DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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IN THIS ISSUE:

•Commissioning of the Machine Building Division and the Launch of the Ol'Borana Semiconductor Machine by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua

•DeKUT Marks 10 years since the Award of the Charter

•13th Graduation Ceremony

•DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, partners with the Out of Africa International Film Festival (OOAIFF) to provide capacity building in filmmaking and animation.

•DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub holds an Animation Bootcamp Graduation Ceremony in partnership with the Kenya Film Commission

•Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

•Alumni Open Day

In other news

• Courtesy Vist by the British Council

• DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub emerge as the winners in the Best Kids Production Category during the 2022 Kalasha International TV and Film Awards.

• Marketing Students Association of DeKUT emerge as the best marketing mavericks of the year during the 2022 Marketing Society of Kenya Annual Gala Awards.

Commissioning of the Machine Building Division and the Launch of the Ol'Borana Semiconductor Machine by the Deputy President, His Excellency, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua



We hosted the Deputy President, His Excellency Hon. Rigathi Gachagua for the Launch of the Machine Building Division of Semiconductor Technologies Limited, which has seen the designing and building of Ol Borana System, the First Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing System designed and built in Kenya.

The Semiconductor Technologies Limited, part of the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park), is the only one of its kind in Africa. It is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the University and Semiconductor Technologies Limited. The facility manufactures nanotechnology products such as integrated circuits and sensors used in electronic gadgets for the global market. Its products have a high demand and are used in electronic devices such as mobile phones, televisions and laptop computers.

Ol Borana system is an advanced Thin Film Silicon water sputtering system that uses precision robotics and sensor technology to process semiconductor and nano material. With the launch of the Ol'Borana system, the facility will be able to employ advanced algorithms and machine learning technology. Ol'Borana will advance nanotechnology R&D and be a production-level system. It will support wafer pilot production and high-throughput manufacturing.

"I am proud of the patriotism showed not only by the company but the Young engineers of this great nation who built the system, proving to the world that, indeed, Kenya has capable human capital in the technology industry and that they are capable of delivering at global standards. "stated the Deputy President.

He noted that this is a significant milestone in the development of Dedan Kimathi Science & Technology Park (DeST-Park) and in fast-tracking the modernization of this country. He also congratulated the University Management for the excellent job.







The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu also stated that the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park) is the first national project implemented by the Ministry of Education as a key enabler of the three pillars of Vision 2030. He also congratulated the University for the effort it has made to support the Park through initiatives such as the establishment of a Startup Centre, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management, DeHUB, Film Animation and Gaming Hub, among others, and hosting tenant technology companies such as Semiconductor Technologies Limited from which we are launching the Ol Borana system. He congratulated the University for maintaining its focus on STEM programmes, noting that 71% of the courses undertaken at the University are STEM-based, with 36% of the courses being in the Engineering sector.

The Managing Director, STL, Eng. Anthony Githinji also noted that the Semiconductor Technologies Limited factory has already employed eighty (80) youths and trained over one hundred and fifty (150) young people. This is a significant milestone in bridging the unemployment gap among our youth.

Also present were Governor Nyeri County, Hon. Mutahi Kahiga, CS ICT Eliud Owalo, Deputy Governor H.E David Kinaniri, Senator Hon. Wahome Wamatinga, Women Rep Hon. Rahab Mukami, MPs Hon. Dunn Maina (Nyeri Town), Hon. Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), Hon. John Kaguchia (Mukurwe-ini), US Embassy Charge' d'Affairs H.E Marc Dillard, among others.









DeKUT Marks 10 years since the Award of the Charter



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is a Premier Technological University in Kenya. It is one of the fastest-growing and well specialized Universities in the country, the African region and beyond; attracting students from across the continent and the world. The University was founded in 1972 as Kimathi Institute of Technology with the aim of using quality education, research and technology to transform the society; a focus the University has since not lost sight of. It later became a constituent college of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and on 14th December, 2012, the University was promoted to a fully-fledged Institution of higher learning through the grant of charter by the late President Mwai Kibaki. This month, the University is celebrating ten years since its charter; since the official birth of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). This is a significant milestone in the University as we celebrate a decade of academic excellence, significant strides in research and innovation, and a continuous commitment to technology development & advancement for better life.

