

6th Ahe-Afrika History Education Conference

Looking back, looking forward: the future(s) of History Education in Africa

Venue: University of Buea, Cameroon

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The African Association for History Education (AHE-Afrika) recently hosted its 6th conference on August 27–29 2025, at the University of Buea in Cameroon. Scholars, researchers, teachers and policymakers from across Africa attended the conference to critically engage with the prospects and trajectories of history education in Africa. The theme of the conference was *“Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Future(s) of History Education in Africa”*.

The 2025 conference was inspired by the Akan Sankofa concept—“to go back and fetch it”—and embodied a dual orientation. This allowed the past to be critically reflected on while imagining the future of history education in Africa. In the context of Africa’s rapidly changing demographic and educational landscape, the focus of this conference is particularly relevant, given UNICEF projections that by 2030, one in five people worldwide will be African. By 2050, a third of the world’s children will be African. History education plays a vital role in shaping young minds and encourages conversations that foster hope and transformation.

Hosted by the Department of History in the Faculty of Arts in Buea, the conference proved to be a vibrant intellectual gathering for the exchange of ideas and experiences related to the teaching and learning of history in Africa. Over the past decade, AHE-Afrika has hosted six successful conferences, each contributing towards a growing body of knowledge and scholarship on African history education.

Conference themes and scope

The conference’s sub-themes are wide-ranging and inclusive, reflecting the dynamic and diverse scholarship on history education in Africa. The themes included:

- History education in Cameroon
- The history and politics of history education in Africa
- Curriculum, syllabus and textbook development
- Classroom practices and pedagogical innovation
- Assessment and evaluation approaches
- History teacher education and professional development
- History education in, about and for Africa
- Learner motivation and engagement in history
- History education and citizenship
- African history education in a global context

By bringing together researchers and practitioners from across the continent and beyond, the project aimed to strengthen networks of collaboration, share innovative pedagogical approaches and deepen the theoretical understanding of history education in Africa.

The University of Buea, founded in 1993, is a hub for innovation, scholarly excellence and community engagement in the historic town of Buea, which is the former capital of German Kamerun and later the capital of the federated State of West Cameroon. This added to the rich historical symbolism for hosting a conference dedicated to history education.

The 2025 AHE-Afrika conference provided a platform for presenting new research and reimagining what it means to teach and learn history in, about and for Africa in the twenty-first century. AHE-Afrika remains vital to scholarly engagement and pedagogical innovation in history education. The conference attracted a diverse array of participants from across Africa and beyond, thereby reaffirming AHE-Afrika's role in networking for history education scholarship in Africa. Through scholarly rigour, reflective dialogue and forward-looking vision, the conference contributed to the theory and practice of history education in Africa.