Innovation Week Tanzania-IWTz2024

10th Edition

INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024 REPORT

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PIONEERING INNOVATIVE PROGRESS



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INTRODUCTION

The development space is changing pretty fast, and innovation is becoming the central ingredient in any development intervention and business activities. We are witnessing the emergence of new business models that are fuelling business growth, creating more jobs and helping us respond to emerging challenges such as climate change. Business as usual no longer has a place in today's fast-paced and tech-driven development environment. Innovation Week Tanzania is a powerful platform which hosts a series of collaborative events and exhibitions aimed at providing space to innovators, entrepreneurs, policy makers, development partners, researchers, corporates, non-profits, and other players in the innovation ecosystem to showcase their innovations, learn from and inspire each other, collaborate across sectors, discuss policy-related challenges and opportunities, and transform Tanzania through the scaling of innovation. The platform also serves to showcase the progress of implementation of various science, technology and innovation related policies, plans and strategies as well as showcasing the impact of technology development through supported of innovative ideas and projects from Tanzanians innovators and entrepreneurs.

Innovation Week Tanzania is also an opportunity to raise awareness on the use of science, technology and innovation, recognize, award and promote local innovations and inventions for socio-economic development, and promote the need for innovation-friendly and progressive policies through engagement and dialogues.

Co-created by innovation ecosystem players under the joint leadership of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and UNDP through the FUNGUO Innovation Programme, with oversight of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) through the Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI), the Innovation Week as a platform has steadily grown from a small event back in 2015 to a national event that it has become.

This year, the sponsors for Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 were: UNDP Tanzania, European Union, British High Commission, UNCDF, UNICEF, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), UN Women, BUNI Hub, DTBI, Enabel, Serengeti Bytes, Stanbic Bank and Vodacom.

INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024

The Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 was held prior to and in the lead up to the National Week for Education, Skills and Innovation that was organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and UNDP Tanzania through its FUNGUO Innovation Programme (supported by the British Government and the European Union.)

The event took place in 6 regions including Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Morogoro, Iringa, and Zanzibar and involved a series of events that included exhibitions, workshops, conferences, policy dialogues, product and projects launch, virtual events, radio and TV programmes about innovation held between May 1st to May 20th. This year's Innovation Week ran under the theme ***"Innovation for a Competitive Economy"*** or ***"Ubunifu kwa Uchumi Shindani,"*** and subthemes were:


Innovation for Digital Transformation


Innovation for Green Economy


Innovation for Inclusive Human Capital Development


Innovation for Financial Inclusion


Innovation for Blue Economy & Tourism

Implementation approach

The 2024 Innovation Week Tanzania was a blend of digital and conventional mediums, fostering participation from many regions in Tanzania and even internationally. This inclusive approach ensured that a diverse audience could engage with the event's offerings. The week featured exhibitions, interactive workshops, and focused group discussions, hackathons, policy events, evening networking sessions, each intended to reach and involve all audiences. By leveraging both online and in-person platforms, Innovation Week 2024 successfully broadened its impact, creating more opportunities for networking, learning, and collaboration.

INNOVATION WEEK 2024

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Innovation Week Tanzania saw a strong turnout, with a total of 2,425 registrations, showcasing significant interest and engagement in the event.

Among these registrations, 1,304 individuals actively participated, reflecting a robust attendance rate. The gender distribution was balanced, with 600 male attendees and 631 female attendees, indicating a diverse and inclusive participation. This high level of engagement underscores the importance and relevance of the event in fostering innovation and collaboration within Tanzania's ecosystem.

REGISTRATIONS	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE BY GENDER	
2,425	**1,304**	**631**	**600**
Registrations Online	**Actual Attendees**	**Female Participants**	**Male Participants**
Includes: Those registration online Those registerd via phone Those who registered on the day	Includes: Those who attended all sessions Those who attended one or more sessions	All **female** participants who attended one or more sessions at innovation week Tanzania	All **male** participants who attended one or more sessions at innovation week Tanzania

Furthermore, data was collected on the demographics of participants at Innovation Week Tanzania 2024. As illustrated in the graph below, over 89% of registered participants actively attended the event. This robust engagement underscores significant interest among attendees in participating in sessions, workshops, policy dialogues, and exhibitions.

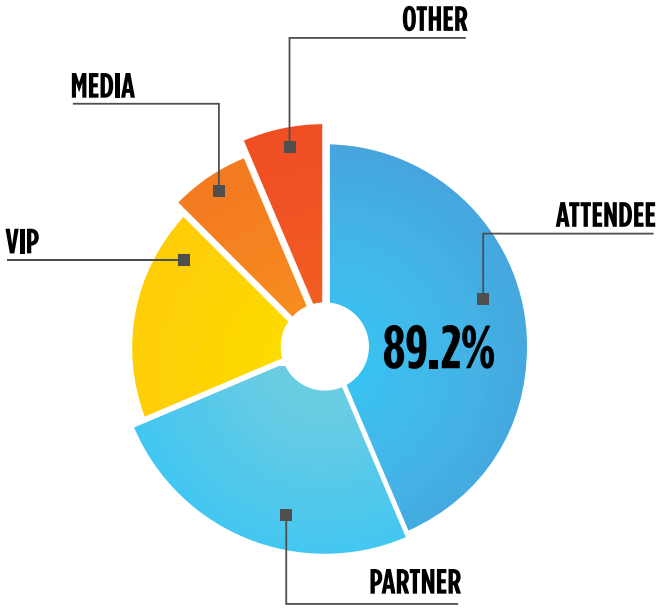


Chart 1: Category of Attendees at Innovation Week Tanzania 2024.

INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024 MEDIA SYMPOSIUM



Photo 1: Panellists at the Innovation Week Tanzania Media Symposium 2024

To kick off Innovation Week Tanzania 2024, the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and the FUNGUO Innovation Programme, organized a Media Symposium in collaboration with other innovation ecosystem stakeholders, the theme was, *"The Interplay of Evolving Human Capital Demands and Educational Systems: Harnessing Innovative Strategies to Bridge the Gap, with a Focus on Media's Role."* This event sought to facilitate insightful discussions, exchange ideas, and explore best practices for leveraging media platforms to drive innovation and empower human capital with journalists, who were the primary audience and attendees.

