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It’s with much pleasure that I present to you the ACIA 2017 Catalogue: “New Frontiers, New Horizons”. Our theme for ACIA 2017 is: "Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Our choice of theme this year embodies the integration between ICT innovation and entrepreneurship and recognises the contribution of startups and SMEs to the developmental goals of Uganda. Seven years down the road, ACIA has become a signature tune in Uganda’s communications sector. Increasingly, Ugandans, especially the young and youthful brains, keenly look towards participating in this premier event.

In celebration of this 7th year landmark of ACIA, through various partnerships, we have introduced the ACIA summit that comprised of a 48-hour Hackathon on Smart Transport Management, Innovation clinics and the two day exhibition and the Award Gala. The innovation clinics alone attracted over 400 participants.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken a keen interest in ACIA - we appreciate your hard work and we assure you, that it is your contributions that make such celebrations worthwhile.

I wish to thank in a special way those who submitted their entries irrespective of the outcome. As the regulator of the communications sector in Uganda, we look beyond the winner-loser paradigm. To us, every participant is a winner.

For this reason, we encourage all innovators or inventors in Uganda to step forth and bring your innovation to platforms like this one, which facilitate collaboration, learning, and access to investors and of course reward for the efforts made.

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) wishes to thank you all for your time and effort that has made the 7th ACIA awards a huge success.

Thank you to our sponsors, policy makers, and the government in general, for making ACIA the augast innovation event in this country. To the UCC team that has coordinated all efforts, thank you. Together let us celebrate excellence and leadership in research and innovation in Uganda’s communication sector.

Cheers!

Godfrey Mutabazi /Executive Director
Welcome to the seventh edition of the ACIA Awards where we celebrate minds that dare to venture into the unknown in order to find unique ICT solutions to various Ugandan challenges. Since 2010, save for one year, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has hosted annually the ACIA Awards aimed to encourage, promote, recognise and reward ICT innovators under the tag line ‘ICT Innovation for National Development’.

It has been a long, arduous journey since we opened our doors for submission of entries in November 2016. On April 3, 2017, UCC closed submission of entries for the young ICT Innovators award categories (explorers, rising stars, visionaries), while the close date for Service Excellence, Business Excellence, 2017 start-up Innovation award, ICT for Development (ICT4D) and Digital Content categories was April 15, 2017.

Suffice to say, we have received good response from the public. The Commission received 174 entries for ACIA 2017. It’s important to note that ACIA 2017 contained two novel events that took place on the side-lines of the ICT Exhibition. These were:

- ICT Innovation Clinics (May 24-25, 2017), that attracted 400 atleast participants.
- ICT Hackathon on the theme of Smart Transport Management. It focuses on two thematic areas: Traffic Management, and Health, Safety and Insurance.

The Hackathon was jointly organised by UCC and Makerere University School of Public Health - ResilientAfrica Network (RAN). RAN, a consortium of 18 African Universities from 13 countries, is a multi-disciplinary innovation hub that leverages the creativity and talent of young innovators and entrepreneurs. The Hackathon also attracted key stakeholders in the transport management like KCCA, Uganda Police and Safe Boda.

As usual our sponsors and partners Airtel, Huawei and Serena Hotel, and partners Outbox, Barefoot Law and Resilient Africa Network have demonstrated the role of partnership in propelling innovations to greater heights.

Lastly behind the achievements of ACIA 2017 is a team of young men and women, who worked sometimes beyond the call of duty and where not afraid to try uncharted waters, I salute them for their contribution.

Happy reading
THE UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (UCC) WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2013 TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR.

The sector comprises:
Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Postal Services, Radio Communications, Data Communication and Infrastructure.

VALUES OF UCC
Respect – UCC serves its customers and stakeholders in a professional and courteous way while maintaining responsive interactions and respecting the opinions of all.

Integrity – UCC treats its customers and other stakeholders with trust, honesty, fairness,

Commitment - UCC is committed to being a world class regulator by providing a conducive environment for all customers and stakeholders.

Excellence – UCC promotes a results-oriented culture through professionalism, by ensuring high compliance levels, minimising turnaround time and exceeding expectations. These four values are summed up as R.I.C.E.

FUNCTIONS OF UCC
The mandate of UCC, as derived from the Uganda Communications Act 2013, is to regulate communications in the country by:
• Licensing, standardising and monitoring communication services;
• Facilitating the ubiquitous access to a diversity of quality and innovative communications services;
• Managing the use of scarce communications resources;
• Promoting competition within the sector;
• Protecting consumers with respect to quality of services, equipment and content;
• Promoting research in the sector;
• Providing advice to Government with regards to the sector;
• Promoting the development of requisite human resources in the sector including the management and operation of Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT), and;
• Coordinating the participation of Uganda in international fora in the sector.

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12th Floor, Communications House, Plot 1 Colville Street,
Kampala
Toll free number:
0800133911 (during working hours 8.00am -5.00pm Monday to Friday)

Or UCC Regional Offices:
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Plot 39/41 Republic Street,
Mbale
Western:
Plot 2 Circular Road,
Mbarara
Northern:
Plot 15 Onono Road, Gulu
North Western:
Plot 8, Ntuha Road, Masindi
Dr. Dorothy Okello is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) - Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. In addition, Eng. Dr Okello is Director of Innovation at ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) hosted by Makerere University School of Public Health.

