MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 75, APRIL 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

1. DeKUT hosts training on Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Equity
2. Public Engagement on Student Loans and Scholarship Appeals Mechanism
3. DeKUT Students Triumph at ESRI East Africa 2025 Youth Scholars Awards
4. DeKUT hosts DAAD Delegation for In-country/In-region Scholarship Programme Selection
5. DeKUT and KISEB forge Strategic Partnership
6. Council Visit highlights DeKUT's commitment to Innovation and Sustainability
7. The Kenya Space Agency visits DeKUT

DeKUT hosts training on Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Equity



DeKUT hosted a distinctive and thorough training on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Equity from April 1st to April 3rd, 2025. The goal was to equip student volunteers with essential knowledge and skills to serve as catalysts for positive change within their communities. Centered around two primary themes, SRH and Gender Equity, the sessions were crafted to enhance awareness, promote dialogue, and strengthen students' capabilities to tackle pressing issues that impact young people today.



Students during one of the training sessions

Under the SRH module, participants explored foundational concepts of sexual and reproductive health, the role of peer educators, responsible dating and courtship, access to youth-friendly health services, the challenges surrounding adolescent pregnancy and its complications, menopause, and a spiritual approach to SRH.

The Gender Equity sessions introduced students to distinctions between gender and sex, gender equality as a global concern, the benefits of equity, and the complexities of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), especially as it pertains to vulnerable populations. Further discussions covered abuse and trauma, legal and administrative support systems for GBV survivors, the role of Gender Equity Champions within DeKUT, and the broader goal of fostering National Cohesion and Integration.

The training sessions, led by both internal experts and guest professionals, included lectures, interactive discussions, and stimulating group activities. This approach provided a variety of perspectives and insights. The engaging talks and collaborative discussions prompted participants to reflect on their own experiences, question societal norms, and suggest practical solutions for their peers and communities.



Students during a training session


Dr. Cheruiyot taking the students through a training session





The initiative underscores DeKUT's unwavering commitment to fostering student leadership and advocacy in matters that affect their well-being and social development. By equipping volunteers with essential knowledge and tools, the University aims to create a ripple effect where informed students become catalysts for informed communities. This training, which has the potential to reduce the prevalence of SRH issues and GBV significantly, marks another significant step toward building an inclusive and supportive environment that promotes all students' health, rights, and dignity.

Public Engagement on Student Loans and Scholarship Appeals Mechanism



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology hosted a public engagement forum to discuss the appeals process for student loans and scholarships on April 4th, 2025. This forum provided a platform for students and stakeholders to voice their opinions and concerns, thereby improving the appeals mechanism. This complied with the Order the Court of Appeal issued on March 26th, 2025, directing the Higher Education Loans Board (Helb) and the Universities Fund (UF) to conduct public participation in loans and scholarships appeals mechanism. The two institutions have been implementing the Variable Scholarship Loan Funding Model, which promotes equity and enhances inclusivity in scholarship and loan disbursement to students in Higher Learning Institutions since July 2023. DeKUT was a designated regional venue for the two institutions' nationwide physical public engagement meetings. The public and stakeholders were invited to participate in abbreviated public participation by submitting comments and a memorandum on the appeals mechanism.



A student making her remarks during the forum



Mr. Joseph Ndegwa, HELB representative, making his remarks during the forum

DeKUT Students Triumph at ESRI East Africa 2025 Youth Scholars Awards



In a remarkable achievement for Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, three students from the Institute of Geomatics, GIS & Remote Sensing (IGGReS) swept all top positions at the prestigious ESRI East Africa 2025 Young Scholars Awards. Mr. Peter Thuku claimed first place, followed by Mr. Paul Wainaina and Ms. Faith Talam as second runner-up.

The award ceremony took place on April 11th, 2025, at the ESRI East Africa Office in Nairobi, where 17 nominees from various Kenyan universities presented their projects in 15 minutes before a panel of five judges.

Two winning students, Mr. Thuku and Ms. Talam, developed their award-winning projects while working within the MC2FM project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). This project addresses environmental challenges in the Muringato sub-catchment area in central Kenya through participatory approaches.

