

Deputy Prime Minister launches Program to boost Innovation and Research Commercialization



Thanks to World Bank for supporting low-interest loan funding - Prof. Mkenda



The World Bank praises the investment made by the Government in education

Word from Director General

Dear reader,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this second issue of the COSTECH HEET Newsletter. As we continue our journey toward fostering Science, Technology and Innovation in Tanzania, I take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements and the path ahead.

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, has made significant strides in strengthening Research, Innovation and Commercialization. The recent launch of the credit facility by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko underscores our commitment to ensuring that research outputs lead to real-world impact, driving economic transformation and job creation.

Our collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Government, International Partners and Academic Institutions, remains essential in this journey. We are

grateful for the support from the World Bank which has enabled the HEET project to thrive, empowering researchers and innovators to contribute to national development.

As we move forward, our focus remains on enhancing the enabling environment for science and technology. The establishment of the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) complex in Dodoma and the renovation of the COSTECH headquarters in Dar es Salaam are key milestones that will further reinforce Tanzania's position as a hub for research and innovation in the region.

I encourage all stakeholders—researchers, innovators and policymakers to continue working together to realize our shared vision of a nation driven by Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). Let us embrace innovation as a driving force for sustainable development.

Together, we will build a future where science and technology propel Tanzania to greater heights.

Dr. Amos M. Nungu
Director General
Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)





Word from HEET Project Coordinator

Dear Stakeholders,

It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you the progress and impact of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project. This initiative, spearheaded by the Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in collaboration with our esteemed partner World Bank is playing a crucial role in reshaping the research and innovation landscape in Tanzania.

Through HEET project, we have made tangible strides in strengthening the capacity of Higher Learning Institutions, enhancing research commercialization and fostering innovation. Moreover, our commitment to developing infrastructure and support systems for researchers and innovators remains steadfast. The upcoming Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Complex in Dodoma and the renovation of the COSTECH headquarters in Dar es Salaam are milestones that will provide a conducive environment for advancing translation of research results into products and/or services.

COSTECH continue to work closely with Universities, Research Institutions and

Entrepreneurs to equip them with the necessary resources, skills and funding to innovate and create sustainable solutions. The collaboration with financial institutions such as the proposed "Samia Innovation Commercialization Fund," will further ensure that promising research leads to practical and scalable innovations.

I extend my gratitude to the Government and all stakeholders who are contributing to the success of this initiative. Let us remain committed to harnessing the power of science and technology for national development. Together, we will build a stronger, more innovative Tanzania.

Mr. Imanuel Mgonja
HEET Project Coordinator
Tanzania Commission for Science
and Technology (COSTECH)



Word from the HEET Project Assistant Coordinator

Dear Esteemed Stakeholders,

It is with great pleasure that I share key insights on the progress and impact of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project. As we continue implementing this transformative initiative, our focus remains on strengthening Higher Education Management Systems in HLLs to drive economic transformation through commercialization of innovation products and services.

Through strategic interventions, HEET Project has facilitated significant advancements, including the commercialization of research and the enhancement of innovation ecosystems in HLLs.

Additionally, infrastructure development is a priority, with ongoing efforts to establish the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Complex in Dodoma and the renovation of the COSTECH headquarters in Dar es Salaam. These facilities will provide the necessary environment for researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs to collaborate and

thrive.

As we move forward, I encourage all stakeholders to leverage the opportunities provided by HEET project to advance Tanzania's knowledge economy. I extend my gratitude to the Government and the World Bank for their unwavering support in making this vision a reality.

Together, let us continue fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and research excellence for national development.

Dr. Aloyce Andrew
Assistant Coordinator, HEET Project
Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)

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Deputy Prime Minister Launches Landmark Loan Programme to Drive Innovation and Research Commercialization

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko (MP), has launched a groundbreaking loan programme designed to accelerate the commercialization of research findings and innovations across Tanzania.

Representing Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Dr. Biteko unveiled the initiative on December 2, 2024, during the official opening of the 9th Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference and Exhibitions (STICE), held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

"This initiative is a testament to our

commitment to fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem that will drive Tanzania's socio-economic development," said Dr. Biteko.

He emphasized that the loan programme is a strategic step by the government to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic transformation. By providing financial support, the programme aims to help innovators move from idea to impact—turning research outputs into commercially viable products and services.

The credit facility will offer accessible loans specifically targeting startups and early-stage innovators, enabling them to scale up and commercialize their

innovations. In doing so, the programme is expected to catalyze job creation, economic diversification, and long-term national development.

