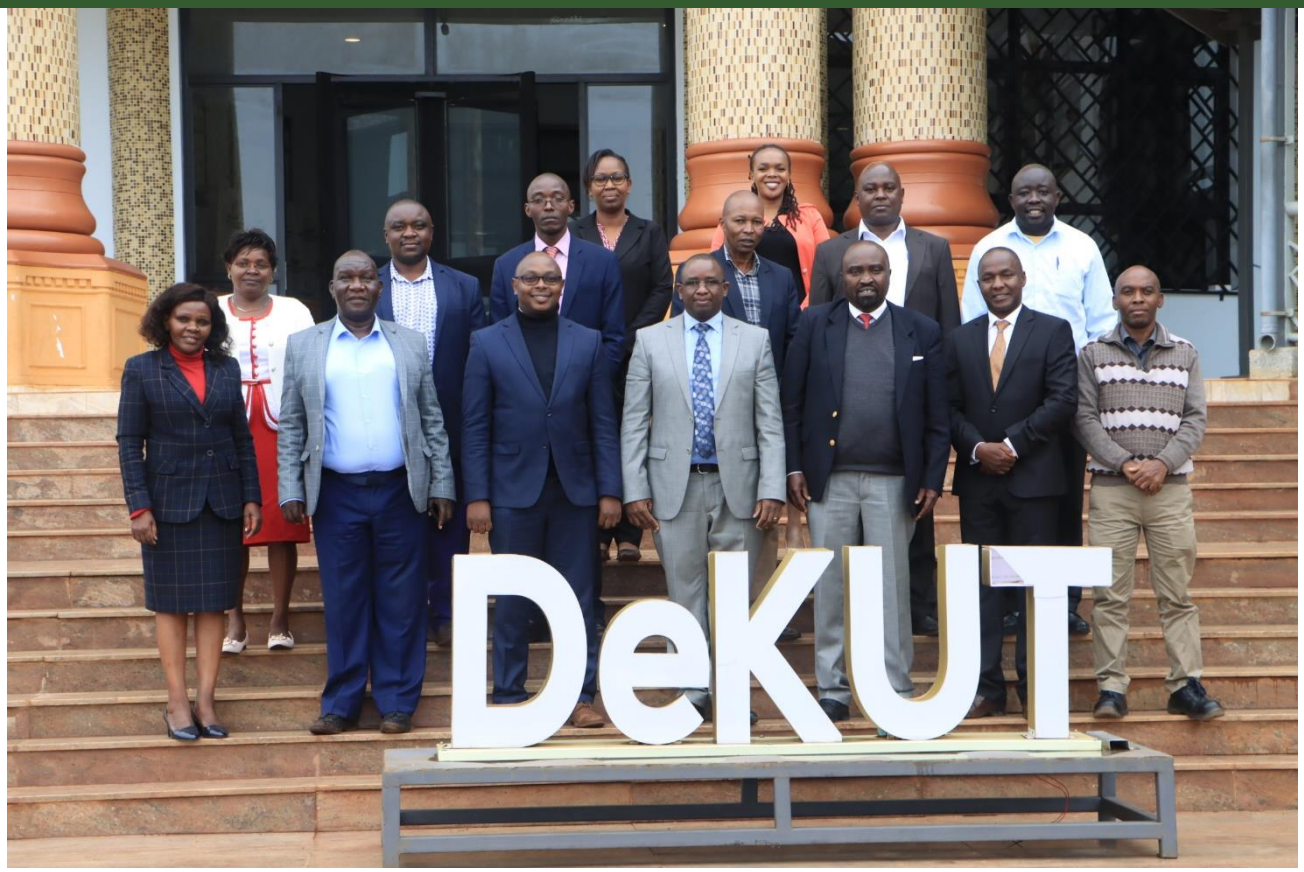
DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 54, JULY 2023



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DeKUT hosts Dr. Nathan Williams and a delegation from Rochester Institute of Technology





Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) was pleased to host Dr. Nathan Williams and a delegation from Rochester Institute of Technology from 5th to 12th July, 2023. DeKUT and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), USA have a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding. Through this collaboration they are exploring various areas such as; Renewable energy, Data Science, Geospatial Information Systems and joint student and staff exchange between the two institutions.

DeKUT hots a delegation from National Taiwan University of Science and Technology





DeKUT hosted a delegation from the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology on 3rd July, 2023. The group visited DeKUT alongside 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. During the visit, the Team discussed joint areas of continued collaboration with DeKUT particularly on Bachelor of Education - Technology and Coffee Technology. The team was led by Prof Cathy Wang and was received by DeKUT Acting VC, Prof. Peter Muchiri and HoD International Office, Dr Ann Kirugumi and Dr Wilson Adero HoD B.Ed. Technology.



