



# 2023 Strategic Risk Leadership Conversations on Higher Education (SRLC-HE)

The Future  
Reimagined

## Concept Note

### INTRODUCTION

Established in 2005,<sup>1</sup> the University of Johannesburg (UJ) is a vibrant, multicultural, and dynamic tertiary institution that recognises the power of higher education, which contribute toward achieving inclusive socio-economic growth for the real world. This education growth is happening at exponential speeds, as we are building the fabric of our societies with a sole purpose to transform education and to produce a larger youth intelligentsia. At the cornerstone of the University's work, are values, underpinned by critical thinking, robust research, skills development, and knowledge, within an ethical foundation centred on a Pan-African position of intellectual inquiry. Aligned with the vision, mission, and values of UJ, the institution has offered to serve as the host for the 2023 chapter of Strategic Risk Leadership Conversation on Higher Education Conference under a theme: **"Embracing Technology and Managing Risks in the evolving world amid current African Challenges"**.

<sup>1</sup> See Vision, Mission and Goals of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), About Us ([www.uj.ac.za](http://www.uj.ac.za)).

## CONTEXT

The effective management of risks is of paramount importance for the long-term viability and prosperity of both Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and various industries. To foster knowledge sharing and collaboration, we propose organising an International Conference on Risk Management in HEIs. The primary objective of this conference is to facilitate the convergence of experts from diverse HEIs, with the aim of deliberating on the most recent advancements and optimal approaches in the field of risk management. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for professionals to share their risk management experiences, insights, and research findings in HEIs, facilitate discussions on emergent risk management trends, challenges, and opportunities, promote networking and collaboration among risk management professionals, academics, researchers, and industry experts, promote the exchange of ideas, strategies, and best practices to improve HEIs' and industries' risk management practices, and encourage the creation of novel approaches and solutions for addressing risk management challenges.

This conference will serve as a forum for discourse, education, and planning regarding the pivotal matters centered on the primary technologies propelling the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). It will examine how these technologies are revolutionising various industries, altering our lifestyles and work environments, and transforming the higher education sector at an unprecedented rate in human history. The five technological advancements under consideration are artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing, and blockchain. However, the challenges encountered by Africans and the rest of the world, such as a power crisis, ageing infrastructure, economic issues, and war in Eastern European countries, impede the incorporation of the most advanced technologies in various sectors. In addition, the Conference aims to provide attendees with an understanding of the National and Global landscape, its effects on the higher education sector, and its impact on our current standard of living. It will also provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge; to discuss best practices for identifying, assessing, and managing risks across a variety of organisations, as well as insights into the most recent developments and trends in risk management. This chapter will also explore the impact of emerging risks, such as: Power Crisis, Ageing infrastructure, Climate change among other things.

Given the complex nature of these various factors, the conference endeavors to exhibit pioneering methodologies for managing risk, such as the implementation of technology and data analytics. Additionally, UJ, a prominent advocate for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in Africa, will present a novel approach to pedagogy and learning.

## THEMATIC AREAS OF THE DISCUSSION

The conference will encompass a diverse array of subjects pertaining to risk management in HEIs. The topics to be discussed will be comprehensive and all-encompassing, and will include, but are not restricted to:

- Power crisis,
- Ageing infrastructure,
- Financial sustainability,
- Cybersecurity threats
- Climate change.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

The conference invites professionals, practitioners, researchers, academics, policymakers, and industry experts with an interest in risk management in Higher Education Institutions. The target audience includes but is not limited to:

- Risk managers and officers in HEIs
- University administrators and officials.
- Researchers and scholars in the field of risk management.
- Industry professionals involved in risk management practices.
- Government representatives and policymakers.

## FORMAT

The conference programme will comprise of keynote presentations, panel deliberations, interactive workshops, paper presentations, and networking opportunities. Attendees will be afforded the chance to partake in perceptive dialogues, exchange their research discoveries, and acquire knowledge from prominent figures in the field. Furthermore, the conference will incorporate an exhibition space where entities can exhibit their risk management solutions and services.

## PARTICIPANTS

The 2023 Strategic Risk Leadership Conversation on Higher Education chapter will include diverse speakers who will be sharing their invaluable experiences from a broad spectrum of industries and sectors. Prof Letlhokwa Mpedi, in his capacity as UJ Vice Chancellor, will deliver an opening address and welcome the delegates, and the Chair of Council will deliver a keynote address that will set the tone for the conference.

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

**Conference Date:** Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

**Conference Venue:** UJ Arts and Culture, Cnr Kingsway Avenue & University Road, Auckland Park, Auckland Park Campus

**Conference Set-up:** Hybrid (In person and online)

