

Call for Abstracts and Practice Paper Summaries

3rd TEVET Conference 2027

Introduction

The Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) of Zambia, in collaboration with the Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA) of Malawi, invites authors from academia, industry, government, development partners, research institutions, and training providers to submit abstracts or practice paper summaries for presentation at the forthcoming Technical Education Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET) Conference, scheduled to take place from 22–26 March 2027 in Livingstone, Zambia’s premier tourism destination.

The conference theme is **“From Policy to Practice: Advancing Competence-Based Training for a Skilled and Industry-Responsive TEVET System.”** The conference will provide a platform for knowledge sharing, dialogue, and collaboration among key stakeholders in skills development and workforce preparation.

Across Africa and globally, TEVET systems are increasingly adopting competence-based approaches to improve graduate employability, productivity, and responsiveness to labour market demands. However, despite significant policy reforms and investments in competence-based education and training (CBET), evidence suggests that a persistent gap remains between policy intentions and implementation outcomes. Many TEVET systems continue to face challenges related to curriculum relevance, industry engagement, trainer capacity, assessment practices, digital transformation, inclusion, and labour market alignment (African Union, 2024¹; International Labour Organization [ILO]², 2024; UNESCO-UNEVOC³, 2023).

In Southern Africa, there is limited documented evidence on effective strategies for translating competence-based training policies into practice, scaling innovative training models, strengthening industry partnerships, and measuring the impact of CBET reforms on employment and productivity outcomes. Furthermore, while numerous initiatives are being implemented across institutions and countries, opportunities for systematic dissemination of research findings, practical experiences, lessons learned, and emerging innovations remain inadequate. This knowledge gap limits evidence-based decision-making and the replication of successful practices across TEVET systems (ILO, 2024; UNESCO⁴, 2024).

The knowledge generated through this conference is expected to contribute towards addressing these gaps by providing empirical evidence, practical insights, innovative approaches, and policy recommendations that can strengthen the implementation and effectiveness of competence-based training within TEVET systems. The conference will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among researchers, policymakers, practitioners, industry representatives, and development partners, thereby contributing to a more responsive, inclusive, and future-ready skills development ecosystem.

1. African Union. (2024). *Continental strategy for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to foster youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: African Union Commission.

2. International Labour Organization. (2024). *World employment and social outlook: Trends 2024*. Geneva, Switzerland: ILO.

3. UNESCO-UNEVOC. (2023). *Trends mapping study on TVET systems and skills development*. Bonn, Germany: UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

4. UNESCO. (2024). *Transforming TVET for successful and just transitions: Global trends and policy directions*. Paris, France: UNESCO.

Conference Objectives

The conference seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To generate and disseminate evidence on effective policies, practices, innovations, and partnerships that enhance the implementation of competence-based training within TEVET systems.
2. To strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers, policymakers, industry, training providers, and development partners in addressing emerging skills development challenges and opportunities.
3. To identify actionable strategies and policy recommendations for improving the quality, relevance, inclusiveness, digital transformation, and labour market responsiveness of TEVET systems.

Conference Subthemes

Authors are invited to submit papers aligned to one or more of the following subthemes:

1. Policy, Systems, and Quality Assurance for Effective CBET Implementation

Topics may include:

- CBET policy development and reform
- Labour market intelligence and skills forecasting
- Quality assurance and regulatory systems
- Monitoring, evaluation, and graduate tracer studies
- Coordination mechanisms for effective CBET implementation

2. Curriculum, Assessment, Accreditation, and Institutional Readiness

Topics may include:

- CBET curriculum design and modularisation
- Competency-based assessment methods and tools
- Accreditation systems and certification frameworks
- Trainer capacity development and professionalisation
- Institutional governance, leadership, and readiness

3. Industry Partnerships, Employability, and Entrepreneurship in CBET

Topics may include:

- Work-based learning and apprenticeship systems
- Employer participation in training and assessment
- Graduate employability and skills matching
- Entrepreneurship and self-employment skills
- Informal sector integration and MSME development
- Scaling CBET implementation nationally

