



International Research Conference 2026

THEME: **INDUSTRIALISING FUTURES: INTEGRATING SKILLS, DIGITAL INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE TVET**

30 MARCH - 01 APRIL

VICTORIA FALLS



CALL FOR PAPERS

As economies across Africa and the world strive toward industrialisation, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector is positioned as a critical driver of skills development, productivity, and inclusive economic growth. Industrialising economies need adaptable, highly skilled human capital, capable of navigating digital transformation and driving innovation.

It is in this context that Bulawayo Polytechnic (Zimbabwe) and Welwitchia University (Namibia) are pleased to announce their first Collaborative International Research Conference to be held under the theme **“Industrialising Futures: Integrating Skills, Digital Innovation, and Technology in Sustainable TVET.”** The conference aims at promoting evidence-based strategies that strengthen TVET’s role in industrialisation and bring together academia, industry, professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders to explore and discuss an industrialised future that can be achieved through relevant training, integrating skills, digital innovation and technology in TVET.

We therefore, invite submissions of abstracts, concept notes for exhibitions, poster presentations and demonstrations for the Bulawayo Polytechnic and Welwitchia University International Research Conference which shall be held on March 30 - April 01, 2026 @Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

SUB-THEMES

Skills Development for an Industrialising Economy

- TVET Pathways for Youth, Women, and Under-privileged Groups in Industrialisation
- Developing Skills for Rural Industrialisation
- Skills-Based Education and Training for Future Industries

Innovation and Entrepreneurship in TVET

- Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship in TVET
- TVET Incubators and Startup Ecosystems
- Entrepreneurial Education and its Impact on Job Creation

Digital Transformation and Innovation in TVET:

- Integrating AI, robotics, and automation into TVET programs
- Digital content development, simulation labs, VR/AR for skills training
- Digital literacy for TVET students and Trainers

Technology-Driven Industrialisation

- Preparing students for Industry 4.0 and 5.0 technologies
- Technology ecosystems and innovation hubs in TVET
- Solving community challenges through technologies

Inclusivity in TVET

- Inclusive TVET for persons with disabilities
- Gender equality in TVET
- TVET for Disadvantaged and Marginalised groups

Health Sciences in TVET

- TVET’s role in advancing Health Sciences
- Strengthening Public Health through Skills development
- Enhanced Health Sciences through digital and automated technologies

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer-review process. Abstracts, concept for posters and demonstrations will be evaluated based on relevance to the conference theme, clarity and originality, scientific, theoretical, practical contribution or methodological rigour.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Start of submission:	12 December 2025
Submission deadline:	10 January 2026
Notification of Acceptance:	22 January 2026
Early Bird Registration deadline:	28 January 2026
Late Registration deadline:	06 February 2026
PowerPoint submission deadline:	13 February 2026
Full paper submission deadline:	20 February 2026

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit to mnsikani@bulawayopolytechnic.ac.zw. Presenters shall be expected to register for the conference by 06 February 2026. Only registered paper presenters shall have their papers on the **Conference Programme & Abstract Book**. A conference registration link will be available from 28 January 2026. All planning to attend the conference must complete an online registration. The registration fee is **US \$390** for early registration and **US \$440** for late registration (excluding accomodation), which covers conference materials, lunch and teas for the duration of the conference.

For more info contact:

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