

16th ANIE Annual Conference

Building Resilient Knowledge Ecosystems in Africa: Deepening Partnerships, Policy Coherence, and Innovations

14–16 October 2026 · Ramada by Wyndham, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Day 1 — Wednesday 14 October 2026

09:00 – 09:35 Opening session — Official opening & welcome remarks

Moderator for the day: Huba Boshoff — ANIE Board and Director of TheKnowledgeCollab

Prof. Kefa Simwa — Executive Director, ANIE

Dr. Asrat Atsedeweyn — President, AASTU, Ethiopia

Prof. Goski Alabi — Chair, ANIE Board & Vice Chancellor/President, Accra Metropolitan University, Ghana

09:35 – 10:15 Keynote address

Prof. Faith Mkwanzani — University of the Free State, South Africa

Session chair: Dr. James Otieno Jowi — ANIE

10:15 – 11:15 Panel discussion — Building Resilient Knowledge Ecosystems in Africa: Deepening Partnerships, Policy Coherence & Innovations

Panelists:

Prof. Faith Mkwanzani — University of the Free State, South Africa

Prof. Emnet Tadesse Woldigiorgis — University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Dr. Biniam Atnafe Beneye — AASTU, Ethiopia

Mr. Etom Efem — British Council, Nigeria

Ms. Apiyo Okwiri — OBREAL

Panel chair: Dr. James Jowi — ANIE

11:15 – 11:20 Youth insert and awareness

11:20 – 11:45 Tea break and networking

11:50 – 12:55 Parallel sessions · Venues 1–3

Venue 1

Session 1 · 11:50–12:20

Decolonising Education Research in Africa: A Systematic Review and Framework for Localisation

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Acquah — ESSA, Ghana

Session chair: Prof. Chika Sehoole — University of Pretoria, South Africa

Session 4 · 12:25–12:55

Activating Research Chairs to Build Resilient Knowledge Ecosystems: Filling Africa's Partnership Gaps from Within

Speaker: Dr. Thembilile Mabila — University of Limpopo, South Africa

Session chair: Prof. Jackline Nyerere — Kenyatta University, Kenya

Venue 2

Session 2 · 11:50–12:20

Language as Structure: Epistemology, Power, and Collaboration in Europe–Africa Higher Education

Speakers: Philina Wittke and Leolyn Jackson — Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

Session chair: Dr. Beatrice Akala — University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Session 5 · 12:25–12:55

Knowledge Production from the Periphery: Identity, Positionality, and Negotiation Strategies of Kenyan Researchers

Speaker: Anqi Zhang — International Christian University, Japan

Session chair: Dr. Mary Sambu — Moi University, Kenya

Venue 3

Session 3 · 11:50–12:20

The Legal Governance of Higher Education Internationalization in Africa: Towards Equitable and Reciprocal Partnerships

Speaker: Dr. Manaye Zegeye Meshesha — Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia

Session chair: Prof. Kefa Simwa — ANIE

Session 6 · 12:25–12:55

Building Resilient Knowledge Ecosystems in Africa through Intra-African Internationalisation and Strategic Regional Partnerships: Insights from the PROSPER Project

Speaker: Mr. Harrison Weda — University of Nairobi, Kenya

Session chair: Martina Moss — Central University of Technology, South Africa

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:15 – 17:30 Workshops · Venues 1–3

Venue 1 Workshop: Supporting Early Career Researchers (NECREDI Workshop) Co-hosted by ANIE, HERI Africa and ESSA	Venue 2 Workshop: Network for International Office Practitioners in Africa (NIOPA) Presenters: Prof. Samuel Boadi-Kusi — University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and Huba Boshoff — The KnowledgeCollab, South Africa	Venue 3 Workshop: Ethics in International Research Projects: Towards Reciprocal Partnerships and Knowledge Creation Presenters: Prof. Susan Kurgat — Moi University, Kenya, and Prof. Mathabo Khau — Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
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Day 2 — Thursday 15 October 2026

