# Commercialisation and Entrepreneurial Institutions Leaders' (CEIL) Summit 2025 Program

**Catalyzing our African Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems**

**Theme: Catalyzing Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems**
**Date: September 11-12, 2025**
**Venue: PrideInn Paradise Hotel  Mombasa, Kenya**

The Commercialisation and Entrepreneurial Institutional Leaders (CEIL) Summit, organised by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), is an annual event that brings together institutional leaders, industry stakeholders, innovators, and researchers. The summit aims to advance the national commercialisation ecosystem  by strengthening commercialisation processes at the national, institutional, and individual levels. It provides a platform to showcase practical solutions developed by innovators within Universities and Technical and  Vocational Colleges , addressing job and wealth creation.

The theme for the CEIL Summit 2025 is **Catalyzing Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems,** which emphasises the importance of robust innovation ecosystems in driving sustainable economic development. It underscores the need for effective industry-academia linkages, strategic institutional frameworks, and resilient funding mechanisms to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across the continent.

## MAIN EVENTS DRAFT PROGRAM

| Thursday , September 11th, 2025 | | | |
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| **TIME (EAT)** | **SESSION** | **OBJECTIVE** | **Modarator/Speaker** |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | Entertainment and Registration<br>Audio-visual storytelling -CEIL documentary | | Band<br>KeNIA ICT/Comms |
| 09:00 - 09:10 | National and East Africa Anthems | | **MCs / ICT** |
| 09:10 - 09:30 | **Welcome Remarks**<br>● CEIL History<br>● CEIL summit 2024 resolutions,<br>● NEIL Innovation Fund,<br>● NEIL programs (TTOaaS/R2C, Venture Based, ELTP, Student-led innovation)<br>● Institutional support (Entrepreneurial Institution Maturity Framework, Commercialisation Masterplan)<br>● Innovation Agencies in Africa (IAA) Network,<br>● Startup School.<br>● Graduations | | **Dr. Tonny Omwansa**, CEO, Kenya National Innovation Agency |
| 09:30 - 09:50 | **Opening Keynote:** Africa's Innovation potential: Navigating Disruption in Manufacturing and Value Addition. | To explore how Africa can harness its vast innovation capacity to lead and adapt to disruptive changes in key growth sectors. The session aims to highlight opportunities, address challenges, and inspire collaboration across policy, academia, and industry to | **Dr. Kenneth K Karanja**<br>-Technology Licensing Officer, University of Minnesota. |

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| | | drive sustainable development and competitiveness through advanced technologies and value-added production**.** | |
| 09:50-10:30 | **Official Opening Ceremony** | **Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat,** Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Technology and Innovation.<br>**Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala,** Principal Secretary State Department for Higher Education.<br>**Hon. Felix Koskei** - Head of Public Service | |
| 10:30-10:45 | Launch University Student-led Innovation Clubs<br>( Group Photo) | | **KeNIA** |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | **Tea & Networking Break** | | |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | **Speaker Session**<br>**The future of NEIL:** Value Proposition to Institutions, Investors, Corporates,Ventures. NEIL Innovation Fund.<br>A case study of a Venture 1 Backed by TTOaaS | | **Prof. Margaret Hutchison** - NEIL Chairperson / VC University of Nairobi. |
| 11:45-12:00 | **Speaker Session: Opportunities for Ventures for International Linkages**<br>Case Study, Commercialization Licensing and Venture Building Success across borders. | | **Andrew Julius Bende** - Senior Associate at BioInnovation Institute. |
| 12:00-12:20 | **QuickFire: Audience Questions and Answer**<br>**Business Models for Universities & TVETs Financial Sustainability.**<br>(Audience asks related questions) | | **Dr. Edwell Gumbo** - Director of Entrepreneurship at Universities South Africa |

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| 12.20 – 13:00 | **Panel Session:** Venture-Based Curriculum Models | **Eng. MaryAnne Muriuki** - Education Program Coordinator for the Invention Education Master's Program, Kenyatta University<br>**Dr. Edward Mungai** - Deputy Vice Chancellor , Partnerships & Development- Strathmore University<br>**Dr. David Muthaka** -Deputy Commission Secretary, Research, Planning and Innovation, Commission for University Education<br>**Moderator**: **Dr. Terser Nyulaku**,- National Team Lead - Adam Smith International, Nigeria |
| 13:00 - 14:10 | **Lunch Break** | |

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| 14:15 - 15:00 | **Fireside Chat Panel:** Breaking silos to build lasting, impactful collaborations for Effective Industry-Academia Partnerships. | To showcase exemplary international models where partnerships between academia and industry have successfully driven innovation, research commercialization, and economic growth. The session seeks to inspire stakeholders by presenting practical lessons, strategies, and frameworks that can be adapted to strengthen collaborative ecosystems in Africa and beyond. | **Natnael Shimelash,** - Head of the East Africa Biodesign Fellowship - Stanford Biodesign.<br><br>**Dr. David Ngingi** - Ag, Chief Executive Officer - National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation.<br><br>**Ms. Grace Kamere-** Head of Programs & Strategic Partnerships<br>Circle Innovation/ British Council<br><br>**Dr Geraint Jones** - Knowledge Transfer Adviser Innovate UK Business Connect<br><br>**Moderator: Victoria Mpho Mamabolo** - Country Technical Lead RISA , South Africa & Ethiopia |
| 15:00 - 15:15 | A Case Study of a Venture Backed by TTOaaS | | **R2C Ventures (3)**<br>• **Ongataki**<br>• **Cracksfox**<br>• **Afyalishe** |

