

Blazing the trail of science, technology and innovation

The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) continues to blaze the trail of research, capacity building and policy in science, technology and innovation (STI) to catalyse the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the continent. This is best exemplified by implementation of high profile and cutting edge continental research, policy and capacity building projects that not only strive to expand the boundaries of knowledge and ideas but also inform policy and practice.

And now, the Centre is on the cusp of a new era anchored on a new strategic plan that will focus on developing a cadre of Africa-centred researchers, analysts and policy makers on STI, knowledge and society. This will enhance capacity building, knowledge utilisation, technology transfer, intellectual property and STI roadmaps for SDGs. The reintroduction of the Gender, Youth and Inclusive Development (GYID), demonstrates prioritisation of ACTS on inclusivity and specifically accelerate access of women and youth to technologies for economic empowerment and job creation. The strategic plan has been built on successes and experiences accumulated by ACTS over the past 33 years

ACTS' pedigree in conceiving and implementing research and policy in STI has seen it deepen and expand its portfolio - a testament to its growing expertise and experience - which translates into more influence and impact globally. In the last one year alone, ACTS has won more than 15 new projects spread across the five programmes - Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security (AFNS); Climate Resilient Economy (CRE), Science Technology and Innovation, Knowledge and Society (STIKS); Digital Economy (DE), and Gender, Youth and Inclusive Development (GYID).

And whereas ideas and knowledge provide the basis for improving policy and practice, they in themselves cannot be of much value unless and until implemented with a view to improving livelihoods of communities. ACTS is not only committed to generating knowledge through research but also engaged in efforts to build the capacity of African countries and institutions to tap into the enormous potential of STI for sustainable socio-economic development.

This newsletter distills some of the key events, activities, outputs and outcomes relating to programmes and projects implemented by the Centre.

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ACTS to scale-up solar drying to reduce post-harvest losses

The initiative seeks to upscale fabrication of solar dryers and support solar drying as a service in Kenya

ACTS is part of a consortium awarded a grant to scale-up solar dryers to reduce post-harvest losses (PHL) in Kenya.

The grant was awarded by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) through the Seeding The Future Global Food System Challenge. Other members of the consortium implementing the project include the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI).

The project will aim to accelerate scaling-up the solution in more locations and support youth-led SMEs to deploy more affordable solar dryers. It will target 500 low-cost dryers over 5 years reaching over 40,000 smallholder farmers with a view to growing market for “pay as you dry” services across various agri-value chains

In addition, the project will strive to expand inclusive entrepreneurship and green jobs especially for youth and women in agro-processing.

It will seek to scale the proof-of-concept of climate-action low-cost solar drying technology enterprises to reduce PHL and drive realisation of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project leverages on lessons from the UNEP Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security (EBAFOSA) initiative that promoted solar drying technology and dryers as “pay-as-you go” business models through collective action among smallholder communities in Kenya.

The initiative will also aim to establish a business and knowledge hub to scale climate-solutions and foster policy engagement and dialogues.

The provision of the dryers as a shared service predicated upon payment of a small maintenance fee, which lowered the cost of dryer services to a fraction of the cost of ownership i.e. 0.05% of the cost of a full dryer. Through this initiative, the project has provided solar-drying services to 300 cassava farmers in Kenya and Uganda.

ACTS Executive Director, Prof. Tom Ogada, called for a shift from the unsustainable traditional methods - used in deploying technologies - to new business models and approaches.

This is to ensure that technology transfer not only creates jobs but also enhances income opportunities to technology beneficiaries as well as ensuring sustainability and longevity of these technologies.



A solar drying system in Migori. The project will accelerate deployment of such solutions in more locations and support to youth-led SMEs to deploy more affordable solar dryers.

Mapping innovation ecosystem in Kenya

ACTS has been commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to map out the innovation ecosystem in Kenya.

Through its Accelerator Lab, UNDP is working with Konza Technopolis to support and scale up local innovations in Kenya. The two partners are part of the SDG Accelerator Lab, which is a multi-sectoral platform that brings together government, development partners, academia, civil society, private sector, and communities to accelerate and stimulate innovation ecosystem towards growth and development.

The mapping aims to identify opportunities for collaboration, learning and investment, and the challenges that need to be addressed to accelerate the growth and development of local innovators across the country. Evidence generated through this survey will be invaluable in preparing appropriate interventions to enhance the growth of the Kenyan innovation ecosystem.

