



5th Innovation Week & Industry Summit 2026

Theme: Learn! Lead! Transform!

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 27th - 29th October, 2026 | KCA University Main Campus, Ruaraka

Message from the Vice Chancellor & CEO

Welcome to the 5th KCA University Innovation Week and Industry Summit 2026. This flagship platform directly advances our vision to be an innovation-driven, globally competitive business and technology university, promoting integrity, diversity, and teamwork. In an era of rapid global change, higher education must demonstrate clear thought leadership by harnessing the power of knowledge creation to generate sustainable, practical solutions for societal challenges.

Anchored on Strategic Pillar 2 of our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan: Research, Entrepreneurship, and Commercialisation, KCA University continues to strengthen a vibrant ecosystem that supports intellectual property development, startup formation, and industry collaboration. Our commitment to translating research into market-ready solutions is demonstrated by over KES 40M+ in research and innovation grants secured, 25+ patent applications filed, and 8 startups established in recent years. We believe that innovation thrives when knowledge, skills, capital, technology, policy, and market opportunities are deliberately connected.

Our theme, Learn! Lead! Transform!, calls on all stakeholders to redefine the role of university-driven enterprise. To Learn is to gain practical skills, industry insights, and knowledge from researchers and sector leaders. To Lead demands developing the courage, capability, and cross-sector partnerships needed to solve real challenges.

To Transform means turning ideas, research, and talent into scalable solutions, sustainable enterprises, and measurable impact. Across our summit tracks, covering digital transformation, enterprise growth, the creative economy, and technical skills, we invite researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, investors, and students to collaborate with us. Collaboration is critical in bridging academia and industry, accelerating technology transfer, and shaping a sustainable future.



Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, PhD., EBS.
Professor of Soil Science
VICE CHANCELLOR & CEO



WELCOME REMARKS

The Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach is pleased to spearhead the planning and delivery of the 5th KCA University Innovation Week and Industry Summit 2026. Building on the growth and achievements of the previous editions, this year's Summit provides an important platform for connecting knowledge, talent and innovation with industry, markets and opportunities that create meaningful societal and economic impact.

Guided by the theme Learn! Lead! Transform!, the 2026 Summit underscores the importance of practical learning, innovation leadership and the transformation of ideas and research into solutions that respond to industry and societal needs. The programme will feature innovation exhibitions, industry-led forums, masterclasses, innovation challenges, pitch competitions, mentorship sessions, research-to-market engagements, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen commercialisation, enterprise development, skills enhancement, and sustainable partnerships.

We therefore warmly invite all stakeholders, within and beyond KCA University, to actively participate in this transformative event by sharing knowledge, building strategic partnerships, and co-creating innovative solutions that deliver lasting economic and social value. Together, we can Learn, Lead, and Transform for a more innovative and prosperous future.

Prof. Vincent O. Onywera, PhD., MSMSK, MACSM

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, RESEARCH, INNOVATION & OUTREACH
AND PROFESSOR OF EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE

KCA University Research & Innovation Growth

KCA University continues to strengthen an innovation ecosystem that supports knowledge creation, intellectual property development, startup formation, industry collaboration and the translation of ideas into practical solutions

 13,000+ Innovation Week participants in 2025 Physical and virtual participation.	 25+ Patent applications filed Filed over the last two years.
 20+ Universities and TVETs Represented at Innovation Week 2025.	 16 Corporate exhibitors Participated in Innovation Week 2025.
 KES 40M+ Research & Innovation Grants Secured over the last three years.	 40+ Ecosystem partners engaged Across innovation and enterprise activities.
 8 Startups established and supported By KCA University innovators in the last three years.	 1 Student patent awarded A milestone in student-led innovation and intellectual property.

LEARN!



Gain knowledge, practical skills and industry insight from researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and sector leaders.

LEAD!



Develop the courage, capability and partnerships required to solve real challenges and create new opportunities.

TRANSFORM!



Convert ideas, research and talent into scalable solutions, sustainable enterprises and measurable impact.

