

BARATON



INNOVATION

&

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

University of Eastern Africa, Baraton

A Chartered Seventh-day Adventist Institution of Higher Learning

CONCEPT NOTE

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA, BARATON.

INNOVATE . INSPIRE . IMPACT





INTRODUCTION



The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (UEAB) is a dynamic student-led organization dedicated to fostering creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial excellence. Our mission is to create a vibrant ecosystem where students can innovate, collaborate, and transform their ideas into impactful ventures.

IEC serves as a bridge between academia and industry, offering students opportunities to develop business acumen, technical skills, and leadership abilities through hands-on projects, mentorship, and networking with industry leaders. By nurturing a culture of innovation and enterprise, IEC empowers students to become job creators rather than job seekers, positioning them at the forefront of Kenya's innovation landscape. Beyond external innovation, IEC is committed to internal university student industrialization by upscaling work ethics and problem-solving within the university. Through student-led projects, we aim to address campus challenges by developing innovative solutions that enhance efficiency, service delivery, and sustainability within UEAB. This initiative ensures that students not only gain practical experience but also contribute to the betterment of their own learning environment, fostering a culture of self-reliance and continuous improvement.

While the Baraton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (BIEW) remains a flagship event, IEC actively collaborates with the university administration to connect students with global innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities. The club facilitates participation in prestigious programs such as:

- **HULT Prize** – A global student competition focused on social entrepreneurship.
- **Kenya Innovation Week (KIW)** – A national platform that brings together startups, innovators, and investors.
- **Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA)** – A competition recognizing student entrepreneurs.
- **Y Combinator** – One of the world's leading startup accelerators.
- **Microsoft Imagine Cup** – A technology-driven competition empowering students to build real-world solutions.
- **Other Incubators and Accelerators** – Including partnerships with government agencies, corporate sponsors, and venture capital firms to provide students with access to funding, mentorship, and startup acceleration programs.



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Through these initiatives, IEC ensures that students at UEAB are not only exposed to innovation but actively engaged in global entrepreneurial ecosystems, equipping them with the tools and resources to thrive in a fast-evolving economy.



LEADING THE WAY



This semester, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Prof. Msafiri Jackson {PhD} expressed the institution's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and academic excellence through strategic and market-driven initiatives. His vision for Baraton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center reflects the university's focus on innovation as a catalyst for socio-economic development, in alignment with its Strategic Plan for 2024-2025.

During his address, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of leveraging innovation to enhance academic spaces, create employment opportunities, and foster entrepreneurial skills. His support for innovation underlines its potential to not only drive academic success but also contribute to the broader goals of economic transformation, wealth creation, and global competitiveness.

The Vice Chancellor's engagement with IEC demonstrates his understanding of innovation's critical role in advancing the university's objectives, particularly through enhancing research, industrial linkages, and digital technology in administration and education. IEC plays a key role in this vision by working closely with the university administration to ensure students gain access to both internal and external opportunities that shape their careers and impact society. Through collaborations with government agencies, corporate partners, and global innovation platforms.



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KEY MILESTONES & TRACTION





Since the inception of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UEAB in 2022, IEC has consistently expanded its reach, impact, and influence.