The keynote speaker, Bakari Machumu, CEO of Mwananchi Communications discussed how "*Media plays a pivotal role in driving innovation and fostering human capital development," said. "This can only be achieved when media recognizes its national importance, leverages content creation, promotes initiatives, and forges partnerships to expand journalistic coverage."*

Janet Mortoo, Program Manager for the European Delegation to Tanzania, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing, *"We need to acknowledge that media plays a crucial role in society. It is their responsibility to ensure they are a reliable source of knowledge and learning for both the young and the old. The key reason why this discussion is crucial is to explore how we utilize the media to ensure the country thrives through innovation and addresses societal challenges."*

"In addition to discussing the critical role of the media, we must also take this opportunity to highlight the vital connection between innovation and human capital development. The key question is: what steps can we take to develop a workforce with the knowledge, expertise, and patriotism necessary to build our nation? Looking ahead, collaboration among stakeholders is essential in creating the workforce needed for our country to be economically competitive," added Guest of Honor, Prof. Ladslaus Mnyone.



Photo 2: Guest of Honor, Prof. Ladslaus Mnyone, Director, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The media symposium successfully achieved its objective by fostering key discussions on innovative strategies to bridge the gap between human capital demand and educational systems, and the role of media in this process ahead of inviting the media to report on Innovation Week.

DAY 1: THE OPENING CEREMONY

The 2024 Innovation Week Tanzania kicked off with an impressive Opening Ceremony, honoured by the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Prof. Carolyne Nombo. The ceremony also welcomed Ambassadors, dignitaries, the Head of Cooperation for the EU, directors, veterans of the innovation ecosystem, speakers, innovators, exhibitors, and media.



Photo 3: COSTECH Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu, delivers the Opening Remarks.

Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu, of COSTECH was the first to deliver opening remarks. Dr. Nungu emphasized that with governmental support, COSTECH will continue to foster an environment conducive to innovation, contributing to the creation of a vibrant Tanzanian innovation ecosystem. Dr. Nungu also highlighted the dynamic landscape of technology and innovation, however, he noted the need for improved visibility and approval for innovation from the Ministry, advocating for stronger collaboration. Noting that, Innovation Week 2024, beginning in Dar es Salaam and extending to Tanga, represented a unique occasion where key institutions like COSTECH, NACTVET, and TCU would unite for the first time.

The development partners also reaffirmed their dedication to contributing expertise, resources, and input towards the development of the Tanzania Innovation Policy/Act. They expressed their delight at the progress made in improving the availability and accessibility of capital for innovation and pledged to support efforts to enhance venture capital development to drive the digital economy and transform Tanzania into a startup haven. Despite uncertainties in the legal environment, the EU remains optimistic about the capacity of youth to generate innovative digital solutions. The Digital for Tanzania program, which aims to support policy reforms, human capacity development, and business development, will run from 2021 to 2026.



Photo 4: European Delegation to Tanzania Head of Cooperation, Mr. Cedric Merel, delivers his Opening Remarks.



Photo 5: The Ambassador of International Trade and Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation, Amb. John Ulanga delivers the Keynote Address.

Keynote Address by H.E. Ambassador John Ulanga: "Speed Date with the Future: Navigating Tanzania's Innovation Journey to 2050."

The keynote address was delivered by H.E. Ambassador John Ulanga, Director of International Trade and Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Community (MoFAEAC). His topic, "Speed Date with the Future: Navigating Tanzania's Innovation Journey to 2050," emphasized the profound impact of innovation on every aspect of life, suggesting that in 15-20 years, even death might become optional.

Amb. Ulanga reminded participants that in 2001, Tanzania was classified among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). However, 25 years later, the country has moved beyond that status, thanks largely to the transformative power of agriculture. He urged Tanzanians to think and act differently in pursuit of Vision 2050, which highlights the crucial role of innovation. By 2050, the vision is for Tanzania to not only be a leader but also a global player in innovation. Achieving this requires a robust policy framework, along with an attitudinal and policy shift. Amb. Ulanga identified seven key pillars necessary for this transformation:

1. **Education for Human Capital Development:** Emphasizing a knowledge economy and integrating STEM culture from an early age. Teachers need to be digital experts, and continuous skill development is essential to remain competitive.

2. **Infrastructure Development:** Roads, ports, railways, and other infrastructure must reflect technological advancements and be digitally connected, with internet access for all. Digital infrastructure is the currency of the future.

3. **Conducive Regulatory Environment**: Creating a legal framework that supports emerging and fast-growing technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, biotechnology, and IoT. Regulators must stay ahead of these technologies.

4. **Economic Diversification:** Shifting towards a highly advanced knowledge economy, attracting investments in high-tech, creative industries, and engineering to reduce reliance on traditional sectors.

5. **Sustainability and Inclusivity:** Focusing on environmental conservation, renewable energy, and building a sustainable and inclusive economy as part of Vision 2050.

6. **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:** Integrating AI and machine learning in agriculture, biotechnology, healthcare, education, blockchain technology, green security, energy efficiency, supply chain management, and advanced government services.

7. **Quantum Computing:** Leveraging quantum computing for material science and drug discoveries.

Amb. Ulanga also emphasized that every governmental development effort, or initiative should contribute to shaping the future. This forward-thinking approach must permeate all levels of government. To achieve a competitive economy driven by innovation, the following strategies are essential:

1. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships: Leveraging private sector expertise in technology parks and innovation zones.
2. International Cooperation and Engagements: Building global partnerships.
3. Research and Development: Enhancing institutional capacity, exemplified by organizations like COSTECH.
4. Digital Literacy and Inclusion: Ensuring digital literacy is widespread.
5. Regulatory Sandboxes: Controlling technologies and investments within safe frameworks.
6. Enhanced Collaboration: Fostering partnerships across various sectors.
7. Visionary Leadership: Promoting leaders who clearly articulate and drive towards Vision 2050.
8. Inclusive Governance: Ensuring everyone is part of the process.
9. Policy Coherence and Coordination: Aligning policies across government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).
10. Resilience and Accountability: Building robust systems that can withstand challenges and maintain accountability.

