Hanze East Africa Hub

About us

The Hanze East Africa Hub (HEAH) is a meeting place where companies, educational institutions and the government work together to find innovative solutions to (interdisciplinary) issues. The cooperation takes place between companies in East Africa, students/lecturers of the Hanze University Groningen and students/lecturers of partner institutions in the respective country. The HEAH focuses on the themes: Energy, Food, Health, IT and the sub themes Entrepreneurship and Communication.

What we offer

- A collaboration for at least one semester where students from the Hanze University are working on an issue your company is facing.

- A solution to your issue in either report or product form (depending on the type of issue you are facing and the facilities at Hanze).

What we expect from you

- A project description explaining the issue your company is facing and what is expected from our students (registration form).

- A few (online) meetings between the students and your company before, during and at the end of the project.

Important to keep in mind

- Our projects run from September - January and/or February - June.

- We do not assist in additional funding or with the implementation of the plans/products afterwards, but are interested to continue the collaboration with follow-up projects.

HEAH Projects Semester 1 2025-2026

Here is an overview of potential projects in the period September 2025-February 2026. For more information about the content of the project, please contact:

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Holland Greentec

Holland Greentech, located in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is enhancing horticulture in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing high-quality inputs and services to vegetable growers. With offices in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Zambia,Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Benin, Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso, and the Netherlands. Holland GreenTech supports farmers with state-of-the-art technology and expertise.

Holland Greentech is currently in its scale up phase, implementing its Rooted Growth Strategy. Challenges for HGT are:

- Growth of business and teams
- Financial/administrative issues such as risk management, compliance, pricing strategy
- Making more uniform the communication- and marketing strategy
- Implementing a uniform HR strategy
- Setup coldchain project in Tanzania
- Marketing strategy for certain products from grower to retailer
- Green Growth: maintaining healthy soil, supporting communities, reducing chemical use, more efficient water use.
- Marketing and storytelling around the Green Growth component.

Frostan

Frostan, , located in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is a what they call a cold chain operator, producing and distributing temperature-controlled food products through a dynamic production and distribution model. Food products involved are chicken, beef, vegetables and fish.

One Hanze student group already did a technical assessment of their energy consumption in the various factories. Next step is investigate what are the options for saving on emissions and how this can be turned into value by trading on the carbon credit market which is recently established in Tanzania

Mapinga Premium Foods

Mapinga Premium Foods is a startup food processing company in Mapinga, Tanzania. We process Tanzanian potatoes into CheChe crisps. The product is launched and currently we are

in the phase of scaling up our sales volumes. As a result, our production team needs to start preparing for continuous production (3 shifts, 7 days).

At Mapinga we have multiple challenges in different fields: Production, Sales, Logistics, Maintenance, energy consumption and procurement. In all those fields we can use help. There are several different topics in all fields. Students can come to Tanzania and help on implementing improvements that we need. This can be in production: 5S the production area and warehouse or implementing maintenance plan for the factory. In procurement we are in need of a long-term potato planning model, indicating the volumes we need and the square meters of farmland we need to reserve over the different periods of the year to secure potato supply over the year. In sales we can use some help on understanding our customer needs: how do we approach our different (B to B) customers and what does make them buy our products. Last, I would like to know if and how solar energy could be a good source of energy for our factory or warehousing.

WTS Foundation

WTS Foundation, located in Nairobi, Kenya, is a foundation with the focus on Trainings, Education and Vocational development of Engineers in East Africa and Latin America.

Our mission is:

- **Training**: Develop and deliver training in Renewable Energy.
- **Technology & Skills**: Establish knowledge hubs for Renewable Energy technology and skills.
- **Community**: Foster communities that actively engage with these hubs.
- **Job conditions**: Improve job conditions through international opportunities in renewable energy for trainees.

