2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ADVANCEMENTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

OFFICIAL SPEAKERS DIRECTORY

DATE: 22 Jul 2026 – 23 Jul 2026 | LOCATION: Mlimani City Conference Centre, Dar-es-Salaam

Theme: "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital E..."

A Abdi Talib Abdalla

A Abdoulaye Baldé

A Abdulwaliyi Jimoh

Chief Guest

Hon. Prof. Adolf Mkenda

Minister of Education, Science and Technology / Chief Guest

Government of Tanzania (Tanzania)

Workshop Speakers

Dr. Alcardo Barakabitze

National Edtech Coordinator

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Tanzania)

Dr. Barakabitze serves as the National Edtech Coordinator, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. He is a Distinguished International Associate of the Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom (2024–2025). He was recognised as the Best Male ICT Researcher of 2021 by the ICT Commission of Tanzania and also awarded Best Young Researcher of the Year 2021 by the Research and Innovation Committee of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). In 2015, he was honoured as an Outstanding International Graduate Student at Chongqing University, China, in recognition of his excellent academic performance. He has also served as a visiting researcher at the University of Cagliari, Italy, in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and at the ITU-T Standardization Department in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Dr. Barakabitze has played an active role in national academic and policy development by serving as a discussant for PhD concept notes, PhD proposals, and PhD theses at SUA and other universities. He has also contributed significantly to national digital transformation initiatives, including the development of the National Digital Skills Development Framework and the National Digital Education Strategy (2024/25–2029/30), which aim to strengthen digital competencies and education systems in Tanzania. He has led and participated in several competitive national and international research projects funded by the Government of Tanzania and international development partners. These include: (a) AI-driven Internet Video Streaming Services Quality Management and Energy-Efficient Approaches in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles for 5G and Beyond Networks; (b) Enhancing Farm-Scale Crop Yield Prediction using Machine Learning in Internet-of-Agro-Things in Tanzania; (c) Morogoro Youth Empowerment through the Establishment of a Social Innovation (YEESI) Lab for machine vision training; (d) Prediction of Diagnostic Accuracy using Big Data Analytics from African Giant Pouched Rats for Tuberculosis detection at SUA in collaboration with APOPO; (e) Integrated Machine Learning IoT Adaptive Smart Cloud Farming System for Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania; and (f) Enhancing Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Sustainability in Higher Education in Africa (EEISHEA). These projects are supported by institutions such as the Government of Tanzania, IDRC/SIDA, European Union Commission, UKRI, IRC, Data Science Africa, UNESCO, and other international partners. Dr. Barakabitze has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications in reputable international journals and conference proceedings, accumulating more than 2,728 citations and an h-index of 17 as of April 2026. He has also served as a technical committee chair in several national and international conferences, contributing to the advancement of research quality and academic exchange in ICT and related fields. In addition, he actively serves as a reviewer for multiple international journals and participates in technical program committees of leading global conferences in his areas of expertise. His research interests include artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital teaching and learning, digital and data-driven agriculture, telecommunication systems and network management, multimedia streaming Quality of Experience (QoE), 5G/6G networks, and ICT for Development (ICT4D), with a strong focus on applying emerging technologies to solve real-world challenges in Africa and beyond.

A Alessia Guarnera

A Aminata Sabane

A Dr. Ankit Patel

A Annah Muli

A Ansoumane Condé

A Aron Kondoro

A Asabe Sandra Ahmad

A Mr. Ashish Zombade

A Ms. Asia Turra

A Dr. Augustino Kessy
Conference Moderator

A Ayodeji Olalekan

A Azan Nyundo
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

A Azmeraw Bekele Yihew

B Bahati Zuberi

B Balamurugan G

B Balinda Roland

B Beakal Gizachew Assefa

B Mr. Ben Ruhinda

B Benjamin Mucunguzi

B Bertha Shao
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

B Bissyandé D'Asise

B Mr. Bouchetara Mehdi

B Mr. Brian Gillo

C Mr. Chefor Meungwe

C Co-PI Sponsors

C Conference Chair

Workshop Speakers

Dr. Cornelius Kalenzi

Chief Growth Officer, Compelling Works (part of the SpeedyKom Group) (Uganda)

