

WORLD STEM FESTIVAL 2026

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

"Engineering Tomorrow: Agriculture / Education / Health"

Wednesday, October 28 – Saturday, October 31, 2026

Dr. Obi Wali International Conference Centre, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

5,000+ Innovators · 6 Competition Tracks · 6 Age Categories · 4 Days of History

THE KEYNOTE EXPERIENCE – "THE TRILOGY"

Each day from Day 2, the entire festival gathers in the Main Auditorium for a 30-minute cinematic keynote experience – full production lighting, sound design, and visual storytelling. Not a speech. An experience.

The keynote arc opens on Day 1 inside the Grand Opening Ceremony and closes on Day 4 inside the Grand Finale. At its heart, the three daily sessions form **The Trilogy: Past, Present & Future** – one pillar of the festival theme per day:

Day 1 · Opening · "Why Africa's Innovation Hour Is Now"

The Opening Keynote Moment – inside the Grand Opening Ceremony

The festival opens with a cinematic declaration: the tools, the talent, and the time have converged – and Africa's innovation hour has arrived.

Day 2 · "The Soil That Fed an Empire"

Agriculture: Past, Present & Future

Africa once fed itself and traded with the world. What happened to our food systems – and how do we engineer food security back? Nigeria as the case study.

Day 3 · "The Classroom That Built Tomorrow"

Education: Yesterday, Today & The Future

From the village square to AI-powered learning – what education was, what it has become, and what it must be for Africa to lead.

Day 4 · "The Length of an African Life"

Health: Past, Present & Future

Why is the African lifespan projected shorter than the rest of the world – and how does this generation engineer the answer?

DAY 1 – Wednesday, October 28

ARRIVAL, ROUND 1 & GRAND OPENING

Theme of the Day: The World Arrives

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 AM	Venue opens – team arrival & accreditation (QR check-in)	Main Entrance
7:30 – 9:30 AM	Team setup, equipment check-in & practice sessions	Competition Arenas
9:00 AM	Judges' briefing & scoring system verification	Judges' Hall
10:00 AM	Exhibition floor opens (outdoor) · Games & Recreation Zone opens · Health Check stations open	Exhibition Grounds
10:00 – 11:15 AM	Demo runs & final technical validation	Competition Arenas
11:30 AM	COMPETITION ROUND 1 – all tracks, all categories	Competition Arenas

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
1:00 PM- 3:30 PM	GRAND OPENING CEREMONY	Main Auditorium
3:30 – 4:00 PM	PANEL 1: Funding the Future – How Africa's Innovators Get Backed	Main Stage
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Round 1 concludes · arena reset · ceremony setup	All Halls
5:30 PM	Day 1 closes	—

Grand Opening Ceremony Flow (1:00 – 3:30 PM)

- Lights out – signature music & LED countdown montage(5MINS)
- A young innovator walks out first – the symbolic first light (5MINS)
- Commissioned spoken word performance: "Engineering Tomorrow" (10MINS)
- National Anthem & ceremonial processional(5MINS)
- MC opening – high-energy welcome(10MINS)
- Our Story(Journey up to Today)- Introducing WSF 2026(10MINS)
- Welcome Address – GMG, Creative Director(15MINS)
- Goodwill messages – dignitaries & partners (maximum 5 minutes each) (25MINS)
- Performing acts – music, dance & cultural showcase(15MINS)
- **Opening Keynote Moment – Why Africa's Innovation Hour Is Now (cinematic)- Mrs. Jane Egerton-Idehen Managing director/CEO, NIGCOM SAT(30MINS)**
- Sponsor recognition & Title Partner spotlight(5MINS)
- Photo Session(15MINS)
- MC Closing- Introduce Panel 1(5MINS)

