

CALL FOR PAPERS

Science, Technology, and Innovation in Enhancing Delivery of the Big Four Development Agenda

June 2021

A conference organized by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in partnership with stakeholders in Science, Technology, and Innovation

Science, technology, and innovation (ST&I) is an important driver of a knowledge-based economy. ST&I contributes to social and ecological dimensions of development by providing solutions for problems and enhancing a knowledge base for self-determined development. Various research studies show countries that steer ST&I processes towards knowledge-based economies enjoy more economic growth and recover quickly due to global crises than those countries that do not.

The ST&I sector in the country is, however, experiencing a myriad of challenges which inhibit realization of a knowledge-based economy. These challenges include; weak policy framework, segmented and fragmented initiatives in developing ST&I by various players, inadequate funding and support, perennial non-alignment of education and training curricula to industry needs, lack of adequate mechanisms to collect and manage data, and low level of awareness of intellectual property rights and its benefits.

Therefore, the purpose of this conference is to explore various policy interventions in the ST&I to support in building a knowledge-based economy and accelerate the achievement of the Big Four Agenda for sustainable and resilient economic development. The conference themes are based on the four pillars critical for the development of a knowledge-based economy namely: education; innovation systems; information infrastructure; economic and institutional systems.

KIPPRA invites papers on the following themes:

Policy, Institutional and Legislative Framework

- Coordination and Institutional structures of ST&I
- Policy and legal framework gaps in ST&I

Development of Human Capital

- The education system and ST&I
- The role of technology universities and TVETS in ST&I
- Re-tooling and upgrading of skills

Building robust innovation systems

- Investing in Research and Development for quality innovation
- Technology transfer, adaptation and uptake of innovations in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)
- Role of innovation accelerators (I-Labs and innovation centres) in ST&I
- Patenting and Intellectual property rights
- Prospects for Artificial Intelligence and the 4th Industrial Revolution

Infrastructure

- Access to ICTs in promoting ST&I
- Access to roads, energy and water as enablers of ST&I
- Role of smart cities and technology parks in ST&I

Building resilience with ST&I

- Harnessing ST&I for resilience development:
 - ✓ Food security and nutrition
 - ✓ Water, sanitation and waste management
 - ✓ Blue economy
 - ✓ Health sector
 - ✓ Housing development
 - ✓ Leveraging on FINTECH and E-commerce
- Disaster preparedness and the role of ST&I

Cross-cutting issues

- Availability and use of ST&I statistics
- Gender perspectives in technology and innovation
- Opportunities for the youth in science, technology and innovation
- Technologies for people living with disabilities (PWDs)

KIPPR encourages practitioners including; policymakers, researchers, academics, solution providers, innovators and other stakeholders to submit papers.

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Extended abstracts of 500 -750 words maximum, including the title written in English. In addition, please provide a brief personal biography of 150 words. These should be submitted via email to conference@kippra.or.ke by **31st March 2021**.

Other important dates are:

- Notification of abstract acceptance by **15th April 2021**
- Submission of draft papers by **15th June 2021**

KIPPR will cater for conference registration fees. For any query, contact us at conference@kippra.or.ke