REF: VIZ/P/21/

Botswana Examination Council
Private Bag 0070
Gaborone

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT TOWARDS THE DATA VISUALIZATION CONFERENCE (VIZAFRICA 2019) TO BE HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA.

The University of Botswana through the Department of Computer Science is inviting you to the 2nd Data, Information and Scientific Visualization Symposium in Africa (VIZAFRICA) scheduled for 18th-19th November 2019, at the University of Botswana Conference Centre, Gaborone. The first conference was held in 20-21 August 2018 Nairobi, Kenya, organized by CODATA Kenya and the ICT Centre of Open Data (iCEOD), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Botswana is proud to have successfully hosted the International Data Week in November 2018 which attracted international audience of over 800 participants from across the globe. VizAfrica 2019 aims to leverage on this success to continue the conversation on issues around Data Visualization relating to theory, policy, technology and practice. The theme of the symposium is *"Application of Data, Information and Scientific Visualization for Resource Management and Sustainability."*

Botswana Examinations Council has been identified as one of the key stakeholders and hence the purpose of the letter is to invite you to participate through sending delegates to take part in the conference.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your anticipated support and looking forward to partnering with your organization in this important event.

Please find attached the conference value proposition document.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Audrey Masizana, PhD
Co-Chair VizAfrica 2019
Computer Science Dept.
University Of Botswana
MASIZANA@mopipi.ub.bw

Prof. Muliaro Wafula, PhD,
Co-Chair VizAfrica 2019
Executive Member CODATA
muliaro@icsit.jkuat.ac.ke

BANK DETAILS

The contribution may be made through cheque, telegraphic transfer or direct cash deposit to University of Botswana

ACCOUNT NAME: UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA
BANK NAME: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
BANK POSTAL ADDRESS: P O BOX 1529, GABORONE
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0100110109600
BRANCH NAME: MALL BRANCH
BRANCH CODE: 662167
SWIFT CODE: SCHBBWGXXXX
CONTACT PERSON (UB): Mr Tshikantwa
TEL: 002673555279
FAX: 002673959390
EMAIL ADDRESS: **tshikantwat@ub.ac.bw**
Reference CODE:
VIZWREG _Surname_ Organization (For payment of participant registration)
VIZFUND _Contact_ Organization (For payment of sponsorship and funding)
VOTE WS064

Introduction

Data, information and scientific visualization uses uncomplicated language to simplify things into concepts that can be easily grasped in graphical format enabling easy understanding/insight and ability to understand cross-cutting complex issues and understand patterns to inform formation of successful strategies and solutions.

Importance and Benefits of Visualization

Visualization is an important asset in this data era because:

- It manages influxes of new information making it easy to identify trends.
- Visual trends ease understanding of complex and cross-cutting issues enabling predictive futuristic scientific modelling.
- It brings crucial correlations and relationships into focus.
- It enables sharing of insights as it is more attractive.
- It makes data valuable and understandable across all disciplines.
- It easily and quickly identifies outliers in data.
- It facilitates quick memorization of important insights and concepts.
- It facilitates faster decision making
- It narrates a story visually hence simplifying a complicated message.
- It can be tailored for a specific target audience to aid better understanding of the information being presented.
- It enables prevention of information overload to the user.
- It is for all disciplines.

Theory of Change

Whereas data visualization has great potential to understand trends and aid in decision making, its application has not been extensive. This is partly due to the limited understanding of the concepts and the misconception that visualization is complex requiring extensive ICT knowledge. We therefore seek to demystify the misconception and create awareness about visualization to enable its widespread adoption. This will result in its application with the consequence of better understanding of trends and patterns of events which will have profound improvement in decision making. Improved decision making will bolster alignment of programmes and resources for optimum achievement of results. Visualization can therefore play a role in the realization of global development agenda such as Sustainable Development Goals as well as national development goals e.g. Botswana National Development Plan (NDP) II (2017-2023) and the Botswana Vision

2036 with an all-encompassing theme of *"Achieving Prosperity for All"*. To address some of these development challenges, the Botswana NDP II focuses on six broad-based national priorities of:

Developing Diversified Sources of Economic Growth; Human Capital Development; Social Development; Sustainable Use of Natural Resources; Consolidation of Good Governance and Strengthening of National Security; and Implementation of an Effective Monitoring and Evaluation System. Skills, Knowledge and abilities that can be obtained from data, information and scientific visualization symposium such as VizAfrica 2019 offers visibility and better understanding towards addressing in a sustainable manner such national development challenges. For companies, visualization can help in optimizing resources for profitable operations. To contribute to the wider adoption of visualization, the symposium will bring together various actors to engage. In addition, young scientists will be trained on techniques in order to build requisite capacities for application of visualization.

The VizAfrica 2019 Visualization Symposium

The VizAfrica 2019 Data Visualization Symposium will take place from November 2019 at the University of Botswana Gaborone, Botswana. The symposium also includes a two weeks Summer School training on Data Science/Visualization. The registration fee for students and researchers can be found on the VizAfrica 2019 Symposium website. The symposium is part of the University's mission *of improving economic and social conditions for Botswana while advancing itself as a distinctively African university with a regional and international outlook.* In fulfilling its mandate in reaching out to and interacting with international community, the general public, entrepreneurs, scientists and policy makers on advances in technological innovations for social economic development and industrialization. 300 participants drawn from government ministries, universities, research organizations, corporate, small and medium scale industries (SMEs), policy makers in key sectors of the economy and from international organizations are expected to attend. The theme of the symposium is *"Application of Data, Information and Scientific Visualization for Resource Management and Sustainability."*

The symposium has six sessions on:

1. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

2. Computer Graphics, Media and Animation

3. Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security

4. Data Analytics, Visualization and IoTs

5. Policy Design, Analysis and Strategic Management

6. Universal Health Coverage

All the six sessions have: Summer School, research, industry, keynote speeches and panel discussions tracks