

Newsletter

COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION

Introducing the THiNK Council of Elders

The THiNK Community is currently guided by two councils. The governance structure is designed to ensure both strong technical leadership and meaningful industry representation. One of these governing bodies is the Council of Elders, the senior technical governance body of the THiNK ecosystem.

Unlike traditional committees, membership to the Council of Elders is not appointed. It is earned through sustained technical contribution and lasting impact. The council recognizes founding contributors whose work continues to live, evolve, and serve the THiNK ecosystem long after its initial development. These are individuals whose projects, systems, and innovations remain active, supported, and are continuously built upon by the community.

How to Join the Council of Elders

Membership is awarded to individuals who demonstrate enduring technical impact within the THiNK ecosystem. To qualify, a contributor should meet the following criteria:

- **Active Projects:** Have developed or significantly contributed to a project that remains active and supported within THiNK.

- **Code in Use:** Have built code, systems, or infrastructure that continues to be actively used across the ecosystem.
- **Lasting Impact:** Have created solutions that have continued to evolve or have been extended and improved by other contributors.

The Council of Elders represents technical excellence, long-term stewardship, and a commitment to building sustainable digital public infrastructure for the community. As the THiNK ecosystem continues to grow, the Council of Elders stands as a recognition of those whose technical contributions have created lasting value for the community. Their work continues to inspire new contributors and ensures that THiNK's technology ecosystem is built on a strong, sustainable foundation.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Highlights from the THiNK Community Demo Day 3.0**
- **Safety by Design: Highlights from the AI Safety Innovation Forum**
- **THiNK Academy: Our New Digital Learning Frontier Intelligence**

...and much more



WORKING GROUPS

Talent Working Group

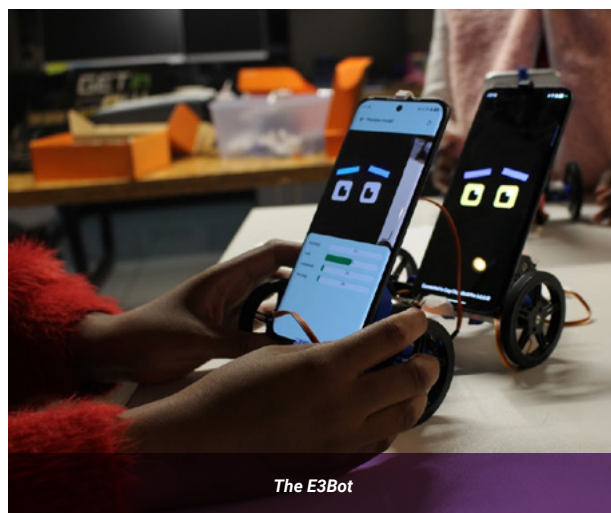
Botathon #14: Pushing the Boundaries of Robotics

As we push towards Physical AI, THiNK has been piloting robotics and successfully held our inaugural Robotics Botathon initiative, which focused on education, introducing young innovators to practical robotics development, embedded systems, sensor integration, automation, and AI-enabled hardware solutions. This pioneering effort demonstrated the potential of combining robotics, artificial intelligence, and maker culture to build future-ready technical skills among university students and emerging innovators.



Participants testing the E3Bot

Innovation reached new heights at Botathon #14, where participants showcased an incredible array of technical talent. This session pushed the boundaries of hardware and software integration, with developers successfully combining Arduino Nanos with AI-driven facial recognition systems. The success of the event was bolstered by the support of partners like E3bot, CogLabs, and Infinix Mobile, who helped empower the next generation of technical creators. This hands-on learning experience is part of a broader initiative that has seen THiNK engage over 500 university students through 14 Botathons across four counties.



