



SAARMSTE

Southern African Association for Research in
Mathematics, Science and Technology Education

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

35th CONFERENCE OF THE *SOUTHERN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION*

MONDAY 18 – 20 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2027

HOSTED BY MUKUBA UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA:

At The University of Zambia



18 (Monday) -20 (Wednesday) January 2027

CONFERENCE THEME:

*“Harnessing Local Contexts for Effective STEM Education to Drive Sustainable
Development”*

SAARMSTE 2027 Writing Clinic

21 (Thursday) and 22 (Friday) January 2027

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

OBJECTIVES OF THE SAARMSTE CONFERENCE

The association's main objectives are, according to its constitution, the advancement of research in mathematics, science and technology education (MSTE) in Southern Africa to:

- promote research to improve and develop programmes in response to current and future needs;
- build an open forum for debate encompassing different mathematics, science and technology education research paradigms; and
- foster a sense of community among researchers.

The Annual SAARMSTE Conference is an important vehicle for addressing these objectives.

CONFERENCE THEME

“Harnessing Local Contexts for Effective STEM Education to Drive Sustainable Development”

The 2027 Conference provides a forum for participants to present research and engage in thought-provoking discussion and debate that:

1. **Harnesses Local Contexts:** Using local environments, cultures, or resources to our advantage.
2. **Improves effective STEM Education:** To improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning and
3. **Drives Sustainable Development:** Aiming to support long-term environmental, social and economic growth.

SAARMSTE 2027 aims to promote the integration of local knowledge, resources, and real-life community contexts into STEM education to make learning more relevant and practical, and to equip learners and students (of all ages) with skills and innovations that contribute to sustainable development.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The proposed outline of the 2027 Conference Programme comprises:

1. **The academic programme** comprises reviewed and accepted conference papers within the research of MSTE.
2. **Invited plenary speakers** with wide and knowledgeable experience in mathematics, science and technology education.
3. **Invited Co-Chairs** and experts in MSTE are chosen to lead and facilitate 60-to 90- minutes programme sessions focusing on papers with a similar theme, i.e. themed sessions, with an interactive model.
4. Delegate access to **pre-loaded paper presentations** for review before the conference programme sessions.
5. **Social programme** – includes:
 - a. Welcome reception and Cocktails on the 1st evening
 - b. Gala Dinner on the 3rd evening with SAARMSTE Awards, Choir and Traditional Dance.
 - c. Presentation of 2028 Conference.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Researchers interested in attending the 2027 SAARMSTE Conference, together with accepted paper authors and/or presenters, should register online at: <https://www.saarmste.org/conference/>

FEES & PAYMENT – Find details in the 2nd Announcement

REGISTRATION FEES

There are two levels of registration fees in South African Rands

- 1) **Full Conference Registration** (3 days) Includes:
 - i. Daily lunches, morning/ afternoon teas, and snacks
 - ii. Welcome social event (Monday 18th January 2027)
 - iii. One-year membership fee to SAARMSTE
- 2) **Daily Registration** |Includes:
 - Daily lunches and morning/ afternoon teas

GALA DINNER FEES

The Gala Dinner incurs an additional amount per person.

ACCOMMODATION FEES

Accommodation is NOT included in the registration fee.

PAYMENT

Details to be found in the 2nd Announcement

Cancellation of Registration

The following cancellation penalties apply:

- i. Before 30 October 2026: Full refund
- ii. Between 31 October and 14 December 2026: 40% refund
- iii. After 14 December 2026: No refund

Refunds will be paid into the account from which the original registration fee emanated.

DATES & DEADLINES

Refer to PAPER SUBMISSIONS: *Section A: Activity Timelines* below.

RESEARCH WRITING CLINIC

GENERAL

Following the Annual Conference, the SAARMSTE 2027 Writing Clinic provides an opportunity to develop draft manuscripts and/or short papers into articles for journal submission. The chief editor of AJRMSTE facilitates the writing clinic together with members of the editorial team.

APPLICATIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Spaces in the **Research Writing Clinic** are limited.

Applications and a DRAFT PAPER must be submitted directly to the SAARMSTE Secretariat by 30th October 2026 at saarmste@gmail.com (Online application details will be provided in the 2nd Announcement).

