



# The IUCEA NEWSLETTER

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## EAC Unites for Innovation Push as Kigali STI Conference Sets Regional Agenda



IUCEA Calls on Universities to Apply as National Nodes for Regional AI Network

IUCEA Executive Committee Reaffirms Strong Oversight on Higher Education Reform

Prof. Rai Champions East Africa's AI Skills Agenda at Global Summit in India

# Contents

**05**

EAC  
Concludes  
25th  
Summit,  
Appoints  
New  
Leadership



**08**

Kigali Forum  
Advances Push  
for a Unified East  
African Higher  
Education Area



**14**

IUCEA Champions  
Data-Driven Higher  
Education at SADC-  
EAC Bi-Regional  
Workshop in  
Johannesburg



**10**

IUCEA Meets VETA to Shape the  
Future of Skills in East Africa



**13**

Prof. Rai Champions East Africa's AI Skills  
Agenda at Global Summit in India

**17**

From South Sudan  
to Makerere:  
EAC-Germany  
Scholarship Fuels  
Graduate's Success  
in Statistics



**JAN- MARCH 2026**

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# EAC Unites for Innovation Push as Kigali STI Conference Sets Regional Agenda



EAC Ministers from Partner States with EAC Head of Institutions and Organs at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali on the 30th of March 2026.

The 4th East African Community (EAC) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Conference, held in Kigali from 30 March to 1 April 2026, concluded with far-reaching resolutions aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, advancing innovation, and accelerating East Africa's digital transformation agenda.

Jointly organised by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the East African Science and Technology Commission, the Conference brought together policymakers,

researchers, innovators, and development partners from across the EAC Partner States. The gathering underscored a shared commitment to building a coordinated and future-ready regional ecosystem driven by science, technology, and innovation.

A central outcome of the Conference was the endorsement of a Regional Network for universities, designed as a collaborative platform linking higher education institutions, research centres, and industry actors across the

region. The Network will serve as a foundation for advancing research, strengthening skills development, and fostering innovation that responds to East Africa's socio-economic priorities.

In his remarks, IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary Prof. Idris A. Rai emphasised that emerging technologies are already transforming key sectors, including education, health, agriculture, finance, and public service delivery. He stressed that while these developments present immense opportunities, they also require



**IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai, giving opening remarks at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, on 30th of March 2026.**

coordinated regional responses to address capacity gaps and ensure inclusive and responsible adoption.

The Conference noted persistent challenges within the region's higher education systems, particularly in the areas of skilled human resources, modern curricula, and digital infrastructure. In response, delegates resolved to prioritise institutional capacity building, promote curriculum reform, and invest in innovation ecosystems capable of translating research into practical, scalable solutions. Resolutions from the Ministerial session further called for stronger alignment of national policies with regional frameworks and for the

establishment of mechanisms to coordinate implementation across Partner States.

In this context, the Regional Network for universities was positioned as a strategic vehicle for driving collaboration, knowledge exchange, and harmonised development. Participants also recognised ongoing initiatives led by IUCEA, including harmonised guidelines on higher education data management, targeted capacity-building programmes for academic staff, and the establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence to support education and research.

These efforts were highlighted as

critical building blocks for a more integrated and resilient regional innovation system. The Conference further acknowledged the vital contributions of development partners, including GIZ, UNESCO-ICHEI, and DAAD, whose continued collaboration remains instrumental in advancing the region's agenda.

Overall, the Kigali 4th STI Conference marked a significant step toward a more unified and strategic regional approach—one that prioritises skills development, institutional strengthening, and innovation-driven growth, while positioning East Africa to play a more active role in shaping the global technology landscape.

# EAC Concludes 25th Summit, Appoints New Leadership

Leaders of the East African Community (EAC) have concluded the 25th Summit of Heads of State, held on 7th March 2026 in Arusha, with the appointment of Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as the new Chairperson of the Community, signalling a significant leadership transition within the regional bloc. During the summit, the Heads of State also officially appointed Ambassador Stephen Patrick Mbundi of the United Republic of Tanzania as the new Secretary General, succeeding Veronica Mueni Nduva, whose tenure has ended.



President Museveni, the Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State, on the 7th of March 2026, in Arusha, Tanzania

The high-level meeting convened leaders from EAC Partner States to deliberate on key priorities, including deepening regional integration, enhancing intra-regional trade, and addressing peace and security challenges across the region.



