
Welcome to East Africa Com Virtual 2021

10:00 - 10:10
East Africa Com 2021

Opening Keynote

10:10 - 10:20
East Africa Com 2021

Panel: New tech policy blueprints for East Africa's digital age

10:20 - 11:00
East Africa Com 2021

- Creating tech ecosystems that accelerate research and investment for the region's most urgent priorities - infrastructure, healthcare, employment, education & digital skills
 - Improving access to affordable digital services through progressive fiscal policy and sector-specific taxation - to drive inclusive development for the region's unconnected
 - Exploring how governments and regulators are fostering environments for entrepreneurs Does Kenya's Startup Bill represent the future of government-start-up relations?
 - Facilitating healthy competition to reduce market monopolisation
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Networking Break

11:00 - 11:20
East Africa Com 2021

Welcome to AHUB East Virtual 2021

11:00 - 11:05
AHUB East

Panel: Building ecosystems for the next wave of start-ups

11:05 - 11:45
AHUB East

- Policy: Are 'Start-up Bills' paving the way for accelerated growth and more cohesive partnerships across East African ecosystems? Examining Kenya's 2020 Start-up Bill
 - Nurturing ecosystems: The biggest trends for the region's investor, incubator and accelerators - ride-hailing & transport, eHealth, digital education, mobile payments
 - Investment: The process of sourcing, securing funding and scaling early-stage businesses. Exploring start-up investment fund launches by Europe's major economies: France (Choose Africa); Germany (Africa Fund)
 - Silicon Savannah: Learnings from the successes and challenges of Kenya's \$1 billion start-up ecosystem
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Panel: Reimagining the East African telco - strategies for 2021 and beyond

11:20 - 12:00
East Africa Com 2021

- Evolution: Developing strategy that integrates new technology while scaling digital services to keep pace with changing consumer trends and enhance connectivity
 - Infrastructure: Network expansion and modernisation to facilitate growing demand for mobile data: building infrastructure for incoming 5G networks, using surplus 4G capacity with a gradual phase out of 2G and 3G services
 - Regional focus: Are strategies evolving differently vs the rest of the continent? What can be learned from other African service provider ecosystems
 - COVID-19 legacy: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the region's telecoms sector, the role of telcos during the pandemic and exploring priorities for the next 5 years
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Fireside Chat: East Africa's start-up investor landscape in 2021 and beyond

11:45 - 12:15
AHUB East

- **Status check:** Examining the region's attractiveness as an investment hub against the backdrop of burgeoning investment in 2019/20 on the wider continent.
 - **Hot topics:** Exploring how fintech and edtech are leading the way in East African start-up innovation and what this means for other East African tech sectors
 - **Opps & Risks:** Unpacking the impact of COVID-19 on investment trends - past & future - and opportunities the African Continental Free Trade Area brings for start-ups
 - **Brain drain:** Debating 'control & ownership' for East African start-ups scaling with international investment and the vital challenge of retaining talent on- continent
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Fireside chat: Smartphone and data affordability as a key to connectivity

12:00 - 12:25
East Africa Com 2021

- Status check: The current state of smartphone coverage in East Africa, and extrapolating the impact of COVID and near-future trends
 - Connectivity: Understanding smartphones as a key connectivity provider and portal to digital services: mobile money, e-health, digital education & location-based services
 - Industry initiatives: Exploring how new telco-led schemes are putting affordable smartphones and data in the hands of East African consumers - Lipa Mdogo Mdogo (Safaricom-Google); T-Smart (KaiOS Tech-Telkom Kenya)
 - Hurdles: Looking at why designating smartphones as 'luxury' items means government taxation often prohibits affordability
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Africa Tech Challenge Showcase

12:25 - 12:45
East Africa Com 2021

Networking Lunch

12:45 - 13:30
East Africa Com 2021

SESSIONS

DAY 1 - 11/05/2021

East Africa Com

11 - 12 May 2021
Virtual Event

Country Deepdive: Ethiopia - Waking East Africa's Sleeping Giant

13:30 - 14:00

East Africa Com 2021

- Business environment: Exploring the huge potential of Ethiopia as a telecoms and tech market, what makes the country so unique, and what do new entrants need to know?
- Ethio telecom: Examining the current status of ethio telecom's part-privatisation plan - the current timeline for license granting and new business operations in the country

