



# NIIH POST JULY 2025 EDITION



# EDITORIAL LETTER

## **Dear Stakeholders, Innovators, and Partners,**

As we step into August, we reflect on a transformative July at the National ICT Innovation Hub, one marked by meaningful engagements, collaborative energy, and progress on multiple fronts in our mission to accelerate Uganda's digital transformation.

A major milestone was the hosting of the 2nd National ICT Summit at our Nakawa Hub, which convened over 500 stakeholders to explore how innovation can drive sustainable growth. With lively discussions on emerging technologies and sectoral transformation, the Summit affirmed our national commitment to turning policy into action.

We also launched the Entrepreneurial and Digital Skills Empowerment for Young Women program in partnership with Makerere University Business School, providing 250 young women from five public universities with hands-on skills in digital communication, data analytics, cybersecurity, and innovation.

As part of our continued support for startups at the Hub, we conducted a midterm review with founders to assess progress, identify growth bottlenecks, and align on strategies for scaling their innovations. These feedback sessions were a powerful reminder of the resilience, creativity, and potential within Uganda's startup ecosystem.

In addition, we hosted a professional talk focused on market sizing, helping innovators understand how to define and quantify their opportunity spaces. And through our collaboration with MTN ACE, we expanded digital skilling activities to Entebbe Municipality Division A, empowering youth with the foundational skills needed to thrive in today's economy.

As we carry this momentum into the months ahead, we remain focused on turning ideas into solutions, partnerships into impact, and innovation into opportunity, for every Ugandan, everywhere.

**Winfred Nankanja,**  
**Communications and PR Associate**  
**National ICT Innovation Hub Team**

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## ABOUT THE NATIONAL ICT INNOVATION HUB

The Hub is located inside the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) Nakawa Campus and creates an environment for ICT innovators facing challenges with workspace, limited internet connectivity and searching for creative spaces that spur thinking.

The Hub seeks to become the “Home of ICT Innovation” with the ability to house and support the local innovation ecosystem in Uganda, harnessing the true concept of Nationalism (home-grown potential).

### VISION

A competitive, solutions-based innovation ecosystem.

### MISSION

Home of innovation that catalyzes social economic development.

## CORE VALUES

Collaboration

Mentorship

Excellence

Sustainability

Home Grown Solutions



# DIGITRUCK PROJECTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

*29th May - 11th July 2025*

The Uganda DigiTruck Project, along with the Huawei DigiTruck Project, has made substantial progress in fostering digital inclusion in Butalejja and Kwanja Districts.

OVER 985 PARTICIPANTS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS, ENCOMPASSING:



Basic computer operations and file management



Internet navigation and digital communication



Introduction to artificial intelligence tools



Access to e-government services



Establishing and managing an online presence



## MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ICT INNOVATION HUB'S FOUNDERS

*2nd and 9th July 2025  
at the Hub in Nakawa*

The National ICT Innovation Hub recently conducted a Founder Midterm Review event, gathering over 40 startup founders to assess progress, exchange insights, and recommit to established objectives.

This gathering has further cultivated a culture of support and transparency within the founder community and has documented notable milestones achieved across the participating startups.





## UGANDA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SHINES AT THE SECOND NATIONAL ICT SUMMIT

The ICT Association of Uganda (ICTAU), alongside the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, hosted the 2nd National ICT Summit at the National ICT Innovation Hub.

The event connected government, private sector, civil society, and tech stakeholders to promote collaboration and showcase transformative digital solutions in Uganda.

### Key Insights:

- *Digital Transformation Roadmap: A vision for a digitally connected Uganda, leveraging AI for farmers and innovators.*
- *Measuring Progress: A call to redefine metrics for digital advancement to benefit all Ugandans.*
- *AI in Education: Discussions on the impact of AI in reshaping education.*
- *Digital Agriculture: Emphasis on creating inclusive ecosystems with farmers at the forefront.*

### Highlights

- *AgriTech and HealthTech: Strategies to empower smallholder farmers and enhance healthcare access through digital means.*
- *Digital Infrastructure: MTN Uganda emphasised the vital role of digital infrastructure in supporting small business growth.*
- *Economic Growth Projections: Speakers anticipate Uganda's GDP could reach \$580 billion by 2040, urging for bold actions to achieve this target.*



The summit underscored the necessity of innovation and collaboration to harness digital technology for Uganda's sustainable development.