Newly appointed Secretary-General of the EAC, Ambassador Stephen Patrick Mbundi, took the oath on 7th March 2026 in Arusha during the Heads of State's 25th Extraordinary Meeting.

In their communiqué, the Heads of State expressed confidence in the incoming Secretary General's leadership and vision, underscoring the critical role of the office in driving the Community's strategic agenda. The new Secretary General is expected to strengthen coordination among Partner States and accelerate the implementation of priority programmes in infrastructure, innovation, and economic development.

The Summit also commended outgoing Secretary General Veronica

Mueni Nduva for her service and dedication to advancing the EAC's integration agenda.

Leaders reaffirmed their collective commitment to a prosperous, stable, and unified East Africa, emphasising the importance of effective leadership within the EAC

Secretariat.

The 25th Summit is widely regarded as a pivotal moment in shaping the future direction of the Community, as it continues to consolidate its role as a dynamic and influential regional bloc on the African continent.

# IUCEA Calls on Universities to Apply as National Nodes for Regional AI Network

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), with support from GIZ under the EAC AI Alliance framework, has launched a Call for Applications inviting universities across the East African Community (EAC) to serve as national nodes in a Regional Network on Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research.

The announcement was made on Monday, 30 March 2026, during the 4th EAC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Conference at the Kigali Convention Centre, signalling a major step toward strengthening collaboration in higher education, research, and innovation across the region.

The Call for Nodes is an open invitation to universities in all EAC Partner States to apply as institutional hubs within a distributed, cross-border network. Selected universities will act as national anchors, driving research, supporting curriculum development, building institutional capacity, and facilitating knowledge exchange.

Speaking at the launch, IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary Prof. Idris A. Rai emphasised that the initiative is designed to develop a future-ready workforce and strengthen the region's innovation ecosystem. He noted that the network will provide a collaborative platform for advancing teaching, research, and community engagement in response to evolving technological demands.



The Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), in collaboration with the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and GIZ through the EAC AI Alliance project, launched the Call for Nodes for the Regional Network on Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research on Monday, 30 March 2026, at the 4th EAC Science, Technology and Innovation Conference, Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda. Pictured at the launch, from left: EASTECO Executive Secretary Dr. Sylvance Okoth; IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary Prof. Idris Rai (centre); and GIZ Head of Programme David Roos.

The Regional Network is expected to connect universities, research institutions, and industry actors, fostering partnerships that can accelerate the translation of research into practical, real-world solutions. It also aims to address existing gaps within higher education, including limited specialised expertise, outdated academic programmes, and infrastructure challenges.

Through this Call, IUCEA is seeking institutions that can

advance transdisciplinary research, deliver industry-relevant academic programmes, and support harmonised regional approaches to emerging technologies.

The launch marks the beginning of a competitive selection process that will identify leading universities to spearhead this regional initiative, positioning higher education institutions at the centre of East Africa's transformation agenda.

# IUCEA Executive Committee Reaffirms Strong Oversight on Higher Education Reform



■ IUCEA Executive Committee Meeting on 29th of January 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya

The 42nd Executive Committee Meeting of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) concluded on 29 January 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together senior higher education leaders and key stakeholders to deliberate on critical priorities shaping higher education and research across the region.

Chaired by Rose Clarke Nanyonga, Acting Chairperson of the Committee, the meeting underscored the Executive Committee's central oversight role in guiding IUCEA's strategic direction, monitoring

programme implementation, and ensuring alignment with regional priorities.

Deliberations focused on key thematic areas, including quality assurance, scholarships, research, and innovation. Members reaffirmed the importance of strengthening and harmonising quality assurance frameworks to enhance academic standards, institutional performance, and accountability across universities in East Africa.

The Committee also emphasised the need to foster a vibrant

research and innovation ecosystem, highlighting inter-institutional collaboration as essential for generating impactful, evidence-based solutions to shared regional challenges.

The meeting reaffirmed IUCEA's commitment to advancing excellence in higher education, with the Committee's guidance and oversight expected to play a pivotal role in shaping policies, strengthening implementation, and driving sustainable socio-economic transformation across the region.

# Kigali Forum Advances Push for a Unified East African Higher Education Area

The National Stakeholders' Sensitization Forum on the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA) concluded in Kigali, Rwanda, bringing together key stakeholders from government institutions, regulatory bodies and universities in the Republic of Rwanda.

The forum aims to strengthen collaboration and enhance understanding among stakeholders in advancing the development and implementation of the East African Common Higher Education Area within the framework of the East African Community.

