



TRAINING CENTRE IN COMMUNICATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI TOWERS



***Training Centre in Communication***  
***Train. Support. Empower***

# 2023 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

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**423**

Participants supported through  
**CALENDAR ACTIVITIES**

Early Career researchers were  
supported through  
**MENTORSHIP**

**253**

**1366**

No. of registered participants for  
**WEBINARS**

Early Career researchers  
supported through  
**WORKSHOPS**

**5385**

**2958**

Audience engaged through  
**CONFERENCES**

Key  
**PARTNERSHIPS**  
established

**5**

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## **ABOUT**

The following is the progress report on the activities of Training Centre in Communication from the year 2023. Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) is the first African-based training center with an aim to increase capacity for research output by training scientist on effective communication tools. TCC Africa is in partnership with the University of Nairobi, through a direct link with the School of Biological Sciences (SBS).

## **SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION**

In today's competitive academic environment scientists need to know how to effectively communicate with their peers; beginning with coming up with a research idea, writing the proposal to communicating it. Beyond this, researchers need to understand the academic landscape and the research lifecycle process and how it can make them competitive

## **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION**

We support published researchers, on how to translate their published work for various audiences. This is done through interactive workshops, where we bring science media partners, and science communication specialists and guide scientists how they can effectively communicate with different audiences.

[www.tcc-africa.org](http://www.tcc-africa.org)

# calendar trainings



# CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

In the year 2023, Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) had the privilege of engaging with four hundred and twenty three (423) early career researchers through our calendar of training events. These sessions served as invaluable opportunities for participants to delve into the multifaceted realm of Science and Scientific Communication, guided by accomplished industry leaders and seasoned trainers. Additionally, these training activities contributed significantly to our ongoing efforts in strengthening capacities across various institutions.

## SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATING TO NON SCIENTISTS

Training Centre in Communication hosted the Science Communication- Communicating to Non Scientists, Policy Makers & The Media courses in the months of of January and October and facilitated by [Dr. Grace Mureithi](#). The courses were designed to equip participants with a comprehensive set of skills and strategies for effective science communication. The concepts covered in this course are pivotal for scientists and researchers seeking to bridge the gap between their work and diverse audiences, fostering a culture that extends beyond the laboratory and academic circles. The concepts taught cover:

- Using Web 2.0 Tools for communicating research
- Communicating to Policy Makers and the Press
- Producing Communication Outputs for Non Scientists
- How to participate at scientific conferences and how to interact with their peers

Course Timeline	Participants
Science Communication and Communicating to Non- Scientist, held on 30th to 31st January, 2023	23 Participants
Science Communication and Communicating to Non-Scientist training held on 30th – 31st October 2023	28 Participants

# CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

## SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION [ACADEMIC & RESEARCH PROPOSAL WRITING & OPEN SCIENCE]

Training Centre in Communication conducted a comprehensive series of trainings on Scientific Communication and Publishing, specifically focusing on the Paper Writing Process, Research Proposal Writing, and Data Management Analysis. These training sessions were strategically organized throughout the year, taking place in the months of February, May, August, and December, as indicated in the table below. The inclusion of the section on holistic well-being in the third quarter of the year is a noteworthy addition, driven by our recognition of the pressing importance of mental health within the research community. The course, expertly guided by [Dr. Joyce Wangari](#) and [Nicholas Outa](#), delved into various subjects, encompassing academic and research proposal writing, open access and open science tools, and, notably, the critical aspect of holistic well-being in the research lifecycle.

Course Timeline	Participants
Scholarly Communication [Academic, Research Proposal Writing & Open Science held on 22 - 23 February, 2023	30 Participants
Scholarly Communication [Academic, Research Proposal Writing & Open Science held on 29 - 30 May 2023	60 Participants
Scholarly Communication & Holistic Well-Being in the Research Lifecycle Course 28 - 29 August 2023	113 Participants
Scholarly Communication & Holistic Well-Being in the Research Lifecycle Course 4-5 December 2023	125 Participants

# CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT

In the third quarter of the year a collaborative training session aimed at enhancing the skills of early career researchers within the TCC Africa, Eider Africa, and University of Nairobi communities was held.

**Training Objectives:** The primary goals of the training were to educate early career researchers on key aspects of resource mobilization. Topics covered included understanding the donor's perspective, crafting impactful research proposals, and leveraging artificial intelligence for donor mapping and resource mobilization.

**Training Highlights:** The participants benefited from comprehensive sessions designed to deepen their understanding of critical elements in resource mobilization. The training emphasized effective proposal development and showcased the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, Dimensions and for donor identification and engagement.

Course Timeline	Participants
Resource Mobilization and Grants Management Course held from 11 August 2023	16 Participants

# CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

## EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP FOR BIOCHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT STUDENTS- UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

TCC Africa was delighted to support the University of Nairobi (UON) Biochemistry students in a workshop on Effective Communication Skills

**Training Objectives:** The blended workshop aimed to equip the fourth-year undergraduate students with essential skills for effective communication in both academic and professional settings.

Course Timeline	Participants
Effective Communication Skills Workshop for University of Nairobi - 12th May 2023	28 Participants

**Training Highlights:** The workshop incorporated a combination of in-person and online sessions to provide a comprehensive learning experience and covered various aspects of effective communication such as oral and poster presentations, interview etiquette and effective use of visual aids. The students had the opportunity to deliver presentations and receive personalized feedback from the facilitator, Dr. Grace Mureithi, a communications expert with over a decade of experience.





# webinars





# WEBINARS

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND GENDER IN UNIVERSITIES

To commemorate International Women's Day 2023, with the support of UNESCO and the [Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World \(OWSD\)](#), the Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) was honored to host the community of African researchers and academics for a webinar titled 'Social Justice & Gender in Universities.

In observance of the event theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", the guest speakers explored various challenges faced by women in universities due to disparities in citations compared to their male colleagues and the impact this has on their careers.

This webinar was covered in the national Kenya newspaper, the [People Daily](#), highlighting OWSD Nigeria National Chapter Chair Prof. Olayinka Ibiwumi Nwachukwu, who emphasized OWSD's role in creating awareness of women scientists through strategic partnerships as a means of increasing their citation and visibility. The webinar was attended by 457 participants from over ten countries.

A recording of this session is available here: <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.7a93fe70>

The banner features a green background with white text. At the top left, it reads 'OWSD TALKS' in a large, stylized font, followed by 'Social Justice and Gender in Universities' in a smaller font. To the right, there is an illustration of three women in purple graduation gowns. Below the title, it says 'Hosted By' and lists three logos: UNESCO, OWSD (Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World), and TCC (Training Centre in Communication). The bottom section is titled 'Guest Speakers' and features two portraits with their names and titles: Prof. Olayinka Ibiwumi Nwachukwu, Dean of the College of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Chairperson of the OWSD Nigeria Chapter; and Prof. Christen A. Smith, Director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. The date and time are listed as 8th March 2023, 5AM CST, 11AM GMT, 12PM CET, 2PM EAT. It also indicates the webinar is streaming on Facebook Live. At the bottom, there is an orange bar with the text 'Building capacity in Scholarly and Science Communication'.

# WEBINARS

## TRENDS IN AFRICAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION USING DIMENSIONS DATA

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) organized a webinar focusing on the latest trends and advancements in African Research and Innovation, leveraging Dimensions data, in preparation for [INORMS 2023](#). It featured a panel of experts from the [African Population and Health Research Centre \(APHRC\)](#) and Digital Science, our partner organization.

During her presentation, Dr. Evelyne Gitau, the Director of Research Capacity Strengthening at APHRC, highlighted the insights they have derived from data to support strategic planning and the growth of their fellowship program, [CARTA \(Consortium for the Advancement of Research Training in Africa\)](#). This expansion aims to create more opportunities for African scholars.

The second part of the webinar was led by Emily Alagha, the Technical Specialist, and Evangelia Lipitakis, the Product Solutions Manager for [Dimensions](#) & Altmetrics at Digital Science. They demonstrated to the attendees how to utilize the advanced analytics provided by Dimensions to enhance research discovery and improve access. There were four hundred and twenty-seven (427) registered participants.

Read more on the event and access its recordings here:

<https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.8ddd457f>

The banner features a blue and green background with data charts and a magnifying glass. The title 'TRENDS IN AFRICAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION USING DIMENSIONS DATA' is prominently displayed. Below the title, three circular portraits of the speakers are shown, each with their name and title. The event date and time are listed at the bottom, along with logos for the African Population and Health Research Center, TCC Africa, and Dimensions.

**SPEAKERS**

- Emily Alagha**  
Technical Specialist  
Digital Science
- Evangelia Lipitakis**  
Product Solutions Manager  
Dimensions & Altmetric  
at Digital Science
- Dr. Evelyn Gitau**  
Director of Research Capacity  
Strengthening, African Population  
Health Research Center

Wed, May 10 12:00 PM EAT, 10:00 AM GMT

African Population and Health Research Center TCC Africa Dimensions

# WEBINARS

## EXPLORING ILLITERACY AND PREJUDICE AGAINST WOMEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OWSD NATIONAL CHAPTERS

For International Literacy Day, Training Centre in Communications (TCC Africa) and the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) converged for a virtual webinar highlighting key insights and discussions on literacy and gender equality in the Global South. The webinar themed “Exploring Illiteracy and Prejudice against Women”, was held on 8th September 2023 on the Zoom virtual platform.

