



INTER- UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA (IUCEA)

13th ACADEMIA-PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FORUM (APPPF)-2025

THEME

**Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship Through University-
Industry Partnerships for East Africa's Sustainable Future**

March 12-14, 2025
M-Hotel, Kigali
RWANDA

PROGRAMME

TIME	DATE / TITLE	MODERATOR
DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025		
08:00 - 09:00	Registration of participants	Secretariat
OPENING SESSION 1: FORUM OPENING		
09:00 - 09:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Introduction National Anthem of the Republic of Rwanda EAC Anthem IUCEA Prayer 	Prof. Idris Rai, IUCEA
09:10 - 09:20	Welcome Remarks by Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona - Executive Secretary, IUCEA	
09:20 - 09:30	Statement by the Host Organising Partner – Dr. Edward Kadozi, Director General, Higher Education Council, Rwanda.	
09:30 - 09:50	Statements by Key Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EABC EASTECO EADB 	
09:50 - 10:10	Remarks by H.E. Amb. Veronica M. Nduva, CBS - Secretary General, East Africa Community.	

10:10 - 10:30	Official Opening of the Forum by Hon. Joseph Nsengimana, Minister of Education, Rwanda.	
10:30 - 11:00	Keynote on “Leveraging University-Industry Partnership for East Africa’s Sustainable Development and Global Impact: A Case of Semiconductor Technologies Limited in East Africa” by Dr. Eng. Anthony Githinji - CEO & MD Semiconductor Technologies Limited.	
11:00 - 11:30	Launch of the: (i) Research Excellence Framework for Higher Education in East Africa and (ii) University-Industry Collaboration Support Strategy.	
11:30 -12:00	GROUP PHOTOGRAPH, CHIEF GUEST TOUR OF EXHIBITIONS AND HEALTH BREAK	
EXHIBITION SESSION: PARTICIPANTS EXHIBITION TOUR		
12:00 - 13:00	All Participants Exhibition Tour	
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
PLENARY SESSION 1: PLENARY PRESENTATION AND PANEL SESSION		
Sub-Theme 1: Leveraging University Research for Industry and Community Transformation		
14.00 - 14:30	Plenary Presentation 1a: Practical aspects and strategies of aligning university research priorities with industry and community needs, Prof. Alex Ariho, CEO, African Agribusiness Incubators Network, Uganda.	Prof. John Francis Mugisha, Vice Chancellor, Bishop Stuart University, Uganda
14:30 - 15:00	Plenary Presentation 1b: Research for community transformation: A case for Western University, Dr. James C. Lacefield, Director, School of Biomedical Engineering, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada.	
15:00 -15:30	Reactions and Q&A	
15:30 - 16:30	<p>Panel Session 1: The session will focus on:</p> <p>How can universities overcome collaboration barriers to address industry and community needs?</p> <p>What are the key motivators to encourage industry to partner and invest in university research and development?</p> <p>How can universities demonstrate their commitment to industry and community needs, and build trust over time?</p>	

	<p>What are the key sectors in East Africa where university research could have the greatest impact?</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Raymond Ndikumana - Deputy Vice Chancellor, Strategic Planning & Administration, University of Rwanda • Dr. Ehud Gachugu, HSC – Deputy CEO, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya • Dr. Lina S. Mathew – Director, Science and Technology, Ministry Higher Education, Science and Technology, South Sudan. • Prof. Rose Clarke Nanyonga – Vice Chancellor, Clarke International University, Uganda • Dr. Mucyo Sylvie- Vice Chancellor, Rwanda Polytechnic , Rwanda • Prof. Yves Ndayikunda – President, Research and Career Development Center East Africa 	
16:30 - 16:45	REACTIONS AND Q&A	
16:45 - 17:00	HEALTH BREAK & END OF DAY 1 SESSIONS	
19:00 - 22:00	GALA DINNER	
DAY 2: THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025		
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of participants	Secretariat
PLENARY SESSION 2: PLENARY PRESENTATION AND PANEL SESSION Sub-Theme 2: Accelerating Technology Transfer and Commercialisation of University Research		
09:00- 09:30	Plenary Presentation 2: Emerging trends and the future of technology transfer and commercialisation of research, Dr. John Msumba, Director General of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology Company Limited (DIT Co. LTD), United Republic of Tanzania.	Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi – Vice Chancellor, USIU, Kenya

09:30 - 10:15	<p>PANEL SESSION 2: The session will focus on:</p> <p>How can universities better support commercialization of research findings and creation of spin-off companies?</p> <p>What key criteria do industry consider when evaluating university research for commercialization potential?</p> <p>What role can government play in fostering a more conducive environment for technology transfer and commercialization of research?</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <p>Dr. Eugene Mutimura – Executive Secretary, National Council for Science and Technology, Rwanda</p> <p>Eng. Anke Weisheit - Co-Founder and Chair, Innovation & Business Management, Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Center (PHARMBIOTRAC), Mbarara University for Science and Technology, Uganda.</p> <p>Prof. Jane Ambuko - Professor of Horticulture and Postharvest Specialist. University of Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p>Dr. Ignace Gatere- Principal of University of Rwanda –College of Science and technology, Rwanda</p> <p>Prof. Karoli Njau – Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), United Republic of Tanzania</p>	
10:15- 10:45	REACTIONS AND Q&A	
10:45 - 11:15	HEALTH BREAK	
PLENARY SESSION 3: PLENARY PRESENTATION AND PANEL SESSION		
Sub-Theme 3: Building a pipeline of innovative leaders and entrepreneurial talent		
11:15 - 11:35	<p>Plenary Presentation 3a: Nurturing an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem: A collaborative approach for university, industry and government players - Hausa Light-bourne, Country Manager, E4Impact, Rwanda.</p>	<p>Prof. Nhanhla Thwala, Provost and Vice Chancellor, African Leadership University</p>

