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UMEME PROJECT

FINAL CONFERENCE
MINUTES & EVALUATION
29th, September 2026

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ERASMUS Plus PROGRAMME

Funding Scheme	Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE), funded by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
Proposal:	UMEME
Project Title:	New edUcation systeM for Electric access developMEnt in Tanzania
Project No:	101082825
Project Applicant / Coordinator:	Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Project start date:	April 1st, 2023
Duration:	36 months
Host institution of this conference:	Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Main Campus
DIT Scientific Coordinators:	Dr. Respicius C. Kiiza and Dr. Mwaka I. Juma
DIT Action Managers:	Dr. Sosthenes M. Karugaba and Mr. Mawazo J. Masuka

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Executive Summary

This short report summarizes the Minutes of the UMEME Final Conference, which was held at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) Main Campus (F4-16 Board Room, Rafic Building), Dar es Salaam, on 29 September 2026, from 08:00 to 15:50 EAT. The conference was organized as the Energy Access and Energy Efficiency Research and Innovation Symposium under the theme "Powering Sustainable Development through Research and Innovation in Energy Access and Energy Efficiency".

The conference marked the conclusion of the UMEME project at DIT. However, as emphasized by many of the project's key stakeholders, the conclusion of the project does not signify the end of the collaboration or of the continued use and dissemination of the project's results and benefits, which remain important to all project stakeholders. As stated in the closing remarks, the discussions and plans established at the conference have laid a strong foundation for the work ahead as the partners move forward with equipment procurement, joint training, and student exchanges, maintaining the strong spirit of collaboration that brought them together.

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1. Welcome and Institutional Context of the Conference

Opening remarks

At 09:00, the conference was officially opened. Opening remarks were delivered by the Director of Academics

In setting the institutional context, the opening speakers recalled that DIT is a higher technical training institution established by the Act of Parliament No. 6 of 1997, with a history dating back to 1957 when its predecessor, the Dar es Salaam Technical Institute, was established to provide vocational training. The Institute is ISO 21001:2018 certified and provides competence-based technical education through training, research, consultancy and the development of appropriate innovative technologies and entrepreneurship, centred on the Teaching Factory model. The speakers underscored the strategic importance of the UMEME project in bridging the electrical engineering education gap and in aligning DIT's training with the energy-transition needs of Tanzania and the East African region.

Keynote Address: Energy Access, Energy Efficiency and the UMEME Project

The UMEME Project Coordinator was presented (Katiucia Cypri)

The UMEME ("new edUcation system for Electric access developMEnt in Tanzania") project is an Erasmus+ Capacity-Building project in Higher Education governed by a partnership agreement between Sapienza University of Rome (the coordinator) and various European and Tanzanian institutions. Running from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026, the project is awarded a maximum EU grant contribution of EUR 794,003.00 structured as a lump sum, covering core objectives such as curriculum innovation, professional training of trainers, student training, local awareness, and laboratory/facility upgrades. The coordinator—represented by Katiucia Cypri —manages overall implementation, official communication with the Executive Agency, and fund distribution, while individual beneficiaries (including UDSM, DIT, KIST, UCY, UNeeD) are jointly responsible for executing their respective work programs, maintaining sound financial reporting via the UMEME intranet platform, and ensuring visibility rules and compliance under Italian governing law. In addition, he presented the Objective of the conference to disseminate the results of the UMEME project to the stakeholders and students who attended the conference, and to share experiences and success stories, including outcomes of staff and student mobility and master's research conducted under the project.

2. UMEME project overview

Mr. Mawazo John Masuka delivered an in-depth chronological retrospective of the project, tracing its duration from the official start date on April 1, 2023, to its end date on September 30, 2026 based on the projects outputs, achievements, and lessons learned. The presentation reviewed the project against the deliverables committed in the Erasmus+ proposal (No. 101082825). Below is the summary of what was presented;

3.1 UMEME at a Glance

- ✓ EU grant requested (lump sum): EUR 882,225
- ✓ Planned project duration: 36 months (from April 1st, 2023)
- ✓ 9 beneficiaries + 1 associated partner
- ✓ 6 work packages, corresponding to 319 person-months of staff effort
- ✓ 13 degree/diploma programmes to modernise (UDSM 6, DIT 4, KIST 3)
- ✓ 6 new laboratories + 1 Energy Hub

3.2 The Consortium

The consortium brings together academia, the national utility, the professional body and innovative SMEs, as summarized in the table below (grant shares in EUR):

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Institution	Country	Role	Grant (EUR)
Sapienza University of Rome	Italy	Coordinator	188,909
University of Cyprus (PV Lab)	Cyprus	European partner	96,522
UNEED.IT SRL	Italy	e-mobility SME	66,618
Magaldi Power SpA	Italy	Associated partner	No grant
University of Dar es Salaam (CoET)	Tanzania	Local coordinator	234,743
Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology	Tanzania	Beneficiary	108,171
Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)	Tanzania	Beneficiary	108,590
ETDCO (TANESCO subsidiary)	Tanzania	Stakeholder	23,219
Engineers Registration Board (ERB)	Tanzania	Stakeholder	23,913
Studio Santi Limited	Tanzania	SME	31,540
CIGRE; F. Iliceto Assoc.	—	Pro bono supporters	—

Tanzanian partners together received about 60% of the grant. The largest budget shares were allocated to the laboratories (WP5) and to management (WP1).