The webinar served as a platform for in-depth discussions regarding the underlying causes of illiteracy and its ramifications on women's empowerment. The webinar featured the following OWSD national chapter heads as guest speakers; Wezi Nyimbili from OWSD Zambia, Dr. Awelani Mutshembele, an EXCO member of OWSD South Africa chapter and Dr. Rana Dajani, from OWSD Jordan Chapter. The speakers each contributed their insights into these issues and highlighted success stories from literacy programs implemented in various OWSD Chapters that are making tangible changes in their communities. The webinar was attended by one hundred and thirteen (113) participants from over 43 countries. The webinar recordings can be accessed through: Dajani, R., Owango, J., Nyimbili, W., & Mutshembele, A. (2023). Exploring Illiteracy and Prejudice against Women. TCC Africa. <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.cbdec047>

**OWSD TALKS**

**Exploring Illiteracy and Prejudice against Women**

Hosted By

**TCC**  
Training Centre in Communication  
Train. Support. Empower

**ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

**8TH SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**

8th September 10:00 AM EAT

STREAMING ON **Facebook LIVE**



# WEBINARS

## USING AFRICAN POLICY DATA TO MONITOR TRENDS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPR), African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and Digital Science converged for a webinar titled 'Using African Policy Data to Monitor trends in Public Policy', with an aim to illuminate on the untapped potential of African policy data which when harnessed effectively can serve as a guiding light for policymakers and governments to steer decisions towards impactful outcomes. The webinar, held on 15th August 2023, featured insights from Dr. Nicholas Ozor, the Executive Director of the [African Technology Policy Studies Network \(ATPS\)](#), Mr. Eliud Moyi, the Principal Policy Analyst at [Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis \(KIPPR\)](#) and Michael Taylor, Head of Metrics Development at [Digital Science](#). The webinar was attended by one hundred and twenty-two (122) participants.

The recordings of the webinar can be accessed here: Ozor, N., Moyi, E., Taylor, M., & Owango, J. (2023). Using African Policy Data to Monitor trends in Public Policy. TCC Africa. <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.ff83ac50>

**Using African policy data to monitor trends in public policy**

15 August 2023

11:00 AM EAT/ 9:00 AM GMT

STREAMING ON LIVE

Altmetric Training Centre in Communication  
Train. Support. Empower.

DIGITAL science KIPPR  
THE KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

# WEBINARS

## DOAJ AT 20: TRUSTED EVENT

In commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Training Centre in Communications (TCC Africa) orchestrated a virtual event titled "DOAJ at 20: Trusted." The webinar, held on the 7th of December 2023 via the Zoom virtual platform, centered around critical insights and discussions on trust in scholarly communication and Open Access. Serving as the moderator for this thought-provoking session was the Executive Director of TCC Africa, Joy Owango. Distinguished speakers included Judith Barnsby, Head of Editorial at DOAJ, Ivan Oransky, Editor of Spectrum, as well as Ixchel Faniel and Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah, both esteemed scientific researchers. Each speaker provided valuable perspectives on the essence of trust and explored the various facets of mistrust prevalent in scholarly communications.

The webinar drew an audience of participants from numerous countries, totaling one hundred and twenty (120) attendees. Access the webinar recordings [here](#)

The banner features a green background with white text. On the left, it says "With speakers" above four circular portraits of speakers: Ivan Oransky, Judith Barnsby, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah, and Ixchel Faniel. Below the portraits of Oransky and Barnsby, it says "Moderated by Joy Owango, Founding Director, TCC Africa". On the right, it says "DOAJ at 20" with a funnel icon, followed by "TRUSTED". Below that, it says "ONLINE EVENT 7th December 2023 14:00 UTC". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by" followed by logos for the Royal Society of Chemistry, EBSCO, and Crossref.

The [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) is a platform that hosts a community-curated list of open access journals, maintained by Infrastructure Services for Open Access (IS4OA). It was launched in 2003 with 300 open access journals. DOAJ works to build an equitable and diverse scholarly ecosystem where trusted research can be accessed globally without barriers.

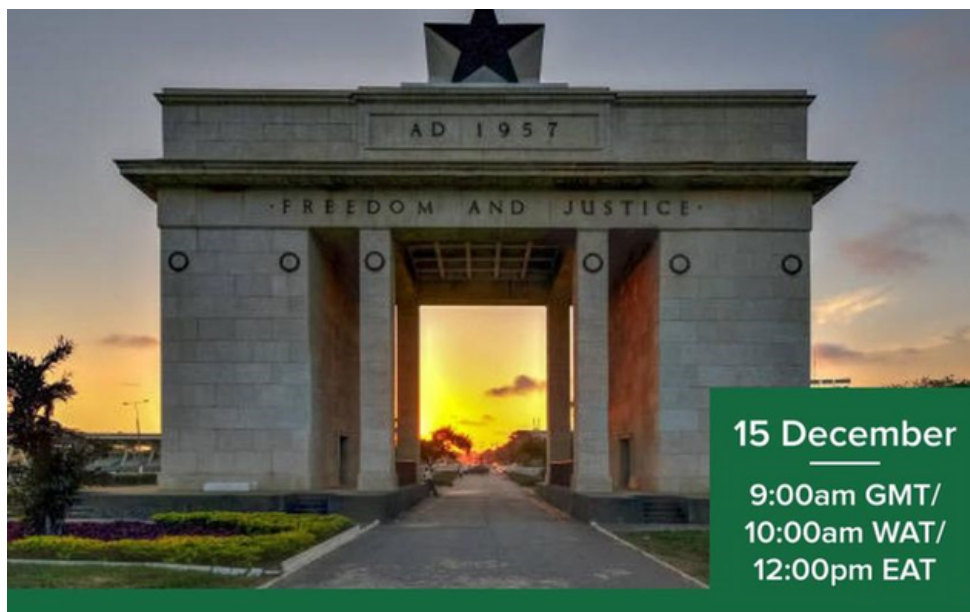
# WEBINARS

## INCREASING GHANAIAN ACADEMIC RESEARCH VISIBILITY THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

TCC Africa was privileged to collaborate with the Government of Ghana, facilitated by the [Ghana Tertiary Education Commission \(GTEC\)](#), the [Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana \(CARLIGH\)](#), and supported by Digital Science's Altmetric and Dimensions, in hosting a national webinar on 'Increasing Ghanaian Academic Research Visibility Through Strategic Partnerships.' The webinar, held on December 15th, 2023, saw the participation of one hundred and twenty-seven (127) attendees.

The collaboration aimed to emphasize the pivotal role of strategic partnerships in augmenting the visibility of academic research in Ghana, and served as a platform for various stakeholders and key players in Ghana's academic and research community, marking a noteworthy milestone in advancing research visibility and fostering collaboration. Distinguished speakers who shared their insights during the webinar included Federica Silvi, Product Manager at Altmetric, Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, Director-General of Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), Emily Alagha, Senior Director of Research Analytics & Support at Digital Science, and Dr. Mac Anthony Cobblah, Chairperson of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH). The recordings of this session can be accessed below: Alagha, E., Silvi, F., Cobblah, M. A., Abdulai, A. J., & Owango, J. (2024).

Increasing Ghanaian Academic Research Visibility Through Strategic Partnerships. TCC Africa. <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.0fd7a2f6>



*Increasing Ghanaian Academic Research  
Visibility Through Strategic Partnerships*





# consultancies





# CONSULTANCIES

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR TRAINING AND MENTORING WITH CABI

TCC Africa was delighted to support the CABI Agriculture and Bioscience in their editor training and mentoring programme designed to provide new editors with the skills and knowledge for future editorial board roles.

“Editorial board membership is a prestigious achievement. It helps to raise the profile of the researcher within their field, and can lead to Editor leadership roles in future.”

The participants also have access to a facilitated WhatsApp group to discuss the training. There were three hundred and seventy- nine (379) participants.

The online workshop was held in three parts:

Workshop 1: Best practice and industry standards- Wednesday 22 March 12:00 UTC

Workshop 2: Impact factors and persistent identifiers (run by TCC Africa)- Wednesday 29 March 12:00 UTC\*

Workshop 3: Peer-review process (run by TCC Africa)- Wednesday 5 April 12:00 UTC

TCC Africa has been continuously supporting and engaging the editors by mentoring them and equipping them with the skills and knowledge for future editorial board roles.

See previous workshops and access the recordings here:

<https://tccafrika.pubpub.org/pub/mhgdbc75/release/1>



# CONSULTANCIES

## A STRATEGIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP FOR STRENGTHENING UNIVERSITIES IN KENYA- MERU UNIVERSITY

In an effort to strengthen the self-sustainability of universities in Kenya, TCC Africa, in collaboration with the University of Florida (UF) Kenya Program, conducted a two-day workshop on resource mobilization at Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST). The primary goal of the workshop was to equip the senior management team at MUST with the necessary knowledge and skills to develop effective resource mobilization strategies. The workshop aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify strategic opportunities for resource mobilization.
- Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.
- Encourage diversification of resources and portfolio expansion.

The workshop resulted in the development of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy document tailored to the specific needs and goals of Meru University of Science and Technology. This workshop was testament to TCC Africa and UF's collaborative vision to foster a thriving research ecosystem that contributes to the socioeconomic development in Kenya.

MUST is a leading research university in Kenya, offering a range of programmes in agriculture, business, education, engineering, healthcare and more.

