Introduction

The L&D Africa Conference 2023, held on September 15th, 2023, at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana, brought together experts, professionals, and thought leaders in Learning and Development (L&D). The theme, "Accelerating Africa's Sustainable Development: L&D as a Catalyst," explored key issues at the intersection of L&D and sustainability. This underscores the vital importance of sustainability as a driving force in shaping the future of Learning and Development (L&D) on the African continent.

Overview

The one-day conference had over 150 attendees, both in-person and online, join the opening ceremony. Margaret Jackson, the convener delivered the welcome address, followed by Nneka Okekearu, the Director of the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC), Pan-Atlantic University, and Chairperson of the L&D Africa Board. Keynote speaker Mawusi Nudekor Awity, Director General of TVET in Ghana, inspired the audience. The conference comprised five sessions: speaker presentations, panel discussions, and workshops. Session 1, the Role Business Service Providers in L&D play in achieving Africa's Sustainable Development Goals, focused on AfCFTA contributing to the broader L&D landscape in Africa. It emphasized language learning, standardization, STEM education, diversity, TVET improvements, self-learning, local co-ops, tech advancement, impact measurement, and cross-national partnerships. Session 2 breakout 1 explored Collaboration and Partnership for Sustainable Learning & Development in Africa focusing on its significance while breakout 2 addressed Developing sustainable leaders emphasizing higher education and coaching. Session 3, an online presentation by Marisa Truter covered the Best Practices for Integrating Sustainability into Learning and Development in Africa focusing on Integrating Sustainability. Session 4 discussed Synergizing L&D and Sustainability, emphasizing practices with sustainability principles, fostering a circular economy for Africa's prosperity, and the final session, focused on The Future of L&D in Africa highlighting the importance of incorporating Learning Analytics and Artificial Intelligence into L&D. The conference concluded with a workshop discussing key takeaways and the way forward. The second Keynote speaker Ivy Anan Mawuko, emphasized L&D's role in well-being. She urged L&D professionals to be trusted advisors rather than gatekeepers.

Key Takeaways

- Collaboration and partnerships
- Coaching and mentorship opportunities
- AfCFTA's role in L&D
- L&D in Refugee Development
- Embracing sustainability
- Proactive approach to disruption
- Promoting a reading culture and travel exposure,
- The need for an L&D institute in Africa.

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Suggested Topics for L&D Africa Conference 2024

- Learning Analytics in L&D
- Artificial Intelligence in L&D
- Leadership Development in Africa
- Emerging Learning Technologies,
- HR Evolution
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in L&D
- African Trade Zone's impact on L&D

- Credentialing in the Informal Sector
- Understanding Diverse learning styles
- Impactful content design
- Practical Methods for Measuring Learning Impact
- L&D's Contribution to SMEs and Corporations
- Measuring ROI in L&D Initiatives

Conference Location for L&D Africa Conference 2024

Participants prefer East Africa, with Kenya as the top choice for the 2024 conference location. Other suggested locations include Singapore, Mozambique, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cameroon.

Conclusion

The success of L&D Africa Conference 2023 was possible thanks to the active participation, dedication, and valuable contributions of attendees, speakers, sponsors, partners, and organizers. We anticipate another successful conference in 2024, furthering L&D goals across Africa.