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**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



## Grand Final of the 1<sup>st</sup> PAU Innovation Challenge

7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from 14:00 to 17:00 O'clock EAT

### Concept note

The PAU Innovation Challenge is aiming to raise the awareness of PAU students and alumni on innovation and to promote entrepreneurship mindset. The ability to utilize academic knowledge proposing new solutions and contributing to the economic, cultural, environmental and social development of Africa is vital to fulfil the social responsibilities of PAU.

### Introduction

The Pan African University PAU ([www.pau-au.africa](http://www.pau-au.africa)) is steadily committed to offer high-end courses and trainings and support its students in activities to develop market-oriented competences. The objective is to enable them to successfully address current technological and societal challenges on the African continent. One of the achievements is the creation of PAU Entrepreneurship Hubs which aim at providing PAU students with necessary skills, incubation, mentoring and seed funding through a panel of events in collaboration with different partners. PAU students get entrepreneurial support in the hubs to create innovative projects contributing to the entire continent, as they make knowledge applicable to serve the goal of transforming Africa as envisaged by the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

Innovation is the translation of an idea into a good product, service or project with an added value for the customer. In this spirit, PAU invited last year all current PAU students and alumni to submit proposals for the 1<sup>st</sup> PAU Innovation Challenge. This Innovation challenge has been carried out under travel and lockdown restrictions due to the exceptional and serious world health crisis of COVID-19.

The activities carried out so far in 2020 are:

- Promotional webinar with students of all PAU institutes and Conoscope consultants
- Competition Launch on 27 April 2020 with a mobile-friendly online-application form and possibility for video upload
- a series of 18 training videos about business model development was developed and uploaded
- Idea feedback to most of the participating teams in first stage of the competition, conducted by Conoscope, followed by a review of all applications and coaching of all teams by the Consultant

- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final stage of competition, 69 team applications with 241 participants (team members) were submitted thereof 22 teams of PAUWES, 12 of PAUGHSS, 19 of PAUSTI and 16 of PAULESI.
- Selection of finalists through a two-phase process: Pre-selection Jury for the shortlisting of applications and Final Jury for the selection of finalists which selected the best 8 teams each having at least one female group member; represented by 32 members for the Grand Final.
- Further coaching of the Finalists, pitching manual handing-over.

69 teams with 241 team members from all over Africa submitted their applications and were coached and trained online by experts of the German Consultancy company Conoscope in collaboration with GIZ and

PAU. These teams proposed projects that cover a wide range of areas of expertise. For more details, please check the attached statistical overview.

## The Finalists:



- INTRA AFRICAN E-TRADE.
- AFRI-TECHS SERVICES.



- Zelaqi Solutions: access to affordable resources to equip schools and to reduce plastic.
- DISHASILI: enhance substantiality in agriculture and fight hunger in Africa.



- Modern mill line to produce biofortified maize and cassava flours.
- Enhancing Value Added Chain in Poultry Farming.
- 



- Solid Waste Health Insurance (SWHI).
- SoCool: Affordable Solar Cooling and Filtration Technology.



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## The Prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> place: USD5,000

2<sup>nd</sup> place: USD3,000

3<sup>rd</sup> place/Audience selection: USD1,000

Three-month incubation in adequate center are offered to the three winners.

## The Event

The Pan African University PAU in cooperation with GIZ intends to carry out the Grand Final of the 1<sup>st</sup> PAU Innovation challenge under the participation of the selected 8 finalists on following day:

Date and time: **7<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00 – 17:00 O'clock EAT** in an online format.

A jury of representatives of the African business community as well as of leading African and international institutions will select and nominate the best three teams which will be awarded by remarkable and audience prizes. Each team will be given 8 minutes for their pitch and Q&A. Please see attached the tentative time schedule. The event is expected to be under the patronage of the High commissioner of the African Union, German Government and AfDB.

The participants/audience will comprise of PAU alumni, experts and consultants, PAU thematic partners, high level officials and some governmental representatives, the private sector and GIZ-AU network.

## Communication & visibility

The overview and objective of the PAU Innovation Challenge will be communicated thoroughly to the thematic partners of PAU through newsletters (two minimum) and through PAU and host universities Rectorate 's web interfaces. Press packs and audio-visual content highlighting the teams and their projects will also serve to disseminate further content.

Leading up to the event, relevant information illustrating different aspect of the Innovation Challenge and Gender equality and host universities' activities and will be shared on all relevant web interfaces and to PAU rectorate contacts and thematic partners.

The organizers are also working on developing partnerships with local and international media. Thus far discussion with the Groupe Jeune Afrique (GJA) secured a mention, on their platform, of the winning teams following the competition. Furthermore, ongoing conversations with other local and international (eg: BBC) media seem to spark interest in the event. Locally, The Reporter, has given a first positive response to covering the Innovation Challenge. In addition, the PAU rectorate, its institutes and GIZ will disseminate relevant information and updates in a timely fashion, using their respective networks of partners, stakeholders and audience; while ensuring that PAU remains the main portal of communication used as a frame of reference for event all related updates.



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## The role of the African Union Commissioner

Following the organizers' formal invitation and request, following due protocol, for the African Union Commissioner, the Honorable Dr Sarah Agbor' role is as follows:

- Keynote speaker: deliver the opening speech that will officially mark the launch of the PAU Innovation Challenge Finale event
- Award: announce the winning team and present them with the award