Specifically, the study aims to establish the status of the Kenyan innovation ecosystem - characteristics, organisation (players and actors), challenges, and opportunities; identify key levers and approaches on how to stimulate the sector for more economic growth towards achieving key development agenda items (SDGs, Vision 2030), including requisite skill sets, partnerships, and resources and highlight emerging themes and opportunities for collaboration, partnership and cross-learning.

2nd Calestous Juma seminar series held

The seminar provided an ideal platform for experts to share their work and expertise with special focus on science, technology and innovation and how they are aligned with SDGs

The 2nd Calestous Juma Seminar Series themed 'Steering Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' was held virtually on 29th-30th, November 2021. The seminar, which attracted more than 200 participants drawn from different parts of the globe, was jointly organized by the ACTS and the Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CJLF).

The first day featured insights from the Steering Research and Innovation for Global Goals (STRINGS) project, a global collaborative initiative led by the science policy research unit at Sussex University, whose key objective is to provide evidence and policy events and discussions to map, illustrate and better understand the alignments and misalignments between investments and priorities in STI and SDGs; and to get policy changes to improve STI and related investment towards SDGs.

The second discussion item explored a case study on STI pathways to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Lake Victoria Basin (LVB). The case study focused on innovations (technological, institutional and social) to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) with a view to reducing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and overfishing in the lake - cage culture pathway and pond fishing farming - two potential pathways to reduce pressure on inland capture fisheries. This was followed by an exciting panel discussion where experts explored technical issues relating to STI and their link to societal challenges.

The second day featured a rich memoir of Prof. Juma, ably delivered by Prof. Norman Clark from the University of Sussex. It explored the journey of Prof. Juma from his humble beginnings in Western Kenya to a global icon for the application of science, technology and Innovation.

Prof. Juma's memoir paved way for a discussion on the global pilot program of STI for SDG roadmap, designed by the United Nations Interagency Task Team (UNIATT) whose main objective is align the SDGs with actions in STI. The final session of the seminar focused on steering agri-food system transformation and the role of STI.



Some of the key presenters during the 2nd CJ seminar series. Angela Christiana, CJLF (Top left); Prof. Tom Ogada, ACTS, (top right); Prof. John Mugabe, University of Pretoria, (bottom left) and Alison Juma, CJLF, (bottom right).

ACTS and UNEP to conduct cold chain baseline study

The World Bank has commissioned ACTS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to conduct a baseline study on the cooling and cold chain sector in Kenya and Malawi.

The baseline studies are primarily intended to provide country specific baseline assessments for the World Bank's multi-country "Cooling Facility", an umbrella programme intended to mobilise \$157 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in form of concessional loans and grants.

The loans and grants will be used to support policy, regulatory and enabling environment support and cooling investments aimed at promoting the adoption, scale-up and deployment of sustainable cooling technologies and appliances. The baseline studies will be used by World Bank country offices to better understand the current landscape of cooling with a view to engaging with government counterparts and key stakeholders on the subject.

The team for this study will collect data mainly from literature review to identify data gaps for both Kenya and Malawi. The desk review will be supplemented by up to 20 stakeholder interviews per country. Information from stakeholders will add depth to secondary data and fill gaps identified from the literature.

The stakeholders will be identified based on relevance and coverage of the sector.

The 3rd CJ seminar themed 'Accelerating realisation of SDGs through deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) solutions' will be held on 14 - 16, June, 2022

Science Granting Councils ponder improved use of evidence

How can Science Granting Councils (SGCs) become more effective boundary managers through improved use of evidence and data? This was the focus of a workshop held on 7 - 10 March 2022 under the ACTS' led Evi-Pol project. The workshop was attended by 14 out of the 16 science granting councils involved in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) in Sub-Saharan Africa which aims to strengthen the capacities of the councils in sub-Saharan Africa to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to the continent's economic and social development.

The concept of a boundary organisation refers to how science councils operate in Africa, linking science and politics while at the same time mediating between stakeholders in these two spheres. The concept presumes that councils can more proactively manage the relations between stakeholders to ensure efforts to fund and promote research, science, technology, and innovation are focused on relevant sectors to meet the needs of society.

