



IUM
THE INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT

WELCOMING REMARKS BY PROF. OSMUND D. MWANDEMELE, VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT (IUM) GIVEN DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (SAARMSTE), 16 JANUARY 2024, WINDHOEK.

Director of Ceremonies, Prof. Dr. Alex Kanyimba

Hon. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Relations and Cooperation,

Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Technology, and Innovation,

Hon. Ester Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture,

Prof. Dr. David Richard Namwandi, Founder and Chairman of the IUM Governing Council,

Prof. Dr. Frednard Gideon, Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia,

Dr. Andrew Niikondo, Deputy-Vice Chancellor for Teaching, Learning and Technology, Namibia University of Science and Technology,

Dr. Nhlanhla Lupahla, General Manager for Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Coordination and Support, representing the Chief Executive Officer of NCRST,

Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Members of Parliament here present,

Dr. Tulsi Morar, SAARMSTE President

Members of the SAARMSTE Executive Committee here present,

Mrs. Martha Nyamakuti, Chairperson of the SAARMSTE Conference Local Organising Committee,

Dr. Herine Otieno, Founder and Chief Executive Director of EDUHUB Afrique,

Distinguished Pro-Vice Chancellors and All Heads of Tertiary Institutions here present,

Deans and Directors here present

Members of the Local Organising Committee,

Distinguished Conference Delegates,
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocols observed.

Good Morning

I feel greatly honoured to welcome you to the 32nd Annual Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education conference, being hosted by Namibia, and being held at our esteemed university, the International University of Management (IUM). Today marks the pivotal moment as we gather to explore innovative ideas and advancements in education.

A very hearty and special welcome to our distinguished Guest, Hon. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa who despite her very busy work schedule, accepted to grace our conference and address us this morning. This is truly very much appreciated. I also wish to warmly welcome our two Ministers, Hon. Dr. Itah-Kandjii-Murangi and Hon. Ester Anna Nghipondoka and sincerely thank them for accepting to be with us this morning. With the distinguished presence of our Deputy Prime Minister, Senior Government Ministers, and other Government officials of the Republic of Namibia, we are privileged to witness the commitment of our government to the crucial fields of mathematics, science, and technology.

Let me also take this opportunity to extend special welcome to our esteemed conference delegates who travelled from within and outside our SADC region. Your presence here today is very much appreciated by all of us as we truly look forward to your valuable contributions in the conference deliberations. A special welcome also goes to the SAARMSTE President and Members of the SAARMSTE Executive Committee.

This conference is jointly hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the University of Namibia, Namibia University of Science and Technology, the International University of Management, and the National Commission on Science and Technology. I would thus wish to warmly welcome my colleagues to this very important conference. Thank you for having set aside part of your valuable time to be here with us today.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to the Founder and Chairman of the IUM Governing Council for honouring us with his presence at this conference. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the IUM Governing Council through our visionary Chairman, for committing enormous resources to ensure that this conference becomes a success so that all of us can be proud and happy that Namibia successfully hosted the 2024 SAARMSTE conference. Thank you, Sir.

Let me also recognize other conference sponsors, namely, Casio, Dinapama, Taylor and Francis of the Taylor and Francis Group and ZENEX Foundation. Thank you for your much appreciated support.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As we embark on the intellectual journey this morning, let us foster collaboration, share insights, and inspire one another to elevate the standards of education in our region and beyond. Together, we can shape the future of learning and contribute to the progress and development of our respective countries. As Institutions of Higher Learning, there is a lot that is expected of us. We should be actively involved in research that would find the root causes of the dismally poor performance of learners in our schools and even students in tertiary institutions in such key subjects as mathematics, science and technology. In addition, this conference should see how our SADC region can use Mathematics, Science and Technology Education to fuel socio-economic development in the region, which is in line with this year's conference theme. That is, how can we address the challenges affecting our respective countries?

Thus, we will be expecting this conference to give guidance and provide solutions to the many problems which affect mathematics, science, and technology education, and how mathematics, science and technology can help propel and promote socio-economic development of the people of our region and beyond.

Once again, thank you all for joining us on this significant event. Let the conference unfold as a beacon of knowledge, progress, and development.

I THANK YOU