3.3 The Six Work Packages

WP	Title	Lead
WP1	Management, financial & evaluation framework	Sapienza
WP2	Innovation in existing curricula	Sapienza
WP3	Professional training of trainers	UDSM
WP4	Training of students & local awareness	UCY
WP5	Facilities & laboratories	UDSM
WP6	Communication & stakeholder engagement	UDSM

Key project-management milestones were reported as achieved: the Partnership Agreement signed at the three-day kick-off in Dar es Salaam; the internal management platform with the financial document repository; the Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Plan with four six-monthly monitoring reports and the Sustainability Strategy prepared with external experts; the Inclusion Strategy and Green Management Plan; five face-to-face Project Steering and Scientific Committee (PSSC) meetings (Dar es Salaam–UDSM, Rome, Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam–DIT, and Nicosia) plus monthly online meetings; and the mid-term and final technical and financial reports to EACEA.

4.Results dissemination

There were three consecutive sessions that were carried up to give out the achievement of the UMEME project and the impact it has project to the Institute and to Tanzania at large. The sessions are explained below:

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4.1 Capacity building, training and facilities

The results of Work Package 3 (Professional Training of Trainers) and Work Package 5 (Facilities and Laboratories) were outlined. High-level seminars were delivered by worldwide academic and industry experts, in person and online so that staff of DIT and KIST could join without travel. Key training initiatives delivered under the project are summarized below:

Training Program	Date	Key Highlights
Scientific seminars (FUTURE2)	Jul–Aug 2023; 6–15 Mar 2024	Training weeks hosted at UDSM covering e-mobility, storage systems, PV engineering and related topics, on site and online.
CIGRE Academy Seminar on Substations	March 2024	Delivered with CIGRE Study Committee B3 experts; about 50 participants in person and 20 online, all certified; included substation site visit.
Energy Efficiency Workshop	2024	Energy auditing methodologies, ESCo business models and energy management system integration.
Electrical Power Engineering for Energy Transition	28–30 July 2025	Three-day capacity building programme for laboratory technicians, academic staff and senior students.
Sapienza Remote Training	13–23 January 2026	Remote training delivered by Sapienza University of Rome to staff across the Tanzanian partner institutions.
CIGRE Presidential engagement	Feb–Mar 2026	Visit of the CIGRE President to Tanzania and launch of the CIGRE East Africa Chapter.

4.2 Mobility and Success Stories

Also, partners and students shared experiences and success stories on student and staff mobility under Work Package 4:

- Student mobility: of the 12 best students targeted by the project (4 per Tanzanian university, for 4-week placements in Rome or Nicosia), 4 students travelled to the University of Cyprus
- Staff mobility at Sapienza University of Rome (14–24 September 2026): 2 staffs from DIT, completed academic mobility in Rome. The session highlighted how the mobility experience strengthened teaching, research and thesis work at DIT.

4.3 Innovation in Curricula

The revisions carried out under Work Package 2 (Innovation in Existing Curricula) were detailed. Over the project period, the partner institutions overhauled their electrical and energy engineering programmes into competence-based curricula, designed in close alignment with market demands and benchmarked with the European partners, introducing new themes including the SDGs and SE4ALL, grid integration of renewables, power quality, energy storage, e-mobility, electricity markets, green finance, feasibility studies, and soft skills. In total, 13 programmes were reviewed across UDSM (6), DIT (4) and KIST (3). At DIT, the programmes under review were:

- ✓ Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Electrical Engineering
- ✓ Master of Engineering (MEng) in Sustainable Energy Engineering
- ✓ Ordinary Diploma in Electrical Engineering
- ✓ Ordinary Diploma in Renewable Energy Technology

New interdisciplinary syllabi and teaching packages were developed and the reviewed programmes were submitted to the national accreditation authorities (TCU/NACTE). The status

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of the DIT programmes was reported as partially achieved at the date of the conference.