Over the four-day period, staff from the 14 councils interrogated their role as boundary managers by looking at how research programmes are designed and funded; what data they collect and how they use that data as evidence to make policy and process decisions. They also considered the systems and procedures they have in place to collect and analyse data. The workshop highlighted the important role of understanding the context in which councils work - who are the stakeholders they work with, what are the dominant narratives and debates in the field, who are the dominant actors and stakeholders and how they use these organisations to assist them in moving debates forward and ensuring research is funded to fill gaps and provide solutions that the countries need.

An interesting debate took place on what characteristics a boundary manager should have to be successful. The qualities of flexibility and openness to ideas and opinions was mooted. Another key discussion point was the importance of being a knowledge broker - what knowledge (evidence) is needed and where that knowledge resides and making it available to those who need it. Councils shared their experiences of being knowledge brokers and boundary managers. For example, Zimbabwe is working to build relationships with researchers while in Cote D'Ivoire there is more focus on managing relations within and between ministries.

Post-Docs Visiting Fellowship Programme VFP

In 2021, the AfricaLics post-docs (with support from their Aalborg University collaborating partners) finalized the joint guest-editing of a Special Issue of the journal Innovation and Development (I&D) with the title: "Building innovation capabilities for sustainable industrialization in Africa: Status and prospects". All articles and the introductory note prepared by the guest editors are online, while a physical version of the special issue will be published in 2022.



AfricaLics Post-Docs - From left: Dr. Abdi Yuya, Dr. Charity Osei-Amponsah and Dr. Kassahun Yimer.

PhD Visiting Fellowship Programme (VFP)

The VFP fellowships offer opportunities for PhD and post-doctoral students from low income and low-middle income African countries. The programme will now receive additional training and capacity building support at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kenya with support from the Trilateral Chair at University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa. The call for participants in the 2022 cohort went out in September 2021 and by December 2021, a total of 107 applications were received of which 36 applicants were from LICs, and 38 applications were from female applicants. Most applicants came from Nigeria (31), Ethiopia (24) and Cameroon (12). Twenty-five applications were shortlisted, out of which six PhD visiting fellows were selected – three male and three female: three were from Ethiopia, one from Cameroon, one from Kenya and one from Uganda.

STIKS programme hosts two Master's students

The STIKS programme hosted two Master's students, Ludvig Söderbom and Sanjidul Huda from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. During the two months stay, the students worked closely with Dr. Ann Kingiri, Dr. Agnes Lutemiah and Mr. Josephat Okemwa in understanding the government's role in supporting energy firms to successfully meet Kenya's energy vision set for 2030.

Olosho-Oibor community minigrig-Kajiado with the project Head during one of the field study. The students carried out interviews with different energy stakeholder including government institutions, private companies, researchers and community heads of the minigrids



New project to empower fisher women kicks off

The project will profile and document gender responsive challenges and opportunities for commercial and sustainable adoption of fish-seaweeds for economic development of coastal fisher communities

ACTS is spearheading a new project that aims to empower women in Kenya's coastal region to optimally and sustainably exploit the lucrative blue economy.

Dubbed the Blue Empowerment project, the initiative will specifically support women in Kilifi and Kwale counties through adoption of climate-smart integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) of seaweeds and fish for improved livelihoods and resilience. The project will also promote adoption of sustainable and inclusive IMTA business models.

It will work closely with the Beach Management Units (BMUs), technological institutions, women groups, private sector, policy makers and other stakeholders in the blue economy to study, co-design, deploy model IMTA farms and use them as platforms to gain practical insights, evidence and generate data for adoption towards sustainable development in the coastal region.

It will also map socio-technical pathways that can support enabling policies, technology uptake, and governance frameworks for IMTA adoption and women fisherfolk empowerment while at the same time design, set-up, test and optimise gender transformative fish-seaweeds IMTA solutions for the socio-economic empowerment, COVID-19 and climate change resilience of fisher women

At the same time, the project will aim to promote knowledge translation, dissemination and learning for IMTA systems



Mwazaro community launching a locally constructed cage to the sea in Kwale. The project aims to empower women in Kenya's coastal region to optimally exploit the blue economy.

upscaling, climate change and COVID-19 response strategies for the local community and women empowerment in the targeted counties.

