MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; **ISSUE NO 61,** **FEBRUARY 2024**



IN THIS ISSUE:

1. DeKUT recognized for her excellent performance in mainstreaming gender
2. Green Thumb Movement (GTM) Open Day
3. DeKUT hosts the British American Tobacco (BAT) team
4. DeKUT Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Muchiri visits India Institute of Technology (IIT)
5. DeKUT Inter-sector Games 2024
6. The Vice Chancellor engages in a knowledge exchange mission in the United Kingdom
7. The Role of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchanges in promoting Internationalization
8. Africa Regional Training Workshop on Management of Internationalization
9. Dedan Kimathi Week 2024
10. DeKUT participated in the Government Digital Transformation Forum
11. Courtesy visit by the Vice Chancellor to the Kenya High Commission, London

DeKUT recognoized for her excellent performance in mainstreaming gender



The Council Chairman, Dr. James Kariuki, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri, represented the University during the National Inequalities Diagnostics Study Launch on 30th January 2024 at Safari Park Hotel.

During the event, The National Gender and Equality Commission recognized DeKUT for her excellent performance in mainstreaming gender. The award aligns with the University's Directorate of Gender, Disability, and Equity Affairs mission to ensure the equality, equity, and inclusion of all staff members and students in DeKUT.

Green Thumb Movement (GTM) Open Day





On 27th February, 2024 marked the Green Thumb Movement (GTM) Open Day, where GTM showcased its commitment to harness the potential of mother nature in formulating functional products and promoting regenerative agriculture as a leveraged Science Initiative at DeKUT.

The primary objective of this event was to raise awareness about healthy living by emphasizing the crucial role of healthy soils.

The event featured a variety of engaging activities:

1. Therapeutic Garden Tour
2. Functional Products Exhibition
3. Social Hour
4. Action Plan Reveal

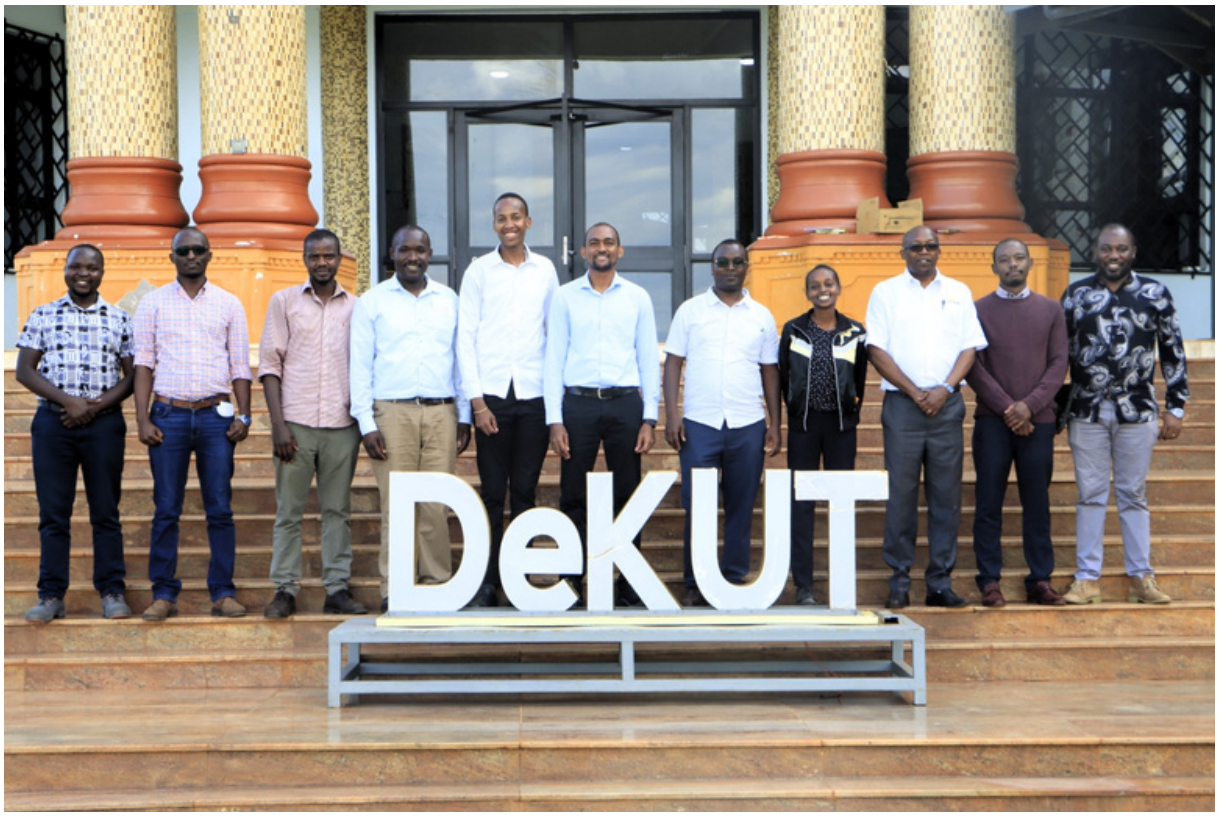
Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Monica Mburu, the Movement Initiative encouraged the University community to embrace smart farming practices. This includes adopting mobile gardens, garden grow bags, and keyhole gardens as innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture.