The three-day workshop, from 9th to 11th March 2026, provided an important platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and strategic engagement among higher education actors in Rwanda and across the region.

Discussions focused on promoting harmonization of higher education systems, quality assurance, academic mobility, and mutual recognition of qualifications in line with regional integration objectives.

The forum was graced by the Guest of Honour, Hon. Claudette Irere, Minister of State for Education, Rwanda who officially presided over the opening session. In her remarks, she underscored the importance of regional cooperation in strengthening higher education systems and highlighted Rwanda's



**Hon. Claudette Irere, Minister of State for Education, Rwanda giving Opening statement at the National Sensitization Forum in Kigali on the 9th of March 2026**

commitment to supporting initiatives that advance academic excellence, innovation, and mobility within the East African region.

The National Stakeholders' Sensitization Forum on EACHEA aims to build a shared understanding of the East African Common Higher Education Area, promote the use of IUCEA policies and frameworks for quality assurance, and provide a platform to discuss challenges and solutions.

Professor Idris A. Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), in his address in Kigali, Rwanda at the National Stakeholders' Sensitization Forum on the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA), emphasized that the EAC Common Higher Education Area represents one of the most significant milestones

in the regional higher education agenda.

In his address, he emphasized that the EAC Common Higher Education Area represents one of the most significant milestones in the regional higher education agenda. He noted that, as outlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, Partner States committed to cooperate in education and training and to harmonize their education systems so that they are comparable and compatible across the region. This commitment was further reinforced by the EAC Common Market Protocol, which provides for the free movement of people, labour, and services among Partner States.

Prof. Rai highlighted that the declaration of the EAC Common Higher Education Area reflects a clear regional aspiration: to create an environment where students, academic staff, researchers, knowledge, and qualifications can move freely across borders; where universities can collaborate more effectively; and where the quality and relevance of higher education can be strengthened through shared frameworks and common standards.

He further noted that the Common Higher Education Area goes beyond administrative coordination. It is about building a regional higher education ecosystem that is integrated, trusted, competitive, and capable of supporting broader regional integration.



■ IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai, giving Opening Remarks at the National Sensitization forum in Kigali Rwanda on the 9th of March 2026

It ensures that qualifications are widely understood across borders, that academic programs meet shared benchmarks, that quality assurance systems are robust and mutually respected, and that students and scholars can fully benefit from opportunities across the region.

Prof. Rai outlined the key pillars through which the Common Higher Education Area achieves its objectives. These include the Common Quality Assurance Framework, the Harmonized

Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, academic program benchmarks, and the facilitation of staff and student mobility.

Collectively, these pillars provide the practical foundation for harmonization, trust, and integration in East African higher education systems. He reaffirmed that IUCEA serves as the technical arm of the East African Community, entrusted with steering the operationalization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area.

# IUCEA Meets VETA to Shape the Future of Skills in East Africa



IUCEA Team and staff of VETA in Bukoba, Tanzania on 12th of February 2026

The delegation from the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), led by Prof. Micheal Mawa, Chief Principal Quality Assurance & Qualifications Framework, visited the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in Bukoba, Tanzania, on the 12th of February 2026.

This significant engagement provided a platform for fruitful discussions between the IUCEA team and the dedicated professionals at VETA regarding key issues surrounding vocational

training programs within the region.

Through this dialogue, both institutions explored innovative strategies to enhance the quality and accessibility of vocational education, recognising its critical role in fostering economic growth and equipping individuals with the necessary skills to thrive in the modern workforce.

The insights shared during this visit are particularly timely, given that IUCEA is actively implementing a World Bank Project, the East

Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project.

This project aims to bolster the development of vocational training institutions across the East African Community, aligning with the region's aspirations for sustainable socio-economic development.

The collaboration between IUCEA and VETA exemplifies a commitment to excellence in education and the shared goal of empowering individuals through skill development.

# IUCEA, Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Advances Regional AI Frameworks for Teacher Education Institutions



■ Dr Evode Mukama, Adviser: Teacher Education at Commonwealth of Learning



■ The Ag. ES of IUCEA, Prof. Idriss Rai giving his opening remarks

These frameworks aimed at establishing harmonized standards to support the ethical adoption, governance, and practical application of AI in teacher education across the region.

