



### Inside:

**ZAMREN Leads the Way in  
Strengthening Regional Ties  
with Angola to Build a National  
Research and Education Network  
(ANGOREN)**

**A**t the heart of Zambia's digital transformation in research and education lies the Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN), the nation's dedicated National Research and Education Network (NREN). We are a non-profit, specialized Internet Service Provider connecting Zambia's research and education establishments typically universities, colleges, research institutes, schools, libraries, and education-support institutions known as Anchor Institutions e.g. Examinations Council of Zambia (ECZ), Higher Education Authority (HEA) and many others.

ZAMREN is more than connectivity, we are the digital bridge empowering knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation. From enabling researchers to tap into global data resources, to connecting students with e-learning platforms, to supporting professional communities for example Zambia Institute of Purchasing and Supply (ZIPS), Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education (ZIALE), Health Professionals Council of Zambia (HPCZ) etc. We drive access, equity, and excellence in education and research.

## Our Motto

### **"Enabling Knowledge"**

speaks to our unwavering commitment to global connectivity and access to education and research resources, all aimed at human capacity development and innovation.

## Guided by **Our Vision**

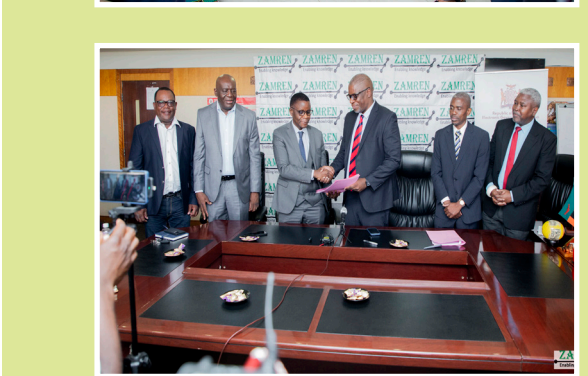
*"A leading and eminent provider of innovative ICT infrastructure and services to education and research institutions",* ZAMREN exists to open doors to boundless possibilities in the digital knowledge economy.

## Our simple yet powerful **Mission** is

*"To provide a secure, affordable, and quality national digital infrastructure and services for research and education for social and economic development."* Through ZAMREN, Zambia's education and research ecosystem is not just connected, it is enabled, empowered, and prepared for the future.



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Enabling knowledge

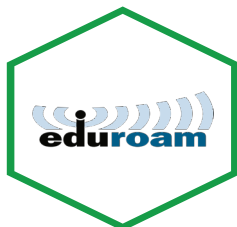
## SERVICES



**INTERNET SERVICE**



**HIGH PERFORMANCE  
COMPUTING**



**cosis**



**DOMAIN & DNS  
HOSTING**



**WEBSITE HOSTING**



**DIRECT ENGINEERING  
ASSISTANCE**

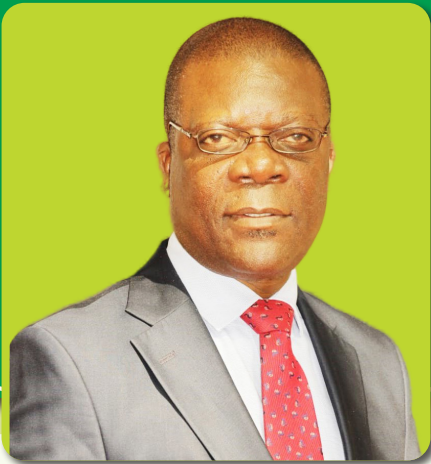


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# EXECUTIVE Foreword

**I**t is with great pride and a deep sense of purpose that I present the inaugural edition of the ZAMREN Newsletter, capturing our milestones, partnerships, and progress in the first half of 2025.

At ZAMREN, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower Zambia's research and education communities through world-class digital infrastructure and transformative collaboration. The past six months have been a testimony to this vision, one marked by growth, innovation, and regional engagement.

We began the year by deepening continental partnerships, hosting a high-level Angolan delegation in our shared journey toward digital inclusion through National Research and Education Networks. Our engagements with SMART Zambia, Information Communications Technology Association of Zambia (ICTAZ), the World Bank under the Digital Zambia Acceleration Project (DZAP), and the UbuntuNet Alliance demonstrate our growing leadership and commitment to digital transformation not just locally but regionally.

Our digital footprint continues to grow. Today, ZAMREN connects 167 institutions nationwide, including all Colleges of Education, Colleges of Nursing, Universities, Trades Training Institutes, Research Centres and selected secondary schools. Through innovations like COSIS, our College Students Information System, we are digitizing student services and bringing administrative efficiency to higher learning institutions.

