

CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (5th – 6th December 2024)

The World Trade Organization Chairs Programme (WCP)-Rwanda and the African Centre of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS) at University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics are organising an international research conference on Trade and Development.

The WCP-Rwanda aims to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the trading system among academics, citizens and policy makers in Rwanda by stimulating not only teaching and outreach activities but also research in the areas of international trade. It offers the opportunities to build talents and get policy oriented research results and outreach activities to engage the stakeholders. In particular, it looks forward to conducting research that is relevant to inform about how to boost Rwanda's regional trade integration with additional focus on trade policy and multilateral trade-related issues.

African Centre of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS) is one of 24 African Centres of Excellence (ACE) in ACE II Project. Main objective of ACE-DS is to deliver quality post-graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in data science. Data science is an emerging field that involves multidisciplinary research across applied statistics, economics, business, computer science and engineering. The applications of data science are at the heart of the big data revolution that is currently shaping how data is becoming a valuable commodity, a source of intellectual property and a means of achieving sustainable economic growth. The Centre addresses development challenges in Rwanda and the region by training data scientists and creating a research hub attracting international expertise and practitioners; and stimulating collaboration between academics, partners and stakeholders.

The venue, dates and objectives of the conference

The conference will be held at the University of Rwanda, in Kigali from 5th to 6th December 2024. The main objective of the conference is to create a space for presentation of current research findings in the field of trade and development. The conference will be also a space for networking between academics, policy makers, industry practitioners and other stakeholders, aiming at long-term sharing of knowledge and discussions of highly current issues about trade and development.

Specific objectives:

- To share the research findings with policy makers and private sector operators.

- To encourage and enhance evidence-based research on research sub-themes mentioned below
- To foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among researchers, development practitioners and policymakers

Conference sub-themes

With the above considerations in mind, the international research conference proposes to address the following thematic streams

Research themes include:

- Regional trade and trade policy
- International trade agreements and trade negotiations
- Africa's benefits and challenges to regional and international trade
- Digital trade
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- International trade and trade financing
- Global value chains and trade
- Trade and environment
- Trade and gender
- Applications of data science in trade and development
- Artificial intelligence and trade ecosystem

Organising and scientific committees

A Scientific Committee is constituted with leading figures in the fields mentioned above. The Committee will help identify Speakers, reviewers of abstracts and full papers. An organizing Committee is also being set up with representatives of the conference partners who will play the key role in spearheading the event.

Organising committee:

Prof Charles Ruranga (ACE-DS, Director), Prof Emmanuel Masabo (ACE-DS, Head of Research), Dr Ignace Kabano (ACE-DS, Head of Training), Prof François Niragire (University of Rwanda, WTO Co-Chair), Prof Jonas Barayandema (University of Rwanda, WTO Chair), Prof Samuel Mutarindwa (University of Rwanda), Dr Jean Bosco Shema (University of Rwanda), Dr Fidele Mutemberezi (University of Rwanda)

Scientific committee:

Olof Brunnings, Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University (Sweden), Dr Joseph Mung'atu (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology), Dr Richard Newfarmer (International Growth Centre), Dr Trudi

Hartzenberg (Executive Director of Tralac), Dr John Ngubiri (Makerere University), Dr Wilberforce Nuwagira (Senior Principal Economist at National Bank of Rwanda), Dr Mathias Karangwa (Director of Research at National Bank of Rwanda), Prof Charles Ruranga (ACE-DS, Director), Prof Emmanuel Masabo (ACE-DS, Head of Research), Prof François Niragire (University of Rwanda, WTO Co-Chair), Prof Jonas Barayandema (University of Rwanda, WTO Chair), Prof Samuel Mutarindwa (University of Rwanda), Dr Jean Bosco Shema (University of Rwanda), Dr Fidele Mutemberezi (University of Rwanda)

Papers submission guidelines:

