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### JUNE- DECEMBER 2025

Plot M833 Kigobe Road, Kyambogo  
P.O. Box 7110, Kampala, Uganda  
Phone: +256-414254251/2

**Editor:**  
Gai P. Manyon, PhD

# 1<sup>st</sup> EAC Ministerial Conference on Common Higher Education Area Wraps up in Kampala



IUCEA staff, NCHC staff, EAC Ministers of Higher Education and President Museveni on the 9th of September 2025 in Munyonyo Resort Hotel

The first East African Community (EAC) Ministerial Conference on the Common Higher Education Area took place at the Munyonyo Resort Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The conference began on September 9, 2025, and concluded on September 11. It

was attended by the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

In his opening speech, the President encouraged universities to standardize their fee structures for EAC students. He emphasized that South Sudanese students

should have the same opportunity to pay the same fees as Ugandan nationals. The meeting was attended by various ministers from EAC partner states who are responsible for higher education.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the



President Museveni and the First Lady and Minister of Education with IUCEA and NCHE leaders in Munyonyo Resort on 9th of September 2025

former Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), highlighted several key achievements that the Council has realised over the years.

He noted that IUCEA has successfully developed policies for Student Mobility (2015) and Staff Mobility (2014), building upon long-standing student exchange and scholarship initiatives that date back to the 1970s among the three founding member universities: Makerere University, the University of Dar es Salaam, and the University of Nairobi.

Over the years, IUCEA has facilitated numerous exchange programmes and scholarships, including the KfW EAC Scholarship Programme, the Centres of Excellence Project under CENIT@EA (Centre of

Excellence for ICT in East Africa), the African Higher Education Centers of Excellence, and most recently, the EAC Student Mobility Scholarship (EAC-SMS). These initiatives continue to contribute significantly to building the human capital fabric of the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA).

Prof. Banyankimbona also emphasised IUCEA's commitment to enhancing academic quality across the region. He highlighted the establishment of a Regional Programme Accreditation System, a voluntary, prestigious, and rigorous process designed to ensure that university programmes are benchmarked against international standards, remain competitive, and facilitate regional student mobility through programme comparability

and mutual recognition.

Furthermore, IUCEA played a pivotal role in the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the seven national regulatory agencies, the National Councils and Commissions for Higher Education in the EAC Partner States. This MoU formally established the Forum of National Councils and Commissions for Higher Education, regarded as the governance backbone of the EACHEA.

These milestones, Prof. Banyankimbona noted, mark critical steps in operationalising the EAC Common Higher Education Area, as highlighted during the 1st EAC Ministerial Conference on Higher Education.

# Inaugural EACARNRI Conference ends in Arusha



Ambassador Stephen Mbundi, the Permanent Secretary for East African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania, IUCEA Staff and EACARNRI team in Arusha on 26th of June 2025.

The first East African Community Academic and Research Network for Regional Integration (EACARNRI) conference took place from June 26 to 28, 2025, in Arusha, Tanzania. The inaugural East African Community Academic and Research Network for Regional Integration (EACARNRI) conference has successfully concluded in Arusha, Tanzania.

This landmark event, organised by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in collaboration with the East African Community Academic Research Network for Regional Integration, brought together scholars and experts from East African Community

Partner States to engage in critical discussions about regional integration.

The conference focused on essential topics related to the core pillars of the East African Community, including the customs union, common market, monetary union, and political federation. Participants engaged in meaningful and insightful discussions focused on the vital theme of regional integration, which is essential for the collective progress of the East African Community.

The conference was graced by Ambassador Stephen Mbundi, the Permanent Secretary for East African Affairs at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania.

This gathering not only highlighted the importance of academic discourse but also reinforced the commitment of the East African Community to advance policies rooted in research and innovation.

With a theme focused on “The Role of Academics and Researchers in East African Community Integration,” the event aims to leverage the collective knowledge of leading academics to enhance understanding of the integration process.

# 14<sup>th</sup> EAQAN Conference closes at Speke Resort



IUCEA, NCHC and EAQAN Representatives at the 14th Forum in Munyonyo Resort on 15th of September 2025

The 14th Annual East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network conference has officially concluded at Speke Resort Munyonyo. The conference that started on the 15th of September 2025 brought together quality assurance

practitioners from the East African Community (EAC) Partner States, uniting diverse expertise and perspectives under the compelling theme: "Enhancing Regional Integration Through Harmonised Higher Education Systems for Sustainable Development in East

Africa."

This year's conference is more than just an event; it marks a crucial moment in the East African Community's (EAC) journey toward a more integrated and sustainable future. By strengthening higher

education systems in the EAC and promoting harmonisation across borders, we can create a foundation that fosters innovation, equality, and resilience within our region.

Professor Gaspard Banyankimbona, the former Executive Secretary of IUCEA, emphasised the remarkable journey of the East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) since its inception over a decade ago, shaped by the invaluable support of key stakeholders and partners. He graciously acknowledged that EAQAN has evolved into the region's premier force in harmonising higher education, becoming an essential catalyst for the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA).

This initiative plays a vital role in promoting mutual recognition, academic mobility, and enhancing global competitiveness among institutions.

In his address, Professor Banyankimbona also shared his forthcoming transition from the East African Community (EAC) to the African Union, expressing

profound pride in the collective achievements realised during his tenure.

He perceives EAQAN not merely as an organisation, but as a movement that calls for understanding and active support from all who aspire to contribute to the realisation of the ambitious African Union Agenda 2063, which aims to build the Africa we envision for the future.

As he embarks on this new chapter, his unwavering commitment to advancing East African higher education remains resolute. Professor Banyankimbona is dedicated to carrying this mission forward, seeking every opportunity to forge strong connections between IUCEA, EAQAN, and the broader continental agenda.

His leadership has laid a strong foundation, and together, we can continue to nurture this vision for the benefit of all.

Prof. Paul Muoki Nzioki, President of East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN), expressed profound gratitude to the

Government of Uganda, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), and the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) for graciously agreeing to co-host the 14th East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum and Conference.

Professor Paul highlighted a significant achievement: over 3,500 staff from universities throughout East Africa have received training in quality assurance methodologies. Numerous institutions in the region are actively implementing the harmonised guidelines set forth by IUCEA. Furthermore, through the East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, we are making strides towards realising our shared vision of seamless student mobility and mutual recognition of academic qualifications.

These milestones extend beyond mere documentation; they represent concrete actions taken towards the establishment of the East African Common Higher Education Area, a vision articulated by our Heads of State in 2017.

# 16<sup>th</sup> IUCEA Annual Meeting Concludes in Kinshasa



Key Leaders from DRC, EAC Secretary General, Former IUCEA Executive Secretary and IUCEA Executive Committee Members in Kinshasa on 29th of July 2025

The 16th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference concluded in Kinshasa, DRC, representing a significant milestone in the development of higher education in the region. The conference took place from July 29th to 30th, 2025, and was attended by a high-level delegation

from the DRC Government. We were honored to have Hon. Guylain Nyembo Mbwizya, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, lead the opening ceremony, highlighting the importance of this gathering.

This conference unites an

assembly of participants, including Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, Provosts, Rectors, and Principals of universities, alongside key Government Officials engaged in higher education, EAC Leadership, Education Policy Makers, Industry Representatives, Researchers and Scholars, Higher Education

Experts, Development Partners, student representatives, and media members.

