

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Business and Economic Development Conference (BEDC 2026)

Theme: *Transforming Business Ecosystems: Innovation, Formalization, and Data-Driven Pathways to Sustainable Economic Growth*

 Venue: Mwanza, Tanzania

 Conference Dates: 22nd and 23rd October 2026

### Conference Overview

The Business and Economic Development Conference (BEDC 2026) invites scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and development partners to submit papers for presentation at its upcoming conference to be held in Mwanza City, Tanzania on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026. The conference aims at providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, research findings, and policy experiences on how business ecosystems can be transformed to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly in developing and emerging economies. With rapid changes driven by digital technologies, data-driven decision-making, entrepreneurship, and evolving regulatory environments, there is an increasing need to rethink how businesses operate, integrate, and grow within formal and informal economic systems. This conference will explore how innovation, formalization of enterprises, and data-driven strategies can enhance competitiveness, productivity, and sustainable economic development.

### Sub-Themes

Researchers are invited to submit papers addressing (but not limited to) the following sub-themes:

1. Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Economic Transformation
  - Innovation systems and entrepreneurial ecosystems
  - Startups, SMEs, and business incubation
  - Technology adoption and business competitiveness
  - Creative industries and innovation-driven growth
2. Formalization of Informal Enterprises and Market Integration
  - Informal economy dynamics and policy interventions
  - Pathways to business formalization
  - Integration of informal and formal market systems
  - Inclusive business models and entrepreneurs' livelihoods
3. Digital Transformation and Data-Driven Business Strategies
  - Big data analytics for business decision-making
  - Digital Platforms, E-Commerce, and Emerging Fintech Innovations
  - Artificial intelligence and business innovation
  - Digital financial services and mobile money ecosystems
4. Trade, Investment, and Market Development
  - Regional trade integration and competitiveness
  - Value chain development and market access
  - Foreign direct investment and industrial development
  - Export competitiveness and trade policy
5. Finance, Financial Inclusion, and Sustainable Investment
  - Digital finance and financial inclusion
  - SME financing, digital credit, and investment ecosystems
  - Sustainable finance, green investment, and climate-resilient projects
  - Impact investing and development finance for inclusive growth
6. Business Policy, Governance, and Regulatory Environment
  - Business environment reforms
  - Public policy and private sector development
  - Governance, transparency, and institutional development
  - Regulatory frameworks supporting innovation

7. Sustainable Business Practices and Green Economy
  - Climate-smart businesses and green entrepreneurship
  - Circular economy and sustainable production
  - Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices
  - Sustainable supply chains and responsible business
  
8. Gender Equality, Public Health, and Human Capital for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
  - Gender and women entrepreneurship development
  - Public health and economic productivity
  - Human capital development and workforce productivity
  - Youth empowerment and inclusive development policies
  
9. Integrated Procurement, Supply Chains, and Logistics for Competitive and Sustainable Trade
  - Green procurement and sustainable sourcing practices
  - Sustainable supply chains and circular economy practices
  - Logistics management and distribution systems
  - Port management and maritime logistics
  - E-procurement and digital procurement platforms
  - Public procurement reforms and governance in supply chains

### **Paper Submission Guidelines**

Authors are invited to submit original and unpublished research papers related to the conference theme and sub-themes.

#### **Abstract Requirements**

- Maximum 300 words
- Include title, author(s), affiliation, and keywords

#### **Full Paper**

- Maximum 8,000 words
- APA referencing style (or conference specified style)
- Papers should present original research, policy analysis, or case studies

#### **Important Dates**

- Abstract Submission Deadline : 30 June 2026
- Notification of Acceptance : 20 July 2026
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: 10 September 2026
- Conference Dates : 22nd and 23rd October 2026

### **Publication Opportunities**

Selected high-quality papers will be considered for publication in conference proceedings and Business Education Journal (BEJ) subject to the journals' review processes.

### **Submission Process**

Authors should submit their abstracts and full papers via the conference submission email or portal (to be provided by the organizing committee).

### **Conference Objectives**

The conference seeks to:

- Promote evidence-based discussions on business and economic development
- Foster collaboration between academia, policymakers, and industry stakeholders
- Generate policy-relevant research to support sustainable economic transformation

**Target Participants**

- Researchers and academics
- Policymakers and government officials
- Private sector actors and entrepreneurs
- Development partners and NGOs
- Graduate students and early-career researchers

**Contact Information**

For inquiries regarding submissions and participation, please contact the Conference Organizing Committee.

Email : [conference@cbe.ac.tz](mailto:conference@cbe.ac.tz)