4.4 Technical Sessions: Master's Research Presentations

Two technical sessions ran consecutively: Technical Session I on Energy Efficiency and Technical Session II on Energy Access and Renewable Energy, in which master's students supported by the project presented their research. Two presentations from the Master of Engineering in Sustainable Energy Engineering programme at DIT are summarized below.

4.4.1 "Evaluation of Control Mechanisms in an Integrated Thermal Storage Electric Cookstove" — Safiness Bonny

The study evaluated the control mechanism of an integrated electric cookstove with thermal energy storage (TES). A clay-based ceramic TES was fabricated (TES unit produced at the Ceramic Pottery Tanzania Workshop, VETA) and integrated into a modified electric cookstove (31 cm × 25 cm × 12 cm, 23 cm cooking surface, 0Cr25Al5 heating coil of 1 mm wire diameter and 12 m length) at the DIT Material Laboratory (W2-1), Department of Mechanical Engineering. Three control modes were tested using the Water Boiling Test (WBT) and the Controlled Cooking Test (CCT): direct heating without TES; simultaneous heating and charging; and on–off cycling. Results showed that thermal efficiency improved from about 0.63–0.69 (direct heating) and 0.71–0.74 (simultaneous heating and charging) to 0.76–0.83 under on–off cycling, while energy consumption decreased to about 0.51–0.56 kWh per boil (compared with 0.67–0.76 kWh in the other modes), confirming that integrating TES with on–off control improves heat utilization and reduces electricity consumption. The study recommended household field testing, automatic temperature control using sensors and a microcontroller, and optimization of heating cycles for different foods. The author thanked the UMEME Project for the knowledge and practical experience in sustainable energy, and acknowledged sponsorship by the European Union, UNDP and the Embassy of Ireland, and the supervision of Dr. Esebi Nyari and Dr. Pius Chombo.

4.4.2 "Assessment of the Impact of Silica Sand Particle Sizes from Various Sources on Thermal Energy Storage Performance of Electric Cookstoves" — Mariam F. Simba

The study assessed how silica sand particle sizes from different sources affect the thermal energy storage performance of electric cookstoves. Silica sand samples were collected from a coastal area (Mji Mwema, Dar es Salaam; 74.93% silica), a riverbed (Ilonga village, Morogoro; 87.44%) and a semi-desert area (Chimwaga village, Dodoma; 80.17%), and separated into particle size ranges following ASTM C136. A 1 kW electric cookstove with a 2.2 kg silica-based TES system was fabricated and tested. The best-performing particle sizes differed by performance metric: energy consumption (300–500 µm, coastal), useful energy (500–710 µm, semi-desert), boiling time (500–710 µm, semi-desert), charging efficiency (<500 µm, semi-desert), heat loss (<500 µm, riverbed), cooling time (<500 µm, semi-desert) and heat retained (<500 µm, riverbed). The study concluded that the choice of particle size must be aligned with the specific intended application — quick charging, maximum thermal storage, efficient charging or duration of heat retention — and recommended further studies on the best binding material for the silica sand, the heating coil configuration, and the distance between the heating coil and the cooking pot. The author acknowledged the UMEME Project for the real-world experience in innovative design, electrical measurements, and battery energy storage systems.

5. Lessons Learned and Sustainability

The dissemination session concluded with the lessons learned during implementation and the actions proposed to sustain the project results at DIT:

- ✓ Budget with real prices: the September 2026 mobility was reduced from 20 to 10 days to fit the available funds; travel and per diem should be costed at current rates with a contingency.

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- ✓ Procurement is the critical path: laboratory tendering was the only risk rated HIGH in the proposal; specifications should be agreed at kick-off and purchases pooled.
- ✓ Blended delivery multiplies reach: seminars delivered in person and online (e.g., 50 + 20 in March 2024) should be recorded as reusable teaching material.
- ✓ Industry partners create pull: CIGRE, TANESCO/ETDCO, ERB and the SMEs linked training to real jobs; graduates moved straight into project work.
- ✓ Plan for slack in timelines: activities continued into 2026, beyond the 36-month plan; accreditation and tenders need early starts and buffers.
- ✓ Protect against currency risk: exchange-rate losses were flagged as a medium risk; purchase in EUR where possible and track spending monthly.

To sustain the results, the following actions were proposed for DIT: monitoring graduate outcomes yearly with employer feedback; keeping the laboratory alive through budgeting for software licence renewals, maintenance and a named laboratory technician; earning from the facilities through paid short courses and consultancy (e.g., via the FactoryEdu Hub); staying in the CIGRE network through the new CIGRE East Africa Chapter for seminars, papers and student branches; and building the next proposal, the consortium having targeted at least two new Erasmus+ bids.

