Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of ICT
and Innovation**

#TechHubChronicles

MINICT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION:
APRIL - AUGUST 2025

Welcome Note

Over the last few months, Rwanda's digital transformation has reached new heights.

Kigali hosted the first-ever Global AI Summit Africa, where country leaders committed USD 60 billion to building a sovereign and inclusive AI ecosystem for the continent. This milestone reflects our shared ambition to ensure Africa is not left behind in the digital era.

At home, our initiatives continue to empower citizens with technology and digital skills. The Digital Ambassadors Program has grown significantly and received international recognition for raising nationwide digital literacy. During school holidays, Smart Ibiruhuko offered young Rwandans hands-on experience in coding, cybersecurity, and digital entrepreneurship, opening doors for future education, innovation, and employment. Meanwhile, the rollout of the Digital ID is connecting citizens to essential services through a secure and easy-to-use credential.

Our National Data Sharing Policy is transforming how government institutions exchange information, making public services more efficient, responsive, and citizen-centered. Programs like Tech Decoded bring these stories to the public, sharing conversations on policy, innovation, and impact, while campaigns such as KUSANYA promote safe and responsible technology use.

These achievements are the result of dedication, teamwork, and a shared vision. Let us keep the momentum going to ensure every Rwandan can fully participate in a future defined by innovation and inclusivity.

Yves Iradukunda
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of ICT and Innovation

Deciding Rwanda's Digital Transformation

Image: H.E. President Paul Kagame addressing participants at the Global AI Summit on Africa on the 3rd of April, 2025.

At the first Global AI Summit Africa in Kigali on April 3–4, 2025, over 50 signatories including 49 African countries, the African Union, and Smart Africa adopted the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence, backed by a $60 billion pledge. The commitment aims to build sovereign computing infrastructure, expand digital networks, promote open data, and nurture African AI talent. Guided by the new African AI Council, the declaration marks a defining step toward a sovereign and inclusive AI future.

A major highlight was the launch of the Rwanda AI Scaling Hub, established through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Rwanda and the Gates Foundation. Hosted by the Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the hub will accelerate the development and ethical deployment of AI in sectors like health, agriculture, and education. The Gates Foundation committed $7.5 million, with plans to extend similar hubs to other African nations.

> **Africa cannot afford to be left behind, once again playing catch-up. We have to adapt, cooperate and compete, because it is in our best interest to do so.**
>
> H.E. President Paul Kagame

Tech Decoded: Rwanda's Digital Journey Hits the Airwaves

Season 1 of Tech Decoded, launched on 6 May 2025, brought Rwanda's digital transformation story to a wide audience through eight engaging episodes. The podcast translated national strategies into real-world impact, showcasing how technology is reshaping daily life.

Season 1 covered Rwanda's inclusive digital vision, insights from the Global AI Summit, and the country's ambitious smart city plans. Listeners also explored how drones are saving lives, technology's role in powering the creative economy, the growing demand for digital skills, and the promise of the new digital ID system. By blending policy discussions with community stories, Tech Decoded highlighted the country's journey toward a tech-driven future while making complex issues accessible to the public. All episodes remain available on major streaming platforms, with Season 2 set to continue this exploration of Rwanda's digital transformation.

Launch of the National Data Sharing Policy to Transform Public Services

Rwanda launched its National Data Sharing Policy in May 2025, marking a major step in smarter, more connected governance. The policy sets clear rules for how government institutions securely exchange data, breaking down silos so information can serve the national interest. Citizens benefit through simpler access to services, less paperwork and faster delivery, as agencies can verify and reuse data more efficiently. For policymakers, it enables evidence-based decisions that draw on multiple sources to improve everything from transport planning to agricultural productivity. Led by the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the policy is supported by a new Data Governance Unit, a modern Data Sharing Platform and a RWF 10 billion investment in common standards and safeguards. Institutions are encouraged to actively participate, share data responsibly and harness this platform to deliver better, more responsive services to the people of Rwanda.

RICTA Champions Youth and Digital Sovereignty

Image: .RW registrars proudly showcase their certificates after completing a 2-day digital marketing training in Kigali.

The Rwanda Internet Community and Technology Alliance (RICTA) advanced its mission by engaging youth and strengthening Rwanda's digital foundations. More than 400 young people participated in internet governance forums and schools to explore AI ethics, online safety and digital inclusion.

