



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS,  
CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS



# KENYA INNOVATION WEEK 2023

COMMONWEALTH EDITION

# REPORT



## THEME:

**Innovating to unlock our  
common wealth**

 [kenyainnovationweek.com](http://kenyainnovationweek.com)

27th November - 1st December

Edge Convention Centre,  
College of Insurance



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>ABOUT KENIA</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>DEFINATION OF TERMS</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>A. HIGHLIGHTS FROM PLENARY</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>I. REMARKS BY H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PHD., C.G.H PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA &amp; COMMANDER-IN- CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>II. REMARKS BY THE RT. HONOURABLE PATRICIA SCOTLAND, KC SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>III. REMARKS BY HON. ABABU NAMWAMBA EGH – CS MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>III. LAUNCH OF KENYA’S 10-YEAR INNOVATION MASTERPLAN</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>IV. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL’S INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>B. THE NUMBERS AT KIW</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>I. ATTENDANCE SUMMARY</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>II. INNOVATION FUNDING</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>C. COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>D. KIW 2023 RESOLUTIONS AND CORRESPONDING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>E. HIGHLIGHTS OF THEMATIC SUMMITS AND SIDE EVENTS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>1. SKILLS AND TALENTS SUMMIT</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>2. 4IR AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>3. COMMERCIALISATION SUMMIT</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>4. STARTUP SUMMIT</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5. STUDENTS INNOVATION OSCARS OLYMPIAD</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>6. PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION SUMMIT</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>7. YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>8. INNOVATION FOR RESILIENCE – CLIMATE-RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IPR) SUMMIT</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>10. INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT</b>	<b>48</b>

<b>11. CREATIVES SUMMIT</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>12. INCLUSIVE INNOVATIONS SUMMIT</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>13. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SUMMIT</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>SIDE EVENTS</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>I. YOUNG SCIENTISTS KENYA (YSK) CLOSEOUT AND AWARDS CEREMONY</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>II. PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE PITCHFEST</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>III. UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA/DEKUT)</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>IV. GREEN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB (GDIH) LAUNCH</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>V. WIPO ROUNDTABLE ON GII</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>VI. THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY LEADERS' MASTERCLASS</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>VII. LEVERAGING INNOVATION FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF COMMONWEALTH WOMEN</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>F. EXHIBITION</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>G. SPONSORS AND PARTNERS</b>	<b>78</b>

# FOREWORD

Reflecting on the Kenya Innovation Week – Commonwealth Edition held in November 2023 fills me with immense pride and excitement. Innovation has long been at the heart of progress, driving societies forward and shaping a brighter future for generations to come. This report celebrates the culmination of a week dedicated to innovation, collaboration, and transformative ideas, it is evident that the spirit of ingenuity knows no bounds.

The Kenya Innovation Week – Commonwealth Edition stands as a testament to the power of partnership and the collective resolve of nations to harness innovation for sustainable development. Bringing together visionaries, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and thought leaders from across the Commonwealth, this event served as a platform for exchange, learning, and inspiration. It sparked meaningful conversations, fostered new connections, and catalysed innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today.

Innovation knows no geographic boundaries, and neither does its impact. The diversity of perspectives and experiences represented during the Kenya Innovation Week underscored the richness of our global community and the boundless potential that lies within it. From breakthroughs in technology and science to advancements in sustainable development and social entrepreneurship, the innovations showcased throughout the week offered a glimpse into a future brimming with possibility.

As we look back on the Kenya Innovation Week – Commonwealth Edition, let us not only celebrate the achievements of the past but also look ahead with renewed determination and purpose. The challenges we face are great, but so too is our capacity to overcome them. By embracing the spirit of innovation and collaboration, we can unlock new opportunities, drive positive change, and build a world that is more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable for all.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Kenya Innovation Week – Commonwealth Edition, from our esteemed speakers and partners to the dedicated organizers and participants. Your passion, creativity, and commitment inspire us all to dream bigger, reach higher, and strive for excellence in everything we do.

Together, let us continue to push the boundaries of what is possible and chart a course toward a future defined by innovation, progress, and shared prosperity.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Tonny Omwansa'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial 'T' and 'O'.

**Dr. Tonny Omwansa, PhD**  
Chief Executive Officer, KeNIA

## ABOUT KeNIA

The Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) is a state corporation established under the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013, the agency is responsible for coordinating the National Innovation System.

The Kenya National Innovation Agency's mission is to develop and manage a dynamic national innovation system that facilitates taking ideas to the market. As a catalysing agency for the national innovation ecosystem, KeNIA is mandated to ensure that every stakeholder within the innovation eco-system receives the support that they need to innovate within their spaces, subsequently collating these efforts towards the national priorities and successful socio- economic development.

Working with partners, KeNIA strengthens interrelationships between actors to promote innovation and enterprise development out of research and ideas. This spans from supporting the identification, recording and protection of innovative ideas to coordinating the establishment and implementation of appropriate policies, standards, processes, infrastructure, and partnerships. The agency also works with partners to ensure appropriate prioritisation, relevant capacity development, innovation recognition and publication.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Physical Address:** Ground Floor, NACOSTI Building, Off Waiyaki Way

**Email:** [info@innovationagency.go.ke](mailto:info@innovationagency.go.ke)

**Phone:** +254-792 446 976

**Website:** [www.innovationagency.go.ke](http://www.innovationagency.go.ke)

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 22269-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

# ACRONYMS

<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>KeNIA</b>	Kenya National Innovation Agency
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>KIW</b>	Kenya Innovation Week
<b>ASALs</b>	Arid and semi-arid lands	<b>KNEIL</b>	Kenya Network of Entrepreneurial Institutions' Leaders
<b>ASSEK</b>	Association of Startup and SMEs Enablers of Kenya	<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>AT</b>	Assistive Technology	<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>AYuTe</b>	Agriculture Youth and Technology	<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>B2B</b>	Business to business	<b>NSTE</b>	National Science and Technology Exhibition
<b>B2C</b>	Business to Customer	<b>PIA</b>	Presidential Innovation Award
<b>BIT</b>	Behavioral Insights Team	<b>PPPs</b>	Public-Private Partnerships
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>CEIL</b>	Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Institutional Leaders' Chief Operations Officer	<b>SSA</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>COO</b>	Chief Operations Officer	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
<b>DG</b>	Director-General	<b>ST&amp;I</b>	Science Technology and Innovation
<b>E4Impact</b>	Entrepreneurship for Impact	<b>TTO</b>	Technology transfer office
<b>EARIH</b>	East Africa Research and Innovation Hub	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>ESOs</b>	Entrepreneurship Organisations	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>EU</b>	Entrepreneurial Universities	<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>gDIH</b>	Green Digital Innovation Hub	<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>VC</b>	Vice Chancellor
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology	<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization
<b>IoT</b>	Internet of things	<b>YES</b>	Youth Entrepreneurship Summit
<b>IS</b>	Institutional Commercialization Support Program	<b>YSK</b>	Young Scientists Kenya
<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property		
<b>KC</b>	King's Counsel (Title used in the Commonwealth)		

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Blockchain:** Distributed ledger technology that enables secure, transparent, and tamper resistant record keeping of data.

**Blueprint:** A design plan or other technical drawing.

**Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Institutional Leaders' Summit:** A summit focused on promoting collaboration and leadership in commercialization and entrepreneurship within educational institutions.

**Devolution:** The transfer of power or delegation of responsibilities from a central government to local or regional authorities.

**Digital Literacy:** The ability to understand, use, and critically evaluate information across various digital platforms.

**Digital nomadism:** Is a lifestyle where people use digital tools to work from different global locations, rather than a fixed workplace.

**Digital Skills:** Refers to the skills necessary for effectively navigating and utilizing digital technologies.

**Ecosystem:** In the context of the summit, an interconnected and collaborative environment involving various stakeholders such as academia, industry, government, and society, working together to promote entrepreneurship.

**Entrepreneurial Institutional Maturity Framework:** A framework developed to assess the readiness and maturity of institutions in embracing entrepreneurship. It provides a structured approach to gauge progress and identify areas for improvement.

**Entrepreneurial University:** A university that actively promotes and incorporates entrepreneurial principles, fostering innovation, and preparing students for a rapidly changing world.

**Green Jobs:** These are employment opportunities that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment.

**Green Workforce:** A workforce that is equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to sustainable practices, particularly in sectors related to environmental conservation and renewable energy.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** A measure of the total value of goods and services produced within a country's borders over a specific time period, often used as an indicator of economic health.

**InABLE:** Is a nonprofit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya and Washington, DC with a mission to empower persons with Disabilities through technology.

**Institutional Commercialization Support Program:** A program designed to support and catalyze creative ideas within institutions, contributing to Kenya's commitment to entrepreneurial education and innovation.

**Institutional spinoffs:** An "institutional spinoff" refers to the creation of a new organization or entity that comes from an existing institution.

**Jua Kali:** Informal Kenyan manufacturing sector

**Kenya Network of Entrepreneurial Institutions' Leaders:** A network that brings together leaders of entrepreneurial institutions in Kenya, fostering collaboration and innovation in the higher education sector.

**Policy Support:** Initiatives, regulations, or frameworks established by governments to facilitate or encourage specific actions or developments.

**Public Sector Scaling:** The range of pathways and roles through which governments play a leading role in facilitating the expansion of an innovation's impact in order to sustainably address a targeted need.

**Quadruple Helix model:** A model emphasizing collaboration between academia, industry, government, and society to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Remote Work:** Working outside of a traditional office environment, often utilizing digital technologies to perform job responsibilities.

**Renewable Energy:** Energy derived from sources that are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

**Royalties:** Financial payments made by individuals or entities (licensees) to the copyright owner (licensor) for the right to use, reproduce, distribute, display, or perform the copyrighted work.

**Soft Skills:** Non-technical skills related to personal attributes and character traits.

**STEM Skills:** Skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

**Sustainability:** The financial, political and institutional durability of an innovation required to ensure the continuation/ expansion of its impact over time

**Sustainable Development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Talent Development:** The process of nurturing and enhancing the skills, capabilities, and potential of individuals or groups, often to meet specific organizational or societal needs.

**Value chain:** The full lifecycle of a product or process, including material sourcing, production, consumption, and disposal/recycling processes.

**Web3:** Refers to the third era of the world wide web





## REMARKS BY H.E. DR WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PHD., C.G.H PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA & COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

A year ago, I pledged to mobilise government to transform the Kenya Innovation Week into an international festival, which attracts global participation. Subsequently, we placed a successful bid to host the Commonwealth Edition under the theme of Innovating to Unlock Our Common Wealth. I am immensely grateful to the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, the Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland for her consideration, support and facilitation in organizing this event.

By definition, innovation is transformative. It radically enhances our capacity to solve problems and achieve goals. It empowers entrepreneurship and solidifies the promise of success in tackling climate change, job creation, efficiency, mobility, food security, education and trade. Besides, we are now firmly in the age of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, nanotechnology and digital transformation, in which capacity for innovation will continue to separate those destined for success from those who will struggle in futility to stay the same.

We all must choose our sides and it is clear that all of us here today have cast our lot with innovation. Innovation has been identified in our national economic development blueprint as a cross-cutting element of our economic transformation. Consequently, the Kenya National Vision 2030 mandates our institutions of higher learning to increase the quantity, quality and relevance of their research output in order to produce such innovations and creations that will transform Kenya into a knowledge-based economy.

Our programmes to establish and accelerate the commercialization of research has accordingly taken off, with the establishment of the network of entrepreneurial institutions of learning providing a bold signal of our intent in this respect. This initiative shall also be accompanied by endeavours to enhancing inclusivity in innovation by facilitating access to quality infrastructure, financing and training for youth in both urban and rural Kenya.

The youth continue to sustain innovation in our economy, with youth-driven startups securing \$700 million last year, making Kenya a top African investment hub. The youth are also the overwhelming majority of the millions of unemployed Kenyans who are relying on our Plan to unlock employment opportunities. As a young nation with a vision of an economically secure posterity, we have no choice except to recognize innovation as a highly promising instrument for unlocking the doors of unprecedented opportunity.

