

INDUSTRY • ACADEMIA • CAPITAL • ENTERPRISE

AFRICA SME SUMMIT 2026

Industry–Academia Collaboration: Driving Innovation, Enterprise Growth
and Sustainable Economic Development in Africa



DATE

Thursday
15 October 2026



TIME

07:30 — 17:30



VENUE

Chandaria Centre for Performing
Arts
University of Nairobi

SPEAKING AT THE SUMMIT



Prof. Eng. Ayub Gitau

Vice Chancellor

University of Nairobi



Mr. Victor Sila

Founder

JuaPath and Walmart



Nils Lindh

Founder

Nav Venture Nordic



Ms. Susan Ndungu

Head of SME Banking

NCBA Bank

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EARLY BIRD • KES

5,800

YOU SAVE KES 1,000

Closes 15 September

Standard KES 6,800 • Students KES 2,000

Exhibition from KES 30,000 • Sponsorship from KES 125,000

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CONVENED AND SUPPORTED BY



Kenya runs on small business.

There are 7.4 million MSMEs in Kenya and they carry 85% of our workforce. What holds them back is rarely ambition — it is access. To capital, to buyers, to skills, to technology, to research. Every one of those is an introduction that has never been made.

7.4M

MSMEs in Kenya

85%

of the workforce

1.2M

MSMEs in Nairobi County

Nairobi County MSMEs generate **40%** of national GDP.

SIX CONSTRAINTS • SIX TRACKS

Each track exists because of something that stops businesses growing. Parallel sessions run from 12:00 — pick the two that matter to you. Running alongside: the Vice Chancellors and Industry Roundtable, and academic paper presentations.

01 Finance, Capital & Investment

The constraint: you cannot borrow.

Where the money actually is, and what a lender needs to see before saying yes.

02 Market Access & Cross-Border Trade

The constraint: you cannot find buyers.

Getting past the county line, and then across the border.

03 Talent Management

The constraint: your best people leave.

Finding, paying, developing and keeping good people — and the safeguarding duties that come with employing them.

04 Adopting AI and Technology

The constraint: you cannot keep up.

What is worth adopting this year for growth and efficiency — and what is noise.

05 Industry & Academia Collaboration

The constraint: you cannot solve it alone.

Putting a university research team on a real problem inside your business.

06 Ecosystem Strengthening

The constraint: you do not know the doors.

The policy, the funds and the institutions worth knowing by name.

15 October, 07:30 to 17:30.

07:30	Arrival and registration
08:30	National and East Africa anthems, opening prayer, introductions
08:50	Welcome remarks
09:00	Industry–Academia collaboration: the JuaPath and Zetech case study
09:30	Strengthening Kenya's entrepreneurship ecosystem — Nairobi County case study
09:40	Accelerating Africa's business growth through the Quadra Helix
10:00	Transforming education through technology
10:10	From classroom to economy: building future-ready skills
10:20	From innovation to enterprise: unlocking capital and markets
10:30	Launches — JuaPath research study · Jiinue Business Accelerator platform · SLP Project · Africa SME Summit 2027
11:20	Photo session
11:30	Tea break
12:00	Parallel sessions — six tracks, Vice Chancellors roundtable, paper presentations
12:45	SEALS commissioning
13:30	Lunch
14:30	Networking, deal making, pitching, exhibition and poster presentations
16:00	Africa SME Award 2026 winners ceremony
17:00	Closing remarks, prayers and departure

14:30 is the part to plan for. Two hours built for nothing but doing business — the reason the day is shaped the way it is.

Passes and packages.

	ALL SIX TRACKS	EXPO & DEAL FLOOR	LUNCH & CERTIFICATE	EXHIBITION SPACE	PRICE
Early Bird delegate Until 15 September	●	●	●		KES 5,800
Standard delegate From 16 September	●	●	●		KES 6,800
Student Valid student ID required	●	●	●		KES 2,000
Startup table Includes 2 delegate passes	●	●	●	●	KES 30,000
Corporate booth 3m x 3m Includes 4 delegate passes	●	●	●	●	KES 50,000

Every delegate ticket also includes the Africa SME Award 2026 ceremony, the delegate pack and a certificate of participation.
Booking four or more from one organisation? Ask for the group code.

SPONSORSHIP

Logo placement is table stakes. What a partner buys is a curated introduction list.

BRONZE KES 125,000	SILVER KES 250,000	GOLD KES 500,000	PLATINUM KES 1,000,000
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- **Deal flow** — Curated introductions to matched SMEs
- **Platform** — A speaking or panel role inside a track
- **Attribution** — Named in the published Impact Report
- **Exhibition** — A branded 3m x 3m booth on the deal floor
- **Access** — The Vice Chancellors and Industry Roundtable

GET IN TOUCH

TICKETS & GENERAL

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