09:00 – 09:15 Opening of Day 2

Welcome and recap of Day 1 — Huba Boshoff, ANIE Board & TheKnowledgeCollab

09:15 – 10:00 Keynote 2 — Dr. John Mugo

Executive Director, Mizizi Elimu Afrika

Chair of session: Prof. Kefa Simwa — ANIE Executive Director

10:00 – 11:00 Panel discussion — Advancing COIL in Africa: Building Evidence, Networks, and Impact through Global Collaboration

Panelists:

Mr. Kibrome Haile — OBREAL Global

Dr. Lavern Samuels — Durban University of Technology, South Africa

Panel chair: Apiyo Okwiri — OBREAL

11:00 – 11:25 Health break

11:30 – 13:10 Parallel sessions · Venues 1–3

Venue 1

Session 7 · 11:30–12:00

Policy Dynamics and Internationalisation in African Higher Education: Lessons from Kenya

Speakers: Prof. Jonah Nyaga Kindiki — Chuka University, Kenya, and Ms. Edna Chepkirui Koe — Moi University, Kenya
Session chair: Prof. Takalani Mashau — University of Venda, South Africa

Session 10 · 12:05–12:35

Analysing the Effectiveness of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training in Advancing Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Southern African Development Community Region

Speaker: Jabu Makhubela — University of Limpopo, South Africa
Session chair: Mercy Gathoni Kimani — Strathmore University, Kenya

Session 13 · 12:40–13:10

Building Africa from Within: The Power of Intra-African Internationalisation in Promoting Epistemic Justice

Speakers: Prof. Mathabo Khau — Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, and Prof. Susan Kurgat — Moi University, Kenya
Session chair: Lynette Naisoi — Strathmore University, Kenya

Venue 2

Session 8 · 11:30–12:00

Shared Modular Platforms for Knowledge Pooling: Conceptual Insights from the European P4ELECS Project

Speaker: Karine Hindrix — UCLL, Belgium
Session chair: Leolyn Jackson — Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

Session 11 · 12:05–12:35

Navigating Power, Partnership, and Pedagogy: A Cross-Country Study of Doctoral Supervision Complexities

Speaker: Dr. Beatrice Akala — University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Session chair: Prof. Kefa Simwa — ANIE

Session 14 · 12:40–13:10

Equity, Representation and Justice for Students Who Are Deaf in International Partnerships and Academic Collaborations in Higher Education in Africa

Speaker: Dr. Mary Sambu — Moi University, Kenya
Session chair: Vusi Makamu — University of Limpopo, South Africa

Venue 3

Session 9 · 11:30–12:00

Internationalisation as Epistemic Contestation: Plural Knowledges in Higher Education in Africa

Speakers: Prof. Patience Nyamunda — University of Glasgow, UK, and Prof. Faith Mkwanzani — University of the Free State, South Africa
Session chair: Zenzele P. Mdletshe — University of Zululand, South Africa

Session 12 · 12:05–12:35

Intra-Africa Research Collaborations: The Case of HERI Africa Initiative

Speaker: Prof. Jackline Nyerere — Kenyatta University, Kenya
Session chair: Kibrome Haile — OBREAL Global

Session 15 · 12:40–13:10

Strengthening Internationalisation in African Higher Education Systems

Speaker: Prof. Takalani Mashau — University of Venda, South Africa
Session chair: Prof. Samuel Boadi-Kusi — University of Cape Coast, Ghana

13:10 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Homegrown innovations for internationalisation — insights from Ethiopian universities

Panelists:

Dr. Biniam Atnafe Beneye — AASTU, Ethiopia

Dr. Anteneh Fikirie — Bule Hora University, Ethiopia

Dr. Lemma Teshome — Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia

15:00 – 15:30 Refreshments

15:30 – 18:00 **Site visit**
Visit to Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU)