Owing to the role of innovation in economic transformation, it is important to scale up our funding for the commercialization of innovation to reflect our commitment. We are therefore taking measures to enhance the funding of our national innovation agenda from 0.8% of the GDP to 2%.

It is only appropriate that today, the public sector is demonstrating a high capacity to complement private sector and market-driven initiatives through tomorrow's Ministerial Roundtable on Science, Technology and Innovation and the launch, today, of the Kenya National Innovation Masterplan, a 10-year programme to aggressively promote the achievement of innovation, value creation and competitive advantage as integral components of our development strategy.

To achieve these objectives, the master plan therefore focuses on policy enhancement, infrastructure upgrades, the enhancement of skills, market growth and a start-up ecosystem. As pertains to policy enhancement, the Masterplan itself, as well as the establishment of the Kenya National Innovation Agency, are flagship endeavours to entrench innovation into Kenya's policy landscape.

We are very intentional in promoting the innovative mindset, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from an early age through the competence-based curriculum, all the way to mainstreaming innovative thinking and intellectual property rights at the higher education level.

The objective is to facilitate the rapid development of a sustainable pipeline of globally competitive innovators. As a matter of policy, we are also entrenching a culture of service delivery innovation in the public sector in order to improve the uptake of modern tools and approaches, including design thinking, behavioural science and data-driven strategies to promote excellence and leverage modern tools to promote public sector effectiveness and efficiency.

To build a globally competitive start-up ecosystem, we have resolved to eliminate barriers to innovative entrepreneurship and replace them with clear incentives, simplified processes and support in order to attract investors and venture capital to our startups and innovators as well as promote private sector investment in research and development.

Kenya is a regional leader in broadband connectivity, which has intensified our geostrategic role as a gateway. ICT contributes 7% to our GDP by way of IT-enabled services. We recognize ICT as a frontier that is yet to yield its full promise, and through the Masterplan, the Digital Economy Blueprint, and the Kenya National Broadband Strategy, we are scaling up government investment in necessary infrastructure to \$132 million for the 2022-2023 Financial Year in order to catalyse the necessary transformation.

We have not walked this road alone. I acknowledge with tremendous appreciation the support of various partners over the years. The Kenya National Innovations Agency is coordinating the establishment of the Kenya Entrepreneurship Programme, with the aim of mobilizing \$ 3 million to enable startups scale up and attract investors. Local and foreign investors are encouraged to participate in this exciting opportunity. On the other hand, the Green Digital Innovation Hub will be launched tomorrow, to advance green and digital transitions in agriculture, ICT and energy.

The centre is powered by artificial intelligence, the internet of things and cloud computing, and is aimed at supporting the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises sector, the lifeblood of our economy. I thank the GIZ Digital Transformation Centre for bringing cutting-edge innovation to the Hustler Nation. In partnership with the UK's AI Safety Institute and the US AI Safety body, we are collaborating in establishing a strong capacity for the Emerging Technologies Institute and Action Lab, which is a multi-stakeholder initiative between the government, the private sector and our innovators to promote governance of the AI space. I also appreciate the work that Huawei Technologies continue to do in building digital skills and promoting innovations throughout the country from the grassroots.

Their DigiTruck programme is a truly bottom-up intervention to promote the development of sound innovative capacity through the provision of technology, the internet and mentorship. I express deep gratitude to the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, who have complemented our endeavour to strengthen the capacity of our institutions of higher learning in promoting entrepreneurial potential through the Kenya Network of Entrepreneurial Institutions. Our commitment to promote innovation seamlessly integrates the provision of ICT infrastructures, comprehensive education, skills and capacity development, policy and institutional interventions and the mobilization of diverse stakeholders in pursuing our ambitious strategy to transform Kenya into a globally competitive knowledge-based economy driven by innovation.

Our commitment to promote innovation seamlessly integrates the provision of ICT infrastructures, comprehensive education, skills and capacity development, policy and institutional interventions and the mobilization of diverse stakeholders in pursuing our ambitious strategy to transform Kenya into a globally competitive knowledge-based economy driven by innovation.

To focus our discourse, ambitions and strategies on innovation as a developmental imperative, the government has inaugurated the Presidential Innovation Award, which will recognize the most promising innovations during the Jamhuri Day celebrations. This year's edition will be the pilot phase of the award, and will consider submissions from all counties in the areas of food security and agriculture, digital transformation, healthcare, entertainment and gaming, climate action and green energy.

I encourage innovators to participate and wish everyone success in their development and pitching. See you on Jamhuri Day. As you can see, Kenya has a busy vibrant innovation scene, which promises great rewards for entrepreneurs and investors with a keen eye for opportunity.

There is a Kiswahili saying, "Mгаа gaa na upwa hali wali mkavu": A person who hangs around the beach in the low tide will not eat plain rice. I encourage angel investors and venture capital funds: pay close attention to Kenya. I declare the Kenya Innovation Week 2023-The Commonwealth Edition officially opened. Thank you. God bless you. God bless Kenya.



## REMARKS BY THE RT. HONOURABLE PATRICIA SCOTLAND, KC SECRETARY-GENERAL, OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Your Excellency, President Ruto , Honourable Ministers, Distinguished delegates, Colleagues and Friends from across the Commonwealth What a joy it is to be back in the wonderful city of Nairobi, the dynamic capital of this incredible country. And what a privilege it is to stand alongside you to open this inaugural Commonwealth Edition of Kenya Innovation Week.

Mr President, your leadership in advancing Kenya’s ambitious innovation agenda, which is fast turning this wonderful nation into Africa’s principal innovation hub, is remarkable. I congratulate you, and I pay tribute to Kenya’s National Innovation Agency which, under the spirit leadership of Dr Tonny Omwansa, is transforming the innovation landscape in Kenya.

This is only the third Kenya Innovation Week, but thanks to your work, it has already become established as a firm fixture in the international calendar. That is a testament to the creativity, passion and expertise which you have showcased, the commitment to innovation across public, private, research and academic sectors, and above all the entrepreneurial spirit and talent of Kenya’s young people, who are driving this proud nation forward to an ever-more hopeful future.

And I am so proud that Kenya and the Commonwealth are working in such close partnership to achieve even more together. Innovation is the engine of progress. And we are living through a technological revolution which is dizzying in pace, scale and impact every bit as dramatic as the industrial revolutions of the 19th Century, with implications which are just as profound. More people are connected to the internet than ever before. More people rely on digital services than ever before.

New technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, cloud computing, internet of things, have become critical to nearly every sector. They are driving profound changes in our daily lives, changing how we consume, produce and work; how people connect, and how businesses are run. By the end of this decade, they will have completely transformed our societies, our economies and our public services. This is not happening in a vacuum. It is emerging into a fierce cauldron of global economic, environmental and security crises which are unprecedented in complexity and gravity.

Our ability to innovate – and to understand, harness and master this revolution – will determine not only our success in overcoming these crises, but in building a more resilient, more peaceful, sustainable and more prosperous common future. Look at what is happening here in Kenya. Innovation is nothing without data – and a country which was once data-deprived has made incredible advancements in harnessing

data and technology to improve healthcare, agriculture, finance and so much more. The introduction of M-Pesa has revolutionized mobile banking and financial inclusion, not only in Kenya but in other parts of the world. And Kenya's tech ecosystem is expanding all the time, served well by new hubs and incubators.

This is a lesson to everybody about what is possible when governments are clear-eyed about what they want to achieve, with a strategy to deliver it. And I am determined that the Commonwealth, under my leadership, will not only be your greatest supporter – we will be your accelerator. Just imagine what we could achieve by working together. In the Commonwealth, Kenya joins 55 other independent, sovereign nations across five continents in an equal partnership of shared values, shared goals and shared advantages.

With 2.5 billion people, 60% of whom are under the age of 30, the Commonwealth represents one third of humanity. We have a quarter of the world's land, and almost a third of the ocean under national jurisdiction. We comprise developed and developing economies; island states and land-locked states; some of the largest populations of any country in the world, and some of the smallest; five of the 10 fastest growing cities on the planet, and some of the most remote indigenous communities.

And our economic power and potential is rapidly expanding. The combined stock of physical infrastructure, natural capital, and human capital in our Commonwealth now exceeds the value of 150 trillion US dollars. Trade costs between Commonwealth countries are 21% lower, on average, than trade between Non Commonwealth countries, and intraCommonwealth investment has tripled since I became Secretary-General.

Our convening power, our technical expertise, and our capacity to provide assistance to each and every member state is unique. And working with the mandates of all our Heads of Government, combined with by my own personal conviction, I am determined that by the time we arrive in Samoa for our Heads of Government Meeting next October the Commonwealth will be irrefutably established as the world's leading intergovernmental organisation in incubating and unleashing innovation. Let me offer just one example of what is possible. Earlier this year, I was invited to Silicon Valley to be honoured with a Global Innovation Award. During that visit I met with world leading tech firms including NVIDIA, Microsoft, Deloitte, HP and DeepMind, along with experts at the University of California Berkeley to discuss the latest advancements in Artificial Intelligence.

Their work is breathtaking, and it was crystal clear how AI could be used to help climate vulnerable countries anticipate and prepare for the worst affects of climate change; how it could be used to help farmers across the Commonwealth manage their crops; help healthcare professionals reach more people; or help countries like Kenya with amazing innovators gain more efficient access to international markets. So invited them to work with us and together we created the Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium.

This Consortium is unique: bringing world leading firms together with leading academics, not forprofits, Commonwealth governments and international institutions in a partnership for innovation, growth and sustainable development. We held the Consortium's first meeting in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September, and a robust action plan for our Small States has already been agreed.

This plan focuses on four critical areas for implementation: Research and Innovation; Policy; Capacity Building and Infrastructure with Youth and Gender Empowerment as cross-cutting themes. Delivering this plan will help us to close the growing digital divide between developed and developing nations; roll out the benefits of AI across healthcare, education, industry and government; and build a new framework for the application of AI across the whole Commonwealth within a single year. This is only the beginning because the beauty of the Commonwealth is that everything, we do is scalable, replicable, action-oriented, and rooted in our shared values.

And we know from our history that when the Commonwealth leads, the world follows: Our Leaders were calling for action on climate change in 1989, before there was even a process for international negotiations. They stood resolute in the face of apartheid. The Commonwealth Charter, which was agreed in 2013, provided the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals agreed two years later. And in leading on AI and the technological revolution, I hope that Kenya and every member of our Family of Nations sees the Commonwealth not only as your friend and ally, but as your partner of choice as you continue to propel yourselves forward. So that we may overcome the challenges we face together, grow together, and flourish together.

As individuals and organisations in this room today, we all have different capabilities and specialisms but we all have something special to offer, and each of us has the power to change the world. Kenya Innovation Week is so special because it is a unique opportunity to combine those capabilities, and pool that power, to reshape not only this magnificent country, but the continent, the Commonwealth and the wider world. I thank and commend all the speakers and participants who have gone to great lengths to join us at this summit.

I wish each of you a productive, empowering and illuminating week here in Nairobi. In the spirit of partnership which is fit for our age, together we can push the boundaries of what is possible, and step closer to the future we dream of: a secure future, a resilient future, an exciting future in which we can all live together, in harmony with each other and the planet we share, with common purpose, prosperity and peace. Thank you.





## REMARKS BY HON. ABABU NAMWAMBA EGH – CS MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS

Hon. Ababu Namwamba, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports, acknowledged the presence of distinguished guests at KIW 2023 - CW ED. The CS welcomed the Commonwealth to Nairobi, recognizing the significant platform for showcasing, leadership, innovative thinking, and commitment to driving Kenya's economic development through innovation.

He noted that Kenya has stood up in taking up leadership in a very definite clear manner as far as innovation space is concerned in development. He assured the President that in KIW, he has an opportunity to highlight the achievements of KeNIA (a young Agency) which is making incredible strides in anchoring the innovation journey in Kenya. He acknowledged that the President's leadership recognized that the economic development of our country, Africa and the entire world is anchored on innovation.

The CS alluded the strength of Kenya's innovation in the FinTech sector where M-Pesa continues to be a phenomenon. Additionally, he recognized the President's lead on green energy through the planting of 15 billion trees in a period of 10 years as part of Kenya's agenda for Climate adaptation.

