



National ICT  
Innovation Hub

# The NIIH Post

# JUNE 2025

## NEWSLETTER

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## **EDITORIAL: CELEBRATING INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION**

Welcome to the June edition of the NIIH Post, where we spotlight the power of collaboration driving Uganda’s digital transformation.

This issue highlights major strides across innovation, skills development, and inclusive partnerships—from the UJ Connect Pilot Projects and Maarifasasa Digital Impact Hub launch in Lira, to the youth-led energy at the Refactory Solutions Expo, What If Innovation Festival, and the groundbreaking Aerospace Workshop 2025 among others.

We celebrate strategic partnerships in our Partner Spotlight Series, showcase key programs like the Technology Skills & Entrepreneurship Program, INTECRAFT Lab, and the ANWiSTEM financial literacy initiative—all working to empower a future-ready generation.

Events like the UICT Innovation Bootcamp, Museum Fair, and Professional Talks continue to refine Uganda’s innovation pipeline, while discussions around mental wellness, founder protection, and youth web innovation deepen the conversation.

Together, these stories affirm one message: Uganda’s digital future is being built by all of us—boldly, inclusively, and collaboratively.

**Winfred Nankanja**

Communications and PR Associate, National ICT Innovation Hub



# Message From the National ICT Innovation Hub Team Lead Innovations - **Flavia Opio**



I'm pleased to share this month's update as we continue to unlock new frontiers in Uganda's digital transformation journey. May and June 2025 have been marked by remarkable activity, collaboration, and momentum across innovation, capacity-building, and strategic partnerships.

We proudly launched the UJ Connect BizLink Platform, Uganda's first national B2B e-commerce marketplace in partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance—ushering in a new era for local businesses to access wider markets and scale competitively.

At the regional level, the Maarifasasa Digital Impact Hub was launched in Lira, advancing our national BPO strategy and contributing to the goal of creating 150,000 digital jobs by 2030.

Our Partner Spotlight Series celebrated impactful collaborations with MTN Foundation, StartHubAfrica, Refactory, CenteTech, FundiBots, Pollicy, Enabel, and BrighterMonday. These collaborations have played pivotal roles in advancing youth skilling, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation.

Other key highlights included the Technology Skills & Entrepreneurship Program for university students and educators in collaboration with StartHub Africa kicked off, the dynamic ReFactory Academy Solutions Expo showcasing student-driven innovation, and

celebrations of young innovators creating impactful, community-based solutions and UJ Connect Pilot Projects. The “What If” Innovation Festival 2025, themed Doing More with Less, encouraged bold thinking in resource-limited settings, while Uganda's first Aerospace Workshop sparked STEM curiosity and ambition. The UICT Innovation Bootcamp & Pitch 2025 continued refining the innovation pipeline, complemented by career-focused insights through “Your Dream Job Needs More Than a Degree!” and a vital dialogue on creative protection in Empowering Founders to Protect What They Build. We also advanced digital fluency through the Problem Solving with WordPress initiative, nurtured policy engagement with Legislating for a Mentally Well and Financially Resilient Afrika, empowered women through ANWiSTEM's financial literacy training, and explored the intersection of culture and technology at the Museum Fair 2025, where our startups eMoT Museum and Real VR proudly represented Uganda's creative ingenuity. And The INTECRAFT Innovation and Techpreneurship Program, launched by Edutech Club, welcomed 63 students from 19 institutions. They are exploring AI-augmented design thinking, WordPress prototyping, and future-ready tools.

Each initiative reflects a growing ecosystem committed to building a digitally skilled, inclusive, and innovation-powered Uganda. We remain steadfast in this journey together.

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT SERIES: CELEBRATING THE POWER OF COLLABORATION.

Article by **The NIH POST Desk**

At the National ICT Innovation Hub, we believe that partnerships are the engine of impact. That's why we're thrilled to introduce our Partner Spotlight Series—a campaign that highlights the visionary organizations we work with to build a more inclusive, innovative, and digitally empowered Uganda.

