

Chief Operating Officers' Conference (CFOC) 2026

Excel as a Strategic Operations Leader by Aligning Strategies and Operations to enhance Corporate Values

Build agile and resilient operations

The role of the COO is evolving beyond the responsibility to report to the CEO on day-to-day operations of the business. Increasingly, the CEO and COO are expected to form a strategic partnership and deliver an innovative vision for the organization that creates long-term value. The Pan African Learning and Growth Network (PALGNET) **Chief Operating Officer (COO) Conference** will equip you to navigate unprecedented market challenges and drive cross-functional business development under the guidance of expert professional speakers.

79% of global company heads say they have adjusted or are planning to adjust their global operations or supply chains.

87% of global company heads say they have seen a significant increase in input prices

SOURCE: EY CEO OUTLOOK SURVEY

The **Chief Operating Officer Conference** has been expertly designed with the needs of busy senior executives in mind, to enable leaders and professionals to spearhead the integration of their organizational processes across organizational boundaries and existing systems in order to excel in the digital age. COOs and Operations Managers deliver business performance by effectively influencing work teams and co-ordinating among functions. The conference discussions will enable you to enhance and create value for your organization by aligning department goals with your organization's strategic vision and mission.

The conference firstly focuses on Strategic Operations Leadership in which delegates discuss and learn to plan and implement changes to meet stakeholders' needs, create an innovative culture which leverages department's core competencies, and gain leadership skills to effectively integrate strategic thinking with daily operations. The conference also focuses on Operational Excellence equipping the delegates with the knowledge, skills, and behavioral competencies required to support an Operational Excellence program and contribute significantly to the bottom line of your organization, reducing variation, defects, cycle times, lead times, waste, and costs within your operations. It supports the drive for sustainable profitability and growth within your organization by adopting a holistic approach to improvement. The essence of Operational Excellence is an organizational culture that achieves long-term sustainable growth and performance development by enhancing employee empowerment and motivation.

This conference is designed for leaders and practitioners wishing to transform their organizations through strategy and culture, and through the application of operational excellence approaches, methodologies, processes, and tools.

Conference Highlights:

- Understanding the critical aspects of strategic thinking and operational excellence
- Leveraging operational strengths to enhance stakeholders' value
- Executing Strategy and learning organizational practices at the operational level
- Managing projects and practicing process management practices effectively
- Managing operational change management to influence an innovative culture

What will be covered at the conference

The Chief Operating Officer Conference will enable you to:

- Align operations improvements with business strategy to support growth and achieve the organization's strategic objectives
- Appreciate the contemporary challenges that operations leaders need to deal within dynamic environments.
- Understand current strategies for improved operations competitiveness
- Influence organizational culture and employee behavior to align strategic goals and operations management
- Implement Lean Organization principles, methodologies to achieve key operational excellence goals – easier, better, faster, and cheaper
- Develop your operational thinking into strategic thinking, and articulate new strategic initiatives
- Evaluate how a shift from an operational to a strategic mindset can transform your organization, both inside and outside
- Tackle large-scale problems by leveraging your operational excellence, working beyond your boundaries and acting as a strategic leader
- Articulate the concepts of value creation and value capture by adopting a customer-centric perspective
- Discuss how analytics, organizational agility, ecosystems' capabilities and sustainability may enable your organization to create more value
- Evaluate your leadership capacities, including how to make decisions and navigate cognitive biases
- Understand how to leverage your team, and use negotiations to create value
- Define how strong leadership ability can influence teams and drive change at an organizational level.

Organizational Impact

Organizations will benefit from participants adopting holistic thinking, avoiding the sub-optimization that can result from fragmented improvement activity. The benefits are as follows:

- Leveraging strategic thinking at the operational level to create value and sustain business growth
- Maximizing operational core competencies to implement organizational strategy
- Bridging the gap between organizational and operational goals
- Fostering an innovative culture that strives for operational excellence by overcoming strategic challenges
- Developing an effective change process that satisfies customer expectations and stakeholder needs

- Engaging all stakeholders to align improvements to strategic imperatives

Personal Impact

The course will personally benefit the participants by being able to apply the thinking and techniques to identify, evaluate, and improve issues affecting them in the workplace.

- Developing their professional skills and critical thinking
- Network with and learn from other organizations
- Making data-driven business decisions and problem solving
- Engage stakeholders more effectively in aligning strategies and operations
- Employing tools and techniques to reduce costs and drive customer satisfaction and profitability

Key program features

- **Experiential sessions** - Test your understanding of key concepts through business simulations and face to face interactive sessions.
- **Acclaimed case studies** - Explore award-winning case studies with a focus on contemporary issues for COOs.
- **Peer interaction** - Experience a high level of engagement with accomplished peers, and exchange diverse perspectives.
- **Breakout sessions and working sessions**

Conference Agenda

The sessions span three areas crucial for every COO position today: strategy, business acumen and executive leadership. Topics include:

- The COO as a Strategic Partner
- Developing Business Acumen
- The COO as a Leader
- Global Strategy
- Supply Chain Strategies for Business
- Mergers and Acquisitions Success Strategies
- Agile Strategy Execution

Target Audience

- New and emerging COOs looking to gain strategic insights to drive operational excellence in their organizations.
- Heads of operations and operations leaders are looking to advance into C-level positions and gain executive leadership skills to enhance their existing skill set.
- Manufacturing, Quality, and Operations Managers

- Supply Chain Personnel
- Team Leaders and Technical Staff

Prices Include:

- Conference Materials
- Lunch and Refreshments during Conference
- Delegate Laptop or Tablet
- Access to Learning Resources
- ½ Day Tour to Tourist Attraction Sites
- Airport Pickup and Drop off for International Delegates

Prices Exclude:

- VAT
- Dinner and Accommodation.