Introduction and Rationale

KCA University will host the 5th Innovation Week and Industry Summit 2026 from 27th to 29th October 2026 at the Main Campus, Ruaraka. The Summit is a flagship platform bringing together students, faculty, researchers, startups, SMEs, corporates, industry leaders, policymakers, investors, development partners and innovation ecosystem actors.

The 2026 edition will provide opportunities for learning, networking, showcasing innovations, building partnerships and accelerating the transition of ideas and research into practical, market-ready solutions. It will also give industry and ecosystem partners access to emerging talent, applied research, early-stage ventures and opportunities for co-creation.

The Summit responds to the need for stronger collaboration between universities and industry, greater support for entrepreneurship and intellectual property, improved pathways for research commercialisation and more practical preparation of students for the future of work. It recognises that innovation grows when knowledge, skills, capital, technology, policy and market opportunities are deliberately connected.

Through the theme Learn! Lead! Transform!, KCA University invites participants to build knowledge, take responsibility for innovation leadership and translate ideas into solutions that generate sustainable economic and social value.

Objectives and Participation Pathways

- Showcase innovative ideas, prototypes, research outputs, creative works, startups and enterprises from KCA University and participating institutions.
- Strengthen university-industry-government collaboration in research, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills development and commercialisation.
- Provide innovators and entrepreneurs with access to mentorship, markets, funding, intellectual property support, product testing and investment opportunities.
- Promote entrepreneurship, venture creation and the translation of research and knowledge into practical solutions.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange on emerging technologies, enterprise growth, the creative economy, social innovation and industry readiness.
- Create structured opportunities for organisations to identify talent, support challenges, demonstrate technologies and establish long-term partnerships.
- Position KCA University as a preferred partner for industry-driven innovation, applied research, enterprise development and technology transfer.

Participation Pathways

ATTEND

Students, professionals, researchers, policymakers and members of the public can attend keynote sessions, thematic forums, masterclasses, exhibitions and networking engagements.

PARTNER

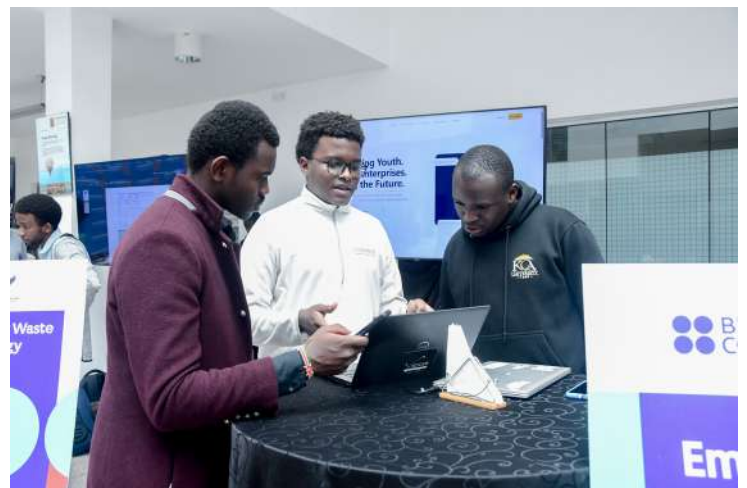
Industry, government, development partners and innovation organisations can host forums, provide mentors, demonstrate technologies, support research and create opportunities for talent and market access.

EXHIBIT

Student teams, faculty projects, startups, SMEs, corporates, universities, TVETs, government agencies and ecosystem organisations can showcase innovations, products, services and research outputs.

SPONSOR

Organisations can support the Summit, innovation challenges, awards, masterclasses, exhibitions and commercialisation activities while gaining targeted brand visibility and engagement opportunities.