Apart from ACTS, other implementing partners include the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Bahari CBO Network, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenyatta University (KU), C-Weeds Corporation Ltd, and the people of Kilifi and Kwale counties in Kenya. It kicked off in March 2022, and will run until August 2024.

ACTS at the centre of a unique agricultural concept - agrivoltaics

ACTS is part of a team implementing the first agrivoltaic system in East Africa, which is set to pioneer a unique agricultural concept that focuses on co-utilisation of land for agricultural production, solar energy and water harvesting.

The concept has already demonstrated its value for multiple stakeholders in energy, agriculture, water, and micro-climate creation. It is exciting, for many stakeholders in arid-and-semi-arid areas, who harvest the solar irradiance in often off-grid areas, use the water harvested for irrigation and animals, produce food beneath the panels, and/or create 'cooler' shade for animals.

Other implementing partners include Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC), Center for International Forestry Research - World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF), University of Sheffield, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Latia Farm Kenya and Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).

The project aims to change the perception on current vs future cost of agrivoltaics, as well as influencing public opinion on the practicality and suitability of this technology in the region. The team has set up demonstration centres

in Kenya (in collaboration with Latia Farm) and in Tanzania (together with SAT Tanzania) to show how useful, practical, and viable agrivoltaics systems can be.

The agrivoltaics project team is keen to follow-up on this process towards reframing energy-agriculture system as a single rather than a diversity of problems. The first step is creating networking opportunities, as well as dialogues and formation of community of practice.

The agrivoltaics project in East Africa has demonstrated its value resulting in increased interest in the concept. As the phase gathers pace, the project aims to accelerate the potential for adoption of agrivoltaics technology in both small and large-scale systems

ACTS and Jaramogi Odinga University to host VFP programme

ACTS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jaramogi Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) to host the Visiting Fellowship Programme (VFP) under the AfricaLics project. The MoU was signed on 9th February 2022 at JOOUST main campus, Bondo, Siaya County.

The AfricaLics project is funded by the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) as part of the project Enhancing Research Capacity on Innovation and Development in Africa.

The discussions to sign the MoU resulted in the revamping and renaming of an existing program (as an institute or a center), which opens significant opportunities for mainstreaming the R&D anchor, the visiting Fellowship Programme (VFP), and the recently launched Master's degree programme at the university. The JOOUST management team was delighted to fast-track the formalisation processes needed and to assist in getting this program off the ground.

The AfricaLics visiting fellows programme brings together PhD students from African universities with a focus on innovation and development by increasing the international mobility and level of exposure of the PhD students to international knowledge and the development of a vibrant research community in Africa in this emerging and highly multidisciplinary field. The program allows students to participate in various activities, including mentorships from a diverse array of African and international scholars, support from the trilateral research chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth



From Left: Prof. Benard Muok Director of Research Innovation and partnership at JOOUST, Prof. Stephen Agong' the Vice Chancellor, JOOUST and Dr. Anne Kingiri, Director of Research and Innovation at ACTS during the signing of the MOU.

Industrial Revolution, and Sustainable Development (TRC-TI), and a combination of pre- and post-activities over a four-month study period (in Kenya for 2022 cohort).

Two other workshops have been held, one on 14-18 March 2022, to support JOOUST technical team in the development of innovation oriented MSc and PhD programmes in gender and innovation and climate Change and Innovation. On 21-24 March 2022, a group of experts met to discuss development of an institutional infrastructure for supporting innovation capacity building in Kenya and beyond.

ACTS sets up regional clean cooking hubs in Kenya

ACTS, the national host of the Modern Cooking Services (MECS) in Kenya, has begun setting up regional clean cooking hubs in the country. The Kitui and Nakuru hubs have already been launched while those in Makueni and Kisumu will be launched by early June 2022.

The entities will not only help converge and catalyse action among clean cooking and electrification stakeholders at the regional level but also broker linkages between the national and local governments by integrating electric cooking in the county energy planning processes. In addition, the hubs will help to create direct linkages between local communities and technology service providers and provide a platform for technology access, awareness, capacity building, policy influence, and consumer financing.

To ensure the launch of the hubs is successful, ACTS is working closely with key MECS partners including Kenya Power and Lighting Company, the Clean Cooking Association of Kenya, the Ministry of Energy of the National Government, the county governments, and the local hosts of the hubs.