The E3Bot



Participants of Botathon #13

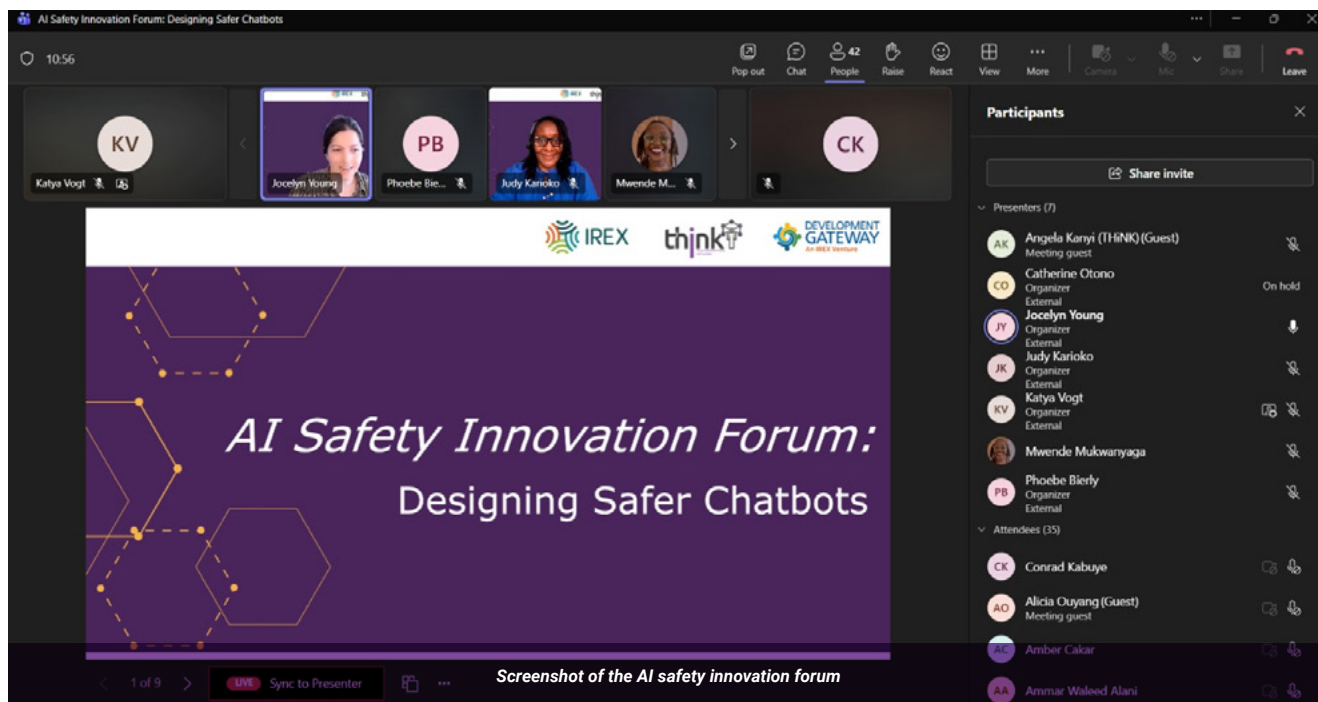
Botathon #13: Bridging Language Gaps with Voice-Enabled AI - A botathon on Kikuyu for Government Services

Botathon #13 focused on localized innovation, challenging 54 students to build voice-enabled solutions in Kikuyu and Swahili. This event aligned with THINK's ongoing mission to support low-resource local languages, building on previous voice collection initiatives that engaged over 11,000 participants. In addition to the technical builds, the event featured the launch of the THiNK Academy (learning management system) and deep-dive sessions on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and responsible AI. By awarding creative projects, the forum reinforced its commitment to inclusive AI learning and the practical application of ethical AI standards.



Students working on their solutions after being facilitated by THINK staff

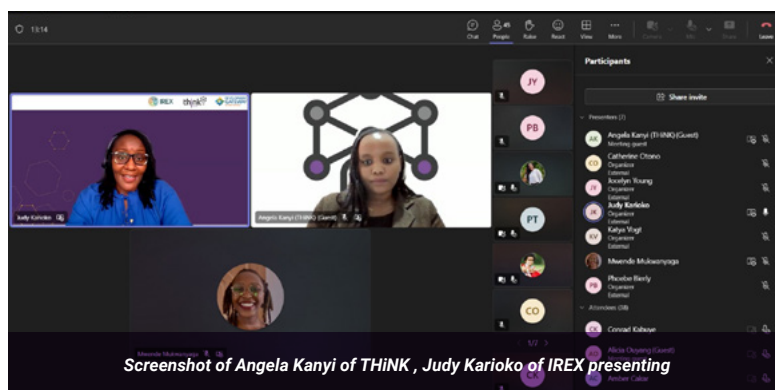
COMMUNITY NETWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS



Safety by Design: Highlights from the AI Safety Innovation Forum

THiNK recently took part in a forum on responsible AI, contributing to discussions on safety, governance, and collaboration. A key highlight was the “Safety by Design” approach, which emphasizes building AI systems that can anticipate and prevent harms like misinformation and deepfakes from the start.

The event also focused on safer chatbots, with IREX sharing practical guidance on developing trustworthy conversational AI. In addition, Kenya’s progress in AI governance was recognized through the KS 3007 Code of Practice, developed in collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Standards.



Discussions introduced the “Prepare–Curb–Respond” model—promoting digital literacy, content safeguards, and effective response mechanisms to AI risks. Overall, the forum reinforced the need for collaboration across sectors, with THiNK actively engaging in shaping safe and responsible AI in Africa.

