



The IUCEA NEWSLETTER

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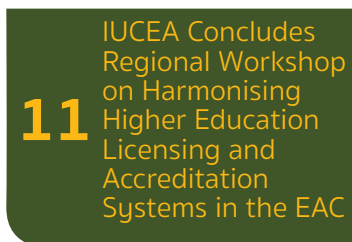
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SEPTEMBER 2026

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Foreword From The Acting Executive Secretary

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this edition of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Newsletter, which highlights key developments, engagements and milestones in East Africa's higher education sector during this period. Higher education continues to play a central role in advancing regional integration, strengthening human capital and driving innovation, research and socio-economic transformation. As the East African Community (EAC) moves towards deeper integration, IUCEA remains committed to fostering a Common Higher Education Area that promotes quality, harmonisation, mobility, collaboration and mutual recognition of qualifications across Partner States.

During the period under review, IUCEA continued to strengthen regional cooperation through several important engagements. The 15th East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum and Conference, held in Kigali, Rwanda, brought together higher education stakeholders from across the region to reflect on transforming quality assurance systems for future-ready higher education. The discussions underscored the importance of moving beyond the development of frameworks and policies towards their effective implementation, while embracing emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, digital learning, micro-credentials, lifelong learning, recognition of qualifications and academic mobility.

IUCEA also convened a regional workshop on the Harmonisation of Licensing and Accreditation Systems for Higher Education Institutions and Programmes in the EAC. The engagement provided an important platform for Heads of Higher Education Councils and Commissions from Partner States to strengthen collaboration and advance greater comparability, consistency and mutual recognition within the region's higher education systems.

These engagements are particularly significant as we implement the IUCEA Strategic Plan 2026–2031, which places renewed emphasis on strengthening regional higher education integration and advancing the Common Higher Education Area. The success of this agenda will depend on sustained commitment, collaboration and collective action among universities, governments, regulatory bodies, development partners, students and other stakeholders. At the same time, IUCEA continues to expand opportunities for East African students, academics



Prof. Idris A. Rai

and institutions through scholarship and mobility programmes, quality assurance initiatives, research and innovation partnerships, and emerging collaborations in areas such as Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation. These initiatives are designed to ensure that higher education remains responsive to the evolving needs of our societies and economies.

I commend all EAC Partner States, universities, higher education regulatory agencies, development partners and other stakeholders for their continued commitment to strengthening higher education cooperation in East Africa. I also appreciate the IUCEA Secretariat and our partners for their dedication and contribution to advancing the regional higher education agenda.

As we look ahead, let us continue to transform our shared vision into tangible outcomes that expand opportunities for our young people, strengthen our institutions and contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development and integration of East Africa.

I invite you to read this edition of the newsletter and stay informed about IUCEA's programmes, partnerships and initiatives as we continue converging to transform higher education in East Africa.

EAC, the State of Hessen Strengthen Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation



IUCEA, EASTECO and the State of Hessen, Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi ,Kenya on 17th of September 2026.

A significant step has been taken towards strengthening East Africa's emerging artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation ecosystem, following the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), and the State of Hessen, Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi ,Kenya on 17th of September 2026.

The partnership brings together East African innovation and German technological expertise from Hessen, with a shared ambition to harness AI as a driver of skills development, research

excellence, innovation, economic resilience and regional integration. The State of Hessen intends to join the EAC Artificial Intelligence Alliance (AI4EAC) as a cooperation partner and contribute to the Alliance's Advisory Board.

The collaboration will focus on practical areas that can deliver meaningful opportunities for young people, universities, researchers, innovators and the private sector. These include AI and digital skills development, research and academic cooperation, responsible and trustworthy AI, applied AI solutions for public-interest challenges, and stronger links between startups, SMEs, investors, universities and innovation ecosystems.

Through this partnership, Hessian universities, research institutions, companies and technology actors may engage with their East African counterparts through training programmes, guest lectures, mentorship, train-the-trainer initiatives, joint research, co-publications, innovation challenges and knowledge-exchange platforms. Particular attention will also be given to emerging applications of AI in areas such as health systems, education, agriculture, public administration and trade facilitation.

The partnership also places strong emphasis on responsible AI governance, including ethics, transparency, accountability, data

governance, safety and socially beneficial applications. This reflects a shared understanding that the benefits of AI should be inclusive and supported by appropriate skills, practical opportunities and responsible governance.

