



The Magazine

HALBEEG



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THE CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second publication of Halbeeg Newsletter, published quarterly by the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE). This is a new year January 2026 edition. We are hopeful that the year 2026 will be one of peace and progress for the Somali people, particularly the Somali Higher Education sector, which bears significant national responsibilities.

The newsletter presents to our readers a sky view of the plans, actions and activities of the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE).

The January 2026 edition focuses on the Commission's performance over the past four months, with particular emphasis on efforts aimed at improving the quality of higher education. Special attention has been given to the organization and development of standards and regulation used to assess various institutions of higher education; and the national policy and strategy for higher education.

The Commission, which was appointed in July 2025, immediately commenced studies on the overall status and quality of higher education in the country. These efforts included research, assessments, and extensive consultations which will be conducted with leaders of higher education institutions and officials from the higher education department of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education.

In addition, the Commission established partnerships with international organizations supporting higher education, including the East African Community, the European Union, the World Bank, Turkey, and Malaysia.

We are confident that this publication will provide clear and informative insights into the Commission's activities and programs designed to enhance the overall quality of higher education in the country.

Dr. Abdinur Sheikh

NCHE CHAIRPERSON





SOMALIA HAS JOINED IUCEA

Inter-University Council for East Africa

Somalia joined Sub-committees of East African Community Universities Coordinating Council. The East African Community Universities Coordinating Council consists of 6 sub-committees, which are assigned different tasks. Somalia has been expected for some time to submit members joining these 6 Sub-committees, with two members joining each. On November 26, 2025, the Somali Government officially submitted members representing them in Sub-committees; who come from universities and National Commission for Higher Education.



The National Commission Vice Chair was elected to join the Audit Committee, which oversees the Council's financial matters and educational scholarships.

The Committee held its 31st meeting, being the first meeting Somalia attended on December 1st 2025, and Somalia was represented by Dr. Mohamed Ali Farah and Dr. Mohamed Mahamud Hassan, the meeting which occurred via video-link, started at 10:00 am, and deliberated on:

- Election of a new Chairperson for the committee, and there was elected: Mr. Parity Twinomujunu from Uganda, who will lead the Audit committee for two years; and thanks were given to the former Committee Chairperson Mr. Godfrey Byekwaso who led the committee for some time.
- The meeting presented the financial reports, with the committee shown the debts owed by each state in the East African Community, and it was agreed that the secretariat contact the governments. The meeting also discussed scholarships and how East African states benefit, and highlighted the importance of transparent and fair distribution among the member states.
- Finally, the Committee proposed that the secretariat submit the Committee's recommendations to the Council management for implementation.



ESSP

National Education Sector Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026

The National Commission for Higher Education participated in the meeting to evaluate the National Education Strategic Plan for 2022 – 2026.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE) held a consultative meeting in Mogadishu with stakeholders on 23–24 September 2025, focusing on reviewing and reforming the National Education Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2022–2026. Representing the Commission were Dr Abdiwahab Ali Mumin and Prof Dr Abdullahi Sharif, and the meeting built on results from the 2023 Joint Review and the 2024 Mid-Term Review, aiming to align the ESSP with the National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025–2029. Participants assessed progress made, existing challenges, target adjustments, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, and enhancing partnership and funding, to ensure the education sector becomes sustainable, inclusive, and future-responsive.





MAHEF2025

Somalia established New Higher Education Relationship with Malaysia

A delegation from the Federal Government of Somalia participated prominently in the Malaysia-Africa Higher Education Forum 2025 (MAHEF2025), held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Nairobi.

The theme of the Forum was:

“Strengthening Global Cooperation Among Global South Countries.”



MAHEF2025

The forum was hosted by the Education Malaysia Global Services under Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education, and attended by senior officials from African governments and Malaysia.

The Somalia Delegation

The country of Somalia was represented by:

- Hon. Nuura Mustafa, State Minister of Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
- Dr. Abdinur Sheikh Mohamed, Chairman of National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE)Dr.
- Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Nageeye, Secretary General of National Commission for Higher Education

During the meeting, the Somali delegation held a special meeting with the top leaders of higher education in Malaysia, who included:

- Head of Education Malaysia Global Services
- Director General of the Higher Education Department of Malaysia
- Head of the Malaysian Qualifications Authority
- Director of the Higher Education Leadership Academy





MAHEF2025

The most important issues discussed were:

- To prepare a Higher Education Cooperation Agreement between the two countries.
- To resolve the problems Somali students encounter in Malaysia, such as certificate recognition, university admissions, and registration procedures.
- That the two sides cooperate in the areas of:
 - University enhancement and quality assurance (Quality Assurance)
 - Certificate recognition and the academic standards system (Qualifications Framework)
 - Development of university management and leadership
 - Joint research and knowledge exchange

The Malaysian officials showed full readiness and a desire to work closely with Somalia.