6. Closing Remarks

The closing remarks were delivered by the Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Dr. Mwaka Juma. She expressed sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference, and extended deep appreciation to the European Union and the Erasmus+ programme for their invaluable financial and structural support. She thanked the partner institutions — DIT, KIST, UDSM, UNIROMA (Sapienza), Studio Santi, UNEED.IT and the collaborators from Cyprus — for their dedication, insightful contributions, and commitment to excellence in curriculum development, mobility, and capacity building.

She noted that the discussions and plans established during the conference have laid a strong foundation for the work ahead, and urged the partners, as they move forward with equipment procurement, joint training, and student exchanges, to maintain the strong spirit of collaboration that brought them together. She thanked all participants for their active participation and officially closed the conference.

7. Technical Visit

The participants undertook a technical visit to the three electric wheelers and the CNG (compressed natural gas) workshops. The visit showcased the practical training facilities and e-mobility assets available at DIT, which support hands-on learning in electric mobility and alternative-fuel technologies. All pictures of the conference are available at: https://we.tl/t-cqwa3zobmx6EohNJ

8. Adjournment

The conference was adjourned at 15:50 EAT.

9. General Project Evaluation

Through Google Form, the participants were asked to fill in the evaluation form to evaluate the project in general. The following is the summary of each aspect that was evaluated.

9.1 Participants

Evaluations were made by participants including students and academic staff, as seen in Figure 1 below, which gives the participation in percentage of each group, whereas Figure 2 gives the institutional distribution of the participants.

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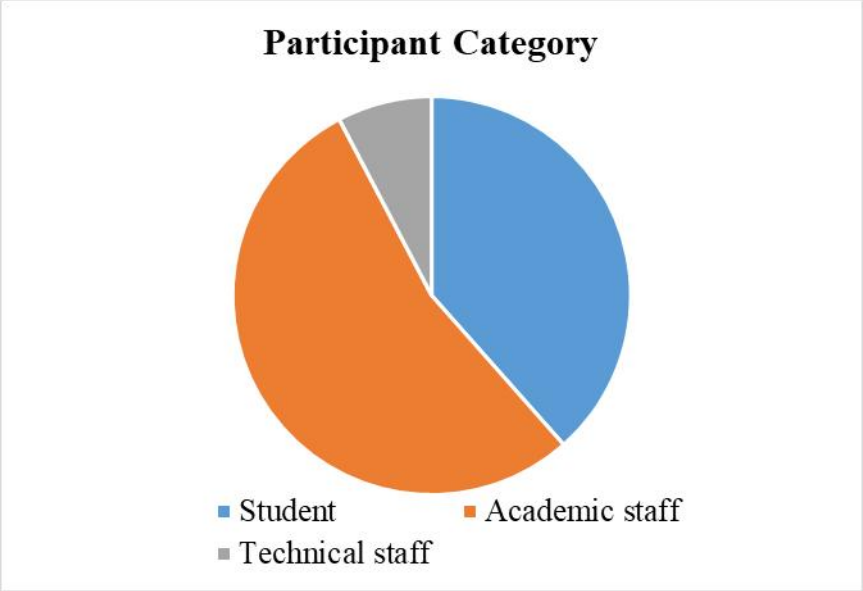


Figure 1: Participants classification by occupation (13 participants)



Figure 2: Participants classification by institution

9.2 Ratings of the Project Deliverables

The following are the criteria used to evaluate the deliverables: Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor. On the end, the following deliverables were evaluated:

1. Relevance of the conference theme
2. Quality of presentations
3. Relevance of research findings presented
4. Opportunities for questions and discussion
5. Organization and time management
6. Overall conference experience