For East Africa, the collaboration opens additional space for

connecting regional innovation with international expertise, investment and technology partnerships. It also provides opportunities to explore resource mobilisation, public-private partnerships and stronger connections between East African technology actors and Hessen.

The MoU represents a shared commitment to dialogue,

knowledge exchange and practical cooperation. By connecting institutions, researchers, innovators, businesses and policymakers across the two regions, the partnership seeks to contribute to an AI ecosystem that is innovative, inclusive, responsible and responsive to the development priorities of East Africa.

East Africa Advances Regional AI Agenda with High-Level AI Roundtable and AI4EAC Innovation Challenge

A high-level AI Roundtable was convened at the East African Community (EAC) Headquarters in Arusha on 11 August 2026, bringing together key regional and international stakeholders to explore the strategic role of artificial intelligence (AI) in driving innovation, skills development and sustainable development across East Africa.

The Roundtable brought together representatives from the EAC Secretariat, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Embassy, development partners, academia

and the private sector, including Equity Group Holdings, Nokia, Bayer, Cassava Technologies and Zindi.

In his statement, Prof. Idris A. Rai, Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, emphasised the central role of universities in building an AI ecosystem that responds to East Africa's needs, values and development priorities. He underscored the importance of ensuring that East Africans are not only consumers of AI technologies, but also creators of technology, knowledge and innovative solutions.

Prof. Rai highlighted IUCEA's commitment to advancing a Foundational AI Module for university students, strengthening the capacity of university trainers and faculty, developing AI-related

micro-credentials for faculty, and actualising the Regional AI Network of Universities to connect institutions, researchers, trainers and innovators with complementary expertise across the region.

A key outcome of the Roundtable was the launch of the second edition of the AI4EAC Innovation Challenge, which provides USD 50,000 in prize funding to support winning teams developing AI-powered solutions to address challenges facing the region.

The Roundtable and Innovation Challenge underscore East Africa's growing commitment to harnessing artificial intelligence as a catalyst for innovation, skills development, knowledge creation and sustainable regional transformation.

East Africa Urged to Turn Quality Assurance Frameworks into Action for a Future-Ready Higher Education System



Participants at the 15th EAQAN Conference on 7th of September 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda

The 15th East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum and Conference concluded on 10 September 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda, with a strong call for East African higher education stakeholders to move from developing regional quality assurance frameworks to their effective implementation.

Held from 7–10 September 2026 under the theme “Transforming Quality Assurance for Future-Ready Higher Education Systems in East Africa,” the Forum brought together policymakers, quality assurance agencies, higher education leaders, academics, students, development partners and other stakeholders to discuss emerging priorities shaping the future of higher education in the region.

Speaking at the Forum, Hon. Joseph Nsengimana, Minister of Education of Rwanda, emphasised the need to prepare East Africa’s higher education systems for a rapidly changing world driven by artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and evolving labour market demands. He called for education systems that equip young people with the knowledge, skills and adaptability required to thrive in a technology-driven economy.

The Minister stressed that quality assurance should go beyond regulatory compliance and serve as a foundation for building trust, strengthening student and staff mobility, and facilitating the recognition of qualifications across East Africa.

Prof. Idris A. Rai, Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), highlighted the progress made in establishing regional instruments for quality assurance, programme accreditation, qualifications recognition, credit accumulation and transfer, and research excellence.

Prof. Rai noted that East Africa has reached a critical stage in its higher education integration journey, where the priority must now be to translate regional frameworks and commitments into tangible outcomes. He pointed to the IUCEA Strategic Plan 2026–2031, launched in July 2026, which places operationalising a Common Higher Education Area at the centre of regional cooperation.

The Forum further explored quality assurance in the context of digital transformation and artificial intelligence, qualifications recognition, student and staff mobility, institutional collaboration and the development of future-ready higher education systems. In his closing remarks, Prof. Rai thanked the Government of Rwanda

for hosting the Forum and for its warm hospitality. He commended the presenters, panelists, session chairs and participants for their valuable contributions and extended appreciation to the IUCEA Secretariat, EAQAN and the Higher Education Council (HEC) of Rwanda for their professionalism and collaborative efforts in organising

the Forum.

Prof. Rai reaffirmed IUCEA's commitment to working with EAC Partner States, quality assurance agencies, universities and development partners to strengthen quality, standards, recognition, mobility and integration within the East African Common Higher Education Area.

IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference Calls for Stronger Partnerships to Transform Higher Education in East Africa



Dr. Beatrice Muganda, PS, Ministry of Education, Kenya, Prof. Rose Clarke and Acting ES of IUCEA, Prof. Rai, with participants at the 17th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference on 29th of July 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Professor Idris Rai, the Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), paid a courtesy visit to Dr Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, the Principal Secretary for Higher Education and Research at the State Department for Higher Education and Research under Kenya's Ministry of Education. The meeting underscored the strong and growing collaboration between the IUCEA Secretariat and the Government of Kenya in advancing higher education

development and regional integration within the East African Community (EAC).

Held in a spirit of partnership and shared vision, the engagement provided an important platform for constructive dialogue on strategic issues shaping the future of higher education across the region. Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation among EAC Partner States, enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education, promoting research

and innovation, and advancing harmonisation efforts to build a more integrated and competitive regional higher education system.

The two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to supporting the development of the East African Community Common Higher Education Area through strengthened policy coordination, institutional collaboration, and regional academic partnerships. They also emphasised the critical role of higher education institutions in driving socio-economic transformation, innovation, skills development, and sustainable development across the region.

Attention was given to preparations for the upcoming 17th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference, scheduled for 29th to 31st July 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference is expected to convene key stakeholders from across the East African region, including policymakers, university leaders, researchers,

development partners, students, and representatives from both the public and private sectors.

Professor Rai commended the Government of Kenya for its continued support to the IUCEA and its commitment to promoting regional cooperation in higher education. He noted

that collaborative engagements such as these are essential in strengthening regional institutions and ensuring that higher education remains responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of the East African Community.

The meeting further reaffirmed the

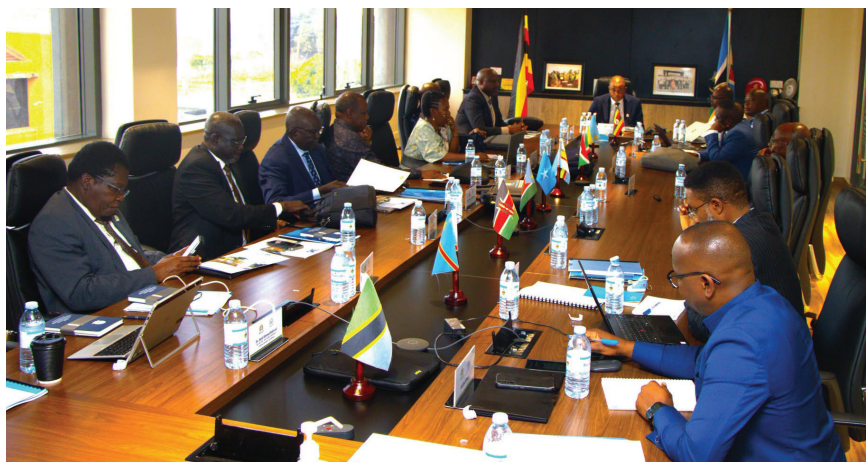
strong partnership between the IUCEA Secretariat and EAC Partner States in advancing a shared vision for inclusive, innovative, and globally competitive higher education systems that contribute meaningfully to regional integration and sustainable development.

IUCEA Executive Committee Concludes Extraordinary Meeting, Elects New Deputy Chairperson

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Executive Committee, chaired by Prof. Mathieu Kirongozi Bometa, successfully concluded its Extraordinary Meeting on 25 September 2026 at the IUCEA Headquarters in Kampala, Uganda.

During the meeting, members deliberated on key strategic matters relating to the Council's mandate, regional cooperation, higher education integration, and the strengthening of IUCEA's programmes and institutional priorities. The discussions reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to advancing the harmonisation and integration of higher education systems across the East African Community (EAC).

A key outcome of the meeting



IUCEA Executive Committee at the IUCEA Headquarters on 23th of September 2026

was the election of Prof. Yohana J.S. Mashalla, Vice Chancellor of Kairuki University, United Republic of Tanzania, as the Deputy Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee. His election further strengthens the Committee's leadership as it continues to guide the Council's

strategic direction and regional higher education agenda.

In his remarks, Prof. Idris A. Rai, Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, expressed his appreciation to the Executive Committee members for their commitment, constructive engagement, and

continued guidance in advancing the Council's mandate. He acknowledged the members' contributions to strengthening institutional governance, regional collaboration, and the implementation of IUCEA's strategic priorities. He further emphasised the importance of continued collective leadership and cooperation in promoting quality, relevant, and harmonised

higher education across East Africa.