One of our proudest achievements this year has been the continued rollout of eduroam, our secure, global Wi-Fi service that allows students and researchers to stay connected wherever they are. In Lusaka, we have deployed eduroam at Intercity Bus Terminus, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, and East Park Mall extending academic connectivity into public spaces where learning continues beyond the classroom.

On the Copperbelt, eduroam is now live at Kitwe City Square and Kitwe City Library, and we intend to deploy it at Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport in Ndola. In Southern Province, eduroam will

soon be available at Mosi Oa Tunya Square and Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport in Livingstone ensuring continuous connectivity in major hubs across the country.

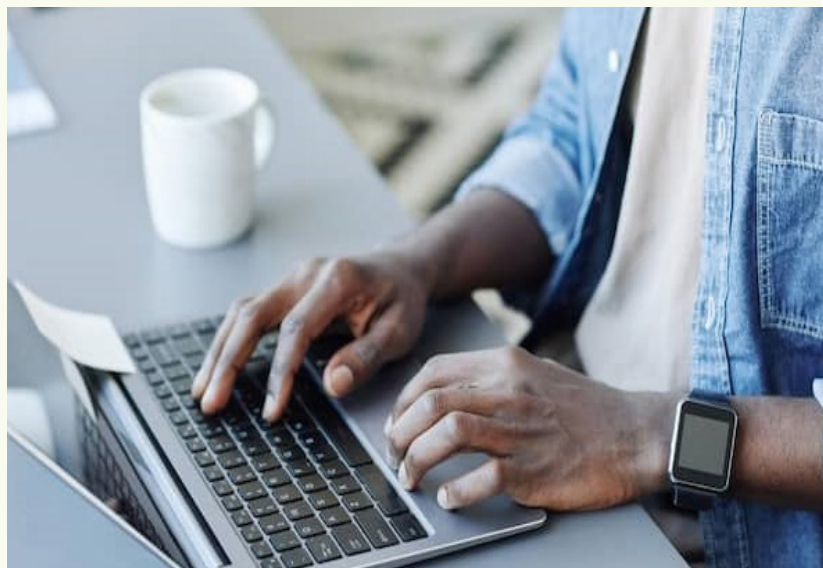
These strategic deployments are not just technological milestones, they are statements of intent. We are breaking barriers, creating digital bridges, and transforming public spaces into learning environments that support Zambia's knowledge economy.

As we prepare to host the 2025 ZAMREN Week and Annual General Meeting under the theme "Building a Culture of Research and Innovation for National Development," we look forward to deepening partnerships, driving dialogue, and shaping a future powered by research and digital innovation.

To our member institutions, partners, government stakeholders, and the dedicated ZAMREN team, thank you for making this journey possible. Together, we are not just building networks; we are enabling knowledge.

Warm regards,

**Mr. Stein Mkandawire**  
Chief Executive Officer



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

# EDITORIAL TEAM

**T**he ZAMREN Connect is a serial newsletter published semi-annually. The two annual issues aim to address current events, collaborations, partnerships, and networking opportunities that are seeking and acquiring ZAMREN services and products, thereby fostering its agenda.

The editorial team is delighted to present to you the first edition of the ZAMREN Connect (Volume 1, Issue 1 of 2025), featuring twelve high-profile articles, networking member experiences, event images, and executive voices surrounding ZAMREN and its friends. We are sure that you will enjoy reading these articles and learning more about our operations.

We wish to thank the contributors of ZAMREN digest, friends, and networking partners for increasing the visibility of our institution and fostering the ZAMREN agenda. Our sincere gratitude to the ZAMREN administration and partners for executing an array of events in the first two quarters of 2025.

The content of this issue starts with an article centered on ZAMREN hosting an international delegation from Angola as a way of expanding regional networking ties. The government of Angola intends to start its Research and Education network called ANGOREN, and this visit was a consultative and learning point from ZAMREN's experience.

The second article provide details on one of ZAMREN's agendas in expanding its influence and presence through collaborations. SMART Zambia Institute and ZAMREN formalize a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate digital transformation in Zambia.

The third article explains the emerging demand of collaborations, capacity building and networking. In this article, the Information and Communications Technology Association of Zambia visited ZAMREN to discuss potential partnerships and collaborations aimed at advancing ICT skills, capacity building, and mentorship for students and ICT professionals in Zambia.

In the fourth article, ZAMREN initiates programmes beyond connectivity and learning platforms aimed at fueling youth-led innovations through its Innovation Hub. This Hub provides young minds with an environment where they can develop and refine their ideas, collaborate with experts, and bring their innovations to life.

The fifth article explores ZAMREN's dedication to supporting women's empowerment in the digital era. This brief explains some initiatives ZAMREN have been running to support women including facilitating access to digital resources and high-speed internet connectivity. In the sixth article, ZAMREN participate at an international conference hosted by the Zambia Institute of Public Relations and Communication (ZIPRC) in Livingstone underscoring the transformative role of artificial intelligence in modern communication and public relations practice.

