8TH EARIMA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN BY RADISSON KIGALI, RWANDA, 17-19 NOVEMBER 2026

Advancing Research and Innovation Management for African Socio-economic Transformation

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 17/11/2026 (TUESDAY)			
TIME	EVENT	VENUE	RESPONSIBLE
8:00-8:50	Registration (All)	Registration desk	EARIMA Secretariat & LOC committee
8:50-9:00	Introduction		Local Organising Committee
9:00-9:40	**Training Workshop 1:** De-risking research and innovation management	Main Conference Hall	Adv. Dr. Luckness Jangu – Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Tanzania
9:40-11:00	**Training Workshop 2:** How standards play a role in strengthening research and innovation management – cases of GFGP & GRMP	Main Conference Hall	Mr. Vincent Nkundimana – Science for Africa Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya
11:00-11:20	Health break		All
11:20-13:00	**Training Workshop 3:** Aligning competencies with an evolving profession: stakeholder input on the professional competency framework (PCF) for research management and administration	Main Conference Hall	Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) representative/ PCF facilitator
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		All
14:00-16:00	**Training Workshop 4:** Where Africa's health research comes together – a case of HospitiumRIS	Main Conference Hall	Mr. Harrison Weda, Head of Programs - Training Centre in Communication, University of Nairobi, Kenya
16:00-16:20	Health break		
16:20-18:00	**Training Workshop 5:** Professionalisation research and innovation management	Main Conference Hall	Karin Dyason, SARIMA
18:00-20:00	Welcome reception	Park Inn by Radisson Kigali	All

DAY 2: 18/11/2026 (WEDNESDAY)			
8:00-9:00	Registration (All)	Registration desk	EARIMA Secretariat & LOC committee
OPENING CEREMONY			
9:00-9:10	Introductory remarks	Main Conference Hall	EARIMA President
9:10-9:50	Keynote Presentation: Advancing Research and Innovation Management for African Socio-economic Transformation	Main Conference Hall	Prof. Nahya Salim, DRPI, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
9:50-10:00	EARIMA vice chancellors' address	Main Conference Hall	Prof. Kayihura Muganga Didas, University of Rwanda, Rwanda
10:00-10:10	Conference opening address	Main Conference Hall	Guest of Honour
10:10-10:15	Vote of thanks	Main Conference Hall	Dr. Mathew A. Senga, DRP, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
10:15-10:30	Group photos	Park Inn by Radisson Kigali	ALL
10:30-10:40	Media briefing	Park Inn by Radisson Kigali	Guest of Honour & Chair - LOC Committee
10:40-10:50	Health break	Restaurant	
MORNING SESSIONS			
Venue: Conference Room 1 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT IN THE ERA OF AI Chair: Dr. Leonard Peter Binamungu, UDSM, Tanzania			
11:00-11:20	Evaluation of AI Literacy in Researchers and Graduate Students in Kenya: Gaps, Determinants and Implications regarding the Integration of AI in Curriculums	1614	Charles Chege
11:20-11:40	Ethical Artificial Intelligence and Digital Records Management: Strengthening Women-Centered Research Innovation in Ugandan Public Institutions	1634	Kanyikirize Enid
11:40-12:00	Discussion		
Conference Room 1 PATHWAYS TO IMPACTFUL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN AFRICA Chair: Dr. Mathew A. Senga, DRP, UDSM, Tanzania			
11:00-11:20	Sustainable innovation funding for African-based organization	1703	Joseph Njogu
11:20-12:30	Discussion		