The hubs are expected to strengthen relations among partners in the MECS space, mainly public and private sector entities such as the Ministry of Energy, county governments, academic institutions, local communities,

technology service providers, and clean cooking and electrification sectors. ACTS has been generating evidence related to MECS through research and strategic stakeholder engagements to understand the challenges and opportunities related to the adoption of clean cooking.



Dr. Joanes Atela (right), Director, Partnership and Impact at ACTS and **Rachel Mwangangi (middle),** Deputy Director, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Kitui County, during the launch.

Expanding the boundaries of Artificial Intelligence in Africa

Traversing economic, agricultural and health sectors, Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions are redefining how we diagnose and solve common and pervasive challenges across the continent

A growing cadre of African scholars are increasingly tapping into the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to solve common sector-based challenges facing the continent. Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Artificial Intelligence for Development in Africa (AI4D Africa) programme, the scholars are creating new footprints in the continent's AI landscape.

A sample of the AI and ML based technological solutions being developed under the programme provide solid grounds for optimism in the capacity of African scholars to identify and develop technology based solutions to common challenges. AI4D Africa is implemented by ACTS as the lead partner. Below are testimonies from AI4D Africa scholars.

AI can solve Africa's challenges

Artificial intelligence and machine learning is important in solving Africa's problems because it can address issues that are difficult to solve with conventional sciences that are non-linear and complex. Africa should enhance expertise on artificial intelligence by giving special attention to women and providing special training on AI and ML. One of the major challenges facing PhD candidates in Ethiopia and in many countries of Africa is financial limitation. Due to this problem, many PhD candidates are forced to change their research interest, withdraw from their PhD program or take longer time than normal to finish their PhD. I thank IDR/SIDA for their support and advice students especially women to get acquainted with the science of AI and ML through training or self-learning.



Elias Sime, AI4D Africa beneficiary, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

We need to support women in AI

Africa has clearly limited expertise on artificial intelligence especially women, less than 30% of the workforce in data and AI-related jobs are women. To solve this challenge in Africa, we need to work on mindset change. Cultural settings are the root cause, most STEM books at lower levels of education portray engineers and related science professionals as men. We need to intervene by inclusive educational programs and a conducive working environment for women in technology..



CMahadia Tunga, AI4D Africa beneficiary, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

The grant from IDRC/SIDA is helping me to focus on my research agenda, expose to AI professional programmes, and grow my research network. The capacity development programs will help me to enhance my research skills in AI. Without this program, I would not be able to access professional programs from abroad which are not available in my country.

AI is a powerful tool for Africa

Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool that has been proving its worth all over the world in recent years. Thanks to artificial intelligence, the most challenges that affect Africa, as well as the growth and development of certain key sectors, can be addressed. Indeed, with the concept of "smart agriculture", will be practiced more efficiently, which will increase yields. Similarly, in the health sector, health care will be more responsive, of better quality, and more accessible, leading to better outcomes. In addition, public services will be more effective and responsive to citizens, increasing their impact. Financial services will be safer and reach more citizens in need, expanding access. Finally, there will be more opportunities for people to participate in the development of their communities, as well as to learn and grow. I thank IDRC/SIDA for their support. For those keen on pursuing courses on AI and ML especially women, I would tell them to have a lot of ambition, think about a key problem that they can solve with AI and ML, and then go ahead because AI and ML are the future of Africa.



Calmette Ariane, AI4D Africa beneficiary, University of Abomey-Calavi Benin

Africa must develop AI talent

Artificial intelligence is an opportunity to develop Africa's competitiveness. AI can help solve the economic problems facing Africa. African national champions can find ways to develop AI talent by partnering with global educational institutions for this purpose. Africa faces several known challenges in AI development, such as lack of investment, scarcity of specialised talent, and lack of access to the latest global research. These obstacles are being overcome, albeit slowly, thanks to African ingenuity and investments by multinational companies, all of which have opened AI labs in Africa. Innovative forms of cross-continental collaboration, which fosters a community of AI researchers in Africa, and Zindi, a platform that challenges African data scientists to solve the continent's toughest problems, are gaining traction, supported by the recent "homecoming" of several globally trained African AI experts. I thank IDRC/SIDA for the opportunity they have given me. Their grant will help solve a major problem related to agriculture in West Africa. And advice those keen on pursuing courses on AI and AL especially women to ask the right questions; Take a long-term approach; Fill the gaps in skills; put people at the heart of the strategy; and work in a multidisciplinary team.