All three winners received internship offers at ESRI East Africa as rewards for their achievements. Additionally, Mr. Wainaina earned a funded trip to the ESRI Eastern Africa user conference in Mombasa (May 7th-8th, 2025), while Mr. Thuku will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2025 ESRI User Conference in San Diego, California, USA (July 14th-18th, 2025), where he will be recognized before more than 25,000 global participants.

These achievements highlight the success of the collaboration between DeKUT's Remote Sensing Research Group (RSRG) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in developing young talent in geospatial sciences to address global environmental challenges through innovative technology.

DeKUT hosts DAAD Delegation for In-country/In-region Scholarship Programme Selection



On April 14th, 2025, DeKUT had the honour of hosting a high-level delegation from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for this year's In-Country/In-Region (ICIR) Scholarship Programme selection process. The visit underscored the long-standing partnership between DeKUT and DAAD, with a renewed focus on enhancing academic cooperation and fostering greater regional and international academic mobility.



The visiting team included representatives from DAAD's Head Office in Bonn and its Regional Office in Nairobi. The Nairobi Office was represented by Dr. Dorothee Weyler, Director, and Ms. Charity Tongoi, Programme Officer for ICIR. Ms. Silvia Schmid, Head of Section Africa, and Mr. Finn Ermert, Programme Administrator, led the delegation from the Bonn headquarters.



The visit provided a platform for strategic dialogue between DeKUT and DAAD on deepening their collaborative efforts in higher education and research. In particular, discussions centred around expanding scholarship opportunities, enhancing institutional capacity, and supporting innovation-driven postgraduate training in Kenya and the wider region. During their visit, the DAAD delegation toured DeKUT's cutting-edge research and innovation facilities, gaining firsthand insight into the University's ongoing efforts in advancing science, technology, and commercialization. The tour highlighted DeKUT's commitment to research excellence, industry partnerships, and sustainable development.





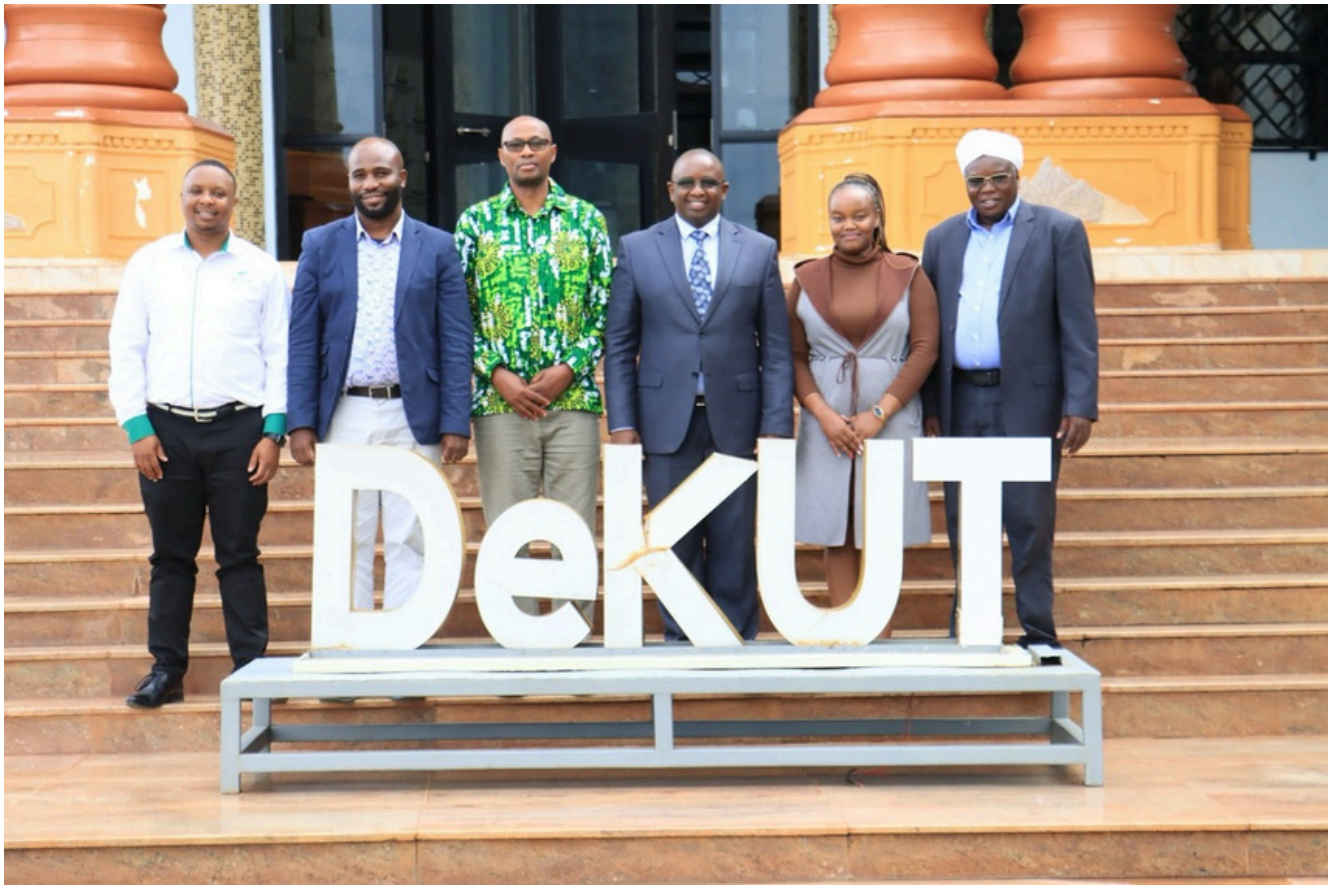
Prof. Eddy Owaga engaging the DAAD representatives



