Digital Liberia Week

October 28 – October 30, 2025

Day 1

Opening Session "Setting the Vision for a Digital Liberia"



The Opening Session established a compelling vision for Liberia's digital transformation, grounded in trust, integrity, inclusion, and national ownership. Leaders highlighted the indispensable role of digital technologies in driving inclusive growth, enhancing transparency, and strengthening national resilience. The discussion further emphasized that cybersecurity, effective digital governance, and strong institutional coordination form the essential foundations for realizing Liberia's digital future.



Georgia Wallen, Country Manager, The World Bank: Digital Liberia Week is our opportunity to strengthen that shared purpose — to align efforts, exchange ideas, and shape together a digital future that connects technology with opportunity and strategy with service for every Liberian.

Dehpue Y. Zou, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning: Together with our partners, we are building a system that drives digital transformation — boosting our revenue, enhancing productivity, and creating sustainable growth.

Hon. Sen. Francis Saidy Dopoh II, Senator for River Gee County and Chair of the Senate Committee on Posts and Telecommunications: Digital transformation is not just about technology. It is about trust, integrity, inclusion, and national ownership.

Hon. Sekou Kromah, Minister, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications: Let us build a Liberia where digital inclusion is not a privilege but a right. Together, we can empower Liberia's digital future.

National Coordination Session "Building One Coherent Digital Vision"



The session marked a pivotal milestone with the official launch of Liberia's National Digital Strategy (2025–2029) and the activation of the Digital Transformation Working Group (DTWG). Participants collectively recognized that addressing digital infrastructure and skills gaps is crucial to achieving equitable access to digital opportunities across the country. Emphasizing the importance of inclusive leadership, the discussion underscored the government's central role, the need for strong inter-agency coordination, and the active engagement of youth and women as vital drivers of Liberia's digital reform agenda.

National Digital Strategy and its plan for implementation

Sheikh A. Sheriff, Chief Information Officer, Republic of Liberia: Our vision is a digitally empowered and inclusive society where technology transforms governance, ensures equitable access to public services, and drives economic development for all Liberians.

Overview of the Digital Transformation Working Group

Nicolas M. Johnson, Assistant Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications: The National Digital Transformation Working Group will coordinate Liberia's digital activities around infrastructure, skills, governance, the digital economy, and cybersecurity.



<u>Panel Discussion: Turning the National Digital Strategy into Action: Making Coordination Work</u>

Moderator: MacDonald Nyazvigo, Senior Financial Management Specialist, The World Bank

Collins W. Teah, Jr., Senior Advisor on ICT, Central Bank of Liberia: Now, to avoid siloed operations and work toward a shared digital vision, a revised coordination mechanism and communication medium must be adopted.

Jim-ngormoh A. Kamara, GREAT Project Implementation Team Lead, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning: By bringing institutions together under one framework, we ensure that progress by one becomes progress for all — the system moves forward collectively, not in isolation.

Blidi Elliott, Director of Strategy, Liberian Telecommunications Authority: The regulator must become a true digital enabler — shaping policies that strengthen the market while ensuring a fair return on investment for operators.

Emmanuel Chrispher, President of the Chief Information Officer, Council of Liberia: Liberia has moved past the early stages of digital readiness — our experts now have the capacity and confidence to lead ministries and agencies toward a unified digital future. With stronger budgetary and institutional support, this expertise can translate into lasting national progress.

Sekou Ibn Majey Kamara, President, Liberia Information Technology Students Union: The digital ecosystem cannot thrive without a solid foundation. Before scaling up, we must focus on building the underlying infrastructure and coordination mechanisms that ensure long-term sustainability.

Telecom Session "Connectivity as a Cornerstone of Digital Inclusion"



The session centered on advancing Liberia's connectivity landscape through stronger sector regulation, expanded rural network coverage, and the development of shared infrastructure. Participants emphasized that fostering public-private partnerships and establishing investment-friendly regulatory environments are vital to strengthening both national and regional digital connectivity. Operators and regulators reiterated their shared commitment to extending broadband access to underserved and remote communities, reaffirming inclusive digital access as a key priority in Liberia's transformation agenda.

S. Mohammed Masaley, Deputy Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications: In line with the vision of the national ICT policy, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is working closely with relevant ministries and agencies to transform Liberia into a knowledge-based and inclusive digital society.

Hon. Clarence C. Massaquoi, Chairperson, Liberia Telecommunications Authority: As the regulator, our responsibility is not merely to participate, but to establish the enabling policy and regulatory frameworks that empower implementation. The decisions we make must not remain on the shelves; they must translate into concrete actions shaping Liberia's digital transformation.