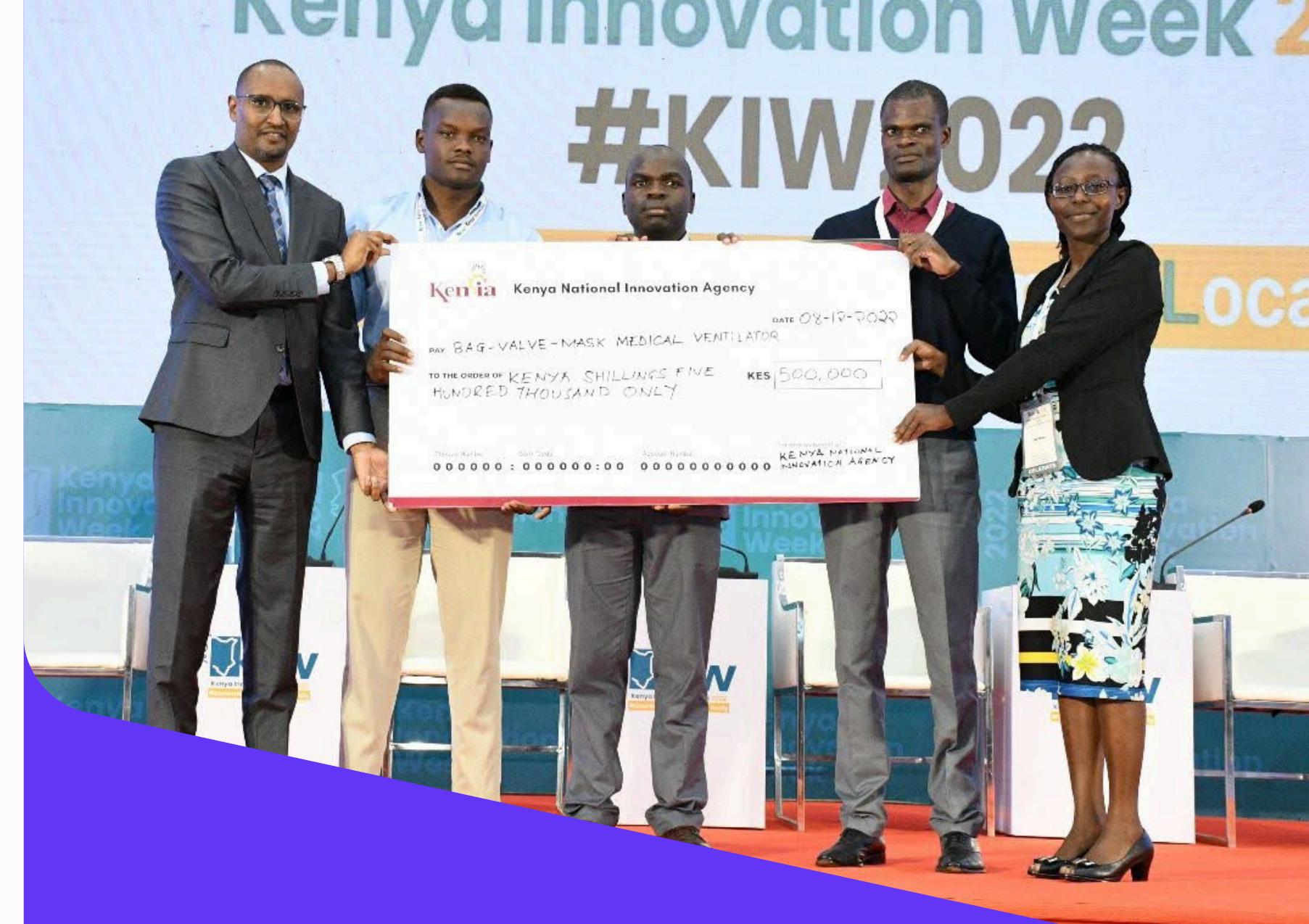


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Formation of the Innovation Committee to spearhead innovation efforts.

2

Participation in Kenya Innovation Week (KIW) 2022, where IEC was awarded in the Affordable Healthcare Category.



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LAYING THE FOUNDATION: 2022

1

Continued engagement in Kenya Innovation Week (KIW) 2023, reinforcing our presence in the national innovation ecosystem

2

Active participation in global platforms such as HULT Prize, Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA), and Entrepreneurship World Cup.



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STRENGTHENING NATIONAL
PRESENCE: 2023

1

Formation of the Baraton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (BIEC), providing a platform to nurture and develop entrepreneurial talent.