Mr. Chuaga, a coffee technologist, showcasing the variants of DeKUT Coffee to the DAAD representatives

The University values its partnership with DAAD and views such engagements as crucial in promoting academic excellence, internationalization, and student empowerment. The visit marks another milestone in DeKUT's journey toward becoming a leading centre of innovation and higher learning in Africa.

DeKUT and KISEB Forge a Strategic Partnership



On April 24th, the Vice Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS, hosted Dr Fred Ongisa, the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the Kenya Institute of Supplies Examination Board (KISEB), for a high-level engagement aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two institutions.

During the meeting, both parties expressed a shared commitment to advancing joint initiatives in research and innovation and collaborative curriculum development. The institutions agreed to establish a structured framework for the mutual recognition of qualifications and credit transfer mechanisms. Additionally, they resolved to conduct joint workshops, training programs, and knowledge-sharing sessions. These initiatives are designed to equip faculty, students, and industry practitioners with modern skills and competencies in Procurement and Supply Chain Management.

This strategic partnership underscores a mutual dedication to academic excellence and industry relevance, reinforcing the role of higher education in driving national development goals.

The DeKUT Council Visit Highlights DeKUT's Commitment to Innovation and Sustainability



In a demonstration of its unwavering support for innovation, sustainability, and institutional self-reliance, the University Council of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology recently undertook an extensive tour of the University's flagship research and innovation centres.

The delegation visited several Centres of Excellence that operate with a high degree of financial independence, aligning with DeKUT's strategic focus on applied research, entrepreneurship, and value creation. Notable among the facilities toured was the Centre for Food Safety and Naturopathy (CeFoNa), which is at the forefront of promoting natural health solutions; Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (DSAIL); the Siemens Centre, known for its role in delivering advanced engineering training; and the Coffee Technology Centre, which supports value addition and innovation in the coffee industry. The tour also included the Centre for Energy Studies (DeCES), a sustainable and renewable energy research pioneer.



Dr. Monica Mburu showcasing innovative products to Council members at CeFoNa



Council members at the Siemens Centre

Further stops included the University's Conservancy, highlighting DeKUT's commitment to environmental conservation; the Challenge Course, which offers leadership and team-building experiences; the state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) Lab; the Centre for Electronic Devices (CDED), focused on electronic hardware innovation and manufacturing; and the Leather Technology Centre, which is advancing industrial training and product development in leather processing.