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| 15:15 - 16:00 | **Panel Session:** Funding and Investment to foster Innovation Ecosystem<br>• How can institutions leverage alternative funding sources?<br>• Strategies for resilience in the face of donor budget cuts. | **Pulkit Srivasta,** Engage Ventures<br>**Prof. Romanus Odhiambo**, Meru University Of Science and Technology<br>**Gameli Adzhao,** Country Technical Lead RISA Fund , Ghana<br>**Prof. Dickson Andala** - Chief Executive Officer, National Research Fund<br>**Moderator: Edwin Thiong'o** - Chief Operations Officer ,KCK-LLC |
| 16:20 - 17:50 | **Roundtable (Invite only)**<br><br>**Theme: Strengthening Research & Innovation Commercialization with Ecosystem Actors** | **Session Facilitators:**<br>**RISA Fund**<br><br>**Moderator:**<br>**Daylene Bichang'a** |
| 19:00. | **Networking based on Pre-booking in the CEIL App/ Beach walks /Chat over Chai**<br>**Dinner - White outfits**<br>**Graduations- (TTO/DVC)** | |

## Friday September 12th2025 (Day 2)

| TIME (EAT) | SESSION | DETAILS | FACILITATOR - MCs |
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| 08:30 - 09:00 | Recap and Highlights from Day 1 – MC<br>Audiovisual / Successes of CEIL /Institutional success stories / R2C AudioVisual - ICT | | |
| 09:00 - 09:20 | **Keynote Global Leader:** Building Sustainable and Impactful Innovation Ecosystems (VIRTUAL) | | **Mr. Menza Gianpiero -** Senior Manager, Partnerships and |

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| | | | Innovative Finance at Alliance Biodiversity (CIAT)- CGIAR |
| 09:20-09:50 | **Presentations**: Transforming Institutional Innovation Ecosystem – Stories of Change BC/FCDO BC to co-design session, | | FCDO, Jordan Kyongo<br>FCDO, Emmeline Skinner<br>BC, Monica Blagescu |
| 09:50 - 10:30 | **Panel Session: Access to Regional Markets**<br><br>**Leveraging Regional Bodies to Scale Innovations Across the Continent** | To explore how the African Continental bodies can be leveraged to scale homegrown innovations across the continent by enhancing market access, regional collaboration, and commercialization pathways. | 1. **Dr. Sylvance Okoth** - Executive Secretary , EASTECO<br>2. **Sheila Solomon**- Coordinator Innovation Agencies in Africa Network<br>3. **Enos Weswa** - Country Director , UK Kenya - Tech Hub<br><br>Moderator: **Philip Gondi** - Lead Startups KeNIA |
| **10:30- 11:00** | **ICT and Innovation** | | Huawei Limited, Adam Lane |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | **Tea & Networking Break** | | |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | **TVET - Universities Session: Bridging the Research-to-Market Gap in Universities and TVETs.** To generate a clear set of recommendations for institutional leaders, policymakers, and industry partners on how to create a more robust, integrated, and | | **Prof. Maurice Oduor** - Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, |

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| | effective research-to-commercialization pipeline that fully leverages the unique strengths of both universities and TVET institutions. | Planning and Development Kabianga University<br>**Mr. Wetaba Fredrick** - Head of Research and Development Kisii National Polytechnic<br>**Mr. Alfred Makotsi** - Lecturer, Kenya Methodist University.<br>**Ms. Martha Okari** - John Deere Manufacturing Company<br><br>**Moderator : Dr. James Njogu -** Secretary General/ CEO- Kenya National Commission for Unesco - TVET Specialists |
| 12:00 - 12:20 | **The Innovation Quiz**<br>**Faculty Members on Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and Go to Market Strategy**<br>- Question Bowl to pick random prompts or group-generated questions from tables.<br>-Responses from audience, winners to receive awards. | **Ms. Yvvone Njeri** - TTOaaS Growth Catalyst |
| 12:20 – 13:00 | **GESI Debate:** Building Equitable Pathways for Innovation.<br>**There is an inclusivity gap in HEIs and Research Institutions in Kenya.** | **Opposers:**<br>**Prof. Laila Abubakar**, VC TUM Mombasa<br>**Dr. George Eshiamwata -** Ag. Director, Research and Consultancy, Deputy Director, Natural Sciences - Kenya National Commission for Unesco - TVET Specialists |

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| | | | **Proposers**:<br>**Dr. Milcah Wambua** - Mawazo Connect Network.<br>**Prof. Vincent Onywera -** DVC Research, Innovation and Outreach, KCA University<br>**Moderator: Sonia Rasugu** - GESI Advisor, Research to Commercialization (R2C) |
| 13:00-13:30 | **Closing Reflection and Call to Action:** Defining Africa's Next Decade of Research Commercialisation. | | **Dr. Tonny Omwansa, CEO** KeNIA Executive Director, NEIL. |
| 13:30 - 14:30 | **Lunch Break and Departure** | | |