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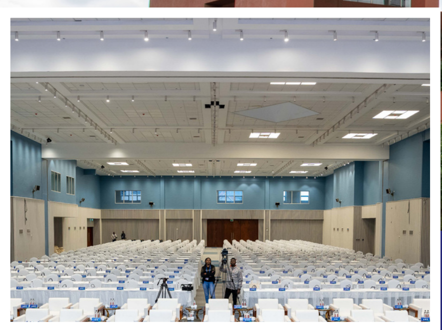
COLLEGE OF INSURANCE
Driven by distinction

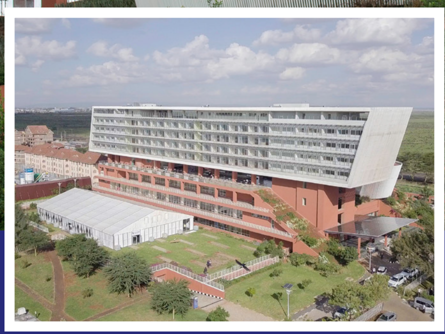
Special Report | August 2026

Ensuring the future

Delivering professionalism and building capital

The Edge Convention Centre





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CAPACITY

The Edge Hotel & Convention Centre, inspired by the African nature of hospitality is located at the Edge of the city and the Nairobi National Park. Facilities offered are:

- Ballroom with a capacity of 3,000 people
- Business Lounge
- Executive Rooms
- Executive Lounge
- Auditorium
- Exhibition Spaces
- Conferencing Services
- Catering Services

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College open to all

The College of Insurance has grown from a training provider into a dynamic centre for professional excellence

Patrick Alushula

This special report comes at a defining moment for the College of Insurance, which has steadily grown from a training provider into a dynamic centre for professional excellence, industry dialogue and regional influence.

As captured in the pages that follow, the college's journey is one marked by milestones that extend well beyond Kenya's borders. The progress signifies the college's commitment to relevance.

Whether through its training programmes or its expanding role as a convening hub, the college continues to respond to the changing needs of the insurance and risk management landscape.

The introduction of The Edge Hotel and Convention Centre signals another step in creating a space where learning, collaboration and innovation intersect.

Under the stewardship of Dr Ben Kajwang, the college has sharpened its vision, placing equal emphasis on academic rigor, industry engagement and future readiness. His insights, speak to an institution that understands its legacy and responsibility in shaping the future. ●

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A regular newsfeed of unique information to help you manage your ESG journey.

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From a regional leader to global centre of excellence

Patrick Alushula


Dr Ben Kajwang, director and CEO of the College of Insurance

The transformation of the College of Insurance in the past decade reflects a shift powered by skills development, institutional ambition and international collaboration.

What was once primarily a premier regional training institution has evolved into a globally recognised centre of excellence, with its reach now extending far beyond Kenya's borders. According to Dr Ben Kajwang, director and chief executive officer of the college, this journey has been deliberate and strategic.

"The past ten years have been truly transformative for the College of Insurance," he says. "When I reflect on our journey, several milestones stand out."

Kajwang singles out regional and global recognition as a testament to the impact it has had in East and Central Africa and beyond.

The college, long regarded as a leading institution in east and central Africa, has strengthened its standing through formal designation as a centre of excellence in insurance training across the continent.

"We have cemented that position and expanded our reach significantly. We were designated as a Centre for Excellence in insurance training in Africa, a recognition that validates the quality and impact of our programmes," Kajwang explains.

The college has earned this recognition on the back of a deliberate strategy to align with global standards. Partnerships with international professional bodies have played a key role in this journey, ensuring that graduates are equipped to compete in an increasingly interconnected industry.

Among the most significant of these is the college's role as a distribution partner for the Chartered Insurance Institute in London, as well as collaboration with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment. These partnerships have expanded access to internationally recognised qualifications and broadened the college's appeal beyond its traditional markets.

"These partnerships have been instrumental in giving our graduates a competitive edge in the global market," Kajwang notes.

The college has also diversified its academic offering. Having begun as a provider of short courses and certification programmes, it has developed into a comprehensive training hub covering multiple disciplines within the financial services ecosystem.

"What began primarily as short courses and the Certificate of Proficiency has grown into a comprehensive suite of diploma programmes, executive technical courses and management programmes spanning insurance, risk management, pensions, actuarial science and loss adjusting," he says.

Beyond Kenya, the college's influence is now firmly established across the continent. Its examinations and certifications are recognised in about 33 countries, while its role as an examination centre for international qualifications has strengthened its position within the global training ecosystem.

The College has also contributed directly to regional integration efforts, supporting capacity building initiatives across the East African Community and working with organisations such as COMESA and the World Bank on specialised training programmes.