We are training in Kenya in Solar PV and in Electric Mobility on the TVET level. We have 2 project challenges for interns to help us:

1. A technical profile yet interdisciplinary. The project objective is to evaluate how the current training program in Solar can transition to a module or mentorship on associativity / entrepreneurship / solar productive use with the graduates from our program. This would require analysis of the renewable energy market on a granular level and be able to come with practical solutions and resources that would help the graduates of the solar program.
2. A technical profile yet interdisciplinary. The project objective is to control the quality of the new curriculum on the current state of the Electric Vehicle ecosystem. Interact with different stakeholders and see how to it can improve on its applicability to real cases. Making that the graduates of the EV program transition to improvement of job opportunities in the EV sector

One Climate World

One Climate World U.A. (Tanzania) connects people and organizations around the world through a digital international climate cooperative. In it, members from both the global North and global South jointly achieve climate neutrality by 2035 and alleviate energy poverty on the basis of equality and

justice. One Climate World U.A. is a cooperative in which every member has a vote (One member, One vote). Numerous studies show that an additional annual investment of 1% of global GDP in renewable energy can lead to climate neutrality worldwide, alleviate energy poverty for 2 billion people and create millions of new jobs. 1% of GDP can be mobilized if individuals invest 1% of their income, companies 1% of their profits and governments 1% of tax revenues. A group of 27 climate, development and cooperative experts from seven different countries - Germany, India, the Netherlands, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania - launched One Climate World Cooperative U.A.´ under Dutch law in June 2021 to achieve climate neutrality and alleviate energy poverty.

In 2025-2026 we like to start with the pilot project between Europe and Tanzania. One Climate World invests in community based renewable energy projects. Therefor we need to identify community based renewable energy projects. What resources do people use today that relies on fossil fuel energy and can be replaced with renewable energy products? Mini grid? Cooking? What do people in rural areas and farmers need but cannot afford it. Target groups: rural communities in less developed areas.

- A participatory community based research with as a result a report. Communicate with groups, individuals, stakeholders and local renewable energy business, famers, forcefield analyse. Opportunities and bottlenecks, responsible business models for communities for affordable clean energy
- participatory research towards the opportunities and bottlenecks (risk-analyse and force field analyse) for One Climate World to implement a successful pilot. The do's and don'ts, opportunities, challenges and needs of rural communities. Result: research report and plan pilot.
- what is the impact of renewable energy sources on farm productivity in Tanzania?
- how can small local farmers benefit from solar energy for irrigation and other agricultural applications?
- what barriers do agricultural farmers experience adopting renewable energy solutions like biogas, small wind turbines and/or solar energy?
- how can local communities maximise the benefits of renewable energy projects of using renewable energy in agricultural sector in Tanzania?

ROAM Electric

Roam, located in Nairobi, Kenya, is a transport company specializing in developing, designing, and deploying electric vehicles for the African market, leading the transition to sustainable transport. They have set-up their own factory where they have a production line for electric motor cycles. Next to that they convert buses, mini-buses, and 4 wheel drive cars into electric vehicles. They have various challenges where they are looking for student assignments, such as:

- optimizing the production line (line balancing)
- Integration and Performance Testing of Regenerative and Disc Braking Systems on an Electric Motorbike
- To develop a 72V AC-DC wall mounted inverter with IoT for Integration with an existing motorcycle battery pack
- Ergonomic Study and Safety Analysis of an Existing Electric Motorbike
- Design of Modular Cargo-Accessories for an Existing Electric Motorbike

Barefoot Power

Barefoot Power, located in Nairobi, Kenya, is a leader in the design, manufacturing and distribution of solar powered assets that enable sustainable lifestyles and generates income to off-grid/ weak-grid households and communities in Africa and South Pacific. Barefoot also started up a food catering business.

There are several subjects that need further research:

- How can the Solar Home System be redesigned to become modular extensible, including a modular upgradable inverter system?
- What are new business opportunities for their Solar Home System, including extending the concept with DC powered home appliances?
- Several assignments for upgrading the design of their products (IPO). They cooperate with an industrial designer in Eindhoven.
- What are the business opportunities for setting up a 'Hello Fresh' concept in Kenya?