In the seventh article, the World Bank visited ZAMREN in Lusaka to discuss a project on Inclusive Digitalization in Eastern and Southern Africa (IDEA). The discussion partly addressed the need to foster digital development and inclusion across Africa.

The eighth article focuses on ZAMREN's ambition to collaborate with the government in various areas to deliver services and products. ZAMREN officials visited the Minister of Education, Hon. Douglas Syakalima, on 16th April 2025 with strategic talking points on ZAMREN's activities.

In the ninth article, the Zambia Research and Education Network hosted the UbuntuNet Alliance officials and discussed multiple development agendas and knowledge-sharing prospects.

The tenth article unveils ZAMREN's commitment to promoting and supporting the environment. In this brief, ZAMREN takes a stance in conducting applied research that can inform policy and development in Zambia. The eleventh article spotlight ZAMREN at the heart of the Terena Networking Conference (TNC- 25) in the United Kingdom. This conference is the world's largest and most prestigious research and education networking event and ZAMREN was a proud stakeholder. The last article features Charles Lwanga College of Education as one of ZAMREN's service and product beneficiaries. The college explains its experiences with the service provider.



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## ZAMREN Leads the Way in Strengthening Regional Ties: Partnering with Angola to Build a National Research and Education Network

**T**he Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) hosted a delegation from Angola from 27th to 28th January 2025, along with representatives from the UbuntuNet Alliance at the ZAMREN House in Lusaka. The visit aimed at facilitating benchmarking efforts by the Angolan delegation as they sought to establish their own National Research and Education Network (NREN) called ANGOREN.

The Angolan delegation and ZAMREN had high-level engagements with key government officials to explore opportunities for digital transformation in education and research. During a courtesy call on Hon. Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education, there were discussions centered on the role of innovation in advancing research and learning. The Minister emphasized the importance of African nations working together to drive digital transformation across the continent.

In a separate engagement, the delegation met with Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science, who highlighted the transformative power of technology. He contended that “Technology is the bridge that connects knowledge to opportunity,” underscoring the potential of digital advancements in revolutionizing education and research.

The Angolan delegation was led by Ms. Elizabeth Sapalalo from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, who expressed gratitude to ZAMREN for the valuable insights and best practices shared during the visit. “The insights gained from ZAMREN’s experience will serve as a guiding light as we embark on the journey to establish our own NREN,” Ms. Sapalalo said.

During the meeting with the delegation, ZAMREN Board Chairperson, Prof. Mundia Muya, emphasized ZAMREN’s pivotal role in advancing education and research through technological innovation and collaboration. “ZAMREN is proud to be a leading example of how an NREN can transform research and education. Currently, ZAMREN network connects 166 institutions including universities, research centers, and schools, providing them with reliable, high-speed internet to foster innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence. We are honored to share our journey and experience with our Angolan colleagues as they take steps to develop their own NREN,” he said.

ZAMREN Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Stein Mkandawire, provided an overview of ZAMREN’s establishment, operations and impact. He detailed the strategic partnerships and technological infrastructure that have enabled ZAMREN to deliver exceptional services to its member institutions. Mr. Mkandawire also underscored the network’s role in facilitating collaborative research and e-learning opportunities across Zambia and beyond.

Meanwhile, UbuntuNet Alliance through the Board Chairperson, Prof. Hellicy N’gambi and Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Madara Ogot, commended ZAMREN for its leadership and encouraged Angola to leverage the collective expertise within the UbuntuNet Alliance to build a robust NREN tailored to their national needs.

By hosting the Angolan and UbuntuNet Alliance delegations, ZAMREN reaffirmed its commitment to fostering regional partnerships and advancing the role of technology in education and research.

# ZAMREN and SMART Zambia signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Drive Digital Transformation



The Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) and SMART Zambia Institute met on 6th February 2025 to formalize a strategic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate digital transformation in Zambia. This agreement lays the groundwork for collaboration in research, digital infrastructure development, capacity building, innovation, and digital literacy to strengthen the country's technological landscape.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Lusaka, ZAMREN Board Chairperson, Professor Mundia Muya, emphasized the critical role of technology in Zambia's socio-economic development. "Digital transformation is no longer an option; it is a necessity," he stated. He further stressed the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach involving government, academia, and industry to address the nation's digital challenges effectively.

In the same meeting, SMART Zambia Institute, National Coordinator, Mr. Percy Chinyama, assured that the MoU will have tangible outcomes. "Equality in the digital space can only be achieved if we work together and bridge the digital divide," he said.

This landmark partnership signals a significant step toward a digitally inclusive Zambia, fostering innovation, supporting e-learning, and fortifying the country's digital backbone.