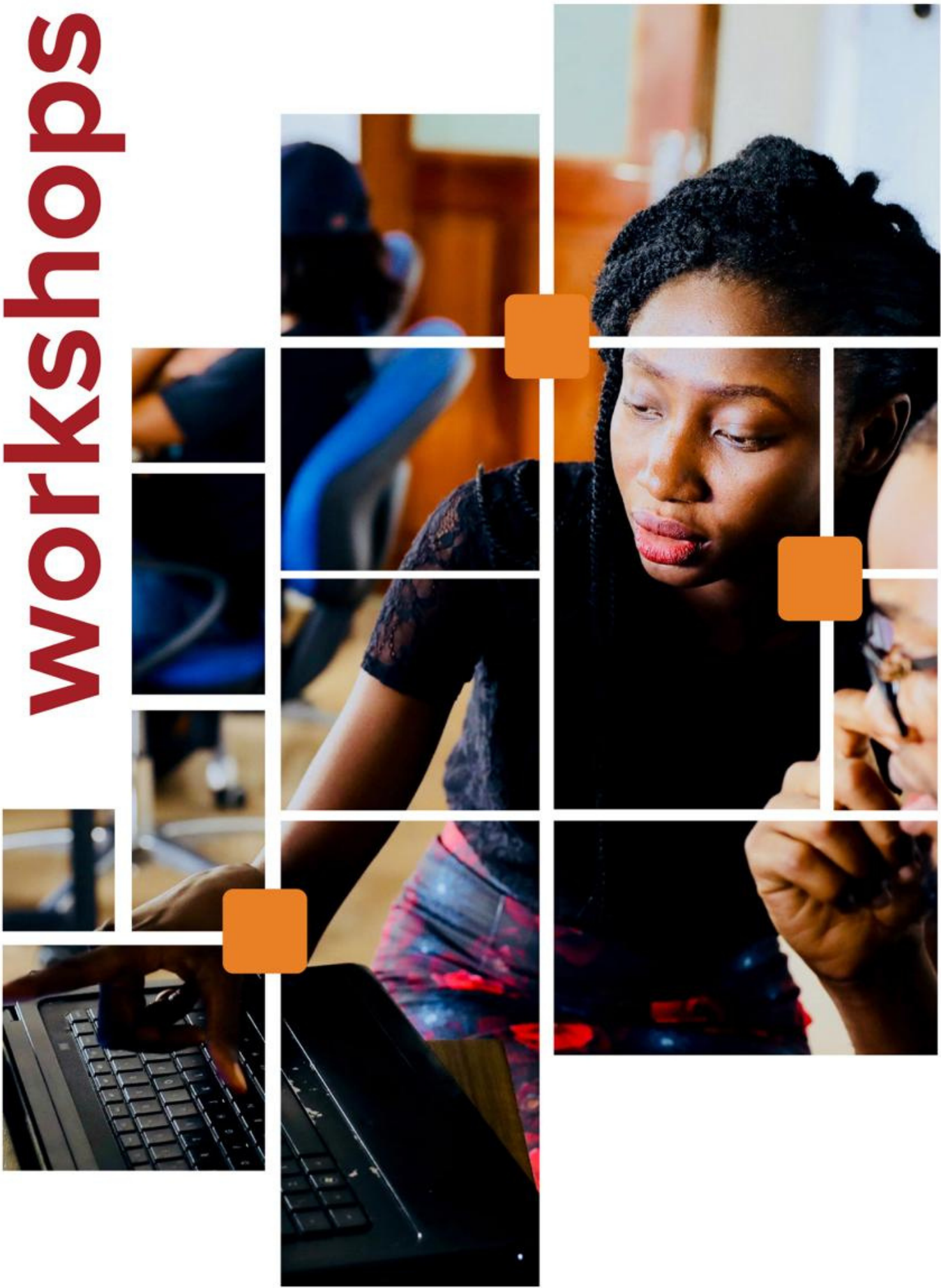
The Universities Fund was established under section 53 of the Universities Act, 2012 for financing Universities in Kenya. The Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees known as the Universities Fund (UF) which has been in operation since 2016. The function of the Trustees is to generally manage the Universities Fund.



Various stakeholders at the Meru University of Science and Technology University pose for a photo in front of the administration block.



# workshops



# WORKSHOPS

## USING OPEN ACCESS AI IN IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC LIFECYCLE

In 2023, Training Centre in communication (TCC Africa) organized national and institutional workshops which featured hands on demonstrations co-facilitated by personnel from partner organizations, who guided the researchers on the use of Open Access Research Discovery tools to increase research output and visibility of early career researchers. The Open Access tools introduced were:

[Scholarly](#), the online summarizing tool by Scholarcy is a tool that can quickly identify the key points and arguments of research papers as well as more easily critically analyze papers to understand how the research builds on or differs from prior studies and effectively interpret large collections of articles.

The [Open Research Library \(ORL\)](#), by Knowledge Unlatched, is a user-friendly platform that enhances the discovery of worldwide open-access publications covering different disciplines.

[Dimensions](#), by Digital Science, is a citation database that can be used to explore research grants, publications, citations, clinical trials, patents, and policy documents in one place.

The workshops saw an attendance of two thousand four hundred and fifty six (2456) participants.

The breakdown below has been categorized according to whether the workshop was institutional or at a national level.

Workshop	Type	Country	Participants
Using Open Access AI tool in improving health research and academic lifecycle for Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences- 28th February, 2023	Institutional	Tanzania	141

Workshop	Type	Country	Participants
Using Open Access AI to Improve the Academic Lifecycle for CARLIGH Members	National	Ghana	177
Using Open Access AI in improving the Academic Lifecycle for United States International University (USIU)	Institutional	Kenya	103
Using Open Access AI to Improve the Academic Lifecycle for Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)- 7th July 2023	Institutional	Kenya	1231
Using Open Access AI to Improve the Academic Lifecycle for Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)- 25th August 2023	Institutional	Kenya	746
Using Open Access AI to Improve the Academic Lifecycle for Tangaza University College and Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA)- 28th November 2023	Institutional	Kenya	58

# WORKSHOPS

## HIGH LEVEL MULTI- SECTORAL NATIONAL OPEN SCIENCE DIALOGUE FOR ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN TANZANIA

By invitation from the Government of Tanzania through the Consortium of Tanzania University and Research Libraries (COTUL), the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), higher education leaders and policy makers from Tanzania, gathered for a high level national Open Science Policy Dialogue on 15th February 2023 in Dar-Es -Salaam. This was the first of a series of national-level conversations on Open Science aimed at advocating for its implementation in East Africa. The initiative has been an ongoing effort by the organizers- Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa), the Public Library of Science (PLOS) and the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) to ensure that national conversations on Open Science are represented in the regional STI policy. There were three hundred and four (304) in the session.

Read the press release here: <https://www.tcc-africa.org/tanzanias-national-open-science-dialogue-exploring-challenges-and-opportunities-towards-an-open-science-ecosystem/>

Access the recordings here: <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.8b83788e>



# WORKSHOPS

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON OPEN SCIENCE: PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA**

On April 25th, 2023, more than seven hundred (700) scholars and stakeholders in higher education from southern Africa gathered at the University of Pretoria to engage in a dialogue about Open Science and the subsequent practical measures required for its implementation in the region. The blended workshop, dubbed, 'Regional Open Science Dialogue in Africa', provided a platform for the panel and participants to share best practices and explore innovative ways funders and HEIs can recognize and incentivize open science practices.

The Southern African Open Science dialogue aimed to achieve the following outcomes:

- Promote the effective adoption of Open Science and Open Access principles and practice among members of the Association of African Universities and respective governments
- Increase education and awareness on Open Science and Open Access in the Association of African Universities (AAU) member academic community and respective governments

The participants listed thoughts and ideas on practical actions that governments, researchers and academic institutions, answering questions detailed in the documents linked below:

o [Rethinking Research Assessment and Incentivization in Open Access and Open Science](#)

o [Infrastructure Investments to Support Open Science in Africa](#)

Read more on the event and access the recordings here:

<https://doi.org/10.21428/3b2160cd.ff9b2618>



# REGIONAL OPEN SCIENCE DIALOGUE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



**Prof. Olusola Bandele Oyewole**  
Secretary-General, Association  
of African Universities



**Prof. Tawana Kupe**  
Vice Chancellor University of  
Pretoria



**Dr. Nokuthula Mchunu**  
Deputy Director African Open  
Science Platform (AOSP)



**Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze**  
Executive Board Member,  
Declaration on Research  
Assessment (DORA)



**Mrs. Mweneni Shahungu**  
National Open Science Policy  
National Commission on Research,  
Science and Technology  
(NCRST), Namibia



**Ms. Roheena Anand**  
Executive Director, Global  
Publishing Development, PLOS



**Dr. Peggy Boateng**  
Executive Secretary, African  
Academy of Sciences



**Prof. Rafols, Ismael**- Senior  
Researcher, Centre for Science and  
Technology Studies (CWTS),  
University of Leiden & Associate  
Fellow University of Sussex



**Prof Madara Ogot**  
Executive Director  
Ubuntu Alliance



**Dr. Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl**  
Head: Research and Develop-  
ment University of Pretoria



**Ms. Ellen Tise**  
Chairperson of the Board, South  
African National Library and  
Information Consortium  
(SANLIC)



**Susan Veldsman**  
Director at Academy of  
Sciences in South Africa



**Dr. Clifford Nxomani**  
Deputy CEO: National Research  
Foundation, South Africa

**25-26 April, 9am-2pm**

*Actionable Next Steps on Implementation for  
Higher Education Institutes & Stakeholders*



# WORKSHOPS

## THE KENYA NATIONAL OPEN SCIENCE DIALOGUE

In the Kenya National Open Science Dialogue held on September 20, 2023, at the University of Nairobi, national and regional stakeholders gathered to advocate for Open Science principles and practices in the East African Community Partner States. This collaborative effort, led by organizations such as EASTECO, PLOS, UON, UNESCO, KLISC, the Ministry of Education, and TCC Africa, aimed to break down barriers to knowledge sharing, address research inequalities, and promote equitable access to scientific information. The event featured prominent speakers, including Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Higher Education and Research. The dialogue marked a significant step in advancing Open Science principles and practices in the region, with a commitment to adopting Open Science policies in Kenya and supporting regional integration and socio-economic development through science and technology. This initiative builds on previous efforts and partnerships, emphasizing the importance of collaborative research and open access in academia. Researchers, librarians, and students were encouraged to embrace Open Science and Open Access for increased visibility, collaboration, and global impact. Read more here: <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.cf236d6c>

As per the objectives of the dialogue, the participants shared their perspectives on the challenges and practical actions that governments, researchers, and academic institutions should take to support the advancement of open science principles and practices in Kenya.

Read more on the: [Challenges that exist in the implementation of open science](#)  
Read more on the: [Next steps for implementing national open science initiative](#)

In culmination of the dialogue, the gathered representatives of policy actors from the Republic of Kenya made a resounding statement of intent.