Ms. Philippa N Makobore is the Department Head of the Instrumentation Division at the Uganda Industrial Research Institute. Her core expertise is the design of electronic applications/embedded systems that are appropriate and affordable for low resource contexts in healthcare, agriculture and energy, healthcare being a top priority.

Dr. Davis Musinguzi is a medical doctor, digital health architect and entrepreneur from Uganda. He is the Managing Director of The Medical Concierge Group, a digital health company based in Kampala, Nairobi and Abuja with a portfolio of innovative ventures in telehealth, healthcare enterprise software and patient care technologies.

Ms. Joyce Kyalema is a young woman entrepreneur and a gender activist. She is the founder and CEO of Josmak International (U) Ltd, a 2013 SEED Africa Award Winner. Joyce further serves as Executive Director of the Rural Women and Youth Development Organization.

Mr. Henry Rugamba is a managing associate at Songa Communications. He is a seasoned PR professional with over two decades in PR and marketing communications. He harnessed his skills at British American Tobacco and more recently at Umeeme Uganda’s leading Electricity Distribution Company.

Mr. Ayub K. Golooba is a hybrid teacher, motivational speaker, ICT Enthusiast and Project Manager with 25 years’ experience in designing, executing and evaluating high-impact ICT enabled project based learning environments for youths in and out-of-school, and for adults. Ayub is also a founder member and director of Sustainable Change Solutions.

Mr. Geoffrey Kitakule is the Country Chief Executive Officer of Letshego Holdings Limited formerly called Micro Provident Uganda Limited. Godfrey has over 11 years of experience in the financial sector across Africa and the world over having studied an MBA in finance and information systems.

Mr. James S. K. Makumbi is an Innovator, a Software Developer, The Chief Executive Officer at Billable Limited his own company, and a Co-Founder in two other non-tech start-ups.

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We envision a world where every individual is cognizant of, and can use the law to protect themselves, their families and communities, and using technology access information on the law and ultimately justice.

INITIATIVES:

- **Women Property Rights Initiative**
  Together with GIZ Uganda, we equip women with information regarding their rights to property using innovative approaches.

- **mSME Garage**
  Providing mSMEs with free legal, tax and accounting information, ensuring they survive and thrive.

- **International Justice Component**
  Unfolding and contextualizing events and decisions taken at an international level
The 7th edition of ACIA is quite unique from the previous editions in a number of ways. While the general tagline – “ICT for National Development” – is a constant, the thrust of the ACIA 2017 challenges is ICT innovation and entrepreneurship. ACIA 2017 focused on facilitating Ugandan youth to develop a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by leveraging ICT.

Through this, UCC hopes that innovations and ideas can be refined and positioned better to access support in terms of funding, and address the issues of scalability and sustainability that are critical to propelling these innovations further.

Furthermore, while the entries were fewer than last year’s (ACIA 2017 attracted 174 submissions, compared to 258 in 2016 and 405 in 2015), a cursory look at the submissions indicate that their quality has improved greatly.

Therefore, the competition for the eight (8) award categories was stiffer this year. This was noticeable in the submissions for Digital Content, ICT for Development (ICT4D), Service Excellence, 2017 ICT Innovation Start-Up (a novel category), and Business Excellence categories. Equally good were those of the young ICT innovators for primary, secondary and tertiary students popularly known as the Uganda’s ICT explorers and rising stars.

In addition, ACIA 2017 comprised a number of unique events, including a two-day Hackathon on Smart Transport Management that was held at Turacco Hall, Serena Hotel, Kampala, from May 24-25. The Hackathon was preceded by two-day Innovation Clinics (also a new innovation) held at Serena Conference Gardens from May 25-26, 2017.

The clinics, whose theme was: “Innovation and Entrepreneurship”, focused on innovation and APIs, intellectual property rights, legal services, industry solutions, prototyping and modelling, social aspects of innovation, entrepreneurship, and acceleration and project validation. It attracted at least 400 participants. The attendance of the clinics was by registration via the website: http://acia.ug.

The clinics coincided with a two-day ICT Exhibition, also under the theme: “Innovation and Entrepreneurship” and held at the same venue (Serena Conference Gardens) from May 25-26. While the Exhibition was similar to the previous ones, the number of exhibitors and visitors showed a marked improvement.

The exhibitors were as eye-catching as they were diversified: KCCA, UTAMU University, and telecommunication giants Airtel and Huawei Technologies (U) Ltd – just to mention a few. Previous ACIA winners, such as Barefoot Law and Jaguza Livestock App (now regional and global household names) also exhibited their products.

Of course, there were new partners such as Innovex (U) Ltd and the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), who also gave tips to participants in the ICT Clinics. Mention should also be made of Arua S.S. (West Nile, north-western Uganda), Kinyara S.S. (Masindi, mid-western region), Katikamu SDA S.S. (Luwero, central region), and Bushenyi Parental Care (western Uganda) and Tororo High School (eastern region) among others in Uganda’s ICT explorers and rising stars category.

The Awards gala provided the icing on the cake of a well-organised event. It would not be far-fetched, therefore, to conclude that ACIA 2017 was an innovation with a difference. UCC shall continue providing post-ACIA support, including incubation of the innovators’ ideas, and seed funding for certain categories and winners.
It is five years now since Outbox set out on a mission to build the programmes and infrastructure required to support technology entrepreneurs. During these years, one of the greatest learnings of this incubator has been on how to build great programmes that support entrepreneurs. Richard Zulu, the team leader at Outbox, shares some learnings, successes and insights on their incubation programmes.