In his welcome and opening remarks, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Idris, A Rai, noted that “the instruments under development are intended to provide practical and actionable guidance for embedding AI in teaching, learning, research, and institutional governance, while safeguarding academic integrity, ethical standards, data privacy, and intellectual property rights.” Anchored in the values of humanity, inclusivity and human dignity, the frameworks are designed to ensure that AI strengthens education systems and advances equity and quality assurance across the region.

The Ag. Executive Secretary further recalled that over the past three years, IUCEA has deliberately positioned AI as a strategic priority for higher education transformation. Following the 2023 regional conference on “The Future of Higher Education in the Age of AI and Data Science,” the Council has rolled out Higher Education Data Management Guidelines, implemented capacity-building

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), in partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), convened regional experts to develop strategic instruments to guide the responsible integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teacher education across East Africa. A workshop organised by IUCEA from the 23rd to 27th February 2026 in Entebbe, Uganda, brought together representatives from curriculum development institutes, teacher service commissions, universities and teachers’ unions, from four Commonwealth Countries in the EAC region to draft the key documents which will undergo wider regional consultation and validation. The team of experts included curriculum developers, teacher educators, and AI scholars from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, all Commonwealth Countries of the EAC..

The workshop was constituted of high-level technical experts with skills in curriculum design, policy development and Artificial Intelligence from EAC Partner States. The participants focused on the development of three (3) strategic regional instruments:

- A Regional Curriculum Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Teacher Education
- A Regional AI Policy for Teacher Education Institutions
- A Regional Code of Conduct for Ethical and Responsible AI Use

programmes to equip academic staff with foundational AI competencies, supported youth innovation initiatives, and advanced plans for establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence in AI. IUCEA is also co-leading regional platforms aimed at strengthening AI skills, research collaboration, and ethical governance frameworks.

He concluded by expressing sincere appreciation to the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) for its continued partnership under the existing Memorandum of Understanding, noting that the collaboration reflects a shared commitment to advancing digital transformation and promoting responsible, inclusive, and context-responsive AI integration in higher education across East Africa.

The Commonwealth of Learning was represented by Dr Evode Mukama, an Adviser on Teacher Education at the Commonwealth of Learning. In his remarks, Dr. Mukama underscored that Artificial Intelligence is both transformative and highly sensitive within the education sector, particularly in teacher education. He noted that the current initiative is intended to lead not only to the collaborative design of three key frameworks but also capacity enhancement for teachers in East Africa and the Eastern Caribbeans states.

He reaffirmed the Commonwealth of Learning's commitment to supporting Member States in leveraging technology and innovation to enhance learning outcomes, including collaboration in the development of the AI Curriculum Framework, Policy Framework, and Code of Conduct for teacher education as well as in the AI capacity building activities for teachers.

### **A Strategic Regional Milestone**

The initiative reflects IUCEA's broader commitment to positioning Artificial Intelligence as a catalyst for Education Institutions transformation in the region. The draft instruments under development will support Teacher Education Institutions to:

- Integrate AI responsibly into pre-service and in-service teacher training;
- Establish clear governance and ethical standards for AI use;
- Strengthen institutional capacity for AI-driven innovation;
- Promote inclusive, transparent, and accountable AI practices.

Upon completion of the workshop, the draft frameworks will undergo wider regional consultations and validation before adoption.

# Prof. Rai Champions East Africa's AI Skills Agenda at Global Summit in India



IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai and different stakeholders at the Summit in India on 18th of February 2026.

Prof. Idris A Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), had the distinct honor of participating in the AI Impact Summit held in India on 18th of February 2026.

This summit attracted thought leaders, industry experts, and policymakers from across the globe, all gathering to engage in thoughtful dialogue regarding the transformative implications of artificial intelligence across a myriad of sectors, with a particular focus on education and workforce development.

During a thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Empowering the Human Edge: Building a Future-Ready Workforce in the Age of AI," Prof. Rai adeptly articulated IUCEA's strategic vision and initiatives to

foster AI skills development across East Africa.

His presentation underscored a pressing imperative for educational institutions to evolve and innovate to cultivate a workforce that is not only adept in AI technologies but also poised to leverage these advancements for the greater societal good.

Prof. Rai elaborated on several key initiatives championed by IUCEA, which include the integration of AI training into existing educational curricula, the establishment of robust partnerships with technology industries, and the promotion of research that addresses localised challenges through the application of AI.

By positioning IUCEA as a pivotal advocate for AI education, he

demonstrated the Institution's unwavering commitment to empowering both educators and students, ensuring they are equipped with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to flourish in an increasingly digital landscape.