MAHEF2025

A Historic Agreement: NCHE and the Malaysian Qualifications Authority



The Chairman of the National Commission for Higher Education, Dr. Abdinur Sheikh, was among the participants of the independent session discussing: “Developing, Sustaining and Enhancing Higher Education Cooperation.” He presented deep insights regarding:

- How Somalia can build a quality higher education system
- Partnership opportunities between Malaysia and Somalia
- The role of NCHE in improving the quality of the country's universities

His ideas were greatly praised, and he elevated the profile of Somalia at the forum.

A special meeting took place between:

- The Head of the Malaysian Qualifications Authority
- The Secretary General of NCHE, Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Nageeye

In that meeting, it was agreed:

- To twin the two agencies (twinning) to share experiences and university quality procedures.
- To invite NCHE for an official visit to Malaysia to learn the modern systems that country operates.
- To begin preparation for a National Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) uniting the two countries in developing higher education.

This agreement paves the way for Somalia to truly benefit from Malaysia's experience in the field of higher education.

MAHEF2025

Conclusion

Somalia's participation in the MAHEF2025 forum has led to:

- A new strategic relationship between Malaysia and Somalia
- The hope for full resolution of challenges for Somali students studying in Malaysia
- An official start of positive cooperation between NCHE and Malaysian higher education agencies
- Broad opportunities regarding training, joint research, and elevating the quality of the country's universities

This forum has served to strengthen Somalia's role in the international higher education arena, while positioning it toward a future of expansive cooperation.





FIFTH ANNUAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

Somali Women in Higher Education, Research, and Academia.

The Fifth Somali Women's Knowledge Exchange in Higher Education, Research and Academia, held in Nairobi on November 20, 2025, brought together over 50 participants including scholars, researchers, teachers, government and social agencies, youth and women's organizations,

And deeply debated women's challenges and opportunities in education, leadership, peace and security, STEM participation, higher education quality and the political economy of research in Somalia; the conference which since 2019 has been organized by the Somali Gender Hub aimed to strengthen the voice of Somali women, encourage their research, build their academic capacity, and create collaboration and evidence-based recommendations;



Dr. Abdinur Sheikh Mohamed emphasized the need for quality improvement and unification of the education system and the priority of girls' education.

While Dr. Nadifa Sheikh Omar highlighted how women are still excluded from peace and security processes despite playing a major role in peacebuilding, while also facing cultural and institutional challenges that limit their leadership, insisting that their role be recognized and strengthened.



TEACHER'S DAY

21 Nofeembar 2025

A national ceremony honoring the Somali teacher was held in Mogadishu, attended by the country's top leadership, education stakeholders, and distinguished guests.

The event was graced by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education, Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir. Members of the National Commission for Higher Education of Somalia also participated, including Dr. Abdishakur Sheikh Hassan Fiqi, Dr. Ayan Sheikh Abdullahi, and Dr. Mohamed Moalim Abdullahi.



21 NOFEEEMBAR





ACSOS 2025

The 12th Annual Somali Research Conference



The 12th Annual Somali Research Conference (ACSOS2025), with this year's theme: Reshaping Society: The Role of Social Media, Education, and Politics, took place on December 9-11, 2025, and was officially opened by the Minister of Education, Culture & Higher Education, Honorable Farah Sheikh Abdulqadir.



COP30

Bridging Research, Data, and Finance for a Resilient Climate Future



From Evidence to Action: Enabling Inclusive and Finance-Ready Climate Solutions

This report summarizes an official COP30 side event focused on bridging research, climate data, and finance to advance climate resilience and adaptation. The discussions highlighted persistent gaps between scientific evidence, data availability, and access to climate finance, which continue to hinder the effective implementation of NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, and the Global Goal on Adaptation, particularly in vulnerable and developing contexts.

In conclusion, as Dr Mohamed Ibrahim participated, the event underscored the critical role of higher education and research institutions as intermediaries between knowledge, policy, and investment. Integrating robust data systems, applied research, and finance-ready approaches was identified as essential for reducing risk, scaling inclusive adaptation solutions, and translating global climate commitments into measurable and locally relevant outcomes.



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