In May, RICTA partnered with AFNIC to train local .RW registrars, improving service delivery and accelerating adoption of Rwanda's national domain. A complementary awareness campaign reinforced the value of .RW as part of the country's digital identity.

RICTA also launched a collaboration with the Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR) to promote secure digital platforms that advance financial inclusion and safeguard data. By empowering youth, building capacity and strengthening partnerships, RICTA continues to drive a more inclusive and sovereign digital economy.

KUSANYA:
Rwanda Takes Aim at E-Waste

Image: Stakeholders gather at the launch of the KUSANYA E-Waste awareness campaign in Kigali.

Rwanda launched the KUSANYA E-Waste campaign on May 28 to tackle the country's growing electronic waste problem. The initiative invites citizens, businesses, and communities to participate in safe recycling and circular economy practices.

With over 20 collection points and awareness activities in key districts, the campaign shows people how to sort and return old devices, making it easy for everyone to get involved.

Rwanda generates up to 15,000 tonnes of e-waste annually, highlighting the importance of public participation for environmental protection and sustainable development. KUSANYA builds on previous successes, having already recovered thousands of tonnes of e-waste, reduced carbon emissions, and created green jobs. By raising awareness, empowering youth, and encouraging innovation in recycling technologies, the campaign urges everyone to take action and contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable digital future.

Rwanda at the Heart of Global Digital Policy

Image: DG Esther Kunda addressing delegates during the ITU Council 2025

From 17 to 27 June 2025, Geneva hosted the International Telecommunication Union Council, bringing together delegates from 48 Member States to shape the global digital agenda. Rwanda participated actively, highlighting its commitment to inclusive, secure, and innovation-driven digital development.

The Council emphasized that while two-thirds of the world is now online, 2.6 billion people remain unconnected. Discussions covered artificial intelligence, space sustainability, global cooperation, and preparations for upcoming major ICT conferences. Decisions included approving the 2026–2027 budget, a four-year operational plan, and strengthening initiatives on AI for Good, youth engagement, and gender equality. Rwanda's engagement demonstrates its growing role in global digital governance and its dedication to connecting communities, fostering innovation, and contributing to a more inclusive digital future.

Digital Ambassadors Win Global Recognition

Image: Rwanda's Ambassador to Switzerland Urujeni Bakuramutsa receives the award for the Digital Ambassadors Program at the WSIS Prizes Champions Ceremony by ITU, in Geneva.

Rwanda's Digital Ambassadors Program achieved a major milestone on 7 July 2025 when it was named a Champion at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event in Geneva, Switzerland. The recognition highlighted the country's commitment to digital inclusion and the strength of youth-led initiatives in driving transformation.

Launched in September 2017, the program began with 50 young ambassadors and has since expanded to more than 2,000 supported by 60 supervisors nationwide. Over the years, they have trained more than 3.2 million citizens in essential digital skills, helping raise Rwanda's digital literacy rate from 10 percent in 2017 to more than 75 percent in 2024.

The program has enabled citizens to access e-services, adopt mobile and online tools, and apply technology in agriculture, commerce, finance, and public services. By working at the community level, Digital Ambassadors have not only improved individual livelihoods but also accelerated the country's broader digital transformation agenda.

Recognition at WSIS+20 signaled the program's success as a model of inclusive, peer-driven digital literacy and underscored Rwanda's growing role in shaping global conversations on technology and development.

Rwanda at Summer Davos: Harnessing AI for Growth

Image: Minister Paula Ingabire highlighted the need for supportive policies and infrastructure to drive entrepreneurship at Summer Davos 2025.

Rwanda is advancing its vision of technology-led growth on the global stage. From 25–27 June 2025, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Hon. Paula Ingabire, joined leaders, innovators, and policymakers at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions (Summer Davos) in Tianjin, China.

Speaking on a panel under the meeting's theme of Entrepreneurship for a New Era, she underscored that innovation requires not only ideas but also smart, enabling policies. She pointed to Rwanda's commitment to adopting frontier technologies, noting: "We can't afford not to adopt these technologies – we've seen the catalytic effect it has on economic development."

Her participation reflected Rwanda's determination to strengthen entrepreneurship, embrace artificial intelligence, and build inclusive digital transformation in collaboration with global partners. By engaging in these high-level discussions, Rwanda continues to position itself at the forefront of Africa's digital future.

Smart Ibiruhuko: Empowering Rwanda's Youth Through Digital Skills

Image: Adeline Ntibagwe receives her Smart Ibiruhuko 2025 top-performer award from Caroline Khamati Mugalla, ILO Director for Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.
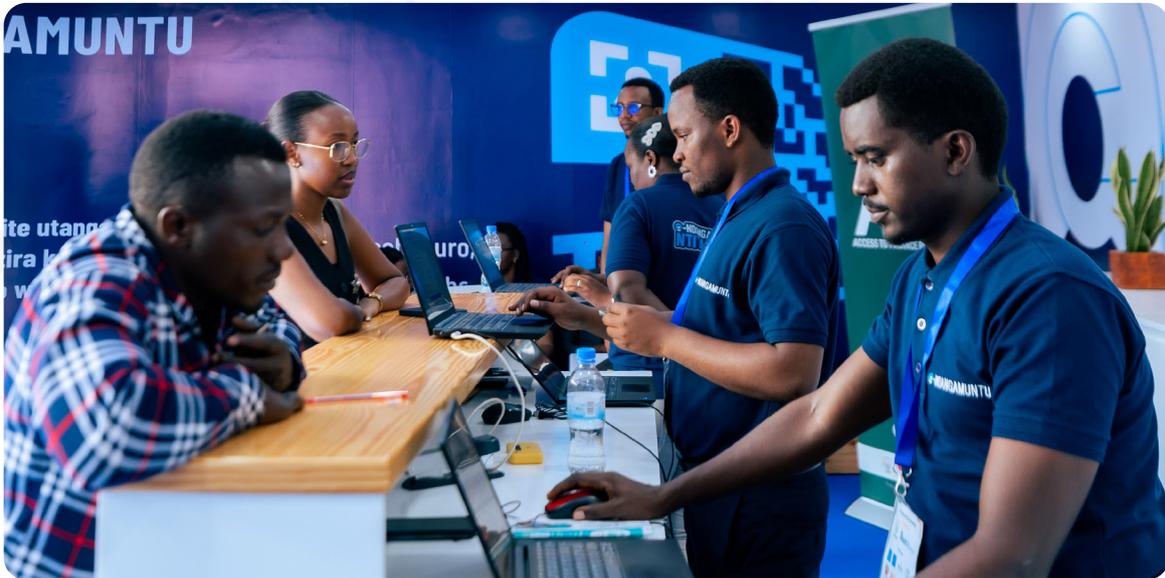
Smart Ibiruhuko 2025 was a transformative initiative under the One Million Rwandan Coders (1MRC) program, designed to democratize digital skills training across Rwanda during school holidays.

The program broadened access to learning through smart classrooms, technology-enabled spaces, and online platforms. Students participated in interactive courses covering coding, cybersecurity, and digital entrepreneurship, applying knowledge through practical projects.

Her in a Million, with support from the International Labour Organization supported the initiative, helping to ensure that girls and marginalized youth were equally equipped with skills for Rwanda's digital economy.
Students such as Adeline Ntibagwe from Rwamagana excelled in the program, demonstrating how holiday learning can uncover talent and nurture ambition.

Smart Ibiruhuko 2025 showcased Rwanda's commitment to preparing young people for a technology-driven future, empowering them with skills that create opportunities for education, entrepreneurship, and employment.

Rwanda Launches Pre-Enrollment for Single Digital ID at Expo

On August 7, 2025, Rwanda launched pre-enrollment for its Single Digital ID (SDID) at the Expo Grounds in Gikondo. This milestone is part of the country's broader digital transformation strategy.

Citizens can now verify or update their civil registration records before submitting biometric data, including facial scans, fingerprints, and iris recognition. Registration is available online via Irembo or at designated centers nationwide.

NIDA's Director General, Josephine Mukesha, emphasized the importance of accurate information to ensure every citizen can fully benefit from the SDID.

The initiative is set to streamline access to essential services, strengthen data security, and empower Rwandans with a secure, unified digital identity.

Stay Tuned

From AI breakthroughs to digital empowerment, Rwanda is making bold moves in tech and innovation. Stay updated for future editions of our newsletter, as we continue to bring you the innovations and initiatives shaping our nation's technological future.

Do you have a digital success story to share or feedback on stories highlighted in our newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at comms@minict.gov.rw.