

CLOSING REMARKS: 1st East-African Workshop on the Internet of Things
East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research
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- **Marco Zennaro, ICTP Italy,**
- **Rodrigo Carbajales, ICTP Italy,**
- **Course Lecturers,**
- **Course Participants from Rwanda and the East and Central Africa Regions,**
- **Local Organising Committee,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great pleasure to speak to you today at this closing of the 1st East-African Workshop on the Internet of Things.

The Workshop is a collaboration between the Ministry of Education Rwanda and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, ICTP, Italy, and hosted by the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology. I acknowledge the many other supporting partners, including MTN who have generously donated the SIM cards and bandwidth for the workshop. I thank Marco Zennaro and Rodrigo Carbajales of the ICTP for traveling to be with us today to oversee the workshop. I also appreciate the participants from many Rwandan Higher Learning Institutions, Government Ministries and Agencies and from the East and Central Africa

Regions notably Uganda, Kenya and DRC who have been able to take the time to attend this important workshop. I also express my thanks to the local organising committee who have ensured the success of the workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government of Rwanda recognizes the importance of Science, Technology and Research to her development and economic growth. There is top level commitment in Rwanda as demonstrated by the vision and commitment of the President of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame, towards the value of Science and Technology for Africa's development.

The Government's Vision 2020 Statement, the second Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2) for Rwanda and the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation, include strategies to develop strong and efficient networks of skills and knowledge and scientific and technological innovation as key enablers to ensure a sustainable and rapid achievement of Rwanda's development goals.

Rwanda greatly values the importance of working together in regional and international partnerships to support STI development related to challenges facing Rwanda and the region.

I acknowledge the ongoing development of a close partnership with the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, (ICTP), and this workshop serves as one of a series of workshops that have been delivered in Rwanda through the partnership with the ICTP.

I note that this is the very first workshop to be held in these facilities which have been refurbished to host the East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research, a regional partner institution of the ICTP.

Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen

I have seen that The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a scenario in which, objects, animals or people are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer information over a network without requiring human to human or human to computer interaction.

These devices collect useful data from a variety of sources using existing technologies such as various types of sensors and can potentially be used in a large number of applications including medicine, agriculture, road transport, fire fighting and very many other useful tasks.

Given the current expected rapid expansion of the usage of this technology the IOT is expected to generate large amounts of data from diverse locations thereby increasing the need to better process and store that data.

I thank Marco for his concise overview of the workshop which looked at applications of the IoT and their relevance to developing countries, with a focus on low-cost, open and sustainable solutions. I have seen that the workshop was very “hands on” with many practical sessions to help reinforce people’s understanding of the crucial concepts related to this subject.

I am particularly encouraged by the practical project which was undertaken during the workshop which focused on the use of IOT devices to monitor the tea processing at SORWATHE Tea Factory in Kinihira Sector

Rulindo District. This demonstrates the applicability of the benefits which will flow from IOT to Rwanda and the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am aware that you are at the conclusion of this workshop and I am sure that the knowledge you have gained will enable you to be able to apply this technology in regional settings.

I therefore formally declare this “1st East-African Workshop on the Internet of Things.” closed.

I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Rwanda and I wish all of you who have travelled to be with us, a safe and comfortable journey home.

Thank you for your kind attention.