Amb. Ulanga concluded by emphasizing that while innovation is an ambitious goal, it is achievable. For Tanzania to transform, significant investment in innovation is required.

Panel Discussion: "Innovative Strategies to Drive Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness."

A panel discussion featuring Paul Mpokwa, Iku Lazaro, Caloryne Ndosi, moderated by Catherine Barreto, focused on the journey of engaging in innovations, partnerships, opportunities, challenges, and access to finance and markets. Key points included the difficulty of securing innovative financing for startups in Tanzania despite the emergence of new players, the importance of building digital infrastructure to support small businesses and fostering partnerships to create inclusive service platforms. The panellists shared their experiences in managing businesses, highlighting the importance of business partnerships for survival. The panel underscored the need for aspiring tech founders to start their ventures and the significant impact of ensuring quality resources are accessible to all.



Photo 6: Panellists discuss Strategies to Drive Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness.

Reflections by Amb. Ami Mpungwe, Retired Ambassador, Board Chairman - Kilombero Sugar Company & MultiChoice Tanzania Ltd: "A word from a visionary futurist sage."

H.E. Ambassador Ami Ramadhan Mpungwe delivered profound insights, emphasizing that the critical role of data, asserting that anything backed by data is ripe for disruption. Tanzania, he argued, must shift its narrative to focus on the future of the industrial revolution, contemplating how sectors like agriculture should evolve within the context of industrialization and the future of industries such as robotics.

Ambassador Mpungwe urged the government to leverage business opportunities with neighbouring countries and to utilize Tanzania's abundant natural resources, particularly minerals, to enhance the well-being of its citizens. Reflecting on previous presentations and his own insights, he underscored the transformative power of ICT and the necessity for innovation policies that foster disruptive ideas and initiatives. He also stressed the importance of fiscal measures that stimulate growth rather than impede it, advocating for a forward-thinking approach to national development.



Photo 7: Amb. Ami Mpungwe, Retired Ambassador, Board Chairman sharing his reflections.

Speech by the Guest of Honor: *Hon. Prof. Carolyne Nombo, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Education, Science and Technology*



Photo 8: : Hon. Prof. Carolyne Nombo, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Education, Science and Technology giving the official speech.

The speech by the Guest of Honor, Hon. Prof. Carolyne Nombo, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Education, Science and Technology giving the official speech, began with an emphasis on the theme "Innovation for a Competitive Economy" ("Ubunifu kwa Uchumi Shindani" in Kiswahili) and its alignment with the government's dedication to fostering an innovation culture and creating an environment conducive to innovation in Tanzania. She acknowledged the significant growth of Innovation Week Tanzania from a modest event to a transformative platform, expressing gratitude to all partners, the organizing committee, startups, students, and innovators. Prof. Nombo views Innovation Week as a catalyst for transformative change across government, business, and education sectors, highlighting the importance of digital transformation and environmental sustainability in achieving sustainable development goals.

She outlined various government initiatives through the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) aimed at ensuring innovation contributes to the country's socio-economic development. Prof. Nombo called on development partners and innovation enthusiasts to collaborate with the government in funding innovation programs and activities. She assured participants that MoEST would continue to prioritize innovation as a means to improve lives and transform societal thinking and actions.

Focusing on strategic priorities, Prof. Nombo stressed the need to enhance service delivery efficiency, foster financial inclusion, develop human capital, and promote innovation in the blue economy and tourism. She invited all participants to actively engage in the week's exhibitions and workshops, encouraging them to adopt new ways of thinking to address developmental challenges.

Prof. Nombo concluded by thanking the organizers, COSTECH and UNDP's FUNGUO Innovation Programme, reminding them to compile and submit a report of participants' ideas and recommendations to the Ministry for further action.

Vote of Thanks: Ms. Katherine Gilford, the Deputy Country Representative of UNWOMEN Tanzania.

Ms. Katherine Gilford, the Deputy Country Representative of UNWOMEN Tanzania, delivered the vote of thanks. She highlighted the significant gender disparity in digital skills and emphasized the urgent need to strengthen digital competencies to foster a competitive world. Ms. Gilford reaffirmed UNWOMEN's commitment to bridging the gender digital divide and supporting inclusive innovation initiatives like Innovation Week. She underscored the pivotal role of innovation in the country's development and assured that UNWOMEN Tanzania is dedicated to ensuring that these advancements benefit women. Additionally, she emphasized UNWOMEN's ongoing collaboration with the government to ensure women fully benefit from current and future innovations, continuing to work towards closing the digital gender gap both globally and specifically in Tanzania.



Photo 8: Ms. Katherine Gilford, the Deputy Country Representative of UNWOMEN Tanzania.

Conclusion

Overall, the Opening Ceremony of Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 set an inspiring tone for the event, highlighting the nation's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation. Distinguished speakers underscored the importance of collaboration, digital transformation, and sustainability in driving Tanzania's socio-economic development. With a focus on empowering startups, enhancing digital skills, and promoting gender inclusivity, the week promises to be a catalyst for transformative change.



DAY 2: INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024 SESSIONS



Photo 10: Panellists in the Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Energy Efficiency session.

Session 1: Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Energy Efficiency by UNDP Tanzania.

The "Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Energy Efficiency" session by UNDP Tanzania featured a comprehensive panel discussion on the financial landscape for enhancing energy efficiency in the private sector. Moderated by Mr. Madongo Kangola, the panel included Elizabeth Ngoye from UN Capital Development Fund, John R. Nfanga from TIRDO, Yash Patel from Siil Africa, Ailo Nintimbiki from CRDB, Kennedth Lusese from TIB, and Robert Mwashija from UNDP.

The session emphasized the support provided by the UNDP and EU-funded project, coordinated by the Ministry of Energy, which had benefitted TIRDO through certifications for energy auditors and managers, fully equipped laboratories, and practical industry orientations. Despite this support, there was still a continued need to train more energy efficiency experts in the country.

Representatives from CRDB Bank and TIB discussed various financial schemes, including adaptation agriculture programs and the Kijani bond, and emphasized the importance of innovative financial instruments and partnerships. UNDP highlighted its capacity-building efforts and the establishment of regulatory frameworks for energy performance certificates. Private sector representatives praised the satisfactory services provided by independent consultants and experts from TIRDO.