This growing footprint reflects a broader ambition to position the institution as a global hub for insurance education.

"Our vision is to be a global centre of excellence in the provision of education and training and we have made substantial progress towards that goal," Kajwang concludes.

As Africa's insurance sector continues to expand, institutions such as the College of Insurance are playing a key role in shaping the talent and expertise required to sustain that growth. The milestones achieved in the past decade suggest that its influence will only continue to deepen. ●

A convention powerhouse rises in the city of Nairobi

Patrick Alushula

The development of world-class conference infrastructure is increasingly becoming a priority for African economies seeking to position themselves as global business and events destinations.

In Kenya, that ambition is finding expression through investments that combine functionality, scale and innovation. The Edge Hotel and Convention Centre, which is owned by the College of Insurance, is a reflection of institutional growth and a response to rising demand for quality meeting and exhibition spaces.

For Dr Ben Kajwang, director and chief executive officer of the College of Insurance, the facility represents more than just physical expansion. He says it is a deliberate move to integrate learning, industry engagement and global connectivity within a single ecosystem.

"The Edge Hotel and Convention Centre is, I believe, one of our crowning achievements of the past decade," he says. "It represents my vision of developing a state-of-the-art, world-class convention centre with conference and accommodation facilities to cater for the growing demand for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions."

Located in Nairobi's South C area, bordering the Nairobi National Park, the facility has been designed to meet international standards, both in scale and experience. Its capacity places it among the largest convention venues in the region, with infrastructure tailored to host major global events.

"The facility features a ballroom that can comfortably seat up to 3,250 people, 22 breakout rooms and several executive boardrooms, making it an all-in-one destination for international conferences," Kajwang explains.

The facility also offers 200 rooms, including a luxurious presidential suite.

The Edge Hotel and Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya

> *The Edge Hotel and Convention Centre is one of our crowning achievements of the past decade*
>
> **Dr Ben Kajwang**

The rooftop features an outdoor event deck with real grass, an infinity pool and bamboo trees that create a serene, natural environment.

This integrated model that combines conference, accommodation and leisure complements the College's core mandate of training and professional development.

Bringing learning and convening under one roof means the college has created a platform for ideas, policy discussions and industry collaboration to thrive. This is increasingly important as the insurance sector faces complex challenges that require cross-border dialogue and shared expertise.

Among its landmark events was the 48th African Insurance Organisation (AIO) Annual Conference, which brought together more than 1,000 delegates from across the continent. The facility has also hosted major national and international gatherings spanning innovation, policy and industry engagement.

The Edge's connection to the College of Insurance ensures that it remains a strategic asset that supports capacity building, knowledge exchange and industry advancement as opposed to simply being a commercial venture.

Looking ahead, as the role of such facilities continues to grow, the challenge and opportunity for the College of Insurance will be to ensure that infrastructure and education evolve together. ●

Driving transformation in insurance education

Patrick Alushula

Behind the transformation of the College of Insurance is a leadership story defined by strategy and ambition. In the past decade, Dr Ben Kajwang has emerged as a central figure within the college.

His tenure reflects a leadership approach grounded in long-term vision. His vision connects education, industry needs and continental development priorities, making him an important voice in Africa's insurance and risk management landscape.

Under Kajwang's direction, the college has evolved from a regional institution into a recognised centre of excellence in Africa and with a growing global reach.

This transformation has been shaped by a sustained effort to align institutional growth with wider industry dynamics, particularly the increasing demand for skilled professionals and internationally relevant qualifications in line with the evolving risk landscape.

Kajwang's own academic and professional journey mirrors this commitment to continuous development. Holding a PhD in Strategic Management, he has combined academic rigour with practical leadership in steering the college's expansion.

"I completed my Doctor of Philosophy in Strategic Management, which deepened my understanding of how strategic leadership can transform institutions," he explains.

Beyond academia, his professional credentials span global institutions, including recognition as a Chartered Insurer and affiliations with multiple international bodies. These connections have helped position Kajwang and the college within a wider global network of insurance expertise.

The college has evolved into a recognised centre of excellence in Africa

> *The award of the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear was a profound recognition of the collective work we have done at the College of Insurance*

Kajwang has held key leadership roles across the continent, most notably serving as president of the African Insurance Organisation (AIO), where he played a role in shaping policy direction and industry priorities.

During his tenure, he championed initiatives aimed at strengthening the African insurance market, including capacity building, data development and policy advocacy, which are areas that remain key to the sector's growth.

At a national level, his contributions have also been formally recognised. The award of the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS) reflects the impact of his work in advancing insurance education and professional standards in Kenya.

"It was a profound recognition not just of my personal efforts, but of the collective work we have done at the College of Insurance to advance insurance education and professional development in Kenya," says Kajwang.

