

CALL FOR PAPERS

Annual AREF Conference 2026

Owning the Ground Beneath Our Feet:

Resource Sovereignty, Monetary Independence,
and the Architecture of African Wealth

CENTRAL THEMES

1. Value Addition and Industrial Transformation
2. Indigenous Intelligence and Knowledge Systems
3. Gender and Development
4. Financial Innovation and the Digital Revolution
5. Agriculture and Rural Transformation
6. Energy, Finance and the Just Transition
7. Philanthropy, Social Investment and the African Development Contract
8. Productive Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation
9. Innovation, Digital, Agile Enterprises and Fast-Growing Ventures

Authors are invited to locate their submissions within one of these themes, or at the intersections between them.

KEY DATES

Submission deadline: **FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2026**
 Acceptance notification: **15 August 2026**
 Full paper (proceedings): **15 September 2026**
 Conference dates: **12 - 14 October 2026**

SUBMISSIONS & REVIEW

Extended abstract (400-600 words) or full paper, submitted through the conference portal:
<https://joucon.com/portal/>
 All submissions undergo double-blind peer review. Presented papers will be considered for publication in AREF and partner journals.

AWARDS

A.K. Fosu Prize for the best paper presented at the conference
Prof Boris Urban Best Paper Award in Digital Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Mercedes Da Silva Award for Agile Enterprise & Digital Transformation
Bliss Brands Award for Innovation in African Enterprise

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Host

Wits Business School

City

Johannesburg, South Africa

Date

12 - 14 October 2026

SUBMISSIONS & ENQUIRIES:

www.arefconsult.com or african-review.com/conference