Panel: Connecting the dots - East Africa's last mile connectivity challenge

14:00 - 14:40

East Africa Com 2021

- Exploring the region's infrastructure challenge in 2021 and unpacking the link between electrification and internet connectivity, particularly in poor and rural areas
- Industry spotlight: Examining scope and status of the region's biggest public and private last mile connectivity projects
- Affordability: Strategies to remove the barrier of high internet service costs, against the backdrop of proven benefits of connectivity for digital economies and GDP per capita growth

Fireside chat: Seizing on East Africa's digital health revolution

14:40 - 15:05

East Africa Com 2021

- Exploring how digital health tools and technologies such as AI, robotics, IoT, and 3D printing are improving health outcomes through better monitoring and treatment
- Data: Unpacking how the region's journey to build cloud-enabled centralised health databases can improve real-time diagnoses and inform public health planning
- Healthy ecosystems: The role of government and regulator in facilitating investment in digital health services to reduce tech time-to-market and encourage scaling
- COVID-19: Looking at how the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated uptake and innovation in the region's health tech sector

East Africa Com Virtual Day 1 Close

15:05 - 15:10

East Africa Com 2021

Twitter Masterclass - Twitter for Non-Profits: How Grassroots Campaigns can become Global Movements on Twitter

15:30 - 16:30

East Africa Com 2021

SCHEDULE

DAY 1 - 11/05/2021

East Africa Com

11 - 12 May 2021
Virtual Event

TIME	AHUB EAST	EAST AFRICA COM 2021
10:00		<p>10:00 - Welcome to East Africa Com Virtual 2021</p> <p>10:10 - Opening Keynote</p> <p>10:20 - Panel: New tech policy blueprints for East Africa's digital age</p>
11:00	<p>11:00 - Welcome to AHUB East Virtual 2021</p> <p>11:05 - Panel: Building ecosystems for the next wave of start-ups</p> <p>11:45 - Fireside Chat: East Africa's start-up investor landscape in 2021 and beyond</p>	<p>11:00 - Networking Break</p> <p>11:20 - Panel: Reimagining the East African telco - strategies for 2021 and beyond</p>
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13:00		<p>13:30 - Country Deepdive: Ethiopia - Waking East Africa's Sleeping Giant</p>
14:00		<p>14:00 - Panel: Connecting the dots - East Africa's last mile connectivity challenge</p> <p>14:40 - Fireside chat: Seizing on East Africa's digital health revolution</p>
15:00		<p>15:05 - East Africa Com Virtual Day 1 Close</p> <p>15:30 - Twitter Masterclass - Twitter for Non-Profits: How Grassroots Campaigns can become Global Movements on Twitter</p>

Welcome to East Africa Com 2021 Day 2

10:00 - 10:05
East Africa Com 2021

Opening Keynote Pres

10:05 - 10:20
East Africa Com 2021

Panel: Behind the Buzzwords: What does the 4IR really mean for East Africans?

10:20 - 11:00
East Africa Com 2021

- Understanding and seizing on real value of what a fourth industrial revolution currently does and doesn't deliver for citizens across the East African region
- Tech applications: Exploring the most impactful digital enterprise technologies in the next 5 years - AI, IoT, 5G, robotics & automation, cloud computing & big data. How are these being leveraged to deliver equitable economic development?
- Governance: Examining the role of policy in building a 4IR-ready skilled labour force and addressing the legacy challenges of infrastructure and connectivity
- Digital skills: Challenges and opportunities for building a skilled, tech savvy workforce

Fireside chat: Green solutions to East Africa's electrification challenge

11:00 - 11:25
East Africa Com 2021

- On-grid: Strategies to leverage the region's abundant geological resources - solar irradiation, wind, hydro and geothermal - to expand electrification above the current 35% coverage, reducing reliance on expensive, polluting, unreliable alternatives
- Policy: Exploring the region's current renewable energy frameworks, targets & incentives and how lawmakers are innovating to drive investment in the sector
- Case studies: Learning from the leaders of East Africa's green energy revolution - Ethiopia, Rwanda & Kenya