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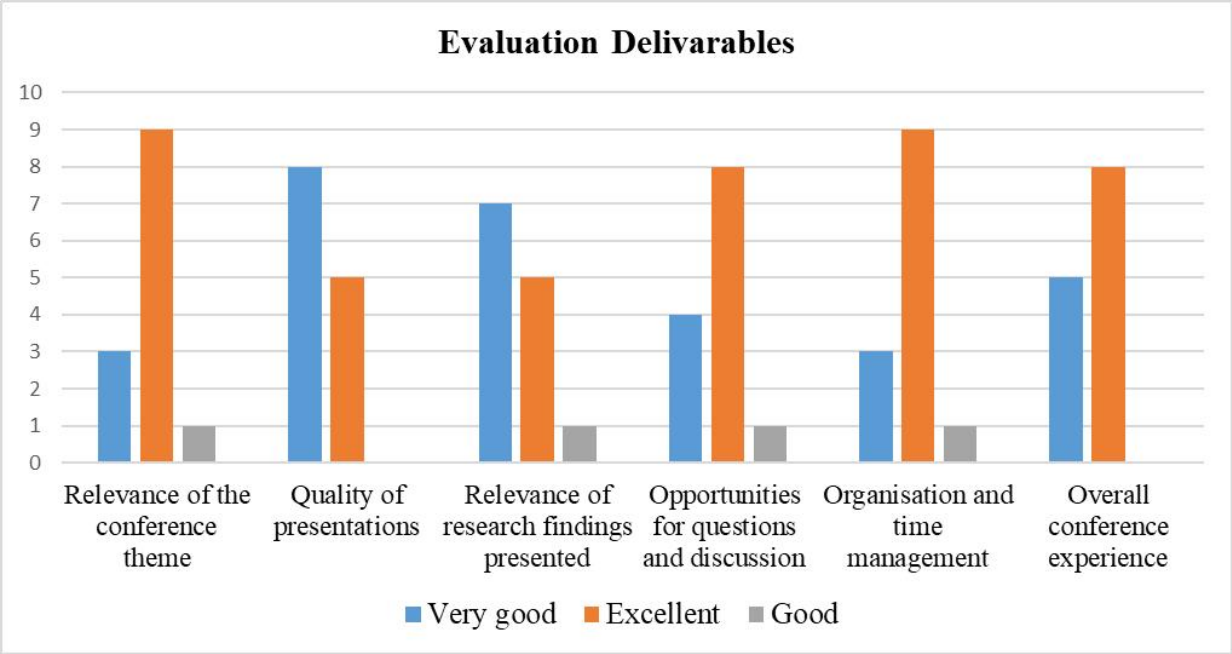


Figure 3: Deliverable evaluation

NB: For clear visualization of these results please refer to the link of the form attached in Appendix B.

9.3 Long Term Impact of the Deliverables

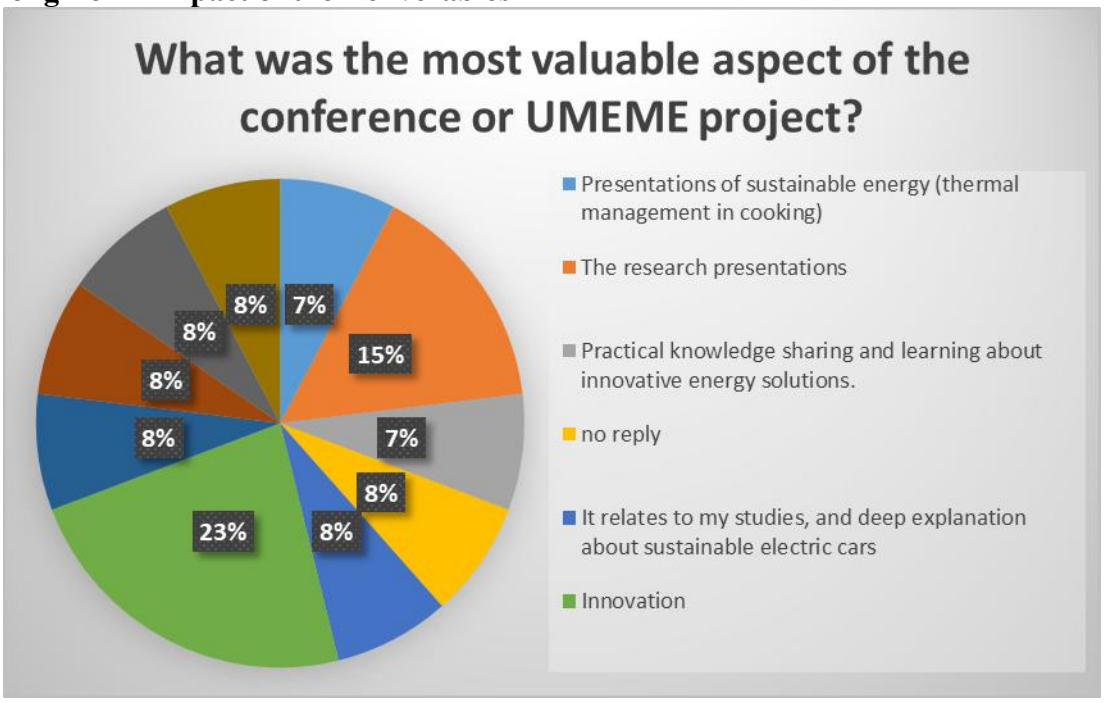


Figure 4: Knowledge relevance and practical application

9.4 Application of the Knowledge Gained

This aimed at evaluating how relevant and practical the knowledge transferred was.