Through this series, we're celebrating the stories, values, and outstanding work of our partners who share our commitment to driving digital transformation, skills development, and youth empowerment. Here are some of the changemakers we're proud to spotlight:

**MTN Foundation** – Bridging Communities Through ICT. The Foundation is advancing Uganda's digital transformation through initiatives in ICT, education, and health. Their commitment to community empowerment through technology aligns perfectly with our mission of inclusive innovation.

**StartHub Africa** – Building a Movement of Changemakers. StartHub Africa has been instrumental in co-creating high-impact programs with us, including the Green Growth Hackathon and enhancing Regional Innovation Hubs. Their focus on empowering youth-led innovation has made a lasting impact on our ecosystem.

**JICA Uganda** – Enabling Global Collaboration Through UJ-Connect. Our long-standing partnership with JICA Uganda, has opened doors for Ugandan startups to connect with Japanese companies through UJ-Connect. A major milestone includes the launch of the UJ Connect BizLink Platform (<https://bizlink.ict.go.ug>)—a digital gateway to global business matching and investment opportunities.

**Centenary Technology Services (Cente-Tech)** – Skilling for the Future. CenteTech has supported our skilling programs through digital training, mentorship, and crucial ICT infrastructure upgrades. Their support ensures our learners have the tools they need to succeed in Uganda's digital economy.



**Refactory** – Growing Uganda's Tech Talent Pipeline. Our collaboration has focused on preparing youth for the job market through mentorship, career expos, and market-relevant skilling. Together, we're nurturing a new generation of tech talent equipped for real-world innovation.

**Pollicy** – shaping Africa's digital future through data, research, and advocacy for digital rights. Together, we've co-created impactful experiences, such as DataFest, a vibrant gathering that brings together developers, creatives, and digital enthusiasts to exchange knowledge, spark innovation, and build tech solutions for the greater good.

**Fundi Bots** – Nurturing innovation and building a future-ready generation. Through our collaboration, we've supported hands-on robotics training, mentorship programs, and innovation exhibitions that inspire young people across Uganda to become problem-solvers.

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and technology leaders. Fundi Bots' commitment to making science and technology education more accessible and impactful aligns with our goal of building an inclusive and dynamic innovation ecosystem. Together, we are preparing young minds to design, build, and lead Uganda's digital future.

**Enabel** - Supporting Uganda's digital transformation journey. Together with Enabel, we hosted the Innovation Festival where we experienced innovation in action. Supporting Uganda's digital transformation journey through capacity building, skills development, and inclusive innovation.

**BrighterMonday Uganda** - Connecting talent with opportunity. Through strategic partnerships and digital tools, BrighterMonday is

equipping job seekers with the skills, access, and visibility they need to bridge the gap between talent and employers across the country.

Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@innovationhubug>). We're excited to share behind-the-scenes conversations and video spotlights with our partners. Don't miss out—subscribe today and follow the series as it unfolds!

This is more than just a spotlight—it's a celebration of the collective spirit shaping Uganda's digital future. Stay tuned as we continue to share stories of collaboration, impact, and innovation.

# FOSTERING INNOVATION THROUGH STRATEGIC COLLABORATION – VISIT TO GULU UNIVERSITY

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

Following the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance and Gulu University, we had the pleasure of visiting the university on Thursday, 22nd May 2025 to kick-start conversations around future collaboration.

This initial engagement focused on building rapport, understanding shared goals, and assessing the university's readiness to host an innovation hub that could serve as a catalyst for regional digital transformation.

We're pleased to report that the visit was both productive and promising. Both teams expressed a strong commitment to move forward together in laying the groundwork for impactful innovation programming in Northern Uganda.

This is just the beginning, and we look forward to co-creating a vibrant ecosystem of tech talent and entrepreneurship with Gulu University.



# MAARIFASASA DIGITAL IMPACT HUB LAUNCHED IN LIRA

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

On May 23, 2025, Uganda launched the Maarifasasa Digital Impact Hub in Lira during the Lira BPO Awareness Campaign—an event uniting government, academia, private sector, and development partners to accelerate Uganda’s Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector. Spearheaded by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the Hub aims to provide Northern Uganda’s youth with digital skills, employment opportunities, and global market access.