The GTM Movement has forged a strategic partnership with Afyalishe Limited Company, a startup specializing in producing and processing functional products. This collaboration aims to leverage expertise and resources to enhance the development and dissemination of health-promoting goods derived from natural sources.

The GTM Movement seeks to collaborate closely with the University Management in translating conceptual ideas into tangible minimum-viable products. Leveraging the existing Entrepreneurship and Innovation system within the University, this partnership aims to drive forward the movement's mission of promoting sustainable living and regenerative agriculture for the betterment of society.



DeKUT hosts the British American Tobacco (BAT) team



A recent showcase by DeKUT's Mechanical, Mechatronics, and Siemens Centre teams caught the attention of the British American Tobacco (BAT) team, sparking interest in a potential collaborative partnership with the University. This potential collaboration is driven by a shared commitment to empowerment, aiming to bridge the gap between industry and academia. The interest shown by the BAT team in partnering with DeKUT's teams suggests a promising avenue for enhancing technician capabilities while impacting their education experience.

The potential areas of collaboration include training in Fasteners, Drive Systems, Lubrication, Pneumatics, Gluing Systems, Bearings, Sensors, and Electrical Components. BAT's interest in leveraging technologies like Digital Twin and VR aligns well with DeKUT's capabilities.

DeKUT plans initiatives such as field trips to BAT facilities, industrial attachments, internships, and mentorship programs to support the vision of potential collaboration. These efforts aim to nurture a skilled workforce prepared to drive innovation in the industry. As the potential collaboration progresses, the exchange of ideas and expertise between DeKUT and BAT promises to deliver mutual benefits, reshape technician training, and foster a culture of innovation and collaboration.

DeKUT Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Muchiri visits India Institute of Technology (IIT)



The Vice-Chancellor DeKUT, Prof. Eng. Peter Muchiri, the CEO of the National Research Fund, Prof. Dickson Andala, Vice Chancellor Riara University Prof. Robert Gateru, a Representative of Kenya Innovation Agency, and a Team from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the British High Commission, led by Mr. Fran Davies and Jordan Kyongo, in the visit to India Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai. The visit was to establish collaborations on incubation, innovation, and startup enhancement in African Universities.

DeKUT, with support from the British High Commission and the Kenya Innovation Agency (KENIA), will collaborate with a consortium of Universities from the United Kingdom, India Institute of Technology (IIT), and other Common Wealth Countries to enhance their entrepreneurial ecosystems, promote commercialization of research outputs, and establish Startup Companies. It is in recognition of DeKUT working towards building a vibrant innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the University.



DeKUT Inter-sector games 2024





Every semester, the University wardenship program holds inter-sector competitions, an activity that brings students from all sectors together for cohesion and integration. The competition took place on 17th February, 2024 from 9.30am to 6.30 pm, and all sectors were represented and over four hundred (400) students attended. The Edition was inclusive of various indoor and outdoor activities.



The objectives of the inter-sector games are;

1. Foster Cohesion and Integration among staff and students.
2. Entertain and build trust between students and staff.
3. Raise awareness of the available University support system.
4. Establish bonds and connections.







