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Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) officials pay a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to discuss various possible areas of collaboration and partnership



On 27th August 2021, some officials from the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to discuss various possible areas of collaboration and partnership. Some of the areas of interest included: innovation and technology transfer collaboration in research and consultancy, collaboration in metrology and dissemination of measurements to the industry, appropriateness of facilities for regional laboratories and inspection, hosting of stakeholders fora, students attachments, among others. The team led by the Director, Quality Assurance and Inspection, Dr. Geoffrey Muriira, visited multiple facilities at the University such as the proposed electronics testing laboratory, conferencing facilities, laptop manufacturing site and the proposed metrology testing laboratory.



DeKUT students emerge winners during the Kenya Association of Manufacturers 17th Energy Management Awards 2021 for the Students Innovations Award Category

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), on 27th August 2021, recognized over 20 organizations that proved their prowess in energy efficiency and conservation at the 17th Annual Energy Management Awards (EMA) luncheon held in Nairobi. During this ceremony, DeKUT students Agnes Mwangi & Geofrey Magothe emerged as the winners while Duncan Shivachi & Martin Muriithi took the 1st runners up position in the Students Innovations Award Category. The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Energy, Charles Keter said that the energy industry is one of the most essential pillars of economic and social development hence it is important to support and encourage energy management. He commended the close collaboration between his Ministry and KAM, asserting that through partnerships, they intend to reach out to more industries, public institutions and commercial buildings to advance the energy efficiency agenda. "Industrialization is driving Kenya's economy. Despite the relatively high manufacturing costs taking cognizance of the contribution by energy costs, manufacturers have a vital role in driving industrialization and GDP expansion. We encourage organizations to create an energy savings culture and integrate energy efficiency functions in their corporate and operational strategies," he stated.



These awards are geared towards encouraging a culture of energy efficiency and conservation and recognizing enterprises that have made significant and sustainable gains in energy efficiency through the application of modern energy management principles and practices, and in the process, made significant energy and cost reductions.

Congratulations to our winning students.