Networking Break

11:25 - 11:45
East Africa Com 2021

Panel: East Africa's battle for information access and authenticity

11:45 - 12:25
East Africa Com 2021

- Digital freedoms: Discussing the critical role information access plays in a free, informed society, who controls internet access throughout the region and how 'free' it can really be considered
- Misinformation: Exploring the impact of misinformation and disinformation campaigns in East Africa, and why they're more pervasive than ever
- Real-world context: Examining the struggle for online accuracy through the lenses of the COVID-19 pandemic, national elections, and regional conflict
- Tools for truth: Understanding how governments, telcos and social media companies are leveraging tools that fact-check and authenticate information online

Fireside chat: What the African Continental Free Trade Area means for East Africa

12:25 - 12:55
East Africa Com 2021

- Status check: Trade commenced in the new AfCFTA on January 1 2021 - the world's largest free trade area and a huge step for the African continent. Where are we 6 months in?
- Future impact: How will the AfCFTA affect businesses and consumers across East Africa? What opportunities and threats does it present for the region: novel markets, policy reform, poverty alleviation, reduced bureaucracy & trade costs, job redundancy
- Policy frameworks: What's required from governments to ensure equitable growth in the long term? Education & training, competition and new job creation, direct investment

Networking Lunch

12:55 - 13:30
East Africa Com 2021

Panel: Bridging the gap: How close is "digital equality" across East Africa?

13:30 - 14:10
East Africa Com 2021

- Context: Affordability, biases/socio cultural norms and lack of female focuses content lead to digital exclusion
- Policy: What are governments doing to tackle "digital equality"? Steps have been taken but gender gap across the continent is still growing
 - Kenya case study: Progressive constitution & funds allocated for women to participate in entrepreneurial activities and gain financial independence - how effective have these measures been in bridging the gap?
 - Rwanda case study: Efforts made by the government to reduce the digital gender gap & improve ICT skills, ICT facilities created (telecasters, internet cafes ect)
- Women in STEM: A means to bridge the gap and have more women in the tech sector but there are barriers against women attending university, policies against pregnant women boarding at the school, no childcare programmes, stereotypes against women in STEM
 - G7 Summit 2019 members pledged to help close digital gender gaps, where are we now?
- Domestic violence: Is technology/connectivity worsening the situation for women facing domestic violence across East Africa or an opportunity to create online safe spaces?

Fireside chat: Unlocking the power of data and tech for agricultural communities

14:10 - 14:35
East Africa Com 2021

- The data key: Exploring the lack of cohesion between agricultural 'communities' across the region, and the benefits of a better organised, more strategic 'shared-value' sector
- End-to-end solutions: Addressing the enduring gap between data collection, analytics and getting useful information and insights into the hands of farmers
- Sustainability: Understanding how The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition is helping to organise agricultural systems in East Africa to drive environmental sustainability and social parity

SESSIONS

DAY 2 - 12/05/2021

East Africa Com

11 - 12 May 2021
Virtual Event

Panel: Interoperability: The next frontier of African fintech

14:35 - 15:15

East Africa Com 2021

- Ecosystem coverage: Prioritising end-to-end digital payment interoperability across mobile money and traditional banking to drive the uptake of financial services
- International pivot: Reducing cross-border transaction fees and the need for multiple currencies to boost trade - taking East Africa's mobile money from a regional to continental success story
- SMEs: Unpacking why East African SMEs are lagging in full mobile money integration, consolidating offerings to reduce high transaction fees
- Regulatory support: Exploring the critical role of governments and regulators in nurturing fertile business environments for the region's evolving mobile money sector
- Financial inclusion: Looking at strategies to redress the uneven distribution of mobile money growth, encourage economic resilience, and the role of mobile money during the COVID-19 pandemic

Close of East Africa Com Virtual 2021

15:15 - 15:20

East Africa Com 2021

Twitter Masterclass - Policy & Rules: Raising Awareness on How Twitter Rules & Reporting Mechanisms Work

15:30 - 16:30

East Africa Com 2021

SCHEDULE

DAY 2 - 12/05/2021

East Africa Com

11 - 12 May 2021
Virtual Event

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