
UPDATE
5 December 2024

CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

Digital Africa: Trade, Technology, Transformation 9-13 June 2025 | Mauritius

On December 1, 2024, South Africa assumed the presidency of the G20, marking the first time an African nation has led this influential global forum. This milestone is further amplified by the African Union's (AU) recent accession as a permanent member of the G20, collectively enhancing Africa's representation in global economic discussions.

Against this backdrop, the inaugural **Digital Africa: Trade, Technology, and Transformation Conference** is now open for submissions of abstracts and papers. Focused on the theme ***Empowering Africa's Future: Unlocking Opportunities for Economic Growth and Technological Advancement***, this conference will serve as a platform to explore the transformative potential of digital technologies in economic transformation across Africa. The conference offers scholars, policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators an opportunity to engage and address critical challenges while identifying new opportunities that digital transformation presents for Africa's economic growth and sustainable development.

We invite original research, case studies, and thought leadership in the following thematic areas:

- **Building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Inclusive Growth and Resilience in Africa:** Exploring the development, implementation, and impact of DPI on the continent, covering key areas such as fintech-driven peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding, digital identity, digital payments, data interoperability, and cybersecurity. Africa has been a leader in mobile money platforms and other digital solutions that have expanded financial inclusion, online tax collection, and cross-border payments. Included, but not limited to: Case studies, the role of DPI in supporting analysis of policy and regulatory frameworks, innovations in digital identity, and secure payment systems.
- **Navigating Emerging Challenges in Africa's Investment Landscape:** African countries can partner to address and navigate emerging challenges across the continent's investment landscape by blending domestic resources with DFIs, IFIs, as well as the G20 member's financing, expertise, and experience. Coupled with Africa's potential and regional frameworks, these partnerships can create sustainable, inclusive, and impactful investment opportunities where they are needed most. There is a need to analyse the risks and challenges like regulatory hurdles, policy instability, and weak governance, as well as macroeconomic risks and debt distress inter alia. How do we mitigate these risks to achieve inclusive growth.
- **Reimagining Africa's Trade and Investment in the Digital Age:** Examining how digital innovations are changing the landscape of cross-border trade and impact investing, creating new pathways for investment, and redefining Africa's role in the global economy. Through digital instruments and technology, the continent can address historical challenges, increase competitiveness, and integrate more deeply into the global economy. In the trade space, digital customs and border management offer streamlined, tech-enabled customs systems reduce delays and corruption, facilitating smoother intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.
- **Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Africa's Digital Transformation:** Exploring how African and G20 countries can collaborate to expand access to affordable, high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas through investments in fibre optics, satellite internet, and 5G technology. This may include public-private partnerships to build the necessary infrastructure and support the growth of cutting-edge technologies such as AI, blockchain, and IoT can drive innovation, improve trade efficiency, and catalyse African economic growth. Digital platforms enable African businesses, especially MSMEs, to access global markets, bypassing traditional barriers such as high export costs and complex regulations.

- **Sustainably Shaping Africa's Digital Trade and Investment Future while Building Regional Capacity:** Governments and private sector players can co-invest in digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems. Partnerships amongst African players and those from the G20 nations, international tech companies, and development organizations can accelerate Africa's digital trade and investment readiness. Addressing strategies for ensuring sustainable digital growth that enhances trade while building the necessary skills and infrastructure for future generations.
- **Digital Trade as a Catalyst for Africa's Economic Integration:** Digital trade is increasingly becoming a driver of global economic activity, and for Africa, it holds transformative potential by addressing traditional barriers to trade, fostering innovation, and creating new opportunities for inclusive growth. With strategic investments, supportive policies, and collaboration between governments, private sector players, and development partners, Africa can unlock the full potential of digital trade, driving sustainable economic development and improving livelihoods across the continent.

This event promises to offer the opportunity for Government, Academia, and Business to converge, where ideas, strategies, and solutions will be exchanged in dynamic plenary sessions, round table discussions, and networking opportunities. The conference aims to pave the way for a more digitally connected and economically robust Africa, setting the stage for a new trade and technological collaboration era.

We encourage participants from diverse fields to submit papers highlighting practical solutions, visionary ideas, and innovative research to propel Africa toward a future of digital empowerment and sustained economic growth.

Important Dates:

1. Abstract (**900-word maximum**) Submission Deadline: 31st December 2024
2. Notification of Suitability: 30th January 2025
3. Paper Submission Deadline: 28th February 2025
4. Notification of Acceptance: 7th April 2025
5. Final Paper Submission: 20th May 2025
6. Conference Dates: 9-13 June 2025

Submission Guidelines:

Submissions via <http://coe.gyaan-labs.com/dacp> or conference@tutwaconsulting.com

Please check the Conference website for information on fees.

Join us in Mauritius from 9-13 June 2025 for this landmark event that seeks to shape Africa's digital future through collaboration, innovation, and insight.

All accepted papers will be included in the Digital Africa Conference Proceedings:

Title: Digital Africa Conference Proceedings

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This conference is held in association with
 TUTWA Consulting Group
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