Kajwang has maintained a strong focus on research and thought leadership. He has authored nine books and written more than 70 articles in the financial sector, with an emphasis on insurance.

"My research has examined topics such as the effects of digital marketing on insurance sector performance, succession management practices and the role of transformational leadership on staff productivity," he says.

Looking ahead, Kajwang's focus remains firmly on sustaining the momentum of the College of Insurance.

His continued emphasis on capacity building, innovation and strategic partnerships suggests that both he and the college will remain key contributors to the evolution of Africa's insurance landscape.

Impact of the college:

Training excellence and convening power

Patrick Alushula

In an industry where credibility is built on knowledge and trust, the College of Insurance has positioned itself as a cornerstone of professional development in Africa's insurance and risk management landscape.

The college's impact extends from classrooms into boardrooms, policy spaces and, increasingly, regional platforms where ideas and expertise converge. The influence is anchored in training.

Over the years, it has developed programmes that respond directly to the evolving needs of the insurance sector, blending technical accuracy with practical application. This approach has ensured that graduates are qualified and capable of navigating the complex and shifting risk landscape.

Dr Ben Kajwang emphasises this philosophy, noting that the college's mission has always been about relevance.

"When we train professionals, we are not just imparting technical skills; we are building the human capital that drives the entire insurance ecosystem. Our graduates have gone on to become chief executive officers of various companies," he said.

For instance, he explains that the Certificate of Proficiency programme, which is mandatory for all insurance agents in Kenya, continues to attract large numbers and has professionalised the agency force.

This emphasis on relevance has translated into tangible outcomes. Alumni of the College of Insurance occupy key positions across the insurance sector including underwriting, claims management, brokerage and regulation, helping to shape standards and drive growth.

Kenya is now the third biggest insurance market in Africa after South Africa and Morocco. According to Dr Kajwang, this growth has been supported by a skilled workforce and the College of Insurance has played a central role in developing that talent. In Kenya alone, the college has trained more than 100,000 in partnership with the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

Kenya is now the third biggest insurance market in Africa

> *Training and convening go hand in hand. When professionals come together to share experiences and insights, it enriches the learning process and strengthens the industry as a whole*
>
> **Dr Ben Kajwang**

He emphasises that education and skills development are fundamental to providing quality services and ensuring the expertise required for various insurance processes.

"By advancing knowledge, research and skills in a multicultural learning environment, we are producing first-class professionals who contribute effectively and ethically to the global economy," says Kajwang.

The college's impact is not confined to training alone. With the addition of its hotel and convention facilities, it has evolved into a hub for convening, bringing together practitioners, policymakers and thought leaders to exchange ideas and chart the future of the industry.

"Training and convening go hand in hand," Dr Kajwang observes. "When professionals come together to share experiences and insights, it enriches the learning process and strengthens the industry as a whole.". ●

What lies ahead: a vision for growth and relevance

Patrick Alushula

As the College of Insurance reflects on its journey, expanding footprint and impact, its gaze is firmly fixed on the future.

In a world defined by rapid technological shifts, emerging risks and evolving professional demands, the institution is positioning itself to stay ahead of the curve. This will require being adaptive as the insurance industry goes through changes mainly triggered by digital innovation, climate-related risks and changing customer expectations.

For the college, the changes present an opportunity to continuously refine its offerings so they remain relevant in an increasingly complex environment. Dr Ben Kajwang is clear about the path ahead.

"Our vision remains to be a global centre of excellence in the provision of education and training. We will continue to expand our programme offerings, strengthen our international partnerships and leverage technology to reach more students across Africa and beyond," he says.

This commitment to innovation is expected to shape the next phase of the college's growth. From expanding digital learning platforms to introducing new programmes that address emerging areas of risk, the institution is working to ensure that it remains at the cutting edge of professional education.

The hotel and convention centre will play a key role in the college's future

The journey has been remarkable, but I believe the best is yet to come

Dr Ben Kajwang

COI: KEY FACTS

2	Campuses
27	Years of experience
33	Countries recognising the college's exams
200	Rooms at The Edge Hotel
250	Staff members
300	Restaurant seating capacity
1990	Year established
3,250	Convention centre sitting capacity
6,000	Students enrolled
40,000	Insurance and pensions qualifiers since inception

Having already earned recognition beyond Kenya, the next step is to strengthen partnerships, attract a broader pool of learners and reinforce its position as a hub for excellence across Africa. This calls for a deeper regional and international footprint.

"The journey has been remarkable, but I believe the best is yet to come," Dr Kajwang affirms.

The integration of the hotel and convention centre will also play a key role in the college's future. Beyond its current function, the facility is envisioned for more international conferences, specialised forums and cross-sector dialogues.

