

AFRICA INNOVATORS SOCIETY (AIS)

THE NEXT FOUNDERS

From Vision to Venture in Africa's Innovation Economy

Leadership & Business Summit 2026

Programme of Event

Saturday, 29 August 2026 · Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Kigali

Time	Segment	Details
11:00 – 11:30	Arrival & Registration	Guests check in; name tags issued at the registration desk
11:30 – 11:35	AIS President's Address	Welcome & opening remarks — AIS President
11:35 – 11:42	Founding President's Address	Muhammad Aliyu, Founding President of AIS
11:42 – 11:57	Keynote 1	Prof. João Barros (recorded video keynote) — “Leading Innovation: Lessons from Research, Entrepreneurship, and Building Ecosystems”
11:57 – 12:40	Panel 1 — “The First Mile: Turning an Idea into Something Real”	Cynthia Iradukunda · Victor Olufemi · Tobi Omotosho · Charity Ineza (moderated + audience Q&A)
12:40 – 13:00	Keynote 2	Oluwaseun David Adepoju — Managing Partner, CcHUB/iHUB — “Building Africa's Innovation Economy: From Idea to Impact at Scale”
13:00 – 13:20	Group Photo, Coffee & Networking Break	Full-room photograph, followed by refreshments in the foyer
13:20 – 13:35	Keynote 3	Prof. Keith Straughan — CEO, Imcon Consulting
13:35 – 14:17	Panel 2 — “Leading Through Growth: People, Capital, and Staying Power”	David Masoperh · Prof. Jesse Thornburg · Gabriel Ekman · Vivens Uwizeyimana (moderated + audience Q&A)
14:17 – 14:42	Student Builders Showcase	Frank Ebeledike (Exuar) & Paul Mugume (Vitalabs) share what they are building
14:42 – 14:57	Closing & Vote of Thanks	Key takeaways, speaker recognition & announcements — AIS President
15:00 – 15:45	Networking Lunch	Buffet lunch in the foyer/terrace; guests & speakers mingle

Programme timings are indicative and may be adjusted slightly on the day.