DAY 2 – Thursday, October 29

COMPETITION INTENSIVE

Theme of the Day: The Arena Speaks

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	LOCATION
8:00 AM	Venue opens – competitors & officials only		Competition Arenas
8:00 – 9:30 AM	Setup, demo runs & judge verification		Competition Arenas
9:30 AM	Public admission · Exhibition, Games & Health Checks open		All Zones
10:00 AM	COMPETITION ROUND 2 – starts sharp		Competition Arenas
12:00 – 12:30 PM	KEYNOTE 1 of The Trilogy: "The Soil That Fed an Empire" – Agriculture: Past, Present & Future (cinematic – all gather)	Ambassador Idaere Gogo Ogan , Chairman and Convener of the Niger Delta Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Trade, Mines and Agriculture (NDCCITMA)	Main Auditorium
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Lunch break/ Exhibition		Food Court/Exhibition
1:00 PM	COMPETITION ROUND 3 · STEM-A-THON 24-hour clock starts (live-streamed)		Arenas / STEM-A-THON Zone
2:30 – 3:00 PM	PANEL 2: From Solution to Startup – The Entrepreneurship Pathway	Stewart Ezekiel Jr. Founder and Team Lead, Harvoxx Tech Hub Ibifuro Asawo Co-founder and CEO, Cinfores Limited	Main Stage

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	LOCATION
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Who wants to be a STEM Hero		
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Symposium (Two Symposium running Parallel) - AI and Robotics: Industry Trends and Opportunities Software Development and Blockchain: Building Africa's Digital Economy	Prof. Laetitia Nneka Onyejegbu Kalio Ibitamuno Daniel Dr. Ebenezer Osuigbo	Symposium Halls
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Judges' deliberation – Rounds 2 & 3 consolidated		Judges' Hall
5:00 - 5:30 PM	Talent Hunt (Music)		Main Stage
5:30 PM	Day close · STEM-A-THON continues overnight		STEM-A-THON Zone

DAY 3 – Friday, October 30

TECH DAY & THE GLOBAL STEM EDUCATORS SUMMIT

Theme of the Day: Knowledge Meets Opportunity

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	LOCATION
8:00 AM	Venue opens – full public access · all zones open		All Halls
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	THE GLOBAL STEM EDUCATORS SUMMIT (full day, 3 tracks)	Dr. Peters Nwagor Dr. Mina Tele Ikuru Gabriel Misa Gabramns (GMG)	Summit Hall

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	LOCATION
9:30 – 11:00 AM	Innovation Showcase – finalist solutions on display	Judges	Exhibition Grounds
11:00 – 11:30 AM	KEYNOTE 2 of The Trilogy: "The Classroom That Built Tomorrow" – Education: Yesterday, Today & The Future (cinematic – all gather)	Dr Peters Nwagor Honourable Commissioner for Education, Rivers State	Main Auditorium
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	PANEL 3: Scholarships & Global Pathways – international education, world-stage pathways, past champions live	Prof. Eucharika Oluchi Nwaichi Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Port Harcourt, Commonwealth Academic Fellowship alumna	Main Stage
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Symposium 3 lead technical speaker IoT, Electronics and Drone Technology The Hardware Frontier Symposium 4: Animation & Game Development – Telling Africa's Stories (parallel)	Dr Inyeni Amakuro Showers CTO, STEM Professionals LTD Kenneth Horsfall Founder, Kennysoft STUDIOS and Kennysoft Film Academy Louis Whyte Jonah Founder, Gameverse Africa	Symposium Hall
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch · Exhibition & games		Exhibition Grounds
1:30 PM	STEM-A-THON clock ends – solutions submitted		STEM-A-THON Zone
2:00 – 4:30 PM	OPEN CATEGORY (The Investor Pitch Stage) – the festival's	Judges	Pitch Stage

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	LOCATION
	best projects across all categories, selected by the Chief Judge & Council of Judges · 5-min pitch + 5-min Q&A		
2:30 – 4:00 PM	STEM-A-THON finals – live judging		STEM-A-THON Zone
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Educators Summit closing · certificates · group photograph		Summit Hall
5:30 PM	Day close		—

The Global STEM Educators Summit – Tracks

- STEM Educators Track – practical STEM teaching methods, classroom innovation, emerging technology skills
- School Leadership & Innovation Track – future of education, STEM integration strategy, innovation culture
- Joint Plenary – shared sessions, panels, and the closing ceremony

Open Category (The Investor Pitch Stage)

The Open Category is the STEM Festival's merit-only stage. No age brackets. No track divisions. The best projects and solutions of the festival – selected by the **Chief Judge and the Council of Judges** – pitch live before an investor panel.