# ZAMREN Honours Young Professionals and Empowers Youth through Technology

Over the years, ZAMREN has been known for its role in advancing education and research through digital connectivity and capacity building. This time, it has invested in supporting young people by providing access to technology, learning platforms, and innovation spaces. The Chief Executive Officer of ZAMREN reaffirmed the institution's dedication to nurturing young talent.

*“At ZAMREN, we believe that empowering young people with the right tools and opportunities is key to national development. Our services, such as eduroam, Moodle and our internship programmes, provide students and young professionals with the digital resources they need to gain knowledge and practical experience,” said Mr. Mkandawire.*

Through eduroam, students and researchers across Zambia enjoy seamless and secure internet access at universities and research institutions, enabling them to connect to academic resources and collaborate globally. Moodle, an online learning platform, has also transformed education

by allowing students to access course materials, submit assignments, and engage in virtual learning experiences from anywhere.

Speaking at the Youth Day Cerebrations in Lusaka on March 12, 2025 under the theme “Voices Amplified, Innovations Ignited,” the Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) took the opportunity to celebrate its young professionals and highlight their contribution to youth empowerment across the country.

ZAMREN is also making a direct impact by offering internship programmes that equip students and graduates with hands-on experience in ICT and other fields. These internships not only provide valuable skills but also open doors to career opportunities.

Beyond connectivity and learning, ZAMREN has taken a bold step in fueling youth-led innovations through its Innovation Hub. This space provides young minds with an environment where they can develop and refine their ideas, collaborate with experts, and bring their innovations to life. By supporting creativity and technological advancements, ZAMREN is helping to shape Zambia's next generation of innovators and problem-solvers.



# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (ICTAZ) VISITS ZAMREN HOUSE TO EXPLORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN TECHNOLOGY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Information and Communications Technology Association of Zambia (ICTAZ) visited the ZAMREN house in Lusaka on 14th February 2025 to discuss potential partnerships and collaborations aimed at advancing ICT skills, capacity building, and mentorship for students and ICT professionals in Zambia.

The delegation, led by ICTAZ President Dr. Clement Sinyangwe, was joined by key members of the association and some students from Chalimbana University (CHAU). The visit provided an opportunity to explore collaborative initiatives, including support for ZAMREN's upcoming Hackathon, which aims to promote innovation and creativity within Zambia's ICT community.

Dr. Sinyangwe highlighted the value of working together with ZAMREN, noting the importance of such partnerships in enhancing Zambia's digital

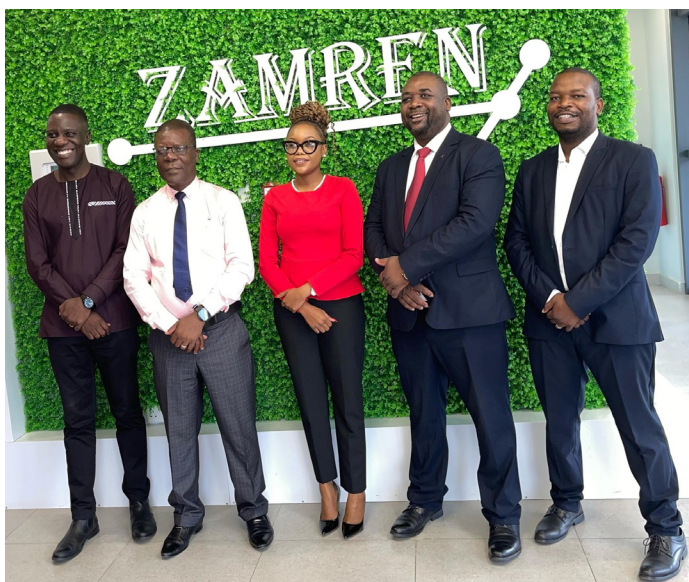
landscape. "ZAMREN, as a key player on Zambia's ICT landscape, is doing well with the roll-out of high-speed internet services such as Eduroam for their member institutions," he said. "ICTAZ, being a professional body, recognizes the opportunity to work together in championing a secure and innovative digital space."

ZAMREN CEO, Mr. Stein Mkandawire, welcomed the idea of collaboration and emphasized how it could contribute to the growth of Zambia's ICT sector. "ZAMREN will work closely with ICTAZ to create opportunities that will transform the ICT sector in Zambia," Mr. Mkandawire stated. "Through training, mentorship, and technical support, we can empower students and professionals to thrive in the evolving ICT sector."

The ICTAZ team also took time to tour ZAMREN House and familiarize themselves with the organization's infrastructure. They were impressed by the state-of-the-art facilities that support knowledge-sharing within Zambia's research and education communities.

This visit marks the beginning of a promising collaboration between ZAMREN and ICTAZ. Both organizations are committed to driving Zambia's ICT sector forward, with a focus on fostering innovation, mentorship, and capacity building across the country.

