



Call for Papers: The 5th Afrikan Peer Growth Network International Conference 2025

Presented by: The Afrikan Peer Growth Network (APGroN) in partnership with Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter, Parow Branch (BLASC)

Theme: *Exploring technological advancements in Gender, Aviation, Marine and Energy Studies as Potential Key Economic Drivers for Africa's Advancement*

Dates: 26 – 28 November 2025, UNISA Parow Campus, Cape Town, South Africa

Overview

The 5th iteration of the APGroN International Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa. The Conference aims to bring together scholars, industry experts, government officials, and other stakeholders to explore how technological advancements (such as the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions (4IR/5IR)) aviation, marine, and energy sectors can drive economic growth and development in Africa. The Conference will feature keynote addresses, high-level panels, breakaway sessions, and a research and publication capacity-building colloquium. The Conference turns 5 this year - a huge milestone - 5 years of knowledge production and capacity building of junior and emerging scholars across the continent. To read more about APGroN please visit www.apgron.co.za

Research and Publication Capacity Building Colloquium

This will feature workshops and training sessions on capacity building in the fields of research design, methodology, and library tools. This has been the mainstay of the APGroN Conference, to create the next cohort of researchers, PhD holders and professors, by imparting the core skills needed by the academic community today. Participants range from undergraduate students to post-graduate students.

Objectives

- To identify and discuss the challenges and opportunities in the gender, aviation, marine, 4IR/5IR, and energy sectors in Africa.
- To foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government for sustainable economic growth.
- To build capacity and share knowledge through workshops and training sessions.
- To recognise and reward outstanding research contributions in these fields.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive understanding of the current issues and future prospects in aviation, marine, and energy sectors.
- Strengthened networks and partnerships among stakeholders.
- Enhanced capacity and skills among participants, especially students and emerging researchers.



Theme 1: Aligning Energy Policies for Sustainable and Transdisciplinary Development in Africa

Sub-themes:

- **Integrating Renewable Energy into Africa's Energy Systems: Infrastructure, Policy, and Environmental Implications:** A focus on how renewable energy sources can be harmonised with existing infrastructure while addressing ecological sustainability and policy coherence.
- **Addressing Energy Poverty through Policy and Practice: Pathways to Sustainable and Interdisciplinary Economic Growth in Africa:** Exploring how coordinated initiatives can eradicate energy poverty while simultaneously fostering inclusive and diversified economic development.
- **Harnessing African Technology and Innovation to Advance Energy Efficiency and Sustainability:** Examining the role of indigenous innovation, digitalisation, and technology-driven solutions in improving energy efficiency across disciplines and sectors.
- **Governance, Regulation, and Policy Coherence in Africa's Energy Transition:** Investigating the role of policy alignment, regional cooperation, and governance structures in enabling a just and transdisciplinary energy transition.

Theme 2: Africa's Aviation Industry as a Catalyst for Regional Economic Integration: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives

Sub-themes:

- **Key Challenges Facing the Development of Aviation Infrastructure in Africa from an Inter-Disciplinary Perspective:** Examining financing, regulatory, environmental, and technical barriers to developing airports, air navigation systems, and related infrastructure.
- **The Role of Government Policies in Growing the Aviation Sector in Africa:** Assessing how national and regional aviation policies shape competitiveness, connectivity, and the integration of air transport markets.
- **The Impact of Africa's Geographical Position on Achieving a Single African Sky Regulatory Framework:** Exploring the continent's spatial dynamics and geopolitical considerations in implementing the Yamoussoukro Decision and SAATM (Single African Air Transport Market).
- **Emerging Technological Trends in the Aviation Sector:** Evaluating innovations such as drones, digitalisation, AI, and sustainable fuels in transforming aviation operations and advancing regional integration.

Theme 3: Advancing Africa's Blue Economy: Infrastructure, Governance, Inclusion, and Sustainability in the Marine Sector

Sub-themes:



- **Sustainable Blue Economy: Access, Inclusion, and Africanisation:** Exploring equitable participation in Africa’s marine economy, ensuring benefits reach coastal communities, women, and youth.
- **Port Development in Africa - Infrastructure, Innovation, and Governance Challenges:** Addressing financing, regulatory, and technological hurdles in modernising ports for global competitiveness.
- **Maritime Transport and Trade Facilitation in Africa:** Examining the role of shipping and logistics in enhancing intra-African trade, especially under AfCFTA.
- **Marine Environmental Governance and Climate Resilience:** Assessing strategies for balancing economic growth with sustainable ocean management, deep sea mining, biodiversity protection, and climate adaptation.

Theme 4: Technology, Gender, and Power: Rethinking Inclusion in the Digital Age

Sub-themes:

- **Gendered Access and Digital Divides:** Examining how access to digital tools, internet, and emerging technologies remains uneven across gender lines, particularly in Africa.
- **Women in STEM, Innovation, and Leadership:** Highlighting barriers and opportunities for women in STEM careers, innovation hubs, and tech entrepreneurship.
- **Technology, Labour, and Care Economies:** How automation, AI, and platform economies impact women differently in formal and informal sectors.
- **Digital Rights, Safety, and Feminist Futures:** Exploring online gender-based violence, data privacy, surveillance, and representation of women in digital spaces.

Registration and Participation:	Key Dates:
<p><i>Conference registration fee is as follows:</i> Students: R500 Non-students: R1200</p> <p>Banking Details: Tyme Bank Acc Nr: 5300 2790 437 Ref: Your Name & Surname</p>	<p>Abstract submission: 1 November 2025 Notification of abstract acceptance: On a rolling basis Final paper submission deadline: 25 November 2025 Conference dates: 26 – 28 November 2025 Abstracts not exceeding 300 words should be sent to: apgron2025@apgron.co.za</p>

Submission Guidelines to Authors

Authors are invited to submit original research abstracts related to the Conference theme. Submissions should clearly outline the research objectives, methodology, and expected contributions to the field. The abstracts submission should only be in **MS Word (NO PDF submissions will be considered)**. Once the abstract is accepted, the manuscript should not exceed 8 000 words (including footnotes and bibliography), case notes should be between 3000 and 5000 words (including footnotes and bibliography), and should be presented in Arial font 12, with 1.5 spacing, text should be justified. Detailed submission guidelines will be available on the Conference website. OSCOLA referencing style should be used when writing the paper.