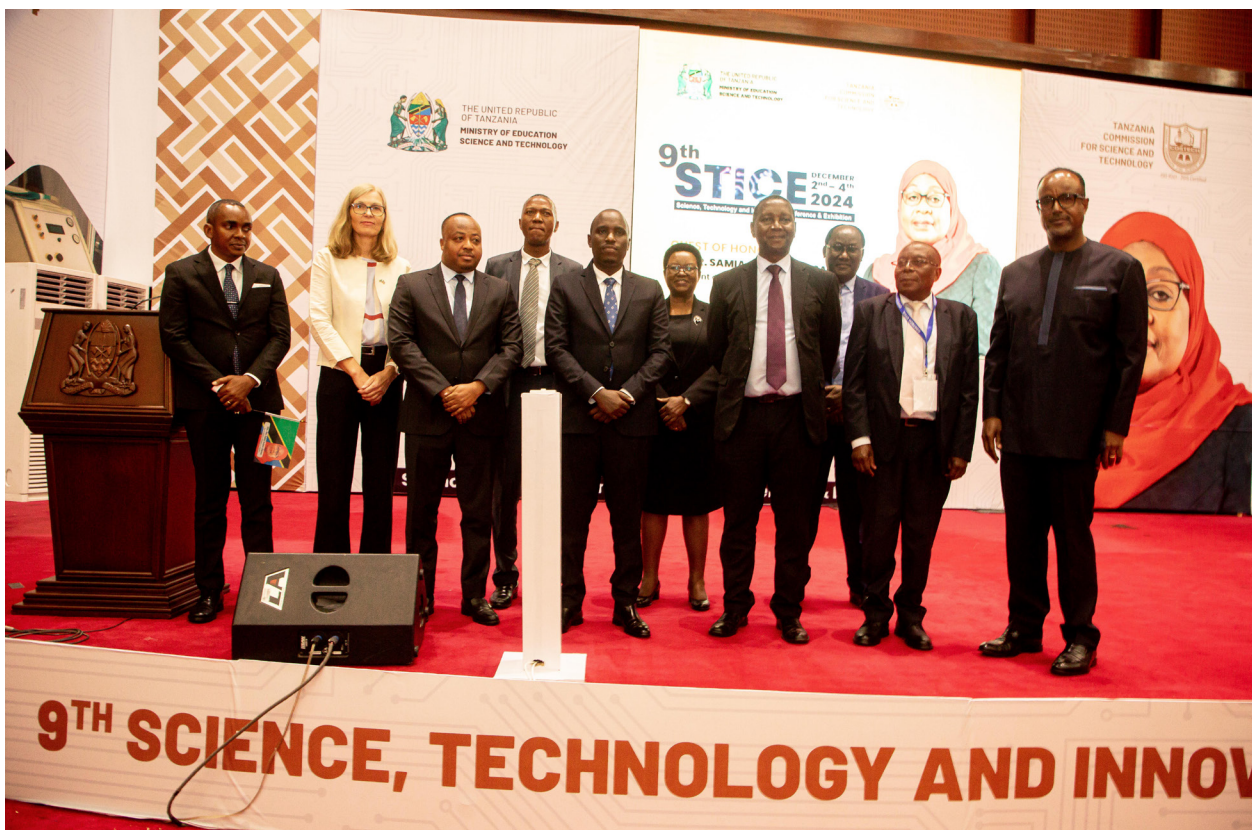
Dr. Biteko encouraged researchers, entrepreneurs, and innovators to take full advantage of this opportunity, noting that financial empowerment is essential to unlocking the potential of Tanzania's innovation sector.

"This is your chance to turn groundbreaking ideas into reality. Together, we can build a competitive and resilient economy driven by innovation," he said.

The launch of this facility marks a major milestone in Tanzania's journey toward

building a knowledge-based economy. It not only bridges the gap between research and industry but also strengthens the country's positioning as an emerging innovation hub in the region.

The government's continued investment in innovation underscores its vision to nurture homegrown solutions and create a future where Tanzanian ingenuity powers sustainable development across all sectors.





**I congratulate
President Dr. Samia
for the investment
she is making
in education,
especially in
Science**

World Bank Applauds Tanzania's Investment in Education and COSTECH for Championing Innovation

The World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Mr. Nathan Belete, has praised the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its continued investment in education, particularly in the fields of science, technology, and innovation (STI). Speaking at the 9th Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference and Exhibition (STICE), held recently at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Belete emphasized the importance of prioritizing education as a foundation for national development.

"Investing in science education is a bold and visionary step that will strengthen the country's research capabilities and accelerate innovation among young people," said Mr. Belete.

He added: "I commend President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for her unwavering commitment to education—she is laying down a priceless legacy for Tanzania's future."