Cornelius is Chief Growth Officer at Compelling Works, overseeing the development of the group's AI and digital transformation portfolio. He earned his Ph.D. focusing on the digital transformation of the banking sector and later served as a Post-Doctoral Researcher at KAIST in South Korea, leading AI technology, governance research, and advisory work across Asia. He has served as a Fellow of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Financial and Monetary Systems, contributing to global conversations on the future of money and technology, and completed executive training in Blockchain Strategy at Oxford's Saïd Business School. He also teaches and researches digital innovation and AI transformation at Makerere University and Kyambogo University in Uganda. Earlier in his career, Cornelius worked with Uganda's Ministry of ICT and NITA-U on flagship national projects, from the e-Government Master Plan to the National Enterprise Architecture and Interoperability Framework. He has long championed agency and branchless banking across East Africa, and co-founded Tella, an EdTech startup with offices in Seoul, Kampala, and Manila.

Workshop Speakers

Mr. Cosmas Knowen

IT Lecturer and Health Informatics Researcher

Zetech University (Kenya)

Cosmas Beri Knowen is an Information Technology professional, researcher, and university educator with a strong focus on Health Informatics and emerging digital technologies. He holds a Master’s degree in Information Technology and is currently pursuing a PhD in Health Informatics, with his doctoral research centered on innovative, data-driven approaches to improving healthcare systems. Knowen is deeply passionate about research in ICT for Development (ICT4D), ethical adoption of technology, and prioritizing human-centered computing in digital transformation. His work emphasizes the responsible and inclusive use of technology to address societal challenges, particularly in low-resource settings. Knowen has actively contributed to the global research community through various scholarly review roles. He served as an ideation reviewer for the Deep Learning Indaba 2025, as well as a workshop paper reviewer for the AI and Culture Workshop. Additionally, he has reviewed book chapters for Springer and journal manuscripts for Oxford University Press, among other platforms. His current PhD research integrates digital twin technologies, computational linguistics, and natural language processing (NLP) to enhance mental health detection and mitigation strategies. This interdisciplinary work reflects his broader vision of leveraging artificial intelligence to create scalable, impactful solutions for healthcare and social well-being. With over four years of experience in university teaching, Knowen is committed to nurturing innovation, critical thinking, and practical skills among students. He continues to position himself at the intersection of technology, research, and societal impact, contributing to the advancement of sustainable and ethical digital ecosystems.

C Ms. Cynthia Amol

D Mr. David Bouda

D David Tsuanyo

D Mr. Dawit Shibabaw

D Debela Desalegn

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Eng. Dennis Mwighusa

D Devotha Nyambo

D

Doris Mwengwa
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

D

Dr. Dr. Elisa

D

Dr. Dr. Matogoro

D

Dr. Dr. Moshi

E

Proff Ebenezer Esenogho

E

Elihuruma Eliufoo

Keynote Speakers

Dr Emmanuel Mkilia

Personal Data Protection Commission (Tanzania)

Dr. Emmanuel Mkilia is the Director General of the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), the national regulatory authority responsible for safeguarding personal data and upholding the constitutional right to privacy in the United Republic of Tanzania. Dr. Mkilia is also an Assistant Commissioner of Tanzania Police Force where he built a distinguished career in law enforcement, public administration, and information security. Dr. Mkilia brings together extensive public service experience and strong academic training in cybersecurity, law, and governance that shape a leadership approach grounded in discipline, accountability, and a clear understanding of the risks associated with misuse of personal information. As Director General, he leads the implementation of Tanzania's data protection framework with a balanced focus on enforcement, institutional compliance, and public trust. Dr. Mkilia is a strong advocate of the view that personal data is a legal and ethical trust held on behalf of citizens, not an asset owned by institutions. He has prioritised education, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building as essential pillars of effective data protection in Tanzania. Dr. Mkilia also represents Tanzania in regional and international engagements on data governance, cross-border data flows, and digital trust, contributing to the country's position as a credible and responsible participant in the global digital economy.

