

THIS YEARS
FESTIVAL

Africa-Europe
Artificial
Intelligence
Policy Dialogue



DATA PROTECTION AND
COMPLIANCE TRAINING

Enroll and attend
a training on Data
Protection and
Compliance



Newsletter

ISSUE 20 | FEBRUARY 24 | 2022

www.lawyershub.org @lawyershubkenya

The Africa LawTech Festival is back!



2020 FESTIVAL

The Lawyers Hub convened over 1200 delegates from 20+ countries, with 48 sessions over 6 days.

2021 FESTIVAL

The hybrid edition hosted 7500 law and technology professionals from across over 20 countries.

About the Africa LawTech Festival

■ The Africa Law Tech Festival was designed to appeal to a wide array of players in the legal tech space, through a multifaceted approach to conferencing. The Festival grew from an idea to expand technology policy conversations by Lawyers Hub across the African continent. Omidyar Network believed in this idea and inspired by our unique vision, the Network invested in hosting the inaugural edition in 2020, a first of its kind in Africa.

The Lawyers Hub convened over 1200 delegates from 20+ countries, with 48 sessions over 6 days. The Festival delegates curated rapid tech solutions at the Global Legal Hackathon. They designed key policy briefs for the African continent on Artificial Intelligence,

Data Privacy & Digital Identity, Tech and Migration, and Taxing the Digital Economy. The Africa Law Tech Association and the Africa Legal Hackathon were both launched at the 2020 Festival. The Africa Digital Rights Concert on Online Safety commemorated International Women's Day that fell on the Festival's 3rd Day.

In 2021, the COVID-19 Pandemic presented an extraordinary challenge for the Festival. Travel bans and social distancing rules compelled us to rethink the Festival's design which birthed the hybrid edition, titled Digital Policy for Economic Growth, and hosted 7500 law and technology professionals from across over 20 countries. The Festival was administered through day-

time masterclasses on Zoom, evening panels on Twitter Spaces, after-work fireside chats and dance workouts on Zoom, and virtual networking sessions on Clubhouse. The Lawyers Hub also ran an in-person networking event in Ghana together with the Tony Blair Institute, and additional sessions in Nairobi, Kenya.

The theme extended across 5 festival summits on Data Protection and Digital Identity, Artificial Intelligence, Internet Governance and Moderation, Crypto Regulation and Digital Currencies, Digital Access and Infrastructure, and Digital Access and Infrastructure and ultimately closed off with the Africa Digital Rights Concert themed around Privacy.

Last Year's Festival

AFRICA LAW TECH FESTIVAL 2021

Digital Policy for Economic growth

THANK YOU!



COUNTRIES AT THE FESTIVAL

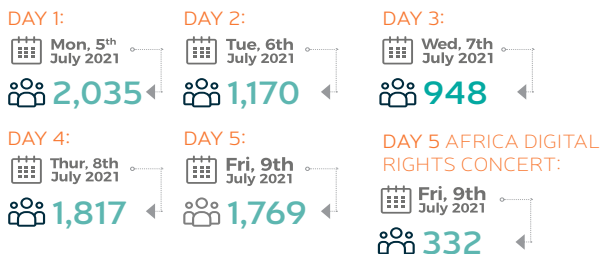
Kenya	Congo	Burundi	Germany	Mexico	Sweden
South Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	Senegal	Angola	Benin	Colombia
Netherlands	Ukraine	Malawi	United States	Jamaica	Belgium
China	Spain	Mauritius	Rwanda	Mozambique	Gambia
Tanzania	United Arab Emirates	Zimbabwe	India	Sudan	Morocco
Hungary	Ireland	Nigeria	Egypt	Algeria	Singapore
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Togo	Cameroon	Somalia	Sao Tome and Principe
Peru	Namibia	United Kingdom	Ethiopia	Djibouti	Korea
France	Canada	Italy	Zambia	Mauritania	
Austria			Australia	Pakistan	

