



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT - 3 AUGUST 2026

Africa Kaizen Annual Conference (AKAC 2026)

Sustainable Kaizen for a Competitive and Prosperous Africa

26 – 27 October 2026 • The Ravenala Attitude Hotel • Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius will host the Africa Kaizen Annual Conference (AKAC) in October 2026 under the framework of the Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI), a joint platform of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

With **Sustainable Kaizen** as the conference theme, AKAC 2026 projects itself as a strategic driver of quality and productivity, resilience and green transformation in Africa. The Conference is an important step toward a continent-wide approach that connects ongoing quality and productivity improvements with sustainable environmental practices, social inclusion and long-term economic resilience.

BACKGROUND

Since its launch in 2017, the AKI has built the capacity of productivity organisations, supported enterprise-level Kaizen implementation and promoted peer learning across Africa through AKAC and the Africa Kaizen Award (AKA). In this way, promoting and embracing Kaizen/Quality and Productivity Improvement (QPI) at all levels of local industries and institutions including public entities contributes to advancing Africa's industrial and service delivery goals and the continent's economic growth and development ambitions, as articulated in Agenda 2063.

The member institutions of the Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA) have participated in AKAC since 2019. Taking collaboration to a higher level, PAPA is co-organising AKAC 2026 with AUDA-NEPAD, JICA, and the Mauritian government.

Africa stands at a pivotal moment. Industrialisation and economic transformation must now address climate change, global sustainability standards, supply chain vulnerabilities and the need for inclusive growth. Productivity growth can no longer focus solely on efficiency; it must also safeguard natural resources, promote decent work and strengthen resilience to shocks.

THEME OF AKAC 2026

Sustainable Kaizen for a Competitive and Prosperous Africa

Sub-theme: Advancing productivity and quality for resilient, inclusive and green growth

AKAC 2026 will be an opportunity to mark the tenth anniversary of the AKI. The Conference will be built around a large-scale awareness and outreach initiative aimed at highlighting AKI's journey and achievements, while paving the way for a new and ambitious phase of its development.

Sustainable Kaizen, which builds on the core Kaizen principles of continuous improvement and respect for people, is both opportune and visionary. When fully applied, Kaizen naturally supports:

- Waste reduction and resource efficiency (environmental sustainability);
- Respect for people, participation and safe workplaces (social sustainability);
- Continuous learning and adaptability (economic resilience).

Sustainable Kaizen therefore deepens Kaizen's original philosophy by explicitly linking productivity improvement to green growth, human-centered development and future-ready enterprises.

Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and an early adopter of Kaizen (back in 2001), provides a suitable setting for AKAC 2026. The country's experience demonstrates how productivity improvement, institutional reforms and sustainability can be mutually reinforcing.

OBJECTIVES

AKAC 2026 aims to:

- Reposition Kaizen as a driver of sustainable development in Africa;
- Showcase best practices in Sustainable Kaizen;
- Promote human-centered productivity, including skills, decent work, safety and wellbeing;
- Strengthen regional cooperation under the 10-year Africa Kaizen Initiative and beyond;
- Contribute to Africa's resilient, inclusive and green growth trajectory.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- National productivity and quality institutions;
- Kaizen and Business Development Service (BDS) practitioners;

- Ministries and public institutions;
- AKA Winners;
- Private sector leaders and academia;
- Development partners such as the International Labour Organization, (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Dates: 26 – 27 October 2026

Venue: The Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Mauritius

Format: Hybrid

Additional Notes

- Capacity Enhancement Programme (CEP IV) for AKI members will be held on 28 – 29 October 2026 (onsite).

Tentative Programme (subject to change)

Day 1 – Monday, 26 October 2026

Time	Session
09:00 - 10:00	Registration and Networking for onsite participants
10:00 (GMT+4)	Online Streaming Starts (Webinar)
10:00– 10:30	Official Opening Ceremony
	• Welcome remarks by Executive Director, NPCC, Dr. V. Ancharaz (5 mins)
	• Remarks by Director General, Economic Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Saito Mikiya (5 mins)
	• Remarks by AUDA-NEPAD speaker TBC (5 mins)
	• Opening Speech by Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Hon. Muhammad Aadil AMEER MEEA (10 mins)
10:30– 11.00 (30 mins)	Keynote Address, Mr. Veemal Gungadin, CEO Mauritius Telecom
11:00– 11:15	Coffee Break and Group Photo
11:15– 12:15	Panel Discussion 1: Sustainable Kaizen as Africa's New Competitiveness Model (45-minute moderated discussion + 15-minute audience Q&A)
	Moderator: Mr. Jovin Hurry, Core Team Member, NELIS (Next Leaders' Initiative for Sustainability) Panel Members: • Ms. Maria Eugenia Lagier, Technical Director of Management Technologies at the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), Argentina • Representative from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (TBC) • Mrs. Manna, Representative from the Ministry of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives,

	Mauritius (TBC) • Dr. Vinaye Ancharaz, Executive Director of NPCC • Representative from International Labour Organization (TBC)
12:15– 13:15	Panel Discussion 2: From Practice to Culture: Building Africa’s Continuous Improvement Ecosystem (45-minute moderated discussion + 15-minute audience Q&A)
	Moderator: AUDA-NEPAD (TBC) Panel Members • Mr. Cougen Purseramen, Group Head of Industrial, Engineering and Logistic Clusters, IBL Ltd • Mr. Suraj Ramgolam, Director Reforms Unit of Ministry of Civil Service • Ms. Amelia Naidoo, Acting CEO Productivity SA • Mr. Jin Kimiaki, Chief Advisor, the Quality and Productivity Improvement (Kaizen) Project in South Africa, JICA • Mr. Jaime Arboleda Palacio, Sub Director CTA, Colombia
13:15– 13:30	Wrap-Up of Morning Session- followed by Lunch
13:30– 14:30	Networking Lunch
Day 1 Afternoon	
Time	Session
14:30– 14:45	Announcement of Potential Centres of Excellence (COEs) 2026- 2027
14:45– 17.00	Africa Kaizen Awards (AKA) 2026 Announcement
17.00-17.05	Closing remarks by Cyprian Mayamba, President Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA) (TBC)
	End of Day 1