DeKUT hosts Kenya's First Mechatronics WorldSkills Competition



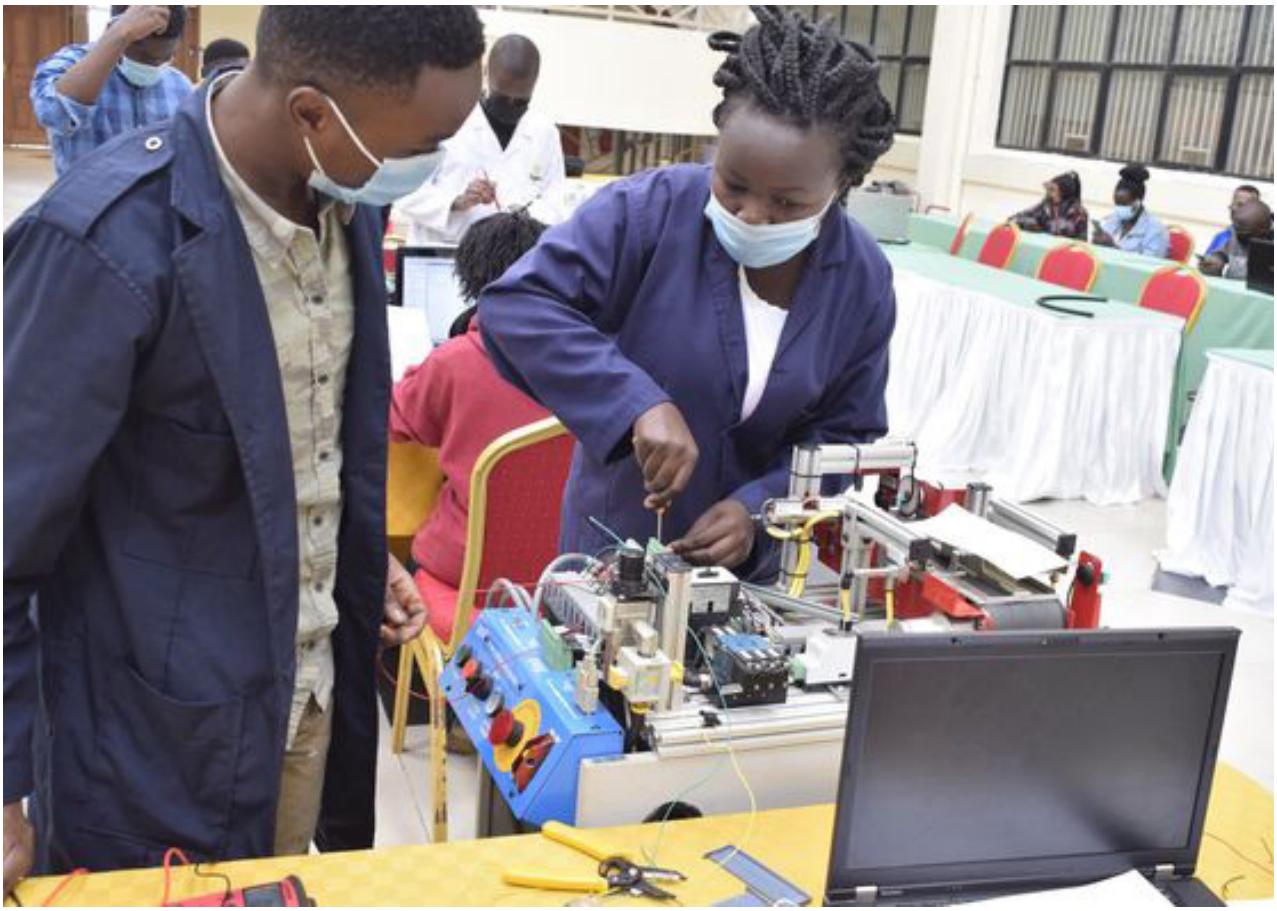
The WorldSkills International Competition is the peak vocational skills competition for young people across the world. It was started in Spain in 1950 and is currently in 85 countries across the globe. On 13th October 2020, WorldSkills Kenya (WSK) was ratified as the 84th state to host skills competitions. Kenya is preparing to participate in the upcoming competition organized by WorldSkills InternationalWSK). Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), as one of the TVET institutions approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, was tasked by Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETA) to organize WSK in Mechatronics. This was engineered by Prof. Eng. Jean Bosco Byiringiro (Ph.D., Reg. Eng.) by preparing excellent competitors at DeKUT Siemens Mechatronics Certification Centre. After 15 days of training, the competition's opening ceremony officially took place on Monday 23rd August, 2021. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther Magiri, WorldSkills Kenya Delegate, Prof. E. Okoth Ogur, Director General TVETA, Dr. Kipkirui Langat, among others were present to officiate and officially declare the competition on. .



The competition attracted 17 colleges, both TVET institutions and technical universities. The colleges that participated in the competition included Coast Institute of Technology, Mukiria TTI, Musakara TTI, Katine TTI, Ahmed S. Mwidani TTI, Mumias West TTI, Masinga TTI, Okame TTI, Kipsoen TTI, Kenya Technical Trainers College, North Eastern National Polytechnic, Wamingu TTI and Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology. There were also 7 teams from the university. The teams competed against each other.

This pilot exercise will enable WorldSkills Kenya (WSK) to enhance the country's national competition frameworks in preparation for the competition. I congratulate all the teams that took part in the competition. You have worked hard to reach here. The competition was not just about winning but rather to evaluate yourself and determine what you need to do to get to the next level" - stated the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, during the closing ceremony. He added that Kenya joining the WorldSkills Competition will give the young people an opportunity to compete with the rest at a global stage. We were honored to host this first of its kind competition in Kenya.

Congratulations to all the contestants and the winners.



Courtesy visit by the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK)

The Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) is the learned society of the engineering profession and co-operates with national and other international institutions in developing and applying engineering to the benefit of humanity. The East African Association of Engineers (EAAE), which was the precursor to the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), was formed in 1945 as a professional and learned body, independent of control by governments and with membership spread in the original East Africa, i.e. Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania (Tanganyika and Zanzibar). The breakup of the East African Community in the early 1970's resulted in the splitting of most of the professional/ learned bodies, among them the EAAE; IEK was born out of this split and was registered as a professional/learned and independent body in 1972. The IEK provides services to its members through seminars, lectures, publications and training to enable them to keep up to date with technical and industrial developments, management aspects of engineering, changes in technology and relevant developments in Kenya and beyond. On 19th August 2021, the Institution of Engineers of Kenya paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to discuss institutional areas of possible collaboration and various matters affecting Engineering in Kenya. One of the soft areas the University looks to venture into is providing content to the IEK bi-monthly magazines.



