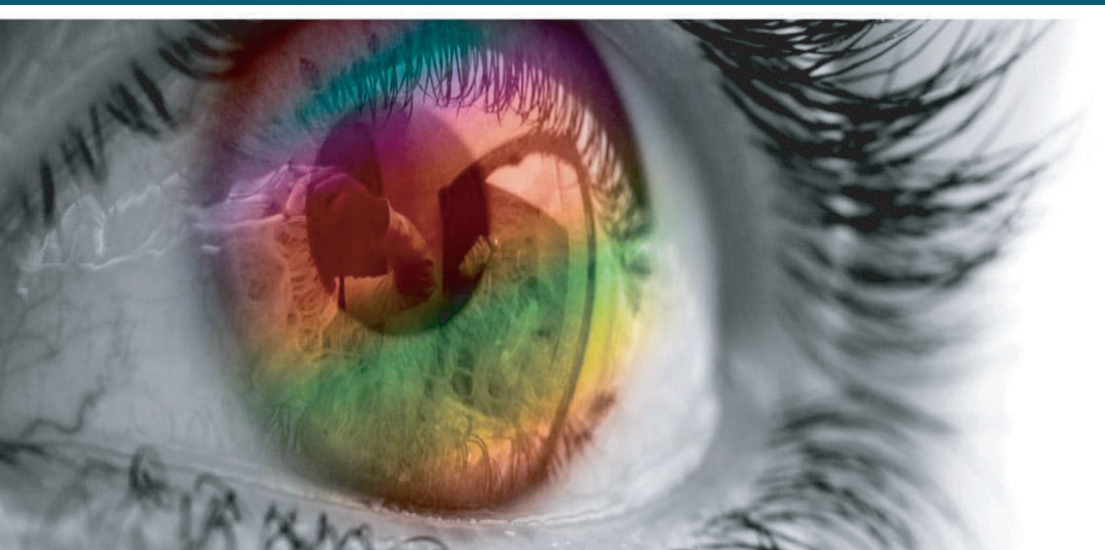


FIRST ROUNDTABLE ON SMEs INNOVATION AND RESPONSIVE POLICIES, 2016

***Theme: “Accelerating Innovation and Growth of SMEs
through Responsive Policies”.***

Kisanga LAPF International Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



23rd -24th NOVEMBER 2016, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

BMZ



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



intelligence
for innovation



small enterprise promotion + training

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG



UNIVERSITY OF
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German Academic Exchange Service



The Voice of the Private Sector in Tanzania

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Invitation

Over the recent past, there has been a consensus that SMEs have potential to contribute greatly to poverty reduction by creating employment and introducing new products and services to meet needs of the society. Accordingly, improving business environment for SMEs through more innovation-friendly policies and regulations can promote growth of SMEs and increase their contribution to African economies. In this context, business environment reforms are needed to make public policy and regulatory framework more conducive to innovation in a range of areas including promoting investments, research and development, adoption of new technologies and firm start-ups and growth.

For the purpose of contributing and sharing knowledge on SMEs innovation, as well as stimulating an effective environment for the growth of innovative SMEs, the Centre for Policy Research and Advocacy (CPRA) and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) through the support of Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania (BEST-D) in collaboration with the Intelligence for Innovation (iN4iN) Africa Network, sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will host a stakeholders' roundtable on **Accelerating Innovation and Growth of SMEs Through Responsive Policies** on 23rd and 24th November 2016 at Kisanga LAPF International Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The main purpose of the roundtable is to provide a unique opportunity for scholars, policymakers, development partners and business practitioners from Africa and beyond to exchange views, share experiences, disseminate research findings and practical lessons on Africa's development and the policies required to promote innovation and competitiveness of African enterprises.

We are receptive to a wide range of research perspectives and methodologies including quantitative and qualitative research articles/reports, case studies, position papers, policy briefs and any other relevant publications. **We are however particularly more interested in research and practical reports/publications that have implications for public-private dialogue and policy decisions.**

The roundtable will comprise a number of plenary sessions led by experts on African business development as well as break-out sessions that will feature presentations and discussions by prominent academics, policy makers, private sector actors, opinion leaders, young African researchers and representatives from development organizations. The break-out sessions will allow for more in-depth and technical discussions of salient issues arising from the thematic focus of the roundtable.

Themes

Given the need for and importance of promoting conducive environment for SMEs' innovation, the roundtable carries an overall theme of *"Accelerating Innovation and Growth of SMEs through Responsive Policies"*. The specific thematic issues for this roundtable are as follows:

- i) Business environment and promotion of SMEs development.
- ii) Government role in fostering innovation and growth of SMEs.
- iii) Public Private Dialogue (PPDs) and innovative policies.
- iv) Promoting formalization and SMEs growth.
- v) Protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and SMEs innovation.
- vi) The role of innovative policies for growth.
- vii) Financial inclusion policies and SMEs innovation.
- viii) Role of African Universities in PPDs.
- ix) Managing innovation and entrepreneurship promotion initiatives within African Universities.

Submissions

Research work/reports and presentations are invited from academia, policy makers, business people, public and private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, development partners and international organizations. Submissions should be of high standard, unpublished, and suitable for policy discussion. They can be *theoretical or field research* based reports as well as *practical/experiential presentations* based on individual, institutional or community experience. The length of the report/presentation should not exceed 20 pages.

Important dates

30th September 2016: Deadline for submission of the abstract and/or draft presentation

15th October 2016: Notification of the presentation acceptance and program

30th October 2016: Deadline for full submission of the paper, report

All correspondence should be addressed to: Policy Roundtable Organizer, University of Dar es Salaam Business School, P.O. Box 35046, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. E-mail: wilson.victor8@gmail.com , cc goodluck@udbs.udsm.ac.tz , **Fax:** +255-22-2410510; **Phone:** +255-22-2410006. **Website:** www.udbs.udsm.ac.tz. *Electronic submission (via e-mail) is highly encouraged. Please observe the structure of abstracts and papers.*

Venue and Accommodation

Kisanga LAPF International Conference Centre is located about 18 km from the Julius Nyerere International Airport. Accommodation is available at different hotels around the Conference Centre with varying room rates. Hotel accommodation will be reserved at special rates for roundtable participants on written requests to the Secretariat. You may view the hotel list and rates at their respective websites. Some nearby hotels include:

- Giraffe Ocean View Hotel: giraffe@giraffeoceanviewhotel.com
- Kebby's Hotels: sales@kebbyshotel.com
- Regency Park Hotel: info@regencyparkhotel.co.uk
- Seashells Millennium Hotel: infoseashellshotel@gmail.com

Shuttle transport shall be organized by Secretariat from the hotels to Kisanga LAPF International Conference Centre.

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