E

Mr. Emmanuel Nartey

E

Epiphane Sodjinou

E

Erica Kimei

E

Erick Kitali

E Mr. Eunchan Hwang

E Ms. Evelyn Asio

F Mr. Fabrice Crinot

F Faidat Abdullahi

F Dr Florence Rashid
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

F Mr. Foromo Guilavogui

F Francis Mbwana

F Francois Toure

F Freddy Nyanda

F Frederick Chali

F Fredrick Ishengoma
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

G Gilbert Gilbert

G Dr Gloriana Monko
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

Dr. Goodiel Moshi
Session Chair

Grace Akinfoyewa

Habibu Dadi

Workshop Speakers

Dr. Helen Olojede
Lecturer / Head, Department of Philosophy

National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) (Nigeria)

H. Titilola Olojede is a Lecturer and Head of the Department of Philosophy at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). She was the PI of The Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence—ChatGPT—on Higher Education in the Global South: Ethics and Sustainability, a project funded by the Notre Dame – IBM Tech Ethics Lab, and a co-researcher on the use of Generative AI in education and research, funded by UNESCO. She conducts research at the intersection of ethics, gender/African philosophy, and social epistemology. Titilola is a member of the draft committee for Nigeria's National AI Strategy, the Chair of the AI Ethics and Social Impact sub-group, and a committee member for the integration of AI into NOUN and the National Universities System. She is a Research Fellow with the Institute of Global Value Inquiry, where her research focuses on recovering African women's contributions to philosophy. Titilola is a PhD examiner for schools in Southern Africa. AI 2030 recognized Titilola in the 2024 Women in AI Leadership, Excellence in AI Academia and Research. She was named one of the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics for 2024. Titilola is a recipient of various research and travel grants, including the Commonwealth of Learning, the Senate Research Grant, the TETFUND IBR, TETFUND Conference, the Notre Dame – IBM Tech Ethics Lab, WCRI, IGVI, GCUP, FA-IFJP, NMG, and Encode Justice. Her works include: Ethical Frameworks for Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Higher Education: Integrating Western and African Perspectives (AI and Ethics, 2026), Towards Africa AI Ethical Principles (IEEE, 2023), Research Integrity and Generative AI: An Oxymoron (IRAFPA), Africa Dreams of AI (JEHE, 2024), Influence of GenAI on Higher Education in Nigeria (Àgídìgbo, 2025), The Political Economy Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence on Higher Education (Rivista di Digital Politics). Titilola is an engaging speaker who has delivered several keynotes and participated in panel and fishbone discussions at various conferences, digital and leadership summits. She loves sleeping, long walks, quietude, good wine, and she collects coffee, tea, and incense.

Dr Ibrahim Mwammenywa
IEEE Tanzania (Tanzania)

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Idris Abdulmumin
University of Pretoria (South Africa)