The meeting underscored IUCEA's continued commitment to strengthening institutional governance, fostering regional partnerships, and supporting the development of an integrated East African higher education area that responds to the region's development priorities.

Through its governance structures and collaborative initiatives, IUCEA continues to play a strategic role in promoting cooperation among universities and other higher education stakeholders across the East African Community.

Newly Elected IUCEA Executive Committee Concludes Induction, Sets Strategic Direction for 2026–2031



IUCEA Executive Committee Members at IUCEA Headquarters on the 25th of September 2026.

The newly elected Executive Committee of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has successfully concluded a two-day induction programme held at the IUCEA Headquarters from 23–24 September 2026, strengthening its capacity to provide strategic leadership, effective governance and oversight in advancing higher

education integration across the East African Community (EAC).

The programme equipped Committee members with a deeper understanding of their governance responsibilities and strategic leadership roles in guiding IUCEA's institutional priorities and regional higher education agenda.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Mathieu Kirongozi Bometa, Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee and Rector of the Université de Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo, commended members for their active participation and commitment throughout the induction.

He also expressed appreciation to Prof. Gerald Karyeija and Prof. Lazarus Nabaho of the Uganda Management Institute (UMI) for facilitating the programme and delivering the induction.

The induction marks an important step in preparing the Executive Committee to provide strategic direction for the implementation of the IUCEA Strategic Plan 2026–2031 and to advance the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA), strengthening regional cooperation, harmonisation and integration in higher education.

IUCEA Calls on Student Leaders to Champion a Borderless East Africa



■ Prof. Rai giving remarks at Makerere University on 24th of July 2026

The Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Idris A. Rai, has called on university student leaders to take an active role in advancing East African integration and shaping the region's future.

Speaking at the Guild Leaders' Summit 2026 held at Makerere University on 24 July 2026, Prof. Rai emphasised the critical role of young leaders in building a more integrated, inclusive

and competitive East Africa.

"A borderless East Africa cannot be built by infrastructure alone it will be built by leaders who think beyond borders."

Prof. Rai highlighted the East African Higher Education Area as a transformative platform for developing a new generation of leaders equipped with regional perspectives, innovative thinking and the ability to address shared challenges collaboratively.

He reaffirmed IUCEA's commitment to strengthening regional integration through harmonised quality assurance standards, qualifications and credit transfer systems, student and staff mobility, and research and innovation networks.

Through initiatives including the KfW–EAC Scholarship Programme and EAC Student Mobility Scheme (EAC-SMS), IUCEA is creating opportunities for students to study across borders, gain diverse experiences and develop competencies needed to contribute to regional development.

Prof. Rai urged Guild Leaders to become leaders for East Africa not only for their universities, and to champion mobility, innovation, inclusion, peace and sustainable development.

He concluded by reminding the student leaders that the journey towards a united and prosperous East Africa begins on university campuses, where today's students are being prepared to become tomorrow's leaders and architects of regional transformation.

IUCEA Concludes Regional Workshop on Harmonising Higher Education Licensing and Accreditation Systems in the EAC



■ Heads of Councils and Commissions from EAC Partner states with IUCEA Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai, on 10th of September 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has successfully concluded a two-day regional workshop on harmonising licensing and accreditation systems for higher education institutions and programmes in the East African Community (EAC). Held from 10–11 September 2026

in Kigali, Rwanda, the workshop brought together Heads of Councils and Commissions for Higher Education from EAC Partner States to discuss practical approaches to strengthening and harmonising licensing and accreditation systems across the region.

The discussions focused on strengthening common standards, enhancing quality assurance, and promoting the comparability and mutual recognition of higher education qualifications while respecting the national regulatory mandates of Partner States.

In his closing remarks, Professor Idris A. Rai, Acting Executive Secretary of IUCEA, emphasised the need to translate regional frameworks and commitments into coordinated action. He noted that harmonised licensing and accreditation systems are essential for advancing quality assurance, student and academic mobility, and mutual recognition of qualifications across East Africa.

Prof. Rai further highlighted the importance of collaboration among IUCEA, national councils and commissions, and higher education institutions in addressing regulatory barriers and advancing the East African Common Higher Education Area.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to common standards, quality-driven higher education, enhanced mobility and deeper regional integration, reaffirming licensing and accreditation as key pillars of the Common Higher Education Area.