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Figure 5: Knowledge relevance and practical application

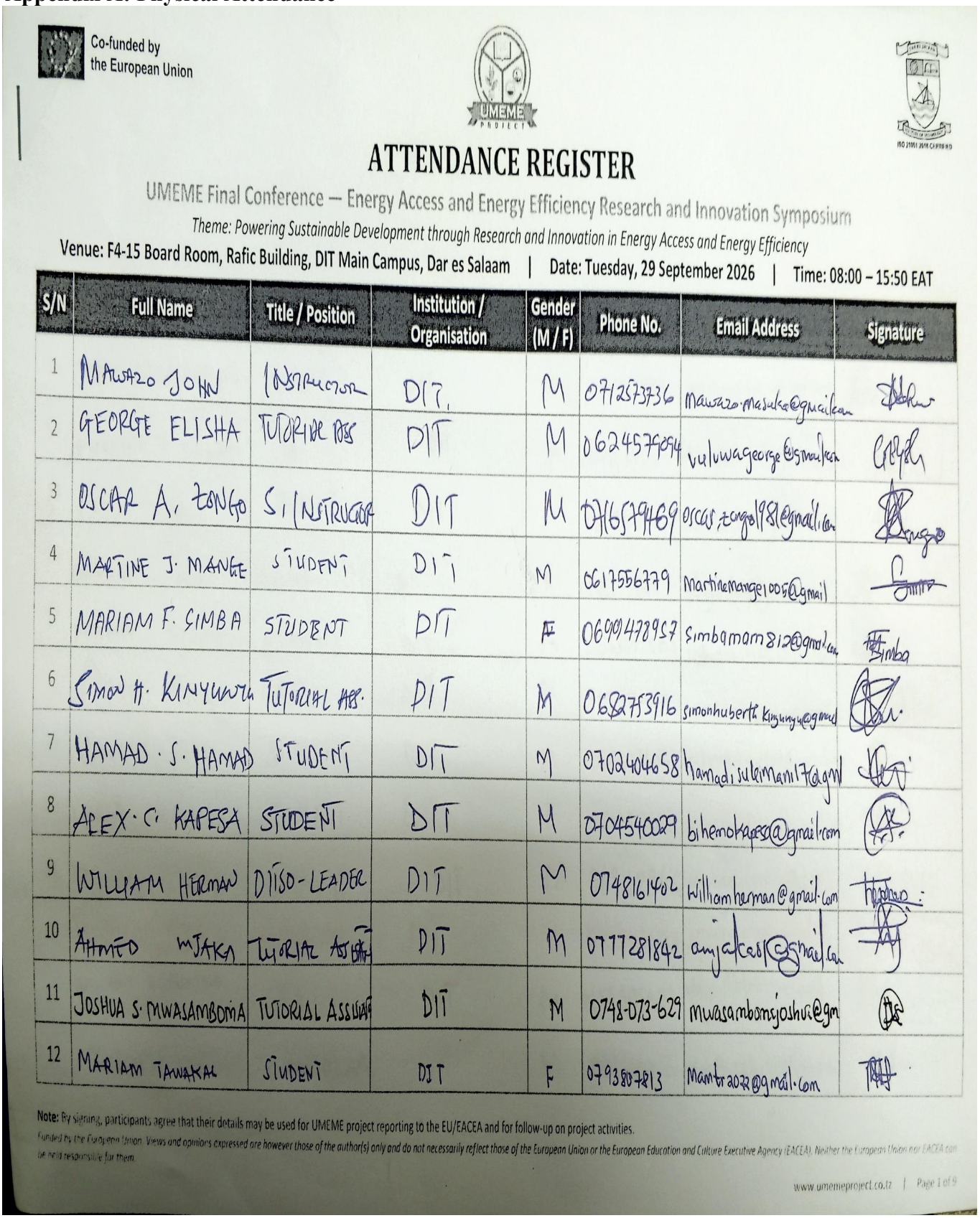
9.5 General Project Success



Figure 6: General project success results

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Appendix A: Physical Attendance



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ATTENDANCE REGISTER

UMEME Final Conference – Energy Access and Energy Efficiency Research and Innovation Symposium

Theme: Powering Sustainable Development through Research and Innovation in Energy Access and Energy Efficiency

Venue: F4-15 Board Room, Rafic Building, DIT Main Campus, Dar es Salaam | Date: Tuesday, 29 September 2026 | Time: 08:00 – 15:50 EAT