**What incubation programmes does outbox offer to the local startup community?**

We work with various partners to source and support the best local startups. Our current incubation programmes include: our Up Accelerate programme in partnership with UNFPA where we are supporting eight early stage entrepreneurs building social businesses addressing challenges in sexual reproductive health; the ACIA incubation programme in partnership with UCC where we are supporting one startup that won in the 2016 Young ICT Visionaries award and the MTN App Challenge 2017 where we are supporting the winners build out their businesses and go to market.

**What are the benefits for entrepreneurs in these incubation programmes?**

Each incubation programme we implement has a particular focus, although the benefits are more-or-less the same. These include intensive business training, mentorship from industry experts and technical guidance on how to launch to market. For example: our Up Accelerate offers intensive business training, mentorship, seed funding of up-to $10000 per team and technical guidance to each team.

**Have you seen any successes from your incubation programmes?**

Yes, in 2013, we incubated an agriculture fintech company known as Ensibuuko. Ensibuuko builds financial software solutions for savings cooperatives. Through our networks, we enabled them form their first partnership that sprung them into the market. They have gone on to expand to two more countries beyond Uganda and raise more than $500,000 in financing, with up-to 15 employees.

**Speaking of partnerships, how helpful are they to the entrepreneurs you work with?**

Outbox is a member of the Google for Entrepreneurs network. This network enables our startups work free for 3-days in up-to 50 locations around the world using the Google for Entrepreneurs passport. Through the same network, two startups have the opportunity to travel to the US on a fully paid trip for two weeks of intensive mentorship and meetings with investors. Our partnership with Seacom has given us the infrastructure to host startup services using our internet connection. Working with organisations like UNFPA and the Ministry of ICT and National guidance has enabled our startups quickly pilot with real customers in market in under four months. An entrepreneur working with an organisation with great partnerships quickly benefits in building their startups, that’s key for a good incubator.

From your learnings, what makes a good incubation programme for early stage entrepreneurs?

I believe one should be looking for the quality of the programme, its mentors and success of its alumni. At Outbox, we have continued to improve the content and quality of facilitators in our incubation programmes. Our mentors are industry professionals and our alumni have demonstrated success by raising more than $1m and employing more people. An entrepreneur should not worry about in-kind services like office space and internet, as these can be offered by anyone.

**What role do you see outbox playing in the future within the innovation landscape?**

We look forward to setting the benchmark of great incubation programmes within the country and beyond. Our goal is to have our approach and networks being utilised by various ecosystem players that are focused on supporting young people through entrepreneurship. We believe that our content can enable Universities and other organisations deliver high quality support to entrepreneurs.
Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa

All the magic of a Mediterranean marina with a world-class golf resort - just 20 minutes from Kampala and Entebbe.

THE LAKE VICTORIA SERENA GOLF RESORT & SPA
A World Away From The City

**Highlights**

- All the magic of a Mediterranean marina just 20 minutes from Kampala;
- Uganda’s finest championship golf course – the ultimate fusion of natural beauty and sporting challenge;
- Golf Memberships available;
- Special Weekend Golf Packages;
- A resort for all seasons, a retreat for recreation and romance alike;
- Wedding & Honeymoons;
- Children’s Activities;
- Gym & Maisha Spa - a state-of-the-art gym and choice of relaxing treatments;
- Surrounded by nature – on the shores of Africa’s largest lake;

**Tuscan Villas** at the edge of Lake Victoria

Widely spaced amongst the rose gardens, clusters of pastel-painted villas offer a choice of: 124 rooms, 114 Standard Rooms, 8 Executive Suites and 2 Presidential Suites – all with private verandahs and lake views. Each room features either queen-sized or twin beds, a dressing table, work station, seating area, balcony and lavish marble bathroom with walk-in shower.

Offering some of the best suite accommodation in Uganda, our Executive Suites also feature a spacious living area with flat-screen TV, office space and second balcony.

For the ultimate luxury hotel stay in Uganda, our two Presidential Suites are located on the penthouse level of the main citadel and feature a luxury ensuite bedroom with king-sized bed, an elegant reception room, dining room (with private kitchen), furnished terrace and staff accommodation.

**State-of-the-art gym and treatments**

The Maisha Mind Body and Spirit Spa offers relaxation and wellness on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda. Situated adjacent to the pool deck, our spa contrasts the glimmering state-of-the-art technology of its gymnasium and cardio studio with the terracotta floors and rustic arches of the Spa.

**Dining, bars and entertainment**

The Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa offers a stand-out selection of restaurants. The Citadel all-day brasserie is the perfect choice for a breakfast, lunch or dinner near Kampala. The brasserie’s à la carte evening menu features both an international selection and the Chef’s own array of typically Mediterranean cuisine.

A wide selection of aperitifs can be enjoyed, either on the extensive Lake View Pool Terrace, in the Courtyard Lounge or on the Piano Bar Terrace.

The South East Fusion Restaurant presents an elegant blend of Chinese Imperial style and Bahamian simplicity. This fine-dining restaurant draws its inspiration from the exotic cuisine of the Far East. Scenically located overlooking the rose gardens its spacious outside terrace offers long views down to the Marina – ideal for al fresco lunches or candlelit evening dinners.