Innocent Mwombeki

Innocent Nyalala

Issa Wonni

Dr. Jabhera Matogoro
Session Chair

Mr. Jamal Banzi

Mr. Japhari Mbaru

Prof Joel Mtebe

Joel Nakitare

Joyce Njiiri

Dr. Judith Leo
Moderator

Judith Leo
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

Dr. Kadeghe Fue
Moderator

Prof Kevin Bouchard

Workshop Speakers

Mr. Kevin Obote
Founder & CEO
Guild Code (Kenya)
Kevin Obote is an AI Systems Engineer and the founder of Guild Code, a community-driven initiative dedicated to bridging the gap between theoretical research and scalable, production-ready technology. At his core, Kevin is an explorer, dreamer, and thinker who finds as much joy in poetry, stargazing, and immersing himself in nature as he does in architecting complex systems. Driven by an insatiable curiosity and a commitment to diligence, he approaches every project, from pure mathematics and computer science to software engineering and data science, as a journey of discovery. A dedicated advocate for open-source development on Ubuntu, Kevin has made significant contributions to the Natural Language Processing (NLP) space, with more than three specialized models deployed on Hugging Face. His work focuses on building high-performance AI for African languages, Fintech, and Cybersecurity, ensuring that the African tech ecosystem remains at the forefront of the global AI revolution. Beyond engineering, Kevin is deeply passionate about digital inclusion and mentoring the next generation of innovators. Through the Guild Code Community, he has created an open space for learning and skill-building designed to nurture future startups. By sharing resources and documenting the journey of building data-driven solutions, he aims to help emerging founders navigate the initial stages of entrepreneurship, ensuring their ventures survive and deliver genuine impact to the general community.

Mr. Kulwa Malyango

K Kulwa Malyango

L Lilian Wanzare

L Dr. Louisa Muparuri

L Prof. Lughano Kusiluka
VC
UDOM (Tanzania)

M Dr. Mahadia Tunga

M Maïmouna Ouattara

M Mamadou Ly

Workshop Speakers
Dr. Manoj Kumar
Assistant Professor
IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus (Tanzania)
Manoj Kumar has been working as an Assistant Professor in the School of Engineering and Science at IIT Madras Zanzibar since October 2023. His current research focuses on the modeling and analysis of complex dynamical systems using a combination of physics-informed machine learning and deep learning approaches. We integrate mechanistic models with data-driven techniques to capture nonlinear spatio-temporal dynamics. Their work also investigates the generalization capabilities of deep learning architectures, including neural ordinary differential equations (ODEs), to improve robustness and predictive performance in dynamical system modeling and forecasting tasks. He completed his Ph.D. in 2023 from the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (IIT Mandi). He obtained my master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) in 2018, where he received the Certificate of Merit for achieving the highest CGPA in M.Sc. Mathematics. In 2026, he was awarded the IIT Mandi Young Achiever Award 2026 (YAA-2026) for Academic Excellence.

M Marie-Lise Nakoulma

M Marius Nshekanabo

M Mr. Matendo Didas

Prof. Maulilio Kipanyula
VC
NM-AIST (Tanzania)

Eng. Maxwell Ababio

Keynote Speakers

Eng Maxwell Ababio
Data Protection Commission - Ghana (Ghana)

Maxwell Ababio is the Head of Technology and Ethics at the Data Protection Commission of Ghana, where he brings over 14 years of cross-sector experience spanning both private industry and government. Known for driving responsible innovation at the intersection of technology and public policy, he has built a distinguished reputation for ensuring that emerging technologies — including SaaS solutions — align with societal values, ethical standards, and regulatory frameworks. In his current role, Maxwell leads a cross-disciplinary team in drafting Ghana's National Ethical Framework, AI Strategy, and Data Governance strategy. He works closely with sectoral leaders, legal teams, product development units, and external stakeholders to ensure that technological advancement does not come at the expense of ethical integrity, fairness, or transparency. He also plays a central role in shaping the Commission's approach to developing and deploying data products that strengthen analytical capacity and drive sustainable revenue growth. Beyond his national mandate, Maxwell holds several influential positions on the continental and global stage. He serves as 1st Vice Chair of the African Union Committee on Data Categorisation, Sharing and Cross-Border Data Flow, and is a Fellow of Practice at the Institute for the Future of Work (IFOW- UK). As a Committee Member on the Development of a Regional Open Data Legal Instrument within ECOWAS, he has contributed to shaping the legal and policy foundations that will govern open data sharing and interoperability across West Africa, providing Member States with a harmonised framework that guarantees access to, reuse of, and the valorisation of public information. He led the development of the Digital Cooperation Organization's (DCO) AI Adoption Playbook — a strategic companion designed to guide organisations through the journey from AI readiness to accelerated, responsible AI adoption.Maxwell is a member of the Africa-Asia AI Policymaker Network and serves on the AI Readiness Expert Group under the AI for Good Innovation for Impact initiative, led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He also serves as an Advisory Board Member at Shield Tech Hub in Rwanda. He is the Founder of SikaSense, an AI-enabled data harmonisation and decision-support framework built to empower MSMEs and ecosystem stakeholders in navigating data monetization and informed decision-making.