IUCEA Deepens Global Partnerships with Landmark Higher Education Agreements



Prof. Rai and a representative from HCERES in Nairobi on 30th of July 2026



Prof. Rai with a Representative of CIMEA in Nairobi on 30th of July 2026

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has strengthened its global partnerships through two strategic agreements with leading European higher education organisations, reinforcing its commitment to advancing quality, innovation and international cooperation across East Africa.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 17th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, on 30th of July 2026 with Associazione CIMEA of Italy and France's High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCÉRES).

The five-year Strategic Cooperation Agreement with CIMEA provides

a framework for collaboration in academic qualification recognition, quality assurance, internationalisation, staff capacity development, joint research, policy dialogue and digital innovation, including emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain in education.

The MoU with HCÉRES strengthens cooperation in higher education quality assurance through capacity building, expert exchanges, joint initiatives, development of quality assurance tools, knowledge sharing and dialogue on emerging trends in higher education and research. Together, the agreements create new opportunities for universities, researchers, academic professionals and students across

the East African Community to benefit from international expertise, knowledge exchange and collaborative initiatives.

The partnerships also reinforce IUCEA's efforts to advance the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA) while strengthening connections with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

The agreements mark a significant step in IUCEA's strategy to build strong international partnerships that drive academic excellence, institutional quality, research collaboration and innovation, positioning East Africa's higher education sector for greater regional and global impact.

IUCEA, University of Nairobi Strengthen Partnership Ahead of EACARNRI International Conference

NAIROBI, Kenya — 27 August 2026: The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has strengthened collaboration with the University of Nairobi as preparations intensify for the 2nd East African Community Academic and Research Network for Regional Integration (EACARNRI) International Conference.

Prof. Michael Mawa, Chief Principal, Quality Assurance & Qualifications Framework, and Dr. Salome Guchu, Principal, Innovation and Outreach at IUCEA, paid a courtesy visit to

Dr. Anita Kiamba, Chairperson, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies, University of Nairobi, to discuss preparations for the Conference.

Jointly organised by IUCEA and the EACARNRI Secretariat, the Conference will be held in Nairobi on 4–5 November 2026, bringing together academics, policymakers, diplomats and practitioners to share research and generate knowledge that supports East Africa's regional integration agenda.

Dr Kiamba reaffirmed the



Prof. Mawa, Dr. Salome and Dr. Anita at the University of Nairobi on 27th of August 2026.

Department's commitment to actively host and contribute to the Conference, highlighting the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing East Africa's shared integration priorities.

IUCEA Elects Executive Committee Chairperson

NAIROBI, Kenya — Heads of Member Universities of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) have elected Prof. Mathieu Kirongozi Bometa, Rector of the Université de Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee for the 2026–2028 term.

The election took place during the 17th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, bringing together leaders of IUCEA member universities from across the East African Community. Prof. Bometa's election reflects the confidence placed in his leadership and vision to strengthen regional university cooperation, advance academic excellence, promote research and innovation, and support the harmonisation of higher education across East Africa.

In his new role, Prof. Bometa will work closely with the IUCEA Secretariat and Member Universities to advance the Council's strategic priorities and deepen



Prof. Bometa, IUCEA Chairperson for the Executive Committee and the Former Deputy Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee, Prof. Rose, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 31st of July 2026

collaboration within the regional higher education community.

The IUCEA Secretariat congratulates Prof. Bometa on his election. It looks forward to working with him to strengthen higher education cooperation and contribute to the region's integration and socio-economic transformation.

IUCEA Member Universities Win Inaugural Africa Higher Education Transformation Prizes

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) proudly congratulates Muni University, Uganda, and the University of Rwanda on winning the inaugural Africa Higher Education for Transformation (AHEFT) Prize, awarded by the Mastercard Foundation during the Higher Education Transformation Convening held in Accra, Ghana, on 22 September 2026.

The two IUCEA member universities each received a US\$3 million prize, bringing their combined award to US\$6 million in recognition of their contributions to transforming higher education and addressing critical development challenges across Africa.

Muni University was recognised in the Transitions to Employment category for its efforts to connect education and skills development with employment opportunities for refugees and underserved young people. The award will support the university in strengthening and expanding its initiatives to promote inclusive skills development and access to meaningful livelihoods.

