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ComTech Chronicle

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Top news

Tanzania Secondary Schools AI Conference (TSS-AIC) 2026

ComTech Alliance hosted the inaugural TSS-AIC, bringing together 209 participants from 13 secondary schools to explore AI, digital skills and responsible innovation.

Expanding the ComTech Scholars Program

Uraki, Nshupu and Patandi Special Secondary Schools have joined the program, expanding our reach in empowering students through digital skills, mentorship and innovation.

Coming soon Empowering dairy farmers

New support will bring SHAURI, SHIRIKI and SautiRafiki® together into one app for dairy farmers across Tanzania. More below.

TSS-AIC 2026

Tanzania Secondary Schools AI Conference 2026

ComTech Alliance convened the inaugural Tanzania Secondary Schools AI Conference (TSS-AIC) 2026 on 17 July 2026 at The Foundation for Tomorrow (TFFT), USA River, Arusha, under the theme *“Uplifting Digital Skills and Responsible AI Innovation for Tanzania's Next Generation.”* The one-day conference brought together 209 participants from 13 secondary schools, including students, teachers, innovators, researchers, policymakers and development partners.

209

Participants

13

Secondary schools

12+

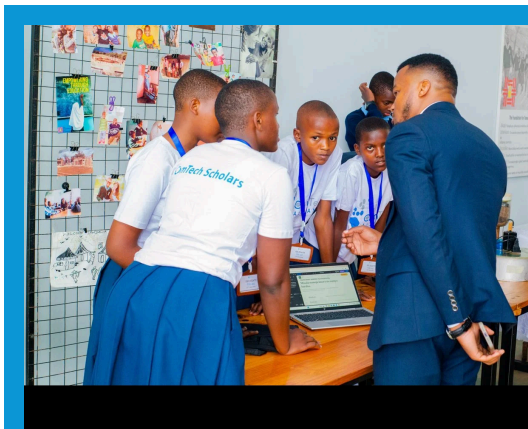
Student innovations

1

Day of AI learning

The conference created a platform for students and educators to explore Artificial Intelligence, digital skills, responsible innovation and emerging technologies through keynote sessions, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, student presentations, exhibitions and innovation pitches.

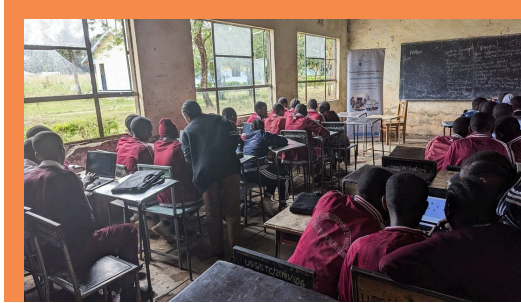
A major highlight was the student innovation exhibition, where young innovators showcased solutions to challenges in agriculture, education, accessibility, sustainability and digital services. Featured innovations included AI-powered assistive glasses, agricultural AI applications, a Digital Waste Exchange Platform and a Multi-AI Agent System for enterprise management.



The conference concluded with an awards ceremony recognising outstanding student innovations and participation. **Notre Dame Secondary School**, winner of

the Responsible AI Challenge, was announced as a co-organiser of TSS-AIC 2027 alongside ComTech Alliance and The Foundation for Tomorrow.