ABOUT SAARMSTE - SAARMSTE COMMITTEES 2025-2026

SAARMSTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dr Qetelo Moloi	Tshwane University of Technology
Past President	Dr Million Chauraya	Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
Secretary/Treasurer	Dr Tulsi Morar	Nelson Mandela University
Chapter Representatives	Ms Martha Aimwata	International University of Management, Namibia
AJRMSTE Editor	Prof Clement Simuja	Rhodes University
Research Capacity	Dr Angela Stott	University of the Free State
Building Chair	Dr Tarryn Lovemore	Rhodes University
Social Media	Dr Bongani Ndlovu	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Secretariat (ex officio):	Ms Carolyn Stevenson-Milln	SAARMSTE

SAARMSTE LOCAL CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC) 2026 - 2027

Conference Chair	Dr Luchembe Denis	Mukuba University
Conference Secretary and Registrations	Dr Kwaleyela Kwaleyela	Mukuba University
Fundraising Chair	Dr Nkoya Shadreck	Examinations of Zambia
Programme Chair	Dr Nachiunde Kabunga	University of Zambia
Logistics Chair	Dr Antony Bwalya	University of Zambia

SAARMSTE Secretariat Ms Carolyn Stevenson-Milln SAARMSTE

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Programme Chair	Dr Nachiunde Kabunga, University of Zambia	
Mathematics Coordinator	Dr Nkata Bentry	University of Zambia
Science Coordinator	Dr Chama Sarah	Mukuba University
Technology Coordinator	Dr Kangwa Evaristo	Mukuba University

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Paper Submission Deadline: Wednesday 30th June 2026

For other dates and deadlines, Refer to *Section A: Activity Timelines* below.

STEP-BY-STEP SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. CHOOSING THE PAPER TYPE

Select the appropriate submission format: e.g. long paper, short paper, snapshot paper, guided poster, or symposium/roundtable. Be sure to review the specific criteria for each option. (Refer to *Section B: Paper Options* below)

2. CHECKING THE PAPER FOCUS

Select the paper focus from the prescribed lists of:

1. Disciplines, i.e. mathematics, science or technology
2. Sub-Disciplines
3. Education Levels

(Refer to *Section C: Paper Focus* below)

3. PREPARING THE PAPER USING THE ONLINE TEMPLATE

Download the applicable official submission template from the SAARMSTE website: www.saarmste.org/paper-templates.

Note: These templates are designed to help format each paper correctly.

4. REFERENCE FORMAT

Follow the referencing guidelines.

(Refer to *Section D: References* below)

5. SUBMIT ONCE COMPLETE

All papers need to be submitted through the website: www.saarmste.org/conference.

Note: Papers will be considered for review only once all the above steps have been completed.

6. CHECK THE DEADLINES

All papers must be submitted by certain dates.

(Refer to *Section A: Activity Timelines* below)

SECTION A: ACTIVITY TIMELINES

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Date
First Announcement and Call for Papers	21 nd April, 2026
Second Announcement	23 th June, 2026

PAPER SUBMISSION DETAILS AND DEADLINES:	Date
Deadline for submission of all papers for review	30 th June, 2026
Symposium/roundtable, short papers, snapshots, and poster papers sent for review	14 th July, 2026
Long papers sent to designated reviewers	17 th July, 2026
Reviewed feedback of symposia/roundtable, short, snapshot and poster papers sent to authors	7 th August, 2026
Long paper review feedback to LOC through the Executive	14 th August, 2026
All review feedback to long paper authors	24 th August, 2026
Submission of re-worked long papers and/or extended short papers	30 th September, 2026

REGISTRATION, CONFERENCE PROGRAMME, WRITING CLINIC:	Date
Online registration opens	7 th September 2026
Payment of registration fees by <i>*See note below</i>	26 th November 2026
Provisional programme released to presenters	15 th November 2026
The final programme released to presenters and the public	2 rd December 2026
Presentation uploads by	30 th November 2026
Application for post-conference Writing Clinic by	29 th October 2026

Note* If final arrangements for payment of registration fees are not processed by 26^h November 2026, the paper(s) of those concerned will NOT be included in the conference programme.