Moreover, Prof. Rai's insights illuminated the critical importance of fostering collaboration among universities, governments, and the private sector to create an enabling ecosystem that promotes innovation and sustainable growth.

His compelling call to action resonated deeply with attendees, advocating for a concerted effort not only to bridge the skills gap but also to ensure that advancements in AI yield positive outcomes for the region's economic and social development.

# IUCEA Champions Data-Driven Higher Education at SADC–EAC Bi-Regional Workshop in Johannesburg



A group photo of SADC–EAC Bi-Regional Workshop held in Johannesburg from 11 March 2026.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) reaffirmed its leadership in advancing data-driven higher education policy during the SADC–EAC Bi-Regional Benchmarking Workshop held in Johannesburg from 11–13 March 2026. The workshop was convened under the HAQAA3 “Higher Education Data for Policy”

work area, bringing together key stakeholders from Regional Economic Communities to strengthen collaboration in higher education data systems.

IUCEA was represented by Principal Innovation and Outreach Officer, Dr. Salome Guchu, and Senior Systems Officer, Ben Ruhinda,

who actively contributed to discussions focused on enhancing the production, management, and utilisation of higher education (HE) data for informed policymaking.

The workshop placed strong emphasis on bridging the gap between HE data production and its practical use in policy dialogue.

Participants explored mechanisms for institutionalising robust data systems through Regional Economic Communities such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC). These efforts are critical in ensuring that reliable data informs capacity-building initiatives, supports evidence-based decision-making, and contributes to continental and global monitoring frameworks, including the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016–2025 (CESA) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4).

During the workshop, the IUCEA delegation showcased the region's progress in strengthening higher education data systems. Dr. Salome Guchu delivered a comprehensive presentation on the status of

higher education data collection and management within the EAC, highlighting institutional roles, achievements, and ongoing challenges. Her presentation underscored the importance of coordinated data governance frameworks and the need for harmonised indicators across member states.

Complementing this, Ben Ruhinda presented on the proposed East African Community Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS). The proposed system aims to provide an integrated digital platform for collecting, managing, and analysing higher education data across the region. It is expected to significantly enhance data accuracy, accessibility, and timeliness, thereby strengthening

policy formulation and regional academic planning.

The IUCEA team's contributions were well received, with participants acknowledging the EAC's efforts as a model for regional cooperation in higher education data management. The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment among participating blocs to deepen collaboration, share best practices, and accelerate the institutionalisation of data systems that support sustainable higher education development.

This engagement further positions IUCEA at the forefront of regional and continental initiatives aimed at leveraging data for transformative education policies, ultimately contributing to the realisation of inclusive, equitable, and quality education across Africa.

# A Journey of Discovery During the IUCEA Staff Mobility Program

Dr. Judith Wanda, currently participating in the IUCEA Staff Mobility Program at Bishop Stuart University in western Uganda, shared her inspiring story of cultural discovery and personal growth. With a rich academic background, including a PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication and research focused on forced displacement from the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr. Wanda has been a pivotal figure in the field of international relations as the Director of the International Relations Office and a lecturer in the Public Relations and Advertising Department at St. Augustine University of Tanzania.

Originally from Kenya, Dr Wanda spent a decade in Malaysia pursuing her first and second degrees, then honed her industry skills over five years. Relocating to Tanzania, she has spent the last ten years facilitating mobility programs at St. Augustine University, primarily between Tanzania and European nations. Her experiences as a traveller in both Africa and the West enriched her understanding of intercultural dynamics. Yet, she never anticipated the profound impact her time in Uganda would have on her perspectives.

As Dr. Wanda embarked on this new adventure, she found herself confronting and deconstructing her preconceived notions about Uganda. She had always



been aware of the stereotypes surrounding East African nations, particularly the perception that Kenyans tend to be constantly rushing. This immersion in a different culture urged her to reevaluate those notions and replace them with deeper insights and understanding.

Dr. Wanda emphasises that staff mobility is more than just an opportunity to teach and conduct research; it is a vital means of fostering intercultural relationships and learning. She believes that for East Africa to thrive and progress, it is essential to cultivate platforms that promote cultural exchange,

clear misunderstandings, and dispel warped perceptions.