This diverse representation reflects our collective commitment to addressing the pressing challenges and opportunities in higher education.

Our primary objectives are threefold: first, to analyze the emerging trends shaping higher education and their implications for the East African Common Higher Education Area; second, to collaboratively develop regional policy strategies and action points that integrate micro-credentials, artificial intelligence (AI), and transdisciplinary approaches into a cohesive and quality-assured higher education framework; and third, to cultivate dialogue, foster knowledge exchange, and create networking opportunities among stakeholders in the higher education landscape, thereby encouraging strategic partnerships

for sustainable development. The Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Her Excellency Veronica M. Nduva, emphasised that EAC is built on a clear vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and integrated region while addressing the huge gathering in Kinshasa at the IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference.

Prof. Robert Deng, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of IUCEA, delivered a powerful message that resonated deeply with all in attendance. Under the thought-provoking theme "Reflections on Global Education Trends and Their Implications for the Higher Education Landscape," he underscored the urgent need for quality and relevant education that not only serves a purpose but also creates a lasting impact.

He highlighted IUCEA's unwavering commitment to this mission, positioning the institution at the forefront of the fight for excellence in higher education.

Prof. Deng shared insights into several innovative capacity-building programs designed specifically for university leaders, program directors, and assessors, initiatives that align seamlessly with the Strategic Plan aimed at transforming educational paradigms.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the former IUCEA Executive Secretary, in his opening remarks, calls for sober reflection on vocationalisation of higher education, competency-based education, recognition frameworks, and quality assurance mechanisms in the integration of these into traditional degree structures.

Moreover, the growing move towards transdisciplinary education is real. He further stated that this trend is transcending traditional academic silos to allow learners to tackle real-world problems through integrated knowledge.

# ACE II Leadership Training Concludes in Nairobi



Stakeholders group Photo on the 1st of September 2025 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi

The leadership training concluded in Nairobi, bringing together Vice Chancellors and center leaders from various centers of excellence across Eastern and Southern Africa. This training took place from September 1 to September 6, 2025.

The event was a significant gathering of minds from Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Ethiopia, showcasing the spirit of

collaboration among institutions in the region.

The Leadership Training Programme for Vice Chancellors and Centre Leaders, part of the ACE II Project funded by the World Bank, was officially opened by Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the former Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).

Prof. Banyankimbona emphasised

that this training is not just another course; it serves as a call to action and a gathering of transformative leaders during a critical time for higher education in East and Southern Africa, as well as for the entire African continent. He noted that we meet at a time when the promise of excellence through our Centers of Excellence is an ongoing journey.

Significant progress has been made

under the ACE II project, which has established and strengthened 29 Centers across 18 universities in 8 countries. To date, nearly 10,000 postgraduate students have been trained, including 1,852 PhD candidates and 7,616 Master's students.

Additionally, close to 5,000 research publications have been produced in globally recognized journals, with 4,229 already published. Our Centers have generated over \$47.5 million in external revenue and have enhanced the qualifications of academic staff. Furthermore, 39 academic programs have received international accreditation, primarily through leading European agencies, as noted in his opening speech.

Prof. Banyankimbona also pointed out that this is only the beginning. The journey to create world-class, development-oriented universities in Africa is long and requires more than just infrastructure, publications, and curricula. It demands visionary leaders who can align academic excellence with national priorities, transform research into practical solutions, and mobilize resources, political

will, and public trust.

Dr. Jude Ssebuwufu, the Project Coordinator of the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres for Excellence (ACE II) at IUCEA, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the significant achievements of the ACE II Project during the ongoing leadership training in Nairobi. He highlighted that a key initiative within the ACE II project is to provide heads of educational institutions and leaders of the Centers with valuable leadership insights and best practices.

These insights are shared by seasoned leaders and managers from across the region, enriching the knowledge and skill sets of participants. This exchange of experiences is crucial for elevating leadership and management standards within the educational sector.

Another important aspect of the project is the fostering of supportive networks among participants. This networking approach encourages ongoing mentorship and collaboration, both essential for the success of 21st-century higher education

Centers of Excellence. By building these relationships, participants can access a diverse pool of experiences and perspectives, facilitating mutual growth.

Dr. Ssebuwufu concluded by emphasizing that the initiative actively addresses contemporary challenges in higher education leadership.

Dr. Angela Ndunge, a Chartered Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour at Strathmore Business School (SBS), led an engaging and informative session focused on the complexities of leadership and management. Throughout the training, she provided valuable insights into the unique dual challenges faced by Vice Chancellors, highlighting the delicate balance they must maintain between academic leadership and administrative responsibilities.

This includes enhancing engagement between academic institutions and the productive sector, promoting the commercialisation of research outputs, and advancing strategies for resource mobilisation.

# EAC Higher Education Leadership Training Concludes in Zanzibar



Higher Education Leaders across EAC in Zanzibar on July 2nd of July 2025

The East African Community Higher Education Leadership Training program, organized by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania. This training program ran from July 2nd to July 4th, 2025.

The workshop brought together a distinguished group of scholars and experts from the EAC region, all dedicated to improving the quality of higher education.

Hon. Lela Mohammed Mussa, the Minister for Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar, graced the opening ceremony with her presence, underscoring the importance of this leadership training initiative and the commitment to fostering educational excellence throughout the region.

The primary aim of this leadership training is to equip leaders of higher learning institutions with the vital skills, knowledge,

and competencies necessary to effectively address the diverse challenges of contemporary leadership in the educational landscape.

The former Executive Secretary of IUCEA, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, highlighted the importance of the Higher Education Leadership Programme (HELP) in his opening speech at a training aimed at enhancing the capabilities of university leaders in the East African Community (EAC).

He expressed gratitude to the Minister of Education of Zanzibar for her support and emphasized the significance of transformative leadership within universities.

Prof. Banyankimbona further explained that the leadership training is designed to equip newly appointed Vice Chancellors (VCs) with essential knowledge, skills, and confidence to tackle

contemporary challenges and advance their institutions towards excellence and regional integration. He also stressed the importance of knowledge transfer, mentorship, and networking.

The leadership training workshop was attended by university leaders from all eight EAC Partner States, fostering collaboration, idea exchange, and the development of lasting professional relationships to facilitate mutual learning across borders.

Prof. Gerald Karyeija of the Uganda Management Institute delivered a remarkable presentation on effective university governance during the EAC higher education leadership training in Zanzibar.

His insights into university structures, policies, processes, and relationships provided a comprehensive overview that is essential for fostering better governance practices.

In his discourse on governance, Prof. Karyeija outlined the critical importance of decision-making processes and the contemporary challenges facing higher education institutions today.

His ability to address these complex issues through his presentation not only enhances our understanding but also encourages collaborative approaches to overcoming these challenges.

Prof. Idrissa Mshoro, the former Vice Chancellor of Ardhi University in Tanzania, presented an insightful discussion on the vital role of effective communication in higher education.

He emphasized that communication is not just a tool, but a cornerstone

of success, particularly in external interactions.

Prof. Mshoro also highlighted the notable challenges posed by communication gaps in both decision-making and implementation processes.

He urged the adoption of robust communication strategies that bridge these gaps, fostering meaningful engagement with both internal teams and external stakeholders.

He concluded his presentation by stating that by prioritising clear and open communication, institutions can enhance collaboration, drive innovation, and ultimately achieve their educational goals more effectively.

