

Kenyan Delegation Visits iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad to Strengthen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ties through India-Kenya Innovation Nexus

Highlights:

- Delegation led by *Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA)* and senior members of *11 Kenyan Universities*
- Special Guests: *Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze* and *Hon. Amina Dika Abdullahi*, Members of Parliament, Republic of Kenya
- Signing of the *India-Kenya Innovation Nexus* Partnership Charter
- Focus on fostering collaboration between Indian and Kenyan innovation ecosystems
- 2-day visit featuring discussions on incubation, technology commercialization, and startup ecosystems

Hyderabad, October 14, 2024: IIT Hyderabad's iTIC Incubator welcomed a high-profile delegation from Kenya, led by the **Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA)**, along with senior representatives from **11 Kenyan universities**. The visit, held over two days, aims to foster collaboration between the innovation ecosystems of both countries and establish long-term ties through the **India-Kenya Innovation Nexus**. The delegation included special guests: **Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze** (MP, Kitui West Constituency) and **Hon. Amina Dika Abdullahi** (MP, Tana River Constituency), along with **Dr Tonny Omwansa**, CEO of KeNIA. Vice-Chancellors and senior academic leaders from Kenyan universities and key members of the Kenyan innovation ecosystem also accompany the group.

Conveying his welcome to the delegation and speaking on the importance of the collaboration, **Prof B S Murty**, Director of IIT Hyderabad and President of iTIC stated, “*We are honored to host our Kenyan counterparts and explore the numerous opportunities that our nations can create together. The Innovation Nexus reflects our shared commitment to advancing technology and entrepreneurship.*”

The highlight of the day was the formal signing of the **Partnership Charter** of the **India-Kenya Innovation Nexus**, which focuses on fostering meaningful connections between the Indian and Kenyan innovation ecosystems. The Nexus is designed to facilitate opportunities for cross-border startup growth, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives that will benefit both nations. On the first day of the visit, the Kenyan delegation participated in a series of engaging activities, beginning with a comprehensive tour of IIT Hyderabad's Incubation Facilities, led by **Mr Dhruv Gupta**, COO of iTIC Incubator, which showcased cutting-edge technologies and ongoing startup projects. Post lunch session started with an overview of IIT Hyderabad by **Prof. Tarun Kanti Panda** and followed by insightful presentations on the innovation ecosystems of both countries, delivered by **Dr. Tonny Omwansa** for Kenya and **Prof. S. Suryakumar** for India, sparking productive discussions on mutual collaboration opportunities. The day culminated in a **Networking Dinner** hosted by **Prof. B. S. Murty**, Director of IIT Hyderabad and President of iTIC, providing a platform for informal discussions between the Kenyan delegation and key members of the Indian startup ecosystem, including **special guests Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze** and **Hon. Amina Dika Abdullahi**, Members of Parliament from Kenya, who contributed valuable insights throughout the day's events.

On Day 2, the delegation will engage in key discussions surrounding technology commercialization, academic initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, and the critical role incubators play in supporting startups. The highlight of the day will be the **Joint Declaration of Membership** to the **India-Kenya Innovation Nexus** by Indian and Kenyan universities, further cementing the partnership between the two nations.

About iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad

iTIC Incubator is a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) under the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) and is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. As a not-for-profit society, iTIC is dedicated to creating a nurturing environment for emerging entrepreneurs in technology, focusing on deeptech startups across sectors such as Healthcare, AI/ML, Quantum Computing, AR/VR, Cybersecurity, Robotics, IoT, Industry 4.0, Blockchain, Electronics, Advanced Materials, Drones, and Biotechnology. The incubator empowers entrepreneurs by leveraging robust research and startup ecosystem to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship, providing mentoring, financial aid, intellectual property support, networking opportunities, and access to dedicated office space, software, and advanced technological infrastructure, including a MakerLab. Since its inception in 2015, iTIC has supported over 190 startups through pre-incubation, incubation, and acceleration programs, sanctioning more than INR 10 crores directly to these ventures, which have collectively generated over INR 1500 crores in revenue and created more than 1100 jobs.

About KeNIA

The Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) is a state corporation established under the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013, under the Ministry of Education. Its primary mandate is to develop and manage Kenya's National Innovation System. By working with stakeholders across academia, industry, and government, KeNIA promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and research in Kenya. The agency facilitates the identification and commercialization of innovative ideas and coordinates the creation of relevant policies, standards, and partnerships to nurture the country's innovation ecosystem.

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and startups in the short span of 15 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3rd in Innovation and 8th among Engineering institutes in India. It has 320+ full-time faculty, 5,300+ students (PG + PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with Rs. 1270+ Cr of R&D funding, 11,400+ publications, 310+ Patents, and about 260+ startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr). Follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Koo](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest updates.

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