4. Inclusive and Flexible Delivery Models for CBET

Topics may include:

- Open, Distance, and Flexible e-Learning (ODFeL)

- Flexible and blended learning approaches
- Rural and marginalised community access
- Gender-responsive and disability-inclusive training practices in TEVET
- Practices in recognition of prior learning (RPL)

5. Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Skills Development

Topics may include:

- Artificial intelligence in teaching, learning, and assessment
- Simulation-based and virtual training technologies
- Digital platforms for TEVET delivery
- Adaptive learning systems
- Digital skills and the future of work
- Technology adoption challenges in TEVET

6. Financing, Innovation, and Sustainability of CBET Systems

Topics may include:

- Funding models for CBET implementation
- Public-private partnerships in skills development
- Skills levies and training funds
- Innovation ecosystems and productivity enhancement
- Sustainability strategies for CBET systems
- Incorporating green skills and climate change issues in skills training

Submission Guidelines

(a) Research Papers

i) Abstract Requirements

- Maximum of 300 words
- Include title, author(s), affiliation(s), and contact details
- Clearly indicate the relevant conference subtheme
- Include objectives, methodology/approach, key findings, and implications

ii) Full Paper Requirements

Full papers will be submitted using the template to be provided once the abstract is accepted.

The key requirements include:

- Maximum 5,000 words excluding references
- APA referencing style
- Papers should be original and unpublished

(b) Practice Papers

Institutions, industries, innovators, trainers, technology providers, entrepreneurs, and development partners are also invited to submit summaries of demonstrations, exhibitions, or innovation showcases relevant to TEVET transformation and CBET implementation.

Submissions may include, Digital learning platforms and technologies, AI and simulation-based training tools, Innovative assessment methods, Industry-led training models, Student innovation projects, Skills demonstration models, Entrepreneurship and production unit initiatives, Teaching and learning innovations and Institutional best practices and success stories.

i) Practice Paper Summary Requirements:

- Maximum 250 words
- Include title, author(s), affiliation(s), and contact details
- Type of demonstration/exhibition
- Clearly indicate the relevant conference subtheme
- Briefly describe the innovation or demonstration and its relevance to the conference theme and subthemes
- Indicate any technical or space requirements for exhibition or demonstration

ii) Full Practice Paper Requirements

- *Length:* 3,000–5,000 words (excluding references and appendices).
- Clearly describe the practice, initiative, programme, policy, partnership, or innovation being presented.
- Present evidence of outcomes, impact, lessons learned, or good practices.
- Discuss challenges encountered and how they were addressed.
- Highlight implications and recommendations for TVET/TEVET policy and practice.

Submission Procedure

Abstract or summary submissions should be submitted ONLINE in word or PDF Format using the 'SUBMIT HERE' link below.

Submissions should clearly indicate:

- The submission category (Research Paper or Practice Paper)
- Relevant conference subtheme
- Name(s) of author(s)/presenter(s)
- Institutional affiliation(s)
- Contact details

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

Or scan the QR code



Review and Acceptance

All abstract and practice paper summary submissions will undergo a review process focusing on the following criteria:

- Originality and innovation of the research, practice, intervention, or initiative;
- Alignment with the conference theme and relevant subtheme(s);

- Relevance to contemporary TVET/TEVET policy, research, practice, industry, and skills development needs;
- Clarity of the purpose, objectives, approach, and key messages;
- Significance and potential contribution to knowledge, policy, practice, or sector development;
- Evidence of impact, outcomes, or lessons learned (where applicable);
- Quality of presentation, coherence, and organization of the submission; and
- Adherence to submission guidelines.

Authors of accepted submissions will be invited to submit full papers and to present their work at the conference.

Important Dates

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| • Call for Papers Opens: | 1 st June 2026 |
| • Abstract Submission Deadline: | 30 th September 2026 |
| • Notification of Acceptance: | 31 st October 2026 |
| • Full Paper Submission Deadline: | 31 st January 2027 |
| • Conference Dates: | 22 nd – 26 th March 2027 |

For enquiries, contact:

The Conference Secretariat

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