Gloria Tah, AI4D Africa beneficiary, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

ACTS' new strategic plan

ACTS is set to unveil a new strategic plan for the period 2022-2026. This is the seventh strategic plan (2022-2026) which builds on the achievements and lessons learned from the sixth strategic plan (2019-2021).

A mid-term evaluation of the sixth strategic plan was undertaken in late 2020 to determine its success in the realisation of the set objectives, what worked well and what did not, lessons learned and best practice; the impacts and opportunities of Covid-19 pandemic on ACTS as an organisation; and recommendations for the seventh strategic plan (2022-2026). The results of the review influenced the 2022 - 2026 strategic plan.

The plan has prioritised development of a cadre of Africa-centred researchers, analysts and policy makers on STI, knowledge and society. STI capacity building, knowledge utilisation, technology transfer, intellectual property, STI roadmaps for SDGs, and evaluation of the impact of STI on the development of African countries.

The Executive Director, Prof. Tom Ogada, opines that the strategic plan distils ACTS' aspirations and commitments to support African countries and institutions to tap into the potential of STI for sustainable socio-economic development.

ACTS' blog posts

Building capacity by and for African Climate action: Lessons from CapCET: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/building-capacity-by-and-for-african-climate-action-lessons-from-capcet>

Interest without agency? Changing the narrative in agrivoltaics stakeholder engagement: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/interest-without-agency-changing-the-narrative-in-agrivoltaics-stakeholder-engagement>

Developing Market Driven Climate Change Training in the COMESA Region: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/developing-market-driven-climate-change-training-in-the-comesa-region>

Electrifying Kenya's Clean Cooking Week: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/electrifying-kenya-s-clean-cooking-week>

Unlocking e-cooking in Kenya through a strategic multi-stakeholder approach: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/unlocking-e-cooking-in-kenya-through-a-strategic-multi-stakeholder-approach>

Capacity Building for Enhanced Climate Action in Africa: <https://www.acts-net.org/foresight-africa-blog/capacity-building-for-enhanced-climate-action-in-africa>

Upcoming Events

The 3rd Calestous Juma Seminar Series

Date: 14th -16th June 2022

The 3rd CJ seminar will be anchored on the theme *Accelerating the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Artificial Intelligence solutions*. Each of the three days will be dedicated to a specific theme: Day 1 will focus on expert discussion on responsible AI in relation to SDGs and its implications on Africa's socio-economic development; Day 2 will feature presentations of study results by AI4D Africa programme beneficiaries - PhD students and post-doc researchers; and Day 3 will feature accomplished women in AI; their works, opportunities and challenges.

8th AfricaLics PhD Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems

Date: 13th - 24th June 2022

The call for papers was advertised where 57 applications were received and the review process is currently ongoing. The PhD Academy provides an opportunity for PhD students enrolled at African universities who work in the field of innovation and development studies to gain more knowledge of this burgeoning field, meet leading academics in this field and receive feedback on their PhD studies. The PhD Academy will be held as an in-person event under strict Covid-19 protocols at the Jaramogi Odinga Oginga University of Science and Technology's (JOOUST) Nairobi campus, Kenya.

[Learn More](#)

Globelics Academy 2022 - The 15th International PhD School on Innovation and Development

Date: 15th – 26th August 2022

The Academy will be held at Tampere University, Finland. The Academy supports training of PhD students from all over the world writing theses on issues related to innovation systems and development. The Academy will bring together frontier researchers in innovation with PhD students from the South and the North to inspire and qualify their work as well as to help them to join high quality research networks in their field of research. Globelics Academy aims at improving students' ability to undertake theoretically informed and policy-relevant empirical work on issues related with innovation in firms and societies, and its relationship with economic development. Please submit abstracts, CVs, and letters of recommendation by 24th April 2022 [here](#).

5th AfricaLics Research Conference

Date: 8th - 11th November 2022

The conference will be hosted by the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon. This year's conference will combine plenary sessions, presentations of research papers in parallel tracks, thematic panel sessions or special sessions, poster presentations, book presentation session, exhibition on industrial research, innovative start-ups presentations, sightseeing and cultural events, as well as artistic and culinary exhibitions.

Please check out AfricaLics website for more information about the conference [here](#).