

CONCEPT NOTE

The Technical University of Kenya Research Week 2026 Culminating into the 5th International Conference

Theme: Building Integrated Innovation Ecosystems Beyond 2030: The Role of Technology, Training and Governance.

The Secretariat-TUK International Conference

1. Background

The global transition toward knowledge-driven economies has underscored the strategic role of universities in advancing research, innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable development. Institutions of higher learning are increasingly expected to generate solutions that respond to emerging societal, industrial, environmental, and governance challenges while contributing to the realization of national, regional, and global development agendas. The Technical University of Kenya recognizes its responsibility and is committed to fulfilling this evocation.

The Technical University of Kenya (TU-K) was established as the first technical university in Kenya with the mandate of offering higher education and research in technology. The concept of a technical university in Kenya was introduced specifically to serve as a technological force behind the realization of Kenya Vision 2030 and the broader socio-economic transformation agenda of the country. Kenya Vision 2030, the country's long-term development blueprint, seeks to transform Kenya into "a newly industrialising, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030." The Vision identifies Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), infrastructure development, education and training, industrialization, and human resource development as critical enablers for national transformation.

In line with this national development agenda, TU-K continues to play a central role in advancing technological education, applied research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry-responsive training. The University's mandate includes training highly skilled professionals and technical personnel for both the public and private sectors while contributing toward societal advancement through research and innovation. As Kenya positions itself toward achieving the aspirations of Vision 2030, the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), there is a growing need for integrated innovation ecosystems that effectively connect academia, industry, government, and communities. Such ecosystems require strong collaboration frameworks that promote technological advancement, skills development, and commercialization of research, digital transformation, policy coherence, entrepreneurship, and inclusive governance.

It is against this backdrop that The Technical University of Kenya will host the **TUK Research Week 2026**, culminating in the **5th International Conference**, under the theme:

“Building Integrated Innovation Ecosystems Beyond 2030: The Role of Technology, Training and Governance.”

The event will provide a multidisciplinary platform for researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, development partners, students, and practitioners to showcase research outputs, exchange knowledge, foster partnerships, and deliberate on transformative solutions for sustainable development.

2. Purpose of the Research Week and Conference

The Research Week and International Conference aim to promote research excellence, innovation, commercialization of knowledge and collaborative engagement among academia, industry, government and society in addressing contemporary and future development challenges.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the conference are to:

1. Showcase cutting-edge research, innovations, and technological advancements across various disciplines.
2. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships among universities, industries, government agencies and development partners.
3. Explore the role of technology, training, governance and policy in strengthening innovation ecosystems beyond 2030.
4. Provide a platform for dissemination of research findings and best practices.
5. Enhance commercialization and uptake of research outputs and innovations.
6. Promote youth and student participation in research and innovation activities.
7. Strengthen regional and international collaboration in research, training and innovation.

4. Conference Sub-Themes

A. Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology (FAST)

1. Bio innovation, Biotechnology and the Future Bioeconomy.
2. Mathematical Modelling, Data Science and AI in Sciences.
3. Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials for Sustainable Development.
4. Innovating Safety and Security; from Laboratory Best Practices to Cross-border Threat Reduction.
5. Digital Agriculture and Sustainable Biotechnology.
6. Towards Multi-Disciplinary Earth Solutions: the role of physics, Earth and Environmental sciences in shaping sustainable futures.

B. Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (FEBE)

1. Smart Infrastructure, Sustainable Cities, and the Built Environment.
2. Advanced Manufacturing, Industrial Automation and Industry 4.0 Technologies.
3. Green Engineering, Renewable Energy Systems and Climate Resilience.
4. Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Emerging Engineering Innovations.

C. Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology (FSST)

1. Digital communication, media and behavioural change in the new social order.
2. Open Knowledge, Inclusion, and Cultural Heritage Preservation.
3. Commercialisation of innovations.
4. The future of diplomacy, cybersecurity, and social stability in a networked world.
5. Digital rights in digital societies.
6. Capacity building for the new workplace.