We offer a 24-hour room service with an extensive menu.

**Location**

On the shores of Lake Victoria in the Kigo District (equidistant between Kampala and Entebbe), Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa is a 20-minute drive (30 km) from Entebbe International Airport and a 20-minute drive to the centre of Kampala (15 km).

The resort is also shortly to be linked to the Entebbe-Kampala express highway that joins Kampala to Jinja by means of a four-lane toll highway. The resort features its own helipad offering link services to the flagship 5-star Serena Kampala Hotel.
Bushenyi Parental Care Nursery and Primary School is over the moon having emerged winners for two consecutive years. “We wish to appreciate and show you what our school has benefited from ACIA Awards. We won a projector which we now use in our lessons especially on the topic of Electronic Media,” he said.

Mr. Magezi added that the school uses the projector for lessons in class. “We also use the same projector to demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving problems related to real life and good time management”. He said that if they hadn’t won a projector, the school would have struggled to conduct practical ICT lessons in class. “We also use the same projector to team work. “It has created togetherness in the school and this has created effectiveness and efficiency,” he said.

Mr. Magezi noted that the school uses the projector for staff workshops and parents’ seminars at the school and this has been a great achievement. “Our learners are now so inquisitive on new innovations they read about in papers and watch on TV. We shall introduce all these in our ICT club to benefit the whole school,” he said. Thanks to the equipment, the membership of the school’s ICT club increased from 75 pupils to 115 pupils this year. The club has reportedly become more innovative in research and communication.

Mr. Magezi lauded UCC for the ACIA Awards which have promoted “child-centred approach in teaching thus giving them hands on skills as it creates all round education to demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving problems related to real life and good time management”. He also said that ACIA has also equipped students with out standing organisation skills and ability to handle multiple projects well. He attributed the school’s success in ACIA to team work. “It has created togetherness in the school and this has created effectiveness and efficiency,” he said.

In 2016, Bushenyi Parental Care Nursery and Primary School won both the regional and national awards – in the Young ICT Explorers category. This boosted their confidence. No wonder, they repeated the feat this year. This time round, they came up with EDU RM Radio - a radio innovation to extend free lessons on FM radio to other schools. For this, UCC gave them a winners’ trophy and pledged to pay tuition fees for all the pupils in the school team totalling UGX10,477,500 (Uganda Shilling Ten Million Four Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Only).

Subsequently starting 2012, UCC invited Ugandans (individuals or organisations) with any viable innovative ideas relevant to the communications sector to apply for funding made available on a competitive basis. The funding initially aimed at supporting skills training and development, facilities and equipment, commercialisation of innovation/product development support.

Since 2014, the support is primarily through two funding streams; Seed funding and Incubation Promotion subsidy. The Seed funding, worth US$15,000, is aimed towards the capital requirements to develop (validate, prototype, commercialise) or scale-up a creative idea that is related to the harnessing or development of broadcasting, postal, or telecommunications services. On the other hand, under the Incubation Promotion subsidy category, UCC facilitates the provision of incubation services by an existing incubator to a maximum of US$25,000.

Areas for which the subsidy may be given include: Plant and/or equipment for use by incubates; Development of laboratories and other testing facilities; Specialist resources required by multiple incubates, and; Training facilities and resources. Through this initiative, UCC has facilitated access to funds, facilities and skills needed for growth of technological based businesses and innovations; supported establishment of facilities that provide a learning environment for new ICT businesses; and promoted collaboration between academia, industry, government and young enterprises in advancing communications.

A number of firms have benefited from this initiative. These include: Hive Colab (US$45,000 - about UGX13.5m) for incubation promotion subsidy; Outbox (about UGX24million) and Bomix Soft Motion Graphics (UGX15.8million) as a seed fund. Others past beneficiaries include Microsoft Innovation Hub, Angels finance Corporation Initiatives, Business Innovation Consortium Uganda and the Centre for innovation and Professional Skills Development (CIPSD), Makerere University.

It is through such interventions that UCC strives to achieve its goal of improving availability of relevant ICT content, solutions and services for all in Uganda as mandated by the Uganda Communications Act 2013.

Quotations from the past beneficiaries “….the most visible benefits of the UCC ISI programme are reflected in the increasing sales of the incubates. The incubated companies’ revenue run rate increased over 100% in one year, which created new jobs for many. Such partnership with business incubators in Kampala leads to effective pooling of on-the-ground knowledge about business opportunities and contacts for finance, management as well as highly specific ICT skills”. Professor Hugh Cameron, Centre for Innovation and Professional Skills Development (CIPSD), Makerere University - a beneficiary of the UCC ISI programme.

“….only profit driven ICT entrepreneurship shall be able to lift the millions of youth in our country from unemployment to active participation in the global economy. We were proud to be some of the premier beneficiaries of the UCC ISI. Last year, we supported 10 techpreneurs to commercialise their ventures. We are confident the UCC ISI will stimulate further IT entrepreneurship in Uganda and Africa at large” - Mr George W. Bakka, the Chief Executive Officer at Angels Finance Corporation (AFC).

UCC FACILITATES THE PROVISION OF INCUBATION SERVICES BY AN EXISTING INCUBATOR TO A MAXIMUM OF $45,000

In 2011 the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) established the Incubation Support Initiative (ISI) in order to transform brilliant ICT ideas into commercially-viable businesses that can facilitate the development in ICT sector as well as county’s economy, through generate employment especially for the young generation. This initiative complements the efforts of UCC in recognition and rewarding ICT innovation, through which over 1000 ideas, prototypes and innovations have been considered for awards.