Dr. Angela Ndunge from Strathmore University, Kenya, facilitated an engaging discussion focused on leadership and management in higher education. The session successfully captured the attention of various leaders and prompted an insightful exchange of ideas.

Participants actively contributed to the dialogue, highlighting diverse perspectives and fostering a collaborative atmosphere dedicated to advancing leadership practices within the academic institutions.

## EAC Stakeholders Adopt Key Resolutions on Harmonised Higher Education Data Guidelines at IUCEA Workshop in Dar es Salaam



IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai, Prof. Caroline Nombo, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology in the United Republic of Tanzania and stakeholders in Dar es Salaam on 22 October 2025

The Harmonised Guidelines for Higher Education Data Collection and Management workshop successfully concluded

in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The event that was held in Dar es Salaam from 22 to 23 October 2025 brought together various

stakeholders from the East African Community (EAC) Partner States, member universities of the Inter-University Council for East Africa

(IUCEA), and partners. Key resolutions were made regarding the collection and management of higher education data within the EAC.

Prof. Caroline Nombo, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology in the United Republic of Tanzania, graced the opening of the workshop.

During the opening ceremony, Prof. Nombo emphasised the importance of standardised data collection and management in enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education in the region.

She highlighted that harmonised guidelines would not only facilitate better data management practices but also support informed decision-making at institutional and governmental levels.

Prof. Idris A. Rai, the Acting

Executive Secretary of IUCEA, expressed his gratitude to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as to the member universities of IUCEA and partners such as Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA), the Association of African Universities (AAU), and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) for their contributions to the success of the workshop.

In his opening address at the Harmonised Guidelines for Higher Education Data Collection and Management Workshop, Prof. Rai highlighted the importance of these guidelines for higher education data collection and management within the East African Community (EAC).

He referred to the foundational work undertaken through the Demographics of African Faculty in the East African Community (DAF-EAC) project, a collaborative

initiative that began in 2021 in partnership with Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA), the Association of African Universities (AAU), and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

Professor Rai emphasised that Phase I of the DAF project, which concluded in 2023, has provided valuable insights into the higher education data landscape across the EAC.

Dr Salome Guchu, the Head of the Research, Innovation, and Outreach Unit at IUCEA, provided an insightful overview of the Harmonised Guidelines for Higher Education Data Collection and Management during the ongoing workshop in Dar es Salaam. Her presentation highlighted the importance of establishing a unified and reliable higher education data ecosystem across the EAC.

# EAC Stakeholders Assemble in Dar es Salaam to Advance Implementation of Regional Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning



IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Professor Rai and stakeholders from EAC Partner States in Dar es Salaam at Workshop on Recognition of Prior Learning on 20th of October 2025

**T**he Regional Stakeholders' Workshop for the Dissemination of the East African Community (EAC) Policy and Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) successfully concluded on October 21 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

This significant gathering brought together stakeholders and representatives from the eight Partner States of the EAC, fostering collaboration and commitment to advancing education in our region. In his remarks, Prof. Idris A. Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, expressed gratitude to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting this important event. He also extended his appreciation to the partner states for their ongoing efforts, which are crucial in

enhancing higher education across East Africa.

As we reflect on the resolutions adopted during this workshop, it is essential to leverage the momentum generated by this gathering to take actionable steps toward implementing these guidelines. Prof. Rai emphasized that the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not merely a policy intervention but a transformative tool for inclusion, opportunity, and mobility.

"RPL acknowledges that valuable learning occurs in classrooms, workplaces, communities, and through lived experiences," he stated. "By recognizing and certifying such learning, we open doors for individuals to advance in education, employment, and

lifelong learning, regardless of where or how their skills were acquired."

Professor Rai highlighted that through this initiative, the East African Community (EAC) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to equity, access, and harmonisation in education and training. He noted that the region's prosperity depends on its ability to value all forms of knowledge and competence, ensuring that skills are visible, portable, and recognized across borders.

He made these remarks during the ongoing Regional Stakeholders' Workshop on the dissemination of the EAC Policy and Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

# EAC Stakeholders Convene in Bujumbura to Validate Harmonised Higher Education Fee Structure Model



Stakeholders in Bujumbura on the 7th of August 2025

The validation workshop for the fee structure model for higher education institutions in the East African Community (EAC) took place in Bujumbura, Burundi, from August 7 to August 8, 2025. This significant gathering brought together a diverse group of participants representing various stakeholders, including representatives from EAC Partner States, along with distinguished

members from both public and private universities affiliated with IUCEA member institutions.

The presence of representatives from national councils and commissions across EAC Partner States further enriched the discussions, allowing for a comprehensive examination of the proposed fee structure model.

Additionally, the participation of the consultants who developed this model adds a valued perspective to our collective endeavour. This workshop is a pivotal step towards achieving a robust framework that addresses the unique needs of our institutions while promoting regional integration and cooperation in education across the East African Community.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the former Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), emphasized that true regional integration is not forged at border posts or through trade protocols but in the lecture halls, laboratories, and student residences where future leaders from Dar es Salaam, Bujumbura, Kigali, Kampala, Nairobi, Kinshasa, Mogadishu, and Juba come together. There, they learn side by side, exchange ideas, challenge perspectives, and co-create innovations that lay the foundation for a truly united East Africa.

Prof. Banyankimbona further underscored that the workshop represents a significant milestone in the implementation of a directive from the 14th Sectoral Council on Education, Science, Technology,

Culture, and Sports to design a fee structure model for higher education that is equitable, transparent, and harmonized across the East African Community.

He affirmed that this collective effort is vital to ensuring accessibility, inclusivity, and excellence in education across the region.

Prof. Obonyo, Head of Links and Partnerships at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), presented the key resolutions emerging from the workshop on the validation and implementation of the proposed fee structure model for higher education institutions across the East African Community (EAC).

The workshop, currently underway in Bujumbura, serves as a vital platform for dialogue

and consensus-building among stakeholders from all EAC Partner States.

It has brought together a diverse representation, including senior officials from partner governments, leaders from public and private universities within IUCEA's membership, and other key actors in the higher education sector.

At the heart of the deliberations is the harmonisation of the fee structure model for EAC students. This important step is designed to facilitate the mobility of both students and academic staff across the region, thereby fostering academic cooperation, promoting equitable access to education, and strengthening regional integration through shared opportunities and standards.

# EAC Workshop in Entebbe Strengthens Mutual Recognition of Qualifications to Enhance Regional Mobility and Integration



Regional representatives from EAC Partner States, Development Partners and the IUCEA Team in Entebbe on 19th of June 2025.

The workshop on mutual recognition of qualifications in East Africa concluded in Entebbe, Uganda. This workshop started on the 19th of June and concluded on the 20th of June 2025. The workshop has gathered participants from the East African Community (EAC) Partner States of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

Also, representatives from Commissions and Councils responsible for Higher Education, Qualifications Authorities or bodies accountable for qualifications, and National Examinations Boards or Councils are part of the workshop.

Additionally, there were five

representatives from Professional Bodies and eight Academic Registrars from selected Higher Education Institutions. Regional experts and facilitators, as well as representatives from International Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in refugee access and transition (including UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, Windle International), were also present.

This dialogue aims to strengthen regional cooperation and build mutual trust among EAC Partner States regarding the recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

This effort is intended to enhance the mobility of learners, skilled professionals, and the workforce

across the region, in alignment with the EAC Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA), the objectives of the Common Market Protocol, and the broader EAC integration agenda.