Liberia Telecom Market Assessment Findings

Erik Whitlock (Partner), Rozalija Bates (Principal Consultant), Salience Consulting: Liberias subsea international connectivity is evolving from vulnerability to resilience — strengthened by new cross-border links, expanding national fiber networks, and reforms aimed at opening and sharing the market more effectively.

Regulatory Response and Sector Development Plan

Blidi Elliott, Director of Strategy, Liberian Telecommunications Authority: The LTA is being proactive in requiring access We are working with the Digital Management Agency, and my colleague in the back office is the focal point for that. We are collaborating to develop what they call a "Telecoms Early Warning for All" system.



Panel Discussion: Shaping the Future of Liberia's Telecom Sector

Moderator: Erik Whitlock, Partner, Salience Consulting

Hon. Clarence C. Massaquoi, Chairperson, Liberia Telecommunications Authority: Expanding shared digital infrastructure and improving broadband access is critical for Liberia's future. The LTA must be seen as the glue — the enabler bringing market data, consumer feedback, and infrastructure mapping to help the Digital Transformation Working Group make informed decisions.

Mulbah Zaza, Senior Manager, Orange Digital Center: The initiative to connect our cross-border linkage is not just a milestone. It signifies growing confidence in Liberia — confidence in its potential to become a regional digital hub.

Lucien Gortor, Chief Technology Officer, CSquared: There are moments when competitors become collaborators. Creating that environment is key — infrastructure sharing reduces cost for all and benefits the end user.

Abubakari Halidu, General Manager, Lonestar Cell MTN: If there is harmony in regulation, it gives clarity of purpose. That allows us to create innovations that drive the economic agenda and reduce opportunities for corruption.



Day 2

Cybersecurity Session "Building Trust and Resilience in the Digital Age"



The session introduced Liberia's National Cybersecurity Strategy (2024–2029), structured around three core pillars — Build, Protect, and Sustain. Panelists emphasized that the successful implementation of this strategy depends on establishing robust legal frameworks, ensuring sustainable funding, and investing in the development of local cybersecurity talent. The discussion also highlighted that public–private collaboration and nationwide awareness campaigns are critical to strengthening Liberia's cyber resilience and fostering a culture of trust and security in the digital space.

The Baseline Cybersecurity Assessment and the Cybersecurity Public-Private Partnership

Rafal Rohozinski, CEO and Principal, SecDev: Liberia's cybersecurity progress depends on empowered leadership, clear legal foundations, and strategic public-private partnerships that transform policy into sustainable action.

Overview of the National Cybersecurity Strategy and Action Plan

D Nalon Kaine, Head of Project Management Office and Cybersecurity Coordinator, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications: Liberia must anchor its digital future on accountable governance, sustained investment, and a whole-of-society approach to cybersecurity.



Panel Discussion: Financing and Governing Liberia's Cybersecurity Future

Moderator:

- Sekou Keita, Founder and Chairman at Ducor Energy Technology Solutions and Chairman at Liberia Technology Summit Organizing Committee
- Rafal Rohozinski, CEO and Principal, SecDev

D Nalon Kaine, Head of Project Management Office and Cybersecurity Coordinator, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications: First thing first, let's put those governance in place — legal frameworks — because we have tried from time to time, but the major stumbling block has been the absence of a legal framework.

Taweh Johnson, Executive Director, Campaigners Against Misinformation and Disinformation in Liberia: Disinformation and misinformation cause distrust in digital platforms. It is everybody's business to ensure a cyber-resilient Liberia. We must organize inclusive digital literacy education — to empower Liberians on how to authenticate links and verify online information.

Oliver Wleh Klark Jr., Founder/Chief Executive Officer at Advanced Converged Technologies LLC, and Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer at RoviaGate Technology, LLC: When it comes to cybersecurity, the real question is where the data is stored — locally or elsewhere, and by whom. Data sovereignty is key.

Identification Session "Building Digital ID for Inclusion and Service Delivery"



The session highlighted digital identification as a critical foundation for inclusive access to essential services, social protection, and effective governance. Ongoing initiatives — notably the UNICEF-supported pilot integrating birth registration with the national ID system — were presented as practical examples of how interoperability can improve service delivery and citizen inclusion. Panelists further called for the removal of the \$5 ID card fee to enhance affordability, the expansion of decentralized registration centers to increase accessibility, and stronger interoperability among the National Identification Registry (NIR), National Elections Commission (NEC), and health systems to ensure a cohesive and citizen-centered digital identity ecosystem.

Andrew Peters, Executive Director, National Identification Registry: At the hearts of every digital service, it is inability to prove who you are. This is where the national identification registry places a vector rule. Without a secure, verifiable, and inclusive system identification, more national nation. The National Identification Registry plays a central role in answering Liberia's inclusion challenges. We are not just issuing a card — we are empowering access and laying the foundation for a digital economy.