ISI is a strategic mechanism through which promising and emerging ICT businesses as well as ‘high impact’ ICT innovations can be financially supported in advancing communications services in Uganda.

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XTRA MASAPPE
AIRTEL’S DATA SOLUTION

Ever purchased an item and been given more than you paid for? Remember the joy you felt? Now imagine that happening week on week, month on month. That is how Airtel Uganda subscribers feel every time they load a data bundle thanks to the revamped data bonus promotion – Xtra Masappe.

The Airtel Uganda Marketing Director, Indrajit Singh Kumar had this to say about the on-going promotion;

Xtra Masappe is a promotion that offers Airtel Uganda subscribers’ bonus data whenever they purchase daily, weekly or monthly data bundles. Initially, customers were required to opt in in order to be eligible for bonus. But with the revamped promotion, all subscribers who purchase any of the data bundles offered earn a bonus.

Airtel subscribers just have to dial *175# and choose any of the bundle that we offer. It can be a daily, weekly or monthly bundle apart from Social Packs – commonly known as WTF, Night Packs, quarterly, annual bundles, Beeraoka combo and MyPokalast which are not eligible for this bonus.

Subscribers who load daily bundles will receive 25% bonus; those who load weekly and monthly bundles will receive 100% bonus. From the time of subscription, the daily bonus (25%) is valid until midnight that same day; Weekly bonus (100%) is valid for 3 days while monthly bonus (100%) is valid for 15 days.

In cases of multiple bundle subscriptions, the bonus will still carry the same validity period for weekly & monthly Packs. This means that unlike the daily bonus which has an expiry of mid-night irrespective of the number of subscriptions, the weekly and monthly bonus subscription date is pushed whenever the subscriber loads a new bundle.

The bonus is used first, after which usage moves to the main account. Simply dial *175*4# and you will receive a notification showing both balance volume on main and bonus account.

It is important to note that bonus volume is not eligible on Data Me2U. However, our subscribers can still be able to share this bonus volume by adding numbers onto Airtel Tugabane (multi-surf).

INNOVEX UGANDA LIMITED
UP AND RUNNING

INNOVEX is proud to be associated with ACIA and the Uganda Communications Commission in general. We are a leading technology company that provides world-class training and consultancy in the field of embedded systems and robotics. We augment this with provision of pertinent equipment and components at the best market prices to foster project research and innovation.

Furthermore, we develop custom-built solutions for industrial and home automation, as well as web and mobile applications suited to dynamic business needs. We hit the ground with a locally made ‘drone’ which got both local and international repute.

With an incubation centre at the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, Makerere University, Innovex has established partnerships with other universities such as Busitema and Kampala International in a move to boost science and technology innovation among the youth. Our aim is to train and equip the youth with skills in electronics hardware and pertinent software in a bid to garner a critical mass that will drive the technology revolution locally. Our special-tailored curricula will equip the novice with skills in basic electronics, embedded systems, mechatronics and other fields that are requisite for robotics.

Innovex also provides web and mobile application development training which is essential as a platform for some solutions. We encourage our trainees to start with an innovation in mind and accomplish it by the end of the training - you are the judge of your own progress. Imagine building a system where a fridge tells you how much electricity it’s sucking up and how much the hourly electricity bill is in real time, and relaying all this information on your mobile phone!
RAN transforms society through innovation

Located in the heart of Africa, Makerere University School of Public Health-ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) Innovation Lab is the largest network of African universities for advancement of resilience of communities to recurrent shocks and stresses. It is at RAN where students’ faculty and the community at large are leveraging science, technology and socially-available resources to innovate transformative solutions directed towards addressing both natural and man-made community challenges/disasters.

RAN has developed a strong mechanism for facilitating inter-disciplinary approaches to solving development challenges by tapping into the ingenuity and talent of university scholars and budding entrepreneurs and further nurturing their skills to develop innovative solutions. “The university as a knowledge manager is the birthplace of innovation, and it is important that this innovation is driven by the needs of the communities,” says Prof. William Bazeyo, the Dean of the Makerere University School of Public Health. Prof. Bazeyo also offers strong and committed leadership to the RAN Innovation lab uniting over 100,000 African scholars to work closely with local partners and achieve the vision of strengthening community resilience while seeking new and transformative methods to combat long-standing barriers to resilience.

Destabilising forces such as natural disasters, pervasive global health challenges, chronic conflict, or rapid urbanisation are not new to many of the communities in which RAN operates and several partners have made/are making attempts to provide solutions. Although these issues are often recurring, many communities remain unable to deter, mitigate or recover from these shocks and stresses in a way that makes them stronger.

By facilitating dialogue between communities and technical experts, RAN is able to “design community originated and co-created innovations that are acceptable, usable, affordable and, most importantly, strengthen or build resilience.”

RAN, a multi-country and multi-disciplinary programme headquartered at Makerere University in Kampala Uganda, was established in 2012 and brings together 18 universities across 13 countries in Africa as well as three US-based universities. These are: George Washington University (which supports RAN on resilience framework development and operationalisation), Stanford University (which provides support to the innovation process development and management), and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which holds up RAN’s documentation agenda. Functionality, RAN universities are clustered around four regional Resilience Innovation Labs (RILabs), the centres for sourcing and incubating innovations.