SECTION B: PAPER OPTIONS

LONG PAPERS		
<p>LENGTH</p> <p>Full paper: 4500- 6000 words (<i>excluding</i> Abstract but <i>including</i> Reference list). Abstract: 100 – 150 words.</p>	<p>Online Submission deadline date: Wednesday, 30 June 2026</p>	<p>The final online submission date for re-worked papers: Thursday, 30 September 2026.</p>
<p>Long papers should follow a format similar to that of articles and/or papers required by journals: i.e., abstract, introduction and a research question, literature review/conceptual framework, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion, and conclusion. Total word count: not exceeding 6150 words). Author details must be excluded for double-blind peer review.</p>		
<p>At least two qualified reviewers review long papers. Once the reviewers' feedback has been forwarded to the author(s), reworked papers must be submitted online by 30 September 2026. https://www.saarmste.org/conference/</p>		
<p>Long papers that have been accepted appear in the Conference Proceedings and are eligible for DHET subsidy funding. In accepting a long paper for presentation at a SAARMSTE conference, the Review Panel presumes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the paper is original and has not been published elsewhere. permission has been granted by the author for the accepted long paper to be published in the accredited Conference Proceedings; and at least one of the authors of the accepted long paper completes and arranges payment for their registration to attend the conference and to present their paper. 		
<p>If a paper is not accepted for presentation as a long paper, the author may be asked to reduce the length of the paper to meet the requirements and deadlines for an extended short paper.</p>		
<p>Authors with accepted long papers are required to provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A PowerPoint presentation of summary slides (no narrative, maximum 10 slides or less) as a means of drawing delegate attendance. These must be submitted by 30th November 2026 to: saarmste@gmail.com During the Conference programme author(s) of long papers are encouraged to present their paper for 20 minutes (maximum), followed by 10-minute Q&A from the attending delegates and/or co-chairs. 		

SHORT PAPERS		
<p>LENGTH: Full paper: 1650 words <i>(excluding Abstract but including Reference list).</i> Abstract: 100 – 150 words.</p>	<p>Online submission deadline date: Wednesday, 30th June 2026.</p>	<p>The final online submission date for re-worked papers: Thursday 30 September 2026.</p>
<p>Short papers should use a format similar to those required by journals: abstract, introduction, literature review/conceptual framework, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion and conclusion. (Total word count: not exceeding 1800 words). Short papers should highlight preliminary findings and the significance of the research. Author details must be excluded for the double-blind peer review.</p>		
<p>Two qualified reviewers review short papers. On completion, the main author is advised of the outcome. The reviewer may advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Accept with no reservation, or ii. Accept as a Snapshot Paper, or iii. Reject the paper as being unsuitable or out of scope. <p>If the paper is accepted, the reviewers may suggest that the author(s) develop the short paper into an extended short paper of 3 600 words. This may be useful for authors who wish to register for the writing clinic and/or submit a paper to a journal. The author(s) will decide if they would like to accept this opportunity only when the review process has been completed. Extended short papers must be submitted online by Thursday, 30 September 2026.</p>		
<p>Short papers should appear in the 2027 electronic record of Research Papers in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education. Short papers are not eligible for DHET subsidy.</p>		
<p>Authors whose short papers are accepted will be required to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A PowerPoint presentation of summary slides (no narrative, maximum 10 slides). These must be submitted by 30th November 2026 to saarmste@gmail.com 2. During the Conference programme, short paper author(s) may present their paper for 15 minutes, (only), with 5-minute questions from the attending delegates/co-chairs. 		

SNAPSHOT PAPERS

<p>LENGTH: Full paper: 1650 words <i>(excluding Abstract but including Reference list).</i> Abstract: 100 – 150 words</p>	<p>Online submission deadline date: Wednesday, 30th June 2026.</p>	<p>No revisions required</p>
<p>Snapshots focus on emerging research, which need not necessarily include results. The purpose is to receive input from an interested audience of like-minded delegates.</p>		
<p>Snapshot papers use the format: abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, references and the way forward. (Total word count: not exceeding 1800 words). Author details must be excluded for a “blind peer review”.</p>		
<p>Two qualified reviewers review snapshot papers. On completion, the main author is advised of the outcome. The reviewer may advise</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Accept with no reservation, or ii. Accept as a Poster Paper, or iii. Reject the paper as being unsuitable or out of scope. <p>No revisions are required as snapshots are deemed ‘research in progress’.</p>		
<p>Authors whose snapshot papers are accepted will be required to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A PowerPoint presentation of summary slides (no narrative, maximum 10 slides). These must be submitted by 30th November 2026 to saarmste@gmail.com 2. During the Conference programme, author(s) of snapshot papers may present their paper for 10 minutes (only), with 5-minute questions from the attending delegates/co-chairs. 		