"Qualifications are more than just pieces of paper; they represent a person's hard work, skills, and potential. They create opportunities for jobs, career advancement, and personal growth. When someone's qualifications are not recognised, it doesn't just limit their future; it also deprives society of their talents and contributions. Unfortunately, issues such as fake degrees, diploma mills, and inconsistent recognition processes continue to undermine the fairness and value of education in our region". This was stated by IUCEA's former

Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona while opening the two-day workshop in Entebbe, Uganda.

Prof. Banyankimbona emphasised the role of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in coordinating higher education within the East African Community (EAC). He noted that IUCEA is committed to ensuring that qualifications are recognised and

respected fairly. As outlined in the EAC treaty and the IUCEA Act of 2009, IUCEA's mission includes fostering collaboration, uniting people, and helping to create a unified higher education space.

Dr Alice Kande, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Kenya National Qualifications Authority, delivered a compelling presentation this morning on the mutual recognition of qualifications during the

ongoing regional dialogue in Entebbe, Uganda. She discussed important topics such as mobility, qualifications, and establishing a regional qualifications framework.

Additionally, she addressed contemporary issues related to the recognition and equivalency of academic and professional qualifications.

## EAC-SMS Meeting in Entebbe Strengthens Regional Commitment to Student Mobility and Scholarship Opportunities Across East Africa



Regional representatives from EAC Partner States, Development Partners and the IUCEA Team in Entebbe on 19th of June 2025.

**T**he meeting on the East African Scholarship Mobility Scheme (EAC-SMS) concluded at the Protea Hotel in Entebbe on 19th October 2025, gathering Vice

Chancellors from participating universities committed to supporting scholarships for East African Community (EAC) nationals.

This workshop serves as a crucial platform for in-depth discussions aimed at enhancing the scholarship program to better serve our communities and promote regional

development. Stakeholders shared insights and identified significant opportunities to improve the quality and accessibility of education for students, ultimately benefiting the entire East African region.

In his opening speech at the EAC-SMS meeting in Entebbe, IUCEA Former Executive Secretary Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona reflected on a meeting held more than three years ago, from March 7-9, 2022, in Nairobi. The purpose of that meeting was to assess the progress in fulfilling the core mandate of IUCEA, which includes promoting student mobility in the region, facilitating staff exchanges between member universities, and providing scholarships to students as well as grants to teaching and research assistants.

Prof. Banyankimbona noted that, as directed by the 10th Executive Committee meeting, the IUCEA secretariat submitted a proposal to establish a Multilateral East African Community Scholarship Programme, now referred to as the East African Community Student Mobility Scheme (EAC-SMS).

He expressed enthusiasm that the EAC-SMS has now become a reality. To date, 28 IUCEA member universities have formally committed to this scheme. Nearly 20 students are currently benefiting from it, having already enrolled in universities in neighbouring

countries.

Darius Ogotu, Chair of the Standing Committee on Scholarships of IUCEA, commended the member universities for their collaborative spirit regarding the EAC Students' Mobility Scholarship Scheme (EAC-SMS).

He emphasised that IUCEA has taken proactive steps to address challenges by organising a stakeholder engagement meeting with member Universities.

Ogotu also highlighted the importance of strengthening the efficiency of implementation. He called on everyone involved, from government offices to universities, to share their experiences to make this scholarship successful.

He expressed confidence that insights from various university leaders will enhance these efforts and ensure that the EAC-SMS continues to thrive as a flagship initiative for student mobility in the Common Higher Education Area.

Additionally, Ogotu presented certificates to the IUCEA member universities that are offering EAC-SMS to nationals from the eight partner states of the EAC.

Prof. Meshack Obonyo, Head of Partnerships and Links at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), provided an overview of the EAC-SMS Scholarship Scheme. This initiative was established

following a resolution made at the 2019 IUCEA Annual Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, where 11 Vice-Chancellors committed to its development.

The implementation guidelines were created in March 2022, endorsed by the IUCEA Executive Committee on July 4, 2022, and officially adopted during the IUCEA Annual Forum in Bujumbura, Burundi, on July 6, 2022.

He noted that a significant turning point occurred during a workshop held on March 14-15, 2024, at the Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi. During this workshop, stakeholders recognised the delays experienced in earlier phases of implementation but unanimously agreed to officially launch the program, starting with the September 2024 intake.

The EAC-SMS Programme was officially launched at the 15th Annual Meeting in Juba, South Sudan, from July 17-18, 2024. Following the launch, the call for applications closed on August 25, 2024.

Prof. Obonyo reported that out of a total of 1,407 applications received for 154 available slots, 78 candidates (30 females and 48 males) were pre-selected and forwarded to their respective universities for admission in 2024.

# IUCEA and African Agribusiness Incubators Network Forge Strategic Partnership to Boost Agribusiness Innovations

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has taken a significant step forward in strengthening regional collaboration by partnering with the African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN). This partnership was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17th September 2025 by IUCEA Former Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, and AAIN Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Alex Ariho. This landmark agreement is set to enhance cooperation within the crucial agribusiness sector, which is vital for economic growth and food security across East Africa.

The MoU creates a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering robust collaboration between IUCEA and AAIN, focusing on several key areas, including the promotion of agriculture startups, the development of innovative solutions, and the cultivation of entrepreneurship skills among the youth and emerging farmers. Specifically, the initiative seeks to address the challenges faced by agribusinesses in the region, such as access to funding, technical know-how, and market opportunities.

One of the primary objectives of this collaboration is to catalyze research and development in agribusiness. By leveraging the academic resources and expertise of IUCEA member institutions, alongside the practical experience and networks of AAIN, the partnership aims to enhance the competitiveness of local



IUCEA's former Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, AAIN representatives and IUCEA Staff on the 17th of September 2025 at IUCEA Headquarters.

agribusinesses. This involves facilitating research initiatives that explore sustainable agricultural practices, developing new technologies, and creating frameworks for best practices in agribusiness.

Additionally, the collaborative efforts outlined in this MoU are expected to empower emerging enterprises by providing them with the necessary tools for success. This includes access to mentorship programs, training workshops, and networking opportunities that align startups with investors and established businesses in the agribusiness ecosystem.

The potential impact of this partnership goes beyond individual enterprises; it aims to drive sustainable growth across the region by fostering

an environment where agribusiness can thrive. By creating synergies between academia and the agribusiness sector, IUCEA and AAIN are positioned to make a substantial impact on the agribusiness landscape in East Africa.

In conclusion, the partnership between IUCEA and AAIN is set to pave the way for transformative initiatives that not only benefit academia but also extend to the wider community. With a focus on enhancing entrepreneurship, innovation, and research in agribusiness, this collaborative effort is poised to contribute significantly to the economic development and food security of the region, creating a brighter future for all stakeholders involved.

# IUCEA Executive Committee Leadership Visits Headquarters to Chart Strategic Direction for Advancing Higher Education in East Africa



Prof. Robert Deng, Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee, Prof. Rose Clarke Nanyonga, The Vice Chair of the Executive Committee and IUCEA Staff at the Headquarters on 16th October 2025.

