed to mutually beneficial partnerships. As part of our embracing the challenge of contributing to transforming a socio-economic re-tilt – a task painstakingly arduous to embark on and to complete – we volunteered to host the 2020 Chapter of the SRLC-HE 2021.

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

- That Society dreams of a higher education sector that is adaptive, resilient and confidently agile when navigating 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 counter-party, 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. Both digitization and digitalization remain a priority and inform its embrace of emerging technologies, in pursuit of innovative solutions;
- That Society, steadfastly rooted on values and principles as integrated onto their DNA, continually strives for deepened risk culture and remains mindful of the governance texture within their environment;
- That Society is addicted to a sense of inclusivity, and continually pursues diversity opportunities within itself, and collaborates across its different strata. The active involvement of at-risk groups - such as the LGBTiQA strata, people with disabilities, those with contrarian views, etc. – constitutes a point of departure in every aspect of its initiatives, igniting their sense of innovation too.

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 2021 of a seemingly-too-fluid territory through which to navigate. 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 2021 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.

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The blessing embedded within the globally outreach and unprecedented COVID-19 devastating 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 period, and thought-leadership practitioners will be contributing their perspectives from ¹varying contexts.

Mindful that we are an educational institution, and thus a reservoir for resourceful knowledge, we will be tapping onto 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 Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, a sister African country, and/or our country as co-Panelists.

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The Risk Champions, across our institution, who play a pivotal role in crystallising the concept of co-journeying – as part of the organisational effort towards the deepening of risk culture – will be rising to the occasion. The responsibility of socialising this 2020 Chapter within their 2021 respective DUT Faculties and Sectors is a task they expectedly will shoulder with confidence, as it also presents an opportunity to further-inculcate our sense of Accountability and Commitment.

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 broader institutional leadership team – as guided by our collective sense of Professionalism and Excellence - will be instrumental to the DUT remaining true to her DNA. And, that DNA distinctively carves an image of the DUT as an institution that serves as a trendsetter who continues leveraging on her intestinal fortitude when faced with a steep and slippery slope!