The session concluded with a Q&A segment that addressed funding opportunities for clean cooking energy, the national energy efficiency strategy, and the challenges in implementing energy-efficient technologies, highlighting the need for collaboration among stakeholders to advance energy efficiency.

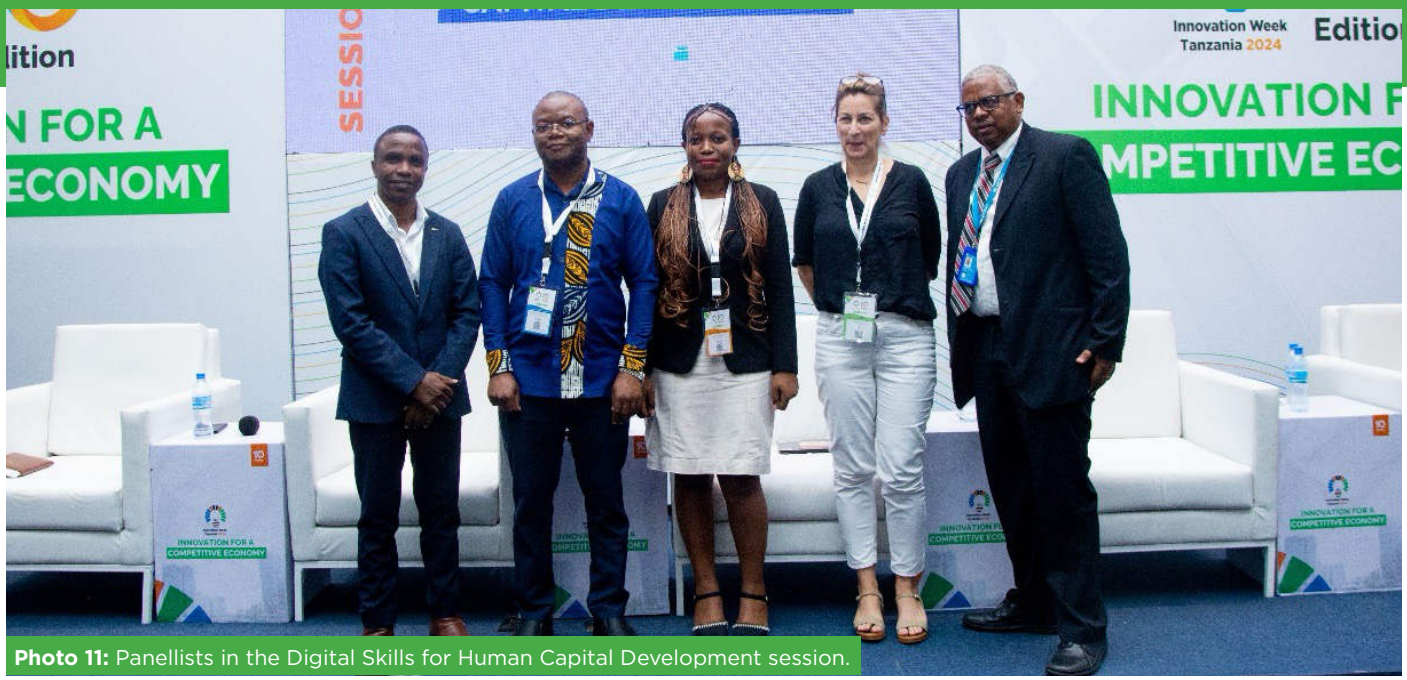


Photo 11: Panellists in the Digital Skills for Human Capital Development session.

Session 2: Digital Skills for Human Capital Development by UNICEF Tanzania.

The "Digital Skills for Human Capital Development" session focused on the future of digital skills and the education system's role in nurturing and training youth. Moderated by Ms. Catherinerose Barreto, the panel included Prof. Ladislaus Mnyone, Mr. Sempeho Ibahati, Ms. Irvana Demjanov, Mr. Daniel Baheta, and Ms. Millenium Anthony.

Prof. Ladislaus Mnyone, Director of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Education, emphasized the government's commitment to integrating technology and innovation into the education sector, and ensuring access to quality education. He outlined ongoing efforts to prepare the environment for digital transformation and stressed the importance of a comprehensive digital education strategy.

Mr. Sempeho Ibahati discussed the need for inclusive programs to build skills among out-of-school youth, highlighting successful integrations of digital skills into micro-industries and sharing stories of youth producing innovative solutions through digital training programs, while Ms. Irvana Demjanov presented research findings on ICT upskilling in Zanzibar, noting challenges such as talent shortages and resistance to change. She recommended strengthening educational institutions, building partnerships, and creating sustainable pipelines for ICT-skilled youth.
Other panellists shared their initiatives to bridge the digital divide, empower young people, and foster innovation and creativity. They emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts and the need for inclusive and accessible digital education programs.



Photo 12: Panellists of the Driving Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness through Digital Transformation session.

Session 3: *Driving Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness through Digital Transformation by UNDP Tanzania (FUNGUO Innovation Programme) and Serengeti Bytes.*

The afternoon session, "Driving Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness through Digital Transformation," explored how digital transformation can enhance Tanzania's economic competitiveness. Moderated by Ms. Catherinerose Barreto, the panel included Mr. Mohamed Mashaka, Ms. Barbara Barone, and Mr. Philip Besiimire.

Panellists, including founders and executives from various startups, discussed the challenges and opportunities in the digital economy, highlighting the importance of building resilient partnerships, leveraging digital solutions, and fostering a culture of innovation.

Ms. Barbara Barone from the European Union delegation emphasized the EU's support for Tanzania's digital transformation through various programs and initiatives. She outlined key areas of investment, including digital connectivity, skills development, and regulatory frameworks.

Representatives from the Ministry of Communication and Technologies and Vodacom Tanzania discussed the government's efforts to prepare for a digital economy and the role of mobile technologies in driving economic growth. They stressed the importance of digital literacy, cybersecurity, and inclusive access to digital services.

