Call for papers

Southern Africa Early Childhood Development Conference

The Government of the Republic of Zambia, in partnership with the Southern Africa Network for Early Childhood Development, (SANECD); Zambia National Education Coalition and the Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), will be hosting the first Southern Africa Regional ECD Conference on 28th to 30th March, 2023 at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia. The Organising Committee is pleased to invite abstracts to be considered for presentation at the conference.

Although Early Childhood Development and Education is high on the agenda of Governments in the Southern African Region, attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4:2) and the AU Agenda 2063; calls for coordinated efforts across the sub-region. The Southern African Regional Conference aims to provide a platform for deepening partnerships to advance Quality and Inclusive Early Childhood Development and Education in Southern Africa. The conference anticipates to bring together a diverse group of ECD actors including policy makers, researchers, CSOs, academia, funders, ECD practitioners, government ministries, agencies and ECD sector partners. The vision is to contribute to an environment in the Southern Africa Region where children are provided with accessible, quality, and inclusive early childhood development and education services, where all children, are supported to attain, their full development potential and to contribute to the region's prosperity.

CONFERENCE THEME

"Partnerships for Advancing Quality and Inclusive Early Childhood Development and Education in Southern Africa".

SUB-THEMES

The conference will evolve around the following sub-themes:
1. Knowledge Generation and Dissemination: Understanding the ECD Landscape in Southern Africa.
2. Partnerships for strengthened advocacy to increase investments in Early Childhood Development and Education in Southern Africa sub-region.
3. Innovative ways of increasing access to quality early childhood development and education services especially to the poor and marginalized.
4. Quality improvement strategies (Curriculum, play based-learning, workforce development, assessment, quality assurance etc.)

PRESENTATION FORMATS

The conference will include a mix of in-person and virtual participants and organised in different sessions to ensure wide and active participation of participants. The conference will employ the following methods: Paper, Poster and Key Note Presentations. Please specify whether you are submitting for oral, or poster presentation. The conference will include the following;

• Plenary sessions where keynote presentations will be delivered in line with the conference theme.
• Round table discussions for smaller groups through break away sessions. Through this, the conference participants will have the opportunity to engage in more in-depth sharing, learning and discussions on various subjects of interest and relevance for them. The round table dialogue will also be the avenue for generating key recommendations that will be taken up in the conference recommendations and in the final communique.
• Side events and clinics for various interest groups e.g. ECD Networks, researchers, funders, or country teams etc. This will enable groups to engage, network and build pathways for collaboration and partnerships that would take ECD forward in the region.
• Exhibition for poster presentations and sharing of ECD materials and resources by partners.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORMATS

The abstract not exceeding 300 words should be presented in the following format:
1. Sub-Theme (to be selected from any of the four sub-themes.
2. Authors name, affiliation/institution, country, position and email address.
3. Abstract content (Introduction, methodological approach, key findings and discussion, conclusions and recommendations)
4. Key words

IMPORTANT DATES

1	**Conference dates.**	**28th -30th March, 2023**
2	**Submission deadline.**	**24th February, 2023**
3	**Notification of acceptance.**	**7th March, 2023**
4	**Deadline for submission of presentations.**	**10th March, 2023**
5	**Deadline for Registration of participants.**	**17th March, 2023**

Abstracts and presentations should be submitted **online at**

https://afecn.org/sar-conference-2023

Kindly note that any submission that will be made later than the submission deadline will not be considered. Conference participation fees will be found on the conference link to be shared on the website.