Conference Room 1 TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MANAGEMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT Chair: Dr. Jean-Baptiste Nyandwi, University of Rwanda			
12:30-12:50	Commercialising University Research for National Industrialisation: Lessons, Challenges and Strategic Pathways for Africa	1637	Joshua Simuka & Herbert Njonga
12:50-13:00	Discussion		
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
AFTER LUNCH SESSIONS			
Conference Room 1 MANAGING RESEARCH & INNOVATION GRANTS Chair: Prof. Muuo Nzou, Kenya			
14:00-14:20	Integrating Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Across the Grant Lifecycle for Research Impact	1647	Shalon G. Njue
14:20-14:40	Beyond Grant Funding: Procurement Bottlenecks and Sustainable Management of Research Infrastructure – Lessons from Donor-Funded Research Programmes in Africa	1651	Eunice N. Njuguna
14:40-15:00	Transmission Zero: Managing grant and ethics in advancing biotechnology research towards malaria elimination in Tanzania	1653	Protas Sayo
15:00-15:30	Discussion		
15:30-16:00	PANRIMA		Representative
Conference Room 2 POSTER VIEWING SESSION Convener: Dr. Domina Asingizwe, University of Rwanda			
16:00-17:00	Tanzanian and Ugandan Universities' Efforts to Decolonize Postgraduate Education for Quality and Sustainable Research Outputs: A Comparative Analysis	1630	D.P. Mdugala
	Employee creativity as a catalyst for women's empowerment in Kenya's informal settlement	1640	Dorcas M. Nyamanya *et al.*
	Empowering Research Managers: Lessons from AMPATH Kenya	1645	Wahome Daniel
	The Strategic Role of Humanities Research and Innovation in Fostering	1655	Sharifa Kiranda

	Social Innovation and Sustainable Development in Africa		
	Building Institutional Readiness for Complex Multi-Country Research Grants: How Pursuing Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) Certification Can Strengthen African Research Institutions	1657	Melissa Nakiyaga
	Bridging the Gap Between Innovation Funding and Commercialization: Managing Youth-Led Innovation Grants in East Africa	1659	Felista W. Jomo
	From Research Development to Regulatory Action: Lessons from Uganda's National Drug Authority	1701	Allan Serwanga *et al.*
	Building Research Resilience: Grant Writing Mentorship as a Strategy for empowering Early Career Researchers at MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda	1709	Jonathan Nkata
	Effective Contract Management in Grants: Toeing the Line Between Compliance and Performance	1714	Arnold Mindra *et al.*
	Transforming pre-award grant management through technological innovations	1718	Bulwa S. Kenneth et al.
	Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in Mega-Projects: A Critical Analysis of the Effectiveness of EACOP Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in Tanzania	1723	Kelvin E. Ngowi & E.C. Lyaya
	An Integrated Digital Platform for Strengthening Research, Grants, and Data Management in Africa	1728	Nicholas Outa

DAY 3 (19/11/2026) THURSDAY			
8:00-9:00	Registration (All)	Registration desk	EARIMA Secretariat & LOC committee
Morning Session 1: PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONALISATION OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN AFRICA Chair: Prof. Eli Katunguka, Kyambogo University, Uganda			
9:00-9:20	Professionalising Research Management through Connected Digital Infrastructure: The DACORIS RIMS Model for African Universities	1647	Nicholas Outa
9:20-9:40	From Ideas to Funded Impact: Strengthening Pre-Award Research Administration for Competitive Grant Success in Africa	1706	Molly M. Jerono
9:40-10:00	Building a Professional Research Management Workforce in Africa: Lessons from KEMRI's Competency-Based RMA Curriculum	1721	Patricia Nzioki *et al.*
10:00-10:30	Discussion		
10:30-11:00	Health break		
11:00-13:00	Excursion	Memorial tombs	By Invitation
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		All
After Lunch Session 2: Chair: Adv. Dr. Luckness Jangu – NM-AIST, Tanzania			
14:00-14:30	A Process Map for Integrated Chronic Diseases Care Research: Lessons from the INTECOMM Study	1712	Renny Ssembatya *et al.*
14:30-15:00	Mentoring as a Research-Informed Strategy for Advancing Women's Academic Leadership in African Higher Education: A Review of Evidence and a Model for East and Southern Africa	1730	Dr. Henriette Van Berg *et al.*
15:00-15:00	Discussion		
15:00-17:00	EARIMA Business meeting (AGM & Elections)		All
17:00-18:00	Poster viewing session		All
18:00-18:30	Departure for Gala dinner place		All
18:30-onwards	Gala dinner & awarding ceremony		All