MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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Prof. Eng. Peter N Muchiri is appointed the Vice Chancellor of DeKUT



Prof. Eng. Peter Ng'ang'a Muchiri has been appointed the second Vice Chancellor of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Arenberg Doctoral College, University of Leuven in Belgium. He also has Post-Doctoral studies at the same University. He holds a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management from the University of Leuven, Belgium and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT), Kenya. He is registered by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) and is a member of the Institutions of Engineers of Kenya (IEK).

Prior to his appointment, he served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs and Research) (DVC-AA&R). He previously served as the Director of the DeKUT Start-Up Centre (DeSTaC) and DeKUT Institutional Advancement Office. Before that, he served for six years as the first Director of the DeKUT Nairobi Campus and oversaw the initial establishment of the Campus.

We wish Prof. Eng. Peter N Muchiri all the best in his new role.

DeKUT hosts Dr. Victor Konde of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)





Africa is making significant technological advancement and innovation strides to develop sustainable and impactful solutions to our societal problems. The future looks promising for Africa's journey toward becoming a global technological powerhouse.

As a University, we are dedicated to providing an all-inclusive supporting infrastructure to assist businesses set up, innovate and grow. To support this aspiration, a National Science and Technology Park (STP) was established as an engine for innovation, incubation, development and commercialization of technology. It creates opportunities to commercialize Agro-tech, ICT, and industrial manufacturing research outputs through technology transfer from the rich human resource at the University.

On this premise, the Origin Lab is being established at the University by the United Nations Economics for Africa (UNECA). In September 2023, Dr. Victor Konde (Scientific Affairs Officer) UNECA visited DeKUT. Hosted by the former Vice Chancellor DeKUT, Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni, DeST-Park Client Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL) Managing Director, Dr. Anthony Githinji, Ph.D. Eng. among other stakeholders, he discussed a few areas of collaboration, such as partnerships in the diaspora, scalability in science and technology, fellowships and capacity building between STL and DeKUT.

The University has set up specialized research centres addressing particular needs as they are sources of innovation with a clear technology support structure for intellectual property protection. Some of the centres are the Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DSAIL), where DeKUT is keen to leverage Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to solve local problems and capacity building; Centre for Development of Electronic Devices (CDED), which provides a platform where the University collaborates with the society to innovate electronic devices that can solve the various problems identified in the community, by creating linkages with clients and likeminded stakeholders and developing electronic devices in collaboration with relevant industries or companies.

He also visited the Software Development Centre, where they develop and customize softwares for the University and external customers. The centre aims to modernize and automate the University processes. One application software that the centre has created so far is the Workload Manager Application (Workman), which is used to manage workload within the University and aids in assisting teaching staff members in planning and managing their duties. Dr Konde commended the excellent work the centre is doing and was shown the Alliance of Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa and the Origin Research and Innovation Lab websites.





DeKUT hosts the World Skills National Competition





DeKUT hosted the World Skills National Competition from 28th to 31st August 2023. DeKUT was hosting two groups; Mechatronics and Industrial 4.0. The World Skills National 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 world 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 and Industrial 4.0, Prof. Eng. Jean Bosco Byiringiro (Ph.D., Reg. Eng.) to champion mechatronics and industrial 4.0 skills both locally and internationally through preparing excellent competitors at DeKUT Siemens Mechatronics Certification Centre. The World Skills National Competition Kenya brought together young people, industry stakeholders, government and education institutions to create linkages for collaborations in skills development under the *theme "Transforming the Future with the Power of skills."*



The DeKUT team at World Skills Kenya National Competition headed to Kenya School of TVET Nairobi for the closing ceremony. The team comprised two groups: Industry 4.0 and Mechatronics.

The DeKUT Mechatronics and Industrial 4.0 emerged in position one. They will undergo a year-long training to prepare them for the international competition in Lyon, France in 2024.





DeKUT hosts Mozilla Responsible Computing Stakeholders Seminar





The School of Computer Science and Information Technology in DeKUT submitted and competitively won a grant proposal titled: "Mainstreaming Ethics Risk in Computer Programming," which sought to integrate ethics and responsible computing in teaching Object-Oriented Programming among second-year computing students, with students implementing the ethical principles in an end-of-course project." The project aims to provide an opportunity for computer science students to learn and adhere to the fundamental principles of ethical and responsible computing to contribute towards a responsible computing community.

Over the years, computer science studies have advanced significantly. However, there appears to be a significant void in the inclusivity of responsible computing principles in modern-day courses. Today, most computer science courses do not consider ethics or responsible computing concerns when teaching students. But, like other disciplines, computer science students ought to learn and adhere to the fundamental ethical and responsible computing principles for a better computing community. Thus, we must find a pathway to integrate responsible computing from our lecture halls into society.

To address this challenge, through the Responsible Computing Challenge, Mozilla Foundation announced a call to award ten grants from a pool of $250,000 to innovation hubs and accredited Universities in Kenya that integrate ethics into their computer science curricula. The challenge promotes the conception, development, and piloting of computer science curricula content, enabling lecturers and students to consider the impact of responsible computing in society.

