



**The African STEAM Center of
Excellence (ASTEAM CoE)
Kigali, Rwanda**



Consultative workshop to establish the African STEAM Center, Kigali

Place of Workshop: Grand Legacy Hotel, Kigali

Date of the Workshop: December 7 – 9/2022

Background Information

There are over a billion people in Africa, yet there are only 2,000 colleges and universities. In Sub-Saharan Africa 70 per cent of the population is under the age of 30, but only seven per cent of Africans enroll in tertiary education. Tertiary education is essential. However, the continent faces a number of challenges that must be addressed if it is to truly educate and empower the next generation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEAM) leaders.

The promotion of STEAM education aligns with the worldwide trend of equipping students for the rapid economic, scientific and technological developments, as well as the changes and challenges in society and around the world. In the context of the Rwandan school curriculum, STEAM education is promoted through the Science, Technology and Mathematics Education Key Learning Areas (KLAs) in primary and secondary schools.

According to the National STEAM School Education Strategy (NSSSES) document of Rwanda, The Rwanda Vision 2050 is about ensuring high standards of living for all Rwandans focusing on areas such as: quality of life; modern infrastructure and livelihoods; and transformation for prosperity. To meet those targets it is essential to achieve the highest possible quality of education to enable all citizens of Rwanda to build the advanced country that is envisioned to achieve.

It is vital therefore to ensure that the quality of STEAM Education is designed to prepare graduates of our education system with the skills and competencies they need to support Rwanda's vision. The mission of the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) is to transform the Rwandan citizen into skilled human capital for the socio-economic development of the country by ensuring equitable access to quality education focusing on combating illiteracy, promotion of science and technology, critical thinking, and positive values.

Sustainable economic growth is a vital strategy for the future of Rwanda. New knowledge and technologies are needed to address emerging challenges and to underpin new goods and services. The growing sectors of Rwandan economy require an increasing number of skilled workers with qualifications in STEAM. It is with this emphasis that the Rwandan government put the STEAM education as a priority area and developed the National STEAM School Education Strategy (NSSSES) to harness the full potentials of STEAM education to empower the young talented and energetic citizens.

Objectives of the consultative workshop

The overall objective of this consultative Workshop which is going to be held in Kigali is for finalizing the draft strategic document to establish the African STEAM center in Kigali. During the two days consultative workshop, the draft documents produced by the three working groups will be reviewed and the final draft zero strategic document will be produced.

The anticipated missions, visions and objectives of the STEAM center, The proposed laboratories, The engagement areas of the center, The proposed organizational structure of the center, The possible collaboration and partnership schemes, The short term and long term plans of the center, The needed equipment, Hardware and software materials to equip the center and other related issues will be discussed during the workshop.

Participants

1. Representatives from responsible ministry office
2. UNECA Experts
3. UNESCO representatives
4. Local Experts from different sectors
5. Other Key stake holders

Outcomes of the Workshop

- Enriched and finalized center establishment strategic document
- Final partnership and collaboration strategic document
- Approved organizational structure of the center
- Approved laboratories under the center
- Approved list of equipment to equip the center
- Commented and approved short- and long-term plans of the center
- Possible strategies for the way forward
- And others.....