57

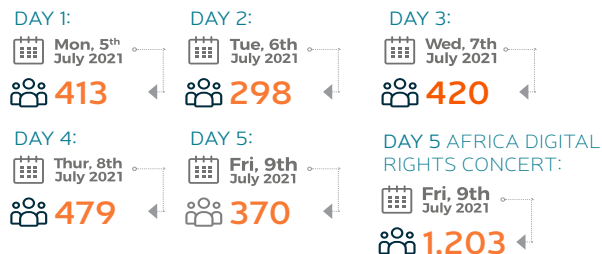
TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

PARTICIPANT NUMBERS:

zoom Zoom in person (Unique attendees)



YouTube Live Stream



7,739
TOTAL UNIQUE ATTENDEES

3,183
TOTAL LIVE STREAMS



213K TWEET IMPRESSIONS
18.5K TWITTER PROFILE VISITS

*#AfricaLawTechFestival was among Top 5 Trending Topics on Twitter



This Years Festival



#AFRICALAWTECH2022 #AFRICALAWTECHFESTIVAL

Theme: Africa-Europe Artificial Intelligence Policy Dialogue



PHYSICAL
VIRTUAL



5-18 JUNE



NAIROBI | CAPE TOWN | ACCRA | LAGOS
BRUSSELS | BERLIN | PARIS | GENEVA | LONDON

POWERED BY:



MORE INFO AT:

WWW.AFRICALAWTECH.COM

■ After two successful editions — the first being held in 2020 physically in Nairobi and the second being held physically and virtually last year in Nairobi, Kenya & Accra, Ghana — We are incredibly proud to announce today that the Africa Law Tech Festival 2022 will take place this

year in June.

The 2022 Arica Law Tech Festival dubbed “Africa-Europe Artificial Intelligence Policy Dialogue” will be held across various cities in Africa and Europe making it the biggest Africa Law Tech Festival that we’ve ever hosted.

Africa Law Tech Festival 2022

■ The increasing enactment of data privacy laws across Africa since the enactment of the GDPR in 2018 demonstrates the Brussels Effect in Africa with an increased proliferation of GDPR-like Data Protection laws and authorities in Africa. This demonstrates the Brussels Effect on digital policy. Artificial Intelligence has seen increased adoption across Africa, with

Europe in discussions for an AI Act, the ripple effect will be seen in African policy and judicial systems in the months and years to come.

As the Continent begins to form frameworks such as the Continental Data Policy Framework, the innovation policy framework, and the digital economy framework; there is a need to have an audience with development

agencies in Europe working together with continental bodies.

There is also a need for policymakers, lawyers, and startups to understand the context within which Europe makes its laws, by seeing their enabling infrastructure, tech ecosystem, and policy processes to benchmark.

DIGITAL ECONOMY



African fintech Flutterwave triples valuation to over \$3B

■ African fintech Flutterwave has raised \$250 million in a Series D round that tripled the company's valuation to over \$3 billion in just twelve months. The valuation makes Flutterwave the highest valued African startup, surpassing the \$2 billion valuation set by SoftBank-backed fintech OPay and FTX-backed cross-border payments platform Chipper Cash last year.

African Heads of Competition Authorities issue a joint statement on regulating digital markets

■ The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission of Nigeria, The Competition Commission of South Africa, The Competition Authority of Kenya, and The Egyptian Competition Authority issued a joint statement expressing a commitment to sharing knowledge and capacity building to tackle the unique challenges presented in law enforcement by the constantly evolving digital markets.



InsureTech Accelerator BimaLab Launches in Nigeria

■ The National Insurance Commission of Nigeria (NAICOM), in partnership with FSD Africa, launched the BimaLab InsurTech Accelerator Program. This follows successful pilots in Kenya and Ghana. Participants will receive access to NAICOM resources, business and technical support, access to mentorship and networks, and an opportunity to pitch their product at the BimaLab Demo Day.

BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Twitter Adds Ethereum Tipping Feature

■ Twitter has added an Ethereum Tipping feature to its platform allowing users to tip each other in the cryptocurrency. Clicking on a user's ETH tip option copies their address, so you can then navigate to your crypto wallet and send the user an ETH tip. The platform has also included two payment options in partnership with Barter by Flutterwave and Paga, supporting tipping across Africa.