GUIDED POSTER PAPERS

<p>LENGTH: Full paper: 1650 words <i>(excluding Abstract but including Reference list).</i> Abstract: 100 – 150 words</p>	<p>Online submission deadline: Wednesday, 30th June 2026.</p>	<p>No revisions required.</p>
<p>A Word document should provide a brief outline of the main features of the author’s research with an abstract, introduction, literature review and references. The actual poster is not submitted for review. A Word document, with a total word count of 1800 words, must be submitted by Wednesday, 30th June 2026. Author details must be excluded for a “blind peer review”.</p>		
<p>Reviewers look for interesting research topics and content that illustrate the main features of the intended research. The reviewers provide feedback.</p>		

Authors whose poster papers are accepted will be required to provide:

1. A PowerPoint presentation of a summary slide for entry into a competition. Details and template to follow. These must be submitted by 30th November 2026 to saarmste@gmail.com or,

2. A one-hour session is allocated to the presentation of all guided posters. During this time, researchers will circulate in the hall/foyer to read the posters.

Fellow researchers will ask questions, encourage discussion, and make suggestions (hence the term, ‘guided poster’).

Authors are expected to remain with their poster for the full hour.

Posters must be brought to the conference. Posters should be no smaller than A1.

SYMPOSIA / ROUNDTABLE

LENGTH:

Full paper: 1650 words
(*excluding* Abstract but
including Reference list).
Abstract: 100 – 150 words

Online submission deadline
date: Wednesday, 30th June
2026.

No revisions required

These are discussions around a central theme or issue, in which different points of view, approaches, debates, or analyses of the same problem are presented. The paper should provide a short outline of the whole symposium or roundtable. Details of each speaker’s contribution should be outlined, including how these come together to create a forum for discussion and debate.

Note: The symposium or roundtable is not a platform for a collection of short papers presented under the auspices of one supervisor or researcher.

90 minutes is allocated for each symposium/roundtable to enable audience engagement.

Reviewers will provide feedback, but no revisions are required.

Symposia/roundtables are not eligible for DHET subsidy.

SECTION C: PAPER FOCUS

All papers must align with **one** of the Disciplines and Sub-disciplines specified below, and correspond to **one** of the listed Education Levels below:

DISCIPLINES & SUB-DISCIPLINES:

Discipline: *Mathematics Education*

- Sub-Discipline: Mathematical Literacy
- Sub-Discipline: Mathematics

Discipline: *Science Education*

- Sub-Discipline: Natural Science

- Sub-Discipline: Biology
- Sub-Discipline: Chemistry
- Sub-Discipline: Physics

Technology Education

- Sub-Discipline: Design and Technology
- Sub-Discipline: Engineering Education
- Sub-Discipline: Robotics & Coding
- Sub-Discipline: Indigenous & Appropriate Technology
- Sub-Discipline: Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

EDUCATION LEVELS:

- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Tertiary education
- Initial teacher education
- Continuous teacher education
- Out-of-school education

SECTION D: REFERENCES

REFERENCE LIST

All works cited must appear in the reference list, and all works in the reference list must be cited in the paper. References are included in the page count.

References should be documented as indicated below in 11-point type with a hanging indent.

Elements of a reference list entry: A reference generally has four elements: **1) Author, 2) Date, 3) Title, and 4) Source.** Each element ends with a full stop.

1. Author: Who is responsible for this work?

Invert all individual authors' names, providing the surname first, followed by a comma and the initials. Use a comma to separate an author's initials from additional author names, even when there are only two authors; use an ampersand (&) before the final author's name. Use one space between initials. End with a full stop.