The panel discussion addressed best practices for enhancing competitiveness through digital transformation, emphasizing the need for a single digital market, data protection, and cybersecurity. Strategies for retaining talent, building supportive environments for startups, and leveraging partnerships to scale digital solutions were also discussed.

The Q&A session focused on policy frameworks, funding challenges, and the importance of human-centric design in regulations. Participants also highlighted the need for collaboration between the government, private sector, and NGOs to support the digital economy.

DAY 3: INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024 SESSIONS



Photo 13: Panellists of the Engage, Equip, Empower: Generation Equality in Action through Innovation and Digital Skills for Young Women and Girls session

Session 1: Engage, Equip, Empower: Generation Equality in Action through Innovation and Digital Skills for Young Women and Girls by UN Women Tanzania.

The session "Bridging the Gender Gap in Digital Innovation," held on May 22, 2024, focused on engaging, equipping, and empowering women in the IT/ICT field. Moderated by Ms. Lilian from the "African Girls Can Code Initiative," it featured prominent female professionals and early-career IT/ICT experts. Dr. Mahadia Tunga from the University of Dar es Salaam delivered the opening remarks, sharing her academic journey and emphasizing the importance of encouraging women to pursue STEM subjects while addressing the literacy gap among women.

The panel discussion included Matilda M. Mashauri, Flora Kagoma, Anagrace Malamsha, Suna Sada Salum, Gladness Mwanri, and Anna Kweka. Panellists shared their experiences balancing their careers with personal challenges and highlighted their achievements in fields such as app creation, graphic design, robotics, and data science. They stressed the importance of seizing opportunities, continuous learning, and mentorship.

Panellists advised the government to improve ICT infrastructure in schools, make IT/ICT education enjoyable without exams, and invest more in technology to prepare for future machine-to-machine interactions. The session underscored the need for collaborative efforts to inspire more girls to pursue careers in IT/ICT and bridge the gender gap in digital innovation.

Session 2: Navigating the Path to Inclusive Digital Transformation: Insights from The Past Year by UNCDF, European Union and Stanbic Bank.



Photo 14: Panellists of the Path to Inclusive Digital Transformation: Insights from The Past session

The second session of the day focused on inclusive digital transformation, highlighting applications like PesaTech, Busy Tech, Tembo Plus, ChatGPT, AI, and Co-pilot. Stakeholders from UNCDF shared how their initiatives impacted Tanzanians and beyond. Key lessons included:

- PesaTech, launched in 2021, had identified over 20 Fintech startups and supported post-revenue, legally registered startups in Tanzania, particularly in Dar es Salaam.

- Busy Tech revolutionized loan origination by shifting it from traditional banks to mobile lending. It taught farmers to save for inputs and pesticides, transitioning from cash to digital transactions. Busy Tech collaborated with importers, exporters, village heads, financial institutions, and research bodies.

- Emphasizing consistency and clear value propositions, startups were advised to ensure customers understood their product's value, and to self-learn soft skills like ChatGPT, AI, and Co-pilot, emphasizing the importance of digital skills for Tanzanian youth to stay competitive globally.

- Tembo Plus, a digital bank, faced challenges in securing bank partnerships and dealing with interest rate issues and interoperability. Despite these hurdles, it built infrastructure for other Fintech companies.

- The session acknowledged the transformative impact of COVID-19 on digitization. UNICEF committed to supporting digital reforms, connectivity, and women's access to digital resources, underscoring digitization as a key driver for global progress.

Session 3: From Research to Commercialization by UNDP Tanzania (FUNGUO Innovation Programme) and The British High Commission.

The third session, "From Research to Commercialization," highlighted pathways, challenges, and opportunities for turning research into commercial products. Participants included representatives from COSTECH, FUNGUO, NM-AIST, R&D institutions, NIMR, the British High Commission in Kenya, HLIs, IITA, TIRDO, innovators, innovation hubs, and development partners.

Dr. Bugwesa Katale from COSTECH opened the session by providing an insightful overview of the organization's mandate, which includes coordinating and promoting research and innovation in Tanzania. Dr. Katale highlighted the crucial role of COSTECH in fostering a robust STI ecosystem and encouraged stakeholders to collaborate in harnessing these opportunities to achieve sustainable growth and development in the country.

Prof. Victor William Gembe from NMAIST provided an overview of Tanzania's research and commercialization landscape, based on the report done by FUNGUO and NM-AIST Research outputs and Innovations Commercialization at HLIs and R&D Institutes noting government initiatives like NFAST and MAKISATU, and the lack of strategic research addressing national development needs. He highlighted the need for better systems, policies, tools, and industry partnerships, and recommended policy reviews, regulatory sandboxes, and improved IP management.

An open discussion included insights from Dr. Paul Kazyoba (NIMR) and Dr. Brian (IHI). They emphasized the need for awareness campaigns on IP protection, increased government funding for research, and institutional changes to support commercialization.

Participants highlighted the need for policy and regulatory reforms, increased industry investment, and the creation of technology transfer offices. They stressed the importance of project management skills, avoiding politicization of innovation, and establishing a Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Dr. Emmy Chirchir from the East African Research and Innovation Hub shared Kenya's experience, stressed the importance of shifting focus from publications to addressing societal challenges, job creation, and demonstrating research value. She advocated for meaningful networks, mindset changes, and grant funding as catalysts for innovation.

Photo 15: COSTECH'S Director of Research Coordination and Promotion (DRCP), Dr. Bugwesa Katale, speaking in the Research to Commercialization session.



The session concluded with a wrap-up by Joseph Manirakiza, who urged participants to drive change and leverage Tanzania's knowledge production capabilities for development, setting the stage for Vision 2050.



Photo 16: Dr. Emmy Chirchir from the East African Research and Innovation Hub



Photo 16: Joseph Manirakiza, FUNGUO Programme Manager, speaking in the Research to Commercialization session.

Session 4: Hubs Connect: Tanzania Hubs Network

The Tanzania Network of Hub Managers organized a forum to discuss the establishment and strategic direction of a member-based organization aimed at supporting innovation hubs across the country, particularly in rural areas. The event emphasized the need for a network that includes and supports hubs outside major cities, recognizing that these are often overlooked by existing support structures.