With initiatives such as the upcoming Hackathon, ZAMREN and ICTAZ are set to create valuable opportunities for Zambia's next generation of digital leaders.



# Championing Women's Empowerment in the Digital Era

The Zambia Research and Education Network is dedicated to supporting women's empowerment through various initiatives such as facilitating access to digital resources, online learning platforms, and high-speed internet connectivity for academic and research institutions.

Zambia Research and Education Network supports capacity building programmes tailored for female students and professionals in the ICT and research sectors, ensuring they have the necessary skills and opportunities to excel in their careers. By fostering digital inclusion, ZAMREN continues to contribute to narrowing the gender gap in technology and education, aligning with the broader national and global agenda for gender equality.

This year, ZAMREN joined the nation and global community in commemorating the 2025 International Women's Day under the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." The celebrations, held at the Lusaka Showgrounds on 8th March 2025, were graced by Republican Vice President, Mrs. Mutale Nalumango, who reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women across various sectors.

In her address, Vice President Nalumango emphasized that the new dawn administration attaches great importance to the welfare of women, as reflected in the 8th National Development Plan (8NDP). She highlighted key initiatives such as the revised National Gender Policy, which aims to enhance women's participation in decision-making, economic opportunities and access to education and technology. She further urged women to remain united and continue advocating for equal representation in all spheres of society.

Internally, ZAMREN has created a work environment that promotes gender equality and career growth for its female employees. The organization ensures that women in its workforce have equal opportunities for professional development, leadership roles and continuous learning. Through mentorship programs, capacity-building workshops and workplace policies that support work-life balance, ZAMREN is actively fostering a culture where women can thrive.





**ZAMREN** is an Internet and Information Technology Service Provider dedicated to supporting the needs of the research and education communities in Zambia. It was founded in 2007 and is now registered with PACRA as a Limited company by guarantee.

Register today - <https://zamren.zm/zamren-week-agm-2025/>

**Theme:** Building a Culture of Research and Innovation for National Development.

"A leading and eminent provider of Digital ICT infrastructure services to education and Research Institutions to enhance innovation."

### Vision

### Mission

"To provide a secure, affordable, and quality national digital ICT infrastructure services for Research and Education for social and economic development."



#### WEBSITE HOSTING

ZAMREN provides website hosting services on shared platform. Web hosting enables member institutions market their institutions online by, providing details such as courses offered, contact details and many others.



#### EMAIL HOSTING

Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) provides email hosting services on a shared platform. Institutions can have corporate email accounts for both staff and students at a very competitive rate.



#### HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)

With this service, ZAMREN provides an opportunity for researchers and students to undertake science driven research and respective research categories and indeed create innovative solutions.



#### CLOUD SERVICE



#### INTERNET SERVICE

The Objectives of **ZAMREN** are to:

- Secure cost effective broadband connectivity to all member institutions (institutional connectivity), dedicated global research and education resources (Regional networks), and the internet;
- Share their education resources via this dedicated infrastructure of ZAMREN;
- Provide Advanced ICT services to its member institutions; and
- Provide technical support to member institutions.



The ZAMREN House

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# ZAMREN Hosts World Bank Delegation under IDEA Project

The Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) hosted a delegation from the World Bank at the ZAMREN House in Lusaka. The visiting team is part of the Inclusive Digitalization in Eastern and Southern Africa (IDEA) project, an ambitious regional initiative aimed at accelerating digital development and inclusion across the African continent.

The visit is part of the Digital Zambia Acceleration Project (DZAP), which is the second phase of the broader IDEA programme. The World Bank team's visit at ZAMREN House was intended to give them a firsthand appreciation of (ZAMREN's work) to support Zambia's digital transformation journey, particularly within the research and education sector.

Leading the delegation was ZAMREN CEO, Mr. Stein Mkandawire, who facilitated an engaging discussion for the team. The ZAMREN Chief Executive Officer also guided the visitors on a comprehensive tour of ZAMREN's facilities to showcase its diverse range of services. The delegation shown ZAMREN services ranging from affordable broadband connectivity and secure data hosting to identity federation and advanced digital platforms tailored for research and academic institutions.

Mr. Mkandawire explained that ZAMREN's strategic mandate goes beyond just internet provision; it is about enabling innovation, collaboration, and digital empowerment among Zambia's research and education communities. "ZAMREN is not just a network; it is an enabler of research, learning, and progress. Our mission aligns squarely with the pillars of the IDEA project especially in fostering digital infrastructure, digital public platforms, and digital skills," he said.



The World Bank team expressed appreciation for the robust role ZAMREN is playing in bridging the digital divide and advancing the country's knowledge economy. They commended ZAMREN's contribution toward enhancing digital resilience and building a digital foundation that supports inclusive growth. Through interactive sessions and demonstrations, the delegation gained deeper insights into how ZAMREN supports universities, research institutions, colleges, and schools, bringing them onto a shared, high-performance digital backbone that enables access to global resources and collaboration with peers across borders.