2

Hosting the 1st Annual Baraton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (BIEW) (November 2-7, 2024),

featuring:

- Collaboration with Microsoft.**
- The emergence of 8 innovative ideas and 16 prototypes.**

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**SCALING UP & INSTITUTIONAL
INTEGRATION: 2024**

3

Participation in Kenya Innovation Week (November 24-29, 2024), where students gained access to apply for Presidential Innovation Awards under the university category.

4

Participation in the Fourth Annual ACPK Conference (November 25-29, 2024) at Sarova Nakuru, one of only two universities selected (alongside Kabarak University).

- Meule Wafula championed UEAB under the student category.



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SCALING UP & INSTITUTIONAL
INTEGRATION: 2024

The University successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CBaaS, a major step towards strengthening student entrepreneurship and startup support.

This partnership aims to provide funding opportunities, incubation support, and capacity-building programs for students working on innovative projects.

The collaboration will also offer access to venture capital networks, mentorship, and industry expertise to accelerate student-led innovations.



MOU SIGNED WITH CBAAS: 2025

A group of students from IEC were shortlisted for the 2024/2025 Presidential Innovation Award, marking a significant milestone in IEC's national recognition. This achievement highlights the growing impact of student-led innovations at UEAB and their contribution to Kenya's innovation ecosystem.



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FINALIST PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS:
2025

Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Mapping:

- Ongoing collaborations with Microsoft, CBaaS, and venture capital firms.

Organizing Mentorship Programs:

- Developing structured mentorship for student-led innovation.

Innovation Hub Development:

- Establishing a dedicated space for innovation projects and startup incubation.

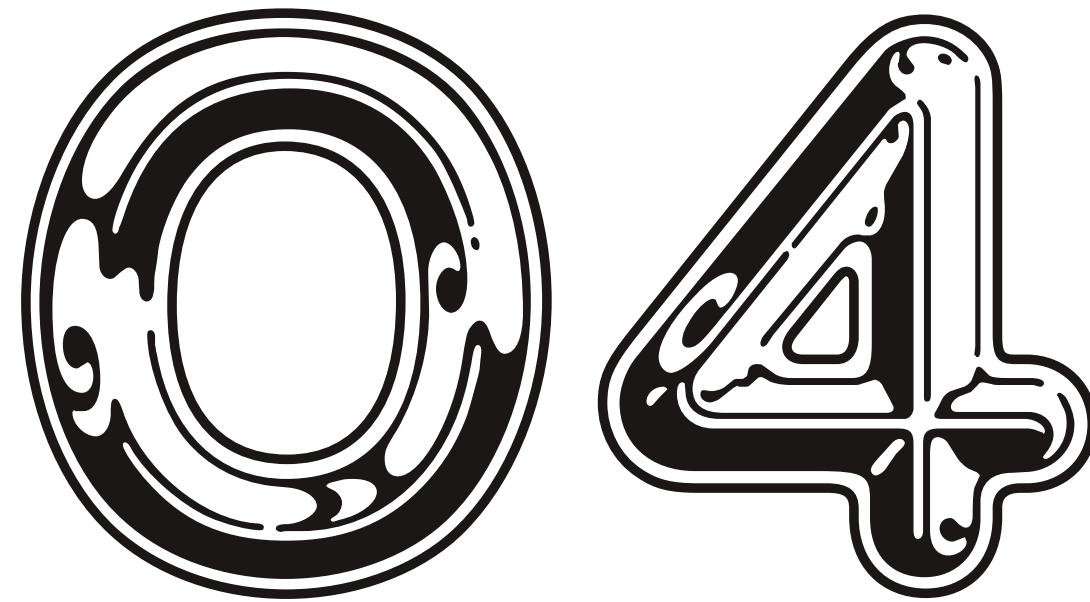
Planning for the 2nd Annual BIEW (October 6-10, 2025):

- Expanding participation, networking, and project funding opportunities.



