ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021

in partnership with ITU

Theme: Best ecosystem practices in Africa enabling youth ICT innovation

Rallying call: Are you an organization which promotes good practices that encourage youth ICT innovation across Africa?

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Background

Recognizing the importance of digital innovation and the need for an enabling environment to tackle challenges facing the youth in Africa, the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have partnered to run the second edition of the annual ATU Africa Innovation Challenge under the banner, "Best ecosystem practices in Africa enabling youth ICT innovation".

This year's challenge comes at a time when the impact of COVID-19 on communities is becoming more and more visible. Youth are among the most vulnerable to this impact, facing challenges such as socioeconomic and workforce inclusion. According to the International Labour Organization, "Africa is home to nearly 363 million young people, and this is expected to double by 2050. The full potential of young Africans remains unrealized as unemployment, working poverty, informal employment and gender inequalities continue to be significant obstacles to young people accessing decent jobs."[1]

It is expected that 15 to 20 million educated youth will join the African workforce every year for the next three decades, compounding the existing problem.

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected young people, with many finding themselves out of school, and excluded from economic and social life.

Many innovators — including young innovators — are looking to tackle these issues, but often, the problem owners, solution owners and resource owners do not come together to scale up and share their success stories or good practices. Digital technologies can offer tremendous opportunities to address inequalities, but they need the support of an ecosystem and its stakeholders to achieve impact.

Challenge objectives

The challenge aims to:

1. Recognize the impact of partnerships between young innovators and ecosystem stakeholders

2. Build a network of champions to develop a youth resilient ecosystem in Africa by sharing their best practices

3. Provide information on access to resources from expert communities and build entrepreneurship capability for young innovators

4. Amplify and replicate best practices that support youth resilience

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[1] https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abidjan/documents/genericdocument/wcms_758665.pdf

5. Create an enabling environment to promote inclusivity in the information society to leverage the current innovation impetus and bring innovative digital solutions into community development

6. Accelerate the development of telecommunication/ICTs to achieve digital economies in partnership with the ITU

Challenge scope and eligibility

This competition is open to ALL ecosystem stakeholders such as regulatory authorities, entrepreneurial support organizations, incubators, accelerators, or any institution such as schools/colleges/universities from AFRICA, with programmes and policies that focus on creating an enabling environment for youth to develop ICT innovations.

The ecosystem stakeholder will be required to submit:

i. A unique practice that enables opportunities for youth to innovate and create. The practice MUST be an ORIGINAL idea/concept developed by the ecosystem stakeholders and MUST have been successfully implemented (and running) for a minimum of one year. It can be in the form of a policy, an initiative/programme supporting youth in technology; and

ii. Information about two innovators (who MUST be below 35 years old) that have benefitted from this practice.

iii. The practice submitted alongside the innovations' story (as provided for in the submission form) should reflect ANY of the following topical issues:

iv. Policies and regulations: Policies or regulatory guidance that creates an enabling environment for technology -driven youth innovation.

v. Socioeconomic empowerment: Initiatives, platforms, or programmes that enable access to jobs and opportunities, mitigate community and social vulnerabilities among youth, and empower youth to be problem solvers in their communities.

vi. Lifelong skills readiness: Initiatives, platforms, or programmes building lifelong skills to unlock young people's potential to innovate and thrive in the digital economy.

Note:

All submissions will be made ONLY by the ecosystem stakeholders, on behalf of the innovator, and NOT individually by the innovator.

The word "ORIGINAL" as used in the context of all documents related to the ATU Africa Innovation Challenge 2021 is applied to mean, novelty/newness/uniqueness/ distinctiveness of the referred idea/concept.

Key Milestones

Date	Activity
15 June 2021 11:00 – 12:30 EAT	Challenge's Launch
15 June 2021-31 August 2021	Submission of entries/ applications
31 August 2021	Application deadline
10 September 2021	Publication of shortlisted candidates
24 September 2021	Selection of Winners
28th September	Award Ceremony
1 -15 October 2021	Winner Bootcamp

A Brighter Future with Huawei Certification

1 **Who is Huawei**

Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. With integrated solutions across four key domains – telecom networks, IT, smart devices, and cloud services – we are committed to bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.

Huawei's end-to-end portfolio of products, solutions and services are both competitive and secure. Through open collaboration with ecosystem partners, we create lasting value for our customers, working to empower people, enrich home life, and inspire innovation in organizations of all shapes and sizes.