The University of Rwanda received the prize in the Excellence in Health category for its contributions to health education, research, innovation and community



Award winners at the inaugural Higher Education Transformation Convening hosted by the Mastercard Foundation

engagement. The award will help strengthen and expand its work in health-related higher education and innovation.

The Higher Education Transformation Convening brought together higher education leaders and stakeholders from across Africa to explore strategies for building inclusive, innovative and responsive higher education systems. IUCEA was represented by its Acting Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris A. Rai, who engaged in discussions on skills development, research, innovation and partnerships to advance Africa's human capital development.



IUCEA commends both universities for this outstanding continental recognition, which underscores the vital role of higher education institutions in creating opportunities for young people, strengthening communities and driving socio-economic transformation.

The achievement reflects the growing contribution of East African universities to Africa's development agenda and reinforces the importance of investing in higher education that delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

IUCEA warmly congratulates Muni University and the University of Rwanda on this remarkable achievement!

IUCEA Staff Relocate to Newly Completed Headquarters Phase II Building

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has marked a significant milestone with the relocation of its staff to the newly completed IUCEA Headquarters Phase II Building on 20 July 2026, further strengthening the institution's capacity to deliver on its mandate of promoting and coordinating higher education cooperation and integration across the East African Community (EAC).

The new building provides a modern and improved working environment for IUCEA staff, with enhanced office space and facilities designed to support efficiency, collaboration and effective delivery of the Council's regional programmes and services.

The construction of the IUCEA Headquarters Phase II Building was made possible through contributions from the EAC Partner States, reflecting their shared commitment to strengthening IUCEA as a regional institution and advancing cooperation in higher education across East Africa.

The investment in the new headquarters underscores the importance attached by the EAC Partner States to higher education as a key driver of regional integration, human capital development, innovation and sustainable socio-economic transformation.

With staff relocating to the new facility, IUCEA is poised to operate in an environment better



IUCEA Headquarters 2026

aligned with its growing responsibilities and expanding regional programmes. The new infrastructure will also provide an appropriate platform for hosting regional meetings, engagements with EAC Partner States, universities, development partners and other higher education stakeholders.

The completion and occupation of the Phase II building therefore represent more than an infrastructure development; it is a symbol of the EAC Partner States' collective commitment to building a stronger, more integrated, and future-ready higher education system in East Africa.

Prof. Rai Calls for Stronger Partnerships to Prepare East Africa's Graduates for an AI-Driven Future



Prof. Idris Rai, giving remarks at the EAC Regional Education Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25th of August 2026

Prof. Rai stressed that AI literacy should be an essential component of higher education, regardless of a graduate's discipline. He noted that every graduate from an East African university should understand how AI is transforming their respective field and possess the knowledge, skills and ethical awareness to use AI responsibly.

"Every graduate should understand how AI is transforming their field and be equipped to use it responsibly," Prof. Rai said.

He noted that the rapid advancement of AI presents significant opportunities for East Africa's higher education sector, including enhancing learning outcomes, accelerating research and innovation, and developing graduates with skills relevant to the future of work.

However, he cautioned that harnessing these opportunities requires collective regional action and strategic partnerships, rather than isolated efforts by individual institutions.

Nairobi, Kenya – 25 August 2026: The Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Idris A. Rai, has called for stronger partnerships among governments, universities, industry and other stakeholders to prepare East Africa's graduates for an increasingly artificial intelligence (AI)-driven future.

Speaking at the 2nd EAC Education Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, Prof. Rai emphasised the need for coordinated and harmonised approaches across the East African Community to ensure that higher education systems remain responsive to rapid technological transformation.

He underscored the importance of bringing together governments, universities, industry, researchers, technology companies and other stakeholders to build an AI-ready higher education ecosystem capable of responding to emerging skills needs and driving innovation across the region.

Prof. Rai further highlighted the need for higher education institutions to strengthen their capacity to integrate AI into teaching, learning, research and institutional management, while ensuring that its adoption is guided by principles of ethics, accountability, inclusivity and responsible innovation.

Through its regional mandate, IUCEA continues to promote collaboration, harmonisation and innovation in higher education across the East African Community, working with Partner States, universities and strategic partners to strengthen the region's higher education systems.

Prof. Rai's call reinforces the importance of positioning AI, digital transformation and strategic partnerships at the centre of East Africa's higher education agenda to ensure that the region's graduates are equipped to thrive and contribute meaningfully to an AI-enabled economy.