The Chairperson of the Tanzania Network of Hub Managers presented the strategic plan for 2024, highlighting key areas of focus: operational sustainability, membership expansion, strengthening member hubs, and facilitating collaborations. Planned activities included formalizing the THN, reviewing member registration, mapping Entrepreneur Support Organizations, building capacity among hub leaders, and providing technical assistance.

Participants asked about the legal structure and subscription status of THN. It was clarified that THN is an NGO with no current subscription fee, although contributions would be introduced after demonstrating value to members. The session also included a presentation from a guest speaker from Kenya on building a multi-regional hub network.

The East African Representative Board Member of AfriLabs from Nairobi shared insights on developing a robust hub network. He was accompanied by the chairman of the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs (ACIH), who also shared insights on managing the countrywide hubs network. Kenya's hub association movement started with a sense of exclusion and has grown to include about 460 hubs. The benefits of AfriLab membership were outlined, including connections with investors, development organizations, government, corporates, hubs, and academic institutions. Key achievements included disbursing $22 million in grants, creating 554,000 jobs, and supporting over 250,000 innovators.

The AfriLab manager stressed the importance of creating noticeable work, avoiding subjective names for hubs, and building programs and public events to establish a brand. Revenue streams included data services, mapping startups, and consultancy services. The session concluded with a discussion on the governance structure of AfriLab, which includes a board chairperson, president, secretary-general, and CEO, supported by various committees to ensure accountability. The event concluded with the signing of the Charter to establish the Hub Network by 17 founding member hubs.
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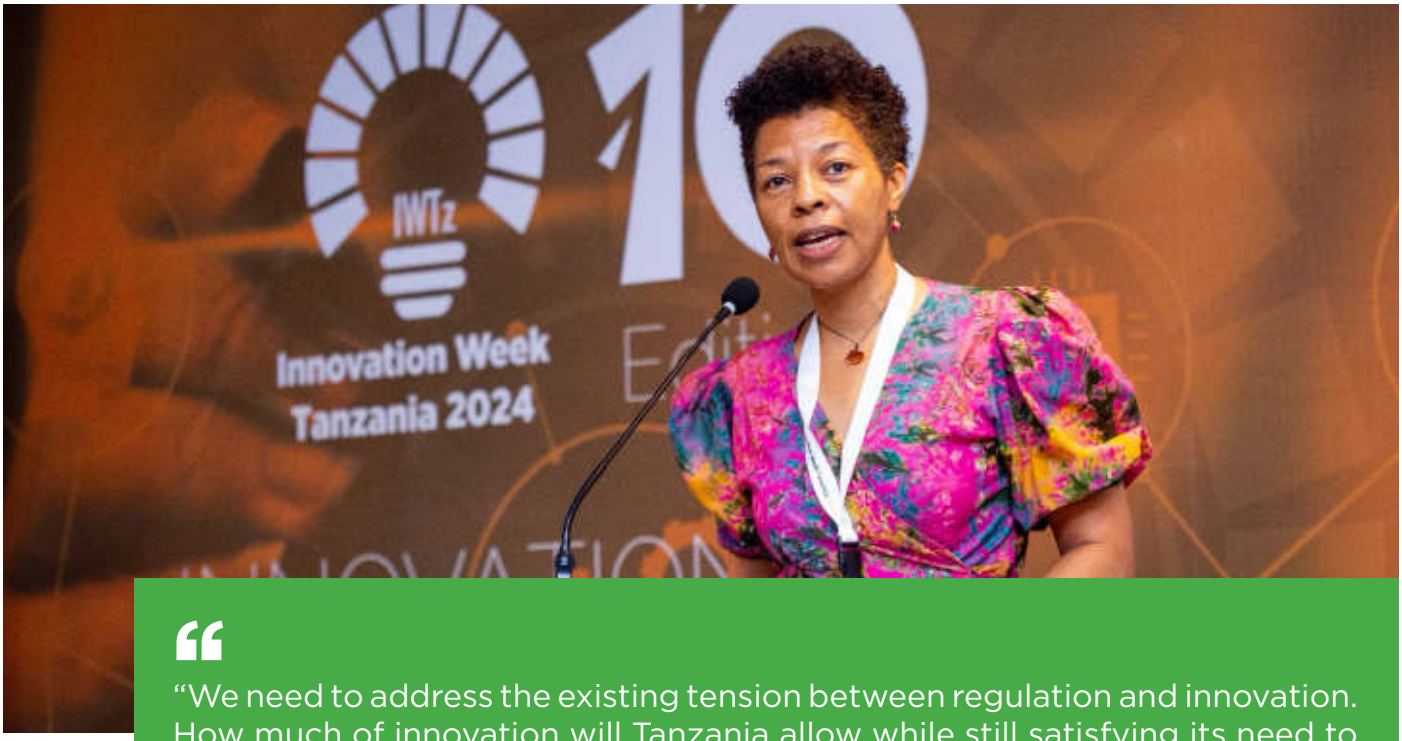
DAY 4: INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024 SESSIONS

Policy Dialogue: "Policy Reforms and Business Environment for Startups in Tanzania."

The FUNGUO Innovation Programme, Policy Forum, and the Business Environment Unit of the Ministry of Investment and Planning, organized a high-level Policy Dialogue that aimed at highlighting the recent policy reforms and initiatives undertaken to enhance the business environment, with a focus on showcasing the impact of these reforms on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Tanzania. Titled "Policy Reforms and Business Environment for Startups in Tanzania", the session included government, development partners, and the private sector to create an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Key insights are below:



"The Government has established Research and Innovation Sections under the Directorate of Policy and Planning aiming at inducing application innovation solutions into development interventions. This initiative paves a way towards utilization of options and solutions provided by researchers and innovation hubs. Furthermore, the Government continues to emphasize on collaboration with all stakeholders on the implementation of National Policy for Science, Technology, and Innovation; and provision of innovation funding and support." Mr. Lawrence Mafuru.



“We need to address the existing tension between regulation and innovation. How much of innovation will Tanzania allow while still satisfying its need to regulate businesses? Do we perceive the wonder of the minds as a threat to our order and systems, or do we recognise the immense potential of crazy ideas for curing illnesses, sharing knowledge, and harnessing new energy sources? Innovation is the catalyst for development, it is the necessary ingredient for the prosperity of any nation.” Ms. Janet Mortoo.



