DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 51, APRIL 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

1. 14th Graduation Ceremony
2. DeKUT UNESCO Chair on Futures Literacy
3. DeKUT launches Origin Hub
4. Tree planting in commemoration of the departed students.

14th Graduation Ceremony





Graduation day is among the most anticipated and memorable day in a student's life.

We held the 14th Graduation Ceremony on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th April 2023, at the Freedom Hall, Main Campus - Nyeri. The graduation ceremony was physical but also aired live on our DeKUT Web TV Channel (dekutchannel. dkut. ac.ke) and the University's official YouTube Channel (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology).

This year, a total of 817 graduands in this cohort. We are proud to be releasing more graduates to join the rest of the DeKUT alumni in contributing to the development of our nation and beyond.

Congratulations! Graduating Class of 2023!





DeKUT UNESCO chair on Futures Literacy



The DeKUT UNESCO Chair on Future Literacy was officially launched on 4th April,2023. In attendance were Dr. Rose Ngugi, Executive Director of KIPPRA and representatives of the Secretary-General KNATCOM and P.S. Higher Education and Research. A two-day workshop on the Futures Literacy laboratory and the chair's strategic plan was also launched during the ceremony. UNESCO has granted Dedan Kimathi a UNESCO and Futures Literacy Chair to further entrench the University as product of anticipation and supports its goals to make technology be a means to have better futures. Through the Chair DeKUT is now part of a Global Network of FLL Chairs that seek to make futures literacy a core capability much as writing and reading became core capabilities in the past and also help build better futures.

There are is demand for building futures capability and governments and organizations seek to cope with many crises facing humanity. At the same time the chair has capability and the support and the networks to provide support to society in building the needed capabilities.

The key will be building unique and compelling value proposition drawing from the unique strengths and opportunities presented. The key pillars in this endeavor are

i. An interdisciplinary program that incorporates and includes all disciplines in the spirit of building a futures literate capability in the society. Futures will be seen as a basic capability that cuts across all disciplines

ii. Leverage the FLL global network to bring global best practices to the Africa landscape
iii. Build a strong Community of Practice (CoP) and FLL fellows well versed in FLL methodology that will ensure capacity to provide superior service without a high overhead
iv. Offer a range of services that will meet the needs of all targeted stakeholders

The chair aims to achieve this through strategic thrusts;

i. Building future capabilities and a strong Community of Practice (CoP)
ii. Supporting Policy Making
iii. Helping build the Discipline of Anticipation through research and collaboration with other Chairs
iv. Embedding Futures literacy in education systems

This will be supported through building strong partnership local, regionally and at international level.





Launch of the Origin Hub East Africa

The Government of Kenya, through the National Research Foundation and Dedan Kimathi

University of Technology, host the Origin East African Hub at the University's Science and Technology Park. It includes a physical space and two personnel that support Origin, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni and Prof. Jean Bosco. The University also identified three areas of focus that will leverage metaverse in education, expansion of economic value in geothermal energy resources for local communities and smart agriculture value for communities in semi-arid areas worst hit by climate change. As a metaverse centre of excellence, it will support STEM education in primary and secondary schools, health, agriculture and tourism among others.

Origin Research and Innovation Labs (or 'Origin') is designed as sustainable, responsible and innovative spaces that attract the best to make Africa the global pole for solving complex and wicked problems faced by communities and firms; inspiring Africans to generate ground-breaking, revolutionary solutions and; showcasing innovative solutions that can be deployed on a massive scale in Africa and globally. Origin will tap on the growing scientific, technological and industrial base; youthful population that is increasingly educated and; a dynamic and engaged diaspora as well as on visionary leaders of industry, civil society and public sector that share Origin's vision.

At its basic, Origin will leverage technology, including metaverse, to bring thousands of smart and talented people to meet problems entities anywhere in Africa. This will help mirror existing platforms such as Innocentive that has over 500,000 solvers. However, Origin will leverage emerging technologies e.g. virtual reality and augmented reality to enable:

a) Co-creation and co-innovation.

b) Teams to define and solve short and long - term problems.

c) Showcase solutions that can be deployed on grand scale.

This component will focus on reaching out to a large population of researchers, business leaders, communities, development partners and government officials to build a strong and vibrant support community for Origin. Origin will need a range of resources: talent, networks, facilities, funds, open spaces – virtual and physical -, partners, supporters among others that can help it deliver on its mandate. This will include targeted invitations to individuals and institutions, promotion and awareness campaigns and formal requests for support and membership. It will also involve exploring and sealing collaborative and partnership agreements that enable Origin to achieve greater impact.

Snapshot of Origin areas of work

Work area	Description
1) Inventing	Inspiring and accommodating passionate and brilliant individuals from different disciplines that wish to invent the future
2) Co-creation and co-innovation	Showcasing breakthroughs, encouraging prototyping, and crafting clear pathways for taking products and firms to market
3)Solving complex problems	Bringing the brightest and talented minds to find solutions to complex challenges faced by firms and society at large; and building research partnership with industry

In conclusion, the Origin Hub will help:

a. Transform research and innovation systems- Shift from researcher-centered to people-centered.
b. Improve how problems and challenges are framed and defined- To focus on the root causes.
c. Open up the research and innovation systems to a wider community to achieve impact at scale.
d. Provide space to dream, innovate, lead and prosper.





Tree planting in commemoration of the departed students.





The Building and Construction students under Civil Engineering planted trees in commemoration of the late Fabian Ndegwa Wang'ombe and the students of Pwani University who were involved in a tragic road accident. The tree planting was done by the Civil Engineering Department, the student welfare Department, Gender and Disability Department, the Public Relations Department and the students.