### Statement of Intent

“We, as the Representatives of policy actors from the Republic of Kenya, intend to adopt Open Science in Kenya and are willing to address any unintended challenges that arise from it. We will set up a working group to realize a national Open Science Policy. We will work with the national policy makers and present it to the government and potential implementing partners who will fund the process in support of the adoption of Open Science. It is in this spirit that we will continue to support the adoption of Open Science with leadership from the Higher Education Policy Actors.”



The hybrid event attracted over one hundred and thirty-five (135) participants at the venue and three hundred and seventy four participants (374) participating virtually.



Participants attending the Kenya National Open Science Dialogue Pose for a group photo



Speakers at the Kenya National Open Science Dialogue pose for a photo

# WORKSHOPS

## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) WEST AFRICA WORKSHOP

TCC Africa had the privilege of sharing our experiences regarding the Open Science Policy Dialogues during the Regional Capacity Building Workshop organized by UNESCO West Africa. The focus of the workshop was to foster a deeper understanding of Open Science and its potential benefits, particularly in the context of West Africa's educational, scientific, and cultural landscape, and share experiences and best practices amongst countries with a view of commencing policy frameworks on Open Science. The workshop provided a platform for us to showcase our collaborative efforts with PLOS in hosting these dialogues across Africa. The workshop was held from 30th May to 1st June 2023 in Nigeria, and had forty (40) participants

### Capacity Strengthening in West Africa, on Implementation of 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science and Gender-inclusive Science Technology, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy Making, in West Africa

30<sup>th</sup>May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023





# WORKSHOPS

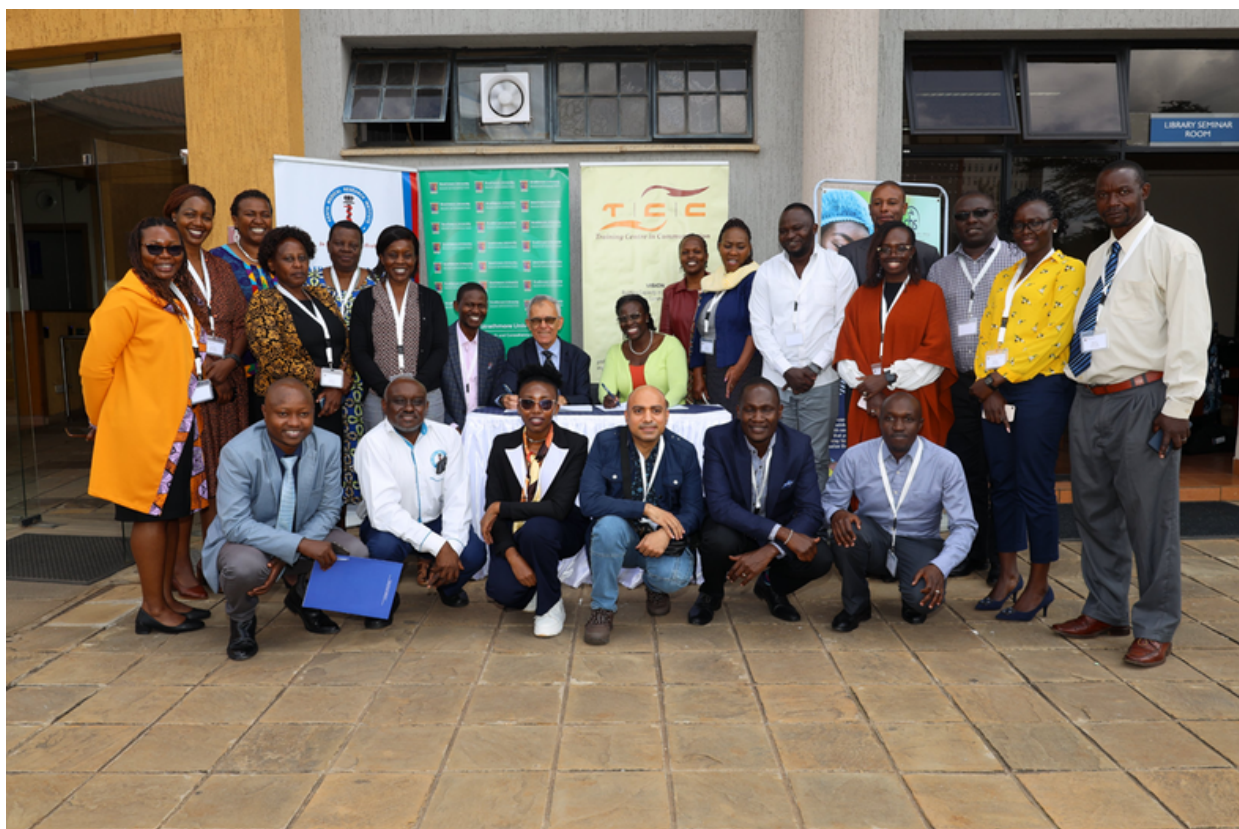
## ENABLING ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR RESEARCHERS WITH STRATHMORE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY CENTRE (SRCC)

On 9th June 2023, Training Centre in Communication converged at Strathmore University for a workshop on ‘Enabling Access to Financial Solutions for Researchers.’ The workshop which garnered thirty (30) participants, was a collaborative effort between Strathmore Research and Consultancy Centre (SRCC), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), The Leadership Circle, TCC Africa, CHS KENYA, and WHL Empowerment Think-tank. The workshop provided an opportunity for researchers to not only connect with industry leaders but also learn advanced strategies and technologies for effective grant management and donor mapping.



TCC Africa's Joy Owango delivering her presentation at the workshop

# WORKSHOPS



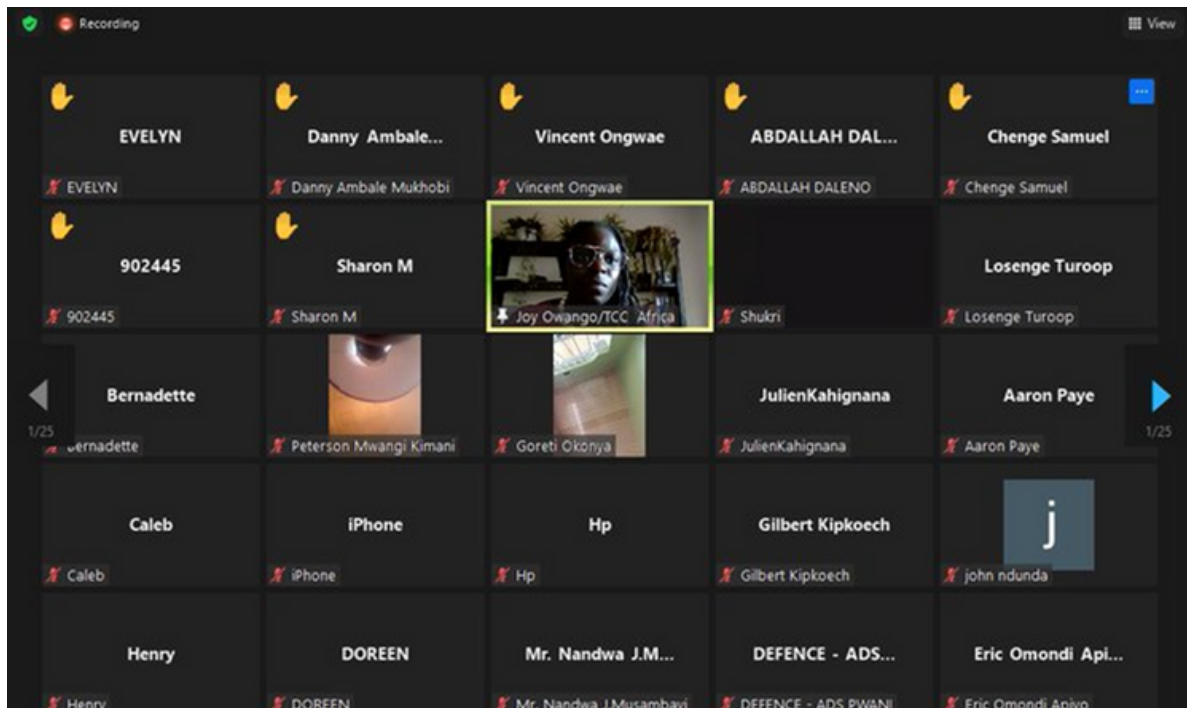
Group photo session with the attending health practitioners and researchers

## JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (JKUAT) WORKSHOP

Training Centre in Communication was delighted to have our director, Joy Owango, hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology (JKUAT) for a workshop. In her talk, Joy guided the academic community comprising over 900 postgraduates and early career researchers, on Open Science Resources they can utilize to increase their research output as well as smart journal selection strategies. The workshop was held on 8th June 2023.

**Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology** is a public university located in Juja, Kenya. It was established in 1981 as a middle-level college and was later elevated to a university in 1994. The university is named after Jomo Kenyatta, the first President of Kenya.

# WORKSHOPS



A screenshot of the group session session

**15 YEARS**  
**TCC**  
Training Centre in Communication  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
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**JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
OF  
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY**

---

**USING OPEN SCIENCE RESOURCES TO  
INCREASE RESEARCH OUTPUT & SMART  
JOURNAL SELECTION STRATEGY**

JOY OWANGO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
[JOY.OWANGO@TCC-AFRICA.ORG](mailto:JOY.OWANGO@TCC-AFRICA.ORG)  
+254 733 792316, @TCCAFRICA, TRAINING CENTRE IN COMMUNICATION #TCCAT10 #SCICOMM



# WORKSHOPS

## DISSEMINATION EVENT FOR THE INSPIRE PLATFORM FOR EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 HARMONIZED DATA (PEACH) PROJECT

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa)'s Joy Owango attended a workshop by INSPIRE network, looking to promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and discussions on the use of AI and data science tools in the COVID-19 response. The two-day dissemination workshop was held on 26-27 June and hosted at Blantyre, Malawi, under the theme 'Building a Data Platform for COVID-19 Data in Africa Using AI and Data Science Tools'. It was attended by key stakeholders from Malawi and Kenya and diverse communities interested in exploring AI's potential and its impact on health. This workshop was an opportunity for the network to present findings from the Inspire PEACH project—a platform for evaluation and analysis of COVID-19 harmonised data in Africa. By sharing these findings, the workshop aimed to foster collaboration and encourage the use of data science and AI tools to better understand and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent. The discussions were pertinent to TCC Africa's core tenet, Open Infrastructure, which aims to promote the use of open and accessible technology and tools in the field of communication and data management. As part of the Open Infrastructure initiative, TCC Africa has established the Africa PID Alliance, which will play a crucial role in supporting open and persistent identification of research outputs, datasets, and contributors, thus contributing to the overall goals of data sharing and collaboration. The event was attended by fifty (50) participants.

