

Report: SAMSA Conference 2016

Prepared by: Obonye Doctor
To: Simons Foundation Admin

Southern Africa Mathematics Association (SAMSA) conference was held in Pretoria, South Africa at University of Pretoria from 21st to 24th November 2016. The conference was officially declared open by the Dean of Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Prof. Jean Lubuma. He also encouraged the participants to utilise the platform to connect with other professionals across or within the same disciplines. The conference was organised as follows; the plenary, invited and contributed talks. Under contributed talks, I had a chance to present my work titled: *Benefits of fluctuating Exchange rates on the Value function*. Apart from the talk, I had great time to talk to professional people in my field concerning the work and future research.

During the course of the week, Ph.D. and post Doctorate students who gave talks were assessed. The best students were then awarded certificates and some books. These development, will encourage the students to work even hard and look forward to the next SAMSA conference.

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Workshop led by Prof. Overtoun Jenda from Urbun University, USA, shared light to the participants on matters associated with the learning and teaching of the four disciplines. During the discussions it was realised that young people in tertiary tend to chose engineering over the other three, the reason being the salary associated with it. The question raised was 'how could upcoming young ones be encouraged to do Mathematics?' It was then discovered that some universities such as University of Zimbabwe, Kwazulu Natal, Boston had some initiatives to work hand-in-hand with elementary schools, parents and some stakeholders to help students appreciate mathematics.

Apart from the talks and workshops, the organising committee found it fit to plan an excursion. A leisure trip to cheetah farm and cultural village. Where the participants had to appreciate the nature, culture, dance and songs.

I would like to thank my sponsor Simons Foundation to fund my trip. Lastly, would like to thank Simons Foundation Administrators in BUST Prof. E. Lungu (my Ph.D. supervisor) and Prof. H. Zegeye for their word of encouragement and support.