Fostering partnerships and collaborations

The lab is part of the U.S. Global Development Lab’s Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) and this has opened diverse opportunities of cross-knowledge generation, learning and sharing for the innovators, students, faculty and the community through research visits, innovation competitions, summits, student exchange programmes, among others.

The HESN network has created a vibrant framework of cooperation between local actors, development professionals, and academics who know that innovation is key in tackling the complexities of today’s development challenges.

Universities provide a good platform that brings together non-academic partners, such as government agencies, the private sector, civil society and development practitioners. “With the ever increasing complexity of systems, innovation and solutions require collaboration among multiple contributors,” remarks Dr Roy William Mayega, RAN’s Deputy Chief of Party.

Growing a vibrant ecosystem

The lab has engaged over 40,000 multi-stakeholder individuals from diverse disciplines and sectors through events and scheduled activities such as BootCamps, Innovation Design Garages, Pitch sessions, Hackathons, Legal Cafes, Ignite series, Power talks, RAN4Gals, Capacity building trainings such as Human-Centred Design (HCD), Intervention Strategy Workshops (ISW), business modelling, storytelling and documentation, grant writing, publication and Internships - among others - characterise RAN’s operations.

“Growing a vibrant ecosystem where students and young entrepreneurs can evolve and contribute to the community’s resilience and wellbeing is key to the lab’s objectives,” notes Prof. William Bazeyo, the Girl Child Under- RAN4Gals-programme-to-uptake-Science-Innovation-and-Technology-for-community-positive-transformation-2

The lab is well positioned to nurture budding entrepreneurs from universities, the private sector and communities across Africa. We encourage you all to tap into these ongoing opportunities at the lab and get the support you need to see your idea come to life.

RAN innovation incubation programme

Through training, coaching and mentoring we support innovators to develop the skills necessary to plan, manage and launch their innovations in African markets and beyond. These include needfinding, critical thinking, market analysis, negotiation, team-building, communication, branding, pitching and project management skills among others.

RAN Lab also provides resources that enable innovators and young entrepreneurs to make their project ideas concrete, feasible, and scalable. We support innovators to launch the most compelling ideas, start-up enterprises and businesses that tackle issues affecting the communities.

Through RAN’s acceleration programme, young innovators and entrepreneurs are given seed funding and matched with top industry experts who help them develop core skills as well as evaluate and commercialise their ideas for innovative ventures and start- ups.

“‘In all our day-to-day work, Let us all endeavour to encourage our female counterparts to join us in the Innovation process so that we can increase their number in these activities as we strive to transform the communities,’” notes Dr Dorothy Okello, RAN Innovations Director.
# 2017 ACIA WINNERS & AWARDS

## 2017 ACIA WINNERS & AWARDS CONTINUED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>SUB CATEGORY</th>
<th>NAME OF WINNERS AND INNOVATIONS</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young ICT Innovators</td>
<td>National winner</td>
<td>Bushenyi Parental Care</td>
<td>Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young ICT Explorers</td>
<td>Name of innovation: EDU RM Radio</td>
<td>Radio to extend free lessons on FM radio to other schools</td>
<td>School fees (one year per child on the winning team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total UGX10, 417,500 (Uganda Shilling Ten Million Four Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Framed certificate for the participating school</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MixaKids newspaper: One-year subscription per child</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Runner up</td>
<td>Kabaleega Primary School</td>
<td>Framed certificate for participating school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Name of innovation: Skit about Child Neglect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young ICT Rising stars</td>
<td>National winner</td>
<td>Katikamu Seventh Day Adventist (SDA)</td>
<td>Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name of Innovation: Safe Child App-child first</td>
<td>Safe Child App-child first is Phone filtering tool for safe web content for children</td>
<td>One Laptop per child (for the team of five)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Runner up</td>
<td>Mbarara High School</td>
<td>Framed certificate for participating school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Name of Innovation: Eat for purpose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An App to educate the user on nutrition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young ICT Visionaries</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>A beehive Intrusion and Honey Monitoring System</td>
<td>Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This system was setup to monitor the stock of honey in the upcountry districts of Uganda using USSD code and SMS platforms.</td>
<td>Incubation services from an incubator valued at US$5000 (United States Dollar Five Thousand Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>UCC to offer Seed funding of US$2500 (United States Dollar Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participation at innovation/ICT expos of fairs to be facilitated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Runner up</td>
<td>iElector</td>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The iElector is a website which interacts and responds with users and has procedures which one can follow to access their accounts. It is a platform on which one can vote, and track elections results in any political setting.</td>
<td>UCC to offer seed funding of US$2500 (United States Dollar One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Participation at innovation/ICT expos of fairs to be facilitated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT for Development</td>
<td>Winner: M-Voucher System</td>
<td>M-Voucher (Mobile Voucher) system</td>
<td>Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The M-Voucher (Mobile Voucher) system uses the USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) platform to enable agro input dealers as well as agents to redeem electronic vouchers using simple basic mobile phones. Through the USSD interface, input dealers and agents redeem vouchers, collect basic data on beneficiaries as well as receive instant payments for each voucher redeemed.</td>
<td>UCC to offer Implementation grant up to US$7500 (United States Dollar Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Runner up: Kuanza Gari</td>
<td>Kuanza Gari is a biometric-based car ignition system. Kuanza Gari is a system that seeks to replace the use of keys with use of finger prints to identify car owners at ignition/start engine mode before one embarks on a journey. The innovation is aimed at offering more safety and convenience to car owners with the rising cases of car theft.</td>
<td>UCC to offer Implementation grant up to US$3750 (United States Dollar Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATEGORY</td>
<td>SUB CATEGORY</td>
<td>NAME OF WINNERS AND INNOVATIONS</td>
<td>PRIZE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Digital content  |              | **Winner: Radio Basket** RadioBasket is a Go-to place for all radio content. Giving people the power to make station programming as entertaining and informative as it ever will be. | - Trophy  
- UCC to offer Implementation grant up to US$7,500 (United States Dollar Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) |
|                  |              | **Runner Up: myChild Information Portal** myChild Information Portal features a detailed calendar with information about all scheduled school activities and events. The school can provide further contextual information such as meeting agendas and minutes to parents during and after the event. The myChild mobile apps also feature notifications for announcements and reminders. | - Certificate  
- UCC to offer Implementation grant up to US$3,750 (United States Dollar Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Only) |
|                  |              | **Winner: SNAP AIRLOAD / CHAP-CHAP HEWA** (mobile application). A mobile based application that uses scanning and QR codes for people to load their airtime on the different mobile telephone networks. | - Trophy |
|                  |              | **Winner: Mzee Ndiba** Mzee Ndiba is yet another educational TV character in 2D and 3D motion graphics and animation based in Uganda. | - Trophy |
|                  |              | **Winner: Intellworld - Building a cashless Uganda** A Fintech company incorporated and operating in Uganda, with networks and relationships in the wider East and South African region, to explore the utilisation and capitalisation of opportunities in the mobile commerce and digital space. | - Trophy |
|                  |              | **Winner: BLOOD FINDER** A mobile-based system and application which locates the nearest health centre whose stock has specific matching blood type in real time. | - Trophy |

