

## Rwanda to Host the 66th ICCA Congress in 2027

We are thrilled to announce that Rwanda has been selected as the host destination for the 66th ICCA Congress in 2027. This milestone marks a significant moment for Africa, which hosts more than 400 international association meetings annually.

The International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) serves as a global knowledge hub and advocate for the international association meetings industry. Since joining ICCA in 2013, Rwanda has made noteworthy progress, moving from 21st in Africa to third on the continent, with Kigali now ranked second for hosting association conferences and events. Rwanda has also built impactful partnerships that continue to reinforce its growth as a leading destination for events in the country's priority sectors, supported by innovative collaborations and investments that enhance capacity, sustainability, and global relevance.

Over the past decade, Rwanda has emerged as a premier MICE destination, boasting world-class facilities such as the Kigali Convention Centre, BK Arena, Amahoro Stadium, Intare Conference Arena, and the Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village, among others. These venues have successfully hosted major global events including the UCI Road World Championships 2025, 13th International AIDS Society Conference (IAS) 2025, FIA Awards 2024, Women Deliver Conference 2023, World Travel & Tourism Council Global Summit 2023, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022.

The 66th ICCA Congress is expected to bring more than 2,000 delegates from around the world and will help build meaningful connections and shape the future of the meetings industry. Attendees will expand their global network by meeting face-to-face with top industry leaders and associations from across continents, engaging in crucial conversations about addressing industry challenges and co-creating solutions for a more sustainable and inclusive outlook for association meetings.

Beyond networking, delegates will gain vital insights and expert perspectives through a variety of educational and workshop sessions, exploring innovative trends and best practices to improve their organizations and leave with actionable ideas that drive business growth.

Rwanda also continues to invest in the professional development of the MICE sector through initiatives like the ICCA Skills Hub for Africa, which supports emerging talent and strengthens the future of the meetings industry in the region. Currently, two cohorts of 37 events professionals from across Africa have received training for the Certified International Convention Specialist (CICS) and the Certified International Convention Executive (CICE) courses offered by ICCA. In

March 2026, the hub will also welcome another cohort to receive the CICS training.

Additionally, the country's accessibility is a key advantage, with RwandAir, the national carrier and other airlines operating in Rwanda such as Qatar Airways, Kenya Airways, Turkish Airlines, KLM, EgyptAir, Ethiopian and Brussels Airlines offering seamless connectivity to major hubs across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

"It is a great honour for Rwanda to host the ICCA Congress and to welcome the global association community back to Africa for the first time in twenty years. This historic occasion reflects the continent's growing prominence and leadership within the international MICE industry. Made possible through the steadfast support of our partners and stakeholders, both local and regional, this milestone provides an important opportunity to offer distinguished experiences and to present, not only Rwanda's capabilities but also the collective strength and potential of our regional partners." said Janet Karemera, CEO, Rwanda Convention Bureau.