The launch aligns with Uganda’s National BPO Policy (Feb 2025), which targets 150,000 jobs by 2030. BPO is viewed as a scalable solution to youth unemployment, tapping into Uganda’s growing, tech-savvy workforce. As of April 2025, Uganda hosts 50 active BPO firms employing over 3,000 people, and has identified 243 BPO-ready companies.

Key advantages include:

A youthful population (77% under 25)

English proficiency (2.5M fluent speakers)

Cost-effective operations and a favorable time zone

The Ministry’s National BPO Publicity Campaign has reached over 1 million Ugandans. A new BPO Business Matching Platform (launching May 26) will connect 75+ BPO firms with clients and investors globally.

The Maarifasasa Hub reflects Uganda’s commitment to building a collaborative BPO ecosystem—empowering youth, attracting investment, and advancing Uganda’s role as Africa’s Innovation Powerhouse.





# MAY AND JUNE 2025 PROFESSIONAL TALKS RECAP

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk



National ICT Innovation Hub hosted two impactful professional talks in May and June, exploring timely topics shaping innovation and sustainability.

On Friday, 30th May 2025, tax expert Noah Kirabo unpacked Uganda's evolving tax laws, focusing on revised VAT regulations and digital tax compliance. His insights offered clarity for individuals, startups, and tech entrepreneurs navigating complex fiscal landscapes.

Then on Friday, 27th June 2025, we welcomed Eddie Sembatya for an engaging session on Green Finance. Drawing from his work with Finding XY, Eddie emphasized the power of financing climate-positive initiatives—from renewable energy to sustainable agriculture.

Both sessions reinforced our commitment to empowering young innovators through knowledge that fuels progress in both economic and environmental spheres.



# TECHNOLOGY SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS KICKOFF

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk



We're excited to launch the University Technology Skills and Entrepreneurship Program, a powerful collaboration between the National ICT Innovation Hub and StartHub Africa. This initiative is designed to equip university students and lecturers with the skills needed to build, test, and scale innovative, market-driven solutions.

This week's bootcamp is hands-on and intensive, covering critical areas such as customer discovery, problem validation, lean startup methodology using the Lean Canvas, rapid prototyping, and real-world demand testing. Students are even making their first sales!

Building on the success of the 50k Challenge, where teams turned UGX 50,000 into viable business ideas in one day, the program also strengthens lecturer capacity as mentors — ensuring sustainability through a robust local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

# REFRACTORY ACADEMY SOLUTIONS EXPO 2025

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk



We proudly hosted the inaugural Refractory Academy Solutions Expo 2025—a celebration of innovation, talent, and collaboration.

The event showcased exciting digital product demos developed by Uganda's budding junior developers. From creative apps to impactful tech solutions, the expo created space for meaningful conversations between developers, industry leaders, and tech enthusiasts.

It was inspiring to see ideas take shape and connections form, all under one roof.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, engaged, and supported the next generation of tech talent. Your presence made the event a true success!



# DATA SECURITY & PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk



On June 23rd 2025, the National ICT Innovation Hub (NIIH), in collaboration with Centenary Technology Services and the MTN Foundation, hosted a highly impactful workshop on Data Security and Privacy. The session underscored the urgent need for intentional and secure digital practices - especially as we develop platforms that manage sensitive user data.

## Focus Areas:

Embrace the CIA Triad: Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability.

Cyber attackers exploit cognitive bias and impersonation to gain access.

Always verify third-party plugins and APIs - tokens, scopes, and documentation matter.

Use tools like HaveIBeenPwned to check for credential breaches.

Enable 2FA, change passwords regularly, and encrypt data from day one.

Your digital footprint matters - what you post today can follow you forever.

Constant connectivity comes at a cost: anxiety, peer pressure, and blurred academic/work boundaries.