Through her journey in Uganda, Dr. Wanda highlights the importance of equipping individuals to navigate intercultural challenges effectively. Her experience serves as a testament to the transformative power of intercultural exchanges, encouraging us all to embrace differences and work towards a more unified East Africa. As she continues her work and travels, Dr. Wanda remains dedicated to fostering understanding and connection within the diverse tapestry of East African cultures.

# EAC-Germany Scholarship Fuels Graduate's Success in Statistics

John Mayen Mangar Reech, a national of South Sudan, has successfully graduated with a Master of Science in Statistics from Makerere University on 26th of February 2026 during its 76th Graduation Ceremony, marking a significant academic milestone in his journey.

His achievement was made possible through the EAC Scholarship Programme, an initiative funded by the Government of the Germany through its Development Bank, KfW, and coordinated by the Inter-University Council for East Africa. The programme is designed to promote regional integration and strengthen human capital development by supporting academically talented students from East African Community (EAC) Partner States.

As a member of the programme's third cohort, John demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence throughout his studies. His success not only reflects his personal commitment to higher education but also highlights the transformative impact of regional and international collaboration in expanding access to quality education across East Africa.

With a solid foundation in statistical science, John is now well-equipped to contribute to evidence-based decision-making, research, and development initiatives. His



■ John Mayen Mangar Reech, EAC Scholarship Beneficiary

expertise positions him to play a meaningful role in advancing national development in South Sudan, as well as contributing to broader regional progress within the East African Community and beyond.

His accomplishment stands as a testament to the power of education, cooperation, and opportunity in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals in the region.

## IUCEA Welcomes New 14 Member Universities

At its sitting on January 29, 2026 in Nairobi, the Executive Committee of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), approved the admission of 14 new member universities into the Council as follows:

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Equator University of Science and Technology, Uganda,
- Jamhuriya University of Science and Technology, Somalia,
- SIMAD University, Somalia.

### FULL MEMBERS

- Higher Pedagogical and Technical Institute, DRC,
- Loyola University of Congo DRC,
- Université de Kolwezi, DRC,
- Université Pédagogique Nationale, Kinshasa, DRC,
- Université Shalom de Bunia, DRC,
- Université Catholique du Graben de Butembo, DRC,
- Rongo University, Kenya,
- Chuka University, Kenya,
- University of Kisubi, Uganda,
- Ayii University, South Sudan.

The list of all IUCEA members can be found at <https://iucea.org/membership/>

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## IUCEA–Daejin University Scholarship Call for East African Students (2026 Intake)

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), in partnership with Daejin University in the Republic of Korea, has announced the 2026 Scholarship Programme for students from East African Community (EAC) Partner States.

The scholarship offers opportunities for undergraduate studies in International Business (4 years) and a Master's degree in Education (2 years), both taught in English at Daejin University in South Korea.

The programme provides significant financial support, including full tuition and dormitory fee waivers for selected students

during the initial period of study. Continued support is performance-based, requiring students to maintain strong academic results each semester. Self-sponsored applicants may also be considered for partial tuition scholarships.

Eligible applicants must be citizens of EAC Partner States, meet academic requirements, demonstrate English proficiency, and provide proof of financial capacity for personal expenses such as airfare, insurance, meals, and other living costs.

The selection process is conducted in two stages, beginning with IUCEA's preliminary screening,

followed by final assessment and interviews by Daejin University. Successful candidates will then proceed to visa processing and study commencement in September 2026.

Interested applicants are required to submit all documents in a single PDF file through the official IUCEA application email as outlined in the call through this link <https://iucea.org/du-iucea/>.

This scholarship presents a valuable opportunity for East African students to pursue internationally recognised degrees in South Korea while gaining global academic and cultural exposure.

## Call for Universities to Participate as Nodes in the Establishment of a Regional Network on Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research

IUCEA in collaboration with East African Science Technology Commission (EASTECO) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) seeks to establish a Regional AI Network.

The Network will be a collaborative platform for development of AI skilled workforce and innovative AI solutions through teaching and curriculum development, research and innovation, capacity building, dissemination and knowledge exchange, and community engagement and outreach.

This call therefore invites universities in the EAC to express interest in being the nodes for the Network and commit to contribute their expertise to a collaborative regional network aimed at strengthening AI skills development, research, innovation, and policy engagement aligned with regional development priorities.