One Author	Author, A. A.	Brown, L. S.
Two Authors	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B.	McCauley, S. M., & Christiansen, M. H.
Three Authors	Author, A.A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C.	Balsam, K. F., Martell, C. R., Jones, K. P., & Safren, S. A.

21+ Authors	Include the first 19 authors' names, insert an ellipsis (but no ampersand), and then add the final author's name.	
Group Author	Spell out the full name followed by a period.	National Cancer Institute.
Editors	Follow names with the abbreviation (Ed.) or (Eds.).	Schulz, O. P. (Ed.). Wong, C. T., & Music, K. (Eds.).
No Author	Move the title of the work to the author position before the date of publication.	

Date: When was this work published?

Enclose the date, followed by a full stop (if available), in parentheses. Do not abbreviate.

Examples:

- (2008).
- (2017, November).
- (2019, August 26).
- (2020, Spring/Summer).
- No Date: (n.d.).

2) Title: What is the title of the work?

Write the title of the work in title case, followed by a full stop. Examples:

- Mathematical Mindsets.
- Teaching Mathematics Meaningfully.
- Rethinking Mathematics: Teaching Social Justice by the Numbers.

3) Source: What is the name of the publisher?

Write the name of the publisher, followed by a full stop. Examples:

- Routledge.
- Springer.
- Cambridge University Press.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

APA Style uses the author-date citation system to cite references in the text. In this system, each work used in a paper has two parts: an in-text citation and a corresponding reference list entry. The in-text citation appears within the body of the paper and briefly identifies the cited work by its author and date of publication. In-text citations have two formats: parenthetical and narrative. In parenthetical citations, the author's name and publication date appear in parentheses. In narrative citations, this information is incorporated into the text as part of the sentence. It is best to paraphrase sources rather than quote them directly. However, when a direct quotation is necessary, always provide the author, year, and page number. To indicate a single page, use the abbreviation "p." For multiple pages, use the abbreviation "pp."

BASIC IN-TEXT CITATION STYLES

Author Type	Parenthetical Citation	Narrative Citation
One Author	(Luna, 2020)	Luna (2020)
Two Authors	(Salas & D'Agistino, 2020)	Salas and D'Agistino (2020)
Three or More Authors	(Martin et al., 2020)	Martin et al. (2020)
Group Author with Abbreviation	<i>First Citation:</i> (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2020) <i>Subsequent Citations:</i> (NIMH, 2020)	<i>First Citation:</i> National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2020) <i>Subsequent Citations:</i> NIMH (2020)
Group Author without Abbreviation	(Stanford University, 2020)	Stanford University (2020)

Parenthetical Citation

Paraphrase	As metaphors for the workings of nature, Darwin used the tangled bank, the tree of life, and the face of nature (Gould, 1989).
Short Quotation	Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (Gould, 1989, p. 14).

Narrative Citation

Paraphrase	Gould (1989) attributes Darwin's success to his gift for making the appropriate metaphor.
Short Quotation	Gould (1989) explains that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological—and to illustrate both success and failure in the history of life" (p. 14).

GENERAL

Avoiding Ambiguity

Sometimes, multiple works with three or more authors and the same publication year are shortened to the same in-text citation form. To avoid ambiguity, write out as many names as needed to distinguish the references and abbreviate the rest of the names to “et al.”

First work: (Kappor, Bloom, Montez, et al., 2017) Second work: (Kappor, Bloom, Zucker, et al., 2017)

Works with the Same Author & Same Date

When multiple references share the same author(s) and publication year, include a lowercase letter after the year: (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012a).

Citing Multiple Works

When citing multiple works parenthetically, place the citations in alphabetical order, separating them with semicolons: (Adams et al., 2019; Shumway & Shulman, 2015; Westinghouse, 2017). Arrange two or more works by the same authors by year of publication. Place citations with no date first: (Department of Veterans Affairs, n.d., 2017a, 2017b, 2019).

CONTACTS**SAARMSTE CORRESPONDENCE DETAILS****2027 CONFERENCE QUERIES**

Dr. Antony Bwalya | Conference Secretary and Registrations

PAPER QUERIES

Ms Carolyn Stevenson-Milln | SAARMSTE Secretariat

+27 (0)82 977 9858

saarmste@gmail.com