



ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified

CALL FOR STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS, INNOVATIONS, ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

COMMEMORATION OF 40 YEARS OF COSTECH (#COSTECH@40)

Conference Theme “From Legacy to Future: COSTECH@40 and the road towards Vision 2050”

Dates: 29th – 30th October 2026

Venue: Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

Organizer: Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)

1. ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The COSTECH@40 Conference commemorates four decades of leadership in advancing science, technology, innovation, research coordination, and evidence-informed national development in Tanzania.

Unlike conventional academic conferences, COSTECH@40 Conference is designed as a national platform for strategic dialogue, policy engagement, innovation partnerships, and implementation-oriented solutions supporting Tanzania’s transformation agenda under Development Vision 2050 (DIRA 2050). The conference will bring together government, academia, industry, innovators, investors, development partners, financial institutions, civil society, and other strategic actors to promote stronger linkages between research, policy, industry, investment, and implementation systems.

The conference will provide opportunities to share transformative innovations, implementation experiences, policy perspectives, institutional lessons, and scalable solutions relevant to Tanzania’s future development priorities. It will also feature innovation showcases, technology demonstrations, exhibitions, startup engagement platforms, policy and investment dialogues, and cross-sector networking forums aimed at strengthening partnerships, commercialization, and technology uptake.

As Tanzania advances towards a knowledge-driven, competitive, and innovation-led economy, COSTECH@40 provides a timely platform for strengthening evidence-to-implementation pathways and identifying strategic solutions capable of accelerating DIRA 2050.



2. STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES UNDER DIRA 2050

The COSTECH@40 Conference will place particular emphasis on strategic transformation priorities considered critical for accelerating Tanzania's transition towards a competitive, industrialized, resilient, and knowledge-driven economy under DIRA 2050. Priority attention will be directed towards industrial productivity and technological upgrading, employment multiplier potential, export potential, sector linkages, value additions, revenue generation, digital transformation and emerging technologies, innovation financing and commercialization systems, institutional capability and governance reform, human capital and future skills, climate resilience and green transformation, as well as strategic partnerships and investment ecosystems.

The conference further seeks to strengthen national dialogue on implementation systems, technology transfer, innovation governance, financing mechanisms, and institutional coordination required to translate research, innovation, and strategic ideas into measurable national development outcomes. Particular emphasis will also be placed on implementation capability, productivity transformation, and institutional systems required to translate innovation into measurable national development outcomes.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

The thematic areas of the COSTECH@40 Conference are aligned with Tanzania's strategic transformation priorities under DIRA 2050. Contributors are encouraged to submit strategic contributions, innovations, implementation experiences, policy perspectives, analytical reviews, technology demonstrations, and applied solutions relevant to the following themes.

Theme 1: Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation

This theme focuses on the role of science, technology, research, and digital systems in accelerating industrial competitiveness, service delivery, entrepreneurship, governance, and economic transformation. Areas of interest include artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, digital infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, technology transfer, digital governance, data governance, robotics, space governance, cybersecurity, data systems, telecommunications, research commercialization, digital governance, and innovation financing systems.

Theme 2: Industrialization, Infrastructure and Competitive Economy

This theme focuses on industrial transformation, productivity enhancement, value addition, strategic investment, financing, and economic competitiveness. Priority areas include manufacturing, energy, transportation infrastructure, agro-processing, mining and mineral value addition, SMEs and startups, industrial financing, commercialization systems, export competitiveness, technological upgrading, soft infrastructure development, and innovation-driven enterprises. The theme further encourages discussions on industrial productivity, technological upgrading, export competitiveness, and innovation-driven economic transformation.

Theme 3: Human Capital, Health and Knowledge Society

This theme focuses on strengthening human capabilities, health systems, education, skills development, and inclusive knowledge systems required for sustainable national transformation. Areas of interest include STEM education, future workforce systems, biomedical innovation, biotechnology, research development, digital health, science communication, public engagement, youth innovation, gender inclusion, and responsible innovation. Priority will also be given to future workforce systems, implementation capacity, and knowledge institutions supporting Tanzania's long-term competitiveness.

Theme 4: Climate Resilience, Sustainable Agriculture and Green Transformation

This theme focuses on enabling climate resilience policies, sustainable food systems, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, and green transformation through science and innovation. Areas of interest include climate-smart agriculture, agricultural biotechnology, fisheries, livestock, aquaculture, renewable energy, environmental conservation, biodiversity, circular economy systems, climate finance, and sustainable development solutions. The theme also encourages solutions supporting green investment, climate resilience financing, and sustainable resource productivity.

4. SUBMISSION CATEGORIES AND TEMPLATE

The COSTECH@40 Conference welcomes strategic, policy-oriented, implementation-focused, innovation-driven, and evidence-based contributions from a broad range of stakeholders working to advance Tanzania's development agenda under DIRA 2050.

Contributors are encouraged to submit work demonstrating strategic relevance, practical application, innovation potential, scalability, and measurable contribution to Tanzania's transformation priorities

The conference particularly encourages multidisciplinary and cross-sector contributions from public institutions, industry, innovators, investors, academia, development partners, civil society, and enterprise actors.