**2017 Startup Award**

**Winner - BLOOD FINDER** A mobile-based system and application which locates the nearest health centre whose stock has specific matching blood type in real time.

**Hackathon on smart transport management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SONET Team</th>
<th>Routes App; Mobile Application that allows the user to ride along in a private car</th>
<th>US$500 (United States Dollar Five Hundred Only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quick Tap Uganda</td>
<td>&quot;Quick Tap&quot; - Automated fare collection system</td>
<td>US$500 (United States Dollar Five Hundred Only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Furthermore, in February 2017, the Uganda Communications Commission sponsored me to attend the Mobile World Congress (MWC) that took place in Barcelona, Spain from February 27-March 2, 2017. This event takes place each year in the Mobile World Capital Barcelona, Spain, at two venues: Fira Gran Via and Fira Montjuïc.

MWC is the world's biggest and best mobile industry event comprising massive exhibition, an award-winning conference, outstanding networking opportunities, partner programmes, and the Glomo Awards, among others.

While there, I rubbed shoulders with the high-and-mighty in the creativity and innovations world at the international level. The international exposure that I got not only enhanced my confidence and network building, but also challenged my thoughts further. Indeed, it did.

Winning the Young ICT Visionaries Award in ACIA 2016 was not only exciting and fulfilling for the 'Wekebere' Innovation Project, but it opened the gate for this team of hardworking young innovators driven by the passion to save millions of lives especially in rural areas, where infant and maternal mortality rates are still high. Out of pain we responded to all innovation calls with Natalsys (now Wekebere) - a hand-held diagnostic device that monitors conditions of unborn babies for expectant mothers in hard to reach area and in 2016 we emerged the winner of ACIA Young ICT Visionaries award. I was motivated by this recognition to continue to pursue my dream. In October 2016, I travelled to Cape Town, South Africa for biennial conference where I emerged winner of RUForum Top 15 Young African entrepreneurs.

'Wekbere' is a hand-held self-diagnostic device that enables pregnant women to monitor the development of their unborn babies. It started as NATALSYS back in 2015 when a team of young undergraduates from Makerere University at the time came up with this device. They later changed its name from NATALSYS to Wekebere in 2016.

Led by me, a software engineering undergraduate at the time, the team worked on the device for three years of painstaking innovation. Inevitably, the team participated in different competitions, including ACIA 2014, and the East African competition on climate change. Thanks to Resilient Africa Network, I was offered an internship placement in 2015. While at RAN, I worked closely with innovators on human-centred design, multi-disciplinary team, prototyping, pitching, among other innovative approaches. With all the skills now acquired, I was able to refocus Wekebere.

After this exposure, I went out guns blazing, itching to identify a problem that is affecting the community and finally find a solution to it. We were seeing larger changes in the healthcare system and knew there were larger opportunities for wearables.

Around the same time, my friend’s wife got pregnant with her first child and the light bulb went on: here is a market where people have questions and concerns and there are very few solutions available to provide feedback to expecting couples.

When you look at the state of technology in the hospital, it largely hasn’t changed in over 40 years. We saw this as a unique opportunity to develop solutions that answer questions of expecting parents through better information and better tools.

In due course a friend of mine lost a wife as a result of poor pregnancy monitor and when we went for a burial I found that many women had lost their lives in the same case. Out of a sad story, came out a great idea, which we, as university students, transformed into reality.