For more information visit: cop.think.ke

COMMUNITY EVENTS

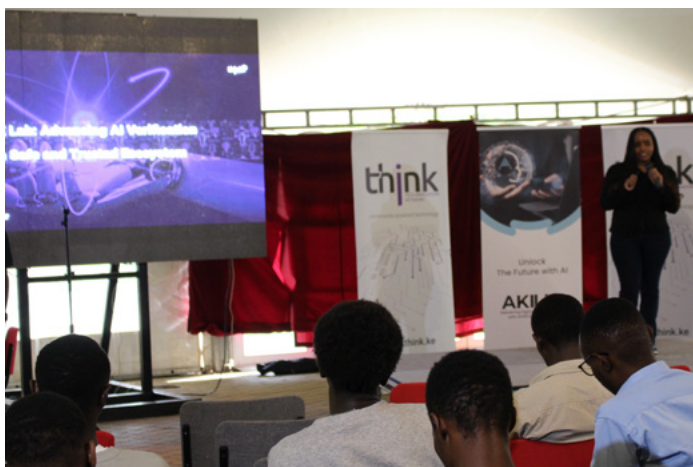
"Ecosystems Enabling Value Chains"

Highlights from the THiNK Community Demo Day 3.0

On March 19th, 2026, Tech Innovators Network (THiNK) hosted its 3rd Community Demo Day under the theme "Ecosystems Enabling Value Chains," the event gathered on-site participants at the New Rain Hotel and a global audience online.

The day kicked off with a powerful retrospective of THiNK's three-year journey. What began as a local initiative has blossomed into a formidable Community of Practice with over 500 subscribers and a footprint spanning four counties. The numbers speak for themselves: 14 botathons, 12 meetups, and hands-on AI training for over 500 university students. Perhaps most impressively, the community has reached 11,000 participants through micro-gig opportunities and dedicated over 500 hours to developing AI resources in local languages, including Dholuo, Kalenjin, Kikuyu, Maasai, and Somali.

A central message throughout the event was THiNK's ecosystem-driven approach to innovation and value creation. The ecosystem begins with research and development, where initiatives such as the Developer Program, community research, and collaborative experimentation nurture local talent and ideas. These activities create a pipeline for innovation, enabling developers, researchers, and communities to co-create practical AI solutions tailored to African contexts. The final stage focuses on commercialization, where innovations are transformed into scalable products, services, and digital enterprises that generate economic opportunities and sustainable impact. Through this ecosystem, THiNK is building a complete value chain that supports innovators from ideation to deployment and market adoption.



At the heart of the showcase was the unveiling of THiNKiT, a revolutionary “Bot-of-Bots” orchestration layer. Moving beyond simple chatbots, THiNKiT uses a unique Metabot-Cbot architecture to unify diverse technologies—from traditional RASA-based systems to advanced Large Language Models (LLMs)—into one seamless interface. This “supervisory intelligence” transforms AI into an Agentic RAG framework, capable of navigating complex government services and business transactions with ease. To ensure this ecosystem remains safe and dependable the THiNK Lab was introduced as a dedicated AI audit and assurance layer ,rigorously evaluating every bot, whether conversational or agentic, for safety, compliance and alignment with Kenyan standards and international best practices.

The event also looked toward commercial sustainability with the launch of the Business Listing Platform. This flagship application empowers MSMEs to build verified digital identities (THiNK-ID) and deploy “Bot-in-a-Box” solutions, effectively turning the THiNK ecosystem into a data-sovereign marketplace. This vision is supported by the TECH Innovators SACCO (TISK) and a Community API Library, ensuring that local innovators have both the financial and technical infrastructure to scale.



Beyond the code, the Demo Day emphasized the “human” in technology. The presentations highlighted the THiNK AI Ethics & Governance Hub. This initiative is dedicated to embedding African values into digital transformation, ensuring that as the community scales across the region—with partners already active in Uganda, Rwanda, Botswana, DRC, South Sudan, and Somalia—it does so with integrity.

The success of the day was made possible through the collaboration of key partners, including IREX, E3Bot, Infinix, UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Angani. A standout moment included the THiNK Council of Elders segment, which celebrated the pioneers who have contributed integrally to the community and the platforms and to collective efforts driving Africa’s tech landscape today.

It was clear that THiNK is more than a platform; it is a movement. THiNK is proving that the most impactful technology is that which is built together.