In a significant visit to the IUCEA Headquarters on 16th of October 2025, Prof. Robert Mayom Deng, the Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee and Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba, met with the staff to engage in a comprehensive and productive dialogue regarding the future directions of the organisation. He was accompanied by Prof. Rose Clarke Nanyonga, the Vice Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee and the Vice Chancellor of Clarke International University, highlighting the collaborative spirit among the leadership of different institutions within the IUCEA network.

Upon their arrival at the headquarters, Prof. Rai, who is also the Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished leaders. His greeting set a positive tone for

the proceedings and emphasised the importance of unity and collaboration in achieving the organisation's goals.

The discussions that ensued were multifaceted, focusing on several key issues pertinent to the mission and vision of IUCEA. Executive Committee leadership and IUCEA Secretariat delved into strategies for enhancing regional cooperation among universities, addressing challenges in higher education, and the pivotal role of IUCEA in advancing academic excellence across East Africa.

The dialogue underscored the importance of fostering partnerships both within the educational sector and with external stakeholders to propel the institution's objectives further. Moreover, specific topics such as the integration of technology

in education, improving quality assurance mechanisms, and expanding research initiatives were highlighted. The leaders expressed a shared vision of establishing IUCEA as a hub for innovation and a resource center for universities in the region.

This visit not only reflects the commitment of IUCEA's leadership to strategic advancement and partnership cultivation but also serves as a reaffirmation of the Institution's dedication to its mission of promoting quality higher education and facilitating regional integration in the education sector. The collaborative discussions are aimed at ensuring that IUCEA continues to meet the evolving needs of its member institutions and the communities they serve, signalling a bright future ahead for higher education in East Africa.

# IUCEA Participates in Global Forum on Student Mobility in Tashkent, Showcasing East Africa’s Collaborative Education Model



■ Professor Idris Rai, IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, giving a remark at the Global Forum on Student Mobility in Tashkent on 28th of October 2025



■ Prof. Rai and other stakeholders at the Global Forum on Student Mobility in Tashkent on 28th of October 2025

**T**he Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) participated in the inaugural Annual Meeting on Global Collaborations for Student Mobility, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from October 27 to 28, 2025.

Prof. Idris A. Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, represented the institution and presented on the theme “Private-Intergovernmental Partnerships for Global Student Mobility: The East

African-KDU Experience.”

This important gathering brought together representatives from over 50 universities worldwide, reaffirming the global commitment to inclusive and sustainable cooperation in higher education.

This engagement highlights IUCEA’s mission to foster collaboration among member universities and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions both regionally and globally. It promotes

shared learning, mobility, and excellence across borders. The meeting was organised by our long-standing partner, Kyungdong University (KDU), and hosted by Tashkent State University of Economics.

Through such collaborations, IUCEA continues to advance its mission by exploring partnerships with global institutions to promote academic mobility on a worldwide scale.

# IUCEA Strengthens Global Partnerships for Student Mobility and Academic Collaboration at Tashkent Conference

During the inaugural conference on Global Collaborations for Student Mobility in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Professor Idris A. Rai Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), held a series of productive sideline meetings from 27th to 28th of October 2025 with representatives from several distinguished institutions. These included Kyungdong University (KDU), the Council for Higher Education, Research and Development of Indonesia, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, Riphah International University, Bahria University, the International University of Tourism and Entrepreneurship in Tajikistan, and the Azerbaijan State University of Economics, among others.

In these discussions, Professor Rai reaffirmed IUCEA's mission to promote mutually beneficial collaborations among universities, as well as between universities and governments, and other public and private organisations in the region and beyond.

He emphasised the importance of partnerships, such as the KDU Global-IUCEA Scholarships Programme, which act as catalysts for student mobility, academic exchange, and joint innovation.

The meetings explored new avenues for collaboration between



Professor Idris Rai, Acting Executive Secretary the inaugural conference on Global Collaborations for Student Mobility in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 27th of October 2025

universities in the East African Community (EAC) and their counterparts in Asia, focusing on enhancing educational quality, research cooperation, academic mobility, and cultural exchange. These engagements highlight

IUCEA's commitment to building strong global connections that enhance opportunities for both students and universities, fostering mutual growth and understanding across regions.

# KENTECH, IUCEA Forge Strategic Partnership to Advance Sustainable Energy and Research Collaboration in East Africa



Prof. Idris A. Rai, IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary with the IUCEA Delegation and KENTECH Team in South Korea in September 2025

On October 20, 2025, the Korea Institute of Energy Technology (KENTECH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). This important partnership aims to enhance collaboration in education and research, marking a significant step forward in fostering Korea–East Africa cooperation. The IUCEA serves as a key regional body representing over 170 higher education institutions across eight East African countries. As the principal organisation for

academic quality assurance, joint research initiatives, academic mobility, and innovation ecosystem development, IUCEA plays a vital role in advancing the quality and capacity of higher education and research throughout East Africa. This collaboration builds upon discussions initiated during the IUCEA delegation's visit to KENTECH in September 2025, where both parties explored various partnership opportunities, particularly in the realms of sustainable energy innovation and human capital development. Under the terms of the MOU, KENTECH

and IUCEA have committed to pursuing joint research in critical areas, including energy transition, renewable energy, and climate technologies. They will also work together to coorganize academic events and establish exchange programs for researchers and students between KENTECH and IUCEA member institutions.

Acting President Chinho Park remarked, "This MOU represents a significant milestone as KENTECH expands its global collaboration network to Africa, following successful partnerships in Asia,

Europe, and the Americas.

Through this partnership with IUCEA, we aim to nurture talent and advance industries within the sustainable energy sector across East Africa, further solidifying the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Korea and the region."

On the other hand, the Acting Executive Secretary of the IUCEA Professor. Idris A. Rai, expressing

enthusiasm about the collaboration, stated that, "This is a strategic partnership that will strengthen the capacity of our member universities and empower the youth of East Africa with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in sustainable energy and innovation. Through joint research, academic exchanges, and training programs, we are paving new pathways for our institutions to access global expertise while developing homegrown solutions to regional challenges.

This collaboration will not only advance our shared pursuit of sustainable energy but also cultivate a new generation of East African scientists, innovators, and leaders poised to contribute to a greener and more resilient future." The leaders of KENTECH and IUCEA signed a crucial MoU to enhance collaboration in research, innovation, and networking.

## IUCEA Champions Digital Transformation and Responsible AI Innovation at AI for Good Impact Africa 2025

Mr Ben Ruhinda, Senior Systems Officer at IUCEA, participated as a distinguished speaker at the AI for Good Impact Africa 2025 event. The forum was held during the AI Expo Africa 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa, from October 30–31, 2025.

This flagship event, part of the AI for Good Impact Initiative led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with over 50 United Nations partners, serves as a premier platform for accelerating responsible AI innovation, capacity building, and collaboration across the African continent.

The event convened regional and global leaders, policymakers, researchers, technology experts, and innovators to explore how Artificial Intelligence can be leveraged to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) and transform African societies through inclusive digital transformation. During his insightful presentation, Mr Ruhinda highlighted IUCEA's

pivotal role in fostering digital transformation and AI readiness within the East African Community (EAC) higher education ecosystem. He shared the Council's achievements and ongoing efforts in:

- Advancing digital transformation across East African universities through strategic partnerships and regional frameworks.
- Developing and implementing regional AI strategies that align with both EAC and continental digital agendas.
- Enhancing institutional capacity and building the digital competencies of educators and students through transformative initiatives such as:
  - dSkills@EA (Digital Skills for an Innovative East Africa)
  - CENIT@EA (Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa)
  - AI-Ready Educators

Programme, designed to prepare higher education institutions for the AI-driven future.