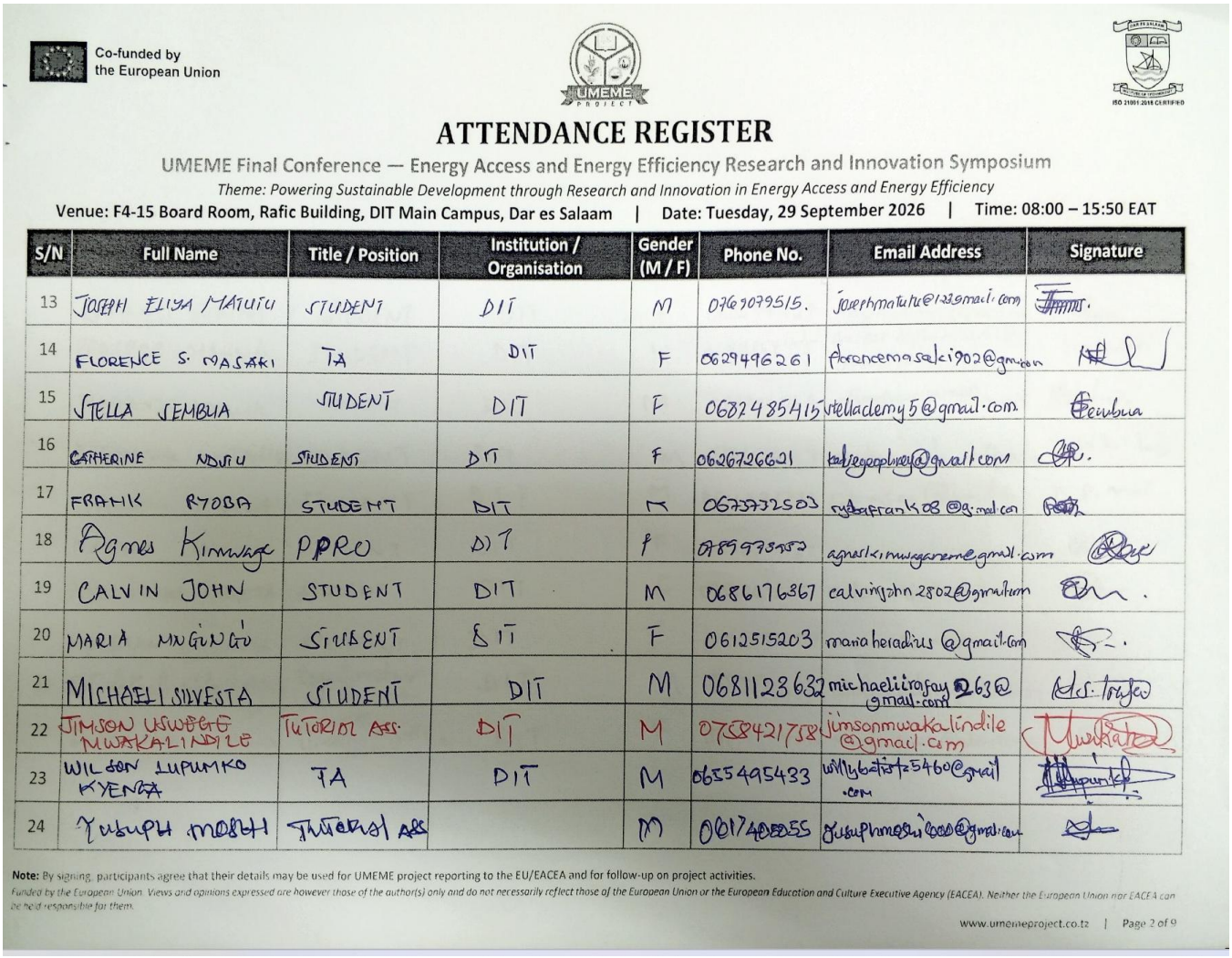
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Note: By signing, participants agree that their details may be used for UMEME project reporting to the EU/EACEA and for follow-up on project activities.