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## LAUNCH OF THE EDEW PROGRAM: EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

*July 27th, 2025*

The Permanent Secretary recently inaugurated the Entrepreneurial and Digital Skills for Employability of Women (EDEW) program at the National ICT Innovation Hub.

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The primary objective of this initiative is to address the gender digital divide and enhance inclusive participation in Uganda's innovation and digital economy.

The program will equip 250 young women from five public universities with essential entrepreneurial and digital skills, focusing on areas such as developing an entrepreneurial mindset, digital communication, data analytics, cybersecurity, and digital innovation.

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## INNOVATION IN DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

The National ICT Innovation Hub convened a significant dialogue on data protection and privacy, underscoring the necessity of balancing innovation with regulatory compliance.

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Startup founders, government officials, and people from the Personal Data Protection Office worked together to find practical ways for startups to follow data protection rules, helping to close the gap between knowing about these rules and actually using them.

# UJ-CONNECT PROJECT UPDATE ON UGANDA'S ICT SECTOR

*30th July 2025*

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held the fifth Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for the UJ-Connect Project at the National ICT Innovation Hub in Nakawa, focusing on the project's progress.

## Key Achievements:

- *ICT Skillset Standard Booklet: Developed to define essential ICT competencies.*
- *Intellectual Property Guidelines: Workshops held to promote awareness and protection of local innovations.*
- *Capacity Building: Training sessions conducted in key ICT areas.*
- *Business Matching: Facilitated collaborations between Ugandan ICT companies and Japanese firms.*
- *Mentorship Programme: Supported start-ups and students with learning opportunities and exposure at international events.*



The project will ensure the sustainability of its outputs and plans a study tour to Japan in August 2025 to strengthen cooperation.



The UJ-Connect Project (2023-2027) aims to professionalise Uganda's ICT workforce and foster international partnerships.





## MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR MTN ACE PHASE 2 INNOVATION HUBS IN EASTERN AND NORTHERN UGANDA

The MTN Ace Phase 2 initiative is advancing toward the establishment of Innovation Hubs in Eastern and Northern Uganda, following successful visits to Soroti, Busitema, and Gulu Universities.



At Soroti University, leaders emphasised the need for improved connectivity and resources for success.

Busitema University confirmed space for 45 computers and identified necessary upgrades, including air conditioning and internet access. Gulu University also expressed strong commitment to fostering innovation among youth.

The efforts highlight the importance of partnerships in creating innovation hubs that promote entrepreneurship and job opportunities across Uganda.



## TOT ROBOTICS WORKSHOP EMPOWERS FUTURE MENTORS AHEAD OF WRO UGANDA

*Nakawa, Uganda - July 11, 2025*

The TOT Robotics Workshop, hosted by Mindset Coders and the Edutech Club in collaboration with the National ICT Innovation Hub, brought together 79 eager students from 20 institutions. Supported by Google and Camden Education Trust, the workshop focused on equipping participants with essential robotics and coding skills.

- Participants engaged in hands-on training with Arduino, enhancing their understanding of software-hardware interfaces. The diverse representation from institutions like Bishop Stuart University, Makerere University, and Uganda Christian University fostered collaboration and innovation.
- The workshop aimed to prepare students as mentors for younger learners, promoting STEM education within their communities and facilitating long-term transformation through digital skills.
- As participants prepare for the WRO Uganda National Championship on August 8, 2025, the workshop ignited a passion for innovation, positioning these students as future leaders and mentors in technology.





#### ADDRESS

New Port Bell Road,  
UICT Nakawa Campus,  
Kampala Uganda.



#### HUB OPERATIONAL HOURS

Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



#### EMAIL

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