He further applauded the Commission for

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Science and Technology (COSTECH) for successfully organizing the conference and bringing together stakeholders to inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators. He also acknowledged the sponsors who supported the event, noting that such efforts create hope and motivation among the youth.

“The World Bank is proud to be part of STICE and we remain committed to supporting Tanzania in advancing education, which is crucial for sustainable development. The country’s investment in all levels of education—primary, secondary, vocational, and tertiary—is instrumental in nurturing young talent and building a future-ready workforce”, Mr. Belete added.

Mr. Belete also highlighted the World Bank’s involvement in supporting education programs such as BOOST (for primary education) and SEQUIP

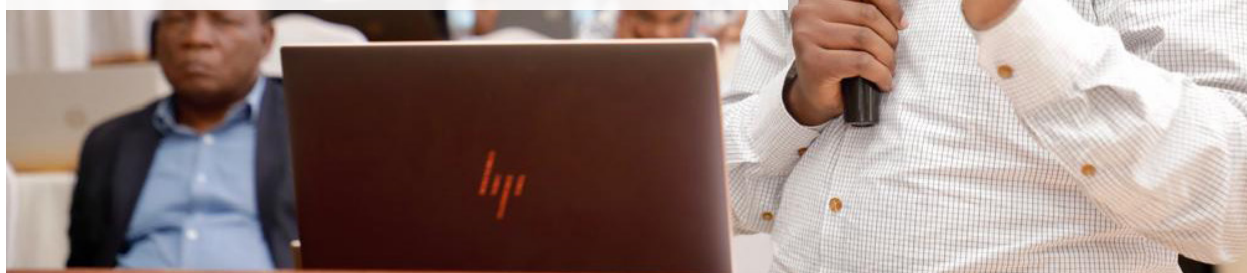
(for secondary education), among other initiatives that are helping to foster a reading culture and academic excellence among students.

He encouraged COSTECH to continue engaging youth, especially secondary school students, in science and innovation programs, noting their potential to drive transformative change. “You are doing a commendable job. Keep inspiring our young minds to explore the endless possibilities of science and technology”.

Mr. Belete reaffirmed the World Bank’s continued partnership with the Government of Tanzania to support education and economic growth. He reiterated his admiration for President Samia’s visionary leadership, saying, “Her investment in education today is shaping the leaders, researchers, and innovators of tomorrow.”



COSTECH Reaches Commendable 31 Percent in Implementing the HEET Project



The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has achieved a commendable 31 percent progress in the implementation of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project at the institution, it can be reported.

This implementation milestone was revealed by COSTECH's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for the HEET Project, Dr. Rigobert Ngeleja, during the midterm review meeting held in Mwanza in October 2024.

Dr. Ngeleja reported that, to date, COSTECH has completed key deliverables, including the design of the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Complex in Dodoma and the renovation of the COSTECH headquarters in Dar es Salaam. These developments are seen as critical enablers for advancing research, innovation, and technology commercialization in the country.

The midterm report also highlighted the official launch of research and innovation frameworks by the Permanent Secretary

of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Carolyn Nombo.

"These frameworks aim to guide the transformation of higher education institutions by promoting applied research and fostering innovation skills that drive self-employment and job creation among graduates", said Dr. Ngeleja.

In addition, the Commission has been actively engaging stakeholders from academia, industry, and the public sector to strengthen collaborative platforms that support innovation ecosystems in Tanzania. These partnerships are essential for bridging the gap between research outputs and practical applications that benefit communities and contribute to national development. Looking ahead, COSTECH plans to roll out capacity-building initiatives for innovation intermediaries and establish monitoring tools to assess the long-term impact of HEET interventions. The Commission remains committed to positioning science and technology as key pillars of economic transformation and sustainable development.



COSTECH Records Commendable Progress in HEET Implementation, Sets Bold Plans for the Future



The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has reported significant milestones in the implementation of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, reflecting strong momentum and renewed commitment to advancing science, technology, and innovation in the country.

The update was presented during the HEET Project Coordinators' Meeting held from October 10th to 12th, 2024, at the Eastern and Southern African Statistical Training Institute (ESASTAP) in Dar es Salaam. The session highlighted key achievements to date and outlined the strategic direction for upcoming phases of the project, generating optimism

among stakeholders.

COSTECH Director General, Dr. Amos M. Nungu, applauded the project implementation team for their dedication and progress, emphasizing the critical role HEET plays in transforming Tanzania's knowledge economy.

"We thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, for introducing this project, which has served as a catalyst for COSTECH to fulfill its mandate—particularly in strengthening the coordination and management of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) across the country," Dr. Nungu said. He further noted that HEET is

instrumental in enhancing STI governance structures within universities and creating an enabling environment for graduates to commercialize their innovative solutions through the establishment of spin-off companies and innovation hubs.