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FUTURE GROWTH & STRATEGIC EXPANSION: 2025 & BEYOND



OBJECTIVES



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- ✓ **Celebrate Innovation & Startups** – Recognizing and promoting student-led innovations.
 - ✓ **Showcase Breakthrough Ideas** – Providing platforms for emerging innovations.
 - ✓ **Accelerate Research Commercialization** – Turning research into market-ready solutions.
 - ✓ **Equip Students with Future Skills** – Training in tech, business, and entrepreneurship.
 - ✓ **Expand Market Opportunities** – Connecting students to regional and global innovation ecosystems.

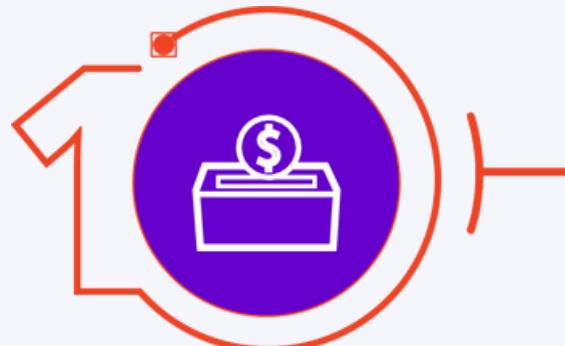


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KEY ENGAGEMENT



COMMERCIALIZING RESEARCH & STARTUPS



Supporting students in turning ideas into viable businesses through structured mentorship, funding access, and incubation programs.



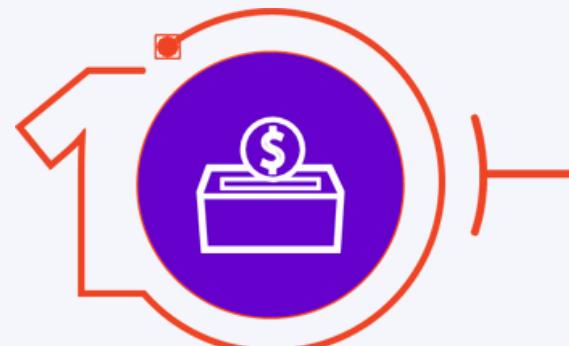
Creating strong partnerships between students, faculty, and industry stakeholders to facilitate research commercialization and career readiness.



STRUCTURED MENTORING PROCESS

A three-stage framework guiding students through Ideation (problem-solving & prototyping), Development (business modeling & funding), and Scale-Up (market expansion & investor pitching).

SOLVING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY CHALLENGES



Encouraging student-driven solutions that address real-world problems within UEAB and the local community.