Dr. Mayur Chhipa

Dr Mboni Kibelloh

Dr. Michael Mollel
Moderator

Mr. Mohamed Hussien

Mr. Mohamed Zeba

Mohamedi Mjahidi

M Hon. Mohammed Abdullah
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Information Communication and Information Technology (Tanzania)

M Mr. Mohammed Ajuji

M Ms. Ms. Kivaria

M Mr. Muhammad Muhammad

M Munir Awol

M Mustapha Ismail

N Natnael Argaw Wondimu

N Dr. Neema Mduma
Session Chair

N Mr. Nikiema Issoufou

N Dr. Noe Elisa

N Noe Nnko

O Onitsiky Ranaivoson

P Mr. Patrick Ndowo

P Dr Paul Okanda

P Mr. Peter Joseph

R Raghavendra R

R Rajendran A

R Ms. Rebecca Munuhe

R Rodrique Kafando

R Dr. Rose Nakasi

R Rufus Gikera

S Sabané Aminata

S Sadati Okeyo

S Sadouanouan Malo

S Salau Salau

S Salim Diwan
The University of Dodoma

S Salome Maro

S Ms. Sarah Muriithi

S Prof Shubi Kaijage
The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) (Tanzania)

S Shubi Kaijange

S Sidnoma Lorenza

S Ms. Sidnoma Nakoulma

S Mr. Stanley Mugisha

S Stephen Kibusi

S Mr. Sunil Somavarapu

T Dr Tabu Kondo
The University of Dodoma (Tanzania)

T Tégawendé Bissyande

T Tesfa Tegegne

T Thomas Mahatody

T Mr. Tiana Razafimandimby

T Trawina Halguièta

Workshop Speakers

Ms. Tshaamano Mabuba

CEO & Founder

Buddy Learning (South Africa)

Tshaamano Mabuba is an award-winning South African edtech entrepreneur, AI builder, speaker and founder of Buddy Learning, a tutoring and AI-powered learning platform working to close Africa's education inequality gap. She is currently pursuing postgraduate studies in Computer Science through the University of London, building on her background in actuarial science, mathematical sciences, data analytics, statistics, and software engineering. Through Buddy Learning and BuddyAI, a multilingual WhatsApp-based AI tutor, Tshaamano is building technology that understands African learners — their languages, communities, curriculum, confidence levels and lived realities. Her work has earned national and continental recognition, including Inside Education's Top 100 Shining Stars, Allan Gray Founders Pitch winner, SAFT Youth Entrepreneur winner, MTN Youth Hustle Hub winner, Women in Tech Global Awards Community Impact winner, Africa Tech Top 10 Startup, Female Innovator of the Year Top 3 at Africa Tech, Tony Elumelu Fellow and Injini EdTech Fellow. At only 22, Tshaamano represents a new generation of African innovators using artificial intelligence, education and youth employment to build solutions for Africa, from Africa.

T Tumaini Edgar

U Mr. Ujjwal Meena

V Venkata Subramaniam S

V Veronica Lyimo

V Victor Odumuyiwa

V Mr. Victor Oshodi

V Mr. Vigneshwaran S

V Vivian Moraa

V Volatiana Marielle Ratianantitra

V Vukosi Marivate

W Mr. Wilson Vicent

W Mr. Wongel Daniel

Y Yaya Traore

Y Yusuf Musa

Z Prof Zaipuna Yonah

Z Mr. Zakaria Keita

Z Zoeyande Dianda