The CS said, "The KIW 2023 - CW ED has gathered as a Commonwealth family to bring our thoughts, commitment and action together meaning that we are committed to moving ideas to commercialization and creation of jobs". He said that this vision finds meaning in the Bottom - up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) across various sectors including flagship programmes run in the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports.

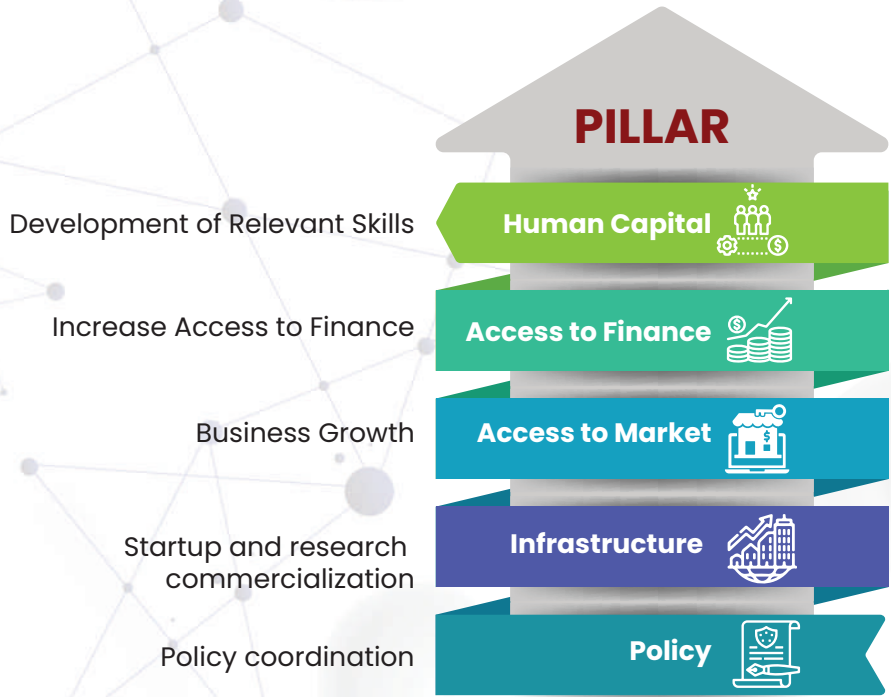
He concluded that KIW 2023 - CW ED provided an opportunity to exhibitors and innovators across the Commonwealth to showcase their creativity through the finalization of Presidential Innovation Challenge and Award and winners to be announced during KIW 2023.

# LAUNCH OF KENYA'S 10-YEAR INNOVATION MASTERPLAN

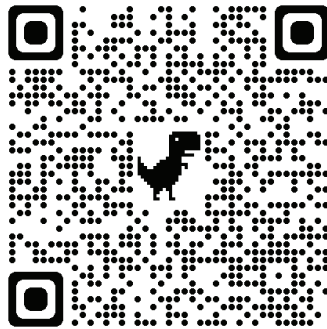
President Dr. William Ruto launched Kenya's 10 Year Innovation Masterplan that represents Kenya's aspiration to create an even more globally competitive knowledge economy. A knowledge economy that will leverage the collective knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders through a well-managed national innovation ecosystem to position Kenya as a stronger player in the global knowledge economy.

To be coordinated by the Kenya National Innovation Agency, the masterplan outlines five pillars identified as each plays an important role in enabling a thriving national innovation ecosystem. The 5 pillars are listed below.

**FRAMEWORK GOAL**



Implementation of the masterplan will be displayed for public tracking on [innovationmasterplan.go.ke](http://innovationmasterplan.go.ke)  
[Scan QR Code](#) to Download a copy of the Masterplan







# THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

At the third edition of the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Awards, Kenya's President Dr. William Ruto PhD., C.G.H and The Secretary-General, of the Commonwealth Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland KC, awarded 15 exceptional innovators from Commonwealth countries.

The awards aim to recognise and celebrate the contribution that innovators in the public, private and voluntary sectors across the Commonwealth are making to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

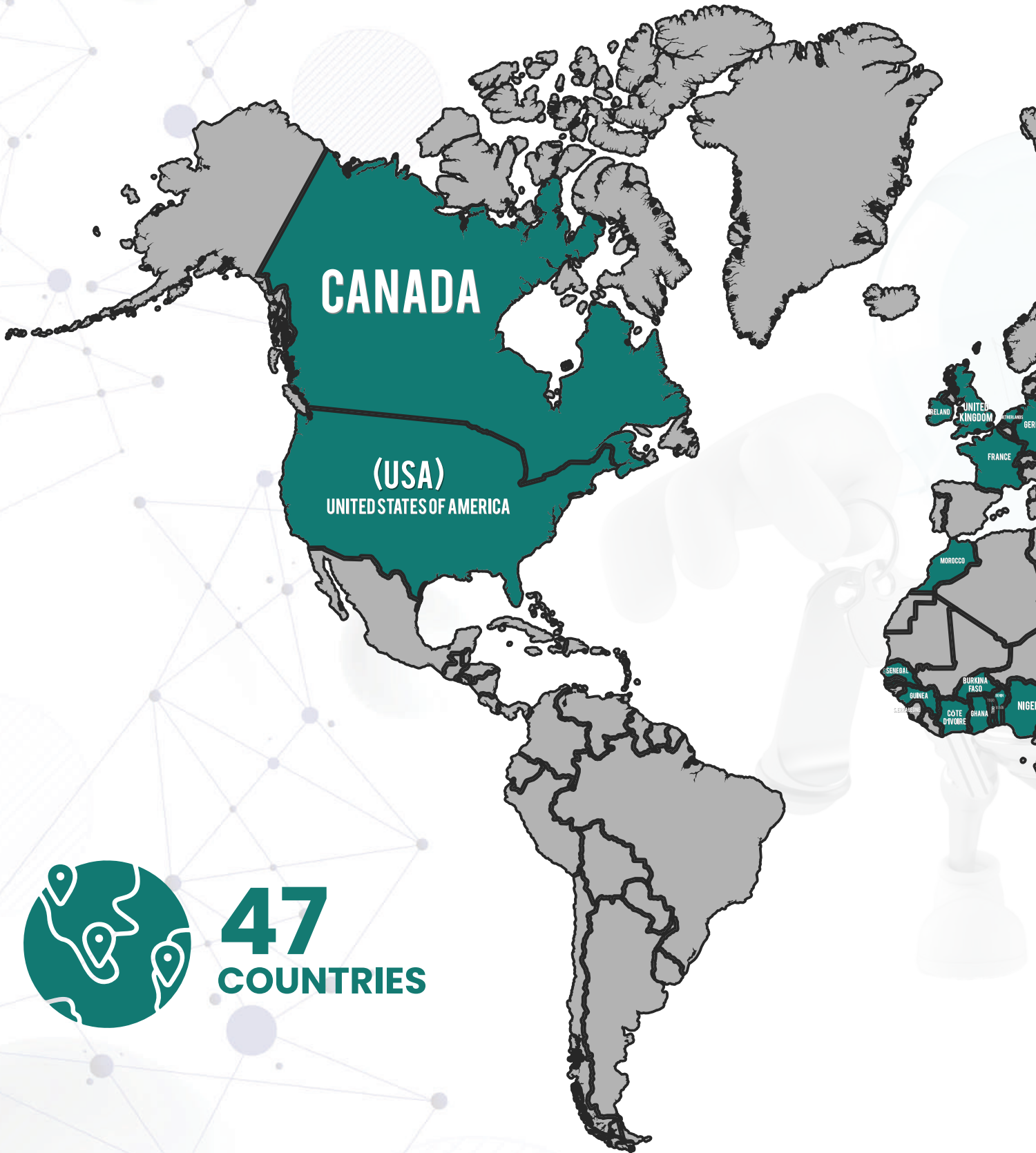
During the ceremony, all 15 award winners, three from each Commonwealth region, received a trophy, a certificate, and a £3,000 cash prize for their ground-breaking innovations across five categories.

Each category was structured around the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

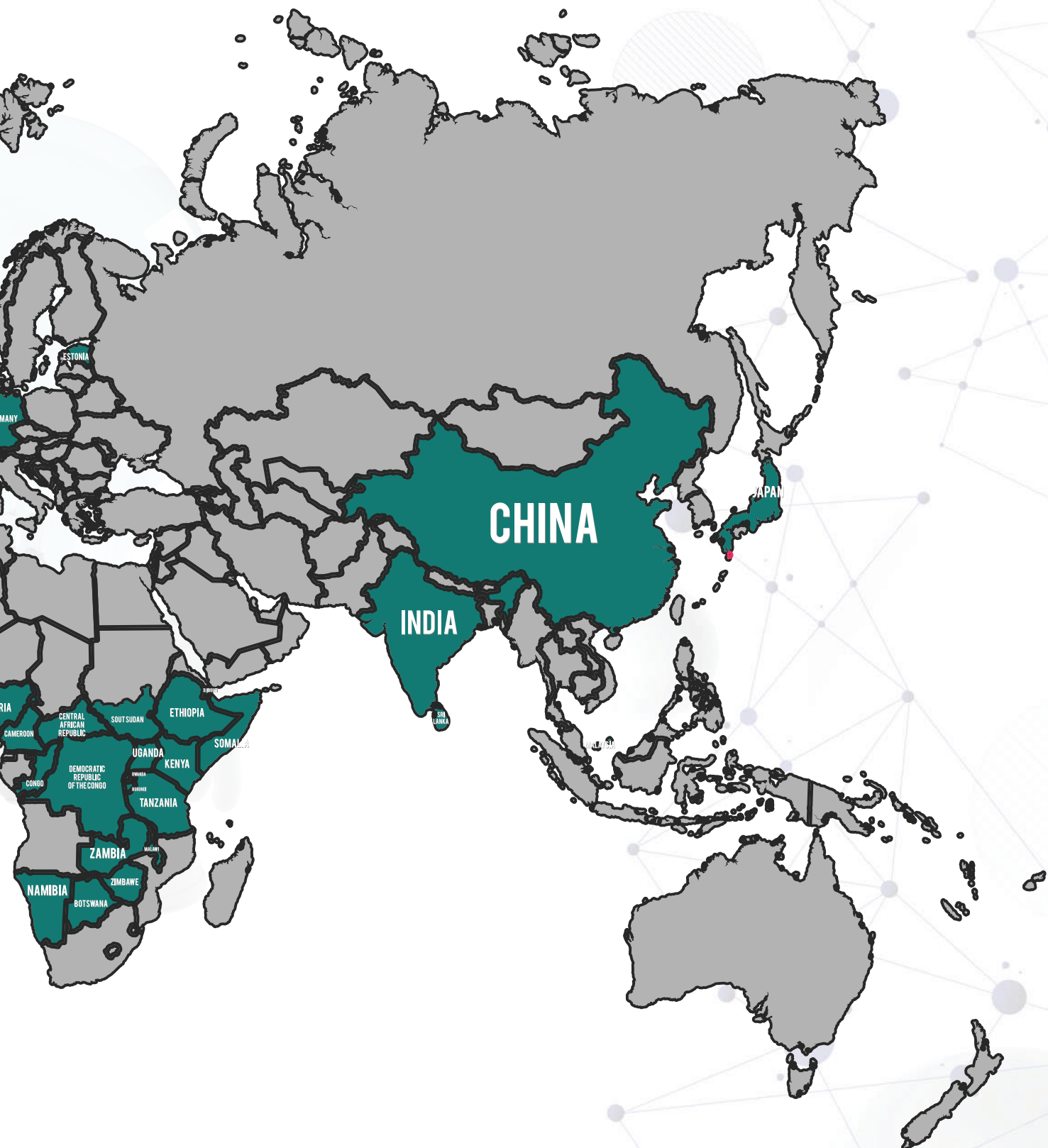




# THE NUMBERS AT KIW ATTENDANCE SUMMARY



**47**  
COUNTRIES





**8,685**  
DELEGATES

- 443 Local and International Organisations
- 247 Local and International Exhibitors



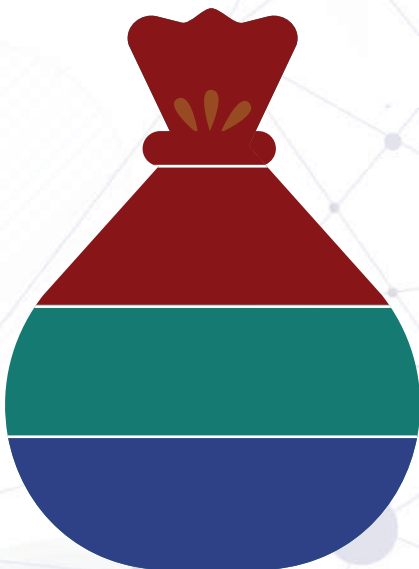
**02**  
VVIPS

- President of the Republic of Kenya
- Secretary General of the Commonwealth



- 13 Ambassadors
- 9 Kenyan Members of Parliament (MPs)
- 1 Kenyan Ministers
- 2 Foreign Ministers
- 1 MPs from Other Countries
- 4 Principle Secretaries
- 1 Governors

## INNOVATION FUNDING



**15 Million Ksh**  
Prize money for Kenyan Startups



**10 Million Ksh**  
Grants for Kenyan Startups



**7 Million Ksh**  
Prize money for Commonwealth Startups

## COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

On day two of Kenya Innovation Week, high-level government officials and ministers met for the Commonwealth Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on Innovation, led by Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports, Ababu Namwamba and Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC.