The University remains committed to providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse, and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation, and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals.

The programmes offered by the University are approved by the Senate and the various designated bodies like the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK). For us to continue providing relevant education and ensure that our graduates are well trained, exposed, employable and succeed in their careers and indeed contribute to making the world a better place, we have increasingly worked with the industry, the government, local and international institutions; and deliberately created opportunities to expose our students to the world of work and entrepreneurship.

In the past few years, the University has made tremendous strides. To highlight just a few, we have formed strategic alliances and collaborations with various like-minded organizations to ensure that our students are empowered with superior skills and the requisite mindset that they need to deal with the challenges in the modern job market.



In 2020, the University partnered with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) to start a digital media centre that aims at curbing some of the challenges our youths face today, such as unemployment, through technology. Through this partnership, we established and launched the DeKUT_Kenya Film Commission Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, which provides a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in filmmaking and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. The University has also signed various agreements with several organizations/institutions. To list but a few, the University has an MOU with the Center for International Migration, the Africa Bio-Energy Programme Limited (AFBL) and Biogas Kenya, with whom the partnership will help set up a centre of excellence in biomass energy under the existing Center for Biomass Energy Studies (CBES). The University and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) recently signed a grant agreement for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, which is being implemented by the DeKUT Centre for Biomass Energy Studies.

In collaboration with ASYTECH, the University developed a Public-Private Joint Partnership project to manufacture laptops. The partnership intends to exploit the ability to develop products and solutions that are specifically suited for the income levels and tastes of the African market and create an entire ecosystem that allows for design up to local manufacturing of Made in Kenya for Africa. The computers, which have the model name "Six Look Above", are now available for sale countrywide for 350 USD - 800 USD.

The University has been in the process of establishing a Science and Technology Park. Recently, the park was admitted into the International Association of Science and Technology Parks (IASP) membership, becoming the second member from Kenya after Konza Technopolis Development Authority. DeKUT Science & Technology Park encourages cooperation and synergy between universities, research institutions, the government and the private sector to create a favourable environment for innovation, renovation, and training. This initiative also supports students and staff to become entrepreneurs and job creators and stimulates regional economic development. So far, DeST-Park has attracted anchor clients; Snowcap Development Limited, Asytec, and Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL). The Semiconductor Technologies Limited, is already operational and provides the Science and Technology Park and the University with crucial local and international linkages contributing to intellectual property outputs. STL has also tapped the talent of human resource professionals from among the University's graduates and staff; we are proud to say that these professionals trained and moulded here at the University are a great asset to the company.



This year, during the 39th International Association of Science and Technology Parks World Conference, held in Seville, Spain, Kenya won the competition to host the IASP Conference in 2024. This is a positive statement and a great opportunity for Kenya and Africa to demonstrate the great potential to contribute to science and technology. Representing Kenya at the conference were the representatives of Konza Technopolis Development Authority and DeKUT Science & Technology Park. The University has established nineteen (19) specialized research and innovation centres to support the function of the Science and Technology Park.

The University also signed an agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to establish a UNESCO Chair on Anticipatory Socio-Technical Systems at the University, which will be launched in December 2022. Specifically, the chair will disseminate the knowledge and methods of understanding anticipatory systems and processes used to imagine futures, advance future studies, and enhance societal resilience by cultivating conditions for a capability-based approach to well-being and sustainability. This is a major milestone in the University as it will enhance an integrated system of research, training, information, and community management to study anticipatory socio-technical systems. It will also engage in research, teaching, and community engagement that enhances future literacy capacities and the integration of the discipline of anticipation to support the development of a resilient and sustainable Africa.
The University is also constructing a Comprehensive Cancer Management Centre in line with the Kenya Vision 2030, which aims to provide high-quality and affordable health care to improve the quality of life for Kenyans. This Centre is a National Government Project under the Ministry of Health and will be funded through a tied-credit facility from the Government of Hungary. The Cancer Management Centre aims to become a national and regional centre of excellence in cancer research and management. It seeks to fill the gaps in cancer care in the region in terms of early diagnosis and treatment. The construction of the centre is underway after the groundbreaking ceremony by the immediate former President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta in August this year.

