

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 8TH NATIONAL
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITIONS
WEEK**

DATE

5TH - 9TH AUGUST 2019

VENUE

**KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTRE, NAIROBI, KENYA**

THEME

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS, TRANSFORMING SOCIETY**



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

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CONCEPT FOR THE 8TH NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITIONS WEEK

1.0 Introduction

The National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week (NSTW) is a vibrant expression of the cultural importance of science and technology of a nation. It gives scientists, inventors and researchers a chance to interact closely with students and members of the public from all walks of life. The event offers different forms of engagements such as lectures, dialogues, panel discussions and debates; through hands-on demonstration, exhibitions and workshops. The essence of this event is to engage citizens with scientists in ways that are inspirational and encouraging. Launched in 2012, this event is a celebration to promote Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RST&I) and demonstrate how science can lead Kenya towards the realization of her development blueprint, the Vision 2030.

The aim of the NSTW Week is to engage the public and showcase how RST&I provide solutions to transform lives. The Ministry of Education through the coordination of National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) in partnership with the National Research Fund (NRF), Young Scientist Kenya (YSK) and other partners are organizing the 8th National Science Week at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) from 5th - 9th August, 2019. This is a unique platform that intends to inspire curiosity and make RST&I more interesting and rewarding. The theme for this year's NSTW is **“Science, Technology and Innovation: Building Partnerships, Transforming Society”**.

Further, the importance of NSTW is to help youth develop 21st century skills, with focus on scientific knowledge, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork through the enhancement of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes. One of the long-term objectives is to encourage students and young scientists to study and work in various emerging scientific fields. The focus on the myriad faces behind some of the fascinating discoveries will inspire the masses with scientific attitudes and will give the power to create new possibilities. NSTW is a long-term science outreach programme aimed at propelling the scientific attitude amongst the public.

This will be an extraordinary amalgamation of scientific ideas and innovations, bringing together students, young scientists, researchers, key experts, technocrats, policy makers, industry leaders and international organizations. Through this event, it is envisaged that stakeholders will be brought together to discover the contributions of RST&I to the flagship programmes for the government. Inculcating the culture of science among students, emerging scientists and teachers across the country is a unique feature of the NSTW 2019. The special role of women scientists

and entrepreneurs in the shaping of the scientific growth trajectory will be another highlight of this Science Week.

2.0 Rationale for the National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week

Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RST&I) has tremendous power to contribute to the economic development and growth of society. It is therefore important to have a platform for convergence of the stakeholders to showcase innovations, dissemination of research findings, link researchers and innovators to industry, mentorship of young scientists and innovators and discuss the contributions of RST&I to society.

3.0 Objectives of the 8th National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week

3.1 Main objective

The objective of the 8th National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week is to provide a forum to showcase and engage stakeholders in RST&I as a contribution towards building partnerships and transforming society.

3.2 Specific Objectives

The objectives of the national science week will be to:

- i) Appraise and show-case Kenya's achievements and breakthroughs in RST&I;
- ii) provide opportunities for mentorship and industrial linkage for the youth
- iii) provide a forum for RST&I stakeholder interaction;
- iv) create public awareness and popularize RST&I;
- v) provide a platform for enhancing technology transfer and commercialization;
- vi) celebrate, recognize and reward outstanding scientists and innovators;
- vii) Strengthen collaboration and partnerships amongst RST&I players.
- viii) Provide a forum to mainstream RST&I among women

4.0 Theme

Science, Technology and Innovation: Building Partnerships, Transforming Society

4.1 Sub-themes

- i) Promoting STEM skills for job creation and economic empowerment

- ii) Research for policy development
- iii) RST&I for entrepreneurship and market linkages
- iv) Collaborations and Partnerships for advancing RST&I
- v) Women in science

4.1.1 Sub-theme 1: Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) skills for job creation and economic empowerment

Science careers are generally among the well-paying world over, and more science professionals are needed for realization of the Global Agenda 2030, Africa Agenda 2063, Vision 2030 and Kenya's Big Four Agenda. However, the performance in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in Kenya has been dismal with 90% of students underperforming in Mathematics and Sciences in the last three consecutive years in secondary schools examinations. This has led to low enrolment in STEM courses at the universities leading to fewer professionals in these fields especially for women. Mentoring of secondary and University students is important in influencing their decision to pursue STEM disciplines because of the potential of STEM career paths as a catalyst for science, technology and innovation (ST&I) thus equipping them for the fourth industrial revolution. Producing more technically skilled human capital will provide the country with enough workforce necessary for the socio-economic transformation of the country not only as employees but also as self-employed individuals thus addressing the problem of unemployment. **The presentations, panel discussions, and exhibitions under this sub-theme are envisaged to demystify STEM and promote its uptake through student mentorship highlighting its role in job creation and economic empowerment.**