"The Edge Convention Centre will continue to position Nairobi as a premier destination for international conferences and events. We are already seeing increased demand and we are committed to maintaining world-class standards," said Dr Kajwang.

In many ways, the future of the College of Insurance speaks to being dynamic, interconnected and full of possibility, which mirrors the trajectory of the industry it serves. ●

DRIVEN BY DISTINCTION

COLLEGE OF INSURANCE

ADMISSIONS ON GOING
REGISTER ONLINE ON
www.coi.ac.ke

Training Programmes

In order to achieve its objectives the College offers: -

- Short and management courses
- Professional courses in insurance and information technology.
- Customized in house training programmes locally and in neighbouring countries.

The College also organizes seminars and discussion forums on topical issues in the Insurance industry. Such seminars are normally announced in the press from time to time. Other services offered include; Catering Services, Conferencing Services, Team building and wedding spaces

COLLEGE OF INSURANCE
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A place that the whole

"The college has enabled students to progress to the internationally recognised ACII with just a few additional papers. By localising the diploma, it has made insurance education more accessible and significantly strengthened the sector. Before this, pursuing ACII meant studying through correspondence in London, which was an expensive route. The college has become a centre of excellence for both local and international conferences. Hosting major events like the AIO conference has elevated the profile of both the industry and the country. It is probably the only insurance institution in Africa with such conference facilities."

Tom Gichuhi, CEO, Association of Kenya Insurers

"The college has become a hub where industry leaders and colleagues come together to network, collaborate and exchange knowledge and ideas which helps build a resilient insurance sector.

And equally important, it is a talent and networking pipeline for the students. They are not learning in isolation. They are exposed to the industry and the industry leaders while still in training, offering them mentorship and eventually even internship opportunities."

Rose Wanda, secretary general and CEO, OESAI

"The convention facility has enabled the College of Insurance to host large-scale events that it would previously have struggled to accommodate. This ability to host major insurance in one location is a major plus for the industry.

The college has strengthened professionalism by creating a platform for knowledge exchange and industry engagement. Hosting more than 2,000 delegates for continental events shows the vision behind the facility has been achieved."

Aggrey Mulumbi, chairman, Bancassurance Association of Kenya

industry can call home

"We have been in collaboration with the College of Insurance for many years; not just as tenants, but as stakeholders. The training centre is pivotal to the growth of the industry since there is no growth without continuous learning.
Many people see the associations housed there as part and parcel of the college. That shows how closely knit the industry is and this closeness presents a harmonious picture of the sector. The college has become a central point for collaboration between regulators, insurers, brokers and other players."

Eliud Adiedo, outgoing CEO, Association of Insurance Brokers of Kenya

"The college has become the central hub and contributed positively to the image of insurance and strengthened collaboration. This is a plus because it brings everyone together and makes it easy to connect across the industry.
When stakeholders gather there, it reinforces that the insurance industry has a strong institutional base."

Clifford Ochieng, chairman, Association of Kenya Professional Insurance Agents

"The College of Insurance remains like home to me. It gave me a strong professional foundation while also creating friendships that have continued to shape my journey. Today, as a financial adviser at Sanlam Allianz, I have grown significantly through the knowledge, values and relationships I gained there. Being featured twice by the Association of Kenya Insurers among agents who excel in insurance sales is a proud reminder of how far that foundation has taken me."

Gladys Ngina Masyula, former CoI student, now financial adviser at Sanlam Allianz

Gaining The Edge

About Africa Ahead

Afah Publishing Ltd is a publishing house specialising in the delivery of targeted newsletters to niche sectors of global industries. To date, it has focused on the insurance and risk management categories, providing key information, the latest news and analysis through regular newsfeeds and a supporting website, bringing vital intelligence to that community.

It is a hub for case studies and videos, sharing experience and expertise across a well-defined community to build capacity across a region. To do that, Africa Ahead havs a team of experienced journalists to source and provide up-to-date news, data, reports and commentary on specific subjects relevant to our readership, supported by expert designers.

Our team is led by Liz Booth, managing Editor of Africa Ahead: the Sustainability Challenge. Liz has more than 30 years' experience as a journalist and editor, working on a mix of consumer and business titles but, for the past decade, has concentrated on the insurance and risk sector. Having grown up in west Africa and then lived in South Africa, she has a lifelong commitment to the continent and a passionate interest in its future success.

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About the College of Insurance

The College of Insurance was established in 1990. Its vision is to be a global centre of excellence in the provision of education and training. Its mission is to advance knowledge, research, skills and nurture talent in a multicultural learning environment to produce first class professionals who contribute effectively and ethically to the global economy. Its core values are: academic freedom, excellence, professionalism, innovation, participation and empowerment.

COLLEGE OF INSURANCE

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