

Guest Editorial Note

Dear readers,

This is a Special Issue of the SAIEE Africa Research Journal (ARJ), containing papers sourced from East Africa. This Special Issue for East Africa is a result of a cooperation agreement between the IEEE (through the Ad Hoc Committee on Africa Activities (AHCAA)) and SAIEE. The cooperation seeks to solicit more submissions to the SAIEE ARJ by focusing on the different geographical areas of Africa.

In this Special Issue, we considered papers where at least one author is based at an Institution in East Africa, or where the paper uses East Africa as a case study. The papers have gone through a rigorous peer-review process, where each paper was reviewed by two independent expert reviewers. From this process, two papers have been accepted for this Special Issue for East Africa.

The first paper, authored by Ronald Kizito et al., describes a Luganda text normalization module that is a critical component of a Luganda Text to Speech system. Luganda is a major language mainly spoken by people in Central Uganda. The authors used the rule-based approach for detection, classification and verbalization of Luganda text. The module was tested and achieved average detection and normalisation rates of 82% and 77.7% respectively.

The second paper, authored by Sheila M. Mugala et al., discusses how developing countries can harness the technology of unmanned aerial vehicles in various sectors. It discusses potential applications in agriculture, disaster management, delivery, surveillance of transmission lines, and network coverage. It also looks at interventions by some African governments from a policy perspective towards the development of this technology in their countries. Note that the review process of this paper was handled by Drs. Mugume and Busogi.

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Dorothy K. Okello (S'94-M'16) received the B.S. degree in Engineering (Electrical) from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda in 1992. She received the M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kansas, United States in 1995 and the PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from McGill University, Canada in 2004.

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