4.1.2 Sub-theme 2: Research for Policy Development

The Constitution of Kenya recognizes the role of science in the development of the nation. Vision 2030 also identifies Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) as a key foundation upon which economic, social and political pillars are anchored. Further, the goal of the proposed ST&I policy is to facilitate the transformation of the national economy from factor based into a knowledge-based economy. Therefore, there is a need to carry out research to inform policy. The research evidence so collected should be packaged in a way that can be easily understood by policy makers to make informed decisions. **The presentations, panel discussions, and**

exhibitions under this sub-theme seek to provide a platform for a dialogue to identify underlying issues hampering application of research to inform policy.

4.1.3 Sub-theme 3: Research, Science Technology and Innovation for Entrepreneurship and Market Linkages

All over the world, entrepreneurship and innovation play a crucial role as a backbone to the biggest economies. However, most individuals working on Research, Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) are not aware of how they can commercialize their products and services so that they reap maximum benefits. The National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week (NSTW) provides a platform for linking researchers, innovators and scientists to the industry. This forum will also, provide an opportunity for the various ST&I players to dialogue in order to address the various issues limiting the commercialization of their products and services. **The presentations, panel discussions, and exhibitions under this sub-theme will provide interventions to address science, business and linkage to relevant markets.**

4.1.4 Sub-Theme 4: Collaboration & Partnerships for Advancing Research, Science, Technology and Innovation

Collaborations and partnerships in Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RST&I) are key to future prosperity and wellbeing of the nation. These can be enhanced through sharing of ideas, knowledge, skills, resources and exchange programmes at national, regional and international level among research institutions, academia, industries and private sector through the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). These can farther be upscaled by developing a long-term cooperation framework between collaborating and partnering institutions. The importance of identifying common areas of interest in RST&I cannot be over-emphasized. **The presentations, panel discussions, and exhibitions under this sub-theme are expected to explore opportunities for establishing and strengthening collaborations and partnerships at various levels.**

4.1.5 Sub-Theme 5: Women in Science

While women and girls make up half of Kenya's population, within the fields of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RST&I) they remain significantly underrepresented with the exception of a few science-related disciplines such as health, agriculture and environmental

management where there is greater gender parity. NSTW provides an opportunity to highlight how women's increased participation in the sciences is both vital for sustainable development and a viable tool for their advancement and empowerment. This forum will explore the unique barriers girls and women continue to face in their participation in RST&I and highlight how women's underutilized talents, expertise, and perspectives can be used to infuse new energy into these fields. **The presentations, panel discussions, and exhibitions under this sub-theme are expected to encourage diversity of women in RST&I, recognize women's impressive contributions to the sciences, and encourage uptake of RST&I amongst young girls and women.**

4.0 Expected Output

- i) Book of Abstracts
- ii) Conference Reports
- iii) Conference proceedings
- iv) Media Briefs
- v) Communiqué
- vi) Inventory of innovations

5.0 Expected Outcomes

- i) Enhanced awareness in ST&I
- ii) ST&I stakeholders linked to industry
- iii) RST&I networks developed
- iv) Partnerships and collaborations established and strengthened
- v) Students and young scientists mentored in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- vi) Capacity in resource mobilization for RST&I enhanced
- vii) Participation of women in science enhanced

ANNEX 1

a) Technical Information for Paper Presenters

This is for the Recipients of the First Call of the National Research Fund (NRF). NRF will identify and invite the researchers to make their paper presentations.

b) Important Dates

- ❖ 15th July, 2019 - Deadline for receiving abstracts
- ❖ 25th July, 2019- Deadline for receiving full papers
- ❖ 19th July, 2019- Notification of acceptance of exhibitors

c) Exhibition Fees

All payments shall be made directly to the **National Commission for Science & Technology, Kenya Commercial Bank A/C No. 1104162547** as follows:

Category of Exhibitors		Payment Deadline (10 th July, 2019)	
		KES	US\$
Exhibitors (charges per booth measuring 3x3m ²)	Individuals	5,000	59
	Institutions	10,000	118
	Non-East African	20,000	235

For more information please get in touch directly with the Science Week Coordinator through the following contacts:

The Coordinator
8th National Science and Technology Exhibitions Week
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
P.O. Box 30623-00100,
NAIROBI
Tel: +254 20 400 7000 ask for Mr. Julius Mwangi or Ms. Rael Adhiambo
Email: scienceweek2019@nacosti.go.ke
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke or www.scienceandtechnology.go.ke