INNOVATION & MENTORSHIP HUB

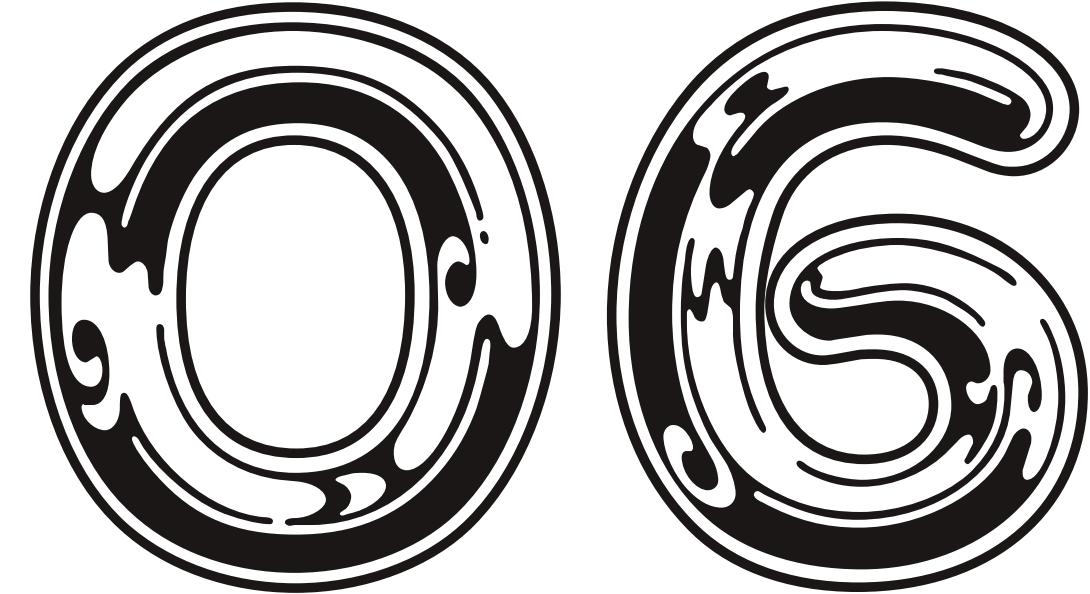


Establishing a space for prototyping, business training, and networking, with structured guidance from industry experts.

GLOBAL & NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Positioning IEC members for local and international competitions, grants, and investor connections.



TARGET AUDIENCE





1. Private Sector: Startups/Investors/Innovators/Corporates



2. Development Partners and Foreign Missions



3. Academia - Researchers/Students/Faculty/Institutional Leaders



4. Multinational Companies



5. Policy Makers

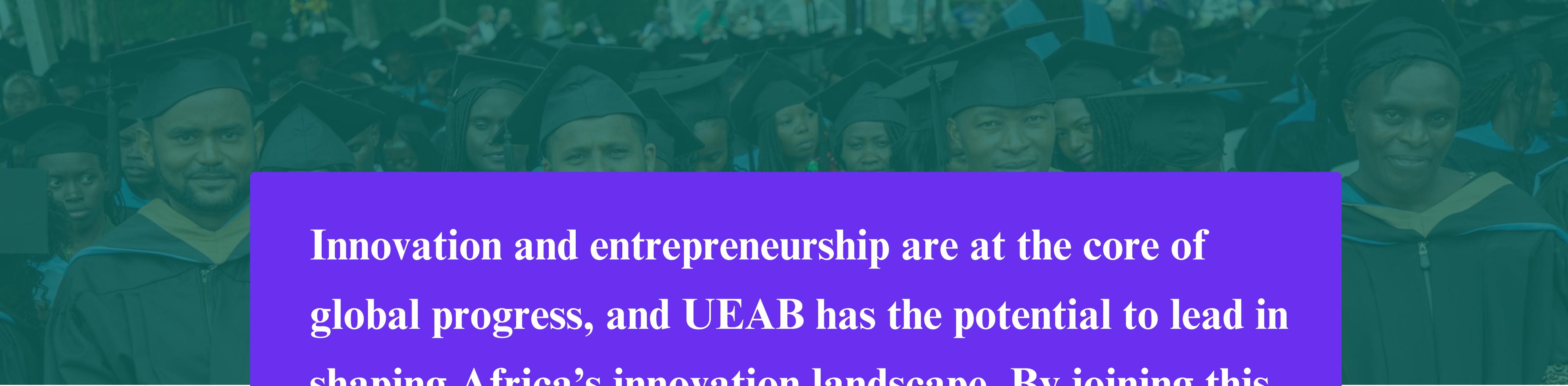


6. Ministries/Departments/Agencies

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WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE





Innovation and entrepreneurship are at the core of global progress, and UEAB has the potential to lead in shaping Africa's innovation landscape. By joining this movement, you are not only advancing your own growth but also contributing to a greater impact.





Unlock Limitless Opportunities

Gain access to mentorship, funding, and global networks that can propel your ideas into successful ventures.



Be part of a university that fosters creativity, problem-solving, and cutting-edge solutions to real-world challenges.

Shape the Future of UEAB



Develop Practical Skills

Whether in business, technology, or research, IEC provides hands-on experience that prepares you for the job market and beyond.