Application form and proposed network details are accessible at: <https://ai4eac.iucea.org/>

## Invitation to Apply to Host Students Under Phase II of the EAC Scholarship Programme

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is implementing the EAC Scholarship Programme (Leadership to Foster Regional Integration) since 2019. The Programme aims to develop a cadre of young East Africans equipped with the technical expertise and leadership skills necessary to advance the East African Community integration agenda. The programme awards two-year Master's scholarships to students studying in EAC Partner States other than their own at the same time providing networking and leadership development opportunities aligned with regional integration priorities.

Under Phase I of the Programme, three cohorts of students were successfully enrolled across selected



universities in the region. Building on this progress, IUCEA is launching Phase II.

IUCEA therefore invites eligible member universities and institutions to apply to host students under this new phase of the EAC Scholarship Programme. Applications are sought for nationally accredited two-year Master's programmes in the

following thematic areas: Mathematics, Engineering, Informatics, Science, Technology and Business Science.

Applications may be submitted through the following link: <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/THR4sb2p> (for the online application form) and by email for the additional offline application form.

The filled offline application form, together with all supporting documents, may be sent by email to [scholarships@adroitconsultinternational.com](mailto:scholarships@adroitconsultinternational.com) with a copy to [eacsp@iucea.org](mailto:eacsp@iucea.org).

For applicants' convenience, a template application cover letter has been provided.

## IUCEA, Kyungdong University Announce 2026 Undergraduate Scholarship Opportunities for EAC Students

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), an institution of the East African Community (EAC), has officially opened applications for the KDU Global – IUCEA Undergraduate Full and Partial Scholarships 2026 (7th Cohort), offering a transformative opportunity for students across the region.

This prestigious scholarship programme is implemented in partnership with Kyungdong University Global, a fully accredited private university in South Korea. The initiative aims to strengthen higher education collaboration and expand access to internationally competitive academic programmes for students from EAC Partner States.

Eligible applicants must be nationals of EAC member countries, including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Federal Republic of Somalia. The scholarships are designed to support talented students seeking to pursue undergraduate studies under an English-taught curriculum.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to enroll in one of the following degree programmes:

- Bachelor of International Business Administration
- Bachelor of International Hotel Management
- Bachelor of Smart Computing (Artificial Intelligence,



The advertisement features a young woman wearing headphones, looking down thoughtfully. On the left, the Kyungdong University logo is displayed with the text 'KYUNG DONG UNIVERSITY' and '취업/사관/학교 경동대학교'. The IUCEA logo is also present, with the text 'INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA' and 'QUALITY EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT'. The central text reads 'Take the next Step in your Education & Career'. At the bottom, it says 'SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY' and 'APPLY NOW' with three dots. A 'More Information' button and the website 'www.iucea.org' are also visible.

- Robotics, Data Science, Cybersecurity, and IoT)
- Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence
- Bachelor of Korean Business AI

The programme runs for a duration of four years (eight semesters). Continuation of the scholarship is contingent upon maintaining excellent academic performance and adherence to university rules and regulations throughout the study period.

Through this partnership, IUCEA continues to advance its mission of

fostering regional integration and academic excellence by promoting mutually beneficial collaboration among universities, governments, and other stakeholders across the EAC and beyond.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply within the stipulated application period and take advantage of this opportunity to gain a world-class education and global exposure. More details on <https://iucea.org/call-for-applications-kdu-global-iucea-undergraduate-full-and-partial-scholarships-2026-7th-cohort/>.

# PICTORIAL



Ministers from EAC Partner States with Staff from EAC Institutions and organs at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali on 30th March 2026



EAC Ministers from Partner States with EAC Head of Institutions and Organs at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali on the 30th of March 2026.



■ Hon. Ateny Wek Ateny, Minister of Information and Postal services of South Sudan giving a speech at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali on 30th of March 2026



■ IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai, giving opening remarks at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, on 30th of March 2026.



■ Hon. Andrea Aguer Malueth, EAC Deputy Secretary General giving a opening remarks at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali on 30th March 2026



■ Hon. Madut Biar, Minister of Higher Education, South Sudan at the 4th STI Conference in Kigali



■ Participants at the 4th STI Conference



The Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), in collaboration with the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and GIZ through the EAC AI Alliance project, launched the Call for Nodes for the Regional Network on Artificial Intelligence in Education and Research on Monday, 30 March 2026, at the 4th EAC Science, Technology and Innovation Conference, Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda. Pictured at the launch, from left: EASTECO Executive Secretary Dr. Sylvance Okoth; IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary Prof. Idris Rai (centre); and GIZ Head of Programme David Roos.



Participants at the 4th STI Conference



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