Among the latest developments at the University is the Launch of the Ajira Digital Club under the Office of Career Services. The club was formed as part of a partnership between the Office of Career Services and the Ajira Digital program. It acts as an additional training, incubation, and mentorship forum to help equip students with digital skills for the world of work. So far, more than 200 students have been trained. Several of these have successfully explored the digital space where they gain more experience and earn a living. The Office of Career Services was launched earlier this year to spearhead, more deliberately, the focus and effort of the University to produce graduates who are well moulded, equipped, exposed and ready for the changing world of work and entrepreneurship.





The University has also established a Financial Aid Office (DeFAO), which has a robust work-study program that allows students to work while studying within the University to earn an income and learn from various departments and offices. This year, the Financial Aid Office signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Education For All Children (EFAC) to support needy students' access to education. The office seeks to enhance and diversify sources of funds to support needy students and ensure that such students continue with their studies uninterrupted. Together with EFAC, the office will identify strong candidates who demonstrate academic talent, leadership potential and financial need.

In addition, the University has enhanced her Internationalization agenda through the International Office that runs the Students and Staff Exchange Programmes thus ensuring international exposure to as many students as possible while also hosting international students to learn from and with our own. This is in line with the University's focus on being globally competitive and moulding the University into an Institution known for world-class research, academic excellence, exceptional staff and students, and one that harbours the highest level of innovation and progressiveness.

This year, the University has signed memoranda of understanding with various universities globally for the exchange of students. The students have also owned the internationalization agenda such that some of DeKUT'S Student Associations facilitate student exchanges. These associations include the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) and the Association for the International Exchange of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC). Through these mechanisms, DeKUT has been able to send and receive students from different parts of the world, which has not only enhanced the diversity of the university student population but also enabled DeKUT students to gain valuable international work experience and exposure.

As we continue to make strides in contributing to a better society, nation and the world through our dedication to Quality Education, Research, Innovation, and Technology Development and Transfer, we urge our alumni, to be good ambassadors of the University; to be visionary and carry themselves with dignity, discipline, integrity and hard work as they apply the knowledge, skills, lessons, experience and the formation gained here at DeKUT in building careers they love and that contribute to growth & development, to making the world a better place and to their fulfilment.









13th Graduation Ceremony





Graduation day is among the most anticipated and memorable day in a student's life. The climax of years of academic hard work! As we mark and celebrate 10 years since the award of the Charter, we held the 13th Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 16th December 2022, 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 737 students graduated adding to the 1346 who graduated in May this year totaling to 2083 graduands. 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 2022!



DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, partners with the Out of Africa International Film Festival (OOAIFF) to provide capacity building in filmmaking and animation.



The University, through the DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, has partnered with the Out of Africa International Film Festival (OOAIFF) to provide capacity building in filmmaking and animation.

Out of Africa International Film Festival (OOAIFF) is one of the film festivals in Kenya committed to supporting emerging talent and providing fun, original and thought-provoking cinematic experiences. Through this partnership, DeKUT will create awareness among hundreds of young professional filmmakers, artists and audiences in Nyeri County and Kenya. The partnership will also enable students to compete globally in filmmaking and become the next generation of storytellers and artists in film and television.





DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub holds an Animation Bootcamp Graduation Ceremony in partnership with the Kenya Film Commission



In 2020, the University partnered with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) to start a digital media centre that aims at curbing some of the challenges our youths face today, such as unemployment, through technology. Through this partnership, we established and launched the DeKUT_Kenya Film Commission Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, which provides a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in filmmaking and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. Since its establishment, the hub has directly employed 20 people and provided over 100 freelance jobs to youth, students and locals. The hub has also created room for developing new academic programmes, such as the postgraduate diploma in animation, which is scheduled to commence in 2023. The facility currently serves 100 people per week, including students, interns and staff members. Aside from that, the hub also acts as an incubation space for film projects in Nyeri County and helps transform the country into a shooting destination for local and international filmmakers. So far, the hub has graduated 15 scriptwriters, 23 PSC interns, and 60 work-study programme students and has offered capacity-building training for 95 learners and 50 actors and actresses.