The Vice Chancellor engages in a knowledge exchange mission in the United Kingdom



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof.Eng. Peter Muchiri, participated in the United Kingdom knowledge exchange visit organized by the British High Commission and FCDO office, which involved visiting the Royal Academy of Engineering, Loughborough University, Cranfield University, Imperial College of London, and the Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

The main goal of the visit was to transfer knowledge on research, innovation, and commercialization framework and explore opportunities for collaboration and capacity building in DeKUT and Kenya. Prof.Peter Muchiri met the Head of the Global Science Department, Research and Evidence Division, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Mr. Fran Davies.



The Role of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchanges in promoting Internationalization



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, in collaboration with the University of Nairobi, Maseno University, Kibabii University (Kenya), and Leibniz University Hannover (Germany), jointly organized a training course at the Heron Portico Hotel in Nairobi with participants from 17 Universities from within and outside Kenya on the Role of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Virtual Exchanges in promoting Internationalization at Home in Higher Academic Institutions in Kenya which is part of the National Multiplication Trainings (NMT) of the DIES programme (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) coordinated by DAAD.

The workshop aimed to provide an in-depth application of COIL, illustrating how virtual exchange can enable geographically distant students and staff to team up and develop core competencies and skills required for internationalization. The workshop also offered an opportunity to explore the possibilities of combining the lessons learned in online education and international collaborations and linkages.





Africa Regional Training Workshop on Management of Internationalization



DeKUT has been co-hosting the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) Africa Regional Workshop on Management of Internationalization Training Programme jointly organized by the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors Conference (HRK).
This year, the workshop has drawn participants from eleven countries within Africa and beyond.

It brings together University managers to equip them with skills to manage processes and tasks of internationalization in higher education. It enables participants to build up improved and more effective internationalization structures in their respective Universities.
DeKUT, having hosted this workshop, is making tremendous progress in fostering regional and global internationalisation.





Dedan Kimathi Week 2024



Every year in the week that falls on February 18th (the date that the liberation hero was executed), we celebrate Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, after whom our institution is named. We call it Kimathi Week to commemorate the courage and bravery that saw Kenya achieve its independence. Dedan Kimathi's vision, ideas, actions, and outcomes are attributed to this University, which strongly identifies with the pursuit of its mission to improve society. This year's Dedan Kimathi Week took place from February 8th to 23rd, 2024.

To commemorate our hero, the University organized various activities involving students and staff members within and outside the University, such as Sexuality, dating and relationship talks, Men's Conference, Alcohol and Drug Abuse sensitization, Mental Health Sensitization, a hike to Nyana Hill and a debate session.

As part of the Corporate Social Responsibility activities, we visited King'ong'o Maximum Prison and Mweiga Primary School Special Unit to give back to society.





DeKUT participated in the Government Digital Transformation Forum



The government and private sector partners launched the inaugural Digital Public Sector (DTPS) Forum and Awards event held in Mombasa from February 22nd to February 23rd, 2024. This event celebrated innovations and achievements in government digitalization while setting a framework for future progress.

The government intends to host the DTPS annually to showcase ongoing advancements in transforming the digital landscape of the public sector. As part of this initiative, the government plans to establish 1,450 digital hubs in each ward, set up 25,000 free public Wi-Fi hotspots in markets and bus stations, and extend the Internet fibre optic network by 100,000 kilometres.

DeKUT's representation at the event included Council Chair Dr. James Kariuki, Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Muchiri, and ICT Director Dr. Anthony Maina.

at saw Kenya achieve its independence. Dedan Kimathi's vision, ideas, actions, and outcomes are attributed to this University, which strongly identifies with the pursuit of its mission to improve society. This year's Dedan Kimathi Week took place from February 8th to 23rd, 2024.

Courstesy visit by the Vice Chancellor to the Kenya High Commission, London



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Muchiri had a courtesy visit to the Kenya High Commission in London and was received by the Kenyan Ambassador to the UK, Amb. H.E. Manoah Isipisu, the Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Edwin Afande and Education Secretary, Mr. Willie Machocho.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

Private Bag-10143, Dedan Kimathi

Nyeri, Kenya

www.dkut.ac.ke

0612050000