Acknowledging the transformative potential of digital solutions in various sectors, Secretary-General Scotland highlighted the pressing need to bridge the digital divide, especially in small and vulnerable states. She emphasised the importance of enabling these nations to catch up with rapid technological advancements, which would foster inclusive development and sustainable progress. Officials explored the role of innovation in diversifying economies, creating high-wage employment opportunities, and promoting environmental sustainability. They also considered revising national policies to integrate green technology and innovation strategies for cleaner and more competitive production across the Commonwealth.



# KIW 2023 RESOLUTIONS AND CORRE

## RESOLUTION ITEM

## DETAILS



**LEADING INNOVATION COURSE FOR POLICYMAKERS**

Promoting Innovative Mindset in Government and Service Delivery. Involves introducing modern tools and approaches like design thinking, behavioral science, and data-driven strategies to enhance excellence and efficiency in public service



**ENHANCEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

Develop a framework to improve and streamline infrastructure for research and idea commercialisation, particularly establishment of Technology Transfer Office as a service accessible to institutions of Higher learning



**GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX**

Best tool for tracking and positioning Kenya as a regional Hub of innovation. Current position 100; Targeting top 50 within 10 years.



**NATIONAL IP POLICY**

Kenya's IP policy has remained a draft for over 10 years. Target completion of policy in 2024



**ENTERPRENEURAL INSTITUTIONS MATURITY FRAMEWORK**

A framework for evidence based self evaluation, peer evaluation and validation for institutions of higher learning on their contribution to national innovation system. Framework to ensure institutions strengthen commercialisation and entrepreneurial ecosystems



# RESPONDING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	COST IMPLICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KeNIA</li> <li>• + Relevant Stakeholders</li> </ul>	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum Design</li> <li>• Facilitators</li> <li>• Venues</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KeNIA</li> <li>• KNEIL</li> </ul>	Q3 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant Stakeholder Engagement</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KeNIA</li> <li>• +GII Taskforce</li> </ul>	January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation of GII Taskforce</li> <li>• Data management</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KeNIA</li> <li>• KIPI</li> <li>• KeCOBO</li> <li>• ACA</li> </ul>	Q2 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>• Consultants</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KeNIA</li> </ul>	Q1 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant Stakeholder Engagement</li> </ul>

RESOLUTION ITEM

DETAILS



PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION AWARD

After a pilot of 2023, scale the PIA to include the following categories: Youth Edition, Researchers, Universities, TVETs and Entrepreneurial University of the Year (EUY)



PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP

Young graduates organized into multi-disciplinary groups, to solve digital transformation challenges in Gov/Counties. They gain experience, solve practical challenges and diffuse innovation in the public sector.



KENYA STARTUP BILL

A key policy instrument to address challenges, particularly incentives, within the start-up ecosystem.



KENYA'S 10-YEAR INNOVATION MASTERPLAN

Develop a comprehensive framework for publicity, tracking and monitoring of the Masterplan. Mobilize partners and stakeholders to get involved based on their strengths and interests.



ENHANCED FUNDING FOR INNOVATION AGENDA

The Government of Kenya (GoK) to increase funding for the national research and innovation agenda from the current 0.8% of the GDP to 2%.

**RESPONSIBLE**

**START DATE**

**COST IMPLICATIONS**

- KeNIA
- +Independent professional committee

April 2024

- Design of Programme
- Portal Development
- Award Committee
- Award Funding

- KeNIA
- + Partners

May 2024

- Design program
- Facilitate mentors, coaches, and fellows

- KeNIA
- National Leadership

Q1 2024

- Stakeholder Engagement

- KeNIA
- + Partners

January 2024

- Staff
- Consultants

- KeNIA
- Parliament
- Treasury

March 2024

- Relevant Stakeholder Engagement

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THEMATIC SUMMITS AND SIDE EVENTS

During the Kenya Innovation Week in 2023, 17+ thematic summits and side events were held. The various summits and side events were partner led and were all aligned to KIW's agenda of promoting innovation in Kenya, celebrating achievements of the year and setting actionable targets for the coming year.

This section highlights the summits and side events held and presents the resolutions and key takeaways from each event.





# 1. SKILLS AND TALENT SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 17**

 **ATTENDEES: 85**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

The Skills and Talents for Innovation Summit aimed to serve as a dynamic platform for the convergence of thought leaders, educators, policymakers, industry experts, and innovators. This summit delved into three critical and interconnected themes: Unpacking the Green Jobs, Unleashing Digital Nomads, and Unlearning - Potential for Technology.

The summit focused on Green Jobs' transformative potential for economies and a sustainable workforce, spotlighting Africa's youth as a solution to the global workforce challenge. It aimed to reshape views on technology by showcasing innovative transformations in sectors like agriculture, education, and manufacturing, media, altering conventional perspectives on technology's role.

The Summit resolutions aimed to reshape perceptions of green jobs, advocate for remote work, and drive technology integration in education and manufacturing. These initiatives aimed to nurture a flexible and skilled African workforce aligning with the demands of the global economy.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### **Optimizing Digital Skill Training**

Focus on maximizing existing resources from major tech companies like IBM and Microsoft for impactful digital skill training instead of creating new programs.

### **Empowering SMEs and Startups**

Advocacy for government support, particularly through favorable procurement policies for local businesses, to amplify job creation and economic growth.

### **Collaborative Talent Development**

Stress on intentional collaboration across sectors and regions to understand job demands and initiate talent development, focusing on proactive skill-building.

### **Green Sector Potential**

Initiating dialogue with the international community to transition sectors reliant on non-renewable resources to regions like Africa, emphasizing Kenya's high renewable energy usage.



## 2. 4IR AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 19**

 **ATTENDEES: 45**

### SUMMIT BRIEF

The summit on digital transformation in the public sector under the 4th Industrial Revolution and Digital Transformation Track, marked a significant milestone in the ongoing dialogue on the role of emerging technologies in reshaping governance. The summit objectives focused on digital transformation in the public sector, especially in emerging economies. The objectives included examining current trends, addressing challenges, highlighting use cases, facilitating knowledge sharing, and exploring opportunities for collaboration and collective action.

The summit hosted a roundtable that featured diverse themes, including Digital Transformation and Economic Growth, Policy Frameworks for Digital Innovation, Emerging Technologies and Trends, Digital Public Infrastructure, Ethics and Responsible AI, Data Governance and Privacy, Digital Inclusion and Access, Partnerships and Collaboration, and Change Management and Culture Shift.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The summit yielded the signing of a Letter of Intent to establish an Emerging Technologies Institute and Action Lab.
- The summit committed to scale up the “Adopt-a-Water Tower” initiative, leveraging AI and IoT for smart fencing, transparency in the carbon economy, and promoting a just energy transition.
- The summit highlighted the rollout of the Government Delivery Management Information System (GDMIS) and committed to enhance this platform by linking it to civil society and building a public interface for citizens to hold government to account.
- A commitment was made to fast-track talent sharing between the public and private sectors, especially in emerging technologies through a Presidential Innovation Fellowship led by KeNIA, CIO and Thunderbird School of Global Management.
- An agreement was made to ensure that Kenya continues its leadership on AI and other emerging technologies and to collaborate with the UK Government and other Commonwealth countries on Safety of AI.





### 3. COMMERCIALISATION SUMMIT



**SPEAKERS: 20**



**ATTENDEES: 100**

#### SUMMIT BRIEF

The relationship between research outputs and societal impact, especially in Africa, remains underdeveloped despite growing university numbers. Africa contributes minimally to global research and patents due to reduced funding and policy support for universities. To address this, the UK's EARIH, partnering with KeNIA, hosted the Commercialisation Summit at KIW. The summit aligns with ongoing efforts to overcome barriers to scaling innovations, enhance research abilities, and promoting partnerships. The Summit aimed to share knowledge, foster partnerships, and identify ways to boost research commercialisation in Africa by leveraging the UK's expertise in science, technology, and innovation. Key objectives included knowledge exchange, networking, identifying partnership opportunities, and cultivating entrepreneurial mindsets for effective research commercialisation.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Develop a framework to improve and streamline infrastructure for research and idea commercialisation particularly establishment of Technology Transfer Office (TTO) as a service accessible to institutions of higher learning.
- ✓ That KeNIA coordinated to complete the National IP policy in 2024 that remained as a draft for 10 years. The Government of Kenya (GoK) to increase funding for the national research and innovation agenda from the current 0.8% of the GDP to 2%.
- ✓ Foster strategic partnerships with government, industry, academia, and enterprise support organizations.
- ✓ Innovators and academia should adopt a more entrepreneurial mindset for better funding and market potential.
- ✓ Enhance academia's commitment to commercialization through internal policies, partnerships, and cultivating an innovative and entrepreneurial culture among students.



# 4. STARTUP SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 18**

 **ATTENDEES: 130**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

The Startup Summit is a core event within the Kenya Innovation Week. It hosted activities and conversations which focused on startup growth, sustainability, and an enabling environment. The 3rd edition of the startup summit presented an excellent opportunity for sharing ideas, experiences, and potential markets with the aim of elevating the collaboration between the participating startup ecosystem players. The Startup Summit comprised of two main segments: The first one was an interactive Dialogue session, focusing on topical issues currently affecting startups and their ecosystem, the second a captivating Commonwealth Pitchfest. The curated pitch festival featured a showcase of innovative businesses from various Commonwealth countries who have innovated solutions to address local and global challenges.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Strategies be put in place to ensure alignment with national and regional development goals.
- That KeNIA involves more stakeholders to build and sustain a robust startup ecosystem.
- Kenya to use lessons from Rwanda and Nigeria in establishing innovation and entrepreneurship funds.
- Feedback from stakeholders be incorporated in the Kenya Startup bill before it is passed into law.
- The startup Pitchfest be aligned with other related pitch activities within KIW.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, EMPLOYMENT AND SPORTS | The Commonwealth | Kenya | **kiw**

# KENYA INNOVATION WEEK 2 COMMONWEALTH EDITION

## INNOVATING TO UNLOCK OUR COMMON WEALTH

### Startup Summit



**Hareesh Prasad**  
CEO Africa  
Africa



**Ken Njoroge**  
Co-Founder  
Cellulant



**Zena Msonde**  
Founder,  
HASHTECH Tanzania Ltd.



**Alexander**  
Co-Founder  
Chief Exec  
Soluti

Share & Add relevant interview with  
top thought leaders, featuring  
state-of-the-art content, sharing and  
best practices to foster economic growth

THE EDGE CONVENTION CENTER, NAIROBI, KENYA  
BALLROOM PART B  
10 NOVEMBER 2023  
12:00 - 12:30 hrs  
[www.kenyainnovationweek.com](http://www.kenyainnovationweek.com)



# 5. STUDENTS INNOVATION OSCARS OLYMPIAD

 **SPEAKERS: 36**

 **ATTENDEES: 400**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

The Students' Innovation Oscars Olympiad aimed to nurture creativity, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving skills among students across Africa, providing a platform for showcasing innovative ideas, collaboration, and insights from industry experts. Kenya Innovation Week successfully brought together diverse partners, including STEM Impact Centre Kenya, Dala Africa, Startup Africa, and others, marking a significant milestone to be built upon. The Students' Innovation Oscars Olympiad, involving 24 countries, signalled the birth of a movement spreading across Africa. The summit featured bootcamps, expert speakers, pitch sessions, exhibitions, gala dinners, and award ceremonies, marking the beginning of Africa's reimaging through youth-powered innovations.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Local Innovative finding solutions, such as crowdfunding platforms and micro-investments, be explored to diversify financing options.
- Policy changes be made to level the playing field for MSMEs in public procurement and international trade.
- There is a need to Institute a structured mentorship program where students in higher learning institutions mentor those in high schools to enhance the capacity of the innovations from the students.
- To prioritize students in research and innovation from a policy perspective, we should consider making them the focal point and enabling them to directly benefit from National Research Fund grants.
- Every school should actively cultivate entrepreneurial innovators, marking the inception of a broader initiative.



