

Minutes of the CSSR4Africa Team Meeting

Date and Time: 4th August 2025, at 10:00am
Venue: Room C210.
Status: Draft.

Participants

Assane Gueye
Birhanu Shimelis Girma, Chairman
Clifford Onyonka
Ibrahim Jimoh
Muhammed Danso
Tsegazeab Tefferi
Yohannes Haile

Apologies

Muhirwa Richard
Deogratius Kiggude

1. Introduction and review of agenda

The participants reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th July 2025 and approved them as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Agenda item 1 Update the status of the milestones with their new due dates and interactive Demo

Action: *Done.*

Agenda item 2 Update the installation manual by everyone

Action: *Not Done.*

Agenda item 3 Demonstrate the key-word spotting ASR model to the team

Action: *Done.*

Agenda item 4 Share Kinyarwanda ASR hugging face link

Action: *Done.*

Agenda item 5 Sending the updated failure handling report

Action: *Done.*

Agenda item 6 Talk to Rosine to see how CMU Africa can benefit from Deep Learning Indaba workshop

Action: *Done. Rosine has not been able to establish how CMU Africa can benefit from the workshop and a contact with the organizers. Regarding the workshop itself, Prof. Assane suggested displaying the university or lab project's banner at the event as a way to promote CMU Africa.*

Agenda item 7 Privacy regarding third party closed source LLMs

Action: *Not Done.*

3. Matters arising from progress reports

Tsegazeab noted in his report that he is working to modify the gestureExecution software to implement a desirable enhancement in D6.2 Use Case Evaluation. The modification involves adding support for user-defined hand selection when the robot is performing hand gestures. He stated the challenge involved in this task due to the fact that he is not the original implementer of the software but noted he's making steady progress. Prof. Assane suggested the possibility of reaching out to the original implementer if need be to avoid time wasting on this task.

Muhirwa noted he is working on XTTS v2, an improved version of YourTTS model for the Kinyarwanda TTS. He highlighted the tests he conducted using this improved model and also the disadvantage therein. Prof. Assane noted it will be good to have a demo of this improved version with Gisele and Vicky present to validate it as Kinyarwanda native speakers.

4. Status of tasks, deliverables, and software

Robot localization is still in quality assurance process and is near acceptance, with the quality assurance person noting just a few modifications are left before final integration.

5. Status of milestones

The milestone document was reviewed, noting the milestones that have been completed and the ones yet to be completed. The date for the lab tour demo with integrated software has been rescheduled to this coming Friday August 8, 2025.

6. Pepper robot indaba demonstration

In Muhiwa's report, he noted the proposals that were suggested by the University of Witwatersrand team for the Deep Learning Indaba demonstration. The team discussed these proposals and identified them as not feasible since we don't currently have an implementation for them. As a way forward, the team proposed they rather follow our installation manual for getting started with the pepper robot as documented in the CSSR4Africa repository and then decide to run any of the implemented software nodes in the CSSR4Africa project.

7. Any Other Business

Paper Publishing

Prof. Assane inquired about the team's stand regarding paper publication based on the work everyone in the team have been involved in so far. Birhanu noted the recent paper submitted for Cultural Robotics Book which is currently under review. Danso also mentioned plans to publish a paper based on the current enhancements being carried out on the project. Yohannes also mentioned that everyone in the team could publish a paper based on the work each person has been involved in, and possibly also an integrated publication. At the end, Prof. Assane emphasized the importance of having paper publications for everyone's professional career and also for those with Phd plans.

Software Reusability

Prof. Assane inquired if the CSSR4Africa software developed thus far are reusable for other use cases and by others. The team responded in affirmative, pointing out the steps that have been taken to ensure the usability and reusability of these software including detailed documentations, quality assurance checks, and open-sourcing the software repository.

Burkina Faso Summer School in AI & Robotics

Prof. Assane informed the team about an email he received from organizers in Burkina Faso who are interested in a partnership with and contribution from CMU for an upcoming summer school in AI & Robotics. He asked the team if there's anyway we can contribute to this summer school, and the team confirmed yes. Yohannes suggested and noted we can use the same format as we would for the Deep learning indaba workshop and also the feasibility of having a simulation environment to demo pepper functionalities. To this end, Prof. Assane will get back to the organizers and possibly schedule a meeting with the team.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2025 at 10:00am

End of the Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Action items following the meeting of the CSSR4Africa project

Action	Action description	Responsible	Completion date
1	Send a calendar invite to the team for the integrated software lab tour demonstration	B. Shimelis	05 August, 2025
2	Update the installation manual	Team	08 August, 2025
3	Privacy regarding third party closed source LLMs	Prof. Assane	08 August, 2025
4	Get back to the Burkina Faso summer school organizers.	Prof. Assane	08 August, 2025

Table 1: Action Items