Expanding the ComTech Scholars Program



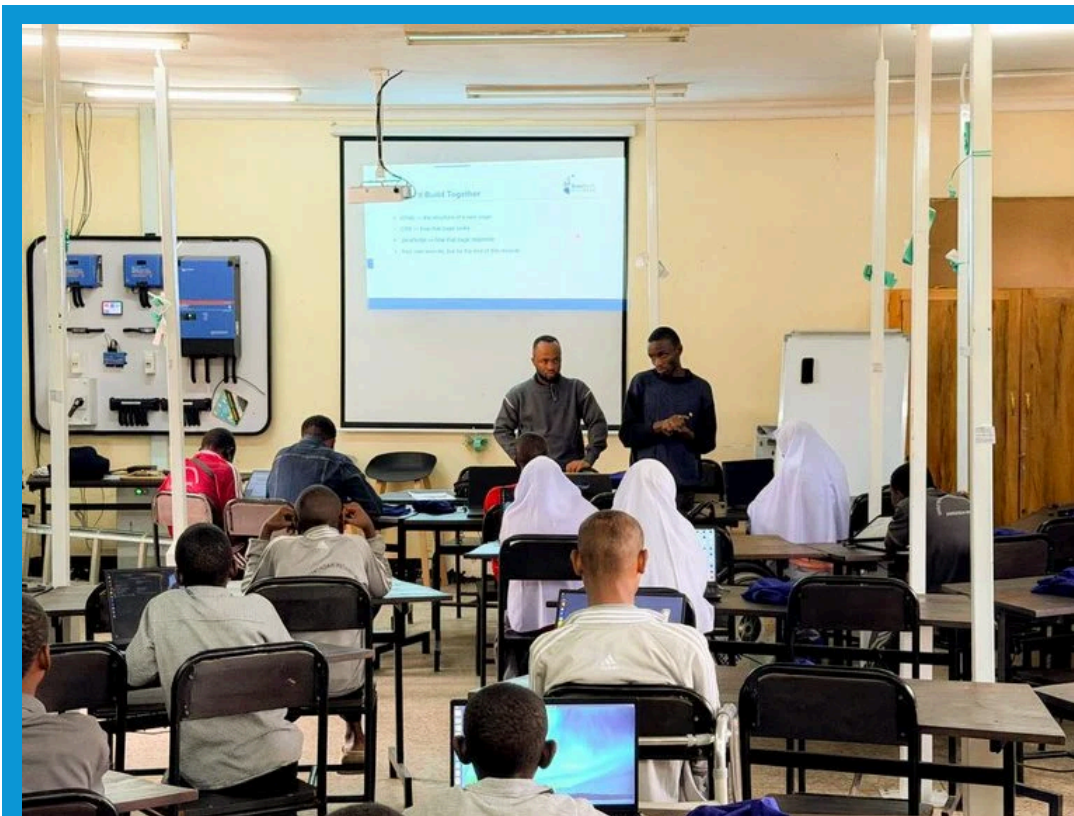
Onboarding of Uraki Secondary School

On 22 July 2026, ComTech Alliance welcomed Uraki Secondary School into the program, with **34 students** joining. The onboarding introduced students to opportunities in digital skills, technology, innovation and practical learning.



Onboarding of Nshupu Secondary School

On 24 July 2026, we welcomed **43 students** from Nshupu Secondary School. The session introduced the program's focus on digital skills, innovation and technology-driven problem-solving, and the importance of practical learning and mentorship.



Collaboration with Patandi Special Secondary School

On 15 August 2026, ComTech Alliance trainers collaborated with Patandi Special Secondary School to deliver digital skills training in an inclusive classroom. **25 students** took part, supported by 6 ComTech Alliance trainers and 2 Patandi teachers who worked together to make the experience inclusive and effective for every learner.

No one is left behind. Every learner deserves equal access to digital skills and opportunities.

With this collaboration, the ComTech Scholars Program has now reached **four schools and 102 scholars**:

- ✓ Meru Secondary School
- ✓ Patandi Special Secondary School
- ✓ Uraki Secondary School
- ✓ Nshupu Secondary School

A Story of Opportunity through our ComTech Scholars: Part 2

Continuing scholars: Meru's progress in numbers

In Issue 2, we shared how Meru Secondary School students joined the program with good device access but limited coding exposure. This term, 29 Meru scholars from Form 1 and Form 3 told us how the program is working for them. The results are encouraging: all 12 areas we measured scored above average, and Form 1 and Form 3 students reported similar gains.