The Inspire PEACH project is produced by APHRC, MUBAS, CODATA, LSHTM, SAPRIN and MEIRU and funded by IDRC AI4COVID program.




# WORKSHOPS


## INTRODUCING THE INASP GENDER MAINSTREAMING TOOLKIT TO OWSD KENYA MEMBERS


TCC Africa was honored to host the INASP Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit workshop on December 14, 2023. The objective of this workshop was to familiarize members of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) with the content and utilization of the Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Education Toolkit developed by INASP. A total of thirty-one (31) participants actively engaged in the workshop. The workshop was structured around the expertise of facilitators Prof. Flora Fabian Mbatia and Mai Hoff Skovgaard who guided the participants to the toolkit's content, applications, and success stories from its implementation in various institutions globally. The INASP Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit is a comprehensive resource designed to support universities, higher education institutions, and research institutes in initiating gender mainstreaming processes. Developed collaboratively by Sue Gollifer, Siobhan Gorman, Flora Fabian, and the University of Dodoma (UDOM) in partnership with INASP, the toolkit employs a participatory approach to identify and address organizational gender gaps. It provides a structured framework for creating a gender action plan, launching formal gender mainstreaming processes within institutions, and fostering an open and safe space for participants to share diverse personal experiences and opinions. The toolkit is organized around six modules, guiding participants through a learning journey from gender sensitization to the development of concrete action plans.

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**INASP Gender  
mainstreaming toolkit.  
An introduction to  
OWSD Fellows**

 ORGANIZATION  
FOR WOMEN IN  
SCIENCE FOR THE  
DEVELOPING WORLD

 inasp

 14 Dec 3:30pm EAT /12:30 pm GMT

# WORKSHOPS

## UON RESEARCH WEEK 2023- HARNESSING RESEARCH FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITIES.

TCC Africa actively participated in the University of Nairobi's Research Week, contributing to the event's success and aligning with the university's commitment to Research and Innovation. This annual gathering, from October 23rd to 27th, 2023, marked the sixth edition organized by the university, featuring a diverse array of conferences and webinars spread across its ten faculties. TCC Africa's team actively participated in training sessions on scholarly communication and open science organized by the Faculty of Science and Technology. The sessions were attended by over three hundred (300) participants.



Under the overall theme, "Harnessing Research for Resilience and Sustainability of Communities," researchers, staff, and students collectively addressed pressing global challenges, including climate change, food insecurity, youth unemployment, human health, and the high cost of living. TCC Africa has been in partnership with the university for the last fifteen years supporting its researchers in improving their output and visibility through training in scholarly and science communication and helping them communicate their research findings more effectively and to connect with wider audiences.



# WORKSHOPS

## SUPERVISOR AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION TRAINING FOR OWSD KENYA MEMBERS

TCC Africa, in collaboration with the OWSD Kenya Chapter, organized a training session on October 18, 2023, focusing on "Supervisor and Scholarly Communication Training." The joint effort aimed to provide crucial guidance and support to Early Career Supervisors for Postgraduate Students, fostering effective mentorship and advancing scholarly communication within the academic community. This collaborative initiative reflects the shared commitment of TCC Africa and OWSD Kenya to empower professionals and contribute to the development of a vibrant and inclusive research ecosystem. Facilitated by academic experts, the sessions covered a spectrum of topics. Dr. Joyce Wangari focused on personal management, providing insights into effective time management and strategies for maintaining mental health. Dr. Virginia Gichuru further discussed the supervisor's role in managing students, including mentorship, research proposal development, and overseeing the entire Ph.D. program. The session also highlighted effective research discovery, critical thinking, academic publishing, and strategies for supporting researchers' visibility. Professor Verdiana Masanja led the discourse on the different dynamics of PhD supervision. This comprehensive training not only addressed the nuances of supervision but also underscored the importance of scholarly communication in the academic landscape, fostering a holistic approach to postgraduate student development. The event had sixty five (65) participants. The **Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)** is an international organization that provides research training, career development and networking opportunities for women scientists throughout the developing world at different stages in their career. The recordings for the workshop can be accessed

here: <https://doi.org/10.21428/359fb1d2.00f681d5>





# conferences



# CONFERENCES

## NISO PLUS 2023

We were truly honored to have our Executive Director Joy Owango speak in this year's NISO Plus 2023, which, took place on February 14–16, 2023. NISO plus is developed by and for the global information community and covers PIDs, metadata, and more. Ms. Owango's shared her perspective on Increasing African Indigenous Knowledge and Research Output through Digitization. She introduced the Africa PID Alliance and its aim to make open science equitable and affordable as well as increase the visibility of African research through use of persistent IDs. There were thirty five (35) participants in the session.

The conference brings people together from across the global information community to share updates and participate in conversations about our shared challenges and opportunities. The focus is on identifying concrete next steps to improve information flow and interoperability, and help solve existing and potential future problems.



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**Joy Owango**  
-Executive Director

**NISO PLUS 2023**  
Global Conversations  
Global Connections

**Increasing African Indigenous Knowledge and Research Output Through Digitization**

# CONFERENCES

## THE UNITED NATIONS 3RD OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) was delighted to be part of the United Nation's 3rd Open Science Conference held in New York from 8 to 10 February 2023. The delegation at the conference of policy makers, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, researchers, scholars, librarians, publishers and civil society, engaged in dialogue about the opportunities and challenges of practicing open science and explore initiatives, themes and perspectives into the open scientific method and the digital scholarly communications cycle. The main theme of the event was Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals, Democratizing the Record of Science.



The conference participants discussed about the present and future of open science practices for the SDG's and reaffirmed that scientific progress and its applications are for the benefit of all. These were discussed under the three main themes:

- Equity in open scholarship,
- Reforming scientific publishing, and
- Strengthening the science-policy-society interface.

Ms. Joy Owango shared how TCC Africa and PLOS are working together to develop open science policy and promote open access by engaging higher education stakeholders across Africa. There were seventy (70) participants at the conference. Access the recordings of the event [here!](#)



# CONFERENCES

## UNIVERSITIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We were honored to be invited by our partners, Universities Fund Kenya, to take part in their 1st Biennial Kenya Universities Funding conference. The event themed 'Universities for a sustainable future' was held on February 23-24 with the aim to congregate the university fraternity, government agencies in the university sub-sector, the National Treasury, development partners and the private sector to forge sustainable financing for universities in Kenya. There were one hundred and twenty (120) participants in the conference.

**1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Kenya Universities Funding Conference 2023**

**2023  
FEBRUARY  
23-24**

**Theme | Universities for a Sustainable Future**

**Venue | Pride Inn Flamingo Beach Resort, Mombasa**

[www.ufb.go.ke](http://www.ufb.go.ke) | 0207903331, 0746737935 | [info@ufb.go.ke](mailto:info@ufb.go.ke) | Universities Fund Kenya

Universities Fund | @UFKenya | Universities Fund | UNIVERSITIES FUND KENYA

The Universities Fund (UF) was established by Section 53 of the Universities Act, 2012 of the laws of Kenya. The main mandate of the Universities Fund is to provide funds for financing universities in Kenya.



# CONFERENCES

## DIGITAL SCIENCE RETREAT 2023

TCC Africa was honored to be invited to participate at the Digital Science 2023 Retreat. The event brought together some of the most prominent thinkers and practitioners from around the scientific community. TCC Africa was particularly honored to have their Executive Director, Ms. Joy Owango, as a keynote speaker at this year's retreat. Ms. Owango gave a talk on Dependency & Modernization Theories & Their Influence on Strategic Partnerships in Africa. She highlighted the importance of understanding these theories in the context of developing strategic partnerships that can contribute to the growth and development of the continent. Ms. Owango also shared how TCC Africa has leveraged on these theories in their collaborations with various stakeholders in the scientific community including Digital Science. There were five hundred (500) participants in the event held on March 29th 2023.



# CONFERENCES

## 5TH AFLIA CONFERENCE & 7TH AFRICAN LIBRARY SUMMIT

TCC Africa, represented by Joy Owango was pleased to be at the 5th AFLIA Conference and 7th African Library Summit whose purpose was to look at the Future of learning, libraries and sustainable development in Africa. Joy, who was joined by Ms. Marie Cotera from Figshare, delivered a presentation supporting the decolonization of learning in Africa. The focus of their talk was on the Digital Science and TCC Africa partnership, which has been in effect since 2019. The primary objectives of this collaboration are to promote the use and awareness of Open Access (OA) content in the research discovery process. The conference saw the attendance of fifty (50) participants.

The 5th AFLIA Conference and 7th African Library Summit was organized and hosted by the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA). The event brought together library leadership, librarians, other information professionals and government officials from across the continent.