## 6. PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 13**

 **ATTENDEES: 56**

### SUMMIT BRIEF

The Public Sector Innovation Summit encouraged participants to exchange experiences and lessons, identify and disseminate what worked where and why, and provided methodologies for peer learning in the public sector. The forum worked towards building partnerships and identifying, documenting country-level public sector reform innovations that could scale beyond national borders.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

 **Design a Leading Innovation Course for Policy-Makers:**

This is to promote innovative mindset in Government and Service Delivery.

 **Set up a Presidential Innovation Fellowship:**

Young graduates organized into multi-disciplinary groups, to solve digital transformation challenges in Gov/Countries. They gain experience, solve practical challenges and diffuse innovation in the public sector.

 **Proactive Innovation Beyond Crisis:**

Instead of waiting for crises to prompt innovative solutions, actively embrace a mindset of continuous innovation.

 **Maintain Focus on Problem-solving:**

Innovators should stay dedicated to solving the challenges they initially set out to address, even when faced with delays in payments or other obstacles.





## 7. YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 43**

 **ATTENDEES: 500**

### SUMMIT BRIEF

The Youth Entrepreneurship Summit (YES) served as a platform for fostering innovation and collaboration for young entrepreneurs. It equipped them with knowledge, resources, and connections to turn ideas into impactful ventures, driving economic growth. The summit sought to empower the next generation through tools, mentorship, and networks, creating a vibrant ecosystem for economic empowerment and positive change. The goal of this initiative is to enhance the skills of 10,000 MSMEs by December 2026, collaborating with educational institutions and experts for cutting-edge training. Monitoring progress aligns with the vision set at the Kenya Innovation Week 2023 for sustainable MSME growth and youth empowerment.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

 **Digital Platform for Collaboration:**

Advocate for Commonwealth and KeNIA to spearhead the creation of a comprehensive digital platform that enables knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration among young entrepreneurs across Commonwealth countries and Kenya.

 **Financial Support Mechanisms:**

The importance of creating accessible financial support mechanisms, such as a dedicated entrepreneurship fund, that provide seed capital, grants, and affordable financing options to youth-led startups and enterprises.

 **Entrepreneurial Education:**

Urge educational institutions within the Commonwealth and Kenya, in collaboration with KeNIA, to integrate entrepreneurship into their curriculums.

 **Technological Access and Innovation Support:**

Highlighting the necessity to support technological innovation and ensure access to technology, especially in underserved and rural areas, to drive entrepreneurship and address the digital divide.

 **Sustainability and Social Entrepreneurship:**

Motivate entrepreneurs within the Commonwealth and Kenya to adopt sustainable business practices and explore social entrepreneurship, with the backing of Commonwealth and KeNIA initiatives.



## 8. INNOVATION FOR RESILIENCE – CLIMATE RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

 **SPEAKERS: 16**

 **ATTENDEES: 98**

### SUMMIT BRIEF

This summit explored how technology and innovation can enhance the resilience and sustainability of health systems amid challenges like climate change. It showcased impactful case studies and solutions from Commonwealth nations and beyond, emphasizing the intricacies of scaling and replicating these models. The side event promoted networking and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including health practitioners, innovators, investors, researchers, policymakers, and civil society members.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In a means to get ready from a finance perspective, we need to adapt as the problem progresses.
- Proper infrastructure is also required to support these systems e.g. making use of PPPs.
- Development should be investible e.g. the Green Bonds. We can have health related bonds as well.
- Create platforms to create solutions rather than to create awareness of the problem.
- Create regulations in the world of pharmaceuticals.
- It is key that we complete the pipeline. From research to finance to government etc. Business models need to be revised to make development investible.
- There are enough policies. Gaps are in the implementation. We need a lot of flexibility in a way that incorporates interlinkages of climate and health and impact.
- Linking research in different institutions in health, commercialisation, innovation.



# 9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IPR) SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 10**

 **ATTENDEES: 100**

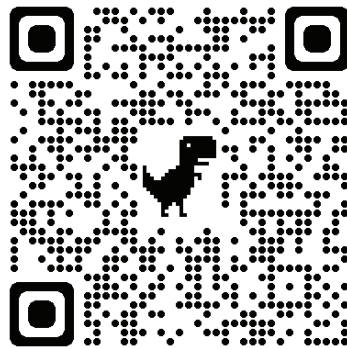
## SUMMIT BRIEF

The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Summit aimed to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration on key aspects of intellectual property, innovation, and their impact on the Kenyan innovation ecosystem. The summit brought together stakeholders to address pressing issues, share insights, and explore strategies to support and promote IP and innovation within the African region. This Summit specifically focused on IPR Framework within the Ecosystem, Policies, and strategies for IP within institutional spin offs and startups.

## LAUNCH OF THE INNOVATORS GUIDEBOOK TO IPR PROTECTION IN KENYA

During the IPR Summit, The Innovators Guidebook to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection in Kenya was also launched. The guidebook serves as a comprehensive resource for understanding and navigating the landscape of intellectual property rights protection in the country.

[Scan QR Code](#) to download the book.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Governments should engage more industry stakeholders to devise policies that promote innovation, considering the evolving technological landscape.
- There is a necessity to raise awareness about IP and provide capacity-building initiatives to assist innovation ecosystem participants in comprehending and safeguarding their intellectual property.
- Ecosystem players should foster more intentional partnerships and collaborations.



# 10. INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 21**

 **ATTENDEES: 100**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

This summit served as a platform for discussing and showcasing the latest advancements in agricultural technology, sustainability, and innovation. It aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing, ultimately driving the transformation of agriculture into a more efficient, sustainable, and productive industry. The initiative seeks to address global challenges related to food security and climate change by employing innovative methods. It emphasizes the involvement of key stakeholders in the agricultural sector, particularly smallholder farmers and youth, to reduce the impact of these issues. The program was conducted in collaboration with Heifer International, with the organization playing a central role as the core curator and lead in implementing this summit.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A comprehensive repository for agricultural stakeholders will be developed to support innovation. This is in-line with the commitment to increased data sharing across the AgriTech value chain.
- The Summit underscores the importance of tailored investment models for local contexts to ensure proper adoption, maximize impact, and enhance sustainability.
- Knowledge sharing and learning will be promoted through digital tools and mailing lists.
- It was recommended that exploration of innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance and impact investing be done to address the unique financing needs and challenges faced by AgriTech start-ups in the African context.



## TEACHERS FOR INNOVATION,.....

- **WE Encourage Curiosity**, by designing lessons that spar questioning. E.g
- **Praise the process of problem-solving**, encouraging st opportunities to learn and grow.
- **Incorporating Technology**, i.e digital literacy, Coding, r related activities, that stimulate problem-solving and creati
- **Connect with ACADEMIA and Industry Profession:** WRITE UPS and real-world applications



# 11. CREATIVES SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 16**

 **ATTENDEES: 138**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

This one-day programme, convened by British Council, recognized the potential of the Creative Economy to contribute to the socio-economic development of Kenya. Practitioners shared insights from their research and showcased products and ideas. The goal was to facilitate the continued growth of the creative economy in the region by fostering knowledge sharing and creating an environment that encourages collaboration and investment. Sector experts from Kenya, South Africa and the UK presented case studies and shared their experiences in working with digital technology. Their focus was on strengthening people-to-people connections, shifting narratives, and contributing to the livelihoods of creative practitioners.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Let's emphasize talent development, accessibility, and equity. This is an urge to stakeholders to prioritize diversity in the creative sector.
- Nurturing talent at all levels, dismantling barriers, and ensuring universal access to resources, training, and markets, Kenya has the potential to unlock the full scope of its creative industry.
- Call to action- There is an urge for swift implementation of policies and initiatives to transform Kenya's creative landscape into a dynamic and inclusive powerhouse.
- The Creatives Summit can act as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the broader community to collectively work towards creating a dynamic, inclusive, and thriving creative ecosystem in Kenya.



## 12. INCLUSIVE INNOVATIONS SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 6**

 **ATTENDEES: 50**

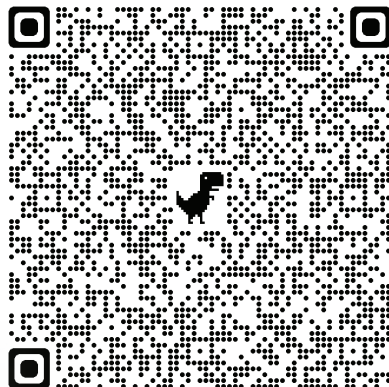
### SUMMIT BRIEF

The Inclusive Innovation summit at KIW dived in and explored the disability innovation ecosystem in Africa and across the commonwealth. The summit brought together Startup Founders, Disability Innovation ESOs, funders and investors, regulators, and the disability community to unpack current state, achievements, strengths, challenges, and outlook. The summit featured topics such as assistive technology, accessibility, economic return on investment for assistive technology, inclusive employment, innovations for upskilling and reskilling PWDs for the 21st century job market and the contribution of founders with disabilities in the innovation ecosystem. The summit showcased inclusivity technologies and innovations from some of the leading startups in Africa and across the Commonwealth.

### LAUNCH OF THE 2023 GLOBAL DISABILITY INNOVATION REPORT

Further into the summit the Global Disability Innovation Report was launched. This is a collaboration between Village Capital, Smart Job and JPMorgan Chase and Company. The report delves into the current state of the disability innovation ecosystem, highlighting the accomplishments and the importance of the perspective of leaders within the innovation ecosystem while identifying avenues for potential improvement.

[Scan QR Code](#) to download the book.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The need to lay a strong foundation in inclusive and accessible education systems right from early child development that would translate to empowered young adults.
- Supportive education policies include developing inclusive curricula to cater for children with disabilities.
- Continued and improved collaboration between the various ecosystem players including the government, development partners and the private institutions.
- Emphasis on the crucial role of tailored skill development programs for young adults with diverse abilities in enhancing an inclusive workforce.
- Call on organizations to implement the necessary work accommodations for employees with disabilities to create an inclusive environment.
- Call on investors to consider disability innovations and startups as investable opportunities. Recognize the untapped market and societal needs, ensuring a return on investment while contributing to positive societal impact.



## 13. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SUMMIT

 **SPEAKERS: 12**

 **ATTENDEES: 68**

### SUMMIT BRIEF

The Kenya National Innovation Agency and Adanian Labs partnered to lead the AI track during Kenya Innovation Week. This collaboration aimed to elevate AI innovation within Kenya's broader technological landscape. The summit focused on democratizing access to technology, fostering local innovation, stimulating sustainable development, and positioning Kenya as an AI destination. Some of the key Collaboration Points being AI Showcasing, Highlighting AI's innovations and positioning Kenya as a critical player, Entrepreneurial Support, providing resources and networks to encourage new tech business growth, Digital Education, enhancing digital literacy to foster participation in the global tech revolution. Global and Local Alignment and balancing international tech standards with Kenya's unique needs to promote strategic growth.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Invest in robust data infrastructure to ensure secure and efficient sharing. Promote the use of open-source datasets.
- Encourage collaboration with cloud resources like Google, and advocate for supportive government policies to boost innovation and growth. Emphasize the importance of anonymized data access.
- Accelerate adoption by empowering individuals and promoting the utilization of available infrastructure. Focus on education and awareness campaigns.
- Foster community collaboration, particularly through academic-based approaches. Encourage tailored research and development for Africa's unique needs and context.