- Selection: the overall best projects across all categories – Elementary (8–12) through Pro (35+) – win the Open Category slots
- Format: 5-minute pitch + 5-minute Q&A before the investor panel
- The stage is equal – an 8-year-old's solution stands beside a 30-year-old founder's: same stage, same panel, same respect

The Open Category doesn't ask how old you are. It asks what you built.

STEM Festival Global Initiative championing a global STEM innovation and problem-solving

DAY 4 – Saturday, October 31

THE GRAND FINALE

Theme of the Day: History Is Made

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:00 AM	Venue opens – full public access	All Halls
9:30 – 11:30 AM	Final exhibition, games & health check hours	Exhibition Grounds
10:00 – 10:30 AM	KEYNOTE 3 of The Trilogy: "The Length of an African Life" – Health: Past, Present & Future (cinematic – all gather)	Main Auditorium
10:45 – 11:45 AM	PANEL 4: Women in STEM – Breaking Every Ceiling	Main Stage
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Ceremony seating · VIP & dignitary arrival	Main Auditorium
12:00 PM	GRAND FINALE & AWARDS CEREMONY	Main Auditorium

Grand Finale Flow (12:00 – 6:00 PM)

- Opening performance – music & cultural showcase(15mins)
- Recap montage – four days in four minutes(10mins)
- Goodwill messages from partners, sponsors and dignitaries(20mins)
- **Category Awards – all 6 tracks × all age categories(1hr)**
- "Who Wants to Be a STEM Hero" – live sponsor moment: partners commit on stage to sponsor category winners' awards & gifts(25mins)
- STEM Legacy Challenge Awards – adopters present named awards(45mins)
- STEM Impact Challenge Awards – corporate adopters on stage(45mins)

STEM Festival Global Initiative championing a global STEM innovation and problem-solving

- STEM-A-THON Champions announced(15mins)
- Open Category Recognition – Open Category teams recognised on stage(1hr 30mins)
- **Best Solution of the Year – the festival’s highest honour** (15mins)
- **INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION ANNOUNCEMENT – live reveal of the teams selected to represent their locality, state, country, and Africa at world-class international competitions**(15mins)
- **2027 THEME REVEAL – the road to World STEM Festival begins (Video)** (5mins)
- Closing address – GMG · Sponsor & partner appreciation (15mins)
- Photo Session(15MINS)
- Grand Finale Reception · press interviews · celebration

RUNNING THROUGHOUT ALL 4 DAYS

- Exhibition Floor (outdoor) – sponsors, tech companies, research institutions, vendors, universities
- Games & Recreation Zone – VR gaming, console setups, table tennis, chess, archery, giant games & more
- Basic Health Check Stations – free BP, blood sugar, BMI & vision checks with medical partner
- Live Results – results.stemfestival.org + venue LED screens
- Live Streaming – competition & judging streamed for all attendees
- Media Centre – press briefings, interviews, content capture
- STEM Quest Live – radio broadcasting live from the festival
- Innovation Quiz – ongoing prizes for non-competing students
- Prayer/Quiet Room, First Aid & Family Areas

THE SPEAKER ARCHITECTURE

ROLE	FORMAT	FREQUENCY
Keynote Speakers	30 min · cinematic experience · main hall · everyone gathers	1 per day (The Trilogy + Opening)
Panelists	60 min cross-cutting conversations for all attendees	1 panel per day (4 total)
Symposium Facilitators	Track deep-dives across the 6 competition fields	4 sessions across Days 1–3

World STEM FESTIVAL 2026 · ...innovate, compete, shape the future

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