18:30 **Cultural evening**
Totot Traditional Restaurant

Day 3 — Friday 16 October 2026

09:00 – 10:40 Parallel sessions · Venues 1–3

Venue 1 Session 16 · 09:00–09:30 Internationalising Community-Engaged Postgraduate Entrepreneurship for Rural Innovation and Third-Stream Income Generation in a South African University Speaker: Abiola John Asaleye — University of Ilorin, Nigeria Session chair: Blair Joseph Otieno — ANIE Session 19 · 09:35–10:05 Towards Developing a Framework for Recruitment Strategies at South African Public Universities for Southern African Students Speaker: Seme Siyabonga — UNISA, South Africa Session chair: Prof. Orpha Ongiti Session 22 · 10:10–10:40 Policy-Coherent AI Governance and Sustainable Digital Collaboration in African Higher Education Speaker: Matome Mokoena — University of Venda, South Africa Session chair: Jacob Owiti — ANIE Secretariat, Kenya	Venue 2 Session 17 · 09:00–09:30 Reimagining Student Exchange Mobility for Employability and Equity in Africa Speaker: Martina Moss — Central University of Technology, South Africa Session chair: Nonhle Madlose — Durban University of Technology, South Africa Session 20 · 09:35–10:05 Exploring the Policy Fragmentation that Negatively Impacts Intra-African Student Mobility, Collaboration and Solidarity: Insights from Policy Implementation in the East African Community Member States Speaker: Dr. Alfred Kiiza Session chair: Prof. Akim Osunde — Federal University of Technology, Nigeria Session 23 · 10:10–10:40 Reflecting to Learn or Reflecting to Submit: Student Teachers' Perspectives on Reflective Practice in Their Teaching Journey in One South African University Speaker: Thobile Hlobisile Accurate Sibiya — University of Fort Hare, South Africa Session chair: Dr. Deribashaw — Haramaya University, Ethiopia	Venue 3 Session 18 · 09:00–09:30 Experiences & Sustainability of the Digigrad Project Dr. James Jowi (Chair), Prof. Ongiti, Prof. C.J. Odhiambo, Prof. Simwa Session 21 · 09:35–10:05 The African Charter for Equitable Research Partnerships and the Implication for Collaboration Speaker: Prof. Chika Sehoole — University of Pretoria, South Africa Session chair: Huba Boshoff — ANIE Board Member Session 24 · 10:10–10:40 In Mainstreaming the Practices for the Internationalization of Higher Education, Can the Subaltern Speak? A Rejoinder to Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak Speaker: Dr. Valile Dwayi — Central University of Technology, South Africa Session chair: Prof. C.J. Odhiambo — Moi University, Kenya
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10:40 – 11:00 Tea break and networking

11:05 – 11:50 Parallel sessions · Venues 1–3

Venue 1 University Presence and Rural Community Transformation in Post-War Recovery in Northern Uganda Speaker: Dr. Asaf Adebua Session chair: Abraham Ochieng Obungah	Venue 2 Research Transformation and the Internationalisation of Knowledge: Positioning Emerging Research Chairs within African Knowledge Ecosystems Speaker: Dr. Lavern Samuels — Durban University of Technology, South Africa Session chair: Dr. Stephen Acquah — ESSA	Venue 3 Beyond Access: Embedding Equity and Inclusion in Intra-African Academic Mobility Programs Speaker: Prof. Orpha Ongiti Session chair: Harrison Weda
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12:00 – 12:45 Panel discussion (Venue 1: Plenary) — Choosing Africa: South African Universities and the Collective Pursuit of Africa-Centered Internationalization

Panelists:
University of Limpopo (1 representative)
Walter Sisulu University (1 representative)
University of Zululand (1 representative)

Panel chair: Durban University of Technology

12:45 – 13:30 IAU panel — The importance of advisory services to advance internationalization

Panelists:
Prof. Wondwosen Tamrat — St. Mary's University, Ethiopia
Prof. Sunungurai Dominica Chingarande — Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe
Dr. Lavern Samuels — Durban University of Technology, South Africa

13:30 – 14:15	Leadership reflections — Next steps and future scenarios Speakers: Dr. Asrat Atsedeweyn Andargie — President, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia Prof. Chika Sehooole — University of Pretoria, South Africa Dr. Angie Magabane — Director: Internationalisation & Partnerships, UNISA & Treasurer, IEASA Prof. Peter L. Barasa — Vice Chancellor, Alupe University, Kenya Chair: Huba Boshoff — TheKnowledgeCollab
14:15 – 14:45	Closing session Conference highlights — Dr. John Ranji, ANIE Vote of thanks — Prof. Kefa Simwa, Executive Director, ANIE
14:45 onwards	Lunch break and networking