## SIDE EVENTS

### YOUNG SCIENTISTS KENYA (YSK) CLOSEOUT AND AWARDS CEREMONY

 **SPEAKERS: 12**

 **ATTENDEES: 68**

#### EVENT BRIEF

Young Scientists Kenya (YSK) was started in 2017 by the Ministry of Education and the Embassy of Ireland and complements the Kenya Science and Engineering Fair. YSK is the premier national science competition in Kenya; whose mission is to inspire and empower the next generation of young scientists, innovators, and entrepreneurs to transform their communities through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The 2023 YSK National Science and Technology Exhibition (NSTE), now in its 6th edition, was themed “Developing Sustainable Solutions for Climate Change”. It allowed students from Kenya’s high school to showcase creative and innovative solutions to curb climate change both nationally and globally. The Exhibition brought 418 students (230 girls and 188 boys), showcasing 209 projects in four award areas, 17 Judges.

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- To increase the number of YSK participants at the National Exhibition.
- To have inclusion programs for students under 18 years, include student-friendly sessions for better student engagement at KIW.
- To further explore continued partnership with KeNIA for the subsequent Kenya Innovation Weeks.





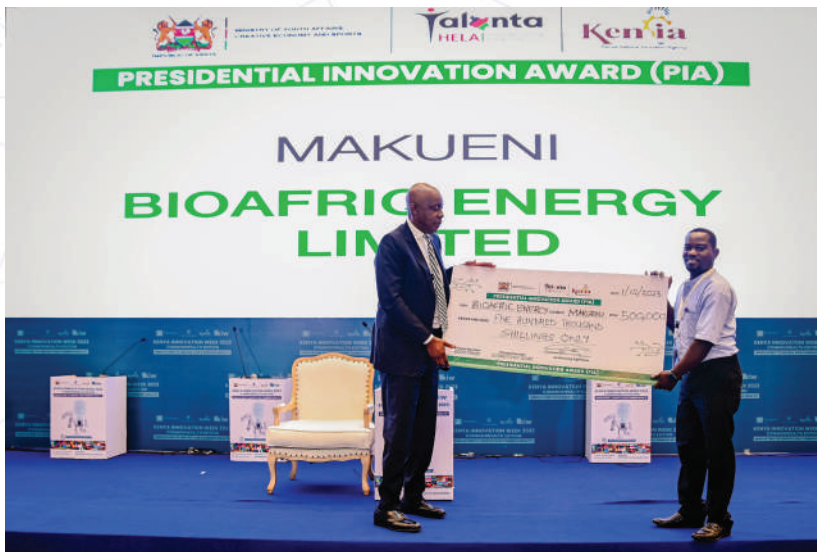
## PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE PITCHFEST

The Presidential Innovation Challenge Pitchfest was held to determine the awardees of the Presidential Innovation Award (PIA), which is a module of the Talanta Hela programme under the umbrella of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports that intended to develop the entrepreneurial capacity of innovators across the country. It recognises and awards the innovative work of top innovators in the country within the national priority areas of Food Security and Agriculture, Digital Transformation, Healthcare, Climate Action and Green Energy and Entertainment and Gaming.

### INNOVATION DESCRIPTIONS

#### Bioafriq Energy Limited (By James Nyamai)

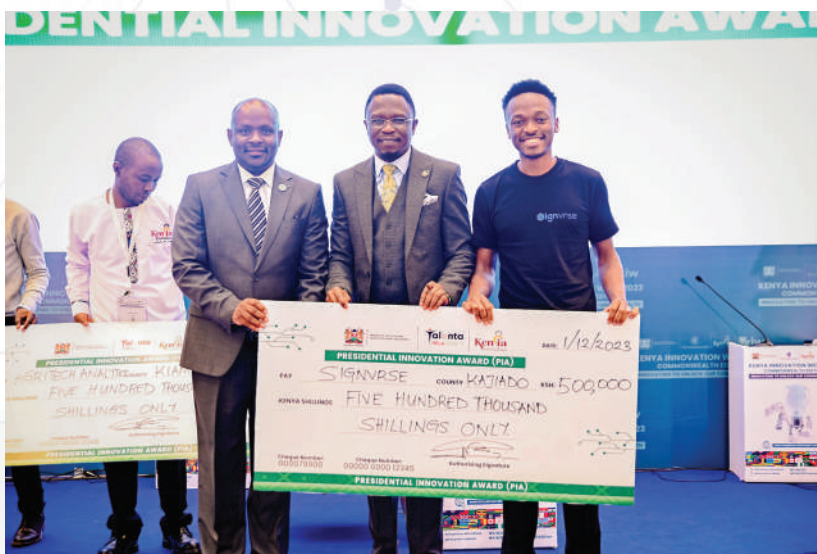
MAKUENI COUNTY



This innovative technology addresses food security challenges by efficiently dehydrating farm products year-round, overcoming the limitations of conventional solar dryers that struggle during Kenya's rainy and cold seasons. By significantly reducing post-harvest losses for farmers.

#### Signvrse (By Elly Savatia)

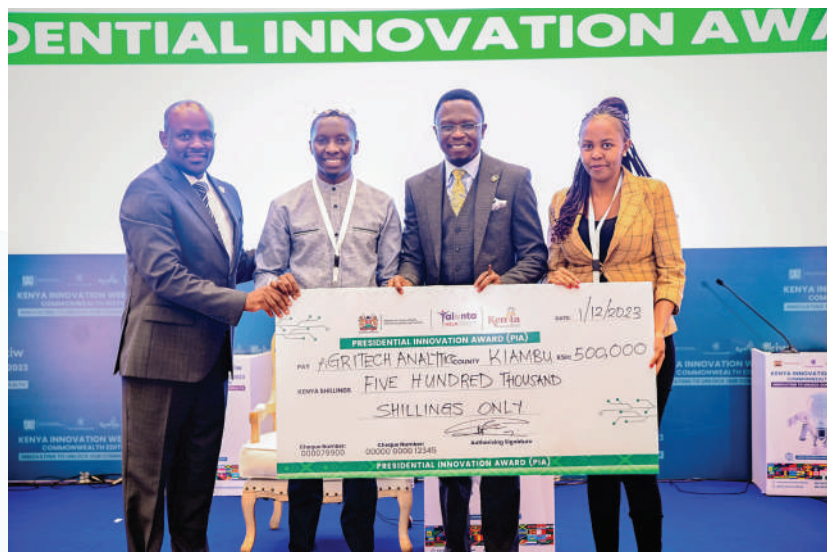
KAJIADO COUNTY



Signvrse is an assistive technology startup utilising AI (Computer Vision) and automated 3D technology to interpret text and speech, creating lifelike sign language avatars with real-time precision.

**Agritech Analytics (By Marryann Gichanga)**

**KIAMBU COUNTY**



AgriTech Analytics Ltd has created a crop & soil management tool that leverages AI-powered satellite imagery data & data from our IoT sensor to halt soil degradation, crop pests and diseases to increase yields for small holder farmers.

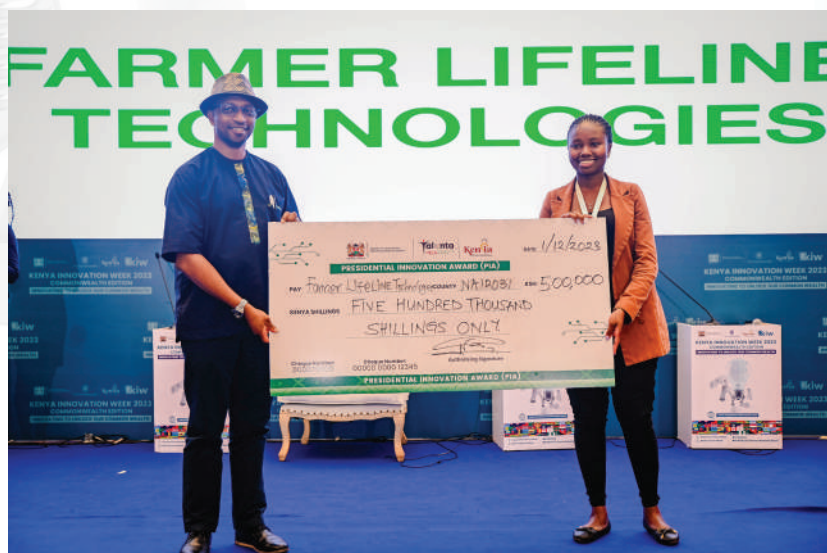
**Piquant Spices (By Stephen Machua)**

**MURANG'A COUNTY**

Piquant spices is a Manufacturing company that is doing value addition of herbs and spices for local and export markets. These spices are grown by smallholder farmers in arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya thus providing an alternative high value crop for ASALs.

**Farmer Lifeline Technologies (By Alice Kayo)**

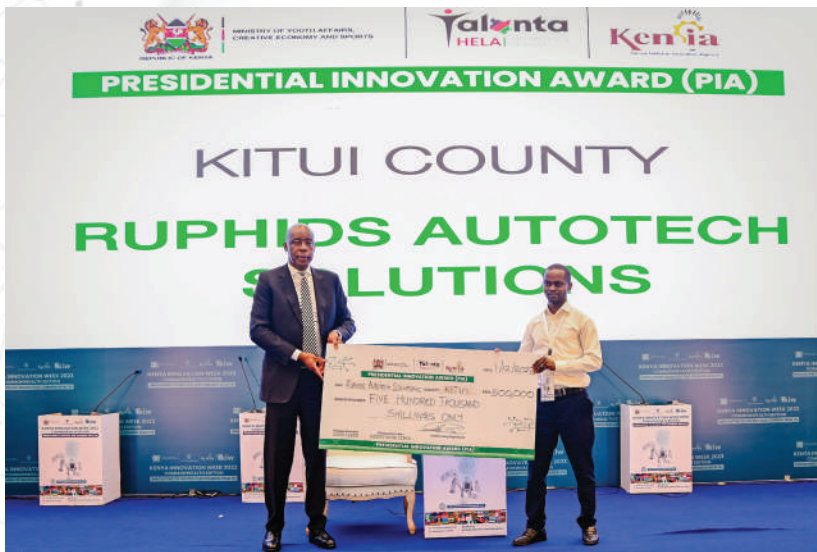
**NAIROBI COUNTY**



Farmer Lifeline is an early-stage Kenyan based company that empower smallholder farmers through AI to enable them detect crop pests and diseases in time and know the solutions to apply.

## Ruphids Autotech Solutions (By Philip Nganda)

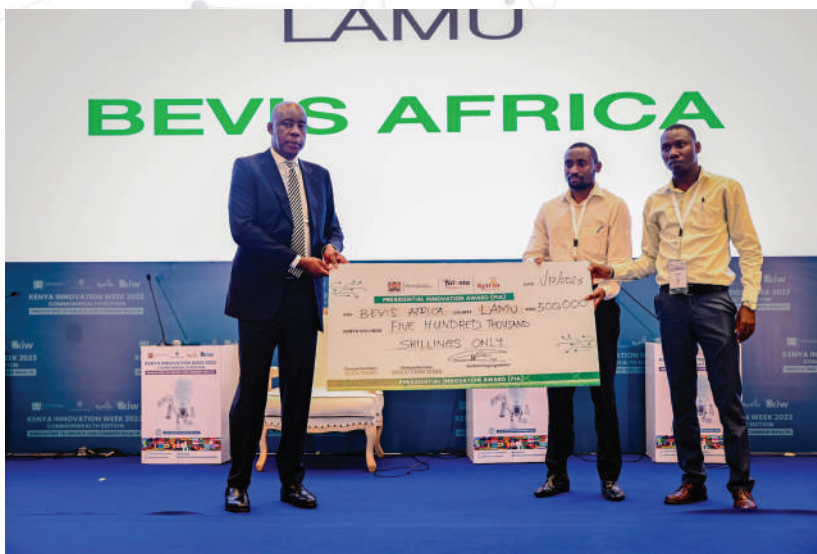
### KITUI COUNTY



Ruphids autotech provides a biometric attendance gadget that reduces truancy cases and other related problems such as the increasing pregnancy cases amongst school going children by sending sms to the parents on arrival and leaving time at the school premises.

