



Higher Education Forum for Audit, Risks and Forensics (FARF) Community of Practice within the Finance Executives' Forum of USAf



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

Concept Note of the FARF Conference 2021 *Invitation*

Departing from the Terms of Reference (or Charter) of the Forum for Audit, Risk and Forensics (FARF), our FARF Conference illuminates specifically the Scope of Authority section of that Charter, which reads thus:


“The Forum is mandated to promote and facilitate collective learning and knowledge sharing with respect to internal audit, risk management and forensics at South African HE institutions.”

Constituted under the broader umbrella of Universities South Africa (USAf), and particularly the auspices of the Finance Executives Forum (FEF), the FARF Conference 2021 marks its seventh successive convening, on 18th-19th November 2021, this time under the theme: **An Entrepreneurial Flair within Each Initiative – a Thought Too Far, Perhaps?** Clearly unwavering in our sense of Accountability, the DUT remains mindful of operating within a Team (USAf) whilst retaining her unique personality, as rooted within our ENVISION2030 institutional strategy.

Distinctive about the theme is its direct linkage with the notion of a community of practice, the articulated core purpose of FARF, which is not only about collaborating and knowledge sharing but also the prioritisation of best practices. Perhaps intent on re-territorialising this notion of a community of practice, the FARF Conference 2021 is deliberately opting for the seemingly improbable, viz. essentialising an entrepreneurial flair within each role player – and every initiative – in the context of a HEI.

In this regard, emphatic in our collective pursuit of innovation that uniquely weaves its fibre


Wohlbebe, A. & Götz, M. 2021. Communities of practice for functional learning in Agile contexts: definition approach and call for research. *International Journal of Advanced Corporate Learning*. Vol. 14(1): 62-69.



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through chaotic disruption, the DUT – as the hosting institution – has been inspired by the inveterate reality that:

- **Excellence** is about elevating our sense of elegance as we neatly seek to balance emerging priorities with a select-portfolio of traditional deliverables, in our respective roles. A meaningfully sustainable benchmark is how we perform tomorrow – which ought to be naturally better than how we will have done today – and thus setting a new competitive standard for the day after tomorrow.
- **Commitment** to advancing lifelong learning emboldens our FARF Conference 2021 to place an added emphasis on some of the key activities constituting the core business of a typical higher education institution. In this context, our Programme includes:
 - A softly coated tone of our ENVISION2030 strategy, carefully laced or coated onto the entire conference proceedings. Hence, optimistically, some of the lessons learned emanating from the conference proceedings will influence – one way or the other – our approach to service delivery.
 - Stakeholder perspectives, which show up in the various topics/discussions on the Programme. Expectedly, deliberations over the two days will provide each delegate with a synthesised food for thought, which will effectively inform their entrepreneurial flair, respectively.
 - Reflections on a typical business model of a HEI, with a view to exploring opportunities for improvement;
 - Thoughts on International Education and Partnerships, which naturally is quite a stretch for the typical audit and risk practitioner, and would hopefully broaden our view;
 - Combined assurance, through a fraud and forensics prism – which is a unique perspective, expressed by an expert from outside our higher education sector.



Concept Note of the FARE Conference 2021

Compassionate, as we must be, the responsibility of strengthening the training and awareness aspect - which any conference ought to achieve - will be co-shouldered with at least twelve (12) sister HEIs as well as across industry, who will be represented on the Programme through speakers and/or facilitators. Thus, through the FARE Conference 2021, we're collectively taking the cross-pollination of innovative ideas to another level - certainly a prelude in the series of annual editions of this conference.

Professionalism reigning supreme, the deepening of our sense of purpose as the HE sector, in basic yet iconic inches, inspired by what ought to be of Society rather than constrained by current reality, the FARE Conference 2021 will be pre-occupied with how to recalibrate our landscape such that sustained extraordinary performance by our respective HEIs becomes a norm. This includes how we collectively:

- Inculcate a wave of profound transformation of the respective HEIs that is nested in sync with values and principles.
- Cradle our imperfections in a mutually beneficial manner, yet courageously tapping onto unique personal strengths, in an effort to turning our roles into more of an offering to Society than just a job.
- Carve, through authentic deeds, an enabling workspace that nourishes role modelling, where everyone still remains a (s)hero in their own right!

Unprecedented, yet naturally expected of a maverick brand which our institution is decidedly shaping of itself into, through unique approaches that clearly point to an entrepreneurial flair embedded into the DUT Community, the FARE Conference 2021 will be inviting TVET College representatives. In this regard, not only are we further deepening our Community Engagement posture, but we're weary of inclusivity of the Post School Education and Training (PSET) ambit.

Conference Registration Details

Dates: Thursday, 18 November 2021 and Friday, 19 November 2021

Mode of Delivery :..Virtual/Online

[Click on the link](#)