Coventry University Group has announced plans to open a new overseas hub in Kigali, Rwanda to support its links in Sub-Saharan Africa and help extend its corporate functions across the world.

The hub will open in Kigali to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the capital in June. It is part of the university's plan to develop a sustainable network of multi-faceted overseas offices. The ambition is to have a presence near to its stakeholders in key regions and follows the success of the Singapore and Dubai hubs.

The aim is to provide organisations and individuals throughout the world with regional access to the growing academic, research and commercial expertise that exists within all areas of the Coventry University Group.

The Africa Hub will serve as a base for Coventry University Group in the region with the aim of enabling new relationships as well as strengthening established ones.

The Africa Hub will promote the university group's research, globalisation, enterprise and innovation work throughout the region through the development of closer relationships with embassies, government bodies, research institutes, universities and private sector entities.

The hub will be located in Kigali Heights, a mixed use development situated adjacent to the Kigali Convention Centre.

Professor John Latham CBE, Vice-Chancellor, Coventry University Group, said: "I am delighted by the progress we have made in establishing a representation office to support our work in Sub-Saharan Africa. The hub aligns with the UK International Education Strategy and will respond to the growth opportunity we have identified on the continent. Africa has a growing population largely composed of young people and economies that are among the fastest growing in the world. The Africa Hub will join our successful hubs in Singapore and Dubai to fulfil our strategic objective to be a global university delivering at a global scale."

John Uwayezu, Country Director and Market Access Officer for UK Department for International Trade (DIT), British High Commission, Kigali, said: "I am thrilled about this regional hub; this is in line with DIT's targeted plan of action to increase trade and investment flows between the UK and Rwanda. The hub will accelerate progress in human capital development. An investment in knowledge always pays the best

interest when it comes to economic growth and productivity; I congratulate the Government of Rwanda’s strong commitment to investing in people.”