“As a software engineering student, this session reminded me that security is not a feature—it’s a foundation.” - Asasira Queen Pinklen

# INSIDE THE UJ CONNECT PILOT PROJECTS

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

In today's digital economy, connecting local talent with global opportunity is essential. Sumic IT Solutions Ltd, a Ugandan tech company, exemplifies this through its participation in the UJ Connect Pilot Projects—a Uganda–Japan collaboration supported by the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, UICT, and Japanese partners. Sumic's work highlights the potential of South–East Asian–African partnerships in driving innovation.

A centerpiece of this effort is the Sumic International Academy in Kampala, which trains youth in software development, business innovation, and uniquely, Japanese language and culture. The goal is to develop professionals ready to excel in international, especially Asian, tech environments while remaining grounded in African realities.

Sumic also leads in the UJ Connect Internship Program, linking Ugandan students and start-ups with Japanese firms through internships. At a May 27, 2025 event, Sumic showcased its collaboration with eight Japanese companies, including FVital Inc., eftax Co. Ltd., and Japan AI Consulting Cooperation. Four of these have co-developed solutions with Sumic, demonstrating real-world implementation—not just theory. CEO Cirus Sumika emphasized the importance of cultural and technical readiness for success in Japanese tech settings.

Two major apps emerged from these collaborations:

Neonatal Resuscitation App (with FVital): AI-powered support for healthcare workers during newborn emergencies.

Halo Dish App (with eftax): Helps Muslim tourists in Japan and Thailand find halal food and prayer spaces.

Sumic's model merges technical education, entrepreneurship, cross-cultural training, and practical international experience. Its Academy is now open for the June–July 2025 intake, attracting attention across Uganda. In collaboration with institutions like UICT, Sumic ensures more youth from underserved regions gain access to global opportunities.

This initiative proves Uganda's tech talent can scale globally, with Sumic offering a replicable model for cross-border innovation.



**UJ-CONNECT**  
ICT INDUSTRY PROMOTION PROJECT

**Business Matching Experience**  
ビジネスマッチング体験

**Case Study: Sumic IT Solutions Ltd.**  
ケーススタディ: スミックITソリューションズ株式会社

**SUMICIT**  
SOLUTIONS



**ITES & BPO**





# CELEBRATING YOUNG INNOVATORS

Article by **The NIIH POST Desk**



On Wednesday, June 25th, we hosted the UJ-Connect Certificate Ceremony to recognize students who completed Batch 2 of the Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program under Output 4 of the UJConnect Project.

This program, conducted in collaboration with the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology and supported by its dedicated faculty, focused on nurturing entrepreneurial thinking, innovation, and practical business skills among students. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ministry of ICT & National Guidance.



# WHAT IF INNOVATION FESTIVAL 2025: DOING MORE WITH LESS

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

The What If Innovation Festival 2025 is a moment for Enabel and its partners to showcase smart, cost-effective solutions that tackle real challenges. Held on 19th June, the festival is designed to identify and accelerate practical solutions to today's pressing challenges in Uganda—especially in a time of tighter budgets and greater expectations. It's a space to do more with less, act boldly, and collaborate across sectors.

The festival invites professionals and organizations working in education, health, employment, and the circular economy to share their ideas and inspire others. Every presentation is shaped by a clear “What If” question—telling a short, powerful story about a real problem and the practical solution that followed. These are not theories or abstract visions. These are tested, low-cost, scalable approaches that work.

Three key themes run through the festival. First, budget cuts and cost-effectiveness. How this context pushes us to be smarter, more creative, and more careful with resources. Sessions like “What If You Could Test Your Solution Before Spending a Single Shilling?” show how quick, low-cost prototyping can help avoid waste by testing with users before scaling. Other sessions, such as “What If I Designed My Solution to Scale from Day One?” and “What If Innovators Had a Toolkit to Turn Evidence into Impact?”, highlight how planning for scale and using real data from the start can make the difference between a short-term pilot and a long-term solution with effective impact.