Day 2 – Tuesday, 27 October 2026

(Half Day – Morning Session)

Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival Coffee and Networking for onsite participants
09:00 – 10:00	Panel Discussion 3: Kaizen 4.0: Technology, Innovation and the Future of Productivity and Quality (45-minute moderated discussion + 15-minute audience Q&A)- Onsite only
	Moderator (TBC) Country Presentations Mauritius- NPCC South Africa -AIDC-EC Tunisia- Mr. Hosni Bel Haj Ethiopia- Mr. Jemil Abdala

	<i>(Each presentation: approximately 8 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion of 13 minutes followed by 15 minutes Q&A)</i>
10:00 (GMT+4)	Online Streaming Starts (Webinar)
10:00 – 11:00	Panel Discussion 4: Celebrating 10 Years of AKI and Shaping Its Future (45-minute moderated discussion + 15-minute audience Q&A)
	Moderator: Ms. Flore Kamdomg, Programme Officer, Africa Kaizen Initiative, Industrialisation Unit, AUDA-NEPAD (TBC) Panel Members • Mr. Getahun Tadesse Mekonnen, Principal Kaizen Consultant; former Director General of Ethiopia Kaizen Institute (EKI) • Ms. Françoise Marechal-Charlotte, Chairperson of the Cross Functional Working Group (CFWG) of the AKI / Head of Business Development & Consultancy, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Mauritius • Mr. Cyprian M. Mayamba, President, Pan-African Productivity Association (TBC) • Ms. Nishi Munbodh-Mohun, Head, Customer Experience & Process Excellence, Mauritius Telecom (Outstanding Africa Kaizen Award (AKA) Winner 2024) • Mr. Toru Homma, Senior Advisor on Private Sector Development, JICA / former Senior Advisor to the CEO, AUDA-NEPAD
11:00 – 11.45	From Vision to Action: Designing the AKI Transition Beyond 2027 (Interactive Stakeholder Consultation)
	• Presentation on the proposed structure of AKI from April 2027 by Mr. HOMMA Toru, Senior Advisor on Private Sector Development, JICA / former Senior Advisor to the CEO, AUDA-NEPAD • Comments from (i) Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum (Director of Economy - Infrastructure, Industrialisation, Trade and Regional Integration, AUDA-NEPAD) (TBC) (ii) Mr. Cyprian M. Mayamba (President, PAPA) and (iii) Ms. Françoise Marechal-Charlotte, Chairperson of the Cross Functional Working Group (CFWG) of the AKI / Head of Business Development & Consultancy, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Mauritius • Explanation of the stakeholder feedback collection process by Ms. AOKI Rika (Advisor, Private Sector Development Group, Economic Development Dept., JICA) • Q&A from participants
Break	
12.00-12.30	Closing Session
	• Final Communiqué read by AUDA-NEPAD (TBC) • Final Remarks- Dr Vinay Ancharaz, Executive Director, NPCC

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:30	Enterprise Visits for International Participants

Registration

The AKAC Secretariat has already contacted prospective participants, from outside Mauritius, by email to confirm their participation and related arrangements. If you have not received this communication, you are encouraged to participate in the conference online. Participants are kindly requested to await this official communication before proceeding with travel arrangements.

On-site participation at **Ravenala Attitude, Mauritius**, will be restricted to duly invited and registered participants. Those who are not attending in person are warmly encouraged to participate through the designated online platform.

Online participation

Registration details for online participation (via Zoom Webinar) will be communicated by September 2026.

Important Travel Advisory: Health and Entry Requirements for Participants

The Steering Committee wishes to inform participants that, in line with the advice of the Ministry of Health and Wellness of Mauritius, all travelers to Mauritius are required to complete the **All-In-One Travel Form and Health Declaration Form** on <https://safemauritius.govmu.org/> prior to embarkation.

In addition, non-Mauritian nationals who have travelled from, transited through, or been present in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, or South Sudan within the preceding 21 days, are temporarily prohibited from entering Mauritius**, in accordance with the current public health measures.

The organisers will notify participants of any changes to the advisory as they arise.

Visa requirements

All participants are urgently requested to verify the visa requirements applicable to their nationality prior to making travel arrangements to Mauritius. Entry and visa requirements vary by country and the official country-wise list, together with entry information, is available on the Passport and Immigration Office, Mauritius website https://passport.govmu.org/passport/?page_id=605. Delegates are strongly encouraged to consult this information and complete any necessary visa formalities well in advance of their travel to ensure a smooth entry into Mauritius.

IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE

Host Country	Republic of Mauritius
Co-Organisers	AUDA-NEPAD, PAPA, JICA

Supporting Organisations	Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives (Industry Division), and NPCC (National Productivity and Competitiveness Council Mauritius)
Lead Sponsor	Mauritius Telecom
Silver Sponsor	Phoenix Bev
Bronze Sponsor	MauBank Ltd

FOR INQUIRIES

Please direct all inquiries to: akac@ipc-net.jp

Detailed information on AKAC 2026 is available on the following link:

<https://npccmauritius.org/akac-2026/>

— End of Second Announcement —