ID4D Diagnostic Findings

Alexandre Amard, Digital Specialist, The World Bank: One of the main findings from the diagnostic is that there are so many different organizations within government capturing personal information to enable services — but the linkages between systems and processes are simply not there.

Birth Registration Pilot Results

Helen Nyangoya, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Liberia: Our obligations when it comes to children are clear. In 2023, no single Liberian child had received an identity card — and by 2024 last year, we embarked on this journey when the President launched the mass enrollment. Eighty-five percent of births in Liberia occur in health facilities. When health workers, NIR, and communities collaborate, every child can leave the hospital with a birth certificate, national ID, and immunization record.



Panel Discussion: Building an Inclusive ID Ecosystem for Liberia

Moderator: Bonnie Ann Sirois, Senior Public Sector Specialist, The World Bank

Andrew Peters, Executive Director, National Identification Registry: Our leverage lies in technical expertise and logistics from our partners, improving outreach that drives enrollment participation. At the county level, all superintendents are named ambassadors to mobilize local authorities to create awareness about the importance of national identification and encourage citizens to enroll.

Anthony L. Fortune, Assistant Minister for Vital Statistics, Ministry of Health: We are decentralized, and we must focus on data quality and governance across all agencies. It is not just the Ministry of Health — it also involves the Ministry of Education and our Statistics House, because they are the ones who will use the data for planning purposes.

Sheikh A. Sheriff, Chief Information Officer, Republic of Liberia: We can streamline all of this through just one singular institution. Why do we even need a physical ID when we are in a digital age? Each and every single person in Liberia, in almost every household, has some level of access to smartphones — which means all can have a national digital ID system. The moment we move to such an identification system, we empower our people.

Isaac Vah Tukpah, Jr., Chief Executive Officer at Lake Piso Solutions and Member at Liberia Technology Consortium: Our economy is very limited, and turning it around requires participation. All we are asking for is participation. We are focusing on capacity building and the full integration of the system, and they need to enforce the law.

S. Isaac Zahn, Data Center Director, National Elections Commission: The voters' roll needs to be credible. We went back home, did some research, and realized that the way forward was to establish a biometric process that would ensure the credibility of the roll.



Day 3

Digital Agriculture Session "Cultivating Smart Growth through Technology"



The session emphasized how digital technologies can transform Liberia's agriculture by improving productivity, resilience, and market access across the value chain. Participants underscored the importance of reliable data systems, coordinated institutional leadership, and strong public–private partnerships to accelerate digital adoption. The discussion also highlighted that inclusive approaches — especially empowering women and youth — are essential to ensure that digital agriculture contributes to equitable and sustainable rural growth.

Charles Snetter, Advisor to President and Ambassador at Large: We were told that the change had come — from analog to digitalization — and up until today, we are still trying to get there.

Kadir Osman Gyasi, Senior Agriculture Specialist, The World Bank: Together, we can co-create a digital agriculture ecosystem that meets diverse needs, uplifts farmers, and ensures food and income security for generations to come. Let us use this platform to share ideas, forge partnerships, and commit to building a more inclusive, tech-enabled, and resilient food system in Liberia.

Hon. J. Alexander Neutah, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture: In agriculture, digitization is not an option — it is an imperative for growth and the sustainable development of the sector. For too long, our farmers have worked with limited access to tools, data, and timely information. Today, digital innovation can change this reality by connecting farmers across the country to weather forecasts, market information, and expert advice.

Overview of Liberia's Digital Agriculture Needs Assessment and Next Steps for Implementation

Ralph Elsaesser, Project Manager, GOPA AFC: Digital innovation is the enabler of agrifood transformation — building an agriculture system in Liberia that is more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable for generations to come.



Panel Discussion: Shaping the Digital Agriculture Agenda for Liberia

Moderator: Moses Moroe Zinnah, Professor of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Liberia

Dan T. Saryee, Managing Director, Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority: To build an effective digital agriculture system, we must start by ensuring every farmer has a unique identification number. Traceability begins with data — and when each farmer is uniquely identified, we can enable transparency, accountability, and smarter market connections.

Josephine G. Francis, President, Farmers Union Network: We are all farmers. Without farmers, there is no food, and agriculture remains the backbone of every nation's economy. That is why we must build digital platforms that amplify the voice of farmers and make them active participants in shaping the services that serve them.

Caesar Morris, Acting President at Liberia Technology Consortium and Member at Chamber of Commerce: A digital agriculture financing system can empower farmers to contribute to social security, access investment opportunities, and reinvest in the tools and machines they need — creating a cycle of growth and resilience.