Save The Date APPPF 2027

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is pleased to announce the **14th Academia–Public–Private Partnership Forum (APPPF 2027)**, scheduled for **23–25 March 2027 in Bujumbura, Burundi**.

Under the theme **"Advancing University–Industry Partnerships for Inclusive Industrial Transformation: From Knowledge to Enterprise and Community Impact,"** the Forum will bring together academia,

government, industry and private-sector stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, promote innovation and translate knowledge into enterprise development and sustainable community impact.

Date: 23–25 March 2027

Venue: Bujumbura, Burundi

Mark your calendar and join us in shaping the future of University–Industry Collaboration in East Africa!

IUCEA Executive Committee Members 2026-2028

IUCEA warmly welcomes the newly elected members of its Executive Committee for the 2026–2028 term. Their leadership and expertise will be instrumental in strengthening governance, advancing regional cooperation and driving the Council's strategic priorities towards a more integrated and transformative higher education sector in East Africa.

NO.	COUNTRY	NAME	Institution
1	Rwanda	Mr. Charles Karakye	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education
		Prof. Didas Kayihura Muganga	Ag. Vice Chancellor University of Rwanda
		Assoc. Prof. Jean Ngamiye	Vice Chancellor University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (Unilak)
2	Burundi	Prof. Frederic Bangirinama	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
		Prof. Servillien Nitunga	Rector Hope Africa University (Universite Espoir D'afrique)
		Prof. Nusura Hassan	Directeur General École Normale Supérieure
3	Uganda	Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education & Sports
		Prof. Pius Achanga	Vice Chancellor Mountains of the Moon University
		Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa	Vice Chancellor Uganda Martyrs University
4	Tanzania	Prof. Carolyne Ignatius Nombo	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
		Prof. Alfred S. Sife	Vice Chancellor Moshi Co-Operative University
		Prof. Yohana J.s Mashalla	Vice Chancellor, Kairuki University
5	Kenya	Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala	Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education
		Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi	Vice Chancellor United States International University-Africa
		Prof. Peter Barasa	Vice Chancellor Alupe University

6	South Sudan	Dr. Adil Athanaziou Surur	Under Secretary Ministry of Education, Science & Technology
		Prof. Dr. Abraham Matoc Dhal	Vice Chancellor, Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology
		Dr. James Ajuong Arou	Vice Chancellor Star International University College
7	DRC	Mr. Pacificque Ilosyo Imonano	Secrétaire Général Ministère De L'enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire Democratic Republic of Congo
		Prof. Mathieu Kirongozi Bometa	Chairperson Executive Committee Rector, University of Kisangani
		Father Prof. Dr. Telespore Muhindo Malonga	Vice Chancellor Université Catholique Du Gabon
8	Somalia	Mr. Hassan Mohamed Ali	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Culture And Higher Education Somalia
		Prof. Dr. Mohamed Mohamud Mohamed	Rector Somalia National University (SNU)
		Dr. Abdullaahi Ali Mohamed	Rector East Africa University,
9	EAC	Ambassador Stephen Parick Mbundi	Secretary General East African Community Arusha – Tanzania
10	EABC	Mr. Mr. Ahmed Farah	Executive Director East African Business Council Arusha-Tanzania

IUCEA Newly Admitted Member Universities

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) warmly welcomes its new member universities to the Council. Their membership strengthens regional collaboration, promotes academic excellence and reinforces IUCEA's commitment to advancing quality higher education and integration across East Africa.

UNIVERSITY		STATUS
1	Hormuud University, Somalia	Associate Member
2	Kaimosi Friends University, Kenya	Full Member
3	Kepler College, Rwanda	Full member
4	Kibogora Polytechnic, Rwanda	Full Member
5	Puntland State University, Somalia	Associate Member
6	Africa College of Theology, Rwanda	Full Member
7	Meru University of Science and Technology, Kenya	Full Member
8	SOS College of Health Science University, Somalia	Associate Member
9	Aden Adde International University, Somalia	Associate Member
10	Somali International University, Somalia	Associate Member
11	Capital University of Somalia, Somalia	Associate Member
12	Himilo University, Somalia	Associate Member
13	University of EMBU, Kenya	Full member
14	University of Somalia, Somalia	Associate Member
15	Daaru Salaam University, Somalia	Associate Member
16	Alupe University, Kenya	FULL MEMBER
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17	King Ceasor University - Uganda	Full Member
18	Zetech University - Kenya	Full Member



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