At Huawei, innovation focuses on customer needs. We invest heavily in basic research, concentrating on technological breakthroughs that drive the world forward. We have more than 180,000 employees, and we operate in more than 170 countries and regions. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a private company fully owned by its employees.
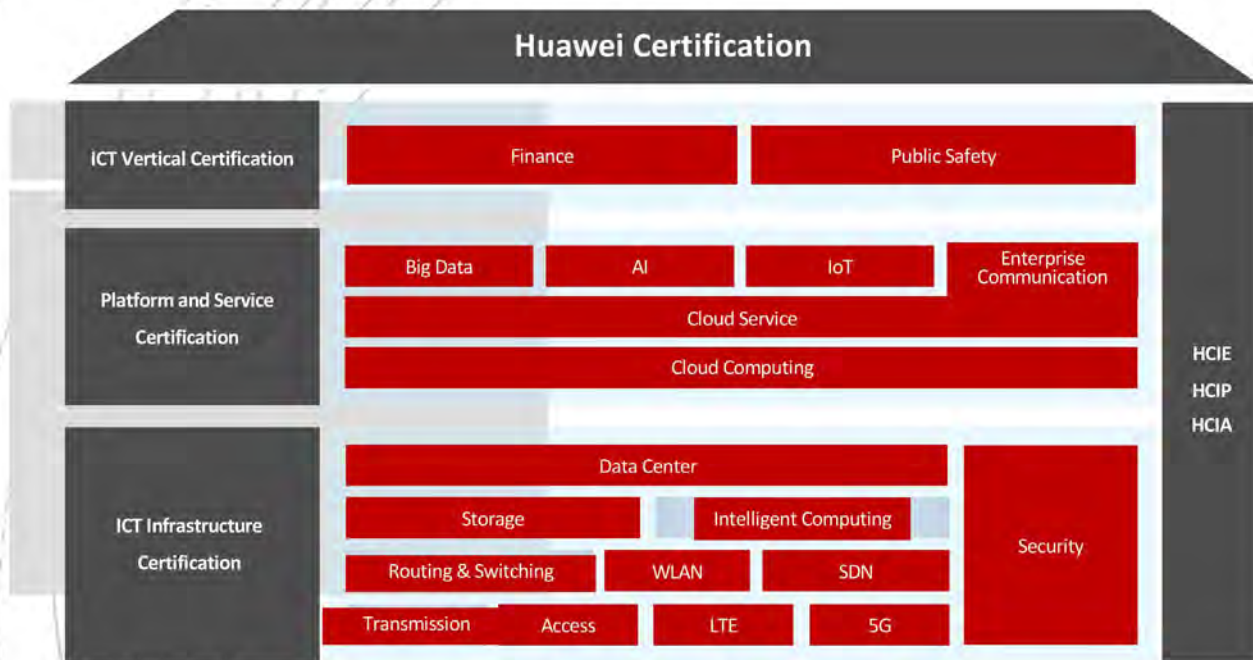
2   Certification Service

Huawei launches its Certification Solution, based on years of experience in fostering ICT talents and develop deep insight into industry. Huawei certification system follows the "platform + ecosystem" development strategy, which is a new collaborative architecture of ICT infrastructure based on "Cloud-Pipe-Terminal". Huawei has set up a complete certification system consisting of three categories: ICT infrastructure certification, Platform and service certification and ICT vertical certification, and grants Huawei certification the only all-range technical certification in the industry.

- **Huawei Certified ICT Associate (HCIA)** is awarded to engineers who can install, configure, and run ICT devices, and rectify faults in a technical field.
- **Huawei Certified ICT Professional (HCIP)** is awarded to senior engineers with rich ICT knowledge and strong experience in an ICT technical field.
- **Huawei Certified ICT Expert (HCIE),** Huawei's highest level of ICT technical certification, is awarded to people who demonstrate especially strong expertise in ICT and rich experience in practice.

Huawei Certification

ICT Vertical Certification	Finance	Public Safety	

Platform and Service Certification	Big Data	AI	IoT	Enterprise Communication
	Cloud Service			
	Cloud Computing			

ICT Infrastructure Certification

- Data Center
- Storage
- Intelligent Computing
- Routing & Switching
- WLAN
- SDN
- Transmission
- Access
- LTE
- 5G
- Security

HCIE
HCIP
HCIA

3   Benefits of Huawei Certification

Consolidate your technical foundation	Keep up with the trends	Improve employment competitiveness
Huawei certification combines theory with practice. It provides a solid technical foundation and comprehensively assesses the ICT specialists' relevant knowledge base.	Huawei certification incorporates cutting-edge ICT trends, keeping you up-to-date on emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI）and Internet of Things (IoT).	Receiving Huawei Certification means you have the ICT expertise the industry needs. It will improve your employment competitiveness and advance your value within Huawei's ecosystem.