## Bevis Africa (By Victor Mburu)

### LAMU COUNTY



Bevis Africa Integrates nature-based solutions with tech-based solutions to ensure equitable and sustainable livelihoods. We are leveraging the power of web3 and Blockchain to enable farmers and pastoral communities to tap into climate financing especially the voluntary carbon market.

**M-Taka (By Primafacie Mutua)**

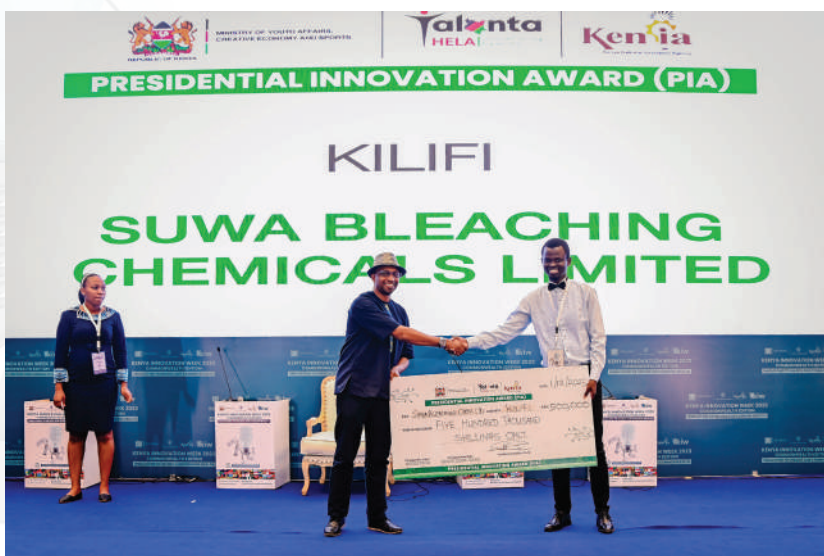
**KISUMU COUNTY**



M-taka is a pioneering social impact recycling venture located in Kisumu, Kenya, on the shores of Lake Victoria. It was founded to address the dire waste management issue in the region, by leveraging technology, data analytics, and community engagement to build a sustainable zero-waste circular economy.

**Suwa Bleaching Chemicals Limited (By Benjamin Baya)**

**KILIFI COUNTY**



Suwa Bleaching Chemicals Limited and manufactures offers an alternative high-standard bleaching agent from sugarcane wastes for refining crude palm oil.

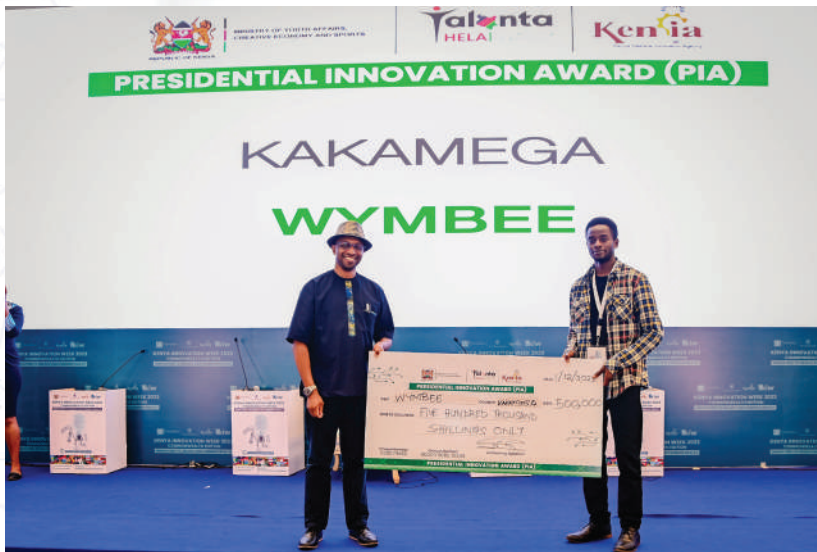
**Banana Fibre Extraction (Bafix) Products (By Kenton Mutethia Muthaura)**

**MERU COUNTY**

Bafix from Meru County is extracting natural fibres from the banana pseudo stem and pass it through boiling water, dried and dye into different colours according to client's preferences. This natural fibre is used in fashion and textile industries in making wigs, braids, weaves, mats, eco-papers and Eco bags and house decors

### Wymbee (BY Jack Oloo)

#### KAKAMEGA COUNTY



Wymbee is a technology solution for MSMEs meant to help them tackle their deadstock problem. We connect sectoral micro-retailers through business communities & use these communities to funnel their quality dead-inventory in order to re-allocate them to areas where demand exists.

### Greenium Energy (By Kevin Otieno)

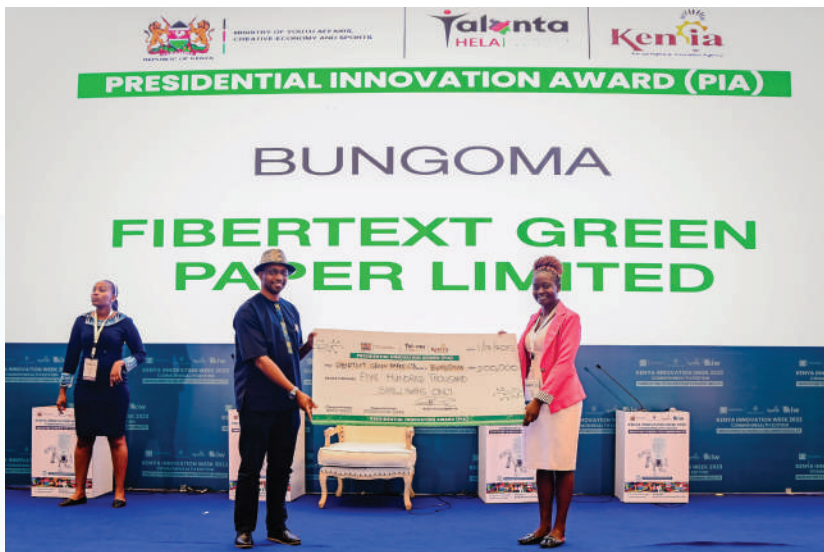
#### SIAYA COUNTY



Greenium Energy is a social enterprise providing affordable and clean energy. We produce briquettes out of water hyacinth from Lake Victoria. One tone of briquettes produced saves more than 80 mature trees hence we discourage cutting down of trees and further increasing the forest cover.

**Fibertext Green Paper Limited (By Rose Sikulu)**

**BUNGOMA COUNTY**



Fibertext Green Paper Limited makes biodegradable papers from banana waste which we turn them into packaging bags. And in so doing we are reducing deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Rhon (By Douglas Rono)**

**KERICHO COUNTY**



Rhon is a fintech company that brings together service providers and informal traders onto one platform allowing sustainable consumption of services.

## Jayit creations (By Peter Achieng)

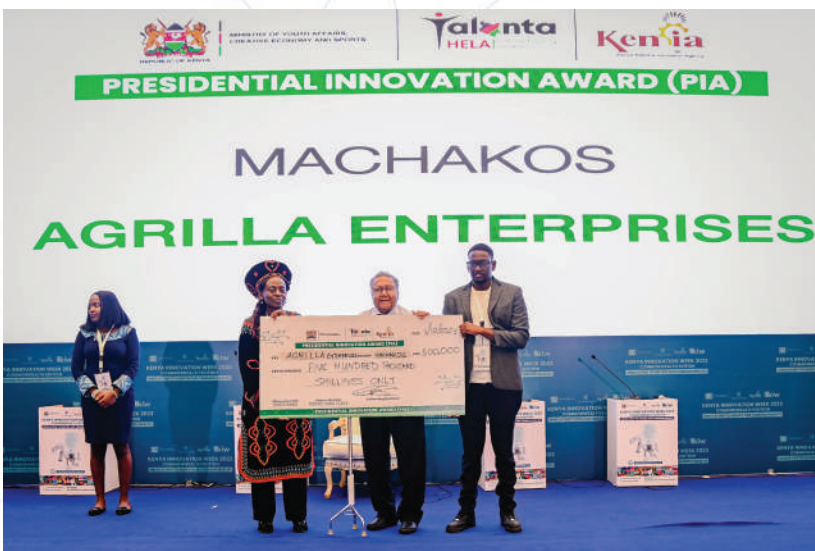
### BUSIA COUNTY



Sawdust building block innovation offers a groundbreaking solution for sustainable construction, addressing the pressing need for eco-friendly and cost-effective building materials. By utilizing sawdust, a waste product from wood.

## Stockplug (By Rhyl Cruz Kiio)

### MACHAKOS COUNTY



Stockplug is the innovative solution by Agrilla Enterprises, it's a multivendor online livestock marketplace. Tailored for farmers, it provides affordable listings and advertisements for livestock, starting at an enticing price of Ksh10. This platform seamlessly connects farmers to the expansive online market throughout Kenya, transforming the landscape of livestock trading.



**Finda (By Amos Onyonka)**

**KISII COUNTY**



Finda is an innovative, user-friendly online platform that provides seamless digital marketing solutions for businesses of all categories hence promoting efficiency and digitization in the business ecosystem.

**Greener Waste Converters (By Abraham Karani)**

**THARAKA NITHI COUNTY**



Greener waste converters have designed an Artificial-Intelligence-based wastepaper recycler capable of recycling about 1,200 A4 papers per hour. For highly contaminated waste papers, we produce eco-friendly and cost-effective secondary products such as paint and shoe polish.

## Leafylife Innovation Hub (By Johnson Mboya) WAJIR COUNTY



LeafyLife, developed a unique energy efficient diaper recycling process. We designed chemical technology that uses benign organic chemicals to clean breakdown diapers into individual constituents and makes useful products from them.

## Eco-Glass Innovations (By Peter Kinyua) NAKURU COUNTY



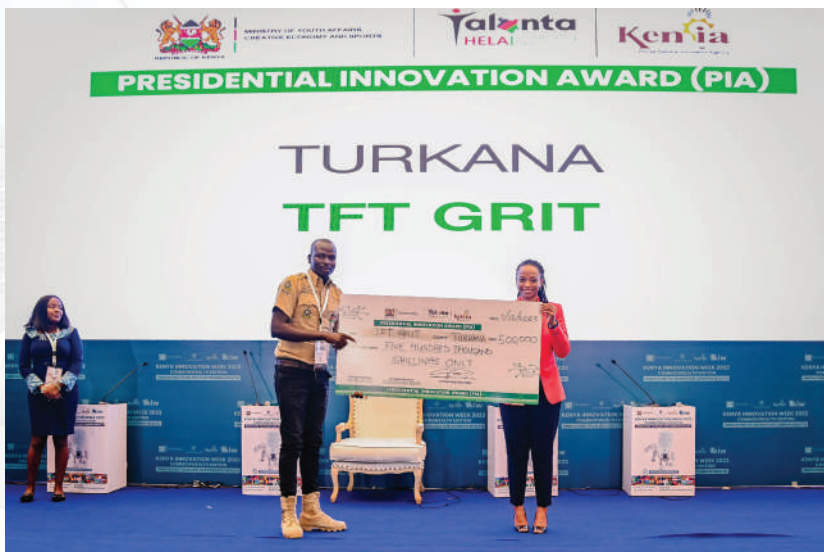
Eco-Glass Innovations leads a green revolution by repurposing discarded glass into high-quality products, aligned with our mission to reduce waste and save the environment. Beyond recycling, our commitment to environmental sustainability actively fosters local economic growth.

**Jakey (By Gillian Nyangaga)**  
**HOMABAY COUNTY**



Jakey simplifies licensing for creators, fortifies intellectual property protection through blockchain, makes cross-border transactions seamless and global accessibility for artists and innovators.