Bank of Russia starts testing Digital Ruble

■ The Bank of Russia and market participants launched the testing of the digital ruble platform and completed the first digital ruble transfers between individuals. According to the Bank, Two pilot participants have successfully completed a full cycle of digital ruble transfers between clients using banking mobile applications. 'The digital ruble platform provides new opportunities for citizens, businesses, and the state. We plan that transfers in digital rubles will be free of charge and available in all Russian regions for households, whereas for businesses — these will reduce costs and enable the elaboration of innovative products and services.' - noted Olga Skorobogatova, First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Russia.



DATA PRIVACY

Unwanted Witness launches report on Digital Rights Enjoyment & Governance In Uganda

■ Unwanted Witness partnered with the Digital Human Rights project with the support from The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The study is part of an evidence-based advocacy approach to strengthen the effectiveness and enjoyment of digital rights in Uganda. The study focused on addressing the following key objectives;

- Build on the existing knowledge about digital rights and Internet governance in Uganda
- Investigate factors hindering the enjoyment of digital rights and Internet Freedoms in Uganda
- Attain recommendations for policy formulation and review for digital rights Enjoyment

ECOWAS Court Dismisses Motion to Strikeout Suits related to Nigeria's Twitter Ban

■ The ECOWAS Community Court of Justice has dismissed a motion by the Federal Government of Nigeria seeking to prevent it from delivering its judgment and to strike out the four consolidators challenging the Government's June 4, 2021 decision to suspend Twitter in Nigeria.

The court ruled after realizing that the Nigerian Government's application to stop its judgment in the matter was frivolous and lacked merit and accordingly dismissed it. The matter has been adjourned to May 10, 2022, when the court will deliver its verdict.



Google to extend its Sandbox privacy project to Android



■ Google is set to provide more privacy for its android users. It aims to achieve this through limiting the amount of user data advertisers collect, transitioning to operating without application identifiers, and sharing data across applications. Part of this project includes coming up with alternatives for third-party cookies. Google has not explicitly stated how it will implement all this. The tech company, which heavily relies on advertisements, will have to do some heavy lifting to efficiently enforce this project.



Scholar Bitange Ndemo's team win a sh180 million grant to examine health data regulations

■ Meta, formally known as Facebook, threatened to curtail its users in Europe from accessing Facebook and Instagram if a new regional data transfer framework could not be made. This contention follows the European Court rejecting agreements between the European Union and the United States that were meant to offer a standardised data transfer framework. The Court of Justice held that the United States laws offered weak data protection. Unfortunately, Meta are placed at a disadvantaged position as governments are increasingly becoming confident in not caving in on big tech cooperation demands. Moreover, Meta recorded a drop in its active users and revenue. Fearing a downward trend, the company is desperate to develop strategies to salvage the losses. Meta ironically backtracked its statement, reframing that the position they took was simply a risk assessment one. This situation presents itself as a conundrum to the company which will eventually have to comply with European Union regulations or cut the provision of some of its services in the region. Both options may be disadvantageous to the company in different ways. In the former, Meta will need to invest in data centres for data processing in the region and in the latter, Meta stands to lose more users to other platforms thus recording further losses.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Sama, an Ethical AI company outsourced by Facebook for content moderation under heat for exploiting workers

■ Since 2019, the organisation's Nairobi branch has been largely responsible for content moderation in Sub-Saharan Africa. In an investigation conducted by Times magazine, many employees expressed a general exploitative work environment. This poor treatment is characterised by poor pay compared to other content moderators in other regions, infringement of their right to form unions and strike, and prioritisation of quotas over mental health. Content moderators are tasked with mentally draining work that involves screening disturbing content such as rape, murder, and suicide. Most workers reported cases of post-traumatic stress disorder that go unaddressed because they cannot afford proper healthcare. Moreover, counselors provided by the company do not help the situation as they majorly serve the business's interests. Public statements by Facebook are