In his presentation, COSTECH's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Dr. Rigobert Charles Ngeleja, outlined the commission's progress, including the successful organization of the International Conference and Exhibition on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STICE), which was officially opened by the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko.

Dr. Ngeleja also shared future plans for the next nine months, which include engaging with contractors for the construction of a state-of-the-art STI

Complex in Dodoma and the rehabilitation of COSTECH's headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Additionally, he announced the development of a digital platform for collecting, analyzing, and visualizing national STI data to inform policy and planning.

Participants at the meeting expressed appreciation for the progress and proposed strategies, emphasizing the need for continued collaboration with universities, research institutions, and the private sector to ensure the sustainability of HEET's outcomes.

The COSTECH team reiterated its commitment to advancing innovation and research capacity across the country, while positioning Tanzania as a regional leader in science and technology-driven development.





Prof. Mkenda Commends World Bank for Supporting Low-Interest Loan Facility for Research and Innovation

The Minister for Education, Science, and Technology, Prof. Adolf Faustine Mkenda, has commended the World Bank for its support in facilitating access to low-interest loan funding under the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project, aimed at enhancing the research and innovation environment in Tanzania.

Prof. Mkenda made the remarks during the official opening of the 9th Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference and Exhibition (STICE), held recently at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

"I sincerely thank the World Bank Country Director for their role in helping us secure this crucial funding. We are

optimistic that this partnership will continue to grow, enabling us to advance our research and innovation agenda," said Prof. Mkenda.

The Minister emphasized the need for continued collaboration with financial institutions to ensure the accessibility of funds that support scientific research and technological advancement.

He specifically lauded CRDB Bank for showing leadership by supporting the establishment of an innovation scheme guarantee—soon to be officially named the 'Samia Fund'—which will ease loan access for researchers and spin-off companies emerging from academic institutions.

Prof. Mkenda further announced that



the government will begin officially recognizing outstanding researchers and their contributions on an annual basis, as a way to motivate and amplify the role of research in solving national development challenges.

“This year, we have recognized researchers such as Prof. Karim Manji and Prof. Gerald Misinzo. Moving forward, we aim to highlight more researchers whose work is creating tangible impact in our communities,” he said.

He added: “Many of our local researchers are well-known globally but remain invisible at home. With this initiative, we will change that.”

Turning academic research into real-world solutions

Speaking at the same event, COSTECH Director General Dr. Amos M. Nungu praised the government and the World Bank for their strategic vision in linking

financial systems with innovation development.

“This initiative is not just a financial mechanism—it is a catalyst for turning academic research into real-world solutions”, said Dr. Nungu.

He added that the HEET Project has been a game-changer for COSTECH and other institutions by building stronger systems that support the commercialization of research. “We are proud to be part of this transformational journey and remain committed to ensuring that innovation becomes a key driver of Tanzania’s development”.

The launch of the Samia Fund and the government’s recognition of researchers are timely efforts to inspire innovation, support talent, and build a robust knowledge economy capable of addressing both local and global challenges.

World Bank Trains COSTECH Gender and Social Experts to Combat Gender-Based Violence

The World Bank has recently conducted a specialized capacity-building session aimed at equipping Social Specialists from the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project at COSTECH with the knowledge and tools to effectively address Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), and Sexual Harassment (SH) in project settings.

Facilitated by Ms. Celine Calive from the World Bank, the training highlighted the complex nature of GBV, SEA, and SH and their potential to undermine individual well-being, community cohesion, and the success of development initiatives. Participants were guided through methods for identifying, assessing, and mitigating these risks in alignment with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), particularly standards ESS1, ESS2, ESS4, and ESS10.

"This training is not just about compliance—it is about ensuring dignity, safety, and equity for everyone impacted by development projects. By proactively addressing these risks, we strengthen both our social responsibility and the overall success of our interventions", said Ms. Calive.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions, group exercises, and real-life case studies that deepened

their understanding of SEA/SH risk management and helped them develop context-specific strategies to safeguard project beneficiaries.

A strong focus was placed on creating sustainable systems and fostering gender-sensitive, ethical practices across project implementation.

"The insights we've gained from this training are not only practical but transformative. We now feel better prepared to champion safer, more inclusive environments in our work," shared one of the COSTECH social specialists.

This initiative underscores the HEET project's commitment to embedding social safeguards into its core operations and promoting accountability, respect, and inclusivity throughout Tanzania's education and innovation landscape. It also reflects broader efforts by the World Bank to mainstream gender and social protection across all funded projects.

By strengthening institutional capacity and raising awareness around GBV-related risks, the training represents a vital step toward creating development environments that prioritize the well-being of every stakeholder involved.