Use your knowledge and talents to tackle critical challenges in education, healthcare, agriculture, and sustainability.

Solve Problems that Matter



E**Gain National & Global Recognition**

Participate in leading innovation platforms like HULT Prize, Kenya Innovation Week, and Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.

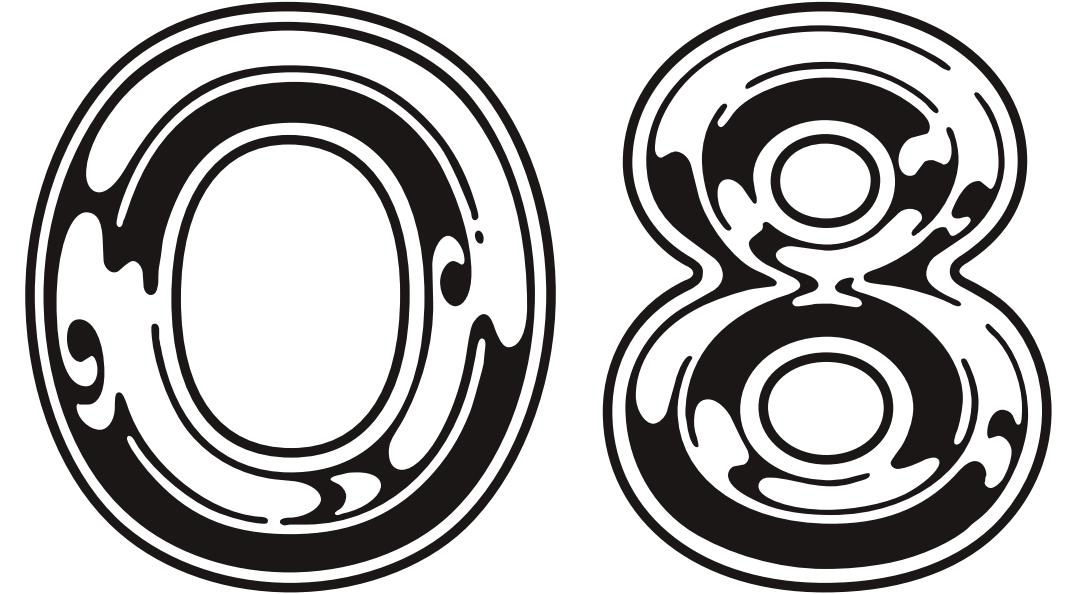
**Expand Your Network**

Connect with industry experts, successful entrepreneurs, and like-minded students who share your passion for innovation.

F**G****Create Employment & Wealth**

Transform ideas into businesses, create job opportunities, and contribute to the economy through groundbreaking solutions.

**Be Part of Something Bigger**
This is more than just a club; it's a movement shaping the next generation of African innovators and leaders.**H**



BIEW 2025 EVENT STRUCTURE





The 2nd Annual Baraton Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (BIEW 2025) is set to be a transformative event, building upon the successes of the inaugural edition. The event will feature a structured program designed to maximize engagement, learning, and networking for students, faculty, and industry partners.





1. KEYNOTE SESSIONS

- **Inspirational talks from leading innovators, policymakers, and industry experts.**
- **Topics include the future of African innovation, sustainable development, and digital transformation.**



1. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- **Opportunities for interactive Q&A sessions with panellists.**
- **Themed discussions on key topics like sustainability, digital transformation, and inclusive innovation.**



3. WORKSHOPS

- **Practical sessions on skills development, technology adoption, and business growth.**
- **Hands-on training and mentorship programs.**



4. EXHIBITIONS

WORKSHOPS

- Showcase of innovative products, services, and solutions from across Africa.
- Dedicated exhibition space for startups, corporates, and academic institutions.



5. PITCH COMPETITIONS

- Platform for startups to present their ideas to potential investors.
- Awards for the most innovative and impactful solutions.



