ZIMBABWE EZEKIEL GUTI UNIVERSITY

SIRDC

Scientific & Industrial Research & Development Centre

RIIEW 3-7 AUGUST 2026

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, INDUSTRIALISATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK 2026 (RIIEW 2026)

Driving Entrepreneurial Industrialisation: Unlocking the Value of Commodities and Services for Holistic Economic Growth and Transformation.

BACKGROUND

ZEGU hosted its inaugural Research, Innovation, Industrialisation and Entrepreneurship (RIIEW) in August 2025 at the Bindura Campus. The event brought together academia, students, industry, and commerce to showcase their outputs. Activities included research paper presentations, exhibitions of artefacts, and the forging of new collaborations and partnerships. Four ZEGU students presented their innovations, including a drone and a smart metering system for monitoring water levels in storage tanks. The event marked a promising beginning, and a book containing the papers presented is currently being finalised.

From NDS1 to NDS2, Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) focused on stabilising the economy, restoring macro-economic balance, strengthening governance, and laying the groundwork for inclusive growth through climate-proofed agriculture, infrastructure development, and social protection as a pathway toward Vision 2030. Building on this foundation, NDS2 (2026-2030) aims to consolidate economic stability and drive inclusive industrialisation through value addition, with a strategic shift toward commercialisation. This commercialisation thrust seeks to transform Zimbabwe's economy by moving from subsistence and raw commodity dependence to market-driven, value-added production. It emphasises mineral beneficiation, climate-smart and export-oriented agriculture, expansion of agro-processing and manufacturing industries, and leveraging services such as tourism and ICT. The goal is to diversify revenue streams, enhance competitiveness, and create jobs, ultimately positioning Zimbabwe for inclusive industrialisation and sustainable growth in line with Vision 2030.

AIM OF THE RIIEW 2026

ZEGU, in partnership with SIRDC, is hosting the Research, Innovation, Industrialisation and Entrepreneurship (RIIEW) 2026. The aim is to convene academia, policymakers, research institutes, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and development partners to collectively explore, interrogate, and co-create strategies for entrepreneurial-led industrialisation.
This will be achieved by:

- Unlocking value across commodity and service sectors.
- Fostering innovation and strengthening value chains; and
- Promoting inclusive, sustainable economic growth and transformation.

Central to this effort is a commitment to problem-driven, solution-oriented research that directly contributes to economic growth, industrialisation, and improved service delivery. To this end, RIIEW 2026 will:

- Showcase research outputs that demonstrate tangible impact in research, innovation, industrialisation, and community engagement.
- Encourage the translation of research into market-ready products, evidence-based policies, and scalable technologies that enhance productivity, create employment, and advance sustainable development; and
- Build research capacity among academics, postgraduate students, and early-career researchers, equipping them to generate high-impact knowledge that addresses critical developmental challenges.

OBJECTIVES

To catalyse entrepreneurial-led industrialisation through multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Facilitate strategic dialogue to build an enabling ecosystem that empowers entrepreneurs and SMEs to lead industrial development-driven by innovation, access to finance, skills development, and responsive regulatory frameworks.

To advance value addition and beneficiation across commodity sectors.

Drive the transition from raw commodity dependence to local processing, manufacturing, and beneficiation, thereby increasing productivity, enhancing export value, and creating sustainable employment across integrated value chains.

To strengthen and expand the role of service economies in industrial growth.

Leverage high-impact services to support industrial development, improve operational efficiency, and enhance national and regional competitiveness.

To anchor economic transformation in inclusivity and long-term sustainability.

Ensure that growth in industrial and service sectors translates into broad-based economic benefits, including job creation, regional development, enhanced resilience, and enduring sustainable development.

THEME 1. COMMERCIALISING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

- Growing the Service Sector
- Technology and Digital Transformation
- Business Intelligence and Data-Driven Industrialisation
- Harnessing AI, big data, and analytics for commodity and service value chains
- Energy and Power
- Water and Environment
- Mining and Mineral Beneficiation
- Infrastructure Development and Housing
- Health
- Advanced Manufacturing Systems and 3D Printing Technologies
- Climate Change Mitigation

THEME 2. COMMERCIALISING INTELLIGENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ARTEFACTUAL DESIGNS AND FUTURES

- Architect systems, inspiring innovation, and managing change for industrial growth
- Artefactual innovation as a driver of industrialisation and cultural identity
- Design thinking and product innovation for competitive advantage
- Creative industries and their role in sustainable economic transformation

THEME 3. UNLOCKING VALUE FROM HERITAGE AND HUMANITIES FOR SOCIETAL ADVANCEMENT

- Commercialisation of heritage: dos and don'ts
- Resuscitating the music industry
- Social work as a remittances venture
- Training of social scientists as a commercial enterprise
- Social Security, Pensions, and Employment-Based Protection
- Gender, Youth Employment, and Equality at Work

THEME 4. PRODUCING GOODS AND SERVICES IN EDUCATION, GOVERNANCE, THEOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP FOR MARKET VALUE

- Pedagogies for the future: Cultivating entrepreneurial mindsets and industrial skills from classroom to community
- Enabling frameworks: Policy, Regulation, and Institutional Innovation for Industrial Entrepreneurship
- Theology and the shaping of entrepreneurial mindsets and practices
- Project Management
- Exploitation of emerging technologies

THEME 5. ENABLERS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMMERCIALISATION OF PRODUCTS BY SMES AND INDUSTRY

- Industrial Policy, Investment Law, and Ease of Doing Business Reforms
- How constitutional principles underpin industrialisation, inclusive growth, and accountable economic governance
- Balancing commodity exploitation with environmental protection and sustainability
- Legal frameworks shaping Zimbabwe's participation in regional and global value chains
- Industrial and service-sector growth delivers decent work and social justice.
- Legal Frameworks for Research, Development, and Innovation Policy

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF ABSTRACTS: 30 JUNE 2026

For submission of abstracts and full papers contact Director Research:
research@zegu.ac.zw / +263772322418

ABSTRACTS

- Abstracts should be 300 words.
- Must clearly outline the research problem, objectives, methodology, key findings and the contribution to the thematic area.
- All submissions must align with the RIIEW theme and objectives.
- Keywords (up to six words from the abstract) should be included.
- Full papers should be between 5000 and 8000 words and should contain the following: abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, findings, discussion, and a conclusion.
- Abstracts and full papers should be submitted to research@zegu.ac.zw

RIIEW 2026

ATTENDANCE AND PRESENTATION FEE

Undergraduate students	Free
Postgraduate Master's Students	$20
Postgraduate Doctoral Students (Local)	$20
Other local Participants and Presenters	$50
International Participants and Presenters	$100
Exhibition Stand	$150/stand

PAYMENT:

ZEGU BANKING DETAILS
Bank Name: ZB Bank
Branch: Bindura
Account Number:
USD: 453600772451405
ZIG: 453600772451200

Deadline for payment: 31 July 2026