Momoh Borbor Kamara, Jr., Assistant Director for Agriculture Statistics and Agriculture Census Coordinator, Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geoinformation Services: The coordination of institutions is highly important. Clear rules and a strong national data policy are essential to ensure standards for data collection and analysis. Investing in digital tools remains one of our key achievements and priorities for the future.



Digital Skills Session "Building Liberia's Talent for the Digital Future"



This session focused on developing Liberia's human capital as a foundation for digital transformation and economic growth. Participants explored strategies to align education and training systems with emerging labor market needs, emphasizing digital literacy, STEM integration, and advanced ICT competencies. The discussion highlighted that collaboration between ministries, universities, training providers, and industry is essential to ensure programs are relevant, scalable, and results-oriented. Speakers also called for stronger inclusion measures to expand opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, and rural youth, ensuring equitable access to digital jobs. The session concluded with a call to develop a unified national digital skills framework that connects education, innovation, and employment — positioning Liberia's workforce to compete and thrive in the global digital economy.

Nathaniel K. Cisco, Jr., Assistant Minister for TVET, STEM, and Special and Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education: We are about to roll out the installation of internet services across schools nationwide. Integrating technology into education is a dream come true — and sooner or later, we will be reading a new digital history.

Overview of the Digital Skills Program Design Workshop and Interactive Quiz

Narae Lee, Impact Evaluation Officer, The World Bank: With Al and digital skills, young people can learn better, work smarter, and help small businesses become more sustainable. This is how Liberia builds a workforce ready for the future.



Panel Discussion: Bridging the Digital Skills Gap

Moderator: Mohammed Thabet M Audah, Education Economist, The World Bank

Nathaniel K. Cisco, Jr., Assistant Minister for TVET, STEM, and Special and Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education: At the Ministry of Education, we are integrating digital literacy and numeracy apps into our curriculum to ensure that students from grade one to six learn through digital devices. When children take these tools home, it connects parents and teachers — even helping parents learn how to use the apps themselves.

Darren Wilkins, Associate Professor and Chief Information Officer at University of Liberia, Chief Executive Officer at Liberia Research and Education Network: We integrate digital literacy at all levels — not only in ICT programs but across all disciplines. To drive innovation, we must also establish research and innovation hubs and strengthen networks for learning and collaboration.

Srivara Mangai, President and Rector, BlueCrest University College: Our academic curriculum must be dynamic and industry-responsive. BlueCrest University has redesigned its curriculum to prepare students through bootcamps and hands-on computing fundamentals, ensuring they are ready to learn, adapt, and thrive in the digital era.

Ousmane Sangary, China Chapter Chairman, Liberia Information Technology Students Union: We must train our graduates to become competent professionals who can contribute to government and industry — so we no longer have to look outside for expertise.

Thelma K. Cephas, Program Manager, Woman In ICT: Many of our young women are eager to learn ICT and build careers in tech, but they often lack the right support. In some areas, there is simply no electricity or enough computers — students are willing to learn, yet they have no way to connect. If we create opportunities — scholarships, training programs, or hackathons — we can help our girls develop their talent and prove that women belong in technology.



Closing Session "From Dialogue to Delivery – Building a Digital Liberia Together"



The Closing Session captured the spirit of Digital Liberia Week 2025, marking the shift from dialogue to delivery. Speakers reflected on how Liberia's digital transformation is moving from vision to action — driven by coordination, inclusion, and strong partnerships. The discussion emphasized institutional coherence, affordable connectivity, trusted cybersecurity, digital identification, and skills development for youth and women. It reaffirmed that digital transformation is not only about technology, but about people and progress. The session ended with a call to sustain momentum and keep working together to build a Digital Liberia that empowers citizens and drives inclusive growth.

Georgia Wallen, Country Manager, The World Bank: Digital enables development — and development, in turn, enables digital access. Building a truly digital Liberia means investing not only in technology but also in roads, energy, education, and inclusion. Partnership across government, academia, and the private sector is key — and so are the voices of youth, women, farmers, and communities beyond Monrovia. This dialogue and collaboration must continue, nurturing a digital Liberia that grows stronger together.

Lucine Munkyung Park, Senior Digital Specialist, The World Bank: Digital Liberia Week has shown the country's collective commitment — from government and regulators to academia, the private sector, and citizens. The dialogue was inclusive, engaging voices from across the country and across sectors. Moving forward, our progress will depend on everyone's continued collaboration and shared purpose.



Thank you for being part of Digital Liberia Week 2025. We deeply appreciate your dedication and collaboration in the continued journey toward a truly digital and inclusive Liberia.