Obtaining Huawei Certificates

To obtain an HCIA certificate, you need to	• Pass the HCIA exams. • The validity of the Results: 3 years • Exam Location: Pearson VUE exam center
To obtain an HCIP certificate, you need to	• Pass the HCIP exams. • The validity of the Results: 3 years • Exam Location: Pearson VUE exam center
To obtain an HCIE certificate, you need to	• Pass HCIE three exams within 18 months • The validity of the Results: 2 years • Exam Location: Pearson VUE exam center(Written)&HCIE test center(Lab & Interview)

Written	〉〉〉	Lab	〉〉〉	Interview

Written	Lab	Interview
Pass HCIE Written exams.	Take the Lab exam in 18 months.	Take the Interview in 90 natural days.
The validity of the Results:	The validity of the Results:	The validity of the Results:
18 Months	90 Natural Days	2 years
Exam Location:	Exam Location:	Exam Location:
Pearson VUE Exam Center	HCIE Test Center	HCIE Test Center

Certificate Application Process

Take the HCIA, HCIP, HCIE certification exams	**Apply for the certificate** ⬇ One working day after passing the exam, apply for the corresponding certificate on the Huawei training & certification website	Query the certificate

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria

A jury of experts from ITU, ATU and supporting organizations will use the following criteria to shortlist the best 25 submissions:

- **Originality:** the concept of both the innovation (by the innovator) and the practice (developed and promoted by the ecosystem stakeholder to support innovation) must be original/unique.

- **Creativity:** the concept of both the innovation (by the innovator) and the practice (developed and promoted by the ecosystem stakeholder to support innovation) must be innovative and exceptional.

- **Sustainability:** the submission must clearly elaborate ways in which the innovator in relation to his/her innovation and the practice will be able to adapt to the future.

- **Viability:** the innovation (by the innovator), and the practice (developed and promoted by the ecosystem stakeholders to support innovation) must be realistic and logical.

- **Impact:** the submission must fall within the scope of the challenge and have crosscutting impact and relevant solutions.

- **Relevance:** submissions must co-relate with the challenge objectives, topic and scope.

Rewards

Rewards

Based on overall performance, the jury will then select the 10 winning practices. All 10 will be awarded according to the following scheme:

Ranking	Cash award	ATU, Ecosystem stakeholders Recognition Award	In-kind Award
Position 1	USD 10,000 disbursed as USD 5000 cash shared equally to the two innovators whose innovations were submitted by the ecosystem, and USD 5,000 in promoting the best practice	2021 ATU Best Ecosystem Practice in Africa Enabling Youth ICT Innovation (Branded trophy and certificate)	1. Attend a boot camp organized by ITU to scale up and amplify their practices; 2. Have their practices recognized by ITU and ATU as an "Ecosystem stakeholders Best Practice" that can be scaled and amplified across Africa to foster youth resilience; 3. Showcase their best practices in a personalized virtual booth at the Global Innovation Forum, and connect to a community of practice with like-minded stakeholders; 4. Training by Afrilabs through the AfriLabs Hubs learning week; 5. Contribute to ITU's Regional Good Practice Report; and 6. Benefit from any specified support extended by support and partner organizations.
Position 2	USD 5,000 disbursed as USD 2, 500 cash shared equally to the two innovators whose innovations were submitted by the ecosystem and USD 2,500 in promoting the best practice	1st Runners Up, 2021 ATU Best Ecosystem Practice in Africa Enabling Youth ICT Innovation (Branded trophy and certificate)	
Position 3	USD 2500 disbursed as USD 1250 cash shared equally to the two innovators whose innovations were submitted by the ecosystem and USD 1250 in promoting the best practice	2nd Runners Up, 2021 ATU Best Ecosystem Practice in Africa Enabling Youth ICT Innovation (Branded trophy and certificate)	
Position 4-10		Certificate	

NOTE

Additional terms and conditions may apply as documented in the application form.

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AI for Youth, making our
Next Gen AI ready

Intel Corporation "Intel" (NASDAQ: INTC) is a world leader in the design and manufacturing of essential technologies and platforms that power the cloud and an increasingly smart, connected world. Intel's purpose is to create worldchanging technology that enriches the lives of every person on earth and we have developed several programmes and initiatives to accelerate digitization globally.

Through our RISE 2030 strategy and goals, Intel is committed to making technology fully inclusive and expand digital readiness for decision makers and the youth.

To expand digital readiness for decision makers and the youth, Intel has developed several programmes among which there are:

The Intel's Skills For Innovation programme that supports educators in leading the transformation of education and preparing students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The Intel® Partner Alliance programme that offers exclusive resources for AI, cloud, high performance computing, and other solution areas to help plan, build, and deliver more customer value.

And the Intel® Developer Zone that provides the official Source for Developing on Intel® Hardware and Software where you will be able to explore our most popular development areas and resources.

Intel looks forward to working with all ecosystem stakeholders such as regulatory authorities, entrepreneurial support organizations, incubators, accelerators, or any institution such as college/university in AFRICA to creating an enabling environment for youth to develop ICT innovations and to accelerate their digital transformation journey.