DeKUT privileged to be the project coordinator for the "Integrated Chia and Oyster Mushroom System for Sustainable Food Value Chain in Africa (CHIAM)" project

DeKUT has partnered with Keyrio Farm for the Integrated Chia and Oyster Mushroom System for Sustainable Food Value Chain in Africa (CHIAM) project, which is represented by Dr. Monica Mburu (Principle Investigator), Prof. Ngigi Murimi (GIS Expert) and Dr. Peter Mwirigi (Agronomy Expert). The project is new and is funded by the Food Systems and Climate (FOSC) ERA-NET Cofund Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany. The consortium comprises partners from Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Hungary and Germany.

The project aims at the deployment of the integrated chia-mushroom value chain that will contribute to the diversification and resilience of African food systems against the impacts of climate change addressing the following areas:

- Promote innovative technology deployment to build sustainable and resilient food value chains influenced by changing food needs and patterns and develop better efficiency of the inputs and outputs of food systems.
- Improve resilience and reduce volatility in agri-food production and food markets to improve food security in the context of climatic variation sustainably.
- Reduce food losses under climate change, including novel approaches to valorize side streams and reduce food waste.



Visit by a Hungarian Government delegation led by Ambassador, H.E. Zsolt Mészáros

DeKUT continuously establishes partnerships and collaborations towards enriching the training offered to her students. Some of the universities which DeKUT has collaborated with are from countries such as Japan, Germany, France, Canada and Hungary. Students and staff benefit through these collaborations by working together in exchange of technology and training towards enhancing education quality.





The University is currently working on a number of projects with the Hungarian Government and in line with this, on 30th July, 2021, a Hungarian Government delegation visited the University facilities and various sites such as Nyeri Provincial General Hospital and the Consolata Hospital Mathari. The team was led by Ambassador, H.E. Zsolt Mészáro. Among others were Zsófia Antal, Head of Trade Development, Embassy of Hungary in Nairobi, Imre Váradi, Head of Expert Delegation, Dr. Árpád Kovács –medical program lead expert, Mr. Béla Kovács – establishment and local relations, Dr. Alfred Karagu- Ag. CEO, National Cancer Institute of Kenya, Dr. Mary Nyangasi- Head, National Cancer Control Program, Ministry of Health, and Arch William Ollo- Architect- Ministry of Public Works. They were accompanied by the University team led by Prof. Ndirangu Kioni - Vice Chancellor, Mr. Péter Benkő – project coordination structural engineer -DeKUT, Dr. Gachathi Wanjema – Chief Medical Officer - DeKUT, Prof. Peter Muchiri- Mechanical Engineer, DeKUT.





DeKUT gets nominated for the Digital Media Awards 2021 in the category of Digital Brand of the Year

Digital Media Awards is the leading award recognition platform celebrating the very best of digital marketing and technology advancement in Kenya, redefining the boundaries of creativity, innovation and outcomes. As a University of Technology, and the only University that participated in these awards, we were delighted to be shortlisted as one of the nominees for the Digital Media Awards 2021 as the Digital Brand of the Year, where we emerged position four.The event was held at the Waterfront Karen on 6th August 2021.



DeKUT Centre for Industrial Productivity & Engineering (CIPE) conducts an Industrial Training at Torrent East Africa Ltd.



Torrent East Africa has partnered with DeKUT's Centre for Productivity & Engineering (CIPE) in their journey for continuous improvement of industrial productivity to enhance the company's competitive advantage. The main objective of the Center for Industrial Productivity & Engineering (CIPE) is to boost the productivity growth in Kenyan Industries, Corporates, Parastatals, State agencies and Enterprises through trainings and consultancies. Productivity is one of the main concerns of business management and engineering and establishment of ways and means of analyzing and improving productivity is key to survival. Productivity growth is important to any organization because more real income means the firm can meet its obligations to customers, suppliers, workers, shareholders, and governments (taxes and regulation), and still remain competitive or even improve its competitiveness in the marketplace.

In line with her mandate and this partnership, CIPE conducted a five-day training at Torrent East Africa on industrial productivity improvement, quality management and supervisory skills development. The training was conducted for both managerial and manufacturing staff members to build capacity on productivity and quality improvement in the company as a high-end manufacturer of bottle closures through injection moulding.





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