**African Library &  
Information Associations  
& Institutions**

5th AfLIA Conference & 7th  
African Library Summit  
22-26 May, 2023

**DIGITAL**  
science



**Maria Cotera and Joy Owango**



Supporting the decolonisation of  
learning in Africa - the Digital  
Science and TCC Africa Partnership

Wednesday 24 May,  
8.45-9.00 GMT

# CONFERENCES

## OPEN REPOSITORIES 2023 (OR23)

Training Centre in Communication was thrilled to be part of the 18th International Open Repositories Conference (OR2023), which was held from 12-15 June 2023 at the Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, close to Stellenbosch, South Africa. Under the theme, 'Repositories unlocked for discovery and interoperability', the event facilitated thought-provoking discussions and expert insights focused on realizing the full potential of repositories in enabling discoverability and interoperability of information and data within the structured web of data. TCC Africa's director, Joy Owango was on the opening keynote panel where she delivered her thoughts on how repositories can improve data equity worldwide. The event brought together a diverse gathering of over two hundred (200) researchers, scholars, data experts, and advocates from across the globe.



**Prof. Willem Fourie**



**Dr Tshiamo Motshegwa**



**Ms Joy Owango**



**Prof Hussein Suleman**



**Ms Ellen Tise**

# CONFERENCES

## CONFERENCE OF RECTORS, VICE CHANCELLORS & PRESIDENTS OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES (COREVIP) 2023

TCC Africa was honored to have our Director, Joy Owango as one of the key speakers at the COREVIP 2023 meeting hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) in Namibia, on 4th July, 2023. The 22nd conference with the overall theme, 'Advancing Excellence in African Higher Education', featured keynote presentations, panel sessions, paper and poster presentations from key stakeholders highlighting interventions that address key challenges confronting African Higher Education. During her presentation, Joy shared insights into the collaborative efforts of Public Library of Science (PLOS), TCC Africa, and AAU in organizing the Higher Education Leadership Open Science Policy Dialogues across Eastern, Northern, and Southern Africa. There were one hundred and fifty (150) participants in the event.



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**Joy Owango**  
-Executive Director

**Strategic Partnerships on  
Open Science Policy  
Dialogues in Africa**

**COREVIP2023**  
Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors  
& Presidents of African Universities



# CONFERENCES

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (LIAZ) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

Mr. Harrison Weda, who serves as TCC Africa's Head of Programs and University Relations, participated in a panel session during the LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (LIAZ) ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The panel discussion focused on the topic of "Librarians Harnessing Capacity Building and 21st Century Skills for the National Development of Zambia." This conference took place from July 25th to July 28th, 2023.

Mr. Weda's fellow panelists included:

- Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata, University Librarian, National University of Lesotho.
- Mrs. Velenasi Munsanje, Teacher Librarian, International School of Kuwait.
- Ms. Pauline Nchemba, Librarian and e-Learning Coordinator, Levy Mwanawasa Medical University.
- Ms. Amna Babiker, Director Governments and Funders, Africa and Middle East, Digital Science.

This event was attended by approximately one thousand two hundred and three (1203) participants.

The [Library and Information Association of Zambia \(LIAZ\)](#) is a professional non-profit organization that unites all institutions and people working in Libraries, Archives, Information Centres and Other Information Services in Zambia.



# CONFERENCES

## OASPA 2023 CONFERENCE

TCC Africa was privileged to have our director, Joy Owango, participate in the OASPA 2023 Conference on Open Scholarship held from 19 – 21 September 2023. She was part of a panel session titled "Overcoming obstacles in policy development," where she presented on the topic of overcoming challenges in the development of Open Science policies through strategic partnerships in Africa. Her presentation focused on the Open Science Dialogues we host in Africa, barriers and practical considerations for policy implementation, including the importance of multisectoral collaboration in National/Regional Open Science Policy Dialogues, innovative approaches to rewards and incentives (government vs. institute), fostering cohesive discussions among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) stakeholders on Open Science, and the adoption of cost-effective and reliable open-source infrastructures (platforms, repositories, etc.).

The **Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA)** is a non-profit trade association of open access journal and book publishers. Having started with an exclusive focus on open access journals, it has since expanded its activities to include matters pertaining to open access books and open scholarly infrastructure. The conference attracted eighty (80) participants.



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Joy Owango  
-Executive Director

Overcoming obstacles in Open Science policy developments Through Strategic Partnerships in Africa

**OASPA**  
ONLINE CONFERENCE  
2023

# CONFERENCES

## KENET 15TH ANNUAL HEADS OF INSTITUTE FORUM

The 15th Annual Heads of Institutions Forum, organized by the Kenya Education Network (KENET), took place from December 13-15, 2023, at the Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort in Mombasa, Kenya. The central theme of the forum revolved around achieving digital inclusion for students, faculty, and researchers. During the conference, the Executive Director of TCC Africa, Joy. Owango delivered a keynote address on 'Strategic Partnerships in Open Science Policy Dialogues in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).' The blended event attracted a substantial attendance, with one hundred and fifty (150) participants actively engaging in discussions and initiatives related to the advancement of open science policies.

**Kenya Education Network (KENET)** is a not-for-profit membership operator incorporated to support research and education institutions. based at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



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**Joy Owango**  
-Executive Director

**Strategic Partnerships on  
Open Science Policy  
Dialogues in HEIs**

**kenet**  
Kenya Education Network

**15th Annual Heads of  
Institutions Forum**

# CONFERENCES

## INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK (IDW) 2023

International Data Week (IDW) is a significant gathering organized by the Committee on Data (CODATA) and the World Data System (WDS) of the International Science Council (ISC), alongside the Research Data Alliance (RDA). This event serves as a convergence point for data scientists, researchers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and data stewards from diverse disciplines worldwide. Its overarching goal is to explore optimal ways to harness the data revolution for the betterment of science and society through data-driven discovery and innovation. IDW seamlessly integrates the RDA Plenary Meeting, a biannual gathering of the RDA international member organization focused on advancing global infrastructure for data sharing and reuse, with SciDataCon, the scientific conference organized by CODATA and WDS that delves into the frontiers of data in research.

During the IDW 2023 held in Salzburg, Austria, from October 23rd to 26th, the TCC Director had the honor of presenting the African PID Alliance, an open infrastructure program by TCC Africa (<https://tcc-africa.org/persistent-identifiers/>). Emphasizing the significance of accommodating various Persistent Identifiers (PIDs), the Director engaged with partners and participated in a dedicated meeting on persistent identifiers on the third day of the conference. This meeting underscored the critical role of connecting research objects referenced in metadata, with notable contributors including Prof. Maui Hudson of Local Contexts, Dr. Jonathan Clark of DOI Foundation, and Matt Buys of CrossRef. The session was attended by sixty (60) participants.





# CONFERENCES

## GOING GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2023

Going Global is a conference for leaders in international education to debate the future of further and higher education. Since its inception in 2004, the British Council's Going Global conference has provided a strategic forum for leaders in international education to connect, share knowledge and build a global network of senior leaders and policy influencers to shape the future of further and higher education. This year's conference took place from Monday 20- 23rd November 2023 in Edinburgh and had two hundred (200) participants. TCC Africa was honored to have our director Ms. Joy speak at the Going Global Conference. Ms. Owango talked about the Africa PID Alliance's mission in increasing the visibility of African research through persistent identifiers. The Africa PID Alliance (APA) is part of the Open Infrastructure Program of the Training Centre in Communication (TCC-AFRICA).



Joy Owango  
-Executive Director



Universities, AI and  
the Global Good.



Going Global 2023

# CONFERENCES

## AGU 2023

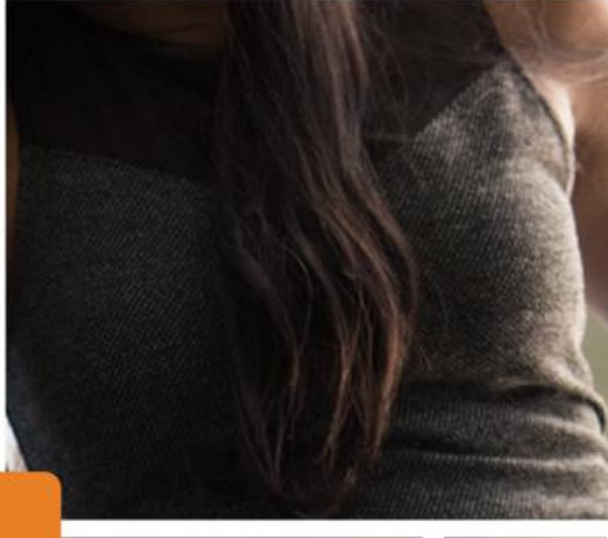
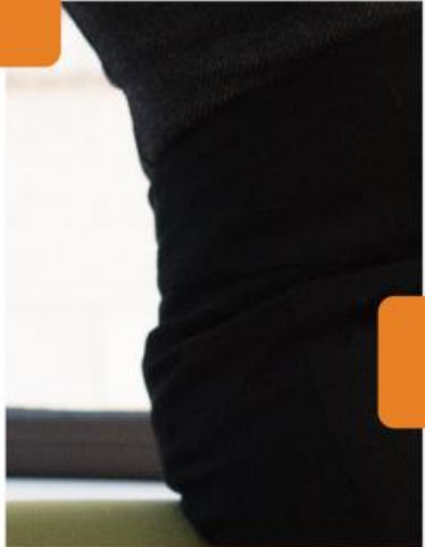
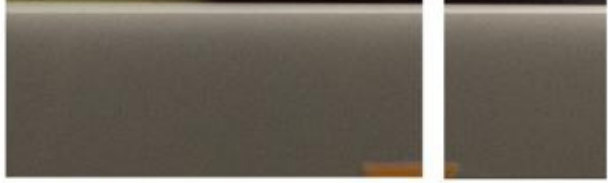
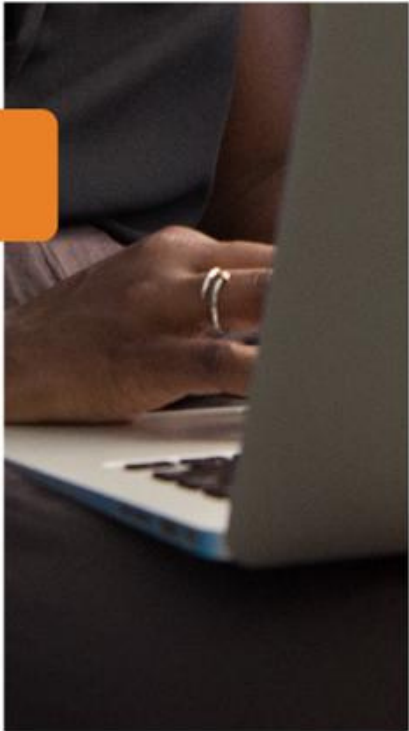
Our team from the Africa PID Alliance (APA) participated in a panel discussion at AGU23, contributing insights to the theme "Voices from the Global Open Science Community: Showcasing Progress, Challenges, and Lessons Learned." The blended event was held from December 11-15 in San Francisco, CA and had about one hundred and forty (140) participants. With a legacy spanning over a century, AGU has been at the forefront of opening pathways to scientific discovery, raising awareness on climate change, fostering collaborations, and ushering in a new era of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in the scientific fields. The theme for this year, "Wide. Open. Science.," highlighted AGU's commitment to openness. For further details about the meeting, visit <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>.