5. Conference Structure and Programme

The TUK Research Week 2026 and the 5th International Conference will be held from 16th-20th November 2026 at **The Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.**

The programme will be structured as follows:

Day	Activity
Day 1 – 16th November 2026	Test Run, Technical Preparations, Registration, Exhibitor Setup and Final Coordination
Day 2 – 17th November 2026	Official Opening Ceremony, Research and Innovation Exhibitions, Faculty-led Workshops and Industry Engagement Sessions
Day 3 – 18th November 2026	Continued Research Exhibitions, Innovation Showcases, Faculty-led Workshops, Poster Presentations and Networking Forums 5th International Conference - Official Opening of the Conference
Day 4 – 19th November 2026	5th International Conference – Keynote Addresses, Plenary Sessions and Parallel Scientific Sessions
Day 5 – 20th November 2026	5th International Conference – Scientific Sessions, Policy Dialogues, Awards, Communiqué and Closing Ceremony

6. Build-Up Activities

In preparation for the Research Week and International Conference, the University will undertake several pre-conference engagement activities aimed at mobilizing stakeholders, enhancing participation, and promoting research and innovation visibility.

a) [Call for Abstracts and Full Papers](#)

Researchers, scholars, practitioners, and postgraduate students will be invited to submit abstracts and full papers aligned to the conference theme and sub-themes. Accepted papers will be presented during the conference and considered for publication in conference proceedings and selected journals. To be made in Early July 2026.

b) Call for Poster Presentations

The conference will provide opportunities for students, early-career researchers, and innovators to showcase ongoing research and emerging ideas through poster presentations. This platform will encourage scholarly interaction, mentorship, and networking.

d) Call for Research and Innovation Exhibitions

Institutions, innovators, start-ups, industries, and researchers will be invited to exhibit technologies, prototypes, innovations, products, and research outputs that demonstrate practical solutions and commercialization potential in line with sustainable development and industrial transformation.

e) Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Mobilization

The University will engage government agencies, development partners, industries, professional bodies, and sponsors to strengthen collaboration and support for the Research Week and Conference activities.

7. Expected Participants

The conference is expected to attract participants from:

- Universities and research institutions
- Government ministries, departments, and agencies
- Industry and private sector organizations
- Development partners and NGOs
- Professional bodies and associations
- Innovation hubs and incubators
- Students and young innovators
- International collaborators and scholars

8. Key Activities During the Research Week

The Research Week will feature a variety of activities, including:

- Keynote presentations
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel scientific sessions
- Innovation and technology exhibitions
- Research poster presentations
- Faculty-led workshops and masterclasses
- Student innovation competitions
- Industry-academia networking forums
- Policy dialogue sessions
- Capacity-building sessions
- Launch of publications and research outputs
- Awards and recognition ceremonies

9. Expected Outcomes

The conference is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Enhanced visibility of TUK research and innovation outputs.
- Strengthened partnerships between academia, industry, and government.
- Increased opportunities for collaborative research and funding.
- Policy recommendations on innovation ecosystems and governance.
- Increased commercialization and adoption of innovations.
- Publication of conference proceedings and selected journal papers.
- Enhanced student and youth engagement in research and innovation.

10. Proposed Conference Timeline

Activity	Timeline
Launch of Conference and Call for Papers	July 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	August 2026

Activity	Timeline
Notification of Acceptance	September 2026
Full Paper Submission	October 2026
Poster and Exhibition Registration	October 2026
Research Week Test Run and Setup	12 th November 2026
TUK Research Week and 5th International Conference	13 th – 16 th November 2026

11. Targeted Partners and Sponsors

Potential collaborators and sponsors include:

- Government ministries and agencies
- International development organizations
- Research funding agencies
- Corporate organizations and industries
- Technology firms and innovation hubs
- Professional associations
- Diplomatic missions and regional organizations

12. Call to Action

The Technical University of Kenya invites researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, development partners, students, entrepreneurs, and the global academic community to participate in the **TUK Research Week 2026** and the **5th International Conference**.

As the world transitions toward a post-2030 development era, there is an urgent need to strengthen collaboration among academia, industry, government, and society in building resilient and inclusive innovation ecosystems. This conference presents a unique opportunity to contribute to transformative dialogue, showcase groundbreaking research and innovations, foster strategic partnerships, and shape the future of technology, training, governance, and sustainable development.

Stakeholders are therefore encouraged to:

- Submit abstracts, papers, posters, and innovations for presentation and exhibition;
- Participate in the Leaders and CEOs Roundtable and faculty-led workshops;
- Support and sponsor the conference activities and innovation showcases;
- Engage in knowledge exchange, networking, and collaborative partnerships;
- Contribute toward advancing research, innovation, and industrial transformation in Kenya, Africa, and beyond.

Together, let us build integrated innovation ecosystems that will drive sustainable development, technological advancement, and socio-economic transformation beyond 2030.