The AI for Good Impact Africa 2025 forum also featured inspiring keynotes, high-level panel discussions, start-up pitching sessions, and interactive showcases, providing participants with practical insights and opportunities to explore real-world AI solutions that address African development challenges.

Through IUCEA's engagement, the East African region reaffirmed its commitment to promoting responsible AI adoption, strengthening digital skills, and creating an enabling environment for innovation-driven growth.

IUCEA continues to stand at the forefront of regional efforts to ensure that AI and emerging technologies become powerful enablers of education, research, and socio-economic transformation across the East African Community and beyond.

# Entebbe Workshop Endorses Strategic Framework for Regional Agricultural Policy Think Tank



■ Stakeholders' engagement at the Think Tank Workshop in Entebbe on 14th of November 2025

The Stakeholders' Validation Workshop for the Agricultural Policy Think Tank concluded on 14th November 2025 in Entebbe, Uganda, marking a major milestone in advancing evidence-based agricultural policy across the region.

Jointly organised by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), with support from the World Bank, the three-day workshop convened key voices from academia, government, the private sector,

and development partners. The workshop served as a crucial platform to validate the Think Tank's strategic framework and operational plan, ensuring that its structure and direction fully reflect regional priorities and stakeholder expectations.

Participants reviewed and refined the draft governance framework, provided insights on long-term operational sustainability, and offered actionable recommendations to position the Think Tank as a driver of innovation, collaboration, and policy influence.

Discussions centred on the Think Tank's envisioned role in shaping policy dialogue, coordinating cutting-edge research, and advancing knowledge sharing. By strengthening linkages between universities, policymakers, and industry, the Think Tank is set to become a key engine for translating research into impactful and practical agricultural policies. As the ACE II Project approaches its conclusion in December 2025, the establishment and validation of this Think Tank signal a deliberate step toward long-term sustainability and continued regional leadership in agricultural policy development.

## ACE II Centres Complete Training on World Bank Implementation Completion and Results Reporting



■ Participants from Mozambique, Malawi and IUCEA Staff in Nairobi at Reporting Training on 17th of November 2025

The training for the Eastern and Southern Africa Centres of Excellence on drafting the Implementation Completion and Results (ICR) Report concluded in Nairobi on 21 November 2025. The workshop was organised to fulfil a key World Bank requirement for producing a high-quality ICR report following the completion of the ACE II project.

The primary objective of the training was to equip teams from the Africa Centres of Excellence in Malawi and Mozambique with the skills needed to prepare a comprehensive and accurate Implementation Completion Report that fully captures the scope,

achievements, and impact of the ACE II project.

Over the five-day workshop, several important goals were addressed. First, the training focused on standardising reporting by ensuring a common understanding and application of the newly developed ACE II Data Compilation Framework, together with the overall structure of the Implementation Completion Report. Second, participants finalised the data compilation process by applying the framework to document significant achievements that go beyond the original Results Framework, using verifiable, comparable, and aggregable metrics.

Finally, the workshop guided the ACE teams in applying the standard World Bank ICR framework to ensure full compliance with requirements for final project reporting.

Dr. Jude Ssebuwufu, the Project Coordinator, underscored the importance of this training. Quoting the Latin phrase “Finis opus coronat”—meaning “the end crowns the work”—he emphasised that the ICR report represents the essential final task that completes the project’s journey, highlighting the need for accuracy, thoroughness, and attention to detail in its preparation.

# ACE II Technical and Advisory Meeting Marks Final Milestone as Regional Leaders Celebrate Transformative Achievements

The Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Technical and Advisory Meeting concluded in Munyonyo Commonwealth Speke Resort in Kampala. The high-level meeting that started from the 8th to the 11th of December 2025.

This landmark gathering marks the 20th and final Technical and Advisory Meeting, dedicated to celebrating the significant milestones achieved under the ACE II project.

The meeting provides a platform to showcase key accomplishments, assess implementation performance, and document critical lessons learned over the course of the project. It also highlights exemplary practices and fosters forward-looking discussions on the sustainability of the Centers of Excellence, intending to strengthen the higher education ecosystem across Eastern and Southern Africa.

Distinguished participants include representatives from regional governments, members of the Regional



IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai, giving his opening speech at Munyonyo resort on the 8th of December 2025

Steering Committee, Vice Chancellors, leaders of the Centers of Excellence, the World Bank technical team, an independent verification team, students, alumni, and industry partners.

In his address, Prof. Idris A. Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, expressed profound

appreciation to the World Bank for its unwavering support, which has been central to the project's resounding success. He also acknowledged the Regional Steering Committee for its guidance and recognized the contributions of former IUCEA leaders and project coordinators.

Prof. Rai noted

that although the achievements are impressive, ensuring sustainability remains the central challenge, emphasizing the need for continued support to preserve the gains made and ensure lasting impact on higher education across the region.

Providing a



■ Different stakeholders at the ACE II Technical and Advisory Meeting on the 8th of December 2025 in Munyonyo Resort Hotel.

comprehensive overview of the project, Dr. Jude Ssebuwufu, Project Coordinator for the ACE II initiative at IUCEA, highlighted that the project has established a network of 29 Centers of Excellence housed in 16 universities across Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique,

Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. This extensive network reflects a strong commitment to advancing academic collaboration and elevating the quality of higher education in the region.

Dr. Jude further noted that the ACE II project has surpassed its targets,

recording remarkable achievements in student enrollment, institutional partnerships, program accreditation, gender equity, income generation, and research productivity.

## Commonwealth of Learning, IUCEA Signs an MOU to Drive Digital Innovation in East Africa

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) establishes a strategic framework aimed at accelerating digital transformation, strengthening open and distance learning (ODL), and expanding equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities across the East African region. Signed by both institutions' chief executives in November 2025, the MOU formalises collaborative action to modernise education systems,

promote digital resilience, and enhance the quality and inclusiveness of higher education.

The MOU is designed to identify and activate mutually beneficial avenues for cooperation within the mandates of both institutions. Its core purpose is to broaden access to quality education and training by harnessing technology-enabled learning, artificial intelligence, open educational resources, and innovative pedagogical models. In doing so, it directly supports progress toward SDG 4, particularly by expanding inclusive

and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Furthermore, the MOU aligns with the IUCEA Strategic Plan and its ICT policy, both of which emphasise digital transformation, regional harmonisation, and the enhancement of quality and relevance in higher education. The agreement enables joint efforts in policy support, teacher development, the creation and sharing of digital learning content, and the expansion of innovative, flexible learning pathways such

as micro-credentials, thereby reinforcing institutional and regional commitments to modern, future-ready education systems.

Professor Peter Scott, President & CEO of COL commended, “COL is delighted to join forces with IUCEA in advancing a shared vision of accessible, high-quality digital learning for all. This partnership allows us to combine our global expertise with global leadership to expand lifelong learning opportunities across East Africa.” Professor Idris A. Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, stated, “IUCEA welcomes this collaboration with COL as a

catalyst for strengthening digital transformation and enhancing the quality of teacher education in our region. We look forward to jointly shaping innovations that benefit teacher educational institutions, universities, governments, teachers and learners throughout East Africa.”