**AGU23**

**WIDE. OPEN. SCIENCE.**

# mentorship



# MENTORSHIP

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION TRAINING

In a bid to enhance data literacy among early-career researchers in its community, TCC Africa, in collaboration with its data analytics branch, Helix Analytics Africa, held a training on Data Analysis with the language software R. The training, held on 28th July, 2023 was attended by one hundred and six (106) participants. R is a powerful and versatile tool capable of handling diverse types of data analysis and statistical modeling in multidisciplinary research fields. The participants were introduced to the vast capabilities of R packages, enabling them to conduct robust data manipulation and analysis through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations. The sessions were facilitated by Eric Odok, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Helix Analytics Africa and Dr. Evans Otieno Omondi, a Data Analytics specialist from the Strathmore University.

**ZOOM WEBINAR**

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

July 28th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm EAT

**Eric Odok**  
Data Analytics, Statistical Modelling, Business Intelligence, project management, Supply chain management and customer service professional

**helix ANALYTICS**  
**TCC**  
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# MENTORSHIP

## AN INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE LEARNING TRAINING

Helix Analytics Africa, the data analytics branch of Training Centre in Communications (TCC Africa), recently conducted an immersive training session – "Introducing Machine Learning." This initiative aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the ecosystem and master fundamental concepts in Machine Learning. The training, held on 21st December 2023 was attended by one hundred and forty seven (147) participants.

The participants ranging from tech enthusiasts to academic professionals, embarked on a rich learning journey encompassing a theoretical and hands-on demonstration where they engaged with Python and R Tidyverse setups, ensuring a practical understanding of the concepts discussed.

The training was facilitated by:

- Shadrack Munene- Senior Analyst and Data Scientist
- Eric Odok- Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Helix Analytics Africa

The recordings can be accessed below:

<https://tccafrica.pubpub.org/pub/v3wttw8j/release/1>

**FREE**

**helix**  
ANALYTICS

**MACHINE  
LEARNING  
TRAINING**

**REGISTER NOW:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuuvqTspEtZLGdZ-JuvZNkjDAKzELxZGC>

# MENTORSHIP

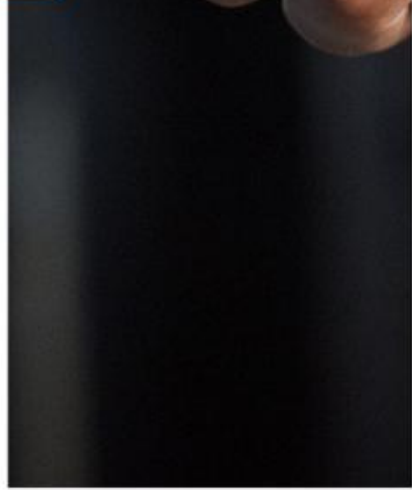
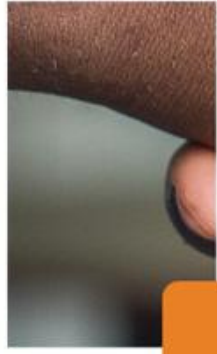
## A RECIPIENT OF TCC AFRICA'S WORK STUDY PROGRAM GRADUATES

TCC Africa proudly highlights the success story of Nicole Mulaku, a beneficiary of the TCC Africa Work Study Program. Nicole recently attained her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Zetech University on November 9th, 2023, showcasing the positive outcomes of our mentorship initiatives.



This achievement not only reflects Nicole's dedication but also underscores the effectiveness of TCC Africa's mentorship programs in nurturing and supporting promising individuals. Further insights into Nicole's journey can be explored in her testimonial, available on our website at <https://tcc-africa.org/testimonials/>

# partnerships



# PARTNERSHIPS

## SCHOLARCY AND TCC AFRICA FORM PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT RESEARCHERS WITH ACADEMIC WRITING WORKFLOW

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) entered a partnership with Scholarcy, an AI-powered reading and document analysis tool that converts research papers and other academic texts into interactive summary flashcards. With this collaboration, the two organizations aim to empower students and researchers in Africa to stay current with the increasing volume of literature in their field, and better organize their research and writing. Scholarcy's text-summarizing technology allows researchers to quickly decide which papers to use in their writing process, which helps them produce higher-quality publications. Read more on the press release here: <https://www.tcc-africa.org/scholarcy-and-tcc-africa-form-partnership-to-support-researchers-with-academic-writing-workflow/>





# PARTNERSHIPS

## TCC AFRICA AND STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY (SU) FORGE A PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE THE RESEARCH LIFECYCLE FOR THEIR RESEARCHERS

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) was delighted to announce a strategic partnership with Strathmore University, implemented through the Strathmore Research and Consultancy Centre (SRCC). With a shared vision of empowering its research community, this collaboration will bring together TCC Africa's expertise in research capacity building and resource mobilization and SRCC's proficiency in fund administration and project management, providing a seamless end-to-end solution for researchers, from capacity building and mentorship, supporting project execution, efficient fund administration and management to project completion. Representatives from both institutions gathered together for the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), symbolizing their commitment to the agreement.



TCC Africa, Strathmore University and the SRCC representatives at the signing of the MOU ceremony

# PARTNERSHIPS

## TCC AFRICA PARTNERS WITH MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCHERS IN THEIR RESEARCH LIFECYCLE

On 23rd April 2023, Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) announced its partnership with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), a non-profit public university in Kenya, to support its early career and established researchers in their research lifecycle. Through this partnership, Masinde Muliro University researchers will gain valuable skills and knowledge to navigate the academic landscape more effectively. TCC Africa's expertise in communication training for scientists will significantly contribute to improving research output and visibility for the university's researchers. Moreover, the collaboration will create a synergy that fosters a thriving research ecosystem for both early career and established researchers.

Read more on the press release here: <https://www.tcc-africa.org/training-centre-in-communication-partners-with-masinde-muliro-university-to-support-their-researchers-in-their-research-lifecycle/>

**Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology or MMUST**, formerly Western University College of Science and Technology, is a non-profit public university in Kenya. It has approximately 25,000 students across its branches: Main Campus (Kakamega Town) and its two satellite campuses, Webuye Campus and Bungoma Campus.



MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

University Of Choice

# PARTNERSHIPS

## TCC AFRICA AND INFORMATION TRAINING & OUTREACH CENTRE FOR AFRICA (ITOCA) ANNOUNCE A PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE LIBRARIANS' CAPACITIES IN OPEN SCHOLARLY INFRASTRUCTURE

On 25th September, 2023, Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) announced a strategic partnership with Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) aimed at empowering and building the capacities of librarians across the African continent in Data Management and Open Scholarly Infrastructure. The partnership will encompass a multi-faceted approach to address critical challenges faced by librarians, ensuring they are equipped with the tools and knowledge required to effectively navigate the evolving data-driven research and open scholarly practices. Both organizations will work together to develop a robust pipeline of initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of librarians strengthening their capacities in a bid to harness the full potential of digital technologies in advancing research and innovation in their respective institutions. The organizations will also leverage on their existing networks in securing sustainable funding to support these initiatives.

**ITOCA (Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa)** is a capacity building organisation aimed at enhancing information and communications technology (ICT) skills for scientists, researchers, librarians/ information specialists, academics and students focusing on the African continent. It is an international non-governmental organization (INGO) with its headquarters in Centurion, South Africa. Read more about ITOCA here: <https://www.itoca.org/>



# PARTNERSHIPS

## **MAZUNGUMZO – AFRICAN SCHOLARLY CONVERSATIONS MEETS AFRICA SCIENCE FOCUS: A PODCAST COLLABORATION FOR A DEEPER AFRICAN NARRATIVE IN SCIENCE**

Two leading voices in African science and scholarly communication, the Africa Science Focus podcast by the Science and Development Network (SciDev.net) and Mazungumzo – African Scholarly Conversations Podcast by Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa), are collaborating to enrich the discourse surrounding science, technology, and scholarly pursuits in Africa.

Africa Science Focus is SciDev.Net’s award-winning weekly podcast. The podcast unravels the impacts that science has on various aspects of life, from health and technology to agriculture and beyond. With an insightful lens on the African context, Africa Science Focus delivers compelling narratives that captivate audiences worldwide.

Mazungumzo – African Scholarly Conversations’ is a podcast by TCC Africa, that highlights the perspectives of various stakeholders in academia and research fields across Africa through open dialogue or ‘Mazungumzo’ on scholarly communication in Africa. Hosted by Joy Owango, Mazungumzo serves as a bridge, connecting audiences with the diverse scene of scholarly communication in Africa.

The collaboration with Africa Science Focus marks a significant crossroad for Mazungumzo, as it expands its reach. Through a fusion of perspectives, it brings forth a deeper and more diverse understanding of the continent’s contribution to the global academic landscape.

SciDev.Net is the world’s leading source of reliable and authoritative news, views and analysis about science and technology for global development. is a not-for-profit organizationorganisation and primarily engages with development professionals, policymakers, researchers, the media and the informed public.