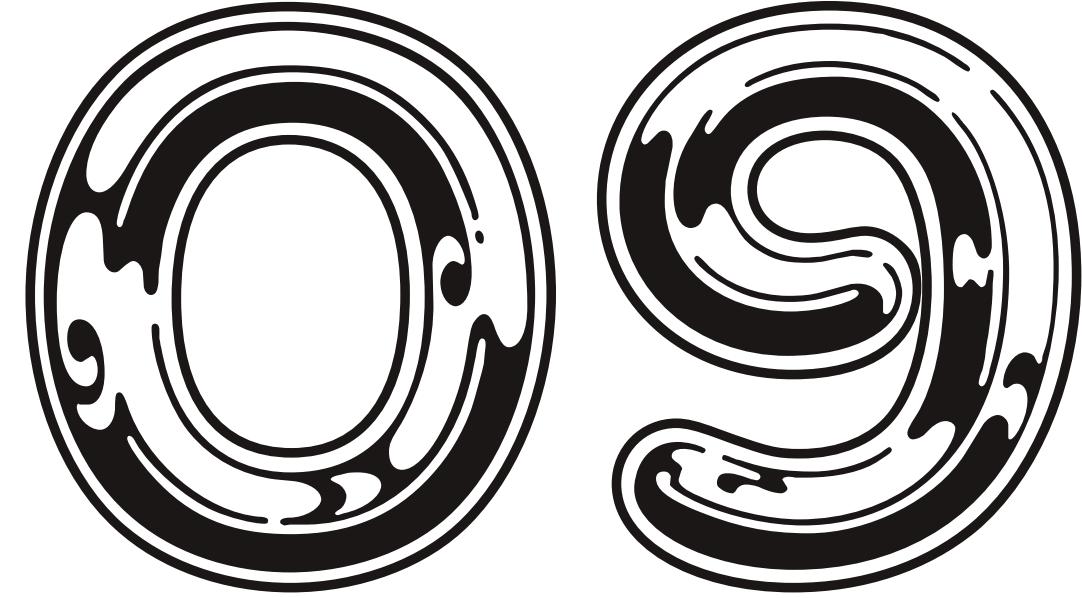
6. NETWORKING EVENTS

- Opportunities for delegates to connect and collaborate.
- Organized networking sessions and informal meetups.



7. SIDE EVENTS

- Partner-hosted events focusing on specific themes or sectors.
- Specialized sessions to address niche areas of interest



CALL TO ACTION





To achieve a truly transformative impact, we call upon all members of the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton to actively engage with IEC and drive innovation forward.



We invite innovators, investors, policymakers, academia, corporates, Adminstartion, SABU and other stakeholders to join us . Be part of this transformative event by:



Students: Be the Innovators

Join IEC, participate in hackathons, pitch competitions, and workshops. Turn your ideas into real-world solutions and startups.



Faculty: Foster an Innovation Culture

Support student projects, mentor aspiring entrepreneurs, and integrate innovation into academic programs.



Administrators: Strengthen Support Systems

Enhance university policies to promote research commercialization, student incubation, and entrepreneurship.



Researchers: Transform Knowledge into Impact

Leverage IEC to turn groundbreaking research into commercially viable innovations and societal solutions.





Alumni: Inspire & Invest

Engage with IEC as mentors, angel investors, and speakers to guide and fund the next generation of entrepreneurs.



Partner with IEC

Industry Partners: Collaborate & Co-Create
Partner with IEC through funding, training, internships, and job placements to bridge academia and the corporate world.



SABU Government & Policy Makers: Enable the Ecosystem

Work with IEC to create policies and funding initiatives that empower young innovators and startups.



Entrepreneurial Enthusiasts: Join the Movement
Support, advocate, and contribute to IEC initiatives—be part of a thriving community shaping the future of innovation.



CONTACT US

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SEE YOU

AT BIEW 2025

