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: 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			
TIME (EAT)	**SESSION**	**OBJECTIVE**	**MC - TUM DAYLENE BICHANGA /GEORGE MASILA**
08:00 - 09:00	Entertainment and Registration Audio-visual storytelling -CEIL documentary		Band KeNIA ICT/Comms
09:00 - 09:10	National and East Africa Anthems		**MCs / ICT**
09:10 - 09:30	**Welcome Remarks** ● CEIL summit 2024 resolutions, ● NEIL Innovation Fund, ● NEIL programs (TTOaaS/R2C, Venture Based, ELTP, Student-led innovation) ● Institutional support (Entrepreneurial Institution Maturity Framework, Commercialisation Masterplan) ● Innovation Agencies in Africa (IAA) Network, ● Startup School.		**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 drive sustainable development and competitiveness through advanced	**Ms. Tandokazi Nquma-Moyo** General Manager: Strategic Partnerships, Business Development and Stakeholder Relations - Technology Innovation Agency

		technologies and value-added production.	
09:50-10:30	**Official Opening**	**Dr. Tonny Omwansa - KeNIA CEO** **Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala,** Principal Secretary State Department for Higher Education. **Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria,** Principal Secretary State Department for TVET. **Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat,** Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Technology and Innovation. **Hon. Felix Koskei** - Head of Public Service.	
10:30-10:45	Launch University Student-led Innovation Clubs IAA Membership Welcoming		**KeNIA / IAA Network**
10:45 - 11:15	**Tea & Networking Break**		
11:15 - 11:45	**Speaker Session** **The future of NEIL:** Value Proposition to Institutions, Investors, Corporates,Ventures. NEIL Innovation Fund. A case study of a Venture 1 Backed by TTOaaS		**Prof. Laban Ayiro**, NEIL Deputy Chairperson / VC Daystar University.
11:45-12:00	**Speaker Session: Opportunities for Ventures for International Linkages** 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** **Business Models for Universities & TVETs Financial Sustainability.** (Audience asks related questions, panelists press buzzer and respond).		**Dr. Kenny Karanja** -Technology Licensing Officer, University of Minnesota **Dr. Edwell Gumbo** - Director of Entrepreneurship at Universities South Africa

12.20 – 13:00	**Panel Session:** Venture-Based Curriculum Models		**Eng. MaryAnne Muriuki** - Kenyatta University **Dr. Edward Mungai** - DVC Partnerships & Development- Strathmore University State Department for HEi/ Monica Blagescu?? **Moderator**: Dr. Terser Nyulaku, Adam Smith International, Nigeria
13:00 - 14:10	**Lunch Break**		
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,** Stanford Biodesign Fellowship **Dr Geraint Jones**, UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships **Edwin Nduati**- Chief Executive Officer , KCK-LLC **Moderator:** Victoria Mpho, CTL South Africa
15:00 - 15:15	A Case Study of a Venture Backed by TTOaaS		**R2C Ventures (3)** • **Ongataki** • **Cracksfox** • **Afyalishe**

15:15 - 16:00	**Panel Session:** Funding and Investment to foster Innovation Ecosystem • How can institutions leverage alternative funding sources? • Strategies for resilience in the face of donor budget cuts.	**Pulkit Srivasta,** Engage Ventures **Prof. Romanus Odhiambo**, Meru University Of Science and Technology **Gameli Adzhao,** Country Technical Lead, Ghana **Moderator: Edwin Thiong'o** - Chief Operations Officer ,KCK-LLC
16:00 - 17:30	**RISA SESSION (Invite only)** **Theme: Strengthening Research & Innovation Commercialization with Ecosystem Actors**	**Cecil Kang'ara**- Country Technical Lead RISA. **Sheila Kioko**- Research and Innovations , Head of Programs, RISA
19:00.	**Networking based on Pre-booking in the CEIL App/ Beach walks /Chat over Chai** **Dinner - White outfits** **Graduations- (TTO/DVC)**	

Friday September 12th2025 (Day 2)

TIME (EAT)	SESSION	DETAILS	FACILITATOR - MCs
08:30 - 09:00	Recap and Highlights from Day 1 – MC Audiovisual / Successes of CEIL / R2C AudioVisual - ICT		
09:00 - 09:20	**Keynote Global Leader:** Building Sustainable and Impactful Innovation Ecosystems (VIRTUAL)		**Mr. Menza Gianpiero -** Senior Manager, Partnerships and Innovative Finance
09:20-09:50	**Presentations**: Transforming Institutional Innovation Ecosystem – Stories of Change BC/FCDO BC to co-design session,		FCDO, Jordan Kyongo FCDO, Emmeline Skinner BC, Monica Blagescu

09:50 - 10:30	**Panel Session: Access to Regional Markets** Defining Africa's R2C future leveraging AfCFTA to scale innovations regionally.	To explore how the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) 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 2. Sheilah Solomon- Coordinator Innovation Agencies in Africa Network 3. Enos Weswa - Country Director , UK- Tech Hub 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 Debate: 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 effective research-to-commercialization pipeline that fully leverages the unique strengths of both universities and TVET institutions.		**Prof. Maurice Oduor** - Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Planning and Development Kabianga University **Mr. Wetaba Fredrick** - Head of Research and Development Kisii National Polytechnic **Mr. Alfred Makotsi** - Lecturer, Kenya Methodist University.

			Ms. Martha Okari - John Deere Manufacturing Company **Moderator : Dr. George Eshamwata** - Deputy Director Kenya National Commission for Unesco - TVET Specialists
12:00 - 12:20	**The Innovation Quiz** **Faculty Members on Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and Go to Market Strategy** - Question Bowl to pick random prompts or group-generated questions from tables. -Responses from audience, winners to receive awards.		**Ms. Yvvone Njeri** - TTOaaS Growth Catalyst
12:20 – 13:00	**GESI Debate:** Building Equitable Pathways for Innovation. **There is an inclusivity gap at leadership levels of HEIs and Research Institutes in Kenya.**		**Opposers:** **Laila Abubakar**, VC TUM Mombasa Dr. Sylvester Obongo -Public Service Commission (PSC) / Pro. Akuno - VC JOOUST **Proposers**: **Dr. Milcah Wambua** - Mawazo Connect Network. **Prof. Vincent Onywera -** DVC Research, Innovation and Outreach, KCA University **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 Commercialization.		**Dr. Tonny Omwansa, CEO** KeNIA Executive Director, NEIL.
13:30 - 14:30	**Lunch Break**		
14:30 - 16:30	**Tours: Swahilipot Incubation**	**Tours: Close the Gap**	