SUMMIT TRACKS

Participants can register to attend sessions under the following tracks:

Track	Benefits
Track 1: Technology, Digital Transformation and Applied Innovation	Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, data, automation, digital platforms, e-government, developer skills, prototyping and emerging technologies.
Track 2: Enterprise Growth, Investment Readiness and Market Access	Entrepreneurship, SME growth, startup financing, digital finance, financial inclusion, investment readiness, capital markets, commercialization and market access.
Track 3: Creative Economy, Social Innovation and Inclusive Development	Film, performing arts, digital content, cultural entrepreneurship, social innovation, youth empowerment, sports entrepreneurship, talent development and community impact.
Track 4: Skills, Industry Readiness and Technical Enterprise Development	Employability, internships, graduate readiness, TVET innovation, technical entrepreneurship, manufacturing readiness, product testing, professional certification and workplace skills.

Key Activities

The Summit will feature:

- Innovation exhibitions and startup showcases
- Industry-led thematic forums
- Partner-led masterclasses and skills clinics
- Corporate innovation challenges
- Hackathons and design sprints
- Investor and commercialization pitch sessions
- Mentorship and advisory clinics
- Research-to-market and technology transfer discussions
- Networking sessions and partner engagement forums
- Awards and partner recognition



Why Participate

Participants and exhibitors will have an opportunity to:

- Learn from industry leaders, innovators and experts
- Showcase innovations, products, services and research outputs
- Build networks with students, startups, industry and government actors
- Identify talent, partners, mentors, clients and investment opportunities
- Explore commercialization, funding and market access pathways
- Gain visibility within the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Contribute to practical solutions for industry and society

EXPECTED REACH

The 2026 Summit targets:

15,000+



participants

35+



Industry partners and ecosystem actors

20+



Universities and TVETs

35+



Innovation showcases

25+



Corporate and institutional exhibitors

30+



SMEs and youth-led enterprises

10+



Thematic forums, masterclasses and clinics



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AND INCENTIVES

Category	Amount	Benefits
PLATINUM	KES 500,000	- Dedicated Exhibition space (9 m²) - Visibility opportunities throughout the event, including logo placement on the KCAU website, event program, and promotional materials. 10 min presentation before the conference talks and panel discussions. - Logo display on screens and three roll up banners displayed on the main conference hall and main stage. - Participation in media interviews. - Mentions in print and social media articles and publicity campaigns. - Acknowledgement of sponsorship in all proceedings. - Meals for five pax from the sponsoring organization. - Post event Data and Analytics.
GOLD	KES 300,000	- Dedicated Exhibition space (9 m²) - Visibility opportunities throughout the event, including logo placement on the event program, and promotional materials. 5 min presentation before the conference talks and panel discussions. - Logo display on screens and two roll up banners displayed on the main conference hall. - Mentions in print and social media articles and publicity campaigns. - Acknowledgement of sponsorship in all proceedings.
SILVER	KES 150,000	- Dedicated Exhibition space (9 m²) - Visibility opportunities throughout the event, including logo placement on the event program, and promotional materials. - Logo display on screens and one roll up banner displayed on the main conference hall. - Mentions in print and social media articles and publicity campaigns. - Acknowledgement of sponsorship in all proceedings.

Registration and Exhibition Fees

Universities

KES 30,000

TVETs / SMEs / CBOs

KES 15,000

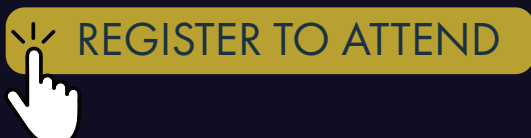
Note: All exhibitors in these categories are required to:

- Bring their own branding materials
- Manage their own logistics
- Adhere to event branding and safety protocol



Join the 5th Innovation Week and Industry Summit

KCA University invites students, faculty, researchers, innovators, startups, SMEs, universities, TVETs, corporates, investors, government agencies, development partners, professionals and members of the public to participate in the 5th Innovation Week and Industry Summit 2026. Come to learn from leading experts, discover emerging innovations, showcase solutions, identify talent, build partnerships and contribute to the transformation of ideas into sustainable impact.



website: www.research.kcau.ac.ke/innovation-week-industry-summit/

Email us: innovation@kcau.ac.ke

Learn! Lead! Transform!