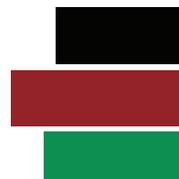


# Kenya Innovation Week 2021

**"THE INNOVATIVENESS OF KENYANS"**

**6 - 10**  
**Dec, 2021**





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## Word from the President, CS, Education and PS

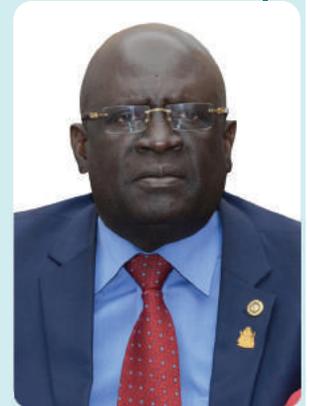
Innovation is the engine that drives entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship opens up opportunities for our young people and creates the jobs that sustain and reward them as well. It is clear [...] that we need tighter links between our institutions and the industry. We need more risk capital to take a chance on the new ideas that could become tomorrow's national, regional or global conglomerates. We must keep improving the teaching and application of education in science technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

**H.E Uhuru Kenyatta,**  
President of the Republic of Kenya



Kenya Innovation Week will be a flagship forum in line with the reforms trajectory of Education & Research, improved institutional sustainability and socio-economic development

**Prof. George Magoha**  
Cabinet Secretary, Education



Within the State Department of University Education & Research working through Kenya National Innovation Agency, we aspire to use the Kenya Innovation Week to strengthen the national innovation system that facilitates taking research and ideas to the market

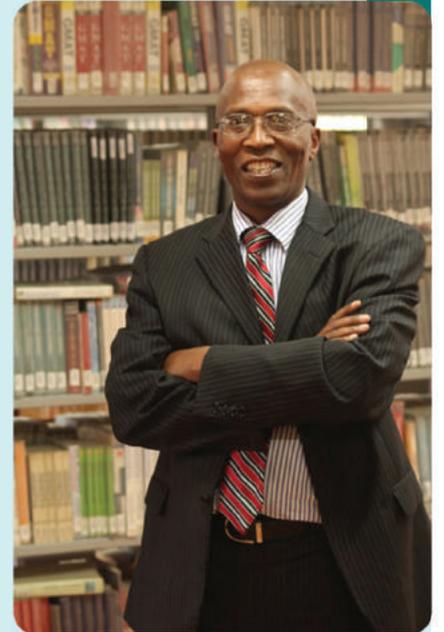
**Amb. Simon Nabukwesi**  
Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education & Research



## Word from the Board Chairman & CEO

Our desire here at KeNIA is to see Kenya top ranked in the Global Innovation Index; it is one sure indicator of progress as a country. There is a clear link between innovation and economic development. At the moment, rich countries are at the top of the innovation index while poor nations are at the bottom. The more innovative we get as a country the richer we will become because innovations lead to new products and services; new startup companies; new jobs and employment opportunities and finally newer greater wealth and consequently overall reduction of poverty in our nation. Therefore my number one goal as Chairman of the Board is to ensure that that through delivery of our mandate of developing and managing the national innovation system, KeNIA significantly contributes to improvement of Kenya's GII ranking in the shortest time possible.

**Prof Reuben O. Marwanga**  
Chairman, KeNIA Board



Working with various partners, KeNIA aims to grow the Kenya Innovation Week into an international forum on innovation with specific and locally relevant outcomes. Kenya Innovation Week will focus on four priority areas - Skills for innovation, Research Commercialization, 4th Industrial Revolution, and the Start-ups movement - which align with the mission of KeNIA. It's our hope that this movement will help us to make progress on national innovation matters in a manner that we can track and celebrate. Each year, we shall assess the progress made, and commit ourselves to certain aspirations for the subsequent year. We all have a role to play and can participate in many ways, at individual or institutional level.

**Dr. Tonny K. Omwansa**  
CEO, Kenya National Innovation Agency



## Introducing KIW 2021

Kenya's innovation potential is tremendous. The country is uniquely positioned and well-endowed with a promising innovation ecosystem that if well guided and managed can have a transformative effect in organizations, country and even the continent.

Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) was set up a State Corporation under the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013 under the Ministry of Education. The core mandate of the Agency is to develop and manage the National Innovation System. The Agency is therefore responsible for development, co-ordination, nurturing and promotion of the National Innovation System.

KeNIA's vision is to be a key enabler of socio-economic development through innovation and the mission is to develop and manage a dynamic national innovation system that facilitates taking ideas to the market. As part of the efforts to build synergies and collaborations in the ecosystem, KeNIA will run an annual "Kenya Innovation Week"



## What we aim to achieve with KIW 2021



To champion relevant policy engagements on innovation within institutions and the country



To strengthen the research and commercialization practices for greater socio-economic impact



To showcase/exhibit and recognize innovations by researchers, startups and organizations



To promote practical skills necessary to create innovations that truly impact people and societies in a meaningful way



To advance the diffusion and uptake of emerging technologies as tools for innovation and societal transformation



## Our target audience



**Policy makers** who focus on innovation, education, research, intellectual property, technology among others



**Organizations** and **startups** with innovative products they wish to showcase



**Academia** ranging from university leadership to faculty from various disciplines



**Entrepreneurs** who have developed ideas into products and businesses



**Private sector** and development partners who wish to promote innovation in their organizations and society



**Students** and learners who wish to enhance their innovation skills and get inspired by innovative solutions in society



**Investors** who look for innovations and startups in which they can invest

## What do we expect out of KIW 2021?



**Influence** innovation related policies within institutions & at national level. This will be achieved through the policy engagements, panel discussions, keynote speeches and disseminated material during the Innovation Week.



Gradually **diffuse** strategies that strengthen alternative revenue generation and sustainability, particularly through commercialization of technology and intangible assets of the universities, research centres and TVETs. This would be achieved by sharing best practices and unveiling roadmaps that institutions can adopt.



**Strengthen** skills necessary for developing user centric innovations. This will be achieved through the hackathons and workshops that would benefit learners and facilitators at different levels along the trajectory of advancing competence-based learning.



**Enhance** the success of promising startups, from across the country, by introducing them to potential investors, partners and customers. This will be achieved through exhibitions and pitching platforms.



**Advance** the diffusion and uptake of fourth industrial revolution technologies as tools for innovation and societal transformation. This will be achieved through exhibitions, bootcamps, hackathons and seminars.

## Theme

**“The Innovativeness of Kenyans”**  
– under which the national priorities of the Big 4 Agenda and Vision 2030 will be advanced

## Date

The proposed dates are **6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.**

## Venue

During the week, there will be events across as many counties as possible so as to give the period and agenda a significant national outlook. Partnerships will be set up to ensure as many innovations and incubation hubs across the country run relevant activities in their localities. KeNIA will help build partnerships with local governments, the private sector, development partners, media and civil society in order to capitalize in as much shared value as possible.

## Positioning

The annual event will be positioned as a flagship innovation forum for the country.

## Thematic Areas

Below are four thematic areas towards which various partners will work together:



### Skills for Innovation

This track will explore sharing and disseminating information on how to enhance innovativeness of society through skills development from early childhood to career levels. The track will strongly link to our ministry's Competence Based Curriculum efforts as a pathway to transformation of societal minds.

### Technology & 4th Industrial Revolution

This track will aim to promote the modern intangible technologies such as IoT, mobile devices, 3D printing, smart sensors, big data and analytics, augmented and virtual reality as enablers of innovation.



### Research & Commercialization

This track will focus on strengthening best practices and systems for good research and commercialization. This is part of the ST&I as well as higher education sectors reform trajectory to exploit research and intangible assets as a substantive alternative source of revenue.

## Thematic Areas

### Startup Kenya

This track will focus on startups, from across the country, aiming to link the most promising startups to investors and funders. This is much in line with KeNIA's mandate of supporting enterprises that emerge from research and ideas.



KeNIA will build sub-committees that will champion the planning and execution of each track. The members of these subcommittees will be individuals and organizations that have expertise and interest in these areas. Each track will use the template of having key-note presentations, panel sessions, exhibitions, pitches, bootcamps, hackathons, seminars and workshops. Using this model, KeNIA aims to promote diversity, creativity and engage as many people as possible

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## Implementation

KeNIA will provide leadership, host the primary secretariat attracting specific individuals and partners to support in the planning and execution. KeNIA will involve as many other sister agencies as possible, build momentum for private sector and development partners participation, and ensure there is regional and county involvement.