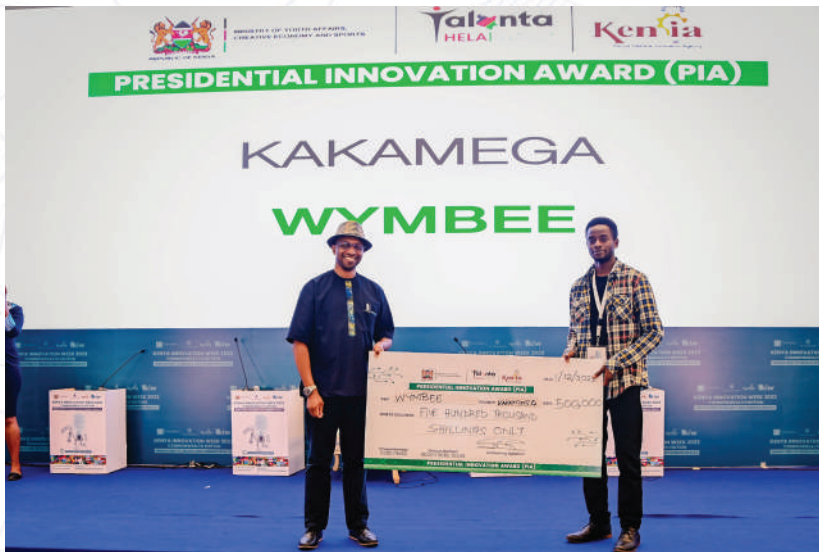
**Tft Grit (By Loro Emmanuel)**  
**TURKANA COUNTY**



Smart Climate Stool solves Deforestation Menace

## Adolescent and Young People Mental Health Champions (By Kirui Emmanwel)

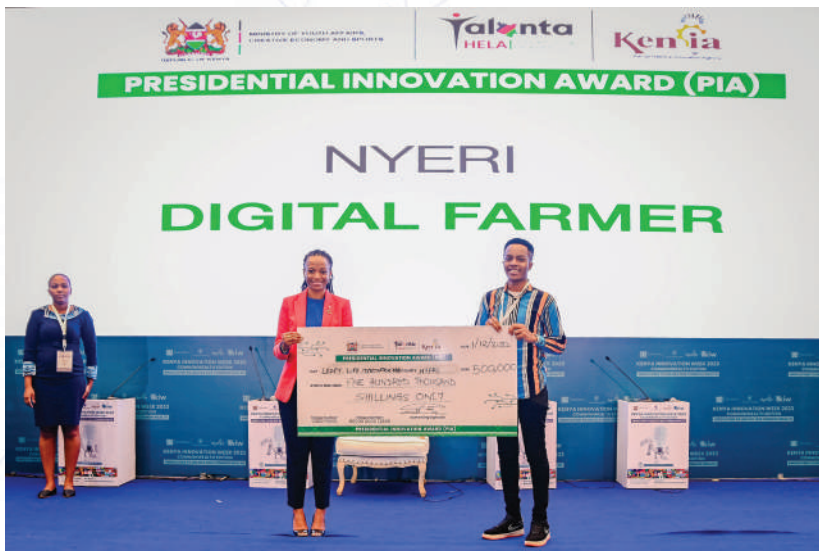
### KAKAMEGA COUNTY



Mental health champions for youths and sexual reproductive health. We aim at providing mental health solutions in an affordable and accessible manner to youths in and outside Bomet county.

## Digital Farmer (By Victor Ndaba)

### NYERI COUNTY

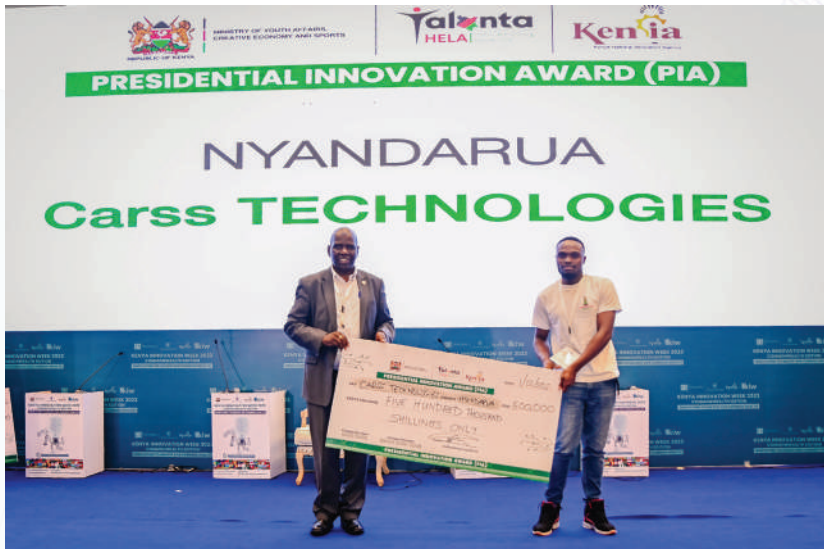


Digitalfarmer is a B2B and B2C platform streamlining the agricultural supply chain. Using our digital platform, we aggregate supply from our farmers and demand from our customers then bridge the two. We are on a mission to digitize African agriculture, every step of the way.

**Carss Technologies (BY Maina Mburu)**

**NYANDARUA COUNTY**

The vehicle security system is the only existing system of its kind offering security in vehicles and houses. Added features for automation purposes by use of an application installed in the phone and an encrypted password.



**Akili Sawa (By John Njiru)**

**EMBU COUNTY**



Akili Sawa seeks to democratise mental healthcare to all communities in Kenya through its data-driven solutions that will make well-being accessible, destigmatised, and prioritised.

## Go Green by Blazing Barrys Youth Coffee (By Victor Murei)

### BUSIA COUNTY



Sawdust building block innovation offers a groundbreaking solution for sustainable construction, addressing the pressing need for eco-friendly and cost-effective building materials. By utilizing sawdust, a waste product from wood.

## MarineCATCH Africa Limited (By Kenndy Kitavi)

### KWALE COUNTY

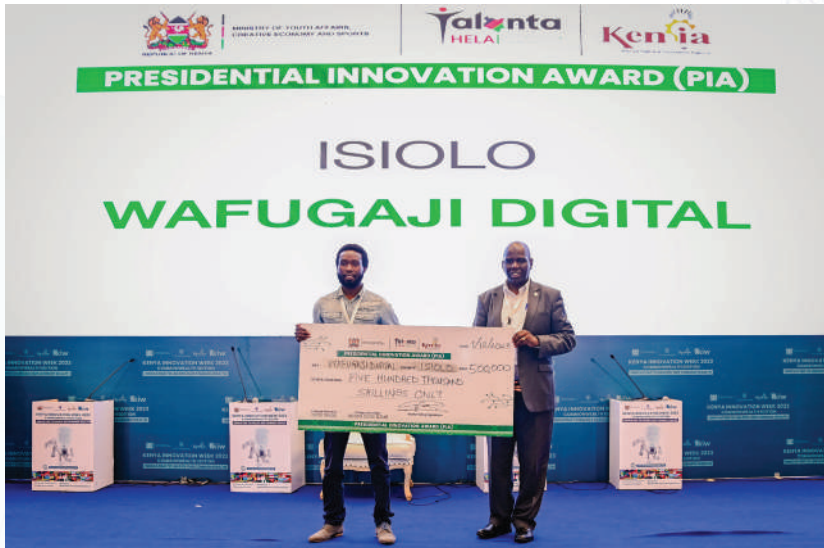


MarineCATCH Africa is an African seafood Marketplace which seamlessly integrates IoT and blockchain technologies, ensuring an end-to-end transparent and traceable supply chain. Empowering coastal communities, particularly women in the processing sector

**Wafugaji Digital (By Kenneth Kimathi)**

**ISIOLO COUNTY**

In northern Kenya & other livestock communities, the livestock industry is a crucial part of the economy. Our platform streamlines the process of buying and selling livestock, providing a unified marketplace accessible to everyone.



**Presenter Sam (By Samwel Bob Mogire)**

**UASIN GISHU COUNTY**



Panda logo is an initiative that we started 2023 that uses art to fight effect of climate change, where youth buy a tree and get a logo, picture or tattoo of his/her choice for free.

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA/DEKUT)

The UNECA/DeKUT side event dealt with unlocking the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and showcasing the achievements. UNECA endeavours to support African countries in fully harnessing the opportunities of digitalization for advancing economic development, regional integration prosperity while attaining the shared goals and targets of the Sustainable Development goals and the AU Agenda 2063.

## GREEN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB (GDIH) LAUNCH

The Digital Transformation Centre Kenya in collaboration with GIZ and commissioned by the Government of Germany and the European Union, successfully launched The Green and Digital Innovation Hub Kenya (gDIH) in a momentous ceremony. The initiative is poised to play a pivotal role in supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across Kenya. The launch ceremony, marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), featured prominent speakers who emphasized the significance of this ground-breaking initiative. Hon. Eng. John Tanui, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry for ICT and the Digital Economy, Alexander Fierley, Head of the Economic Division at the German Embassy in Nairobi and Milou Vanmulken, Programme Manager Digitalization and Macroeconomics, EU Kenya, were among the key speakers.





## WIPO ROUNDTABLE ON GII

The Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) together with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized a round table to discuss about measures to help Kenya improve its ranking on the Global Innovation Index (GII). The meeting attended by experts, government officials, and executives from prominent innovative enterprises converged to deliberate the profound influence of science and technology on innovation and the safeguarding of intellectual property. Over the years, Kenya has been ranking in the top 100 and now targets to move into the top 50 countries Globally.

It was resolved that a joint taskforce on GII be established to ensure Kenya Reports accurately in the coming years.



# THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY LEADERS' MASTERCLASS

 **SPEAKERS: 7**

 **ATTENDEES: 51**

## SUMMIT BRIEF

The Entrepreneurial University Masterclass emerged as a proactive response to the evolving landscape of higher education, driven by the imperative to instil entrepreneurship and innovation in academic settings. Recognizing the impact of rapid technological advancements, growing industrial needs, and global challenges, the masterclass aimed to equip institutions with the tools to better prepare their students for an ever-changing world.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Introduce the Entrepreneurial University of The Year Awards based on the different constructs that make an entrepreneurial university such as an institution with an incubation hub that has supported the most job creation.
- Focus on making universities more entrepreneurial, emphasizing partnerships, policy framework, structures, industry-academia collaboration, and professional management.
- Continuing the Entrepreneurial Leaders' Training Program and launching the Entrepreneurial Institutions Maturity Framework.



# LEVERAGING INNOVATION FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF COMMONWEALTH WOMEN

This event highlighted innovation as a crucial driver of economic empowerment for women across multiple sectors. Key discussions revolved around innovative practices in public sector procurement, alternative financing for grassroots women entrepreneurs, encouraging young women in STEM fields, funding women-led climate action projects, innovative healthcare education, and advocating for gender equality in business policies.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### ✓ **Policy Advocacy for Gender-Inclusive Business Environment**

Strong resolution to advocate for policy changes fostering a gender-equal business landscape. Emphasis on reforms addressing market access, skills development, and gender equality in business policies.

### ✓ **Initiatives Promoting Financial Inclusion for Women Entrepreneurs**

Focus on developing initiatives bridging the funding gap for women-led businesses. Highlighting alternative financing models and support systems for marginalized communities.

### ✓ **Continued Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**

Emphasis on sustained collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership-building among stakeholders to drive innovation, address challenges, and advance gender equality across diverse sectors within the Commonwealth.

# SAVE THE DATE



# KIW 2024



**25-29 NOVEMBER**



**NAIROBI**

# EXHIBITION



# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS,  
CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS



SPORTS, ARTS & SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



Catalysing High-Impact Entrepreneurship in Africa



Healthy Africa, Empowered People!





**Ground Floor, NACOSTI Building, Off Waiyaki Way  
P.O. Box 22269-00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
info@innovationagency.go.ke  
+254 792 446 976  
www.innovationagency.go.ke**



MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS,  
CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS