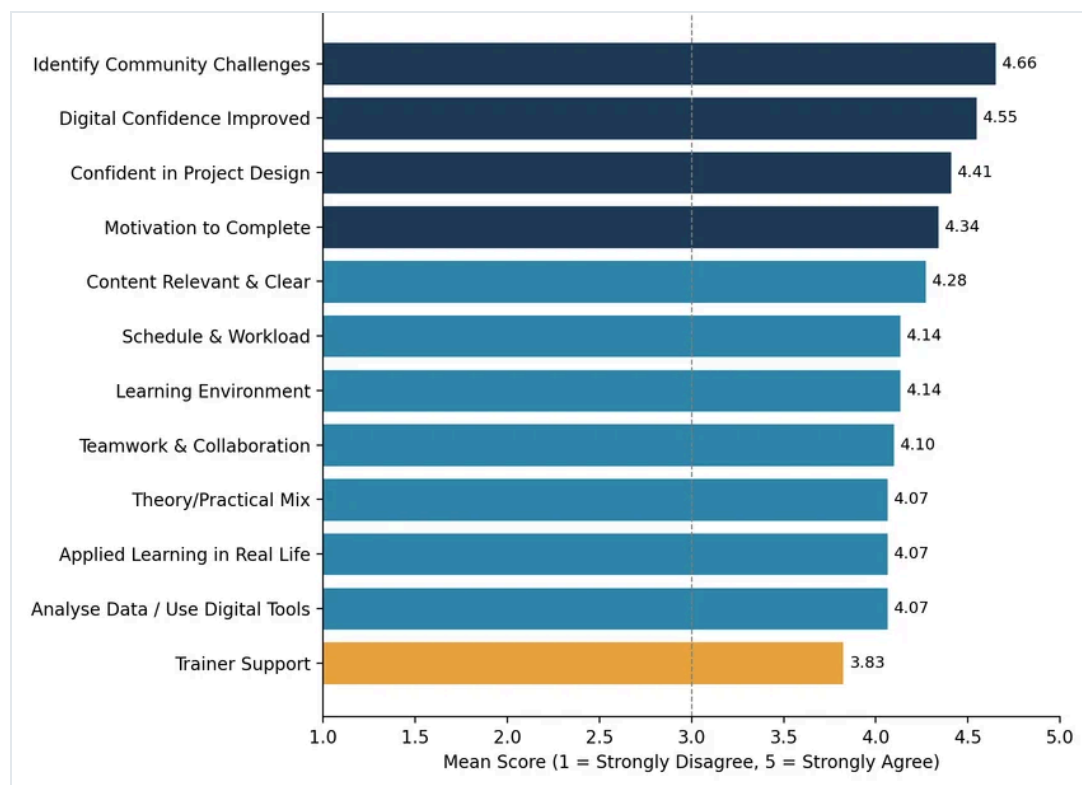
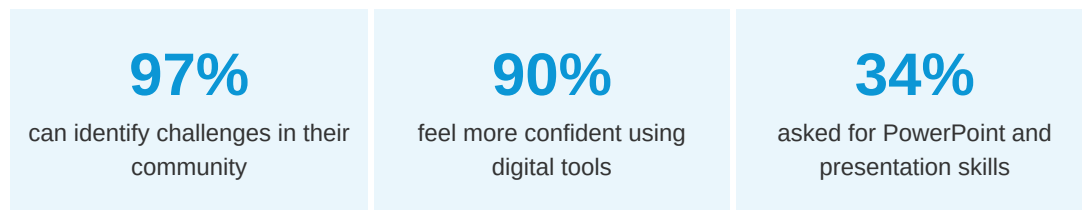


Fig 1: Meru scholars' ratings of the program (average score out of 5)

Students were also honest about where we can grow. Trainer support scored lowest, showing a need for more one-on-one time as the class grows. Others requested more computers and deeper web development lessons. For the next phase, we will expand presentation-skills training, add teaching assistants during hands-on sessions, and introduce an optional web development track. Students'

strong ability to spot community challenges will become the foundation of their final applied project.

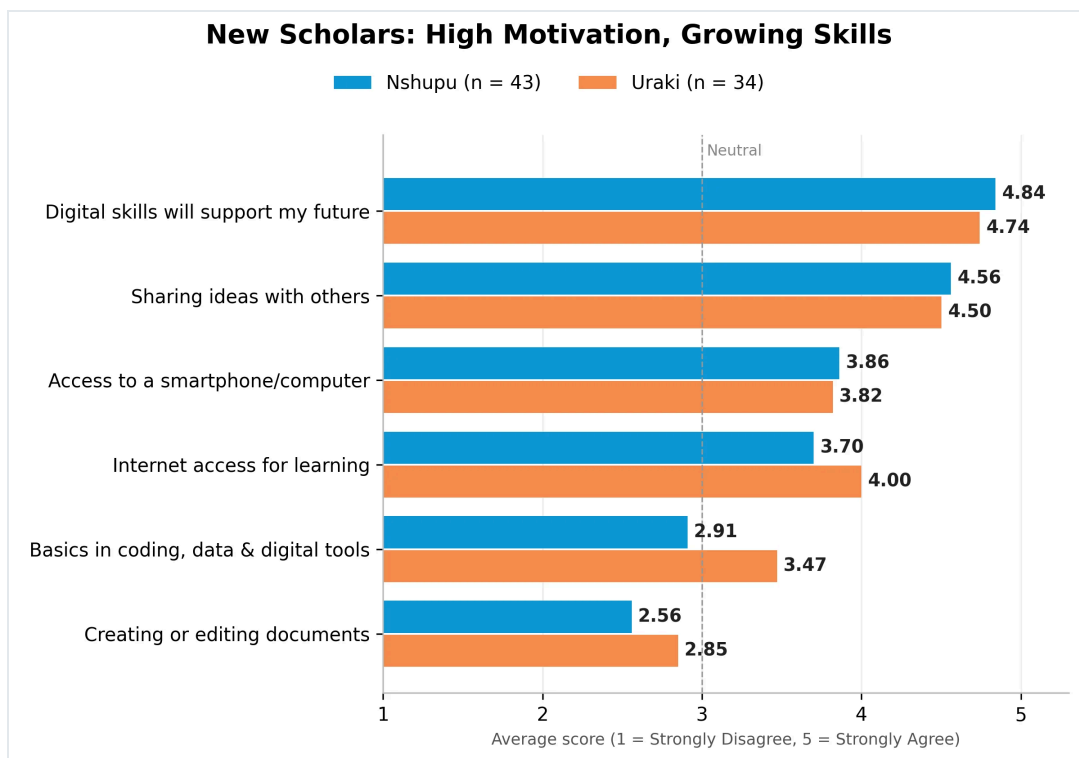
New scholars: where Nshupu and Uraki are starting

To design training that meets students where they are, we surveyed **77 new scholars** before classes began: 43 from Nshupu and 34 from Uraki. Their motivation is remarkable. Every Nshupu student agreed that digital skills will help their academic and career goals, and Uraki was close behind.



Creating and editing documents was the weakest skill at both schools, showing once again that access alone does not build competence. These students already know what they want to change: their most common goal is to teach digital skills to classmates, family and neighbours, and Nshupu students proposed helping their school digitise exam results and academic records.

Training will therefore begin with document and spreadsheet basics before moving to hands-on coding projects, with students serving as “digital ambassadors” in their communities.



Capacity building



Practical training on IoT devices for C-Flow Project implementation

Our team took part in practical training on IoT devices, covering device configuration, operation and their use in the C-Flow Project. The training was led by Dr. Lawrence Mdegela and Gladnes Kinyaiya.

It was followed by on-field data collection using the IoT devices, an important step that strengthens the team's capacity to work with the technology in the field.

New partnerships

This quarter, ComTech Alliance welcomed three new partners who share our vision of building skills, creating opportunities and transforming communities through technology and education.

DataCamp Donates

Members of our community will gain free access to world-class data literacy and AI learning resources, helping young people build the skills they need for tomorrow's opportunities.

The Geneva Learning Foundation (TGLF)

Together, we are connecting people, sharing knowledge and strengthening health workers through digital learning and peer collaboration, with a focus on the link between climate and health.



The Foundation for Tomorrow (TFFT)

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in USA River, Arusha. The partnership will focus on AI and IoT training and the Annual Secondary Schools AI Conference, creating more opportunities for young people to develop practical digital and AI skills.

Exciting news

Empowering farmers, one step forward

We're excited to share that ComTech Alliance has secured new support to bring **SHAURI**, **SHIRIKI** and **SautiRafiki**® together into one unified platform. Dairy farmers across Tanzania will get expert advice, peer learning and voice-powered assistance, all in a single app.

This is a major step forward in our mission to empower farmers through technology.

Stay tuned: full details are coming in our next newsletter!

Our impact

Every story in this issue adds to a bigger picture. Here is where ComTech Alliance stands today.

317+ Youth reached
and growing every day

4

Scholars Program schools, where we teach every term

13

Schools reached through TSS-AIC 2026
150+ students took part

102

ComTech Scholars

3

AI-driven community solutions

11

Communities reached

28

Children supported at an orphanage centre

Social media engagement

Instagram

30 June to 27 September

343 followers (+28.5%)

39,426 views

2K+ likes, 238 comments

263 reposts, 83 shares

LinkedIn

30 June to 27 September

146 followers (+6 new)

5,385 impressions

232 reactions, 3 reposts

91 page views, 32 visitors

YouTube

This period

+31 new subscribers

376 views, 5.1h watch time

1.9K impressions, 6.8% CTR

8 new videos

Website

2 July to 29 September

400 visits (+76.2%)

1,088 pageviews, 831 unique

85 downloads (+347.4%)

2m 41s average visit, 3 actions

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