Second, the festival reinforces that innovation is not a luxury, it's a practical tool for solving daily problems. The event highlights Ugandan-led examples that are already making impact in classrooms, clinics, offices, and communities. These are practical ideas people can take home and apply from “next Monday.”



# WHAT IF INNOVATION FESTIVAL 2025: DOING MORE WITH LESS

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Third, the festival creates a space for shared learning and connections. Visitors will take part in a raffle that encourages reflection: What solution inspired you most? How would you improve it? How could you apply it in your own context? These answers will be collected into a report that offers practical ideas, appreciation, and concrete next steps to accelerate — available to all who joined.

Finally, the festival extends its reach smartly and affordably through digital tools: live-streaming, hybrid formats, and online spaces. A podcast will share voices from the festival with a wider audience, reinforcing Uganda's role as a place of action, learning, and innovation.

This is not just a day to talk, it's a day to take smart steps toward real change.

## Enabel in Uganda: Driving Innovation for Sustainable Development

In Uganda, Enabel has a long tradition of implementing that novel approach with the potential to fast-track meaningful results. In 2022 the TTE Sandbox was selected as one of the most impactful education innovations by HundrED, ensuring the continuity of learning during the Covid 19 pandemic in Uganda<sup>1</sup>.

In 2023 the Ugandan team won the first Penguin Award at the inaugural Federal Innovation Awards for taking climate smart actions in Uganda<sup>2</sup>. In the new portfolio (2023-2028) innovation is again taking centre stage, that way Enabel in Uganda is contributing to the Digital Transformation Roadmap of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

Enabel's efforts have expanded access to e-learning through the provision of ICT equipment to 20 schools under the EU-funded Gender for Development (WeTeach) project and the Belgium-supported WeLearn project. Additional support extends to 10 vocational training institutes via the WeWork project, three health training institutes through WeTrainforHealth, and two trade unions under the Social Protection project.



# WHAT IF INNOVATION FESTIVAL 2025: DOING MORE WITH LESS

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The infrastructure unit has also established three mini-innovation hubs in refugee settlements and plans to open two more hubs in schools in Jinja and Adjumani. Concurrently, three skills labs with advanced medical equipment are being set up to enhance health training.

Innovation is not a choice, it's a necessity

Enabel in Uganda is committed to equipping partners with essential digital skills, offering basic ICT training and certified courses such as the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL). One National Teacher Training College and four vocational training institutes have become official ICDL testing and training centers. A WhatsApp-based chatbot facilitates micro-learning on various topics, while eLearning courses on General Teaching Methods (GTM) and Teaching Enhanced Learning (TEL) have already certified over 10,000 Ugandans. A new Values-Based eLearning course is set to launch in 2025. Additionally, Virtual Reality modules for vocational training, tourism, and health sectors have been developed under the WeCare project.

Enabel has supported the development of digital platforms for government ministries, including the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE). Currently, the Social Protection project supports the development of a Labour Administration and Management Information System (LAMIS) for the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. For all innovation initiatives Enabel applies design thinking, a human centered approach to innovation and problem solving, focusing on understanding user's needs, generating creative ideas and prototyping solutions.

We can do things differently, and we can do different things...

The Digital Rights for Girls and Women (D4GW) project focuses on digital rights, including cybersecurity, data protection and privacy. Workshops have empowered participants to navigate safely in a digital environment and foster trust in digital systems.

With an eLearning course launching this month, WOUGNET received a grant to develop an online portal on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and produced a powerful comic book highlighting the digital gender divide and the transformative impact of digital inclusion.

Enabel supports innovative organizations driving the green economy, social innovation, and entrepreneurship. Bamboo Uganda and Mama Rescue are among the beneficiaries, while Start-up Uganda will receive a grant to strengthen the innovation ecosystem and advocate for the Start-up Act, promoting a fair environment for digital businesses. Two eLearning courses—the Work Readiness course and the Digital Entrepreneurship Skills (DES) academy—are scaling up, benefiting thousands of young Ugandans.

As Enabel continues to champion innovation across all sectors, the focus remains firmly on accelerating impact. The "What If" Innovation Festival is a testament to this commitment, showcasing the power of partnerships to address pressing challenges and create lasting impact.





# EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS: INSIDE UGANDA'S FIRST AEROSPACE WORKSHOP 2025

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

In May 2025, Uganda marked a historic milestone with its first-ever Aerospace Workshop, hosted at the National ICT Innovation Hub. This landmark event brought together students, innovators, tech leaders, and experts to explore Uganda's potential in aerospace technologies, satellite data, and remote sensing. The goal: to harness these technologies for critical sectors such as tourism, agriculture, climate resilience, and health.

Guided by the theme “Building a Collaborative Ecosystem”, the workshop included panel discussions, tech showcases, and mentorship sessions. It was organized by the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance and UICT, emphasizing the need for cross-sector collaboration—linking academia, government, private sector, and research institutions to develop practical, impactful aerospace solutions.

Why aerospace? The technology offers Uganda strategic tools for precision agriculture, climate monitoring, urban planning, and disaster response. By leveraging satellite data, the country can make smarter, faster decisions for national development.

Event highlights included:

Panels on research, partnerships, and Uganda's entry into aerospace innovation.

Tech demonstrations of drones, GIS tools, and data applications by university and startup teams.

Networking opportunities fostering long-term partnerships.

Mentorship sessions guiding new aerospace startups and project ideas.

Key outcomes from the workshop include plans to:

Launch the Aerospace Uganda Network for sustained collaboration.

Establish a startup accelerator focused on aerospace solutions.

Integrate aerospace and remote sensing into university curricula.

Roll out pilot projects using satellite data in agriculture, mapping, and resource management.

The workshop is a launchpad for Uganda's role in African aerospace innovation. As tech leader Eng. Jasper Otim noted, it's “a fantastic milestone.” Moving forward, continued engagement from students, educators, industry, and funders will be vital. Uganda is officially reaching for the skies—turning data into development.



# REFINING THE INNOVATION PIPELINE: LESSONS FROM UICT'S 2025 BOOTCAMP AND PITCH COMPETITION

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

The UICT Innovation Bootcamp and Pitch 2025 has emerged as a powerful model for nurturing student-led digital innovation. Hosted by the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT), the event brought together 200+ participants, including 21 student teams, 15+ mentors, and key partners like CAMTech Uganda, NITA-U, and Innovation Village. The newly released Final Review and Recommendations Report provides actionable insights for turning short-term events into long-term innovation pipelines aligned with Uganda's Digital Transformation Roadmap.

Key Achievements included:

- 21 student teams trained and 15 MVPs (Minimum Viable Products) developed
- 6 projects awarded seed funding
- Strong mentorship and technical guidance from institutional partners
- Plans for IP protection, incubation, and sustained follow-up

This success reinforces UICT's mission to transform student innovation into industry-ready solutions.

Improvement Areas were identified to boost future impact:

- Set SMART goals with measurable outcomes (e.g., 15 MVPs, 6 incubated projects by Sept 2025)

- Track tangible metrics like prototype completion and pitch readiness
- Include data breakdowns by gender and department to assess equity
- Summarize judges' insights to improve curriculum alignment
- Use a consistent Problem → Innovation → Next Steps format for project write-ups
- Introduce a follow-up matrix (Who, What, When) to monitor post-event progress

Results by Numbers:

- 21 teams trained (target: 20)
- 15 MVPs developed (target: 10)
- 6 projects funded (target: 6)
- 15+ mentors and 8 institutional partners engaged

Student Innovations like the Smart Borehole Monitor and automated waste tracking system are already attracting real-world attention and support.

Strategic Outlook: With Demo Days, IP registration, and a formal outcomes report in the pipeline, UICT is positioning its bootcamp as a national innovation engine—bridging academia, entrepreneurship, and Uganda's digital future.





# YOUR DREAM JOB NEEDS MORE THAN A DEGREE!

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk



In partnership with @BrighterMonday, we hosted an inspiring session titled "Your Dream Job Needs More Than a Degree!"—a workshop designed to bridge the gap between education and employment.