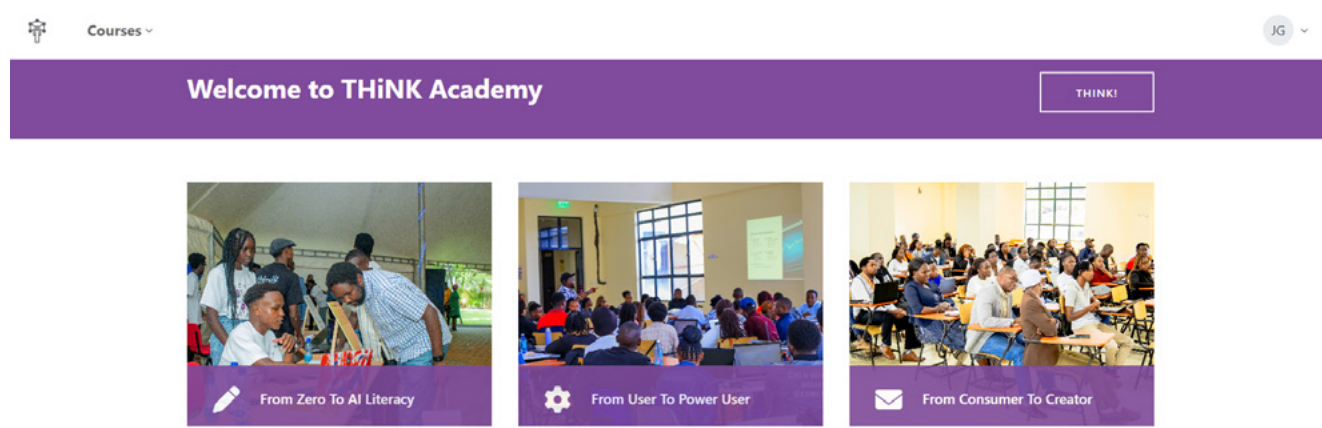
For more information visit: cop.think.ke

COMMUNITY PLATFORMS

THiNK Academy: Our New Digital Learning Frontier

We are proud to announce the launch of the THiNK Academy, our dedicated Learning Management System (LMS) designed to democratize technical education. Built to support the growing THINK ecosystem, the academy provides a structured platform for students and professionals to master AI ethics, governance, and technical development.

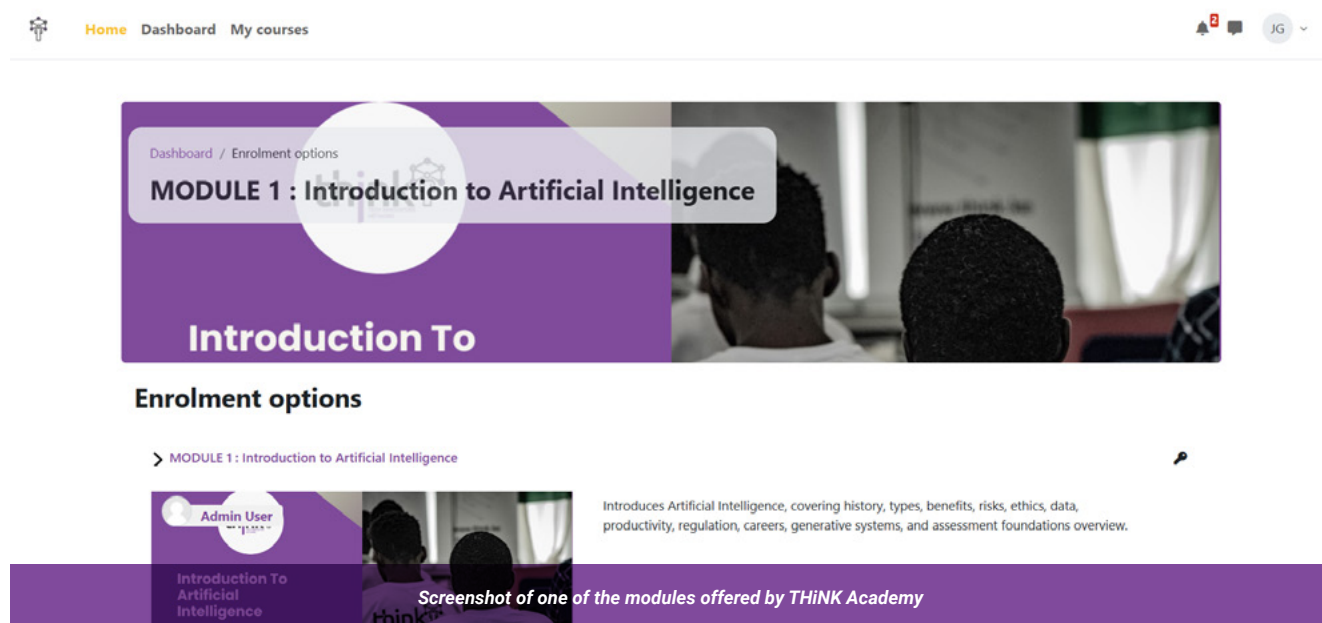
Visit: academy.think.ke



STUDYING WITH US

The journey of THiNK Academy is rooted in the success of the developer program where innovation, collaboration, and community came together to solve real-world challenges. What started as a platform for building bot