KeNIA will work with the ministry leadership to attract prominent keynote speakers locally and internationally in order to give the initiative as much influence as possible. Similarly, we shall aim to reach out to other relevant ministries. It is expected that there will be exhibitions, seminars, workshops, bootcamps and hackathons that would be largely supported by private sector. In order to build a movement, KIW will be structured to allow activities to start early and build up to the week, as well as after.

Partners will be facilitated to run events across the country during that week.

## Ingredients

KIW will include (but not limited to) the following ingredients:

- \_ *A well-designed exhibition setup*
- \_ *A ministerial round table on innovation*
- \_ *A gubernatorial round table on diffusing innovation to counties*
- \_ *A pitching platform for pre-selected startups*
- \_ *A set of key-note presentations*
- \_ *A set of curated parallel panel sessions*
- \_ *A pre-qualified set of demo stations for various emerging technologies*
- \_ *A significant involvement of the 100+ innovation hubs spread out across the country*
- \_ *A significant involvement of counties and county governments*

## Funding and Sponsorship

KeNIA aims to work with as many partners as possible to mobilize resources to run the event as a national pride. KeNIA shall develop sponsorship options that partners would be invited to adopt.

## Highlights of KIW



**KeNIA Annual  
Innovation Report**



**National  
Innovation Awards**



**Top 100  
Promising Startups**



**Launch of the Digital  
Innovation Workplace**

## Framework for running the 4 parallel tracks at KIW-2021

This concept is designed for the various partners and stakeholders who will be leading or coordinating the different tracks. The concept will help them prepare and manage the tracks in an effective, coordinated, and synergistic manner.

### Pre-Events

Pre-events are bound to occur before the 6 - 10 December 2021 and would happen anytime throughout the entire year and across the country or even beyond. The pre-events would be organized by different stakeholders who are helping to build momentum to the actual week in December.

The pre-events would take various forms including:

**Bootcamps**

**Trainings**

**Hackathons**

**Seminars**

**Workshops**

**Exhibitions**

**Pitching Competitions**

**Webinars**

To sign-up a pre-event on Kenya Innovation Week, an organizer would need to register on the KIW website (<https://kenyainnovationweek.com>) and provide the necessary details. Once the event is approved, it would be published on the website. The partner would receive terms and conditions of affiliation that include use of the KIW logo.

### Side-Events

Side events are activities to be organized and will run parallel to the formal programs of the main KIW event. They will provide excellent opportunities for broader discussions of the four thematic areas in focus.

Side-events can be organized by any partner including but not limited to civil society organizations, private sector, community representatives, research centers, institutions of higher learning, international and national organizations etc.

To set up a side-event on KIW, one must follow the same steps as for pre-events i.e., visit the KIW website (<https://kenyainnovationweek.com>) and apply. Once KIW secretariat evaluates the event, a formal feedback will be given that would guide on next steps.

## The Main Event

The KIW main event will run from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and will cut across the four elements which are:

### 1. Official Opening

The event will officially be opened on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 followed by a series of activities: Keynote presentations, Policy announcements, Ministerial round tables, and Governmental round tables. Official guests will also participate in the exhibition.

### 2. The Four Tracks

The 4 tracks (Skills for innovation, Startup Kenya, Research Commercialization and Technology & 4th Industrial Revolution) will run concurrently from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December to Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The elements that would make up each of the 4 tracks include:

- Keynote speeches
- Panel discussions
- Bootcamps
- Special announcements
- Pitches
- Policy announcements
- Parallel events
- Case study presentations
- Workshops
- Fireside chats
- Launch of products such as platforms, policies, reports etc
- Ministerial round tables
- Governmental round tables
- Exhibitions

### 3. Exhibition

This will be a display of innovations, solutions, startups from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition setup would be organized along the various tracks.

### 4. Official Closing

The ceremony will be on the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup> of December where several activities such as innovation awards, top 100 startups announcement, strategic goals, dates for KIW 2022 and the targets of 2022 will be stated as well.

#### Summary Table

6 <sup>th</sup> December	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9 <sup>th</sup> December
Opening Ceremony	Parallel Tracks Exhibition	AM : Parallel Tracks PM : Official Closing



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