# news & events



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## HARARE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY LEADERSHIP VISITS TCC AFRICA

TCC Africa was honored to host the Harare Institute, library and ICT leadership at the TCC Africa offices at University of Nairobi, Kenya. During the we week-long visit, there was a throng of activities—various TCC Africa partners congregated for experience sharing sessions, the HIT delegation got to meet with the University of Nairobi Library leadership as well as KENET. We look forward to working with our colleagues from Zimbabwe in supporting the academic community in improving their research output.

Harare Institute of Technology is the hub of technology development and delivery of quality technology programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. HIT is Zimbabwe's most energetic and responsive institute offering unparalleled educational opportunities for those seeking highest quality undergraduate, postgraduate and continuous studies.



L-R Joy Owango of TCC Africa, Mrs Miriam Chahuruva of HIT, Jasper Lee Maenzanise of HIT, Mr Edward Mujera of HIT and Harrison Weda of TCC Africa

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA'S VISIT TO JOMO KENYATTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The TCC Africa team were hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta Institute of Technology (JKUAT) leadership team and had discussions on how we can work with their academic community in improving their research output and visibility.

**Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)** is a public university that is situated in Juja, Nairobi, Kenya. It offers courses in Technology, Engineering, Science, Commerce, Management and Building sciences. The university has a strong research interest in the areas of biotechnology and engineering.



TCC Africa Representatives and JKUAT leadership pose for a photo

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA'S JOY OWANGO JOIN ROR STEERING GROUP

TCC Africa's Joy Owango was announced as the newest addition to the ROR Steering Group 2023. Joy is the Founding Director of the Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa). Joy has been instrumental in creating Global North-South collaborations, promoting Open Science dialogue and providing equitable access to open-source research discovery solutions to African governments and their respective academic communities. Read more here: <https://t.co/ntQkOzE7mS>

**Research Organization Registry (ROR)** is a global, community-led registry of open persistent identifiers for research organizations. ROR makes it easy for anyone or any system to disambiguate institution names and connect research organizations to researchers and research outputs.



**ROR is a global, community-led registry of open persistent identifiers for research organizations**



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA LAUNCHES HELIX ANALYTICS AFRICA TO ENHANCE PUBLIC INSIGHTS WITH DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS

In today's rapidly evolving world, the demand for data-driven insights has reached unprecedented levels. Decision-makers in various industries require timely, relevant, and accurate statistics to make informed choices that impact society positively. Recognizing this critical need, Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) officially launched its data analytics branch, Helix Analytics Africa. This initiative aims to promote "Data for Impact (D4I)" by leveraging Open Science and modern data infrastructure to enhance public insights. As a subsidiary of TCC Africa, Helix Analytics Africa steps in as the much-needed solution to meet the challenges posed by the increasingly complex data ecosystem.

Helix Analytics Africa will partner with research institutions to offer four key services: Data Science Infrastructural Development, Open Data & Analytics, Training & Coaching, and Persistent Identifiers. By combining these services with a collaborative approach, Helix Analytics Africa endeavors to extend the capacity of data science and analytics for public use.

Earlier in the year, both Helix Analytics Africa and Africa PID Alliance launched their websites and social media handles. These digital platforms are intended to serve as hubs for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and updates on the progress of their respective initiatives. With these concerted efforts, Helix Analytics Africa and the Africa PID Alliance are poised to make significant contributions to data-driven decision-making, research, and innovation for the betterment of the African region.



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA BOARD MEMBERS VISIT TO TCC OFFICES

Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) was pleased to welcome the TCC Africa board members to visit its facilities. The visit presented an opportunity for the board members to learn about the center's operations and engage the TCC Africa team in discussions while exchanging ideas and perspectives to further enhance the center's mission of supporting researchers in their research lifecycles. Our Executive Director, Joy Owango, also presented the latest developments within our organization. These updates encompass the establishment of the data science startup, Helix Analytics Africa, and the ongoing project, Africa PID Alliance, aimed at promoting persistent identifiers in research.



Ms. Joy Owango presenting TCC Africa's new PhD Study Room

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## UNESCO VISITS TCC AFRICA FOR OPEN SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP

TCC Africa had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Yoslan Nur and Prof. Faith Karanja from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at our office. The purpose of their visit was rooted in UNESCO's keen interest in establishing a partnership for the Kenya National Open Science Dialogue and exploring opportunities for ongoing collaboration in various initiatives that align with our shared goals and objectives in the open science and higher education sphere. Both organizations have been at the forefront of advocating for open science, promoting global access to scientific knowledge, and encouraging transparency and collaboration among researchers worldwide thus the visit marked a significant step toward fostering stronger ties between TCC Africa and UNESCO in our collective pursuit.



L-R: UNESCO Programme Specialist Dr. Yoslan Nur, TCC Africa's Joy Owango, and Prof. Faith Karanja a science consultant with UNESCO pose for a photo at the TCC Africa boardroom.



# NEWS AND EVENTS

## CELEBRATING MAZUNGUMZO- AFRICAN SCHOLARLY CONVERSATIONS PODCAST MILESTONES

In September, the Mazungumzo- African Scholarly Conversations podcast celebrated its one-year anniversary, marking a year since the first episode was launched and the successful conclusion of season one. This inaugural season comprised a total of 26 feature episodes and 11 interview episodes. It drew an impressive audience of 2,846 listeners hailing from 86 different countries, with Kenya emerging as the leading contributor to the podcast's listenership. Throughout season one, the podcast prided itself on showcasing a wide array of guests from diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise. From scientists to scholars, educators to innovators, each episode offered unique insights and perspectives. The topics covered were equally diverse, ranging from the transformative power of scholarships in African academia to the significance of research mentorship and the promotion of open science. The different voices and topics showed how diverse African scholarship is and why it matters worldwide, making season one a valuable resource for both academics and the wider community.





# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOY OWANGO JOINS RIKE-SD BOARD

In a significant development Joy Owango, the Executive Director of TCC Africa, has taken on a new role as a board member of RIKE-SD (Research for Impact, Knowledge-Based Economy, and Sustainable Development). RIKE-SD is a forward-thinking initiative with a mission to empower both academia and industry to foster sustainable economic growth through impactful research and knowledge-driven innovation. Joy Owango's appointment brings a wealth of experience and expertise, signaling a promising partnership in the pursuit of sustainable development goals through research and innovation.

The infographic features a central portrait of Ms. Joy Owango, Executive Director of TCC, Kenya, and Board Member of RIKE-SD. The background is a dark blue and green abstract pattern with the text 'BOARD OF EXPERTS' written vertically on both sides. The RIKE-SD logo is at the top left, and the website 'www.rikesd.org' is at the bottom left. A green button at the bottom center says 'Meet The Board'.

**RIKE-SD**  
IMPACT

**Ms. Joy Owango**  
Executive Director,  
TCC, Kenya  
Board Member

[www.rikesd.org](http://www.rikesd.org)

- Founding Director of the Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa)
- Established in 2006, TCC Africa stands tall as the premier African-based training center, garnering prestigious awards and accolades.
- The trust, adorned with Kenyan roots, has been fervently committed to elevating the scientific community by fostering partnerships with the University of Nairobi.
- Collaborating with 15 African countries that have embraced a noble initiative. These countries have pledged to invest 1% of their GDP in Higher Education and Research and Development, truly a beacon of hope for the continent's progress and prosperity.
- Joy assumes a crucial role as a board member of AfricArxiv, the continent's sole preprint repository.
- Valued member of the Steering Committee of the International Science Council's esteemed Steering Group on the Project on the future of scientific publishing.

**Meet The Board**

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## HELIX ANALYTICS INITIATES COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUES WITH PREDICTIVE ANALYTICAL RESOURCES LIMITED

Helix Analytics Africa embarked on collaborative discussions with Predictive Analytical Resources Limited (PARL) led by Helix Analytics CTO, Eric Odok and Dianne Huggins, the CEO at PARL. PARL, previously known as SPSS East Africa since its inception in 1998 and rebranded in 2010, is on a mission to provide meticulously-crafted solutions in Data Management, Business Intelligence, Risk, and Performance Management across East and Central Africa. Our conversations with PARL encompass various crucial aspects, including Professional Services, Open Data, Data Analytics, and Policy on Data Protection.



L-R Helix Analytics CTO, Eric Odok and PARL CEO, Dianne Huggins at the TCC Africa offices.

[Helix Analytics Africa](#) is deeply committed to the promotion of "data for impact (D4I)." Our mission is to leverage Open Science and modern data infrastructure to enhance public insights. This collaboration signifies a significant step towards achieving our shared goals of harnessing data-driven insights for the betterment of society.

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## TCC AFRICA GETS FEATURED IN THE UNESCO OPEN SCIENCE OUTLOOK

We are proud to announce that TCC Africa's OpenScience Advocacy Program, detailed at <https://www.tcc-africa.org/focus-areas/open-science-advocacy-and-adoption/> , has been prominently featured in the UNESCO Open Science Outlook. This program is dedicated to facilitating strategic stakeholder engagement on OpenScience policy dialogue at both government and institutional levels globally, fostering collaboration between the Global North and South-South regions. The ultimate goal is to encourage the adoption of best practices in Open Science.

### Open Science Outlook 1

Status and trends around the world



Our Open Science Advocacy Program has achieved significant success, thanks to the valuable partnerships with PLOS, the Association of African Universities, and the East African Science and Technology Commission. For more details, refer to the dedicated section in the report titled "Partnering to Develop Open Science in Institutions of Higher Education" at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387324>

# RESOURCES

## IN THE PRESS

1. Partnering to Develop Open Science in Institutions of Higher Education  
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2. [Interview] Joy Owango, Executive Director, Training Centre in Communication, Kenya  
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3. Unlocking the potential of open science in Kenya  
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<https://theyouthingmagazine.co.ke/2023/09/24/unlocking-the-potential-of-open-science-in-kenya-a-path-to-transparent-research-and-knowledge-sharing>
5. The continent that can harness the future  
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