Implementation will be guided by a Joint Committee, which will meet every six months to review progress, identify challenges, and propose adjustments to ensure effective delivery. Specific projects will be detailed in separate agreements, with each party mobilising its own resources to achieve agreed

objectives. The MOU will remain in effect for five years, with the possibility of renewal.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is an intergovernmental organisation established by Commonwealth Heads of Government to expand access to learning through open, distance, and technology-enabled education. The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is a statutory body of the East African Community mandated to coordinate higher education and research, harmonise standards, and promote regional integration in the sector.

## IUCEA, University of Western Ontario Signs MoU to Strengthen Research, Innovation, and Academic Collaboration

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Western Ontario in November 2025. This agreement aims to enhance research, innovation, and academic collaboration between the two institutions.

The collaboration will facilitate the exchange of information through the sharing of materials, publications, and research findings. It will also promote scientific and cultural cooperation to foster mutual growth. The MoU outlines several capacity-building initiatives

focused on improving institutional capabilities through targeted activities.

Potential projects may include writing proposals for Regional Hubs in Africa, exploring funding opportunities with the Mastercard Foundation, working on the Frugal Biomedical Innovations Program (FBIP), supporting Biomedical Engineering Programs, creating Centers of Biomedical Engineering, and developing compact QPCR devices for the East African Community (EAC).

Furthermore, the collaboration will involve co-developing curriculum

reforms to strengthen engineering models at IUCEA member universities, ensuring that they align with regional development priorities.

IUCEA will be represented by the Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai, who may appoint other IUCEA officials as key liaisons for the collaboration. The University of Western Ontario will be represented by Dr. James Lacefield, the Director of the School of Biomedical Engineering.

# IUCEA Scholar Kilonzi Advances Public Health Through Groundbreaking Research on Rotavirus in Tanzania

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) proudly celebrates the remarkable academic and research achievement of Ms. Alice Kilonzi, a Kenyan national, who graduated with a Master's degree in One Health Molecular Biology from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2025.

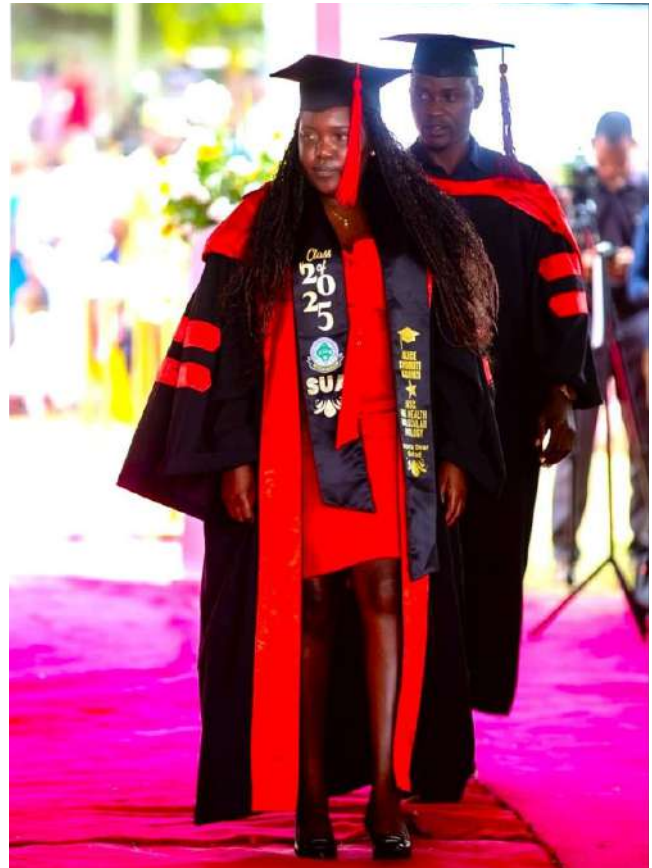
Alice's academic journey is a powerful story of resilience, determination, and empowerment. Her success was made possible through the IUCEA Female Scholarship Programme under the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACE II) Project, an initiative funded by the World Bank to promote women's participation and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Through this transformative scholarship, Alice was able to pursue advanced research that bridges molecular biology, environmental health, and community awareness. Her groundbreaking study focused on the genetic characterisation of Rotavirus present in wastewater treatment plants in Morogoro, Tanzania—a novel area of study with profound implications for public health and disease prevention.

Beyond laboratory analysis, Alice took her research further by assessing community awareness and perceptions of Rotavirus-related diarrhoea and the health risks linked to wastewater contamination. This dual approach—integrating scientific investigation with public health education—reflects her deep commitment to advancing both knowledge and community well-being.

Her findings not only contribute to the scientific understanding of viral pathogens in environmental systems but also provide valuable insights for policymakers and health practitioners in mitigating disease outbreaks linked to poor sanitation.

Alice's achievement is a shining example of how IUCEA's targeted scholarship programmes empower



Scholar Alice Kilonzi at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2025

young women to become leaders, innovators, and change-makers in fields traditionally dominated by men. Her work underscores the essential connection between environmental science, health equity, and community resilience—a cornerstone of sustainable development in East Africa and beyond.

As IUCEA continues to champion higher education and research excellence, stories like Alice Kilonzi's reaffirm the transformative power of inclusive education and regional collaboration in shaping a healthier, more equitable future for Africa.

# Malawian Scholar Nkhata Graduates in Water Management Through ACE II Scholarship, Poised to Tackle Regional Water Challenges



**Nkhata Asante Dankie at Addis Ababa University in August 2025**

Nkhata Asante Dankie, a proud Malawian national, has reached a remarkable milestone in her educational journey by earning her master’s degree in water management, with a specialisation in Water Quality Management, from the prestigious African Center of Excellence for Water Management at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia in August 2025. This academic achievement represents not only her hard work and dedication but also her commitment to tackling pressing water issues in her home country and the broader East and Southern African regions. Asante’s transformative journey was made possible through the ACE II project scholarships, a highly regarded program that not only provides financial assistance but also emphasises the importance of

academic excellence and leadership in the fields of water management and environmental science.

Funded by the World Bank and administered by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), these scholarships have opened doors for many aspiring students, promoting higher education and fostering research initiatives aimed at addressing critical developmental challenges in Africa.

Throughout her studies, Asante acquired advanced skills and in-depth knowledge related to water quality management, including techniques for assessing water contamination, sustainable water resource management practices, and the implementation of effective water purification technologies. Her education enabled her to explore the complex relationships between human activities and water quality, equipping her with the tools necessary to devise innovative solutions tailored to the specific needs of her community.

Asante’s dedication does not stop with her academic achievements. She is driven by a strong aspiration to translate her learning into impactful actions that contribute to sustainable development and environmental stewardship in Malawi and beyond. With her expertise, she is poised to play a crucial role in addressing the critical water quality challenges that her homeland faces, such as waterborne diseases, pollution, and the effects of climate change on water resources.

Her journey stands as an inspiration for current and future generations, highlighting the importance of education in creating pathways toward sustainable solutions for environmental issues. Through her work, Asante not only showcases her ambition to effect change but also embodies the potential of young leaders in Africa to champion the cause of clean and safe water for all.

