

SPECIAL ARTICLE CALL

Discussions with readers and subscribers in sub-Sahara Africa and with entrepreneurs and educators in the US convinced STEM News Chronicle to issue a special article Call. “STEM and Sub Sahara Africa Article Call”

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According to the African Development Bank, less than 25% of African higher education students pursue STEM-related career fields of whom less than 30% are women. Africa’s economic growth prospects are among the world’s brightest. Six of the world’s 12 fastest-growing countries are in Africa (Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Rwanda).

The geopolitical importance of the African continent and the abundance of its natural resources make the nations and people there important on the world stage. A major education constraint is low participation and a weak pipeline in STEM fields. Sub Saharan Africa has vast resources in coal, critical rare materials, nuclear energy, and people. Since re-purposing some resources will boost clean energy, why has educating African populations in sufficient numbers in science and engineering lagged similar education efforts in Europe, the US, and Asia?

To bring Sub-Saharan nations into a sustainable education and science ecosystem in the next decade, several interconnected challenges need to be addressed. The issues span across educational infrastructure, funding, quality of education, technological advancement, research capacity, policy frameworks, and societal attitudes. An estimated 2.5 million more engineers are needed in sub-Saharan Africa to tackle its development challenges, yet, as things stand, the region falls short of meeting this demand. What are the missing STEM links?

Please send us your article by **December 13, 2024**, and we will publish a special edition of our newsletter containing these articles early in 2025.

Articles of about 700 – 800 words in length should address the set of cultural, political, technical, and educational factors unique to advancing STEM in the continent. <https://www.snchronicle.com>

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