The session explored our joint efforts to enhance job readiness, youth employability, and startup support in Uganda. It brought together students, young professionals, and ecosystem builders passionate about empowering youth to thrive in today's competitive job market.

Together, we're working to equip the next generation with practical skills, mindset shifts, and access to opportunities that go beyond academic qualifications—building sustainable career pathways in innovation and entrepreneurship.

## EMPOWERING FOUNDERS TO PROTECT WHAT THEY BUILD



IP Awareness Clinic for Tech Founders, held at the National ICT Innovation Hub, was a vital session for Uganda's growing innovation ecosystem.

Key topics included the strategic value of intellectual property (IP), what can be protected and when, and the importance of early IP governance.

Founders left equipped with the knowledge to de-risk innovation and safeguard their ideas from day one.



# PROBLEM SOLVING WITH WORDPRESS: RAISING UGANDA'S FUTURE WEB INNOVATORS

Article by **Mukisa Godfrey** - Team Lead Edutech Club

On Friday, June 20, 2025, the National ICT Innovation Hub, in collaboration with Edutech Club and with support from the Uganda WordPress Community and global WordPress community, hosted an inspiring Website Competition under the theme “Problem Solving with WordPress.”

Led by Godfrey Mukisa - (Lead Organizer), the event brought together bright young minds from across Uganda—three primary schools, sixteen secondary schools, and fifteen universities and tertiary institutions—to design, build, and pitch websites using WordPress as a tool for digital innovation and impact.

**Celebrating Uganda's Young Digital Talent**  
In the Juniors category, featuring innovators from primary schools, SkillBridge Uganda from GIIT emerged as the winner, receiving a cash prize of UGX 300,000. The second-place prize of UGX 200,000 was awarded to Doc 24/7 by The Olive School.

In the Rising Stars category, which spotlighted secondary school tech enthusiasts, Inspiring Education from Luweero Secondary School took the top prize of UGX 500,000, while AFYA Care from Nakivale SS came in second, earning UGX 200,000.

In the highly competitive Explorers category, comprising university and tertiary-level participants, My Career Link from Kampala International University took first place, winning UGX 1,000,000. Lifewellness Hub from Uganda Institute of Allied Health and Management Sciences earned second place and UGX 300,000, while Ani Link from Uganda Christian University took third place, receiving UGX 200,000.

**Local Innovation with Global Potential**  
The competition highlighted the power of WordPress in transforming ideas into real-world solutions and giving students practical digital skills. From health and education platforms to career guidance tools and community-focused projects, each submission reflected the potential of Uganda's young innovators to solve pressing challenges through technology.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all students, teachers, mentors, judges, and community partners who made this event a success—and to the WordPress community worldwide for championing open-source tools and learning for all.





# LEGISLATING FOR A MENTALLY WELL AND FINANCIALLY RESILIENT AFRICA

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

This month, I had the immense privilege of participating in the Africa Regional Conference on Parliament and Legislation (AFRIPAL), a powerful convening of legislators, civil society actors, policy scholars, and changemakers from across the continent. This marked AFRIPAL's first continental conference since its inception, and it exceeded expectations in every way.

As Founder of MindLyfe Limited, I had the honor of submitting a research paper titled: "Advancing Mental Health Through Legislative Innovation in Afrika: How Parliaments and Teletherapy Can Shape Sustainable Development." Read the full paper here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVUKvg8iB7AfM54ICy6NCaEsOMk\\_zkG0](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wVUKvg8iB7AfM54ICy6NCaEsOMk_zkG0)

While I did not present the paper formally, it sparked meaningful conversations among Members of Parliament, senators, researchers, and civil society actors. Many expressed deep interest in localizing MindLyfe's teletherapy model in their countries, a moment of affirmation for the work we are doing to expand access to affordable, quality mental health care.

One of the most impactful moments of the conference was attending a plenary session titled: "The Role of Parliaments in Optimizing Development Financing in the Face of Declining Official Development Assistance," chaired by Eliya Zulu.