4.1 Categories of Submissions

The conference accepts the following categories of submissions:

i. Policy Briefs

Concise evidence-informed submissions addressing policy challenges, strategic priorities, governance issues, or sectoral reforms relevant to Tanzania's transformation agenda.

ii. Strategic Papers

High-level analytical or forward-looking papers addressing national priorities, , emerging trends, strategic (national) flagship projects, transformation pathways, investment opportunities, or future development scenarios.

iii. Position Papers

Papers presenting institutional, sectoral, professional, or stakeholder perspectives on key policy, development, innovation, or governance issues.

iv. Analytical Reviews and Evidence Syntheses

Critical analyses, systematic reviews, policy analyses, trend assessments, or evidence syntheses providing strategic insights for policymaking, investment, or implementation.

v. Best-Practice Case Studies and Implementation Experiences

Practical experiences and scalable models demonstrating measurable development impact.

vi. Innovation Showcase Papers and Technology Demonstrations

Submissions presenting transformative technologies, digital solutions, prototypes, enterprise innovations, startup initiatives, commercialization pathways, or market-ready innovations.

vii. Applied Research Contributions

Research-based submissions demonstrating practical application, policy relevance, implementation value, commercialization potential, or contribution to national transformation priorities.

4.2 Submission Template

i. Title of Submission

Provide a clear, concise, and compelling title reflecting the innovation, policy issue, strategic contribution, implementation experience, investment opportunity, or development challenge addressed.

ii. Author(s) and Institutional Information

Provide:

- Full name(s)
- Affiliation(s)
- Institution or organization
- Position/title
- Email address(es)
- Country (where applicable)

iii. Category of Submission

Indicate the relevant submission category:

- Policy Brief
- Strategic Paper
- Position Paper
- Analytical Review
- Evidence Synthesis
- Best-Practice Case Study
- Implementation Experience
- Innovation Showcase Paper
- Technology Demonstration
- Applied Research Contribution

iv. Conference Theme

Indicate the relevant conference theme and area of focus.

v. Abstract or Strategic Summary (Maximum 350–500 Words)

The abstract or summary should clearly highlight the following, where applicable:

- Background, context, or development challenge addressed
- Purpose, objective, or strategic focus
- Methodology, analytical framework, implementation model, or innovation approach
- Key findings, innovations, strategic insights, or lessons learned
- Policy relevance, institutional significance, or implementation implications
- Contribution to DIRA 2050 and Tanzania’s transformation priorities
- Commercialization, scalability, sustainability, or investment potential
- Recommendations, strategic actions, or proposed way forward

vi. Keywords

Provide 3–5 keywords relevant to the submission.

5. REVIEW CRITERIA

Contributions will be reviewed based on their strategic relevance, implementation value, innovation potential, and contribution to Tanzania’s transformation priorities under DIRA 2050.

Particular consideration will be given to contributions demonstrating measurable impact, strong implementation potential, transformative innovation, institutional relevance, strategic partnerships, and practical solutions to national development challenges.

Selected contributions may be considered for conference presentations, innovation showcases, policy dialogue sessions, institutional learning platforms, strategic publications, partnership engagement opportunities, and post-conference policy recommendations.

6. ENGAGEMENT, EXHIBITION AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The COSTECH@40 Conference provides opportunities for strategic engagement, innovation visibility, partnership building, investment dialogue, and institutional collaboration. The conference will feature innovation showcases, technology demonstrations, exhibitions, startup engagement platforms, policy dialogues focused on DIRA 2050, and networking forums designed to promote practical solutions and transformative partnerships.

Institutions, innovators, enterprises, investors, development partners, financial institutions, universities, research organizations, NGOs, and private sector actors are encouraged to participate through exhibitions, innovation showcases, sponsorship arrangements, strategic partnerships, and collaborative engagement platforms aligned with Tanzania's transformation priorities under DIRA 2050.

The conference will particularly support visibility and engagement for transformative technologies, scalable innovations, enterprise solutions, commercialization initiatives, and implementation experiences contributing to industrial development, digital transformation, sustainability, productivity growth, and inclusive socio-economic progress.

7. IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Launch of Call for Contributions (Abstract/Full issue)	1 st July 2026
Call Submission Deadline	30 th July 2026
Notification of Acceptance	15 th August 2026
Full call submission opening	16 th August 2026
Full Issue Contribution/Paper Submission Deadline	30 th August 2026
Registration for COSTECH@40 Opens	4 th September 2026
Notification of Full issue/Paper acceptance:	15 th September 2026
Submission of final camera-ready copy	25 th September 2026
Deadline for Registration for COSTECH@40	11 th October 2026
COSTECH@40 Conference	29 th - 30 th October 2026

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

For information regarding submissions, participation, exhibitions, sponsorship opportunities, strategic partnerships, registration, and conference programmes, stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Conference Secretariat through the official channels below.

Conference Secretariat

Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)
COSTECH Building, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Kijitonyama (Sayansi)
P.O. Box 4302, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Telephone: +255 22 2771358; +255 741 955 710
Email: dg@costech.or.tz; stice@costech.or.tz
Website: www.costech.or.tz

Conference Portal: <https://stice.costech.or.tz>

Join the National Conversation Shaping Tanzania's Future

COSTECH@40 is a national platform for innovation, strategic partnerships, and transformative solutions supporting Tanzania's journey towards Vision 2050.