The team seeks to achieve the following: Conduct research and contribute towards the Mozilla Foundation objective of mainstreaming responsible computing in teaching computer science courses; Develop an Ethics Assessment Tool that can be used to assess the extent of ethics and accountable computing integration in computing curricula; Mainstream ethics teaching in one of the Computer Science course in the current curriculum, i.e., CCS 2211: Object Oriented Programming unit and finally; To develop a Software Projects' Ethics Assessment Tool, that can be used to evaluate if a program designed by students meets the responsible computing threshold. It allows computer science students to learn and adhere to the fundamental ethical and responsible computing principles and consider the social impacts for a better computing community.

DeKUT hosts the 95th Edition of the Kenya Music Festivals





We are delighted to have been chosen to host the 95th Kenya Music Festival Edition from 11th to 23rd August 2023 as part of our corporate social responsibility. We take pride in engaging and partnering with the community for events like this. We have continuously worked with the community and look forward to an opportunity to work with the community on projects that interest the community.

The CS Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Hon. Ababu Namwamba, the PS Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Ismail Maalim Madey and the Governor of Nyeri County, Hon. Mutahi Kahiga among others, graced us and planted trees at the Heroes and Heroines Garden at DeKUT.

The DeKUT team emerged position one in 7 Items that they presented namely; Class 656 a choir item on Communication Authority of Kenya, Class 660 a choir item on Kenya Tourism Board, Class 665 a choir item on National Police Service, Class 815M a Borana African Traditional Cultural Dance, Class 817M a Giriama African Traditional Cultural Dance, Class 841M a Zulu African Traditional Cultural Dance and Class 1315M a French Solo Verse.

The University won six trophies as position one.





DeKUT hosts National Tsing Hua University(NTHU)





We had the honour to host a delegation from the National Tsing Hua University(NTHU) on 4th August 2023. The group visited DeKUT alongside the Taiwan Africa International Student Association (TAISA). Through Prof. Eddy Owaga, TAISA has collaborated with DeKUT for the past six years on various activities, including student and staff exchange and improving ICT facilities in schools around Nyeri. The delegation visited to meet with DeKUT Coaches.

TAISA is a Non-governmental and nonprofit organization that aims at enhancing digital education among students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools and tertiary learning institutions by building a solid foundation and enabling learning environment for the learners in partner schools from basic to advanced computer skills.

The students in these partner schools sit for standard theory exams, which coaches supervise. DeKUT students serve as coaches and visit the partner schools to assess the projects done by the students.

DeKUT hosts Agrobiodiversity Project Stakeholders Seminar





On 25th August 2023, DeKUT, in collaboration with AgroParisTech Innovation, IFRA and France embassy (Nairobi), hosted farmers and stakeholders in a seminar, "Biodiversity, Agricultural Practices and Sustainability of Production Systems in Coffee growing regions." They were educated on the production systems in a small area and the study of biodiversity and carbon storage. The farmers were educated on how to increase coffee production and still rear animals in their farms to help produce manure.

They were also taken through coffee farming during the colonial period and made to understand the farming methods to use to increase production.



DeKUT hosts Prof. Thomas Carolus and Madam Elke Carolus





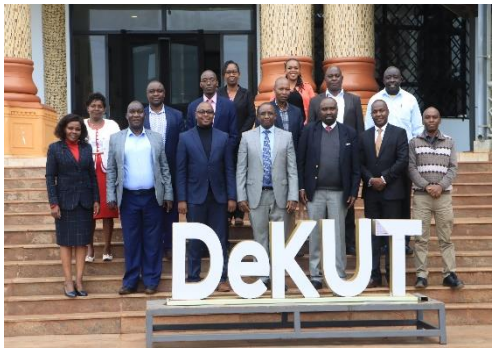
DeKUT has a long-standing MoU with the University of Siegen, which aims to further their mutual interest in education, research and scholarship and contribute to increased international cooperation. This MoU enables the exchange of undergraduate graduate students and research scholars; Participation in seminars and academic meetings; Research cooperation; Exchange of publications, educational materials and other information; and joint quality assurance and benchmarking. The exchange programme is coordinated through the School of Engineering.

Mrs. Elke Carolus–a visiting German (Specialist in Autism), in collaboration with the DeKUT Counselling Department, engaged in 5-days activities to support Autism Awareness in the University, Nyamachaki Primary School-Autism Unit, and families with autistic children in Nyeri County-Kenya. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder affecting how people interact, communicate, learn, and behave. She donated materials to be used by the autistic children and encouraged the teachers and parents during the home visits.





DeKUT hosts Prof. Mark Horn





On 29th August 2023, DeKUT welcomed Prof.Mark Horn from the University of Penn State. He brings over 30 years of experience in material science and nanotechnology. He will impart his knowledge by teaching science and nanotechnology courses at DeKUT.

This is part of a tripartite collaboration between Semiconductor Technologies Ltd (STL), Penn State University and DeKUT. We introduced a curriculum focused on material science and nanotechnology at DeKUT. He brings over thirty years of research and academic experience in material science and nanotechnology.

This initiative is significant in advancing education and research in these transformative fields.





Courtesy visit by Kenya Ports Authority staff





Courtesy visit by Dr. Mathieu Guerin





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