“We need to speed up how we address the challenges that are facing innovation in the country, or we risk missing growth, advancement opportunities and failing to understand each other within the ecosystem. Our job as the government is not to create laws and policies that stifle innovation but to create an enabling environment for startups to thrive and grow. “We want to hear from you, the innovators, on how we can improve and establish good agreements to move forward.” Mr. Baraka Aligaesha.



> “We need to look beyond physical incentives, acknowledging that the government is a crucial player, but not the only player in the ecosystem. When looking at policy making, we need to look at policy regulation that supports local investments. We need to look beyond policies and policy documents, but instead focus on building infrastructures that support the said policies. The role of policymakers is not to police, but to facilitate.” Mr. Jumanne Mtambalike.

Overall, the session underscored the critical importance of policies alongside fostering partnerships and creating conducive environments for businesses of all sizes. This holistic approach was highlighted as pivotal for cultivating a competitive economy.

TANZANIA DIGITAL AWARDS

INNOVATION WEEK 2024



Photo 23: Representatives of the Sponsors and Partners of the 2023 Tanzania Digital Awards.

The 2023 Tanzania Digital Awards, held as the closing ceremony event for Innovation Week Tanzania 2024, showcased the pinnacle of our nation's digital innovation landscape, honouring individuals and organizations driving Tanzania's digital transformation.

The Tanzania Digital Awards highlighted excellence across 11 categories, recognizing trailblazers who are setting new standards in the tech sector. From innovative startups and cutting-edge apps to impactful digital campaigns and transformative tech solutions, the awards underscored the diversity and vibrancy of our digital ecosystem.

Outstanding startups, digital transformation leaders, top innovators, and impactful campaigns were celebrated for their significant contributions to economic, political, and social progress, raising awareness and spurring action through innovative use of digital platforms. Notable winners included:

- Government Page of the Year: Tanesco
- Digital Innovation in Education: Shule Direct
- Digital Innovation in Health: M-Mama
- Digital Innovation in Transport and Mobility: Faras
- Telecommunications Company of the Year: Vodacom Tanzania
- Bank of the Year: CRDB Bank
- Best Banking App of the Year: NMB Bank
- Tanzania Innovation Award: BimaSokoni

At the event, the Ambassador of the European Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, Ms. Christine Grau, stressed about the vital components necessary for nurturing innovative ecosystems, "Innovation cannot thrive in isolation," she said. "It requires a conducive environment where policies and regulations support entrepreneurial venture and where digital solutions can reach their full potential. The engagement of the private sector is crucial."



Photo 23: Ambassador of the European Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, Ms. Christine Grau, sharing her remarks at the 2023 Tanzania Digital Awards.

INNOVATION WEEK TANZANIA 2024

REGIONAL EVENTS

The Arusha Innovation Week 2024, held on May 24th at Westerwelle Startup Haus Arusha, was a pivotal event aimed at fostering innovation for a competitive economy in Tanzania. Bringing together 130 participants, the event created a vibrant space for entrepreneurs, innovators, and key stakeholders dedicated to sustainable development. The day was marked by exhibitions of groundbreaking products and services contributing to the green economy, alongside a dynamic pitching session featuring women entrepreneurs from the Imarisha Programme. This platform provided attendees with valuable opportunities to connect with potential investors, customers, and collaborators, while the presence of regional hubs highlighted the strong collaborative spirit in Arusha, further driving innovation and partnership in the region.

The event had a significant impact, as it successfully facilitated the exchange of knowledge and fostered meaningful networking among participants. Many attendees shared that they gained valuable insights and formed connections that would have been difficult to achieve elsewhere. The overwhelmingly positive feedback underscored the event's crucial role in promoting economic growth and social development in the region, particularly by elevating the contributions of women-led businesses in the green economy. Moving forward, the event recommended enhancing collaboration with other regional hubs to further solidify Arusha's innovation ecosystem, ensuring that the momentum generated continues to expand and drive greater impact across Tanzania.









Photo 25: A few Images of events that happened during the Arusha Innovation week

Morogoro held the "Innovation for a Competitive Economy" event, held on May 20th, 2024, at the Antique Hotel in Morogoro, brought together 31 participants from various sectors, including academia, local government, and key ecosystem partners. A key highlight was the "Matching Mania" segment, which allowed stakeholders to pitch partnership opportunities and engage in one-on-one sessions, fostering numerous potential collaborations. This initiative not only connected key players but also set the stage for future partnerships that could significantly impact Morogoro's innovation landscape.

A major lesson learned from the event was the power of a structured, collaborative approach in strengthening local ecosystem partnerships. The commitment to establish the Association of Innovation and Startups in Morogoro, coupled with the swift formation of a leadership team and ongoing NGO registration, underscores the event's success in mobilizing collective action. This approach has laid a strong foundation for building a vibrant innovation ecosystem in Morogoro, poised to drive entrepreneurship and contribute to a more competitive economy.



Photo 26: A few engagements Images from Morogoro Innovation Week

The Mwanza Innovation Week 2024 was a transformative event that brought together over 400 participants, including government representatives, innovators, corporate leaders, development partners, and students, all united under the theme "Towards a Greener and Smarter Mwanza City." The weeklong event served as a crucial platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and showcasing innovative solutions that address climate and environmental challenges. Key activities included the Circular Hack Challenge, where students and innovators developed market-driven green solutions, and the Green Entrepreneurs Exhibition, which highlighted the potential of local innovations to drive sustainable economic growth in Mwanza. The active participation of diverse stakeholders underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in accelerating Mwanza's transformation into a leading green and smart economy.

Lessons learned from the Mwanza Innovation Week emphasize the need for better resource allocation and longer planning timelines to maximize the impact of such initiatives. The event successfully raised awareness about green technologies and their potential for job creation, yet it also highlighted challenges such as limited resources that constrained the scale and reach of the exhibition. Moving forward, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders and securing adequate resources will be vital in building on the momentum generated, ensuring that Mwanza continues to lead by example in fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development through innovation.