In partnership with the Kenya Film Commission, we were delighted to release more animators and filmmakers during the Animation Bootcamp Graduation Ceremony held on Friday, December 9th 2022. This marks the second animation bootcamp graduation ceremony following the previous one held in June at KICC Nairobi as part of the 5th Kenya Film Commission's Kalasha International Film and TV Market.

As we release more graduates, we urge our youths to take advantage of the available opportunities not only in the digital space but also in the rapidly transforming world by empowering themselves with the technological skills needed to sustain them in this digital era. . This is an industry that has provided employment to a lot of young people and where one can achieve a lot with very little investment.



Staff Recognition Award Ceremony



The University has implemented a reward and recognition policy to reward outstanding performance among staff members within a framework that also serves the goal of attracting, cultivating, and maintaining qualified and highly productive personnel.

The rationale of the reward and recognition policy is to establish a basis for rewarding exemplary performance to motivate employees to have a positive attitude towards work to enhance productivity in the University. These frameworks expand the visibility of high-potential employees across the organization, enhance leadership and improve motivation and employee productivity.

This year, we awarded staff in various categories such as research and extension, community engagement, customer satisfaction, team of the year, resource mobilization, best in performance both academic and non academic staff members, and best innovations.

Congratulations to all of you for your achievements.





Alumni Open Day

The University has been supporting the establishment of an Alumni Association to help ensure a well-connected alumni community which will go a long way to boost the growth of the University. Alumni associations worldwide have fostered a good networking ground for the members and often contribute to the development of the universities and the alumni.

The DeKUT Alumni aims to provide events and resources to help alumni stay connected to and support the University. Additionally, the alumni association offers opportunities to contribute to student success, recognize university accomplishments, and perpetuate DeKUT traditions. On Saturday, 17th December 2022, we held an alumni open day to sensitize students on the benefits of joining the association.





Training on Ethics and Anticorruption

In a bid to fight corruption, we held a training on Ethics and Anticorruption. The sensitization was centered on creating awareness among the staff on matters pertaining corruption prevention, mandate of the EACC and the concept of Corruption and Bribery, Corruption Prevention Tools and Strategies and Mechanisms for Reporting Corruption. In a bid to fight corruption, we held a training on Ethics and Anticorruption. The sensitization was centered on creating awareness among the staff on matters pertaining corruption prevention, mandate of the EACC and the concept of Corruption and Bribery, Corruption Prevention Tools and Strategies and Mechanisms for Reporting Corruption.



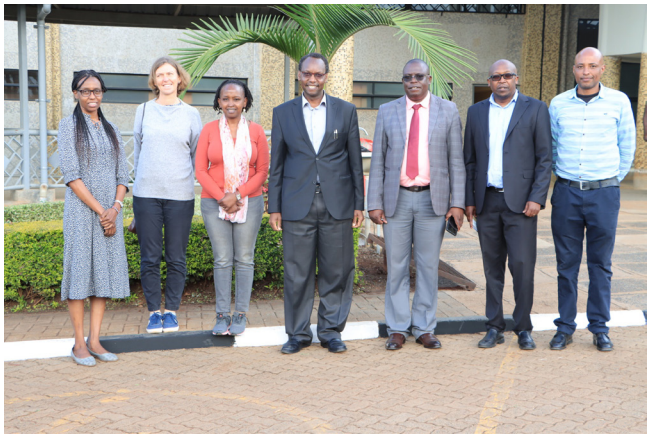
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Marketing Students Association of DeKUT emerge the best marketing mavericks of the year during the 2022 Marketing Society of Kenya Annual Gala Awards.



Courtesy Visit by the British Council

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