Interested authors are invited to submit abstracts and original research papers in word or PDF format through: <https://efiling.ur.ac.rw/wtochairs-data-science-research-conference> with a copy to wtochairsdatascienceconference@gmail.com

The submission must be done in two steps:

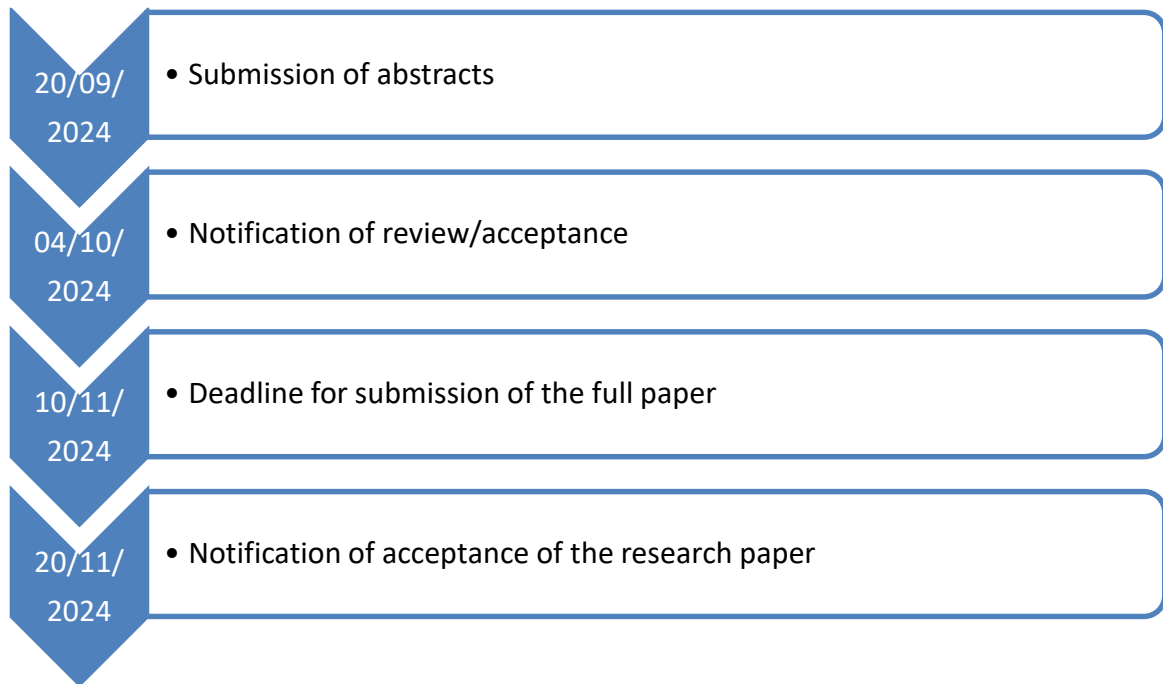
1. Create an account on platform
2. Login and submit

Paper Structure

- Title
- Author details (and affiliation)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Research problem
- Aim/Purpose/Objectives
- Methodology/Approach
- Findings/Results
- Conclusion/Implications/Recommendations
- Acknowledgements (when appropriate)
- References
- Appendices (when appropriate)

Formatting & Paper Length Limit

- Paper length: Full paper: maximum 20 pages, including references, tables/ charts and keywords
- Abstract length: 200-350 words
- Key words: 3-5 words
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman
- Paragraph: Single-spaced
- Margin: Normal (Top :2.54 cm , Bottom: 2.54 cm; Left : 3.18cm , Right: 3.18cm)
- Page numbers: Bottom-centered
- Layout: One-column Portrait
- Format: MS Word-compatible file



All research papers received will be reviewed by the scientific committee. Papers that will be deemed to be of high quality and to make significant contributions to the aims of the conference will be accepted for presentation at the conference.

Click on the link below to submit your abstract:

<https://efiling.ur.ac.rw/wtochairs-data-science-research-conference/>