As Zambia accelerates its digital transformation under the DZAP, ZAMREN stands out as a critical stakeholder and trusted partner in realizing national and regional digital goals.

The visit reaffirms the importance of partnerships and institutional capacity-building in unlocking Africa's digital future, especially in ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.





## ZAMREN calls on Minister of Education to update him on its Innovation and Digital Expansion in the Education Sector

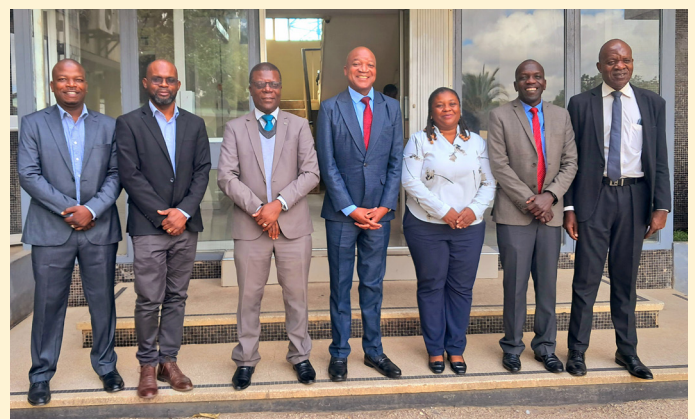
**T**he Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Education, Douglas Syakalima on April, 16th 2025 to update him on the institution's milestones and strategic direction as it continues to drive digital transformation in Zambia's education and research landscape.

ZAMREN CEO Mr. Stein Mkandawire led the delegation and shared the organization's key achievements from the past year. He explained that ZAMREN has incorporated the connection of all Colleges of Education across the country to its high-speed broadband network. Two secondary schools, Faith Baptist Secondary School in Silverest area of Chongwe District and Serenje Boys STEM Secondary School in Serenje have also been brought onboard the ZAMREN network, bringing the total number of connected institutions to over 167.

"ZAMREN's mission is to empower the academic and research community through world-class digital infrastructure and services," said Mr. Mkandawire. "We are proud to support government efforts by ensuring that no institution is left behind, from the far north in Mbala to urban centers like Lusaka and beyond we continue to connect institutions."

He also revealed that ZAMREN is preparing to roll out the College Student Information System (COSIS), a comprehensive platform that will digitize student services by integrating online application processes and payment gateway. This system will enable students to use their visa cards, make bank transfers and conduct mobile money transactions.

Mr. Mkandawire further explained that



ZAMREN has extended eduroam which is a secure, global Wi-Fi service to public spaces such as Intercity Bus Terminus, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) and East Park Mall in Lusaka. Through this initiative students and researchers would be able to stay connected wherever they are. ZAMREN is yet to roll out this service to 9 shopping malls situated in the remaining 9 provincial headquarters across Zambia.

In view of ZAMREN's exploits, Minister of Education, Douglas Syakalima commended ZAMREN for its continued innovation and responsiveness to the needs of the education sector. "ZAMREN is doing commendable work in pushing the boundaries of digital transformation in education. You are not only connecting institutions you are connecting minds, ideas and futures," he said.

The Minister urged universities and colleges to fully utilize these innovations by embracing applied research and innovation that



would tackle Zambia's developmental challenges. "Our institutions must move beyond theory. I challenge universities and colleges to focus on applied research, research that leads to solutions. We must develop home-grown innovations that address real issues in agriculture, energy, education and beyond. Let us make value addition, a local solution, not just a slogan," Mr. Syakalima emphasized.

Looking ahead, ZAMREN will host the 2025 ZAMREN Week and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2025 under the theme "Building a Culture of Research and Innovation for National Development." The event is expected to draw national and international stakeholders in education, research and ICT.



# ZAMREN Hosts UbuntuNet Alliance NREN CEO's Meeting - A Milestone for Regional Collaboration



The Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) hosted the UbuntuNet Alliance NREN Chief Executive Officers' Meeting on May, 8th 2025, at ZAMREN House in Lusaka. The meeting brought together top leaders of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) from across Eastern and Southern Africa. It served as a platform for strategic engagement, knowledge-sharing, and celebration of key achievements in advancing research and education networking on the continent.

In his official opening remarks, ZAMREN Board Chairperson, Professor Mundia Muya, described the gathering as "a powerful reminder of what we as NRENs are capable of achieving when we collaborate, innovate, and lead with purpose."