11:35 - 11:55	Plenary Presentation 3b: The Role of Universities in Support of Sustainable Development Goals Through UN Academic Impact (UNAI): The Case of Mount Kenya University as the Hub Chair for SDG9 on Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Prof. Peter Wanderi - Principal Corporate Services, Communication & Alumni Relations/ Director Linkages, Mount Kenya University, Kenya.	
11:55 - 12:45	<p>Panel Session 3: The session will focus on: How to harness the role of incubation centres, innovation hubs, and accelerators in universities.</p> <p>The best approach to integrate entrepreneurship education into traditional academic programs in universities.</p> <p>The most effective strategies for identifying and nurturing young talent with entrepreneurial potential.</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Francois Ngoboka - Chief Skills Officer, Ministry of Public Service and Labour, Rwanda• Sylvia Mukasa - Founder/CEO, GlobalX Investments Ltd/ Innovation Labs, Kenya• Dr. Philip Pande – Executive Director, Corporate Career Academy, Kenya.• Dr. Victor K. Muposhi, Head Academics, Conservation Leadership, School of Wildlife Conservation, ALU, Rwanda• Dr. Parfait Yongabo, Division Manager in charge of Institutional Development, Applied Research and Consultancy, Rwanda Polytechnic, Rwanda	
12:45 - 13:05	REACTIONS AND Q&A	
13:05- 14:05	LUNCH BREAK	
PLENARY SESSION 4: PLENARY PRESENTATION AND PANEL SESSION		
Sub-Theme 4: Artificial intelligence as the new frontier for innovation and industrial transformation.		
14.05 – 14:35	Plenary Presentation 4: Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) as a catalyst for innovation in East Africa. Prof. Eng. Jean Bosco Byiringiro, Director, DeKUT SIEMENS Mechatronics Certification Centre	Dr. Jennifer Batamuliza, Head of ACE Data Driven Incubation Hub, University of Rwanda

14:35 - 14:55	REACTIONS AND Q&A	
14:55 - 16:05	<p>Panel Session 4: The session will focus on:</p> <p>How universities and businesses in East Africa can effectively adopt and implement AI solutions to drive innovation.</p> <p>How East African countries can foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government to advance AI research and innovation.</p> <p>Strategies to be taken by East African countries to effectively address the ethical implications of AI and ensure responsible development and deployment of AI.</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Said Rutabayiro Ngoga – Division Manager Technology Innovation, Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA), Rwanda. • Dr. Salome Maro- Software Engineer and Lecturer, UDSM, Tanzania • Marvin Ogore – Specialisation Coach, Machine Learning, Software Engineering Programme, ALU, Rwanda. • Dr. Louis Sibomana, Head of Science and Technology Development and Outreach at National Council Science Technology, Rwanda. 	
16:05 - 16:35	REACTIONS AND Q&A	
16:35 - 17:00	END OF DAY 2	
DAY 3	FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of participants	Secretariat
PLENARY SESSION 5: PRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY – INDUSTRY STRATEGY		
09:00 -09:30	<p>Plenary Presentation 5: Briefing on East Africa University- Industry Collaboration Support Strategy, Bernd Friedrich – Expert for Technology Transfer & Regional Networking, IUCEA</p>	Dr. Martin Ongol, Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

09:30 - 10:30	<p>Panel Session 5: The Session will focus on the Private Sector Perspectives of University-Industry Collaboration</p> <p>How private sector measure success of university-industry collaborations?</p> <p>What are the biggest challenges/key pain points in working with universities?</p> <p>What specific skills or areas of expertise are most lacking in recent graduates?</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Steven Ruzibiza – CEO, Private Sector Federation, Rwanda• Mr. Steven Sabiti – CEO, Institution of Engineers, Rwanda• Mr. Hamad Hamad – Executive Director, Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce, United Republic of Tanzania• Dr. Vincent Gaitho – Chair, Education Sector, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) & Council Chair, Mount Kenya University, Kenya• Mr. Christian Nkengurutse - Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi• Mr. Oscar Kissanga -Executive Director, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA)	
10:30 - 11:00	FEEDBACK AND Q&A	
11:00 -11:30	HEALTH BREAK	
PLENARY SESSION 6: WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE		
11:30-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Event Evaluation (A link for event evaluation form will be Shared)• Remarks from a Participant• Vote of Thanks• Way Forward by Executive Secretary	Prof. Michael Mawa, IUCEA
12:30 – 13:30	Closing Remarks by Mr. Antoine Marie Kajangwe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda.	
13:30- 16:00	LUNCH BREAK, NETWORKING, EXCURSION AND END OF THE FORUM	



IUCEA Secretariat
Plot M833, Kigobe Road, Kyambogo
P.O. Box 7110 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 393 001 553
Email: info@iucea.org
Website: www.iucea.org