Mary N. Mwami of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) delivered a compelling presentation on Optimizing Domestic Financing for Development in Afrika. Her key messages were both sobering and inspiring:

- The era of heavy reliance on foreign aid is fading—we must now turn inward.
- Innovative domestic financing mechanisms are urgently needed, including targeted taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, tobacco, and alcohol.



• Tools like debt swaps, impact bonds, and private-sector-led health initiatives remain underutilized in the African context.

Corruption and systemic leakages continue to undermine health sector efficiency and credibility.

These insights resonated with my belief that the future of sustainable mental healthcare in Afrika does not lie in technology alone, it must be underpinned by governance, trust, and financing reform.

At MindLyfe Limited, we are committed to working with parliaments, ministries, and development partners across Afrika to transform how mental health is legislated, funded, and delivered. We envision a future where teletherapy becomes a standard, accessible option for every African; where mental health is treated with the same urgency as physical health; and where parliaments lead the way in crafting legislation that protects, funds, and expands mental health services.

# ANWISTEM EMPOWERS WOMEN THROUGH FINANCIAL LITERACY

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

On Saturday, 24th May 2025, ANWiSTEM hosted an engaging online session titled “Mastering Your Money: Personal Finance Basics.” Led by Agatha, the session focused on helping women in STEM understand key financial concepts such as budgeting, saving, and setting realistic financial goals.

The session was interactive and practical, with participants engaging in live polls, games, and open discussions. It created a safe and supportive space for women to learn, ask questions, and reflect on their financial journeys.

This session is part of ANWiSTEM’s ongoing effort to equip women in STEM not only with technical skills but also with life skills that foster independence and long-term success.

The series continues on Saturday, 21st June with “Passive Income 101.” We look forward to welcoming even more women on this empowering journey.



## SHOWCASING INNOVATION AT MUSEUM FAIR 2025

Article by **The NIIH POST** Desk

A proud moment for Uganda’s innovation ecosystem! We’re excited to celebrate two of our very own startups — eMoTMuseum and Real VR — as they represent us at the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Uganda #MuseumFair2025, under the theme: “The Future of Museums is Rapidly Changing Communities.”

As the world reimagines how heritage is preserved and experienced, EMOT – the Museum of Technology is leading the way by leveraging digital tools to protect and promote Uganda’s rich cultural legacy. Alongside them, Real VR is redefining museum experiences through immersive virtual reality, helping transform traditional exhibits into interactive, inclusive, and tech-driven spaces. Their participation underscores how innovation and culture can powerfully intersect to shape the future of storytelling, education, and preservation.





# EDUTECH CLUB LAUNCHES INTECRAFT INNOVATION AND TECHPRENEURSHIP INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FOR THE YOUTH

Article by **Mukisa Godfrey** - Team Lead Edutech Club

Edutech Club has officially launched INTECRAFT Lab—a 6–8 week digital skilling and industrial training program designed to equip youth for the AI-powered future of work. In partnership with the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, National ICT Innovation Hub, Ablestate, and Crossroads Digital Multimedia Animation Studio, the program kicked off with strong momentum.

Targeting 50–100 participants from 19 tertiary institutions and 5 S.6 vacists, INTECRAFT empowers learners to co-create community-focused digital solutions using AI-augmented design thinking.

Tools like ChatGPT, Canva AI, and Notion AI are at the heart of training sessions, enabling students to prototype and test impactful solutions—primarily through AI-powered WordPress websites.

With a dedicated WordPress community, participants are actively preparing for the Uganda Website Projects Competition 2025, which has drawn interest from over 40 institutions.

INTECRAFT aligns with national priorities such as the UCC/UCUSAF Research Support to Academia, promoting inclusive,

skill-based innovation ecosystems. Delivered in in-person and hybrid formats, the program aims to turn learners into leaders in Uganda's digital transformation.

Registration for future cohorts is open at <https://lnkd.in/dsN8n9wg>.

INTECRAFT is more than training—it's a youth-powered movement crafting Uganda's digital future.



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