This visit offered the Council members a unique opportunity to engage directly with the innovation ecosystems central to the University's mission. It also provided a valuable platform to explore strategies for enhancing institutional support, enabling these centres to further their impact on national development and contribute to global competitiveness.



CDED Director, Mr. Julius Karanja, explaining some of the Centre's product to the Council members



Dr. Paul Tanui showcasing leather products to the Council members



Mr. Chuaga, a coffee technologist, showcasing the variants of DeKUT Coffee to the Council members



Council members being shown one of the innovations at DeCES

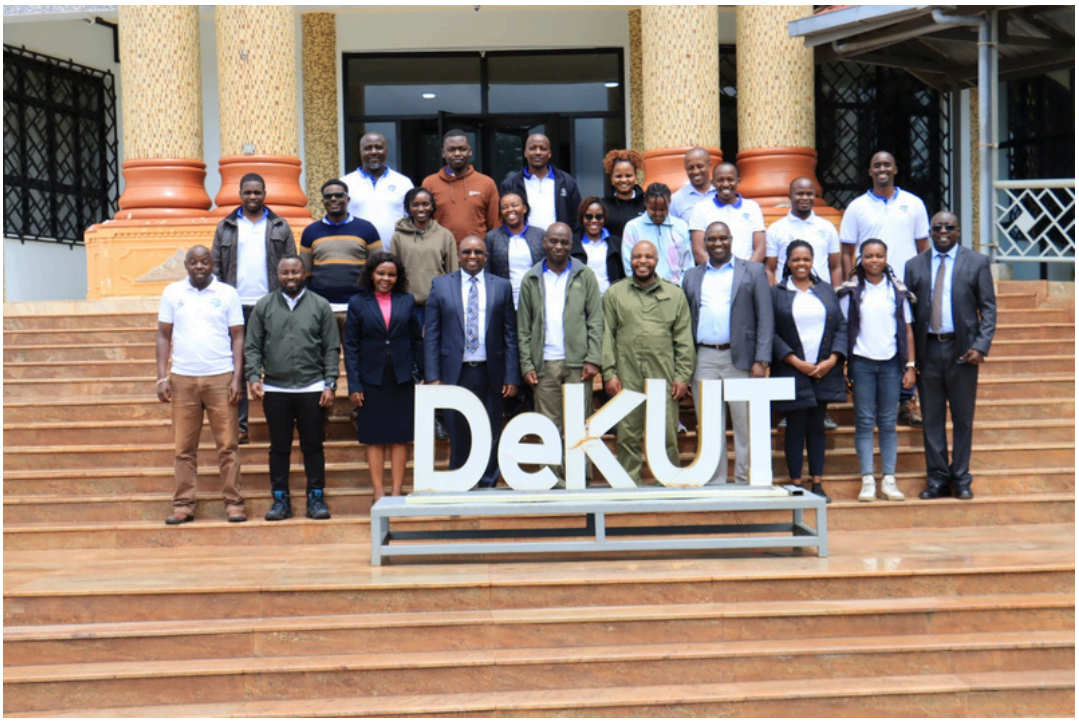


Council members taking part in an activity at the Challenge Course



Council members at the University Conservancy

The Kenya Space Agency visits DeKUT



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology had the pleasure of hosting a Kenya Space Agency (KSA) team for a tree-planting exercise at the RSRG Arboretum. The joint effort aimed to plant 1,000 trees to support the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign, which seeks to increase Kenya's forest cover to 30% by 2032.

The KSA delegation, led by Col. Robert Oktoi, Deputy CEO of the Malindi Space Centre, also paid a courtesy visit to DeKUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS. During the visit, both institutions expressed a strong commitment to fostering collaboration in the areas of space technology and academia.

Plans are underway to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize this partnership and explore mutually beneficial opportunities in research, innovation, and environmental sustainability.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

Private Bag-10143, Dedan Kimathi

Nyeri, Kenya

www.dkut.ac.ke

0612050000