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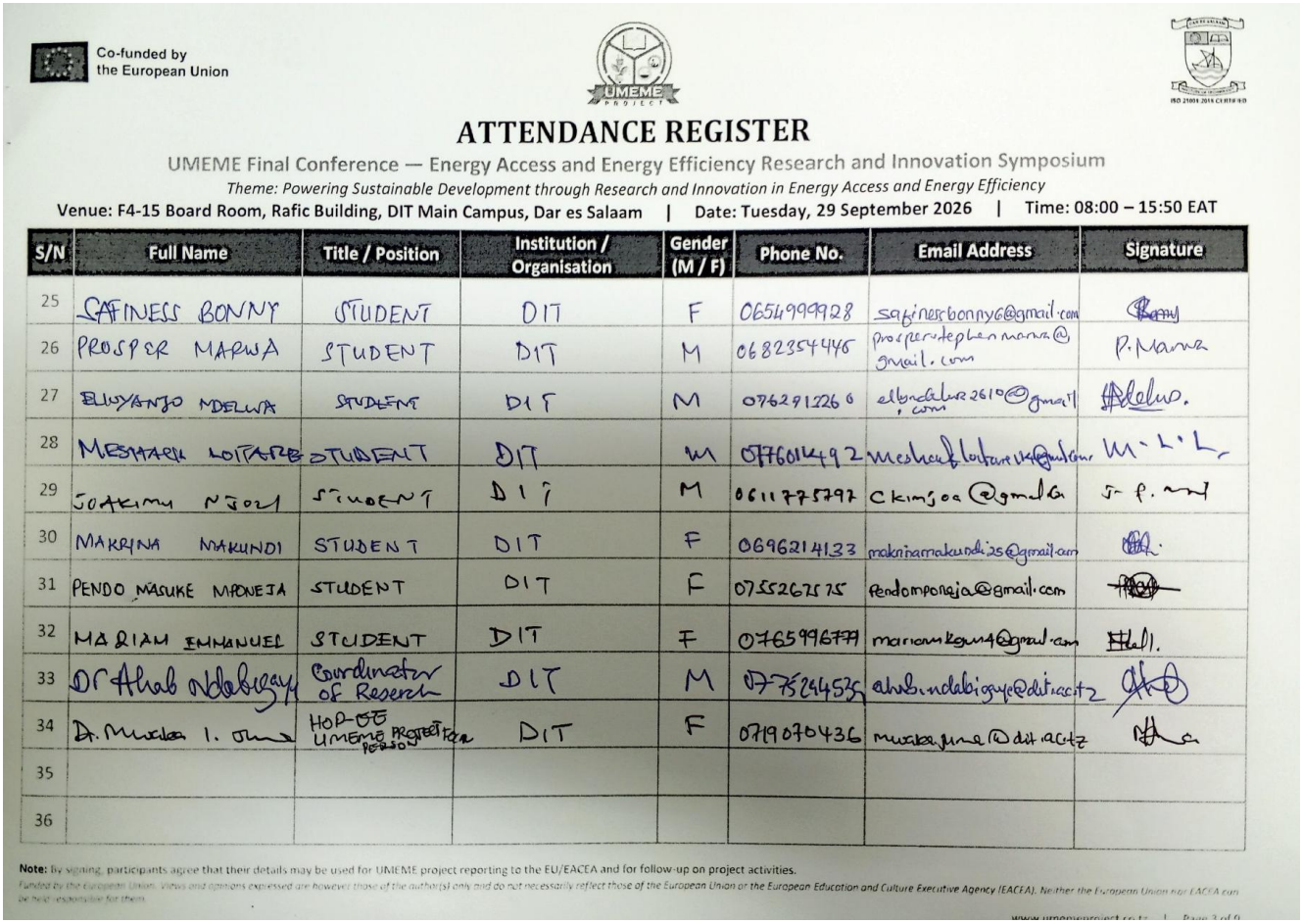
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Note: By signing, participants agree that their details may be used for UMEME project reporting to the EU/EACEA and for follow-up on project activities.

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Appendix B: Online Registration and Evaluation

Registration:: https://me-l.co/02l934xm

Evaluation: https://shorturl.at/kVV8q

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Appendix C: Conference Agenda

UMEME Final Conference — F4-16 Board Room, Rafic Building, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Main Campus — 29th September 2026, 08:00–15:50 EAT.

Time	Activity	Responsible
08:00–09:00	Registration, Poster Viewing and Networking	Secretariat / Participants
09:00–09:30	Official Opening	UMEME Project Coordinator / DIT Rector / DRARC/DA
09:30–10:00	Keynote Address: Energy Access, Energy Efficiency and the UMEME Project	Katiuscia Cipri
10:00–10:45	UMEME Project Dissemination: Outputs, Achievements and Lessons Learned	UMEME Project Team
10:45–11:00	Health Break	All Participants
11:00–11:45	Experience sharing / Success stories on Students Mobility	Session Chair / Presenters
11:45–12:45	Technical Session I: Energy Efficiency — Master's Research Presentations; Technical Session II: Energy Access and Renewable Energy — Master's Research Presentations	Session Chair / Presenters
12:45–13:45	Lunch, Poster Viewing and Innovation Showcase	All Participants
13:45–14:50	Closing Remarks	HoD-EE
14:50–15:50	Technical Visit: Three electric wheelers and CNG workshops	All Participants

Note on Drafting

This report was prepared for the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) following the structure of the UMEME Final Conference report template. The conference agenda, project results, lessons learned, mobility outcomes, master's research summaries and closing remarks were compiled from the official conference documents (programme, dissemination presentation, closing remarks and the two master's presentations). Institutional facts about DIT (Act of Parliament No. 6 of 1997, leadership, vision and mission, and the Electrical Engineering department) were compiled from the official DIT website (www.dit.ac.tz). Sections highlighted in yellow await confirmation from the DIT attendance and evaluation records.

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