

Proposed Forum for African Labour Economists and Practitioners (FAALEP)

Objectives

The **Forum for African Labour Economists and Practitioners (FAALEP)** aims to provide a platform for researchers, academics, consultants, and policymakers engaged in African labour studies and labour market economics to discuss their work, compare country experiences, and promote the advancement of knowledge. The Forum seeks to encourage common approaches and the appropriate application of labour economics tools to the formulation of national policies and programmes across African countries.

FAALEP also seeks to advocate for and encourage the study of labour economics and to sustain interest in the field among students and early-career researchers. It will achieve this by providing opportunities for them to engage with senior economists and practitioners, present their work, and participate in professional dialogue and mentorship.

Labour economics addresses issues that are fundamental to understanding the world of work. It examines the dynamics of labour markets, which operate through the interaction between the supply of labour services by workers and the demand for labour services by employers. The central role of well-functioning labour markets in promoting economic growth, development, and poverty reduction is now well established in the literature.

Despite their importance, labour markets and labour market institutions in Africa and many developing countries remain underdeveloped and are characterized by persistently high levels of informality. Consequently, many African countries face significant challenges in linking labour markets effectively to economic growth, development, and poverty alleviation.

Common challenges confronting many African countries include aligning job creation with economic growth; ensuring that wage formation reflects productivity growth; promoting the creation of decent work; addressing the implications of intra-African migration for labour market regulation; improving the collection of labour market statistics and establishing effective labour market information systems; strengthening training and human capital development; and tackling labour force discouragement. Addressing these challenges requires a sound understanding of their underlying causes and the development of appropriate policy and institutional responses.

FAALEP will contribute to advancing understanding of these critical labour market issues and identifying effective solutions through the organization of conferences, seminars, lecture series, training workshops, and research activities. It will also facilitate the dissemination of research findings and support the development of a global network of African labour economists and practitioners. In addition, through the expertise of its members and consultancy services, FAALEP will assist in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at addressing labour market challenges across African countries.

To achieve its objectives, FAALEP will work collaboratively with African governments, the African Union, United Nations agencies, multilateral institutions, and development partners to formulate, implement, and sustain effective interventions that address the labour market challenges facing African countries.

All interested African economists, policy makers, labour experts and activists in this project are encouraged to contact me at: shaibu.gariba@gmail.com stating full-name, country of operation/origin, designation and what they expect out of the project.