Photo 27: : A few images portraying activities during the Mwanza Innovation. Week.

The Kua Africa Forum 2024 in Zanzibar was a transformative event for the entrepreneurial landscape in Tanzania and beyond. Hosted in partnership with Cube Zanzibar and the FUNGUO Innovation Programme, the forum brought together top local and international entrepreneurs for a two-day exchange of ideas and opportunities. The event featured impactful discussions on sustainable growth, environmental stewardship, and strategic partnerships, with key panels addressing sectors such as agritech, fintech, green ventures, and the blue economy. These conversations underscored the need to harmonize economic advancement with environmental sustainability, a sentiment echoed by UNDP Resident Representative Shigeki Komatsubara and Zanzibar's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Ali Khamis Juma. The forum's influence was profound, catalyzing meaningful dialogue and offering actionable insights crucial for the growth of Tanzania's entrepreneurial ecosystem. A notable panel discussion led by FUNGUO Programme Manager Joseph Manirakiza, UNCDF Programme Analyst Edgar Masatu, and Serengeti Angels Representative Rodrique Msechu explored the critical role of international donors and impact investors in fostering African entrepreneurship. They highlighted the importance of achieving financial sustainability beyond donor support and emphasized the collaborative efforts needed from all stakeholders to drive long-term success. The event not only provided a platform for idea exchange but also laid the groundwork for future collaborations that will enhance the entrepreneurial landscape in Tanzania and across Africa. The lessons learned from the forum should inspire continued efforts to connect, collaborate, and drive impactful change.



Photo 28: Images from Kua Africa Forum in Zanzibar

The Iringa Innovation Week 2024, held from June 13th to 15th, served as a major platform for advancing sustainable development through innovation. Hosted by Kiota Hub, Tatua Hub, Open University of Tanzania (Iringa Center), Agri Hub, Agriedo Hub, and Sunset Hotel, and supported by COSTECH, UNDP (Funguo Program), MEDA, and Gredo Company (G-KONEKTI Project), the event attracted over 300 participants, including innovators, entrepreneurs, students, government officials, and community leaders. The gathering aimed to showcase and propel advancements in key sectors such as agriculture, education, and tourism, and to facilitate crucial connections and collaborations essential for regional progress.

The event highlighted several key themes: "Innovation for Green Economy" showcased advancements in smart farming and sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing the critical role of technology and youth involvement in transforming agribusiness. "Transforming Education and Empowering Public Service" focused on the impact of digital transformation on education and innovative teaching methods, with discussions underlining the necessity for strategic partnerships and investment in digital tools. The final theme, "Innovation for Tourism," explored how technology and creativity can elevate the tourism sector, revealing the urgent need for enhanced infrastructure and effective branding to attract international tourists. The event also underscored significant lessons, including addressing infrastructure challenges, investing in digital tools, and formalizing tourism operations. Recommendations include improving infrastructure, investing in digital education, supporting youth innovators, and developing robust branding strategies for the Southern Highlands, leveraging unique local experiences and modern marketing tools to boost competitiveness and appeal.



Photo 29: A few engagement Images from Iringa Innovation Week

CONCLUSION

Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 has been a testament to the vibrancy and potential of Tanzania's innovation ecosystem. Throughout the week-long event, stakeholders from across sectors converged to explore, collaborate, and strategize on advancing innovation and technology in the country.

The sessions underscored the critical role of hubs in fostering inclusive innovation. From the establishment of the Tanzania Network of Hub Managers to insightful presentations from AfriLab on building sustainable hub networks, it became evident that nurturing hubs, especially in underserved areas, is pivotal for driving socio-economic growth through innovation.

Key discussions also emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships, capacity building, and policy alignment to facilitate the commercialization of research and innovation outputs. Initiatives like the Funguo Programme and Pesa Tech Accelerator were highlighted for their contributions to scaling up innovations and supporting fintech startups, demonstrating tangible impacts on economic empowerment and digital inclusion.

Moreover, the event showcased the transformative power of digital technologies and AI, urging stakeholders to embrace digital skills and harness technology for sustainable development goals. The commitment to enhancing connectivity, digital literacy, and women's access to digital resources remains crucial in bridging the digital divide.

As we reflect on the outcomes of Innovation Week Tanzania 2024, it is clear that collaboration, inclusivity, and innovative thinking are fundamental to achieving Tanzania's development aspirations. Moving forward, sustained efforts to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, engage diverse stakeholders, and leverage emerging technologies will be essential for driving forward our collective vision of a prosperous and equitable Tanzania.

We extend our gratitude to all participants, partners, and organizers whose contributions made Innovation Week Tanzania 2024 a resounding success. Together, let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and shape a future where technology empowers every Tanzanian.

A WORD OF THANKS

On behalf of the organizing committee of Innovation Week Tanzania 2024, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this remarkable event. Your participation and support have made this year's Innovation Week a resounding success.

First and foremost, we would like to thank our esteemed sponsors and partners, who organized regional events across Tanzania. Your dedication to spreading the spirit of innovation to every corner of our nation has been instrumental in broadening participation and fostering local innovation ecosystems.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the support and collaboration of governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, and other relevant ministries and agencies. Your endorsement and involvement have reinforced the importance of innovation in driving socio-economic development in Tanzania.

To our distinguished speakers, panellists, and moderators, thank you for sharing your expertise, perspectives, and visions for the future. Your contributions have sparked thought-provoking discussions and provided invaluable insights into the paths forward for our digital economy. Additionally, a special appreciation goes to all exhibitors who showcased their products and services throughout the week. Your innovations and insights have enriched our understanding of the possibilities within our digital landscape, inspiring new ideas and collaborations.

We also extend our sincere thanks to all service providers who ensured the smooth operation of each session and activity during Innovation Week. Your professionalism and commitment behind the scenes have not gone unnoticed.

Last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to all attendees, participants, and volunteers who actively engaged in the exhibitions, workshops, and sessions throughout the week. Your enthusiasm and commitment to advancing innovation in Tanzania are the foundation of our collective success. As we reflect on the accomplishments of Innovation Week Tanzania 2024, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration, creativity, and resilience demonstrated during this event. Together, we will continue to harness the power of innovation. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication.

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