



CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2026 International Symposium on West African Studies (8th ISWAS)

Theme: New Quality Productive Forces for West African Digital Governance
Transformation and Sustainability

Date: November 2026

Venue: Ghana

The Organizing Committee of the 2026 International Symposium on West African Studies (8th ISWAS) cordially invites scholars, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, development practitioners, and postgraduate students worldwide to submit abstracts for presentation at this year's symposium, scheduled to be hosted in Ghana in November 2026.

The 8th ISWAS aims to build a high-level interdisciplinary exchange platform to discuss how new quality productive forces (technology-driven, green, and digital innovative productivity) fuel digital governance innovation, sustainable development, and regional integration across West Africa.

As digital technologies, artificial intelligence, big data, digital infrastructure, and smart public governance reshape global economic and social landscapes, West Africa stands at a critical juncture to adopt such tools for governance modernization and inclusive sustainable growth. This symposium facilitates cross-boundary dialogue and collaboration between academics and practitioners to explore feasible pathways toward a digitally empowered, sustainable future for West Africa.

Thematic Tracks

Submissions covering (but not limited to) the following four thematic tracks are welcome:

Track 1: Digital Governance, Smart Public Administration & Institutional Security

- Digital governance and public sector institutional innovation
- AI-enabled public administration in West Africa
- Smart government and intelligent city construction
- Cybersecurity, cross-border data governance, and digital sovereignty
- Blockchain applications in public services and governance practice
- Institutional frameworks for inclusive and sustainable digital transformation



Track 2: Digital Industrial Economy, Regional Integration & Innovative Ecosystems

- Digital transformation and regional integration within West Africa
- Industry 4.0 and cutting-edge emerging technologies
- FinTech, digital payment systems, and financial inclusion
- Cross-border e-commerce and digital entrepreneurship
- Digitalized supply chains and intelligent logistics innovation
- Knowledge economy and regional technological innovation ecosystems

Track 3: Digital Livelihoods, Green Transition & Human Capital Development

- Digital healthcare and smart medical innovation in West Africa
- Agricultural digitalization, precision farming, and food security
- Green low-carbon technologies and long-term sustainable development
- Digital education and high-quality human capital cultivation
- Gender equality, digital accessibility, and inclusive development
- Digital cultural industries and creative economy

Track 4: China–West Africa Digital Development Cooperation

- Theoretical frameworks and practical cases of China–West Africa digital cooperation
- Public-private partnership models for digital infrastructure construction in West Africa

Submission & Publication Guidelines

Abstract Submission: Author(s) must submit an extended abstract (250-300 words) outlining the research objective, methodology, key findings, and implications.

Submission Email: cwasuestc@163.com

Review Process: All abstracts will undergo a double-blind peer-review process by a scientific committee.

Full Paper Submission (Post-Conference): To encourage high-quality submissions and allow authors to incorporate feedback received during presentation sessions, full papers are not required before the conference. Final full papers (5,000-8,000 words) must be submitted within two months following the conclusion of the symposium.

Publication Opportunities:

- All accepted papers will be included in the official Conference Proceedings.
- Selected outstanding/best papers will receive formal recommendations for publication in premium indexed journals (SCI / SSCI), subject to standard additional editorial review.
- Presentations/participation in the conference (after being selected) can be made in-person or online.



Important Dates

Milestone	Date
Abstract Submission Deadline	August 31, 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	Before September 15, 2026
Symposium Dates	November 2026
Full Paper Submission Deadline	Within 2 months after the conference

Abstracts must be received no later than August 31, 2026, for inclusion in the conference program.

Organizers

- University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC), P.R. China
- Center for West African Studies (CWAS), UESTC
- Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana
- University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana
- Ghana China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Represented by Mr Tang Hong)

The Organizing Committee looks forward to your participation and valuable scholarly contributions.

Organizing Committee
2026 International Symposium on West African Studies (8th ISWAS)
Center for West African Studies, UESTC
July 7, 2026