Homepage of THiNK Academy



Dashboard / Enrolment options

MODULE 1 : Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Introduction To

Enrolment options

> MODULE 1: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Admin User

Introduction To Artificial Intelligence

Screenshot of one of the modules offered by THiNK Academy

Introduces Artificial Intelligence, covering history, types, benefits, risks, ethics, data, productivity, regulation, careers, generative systems, and assessment foundations overview.

SUPPORTERS AND CHAMPIONS

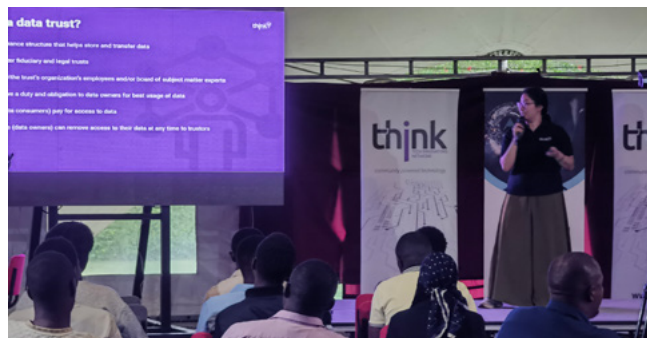
Celebrating Impact: MIT Africa Team Strengthens THiNK's Data Trust and Data Maturity Frameworks

Between February and April, THiNK was privileged to host a graduate intern, Alicia Ouyang, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Alicia is a graduate from the Technology and Policy Program, with an undergraduate in Mathematics and Computer Science. At THiNK, her work significantly advanced two of our core innovation pillars: our Data Trust architecture and the THiNK AI Data Maturity Model (AI-DMM).

During the internship period, Alicia worked closely with our research and engineering teams to refine the conceptual and technical foundations of data governance within THiNK's ecosystem. A key focus was strengthening the Data Trust framework—ensuring that data shared across our platforms and partner networks is managed with transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship. This work is central to THiNK's broader mission of enabling trusted data exchange across civic, academic, and innovation spaces.

In parallel, Alicia contributed meaningfully to the evolution of the THiNK AI Data Maturity Model (AI-DMM), helping to sharpen its structure as a practical tool for assessing organizational readiness in adopting Artificial Intelligence. Her input supported clearer maturity staging, improved alignment with real-world deployment scenarios, and reinforced the model's applicability for both public and private sector institutions operating in diverse African contexts.

Beyond technical contributions, her presence also fostered valuable cross-pollination of ideas between global research perspectives and THiNK's locally grounded innovation approach.



This alignment reflects the spirit of THiNK, which continues to bridge global expertise with African-led digital transformation efforts.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Alicia and her contributions during this period. Her work has left a lasting imprint on both our data governance direction and our AI readiness frameworks, and continues to inform ongoing development within the THiNKiT ecosystem.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Federated Conversational Architecture for Cultural Plurality: THiNKiT as a Multi-Cultural Design Case

Mohammed, A. N., Kanyi, A. W., Omwenga, B., May, 2026. CHI Conference - AI Across Cultures

At THiNK, research is where every conversation begins. Our latest paper, Federated Conversational Architecture for Cultural Plurality, explores an important question in the future of AI: Can conversational systems truly serve diverse communities without losing cultural identity along the way?

The paper examines how many centralized AI systems are built for scale and uniformity, often overlooking local languages, cultural nuance, and community-specific realities. In response, the study introduces a federated conversational architecture — a model that separates shared technical infrastructure from culturally grounded AI agents. In practice, this means each chatbot can reflect the language, ethics, and lived experiences of its own community while still operating within a connected ecosystem.

This research forms the conceptual foundation behind THiNKiT: Bot of Bots, a multi-agent conversational framework designed to support culturally adaptive AI experiences. The ideas explored in the paper continue to influence projects across governance, education, and social impact spaces, including experiments with localized language integration such as Sheng-enabled conversational systems.

More than a technical study, the paper highlights a broader vision for AI development — one where intelligence is not only scalable, but also locally meaningful, inclusive, and community-aware.

Read more: cop.think.ke/research

PARTNERS IN THIS ISSUE

