



Proceedings of the 1st African International Conference

22-23 May 2025, Bradford, United Kingdom

AIC 2025

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Preface

It is with a profound sense of pride and professional satisfaction that we present the inaugural proceedings of the **2025 African International Conference (AIC)**. Conceived as a landmark gathering of global minds, the AIC was established to provide a rigorous, interdisciplinary sanctuary where scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and innovators could converge. Our objective was clear: to address the multifaceted challenges and nascent opportunities that define the African continent in this pivotal decade of the 21st century.

Under the ambitious and timely theme, ‘Shaping Africa’s Future: Innovation, Integration, and Impact’, the conference served as a high-level crucible for discourse. The programme was meticulously engineered to bridge the persistent chasm between theoretical academic research and actionable public policy, specifically examining the critical pillars of healthcare, regional security, technological sovereignty, and the preservation of cultural diversity. The tripartite focus of this year’s theme—Innovation, Integration, and Impact—represents more than a title; it reflects a strategic roadmap for continental transformation:

1. Innovation: Beyond the Digital Frontier

In the context of AIC 2025, innovation was explored not merely as the adoption of new technologies, but as a fundamental shift in problem-solving paradigms. From the deployment of Radio Frequency (RF) innovations in rural healthcare to the development of indigenous engineering solutions for environmental sustainability, the proceedings highlight a move toward Technological Sovereignty. Our contributors argue that for Africa to shape its future, it must transition from being a consumer of global technology to an original architect of bespoke solutions tailored to its unique ecological and social landscapes.

2. Integration: A Unified Continental Architecture

The discussions on integration moved beyond the traditional economic frameworks of trade to encompass **Intellectual and Security Integration**. The proceedings within Track 1 reflect a deep dive into how regional cooperation can mitigate political violence and how shared governance models can foster peacebuilding. By harmonising our academic and policy efforts across borders, Africa can leverage its collective intelligence to negotiate more effectively on the global stage. This volume captures the essence of a "borderless" approach to solving systemic crises in health, climate, and security.

3. Impact: Measuring Success through Human Flourishing

The final pillar, Impact, served as the conference’s moral compass. The research presented here rejects the "output-only" metric of traditional academia, focusing instead on **Long-term Outcomes**. Impact is defined here as the tangible improvement in the "lived experience" of the African citizen—higher healthcare standards, increased economic agency, and a more secure political environment.

The Technical Programme

The academic heart of AIC 2025 was comprised of **77 oral presentations** including four invited contributions that anchored our primary thematic tracks. These tracks provided a comprehensive survey of contemporary African issues:

- **Track 1:** Peacebuilding, Security, and Regional Integration
- **Track 2:** Business and Economic Development
- **Track 3:** Technology, Environment, and Engineering
- **Track 4:** Health and Medicine
- **Track 5:** Diversity, Culture, and the Creative Sector

Beyond the technical sessions, the programme was enriched by a distinguished keynote address delivered by Professor Engobo Emeseh, an esteemed expert in Environmental and Energy Law and Head of the Department of Law and Criminology at the University of Aberystwyth. Her insights set a profound tone for the plenary sessions, which were chaired by world-class experts including Dr Alex Vines, Dr Selam Kidane, and Professor Mohammad Patwary.

Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

Recognising that innovation requires both strategic vision and practical skill, the conference featured a high-impact **African Policy Forum**. This session brought together academic leaders, policy makers and practitioners. It was chaired by Dr Marco Jowell of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to discuss the alignment of research with international development goals.

Furthermore, three specialised workshops were delivered to enhance the professional toolkit of our delegates:

1. **Exploring Radio Frequency Techniques and New Innovations for Health Applications:** Led by Professor Raed Abd-Alhameed, exploring the frontiers of medical technology.
2. **Research Development and Grant Proposals:** Facilitating the essential skills required to secure global funding. Led by the University of Bradford Research, Innovation, Business and Engagement Team
3. **Social Media Skills for Researchers:** Empowering academics to disseminate their impact creatively through modern media.

Acknowledgements

The success of this maiden edition is the result of seamless collaboration. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Conference Steering Chairs, Dr Colins Imoh and Dr Irekpitan Okukpon, for their visionary leadership. We also recognise the University of Bradford Senior Management Team for their steadfast institutional support, and Conference Coordinator Joana Kolo-Manma for her logistical excellence.

Our thanks go to the Technical Programme Committee for their rigorous peer-review process, ensuring the high calibre of work presented in this volume, and to Kyle Roscoe–Mitchell for his meticulous production of the conference programme. Most importantly, we thank the authors and participants whose intellectual contributions form the substance of these proceedings.

This conference is partially supported by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) under grant EP/X039366/1, and HORIZON-MSCA-RISE ID: 101086492, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), titled: FractuRe Orthopaedic Rehabilitation: Ubiquitous eHealth Solution (Robust). In addition to the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) under grant EP/Y035135/1, and HORIZON-MSCA-2022-SE-01-01-ID: 101131501, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), titled: titled: 6G Terahertz Communications for Future Heterogeneous Wireless Network (6G-TERAFIT)

This conference also acknowledges the support of the University of Bradford, the John & Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies (JEFICAS) and the African Business Association.

Looking Forward

We firmly believe that the AIC has established itself as a vital forum for the discussion of cutting-edge research relevant to Africa. The solutions proposed within these pages offer a roadmap for the continent's continued improvement and integration. It is our expectation that future editions of the African International Conference will build upon this foundation, remaining as stimulating and impactful as this inaugural volume.

Dr Colins Imoh, Dr Irekpitan Okukpon, and Prof. Raed Abd-Alhameed

Conference Editors

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