# IUCEA Celebrates Niyinyitoreye of Burundi for Earning Master's Degree in Irrigation Engineering through the EAC Scholarship Programme



EAC Scholarship Programme beneficiary Vincent Niyinyitoreye from Burundi at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania on 16th of October 2025

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is delighted to celebrate the significant academic achievement of Vincent Niyinyitoreye, a dedicated citizen of Burundi. On October 16, 2025, he successfully graduated with a Master of Science in Irrigation Engineering and Management from the Sokoine University of Agriculture, located in the United Republic of Tanzania. This accomplishment marks a pivotal milestone in his educational journey and highlights the potential of individuals within the East African community.

Vincent's success is a direct result of the EAC Scholarship Programme, a strategic initiative aimed at identifying and nurturing exceptional talent throughout the East African region. As part of Cohort 2 of this program, Vincent benefited from a comprehensive educational experience that has equipped him with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the critical challenges in irrigation engineering and sustainable agricultural practices.

The EAC Scholarship Programme extends beyond merely providing financial assistance; it embodies the

IUCEA's commitment to building a competent and skilled workforce that will play an integral role in the socio-economic development of the East African region. By investing in the education of bright minds like Vincent, the program aims to foster innovation and leadership that can effect positive change in various sectors, particularly in agricultural sustainability and water resource management. This initiative is further supported by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, which underscores the importance of international collaboration in enhancing educational standards and accessibility across the Partner States of the East African Community. The partnership illustrates a shared vision to elevate educational opportunities and promote regional integration through skill development.

As we acknowledge Vincent's achievements, it is crucial to amplify public awareness about the EAC Scholarship Programme and its aspirations. By sharing stories like his, we inspire a new generation of leaders and change-makers who are committed to driving sustainable development across East Africa

# Ugandan Scholar Odongkara Graduates in Climate Smart Agriculture Through ACE II Scholarship, Poised to Transform African Farming Practices



Joan Odongkara at Haramaya University in Ethiopia in July 2025

Joan Odongkara, a promising young scholar from Uganda, embarked on a transformative academic journey after receiving a fully funded scholarship from the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in August 2023. This prestigious award was part of the ACE II scholarship program aimed at enhancing the capacity of institutions of higher learning in East Africa. The scholarship opened the doors for Joan to pursue a Master’s degree in Climate Smart Agriculture at Haramaya University in Ethiopia, a leading institution in agricultural training and research in the region. Her studies officially commenced in December 2023, and she successfully graduated in July 2025.

Joan's background played a significant role in her academic pursuits. Coming from an agricultural family, she was keenly aware of the challenges that smallholder farmers face, especially in the context of climate change. This personal connection fueled her passion for agriculture and prompted her to seek solutions that could help mitigate the effects of climate change on farming practices in Africa. The ACE Climate SABC (Strengthening Agricultural and Business Competencies) program provided her with a comprehensive academic experience that was both rich and diverse. The curriculum was designed not only to impart theoretical knowledge but also to provide practical skills relevant to current agricultural challenges.

Throughout her studies, Joan was exposed to a wide array of expertise and perspectives, facilitated by faculty members who were recognized experts in their fields, as well as guest lecturers from various African countries. This exposure was vital in broadening her understanding of the complexities involved in sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation strategies. The program emphasized

collaborative learning, and she engaged in numerous discussions and projects that highlighted the interconnectedness of agricultural practices across different regions in Africa.

Joan's research journey emerged as a pivotal aspect of her master's program. With the unwavering support of her supervisors and collaboration with peers, she tackled an original research project focused on developing climate-resilient agricultural practices tailored for smallholder farmers. This research not only deepened her understanding of climatic impacts on agriculture but also fostered a sense of responsibility to contribute actionable solutions. The multicultural academic environment at Haramaya University enriched

her learning experience, helping her cultivate a pan-African identity dedicated to collaborative research in sustainable agriculture.

Her resilience was tested at various points during her academic journey, from navigating the challenges of adapting to a new academic system in a foreign country to managing the rigorous demands of her coursework and research. Despite these challenges, Joan exhibited remarkable dedication, showcasing her ability to thrive under pressure. She participated actively in university life, joining student organizations that focused on agricultural innovation and sustainability, further reinforcing her commitment to making a difference in her community and beyond.

Joan's graduation in July 2025 marked a significant milestone in her life. She celebrated not only her academic success but also the culmination of years of hard work, determination, and the invaluable support she received from the IUCEA and the World Bank-supported ACE II Project. In her graduation speech, she reflected on her journey, expressing gratitude to her family, mentors, and peers who supported her along the way. Joan Odongkara's achievements stand as a testament to the transformative power of education and the positive impact of dedicated scholarship programs in addressing pressing global issues like climate change in the agricultural sector in Africa.

## IUCEA Newly Admitted Member Universities July 2025

NO.	INSTITUTION AND ADDRESS	STATUS OF ADMISSION
1.	<p>Pwani University P. O. Box 195-80108 Kilifi, Kenya</p> <p>Tel; +254 776368946;+(254)725916145 Email: vc@pu.ac.ke www.pu.ac.ke</p>	FULL MEMBER
2.	<p>College of Business Education P. O. Box 1968 Dar es Salaam</p> <p>Physical address: BIBI Titi Mohammed Road Tel; +255 776368946 Tel: +(254)725916145 Email: rector@cbe.ac.tz www.cbe.ac.tz</p>	FULLMEMBER
3.	<p>University of Bosaso Garowe, Puntland, Somalia</p> <p>Email: info@uob.edu.so</p>	ASSOCIATE MEMBER
4.	<p>Mwalimu Julius Nyerere University P O Box 976, Musoma, Mara Email: info@mjnuat.ac.tz</p>	FULL MEMBER
5.	<p>Saint Joseph University in Tanzania P.O. Box 11007, Mbezi Luguruni, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania</p> <p>Tel: +255 680277910 E_ mail: vc@sjuit.ac.tz Website: www.sjuit.ac.tw</p>	FULL MEMBER
6	<p>Open University of Kenya P O Box 2440-00606 NAIROBI, KENYA Email: info@ouk.ac.ke</p>	FULL MEMBER

# Call for Applications: Competitive Call for Strengthening University–Industry Collaboration

**T**he Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has announced a Regional Call for Proposals aimed at strengthening collaboration between universities and industry partners across the East African region.

This initiative aligns with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the East African Community (EAC) Vision 2050, both of which highlight the need for a knowledge-driven economy powered by innovation, research, and industrial development.

Through this call, IUCEA seeks to create structured partnerships that bridge academia and industry, ensuring that research contributes directly to the region's economic transformation and sustainable development goals.

The Call is designed to promote systematic collaborations between academia and industry, as well as foster an enabling environment where academic institutions and private sector actors can jointly develop practical solutions to pressing challenges.

The main goals of the call are to create and strengthen partnerships between universities and businesses, improve connections between schools and the private sector, and enhance the sharing of knowledge and technology by working together on new products and turning research into commercial opportunities.

Get more details on [https://www.iucea.org/call\\_uic/](https://www.iucea.org/call_uic/).



Plot M833 Kigobe Road, Kyambogo  
P.O. Box 7110, Kampala, Uganda  
Phone: +256-414254251/2

 [info@iucea.org](mailto:info@iucea.org)  [@InterUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/InterUniversity)  [@iucea\\_info](https://twitter.com/iucea_info)

 [@Inter-University Council for East Africa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/inter-university-council-for-east-africa)  [www.iucea.org](http://www.iucea.org)