

Editorial

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) was established in 1986 by Act of Parliamentary No. 7 as a successor to the Tanzania National Scientific Research Council (UTAFITI) with the responsibility of coordinating and promoting research and technology development activities in the country. The Commission is an apex organ with the responsibility of advising the Government on the use of Science, Technology and Innovation for socio economic development.

One of the COSTECH's mandates is to coordinate and promote research in the country. Since its establishment, COSTECH has been providing various scientific platforms for researchers to meet and share experiences on various issues pertaining to research in the country. The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) conference has always been one of those platforms.

From 24th – 26th June 2015 the COSTECH organized the 4th Annual National STI Conference and exhibitions held at the Julius Nyerere Convention Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, The former President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The conference theme was, *Fostering Innovations for Sustainable Development and Industrial Growth*.

During this scientific event more than 24 papers were presented by local researchers from academia and Research and Development (R&D) institutions. The conference was organized into panel discussions, six oral sessions that include Innovations for Industrial Applications; Commercialization of Research Results; Linking Science to Indigenous Knowledge; Climate Change and livelihoods; Diffusion/Adoption of Technologies; Emerging and Platform Technologies and exhibits of innovations and research outputs.

In order to make the information and ideas presented at the conference promptly and widely available, participants from academia and R&D institutions in the conference were invited to submit written papers based on their presentations for inclusion in refereed conference proceedings to be published in the HURIA Journal of The Open University of Tanzania.

Each paper submitted for consideration was peer-reviewed according to the requirements of the Scientific Editors which was comprised by Scientists from COSTECH, Academia and R&D institutions in Tanzania. These scientists independently provided a scholarly judgment on the paper's suitability for Annual STI Presentation publication. A total of 24 papers were submitted to Huria Journal for Publication out of which 14 papers were qualified for publication after undergoing peer review and editing process.

The COSTECH Management is grateful to first, the researchers who agreed to submit full written papers and second, to the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) for agreeing to publish them in HURIA journal.

COSTECH is also grateful to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the Government of The United Republic of Tanzania to allow it to demonstrate its potential in supporting research that in turn will provide opportunities to Tanzanians to exploit National resources more effectively and sustainably.

With these few words, I sincerely hope that this journal, together with our website, and other knowledge products, will serve as a valuable source of scientific information to our esteemed stakeholders. It is also my hope that readers will be a dependable source of information for upcoming STI conferences.

I wish you all happy reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Mshinda', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Hassan Mshinda
Director General
COSTECH