Prof. Muya shared the major important milestones that ZAMREN had reached over the past year, highlighting the organisation's continued commitment to expanding digital access and educational innovation across Zambia. Among the achievements shared were:

- 100% broadband connectivity to all Colleges of Education in Zambia
- Extension of ZAMREN's services to secondary schools such as Faith Baptist Secondary School in Chongwe and Serenje Boys STEM Secondary School in Serenje.
- The rollout of COSIS, a new College Student Information System to improve digital student services.
- Deployment of eduroam at key public spaces including Intercity Bus Terminus, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, and East Park Mall in Lusaka, with plans to extend to all nine remaining provincial centres.

"These are not just technological expansions," Prof. Muya emphasized. "They are strategic interventions that position ZAMREN as a national driver of digital inclusion, educational innovation, and institutional resilience."

He also underscored ZAMREN's alignment with national priorities, citing a recent meeting with the Minister of Education, who praised the organisation's work and called on universities and colleges to use the infrastructure for applied research and innovation.

"It is not enough to provide connectivity; we must cultivate a culture of solution-driven research," Prof. Muya stressed.

On the other hand, in his remarks, Professor Madara Ogot, Chief Executive Officer of the UbuntuNet Alliance, commended ZAMREN for its leadership and hospitality, describing the organisation as a model for other NRENs in the region. "We are happy to be hosted by ZAMREN, and even more inspired by the fact that it is the only NREN in the world with its own purpose-built headquarters," Prof. Ogot said.

"This is a significant achievement that demonstrates ZAMREN's long-term commitment to institutional growth and sustainability."

He further acknowledged ZAMREN's progress in expanding broadband connectivity, digital services, and regional collaboration, noting that such milestones are essential in helping Africa's research and education institutions thrive in a global digital economy.

# Prof. MUNDIA MUYA Elected to UbuntuNet Alliance Board of Trustees



role in advancing digital transformation for education and research on the continent.

In his new role, Prof. Muya will support the Alliance in delivering affordable broadband, developing capacity, and enhancing collaboration among research and education institutions across member countries.

This appointment marks a major milestone for Zambia's growing footprint in regional education and research innovation. ZAMREN celebrates this achievement and looks forward to the transformative impact Prof. Muya will have on his new role.

**T**he Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN) is proud to share the exciting news as its Board Chairperson, Professor Mundia Muya was elected to the Board of Trustees of the UbuntuNet Alliance.

This was during the Alliance's Annual General Meeting on May, 12th 2025, hosted at ZAMREN House in Lusaka, drawing delegates from 16 member countries across Eastern and Southern Africa.

His election is not only a personal achievement but a proud moment for Zambia, representing a significant step forward in the country's leadership





## ZAMREN Reaffirms Support for Environmental Research on World Environment Day

**A**s the world came together to commemorate World Environment Day on June 5th 2025, ZAMREN joined the global call for urgent action to protect our planet. With the 2025 theme focused on “Ending Plastic Pollution – A Call to Action,” this day served as a powerful reminder of the need for collaborative efforts in addressing environmental challenges.

At ZAMREN, our mission extends beyond connectivity. We recognize that the research and education institutions that we serve are at the heart of developing the knowledge and innovations needed to confront climate change, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable development.

In a statement to mark this important day, ZAMREN Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Stein Mkandawire, emphasized the organization’s commitment to supporting environmental research:

“At ZAMREN, we are proud to power the research and innovation that drives environmental solutions. This World Environment Day, we reaffirm our commitment to enabling institutions across Zambia with the digital tools they need to tackle climate change, pollution, and other pressing environmental challenges.”

ZAMREN’s digital infrastructure plays a pivotal role in facilitating access to global research networks, cloud computing resources, and collaborative platforms that

are essential for researchers addressing issues like deforestation, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss.

Therefore, through collective action and digital empowerment, we believe that the research and education community in Zambia can drive meaningful change for the environment.

ZAMREN demonstrates its own environmental consciousness, as the organization continues to preserve and maintain the lush green surroundings of ZAMREN House. This is a practical example of a reflection of our respect for nature and our responsibility to promote sustainable workplace environments.





## ZAMREN Strengthens Zambia's Global Presence at TNC-25 Brighton, United Kingdom

ZAMREN has once again placed Zambia on the global stage by successfully participating in the TERENA Networking Conference (TNC - 25 ) the world's largest and most prestigious research and education networking event. The conference was held from 9th to 13th June 2025 in Brighton, United Kingdom under the theme: "Brighter Together".

TNC- 25 is organized annually by the G $\square$ ANT community and is the world's leading conference for research and education networking. It brings together decision-makers, technical experts, network managers, academic researchers, and thought leaders from across the globe to explore the latest trends, technologies, and challenges shaping the digital future of research and education.

The ZAMREN delegation was led by Chief Executive Officer Mr. Stein Mkandawire as they joined an international community of more than 800 delegates from 72 countries. The delegation took part in high-level discussions aimed at shaping the future of digital infrastructure for research and education.