contradictory to the situation painted by the employees claiming they value employees' wellness and see to it that they are rightfully compensated considering the nature of their work. Sama's executives, in addressing the situation, stated that their rate of \$1.50 per hour is above the minimum region and that there is a high demand for the jobs. The employees' complaints fell on deaf ears. Further, a union that was formed by one Daniel Motaung was disbanded, and he was later fired. The company denies such actions that amounted to an infringement of the employees' right to join unions and strike. Employees expressed a general sense of urgency and anxiety from their employers to please Facebook as a result of the contract. Outsourcing, in this way, alienates big tech corporations from owning up to worker exploitation.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Apple wins lawsuit instituted by Cub Club against copyright infringement

■ Cub Club investment, the creators of the iDiversicons application, which was the first of its kind to allow users to use racially diverse emojis, launched a case against Apple who initially refused a partnership offer from the application developers and went ahead to create their diverse skin tone emojis. In the judgment, the court stated that 'copyright law does not prohibit all copying... a plaintiff must allege the defendant copied enough of the protected expression...' The judge stated that the company did not manage to prove the infringement; copyright law does not protect ideas and that Apple only copied an idea.



US Copyright officers reject a copyright application involving Artificial Intelligence generated artwork

■ United States copyright officer rejected Stephen Thaler's application to register copyright on a two-dimensional artwork titled 'a recent entrance to paradise' with the 'creativity machine' titled as the author and Thaler as the owner of the machine. The copyright officer stated that for a copyright claim to be successful, human authorship is a prerequisite. However, Stephen went ahead to make a reconsideration request, leaving us anticipating more news regarding copyright claims on AI-generated work.

Texas attorney sues Facebook's Meta, over claims of infringement of consent regulations in the collection of biometric data for facial recognition technology

■ Texas attorney sued the Tech giant alleging that Facebook infringed privacy guidelines in collecting biometric data of billions of Texans for facial recognition technology. Meta made a public statement stating that the claims were baseless and that they intend to defend themselves by all means.



INNOVATING JUSTICE CHALLENGE 2022

Call for Application

Who we are looking for?

- ✓ *Have a strong team with complementary skills and shared vision driven by making impact.*
- ✓ *Have a strong sustainability and revenue model that shows potential and evidence for the startup to become financially sustainable within a reasonable timeframe, whether a non-profit or for-profit.*
- ✓ *Have an ambition and sound plans to scale into different markets beyond the immediate target market.*
- ✓ *Have a functioning solution with traction that provides evidence for the potential for the product to be a fit for its market.*
- ✓ *Have a solution that is people-centered and meets the needs of those with unmet justice needs who struggle to access user-friendly justice, justice that is effective, easy to understand, affordable and accessible means to prevent or resolve their justice problems.*

CALL ENDS: 31ST MARCH 2022

To apply, click <https://ea.hiil.org/innovating-justice-challenge-2022/>
For more information, contact: justinnovateea@hiil.org



Hiil
user friendly justice



Be the next Justice Changemakers this year!

The Hiil Innovating Justice Challenge is looking for innovative startups that are solving the biggest justice problems in areas such as crime, land, employment family, and neighbour disputes. Apply today to stand a chance of receiving up to 10,000 euros in non-equity funding, plus mentorship, coaching, and training from the industry's top specialists.

Apply now

LAWYERS
Tech for Justice
HUB
adpi
AFRICA DIGITAL
POLICY INSTITUTEwww.digitalpolicy.africa

DATA PROTECTION TRAINING

Data Protection, Data Security
and Compliance

1st - 4th
MARCH 2022

TIME:
12:00 NOON TO
2:00 PM (EAT)

VIRTUAL

COST : KSH 5,000 + VAT

Sign up: hello@lawyershub.ke



The Lawyers Hub and the Africa Digital Policy Institute invite you to enroll and attend a training on Data Protection and Compliance. It is crucial for members of your organisation to be equipped with this knowledge and to be conversant with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2019.

Email hello@lawyershub.ke or call +254784840228 to book your slot.