I would like to thank the Uganda Communications Commission, especially ACIA, for the wind of opportunity and sponsorship they afforded me and the entire team. Indeed, the sky is the limit for Wekebere.
### THE ACIA JOURNEY SO FAR: FROM 2010-TO-DATE

#### 2010 - 61 Entrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Innovative Product/Service Award        | • Corporate  o Pakalast by Warid Telecom Uganda  
|                                         | • SME  o Loan Performer by Crystal Clear Software Ltd                  |
| Product Developer Award                 | • EXAM SMS by SMS Media                                                |
| Consumer Empowerment Award              | • Text to Change                                                        |
| Student Research Project Award          | • CONSENT Uganda                                                        |
| Key Milestones and Achievements         | • Inception and launch of the initiative                               |
|                                         | • A consultant was contracted to carry out the process of short-listing applicants to be nominated for the awards. |
|                                         | • Introduced judges panel consisting of an independent panel of seven [7] eminent members of the public |
|                                         | • An awards helpdesk was setup to carry out support functions for the processes involved in implementing the initiative. |

#### 2012 - 54 Entrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rural e-Services Award                  | • Individual/SME category  o Winner - FIT Uganda  
|                                         | • Runner up - Artificial Intelligence in the Developing World Research Group based at FCIT Makerere (AI-DEVI)  
|                                         | • NGO/Large enterprise category  o Winner- Battery Operated Systems for Community Outreach (BOSSCO) Uganda  
| E-Government and E-Governance Award     | • Winner - National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)  
|                                         | • Commendation - Uganda Telecom Ltd (Utel) in conjunction with UNICEF and URSB  
| Local Content Award                     | • Individual/SME category  o Winner - Community Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU)  
|                                         | • Runner up - Dr Florence Tushabe  
| Student Research Award                  | • Postgraduate  o Winner-Seth Muhairwe  
|                                         | • Commendation- Michael Okopa  
| The Annual Communications Innovation Award Overall Winner | • Winner-FIT Uganda |

#### 2013 - 163 Entrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rising stars</td>
<td>• School Grading System by JICO GEEKS (Jinja College)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT For Development</td>
<td>• CKW initiative by Grameen Foundation Digital content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Uganda Content Portal by Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business excellence</td>
<td>• Project GO Smart by National Social Security Fund (NSSF)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Judges’ Choice                          | • Uganda Guide App by The Pearl Guide (U) Limited  
|                                         | • ICT4Education by Solomon Bumba [honourable mention]  
| People’s Choice                         | • CKW initiative by Grameen Foundation  

#### 2014 - 281 Entrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rising stars                            | • WALKTRAC by Lira College Visionaries  
| ICT For Development                     | • Barefoot Law  
|                                         | • one-stop medical call and information centre by The Medical Concierge group (First runner up)  
| Digital content                         | • Uganda Guide Mobile App by The Pearl Guide UG Ltd  
| Business excellence                     | • Academic ERP by Islamic University of Uganda  
| Judges’ Choice                          | • Barefoot Law  
| People’s choice                         | • Breast IT  

### THE ACIA JOURNEY SO FAR: FROM 2010-TO-DATE CONTINUED

#### Change of name from Annual Innovation Communications Awards to Acia awards to reflect UCC’s new scope and accommodate developments in the sector.

#### Standardisation of Acia tagline (ICT innovation for National Development) and review of the award categories

#### Introduction of the peoples’ choice award and judges choice award

#### Introduction of the secondary school challenge

#### Introduction of online submission and an e-invite to the awards gala

#### Introduction of innovation development support as 75% of the prize winnings to ensure innovations as taken forward after ACIA gala.
### Key Milestones and Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Entrants</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th><strong>Winners</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2015 | 405                 | **Explorers** | Santa Lucia PS, Kirinya  
Rising stars | St Peters SS  
Visionaries | VitalMOBI  
Kiiki (First runner up)  
Dynamo-powered USB charger with an incorporated rechargeable LED flashlight (Second runner up) |
|       |                     | **ICT For Development** | Airtel Weza - ICT for the rural disadvantaged  
Breast IT (first runner up) |
|       |                     | **Digital content** | PM Live today  
Yaaka Digital Network enhancing teaching and learning (First runner up) |
|       |                     | **Business excellence** | E - Citie (Electronic Platform for Citizens) |
|       |                     | **Judges’ Choice** | Kiiki  
People’s choice |
|       |                     | **Introduction of regional competitions**  
Introduction of primary school challenge |
| 2016 | 258                 | **ICT4D** | Tambula, a location awareness technology for boda boda riders by Thinvoid; winner  
Protecting Infants by SMS (PRISMS), an SMS-based decision support system for managing sick new born babies by frontline health workers—(first runners up) |
|       |                     | **Digital Content** | MixaKids; online content platform for children (Winner)  
Kampala Smart Schooling a Kampala Primary School Curriculum based online learning system (1st Runners up) |
|       |                     | **Service Excellence** | Tugabane” a multiple user data sharing service By Airtel Uganda  
Business Excellence | Umeme Mobile Application a customer self-service platform by Umeme (U) Ltd |
|       |                     | **Judges’ Choice** | Yakako” An emergency power credit service. |
|       |                     | **ACIA 2016 Special award** | Uganda Revenue Authority voted by general pubic as the Best MDA offering e-services in Uganda for the AskURA mobile application and the Mobile Tax Payment Solution |

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