Participation at TNC25 reflected more than visibility, it demonstrated Zambia's active role in the global conversation around digital innovation, connectivity, and sustainability in education. The conference provided a unique platform for ZAMREN to share Zambia's experiences and progress in developing a digital ecosystem that enables students to thrive, empowers researchers to innovate, and fosters collaboration among academic and research institutions locally, regionally, and internationally.



Throughout the week, ZAMREN delegates engaged with global experts on a range of topics, including next-generation network technologies, digital transformation, cybersecurity, open science, and international collaboration among other key subjects. The conference also served as an opportunity to establish new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships within the international National Research and Education Network (NREN)community.

ZAMREN's participation also demonstrated the important role that African NRENs can play in shaping the future of global digital research networks, contributing unique perspectives and driving inclusive growth within the digital knowledge economy.

# ZAMREN and Charles Lwanga College Partnership: Elevating Education Through Enhanced Connectivity

Charles Lwanga College of Education is gratified with the positive impact of the strategic partnership with Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN). The collaboration has been instrumental in fundamentally enhancing the digital infrastructure of Charles Lwanga College of Education by directly benefiting students and modernizing its educational delivery processes.

Before ZAMREN's intervention, reliable internet access was a serious challenge for the students, limiting their ability to fully engage with contemporary learning tools. But with the coming of ZAMREN's high-speed and dedicated internet provision, the entire student body enjoys seamless connectivity. For instance, students can effortlessly access the Moodle-based e-learning platform, participating in online discussions and submitting assignments without frustrating delays.

This enhanced access also extends to crucial academic databases, allowing education students to readily consult the latest research on pedagogical practices from international journals; a resource that was previously difficult to consistently utilize.

Moreover, ZAMREN's hosting of the College server system has been a game-changer. This means that the student information system, which manages everything from admissions to results, operates with unprecedented stability and speed. This is unlike in the past when occasional server downturns could disrupt administrative processes. Currently, students can confidently register for courses or check their grades at any time, due to the availability of a robust and secure system.

The impact of this partnership is dynamic and transformative, displaying two major changes at the college. Firstly, it has significantly bridged the digital divide for the students, providing them with equitable access to global knowledge and resources. This has directly improved academic outcomes by enabling deeper research and fostering a more interactive learning experience.

Secondly, the reliability of ZAMREN's server hosting has streamlined the administrative operations at Charles Lwanga College of Education by reducing processing times and enhancing overall institutional efficiency. As such, this partnership is not just about internet access; it's about empowering the future educators with the

digital literacy and research skills essential for navigating and thriving in the 21st Century professional landscape.

Therefore, the collaboration between ZAMREN and Charles Lwanga College of Education has undeniably elevated the educational experience at the institution. By providing robust internet infrastructure and secure server hosting, ZAMREN has not only improved daily operations but has also opened new avenues for teaching, learning, and research, ensuring that the college remains at the forefront of educational innovation in Zambia.



# ZAMREN takes eduroam to Public Places

Imagine walking into a mall, a library, or a busy public square and instantly connecting to secure, high-speed Wi-Fi without logging in repeatedly. Thanks to ZAMREN, this is now a reality for Zambia's research and education community!

Eduroam short for education roaming is a global Wi-Fi service that gives students, researchers, and staff from participating institutions instant internet access using their existing campus credentials. And now, ZAMREN is taking it beyond lecture halls and libraries, right into public spaces.

From Kitwe City Square and Kitwe City Library on the Copperbelt to East Park Mall, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport and Intercity Bus Terminus in Lusaka, and soon at Mosi-oa-Tunya Square and Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula

International Airport in Livingstone, eduroam is making connectivity borderless. Whether you're preparing a presentation, accessing online research, or catching up on assignments, eduroam ensures your work goes wherever you go.

"Our mission is to make research and education resources available anywhere, anytime. Bringing eduroam into public spaces ensures that the learning experience isn't limited to campus walls," says Mr. Stein Mkandawire, CEO of ZAMREN.

By extending eduroam to strategic public locations, ZAMREN is not just connecting people, it is connecting ideas, opportunities, and possibilities.

So, the next time you are in town, look out for the eduroam network and enjoy seamless, secure internet on the go.



# PHOTO FOCUS



ZAMREN Hosted A Dinner Reception in Honour of the UbuntuNet Alliance AGM Delegates  
Beyond the boardroom, the evening at Mkango Golf View Hotel was marked by candid exchanges, laughter, and cultural appreciation, strengthening the spirit of unity that drives the UbuntuNet Alliance



### UbuntuNet Alliance AGM held at the ZAMREN House

In a landmark gathering, the UbuntuNet Alliance Annual General Meeting convened at the ZAMREN House, fostering critical conversations on collaboration and technological growth across the region.



**Our Office Address**

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