DeKUT hosts Deep Learning IndabaX Summit 2023





Deep Learning Indaba (DLI) is a premier yearly conference and community-driven project aimed at enhancing and expanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) capabilities throughout Africa. It started in 2017 in South Africa as a discussion amongst the like-minded. It has since evolved into a driver for AI and ML in the continent in various fields of STEM. Through DLI, we are building capacity to solve African problems and promoting SDGs. The conference gathers about 800 participants, among them: AI researchers, practitioners, and students from different backgrounds to enhance collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. The conference was first launched at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in 2017. In 2018, it took place at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa. And in 2019 we hosted the same global conference at Kenyatta University, Kenya. The emergence of Covid-19, disrupted our conferences for the years 2020 and 2021. The year 2022, the conference resumed and was hosted at SupCom University, Tunisia.

The conference has provided support to all Africa countries by gathering smaller gatherings in each country to ensure continuous teaching and presentations in Deep learning. The small gatherings in each African Countries is named: Deep Learning IndabaX. IndabaX was founded in 2018 to support and build Machine Learning communities within Africa to provide support beyond the annual Deep Learning Indaba, allowing more individuals to participate in the artificial intelligence and Machine Learning discourse. IndabaX refers to a series of independently organized activities that take place in several African countries throughout the year. Local communities host IndabaX events, which provide forums for students and researchers to engage with Deep Learning and AI subjects in a more localized and inclusive manner.

IndabaX has had a tremendous impact in various ways. Firstly, it has aided in the democratization of access to Artificial Intelligence education and resources by bringing together prospective researchers and practitioners who might not have been able to attend the main Indaba conference. It has made deep learning education more accessible and inclusive by organizing events in many African countries, building a sense of community and collaboration among participants. The summits have aided in the development of local Artificial Intelligence ecosystems across Africa. It has stimulated the development of new AI-focused initiatives, enterprises, and research projects by linking individuals with shared interests and providing them with a forum to present their work. This has aided the continent's general progress of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning competence and innovation.

Indaba X Kenya Community

IndabaX Kenya is Chaired by Eng. Antony Ndolo who works with a support team to organize AI Summits in Kenya. Dr. Elizabeth Mutua is an organizer of the conference under accommodation/travels committee and with her experience. Under IndabaX, she is able to receive financial grant and assist in planning and organizing the summits.

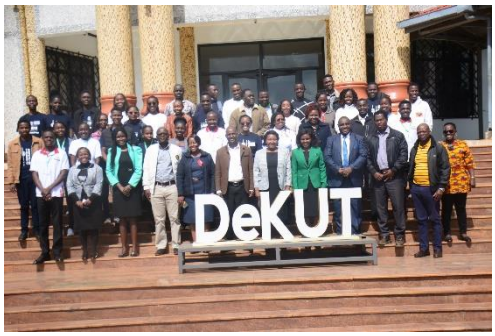
Previously, IndabaX Kenya has organized the following events:

- 1st AI Summit: The **Nairobi Women in Machine Learning community** was honored to host the first *IndabaX*Kenya in April, 2018. The community partnered with the **Busara Centre for Behavioral Economics.**
- 2nd AI Summit: **Kenyatta University** was the host for the main DLI conference between 28th to 30th August, 2019. The second *IndabaX*Kenya was held in collaboration with **Mtoto News.**
- 3rd AI Summit: **Law Hub Kenya** organized the 2021 *IndabaX*Kenya.
- 4th AI Summit: **Strathmore University** hosted *IndabaX*Kenya 2022 in the School of Computing and Engineering Sciences. We partnered with **Mwaiton Consultancy Services** and **Joasher Technologies & Consultancy.**





DeKUT hosts IASTE Kenya Annual General Meeting





The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) Kenya National Committee hosted the 2nd Annual General Meeting on 15th July, 2023 at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

The Annual General Meeting is a very important event for IAESTE Kenya. The main aim of the AGM is to discuss matters relating to exchange of students, take stock of achievements in the past year and set plans for the coming year.

The AGM had participants from the f six member universities i.e. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, DeKUT, Egerton University, Murang'a University of Technology, Kibabii University and Meru University of Science and Technology.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology and Laikipia University also attended the AGM.



Presidential Awards





We had the honour to host Thomas Morin Cabana, the Chair of Quebec Council of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award- Canada and Jinnarious Wambugu, the President's Award Kenya (PA-K) Programme Manager and Coordinator of Mt. Kenya Region. Following a successful event where we hosted His Royal Highness (HRH), The Earl of Wessex visited DeKUT. It engaged in a youth Dialogue on topical issues (ICT and Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Climate Change, Mental Health and Personal Branding). The DeKUT PA club has continued these conversations within the University and even in the neighbourhood. More than 5 Universities were also invited to participate in this dialogue.

After this visit, the guests proceeded to the Aberdare Forest to plant a tree next to where HRH planted his tree (Queen's canopy). The DeKUT PA club adopted and has been in charge of maintaining 100 trees planted to commemorate the 100 years Platinum Jubilee (the Queen's birthday) with Her Majesty's over 70 years of reign. A plaque was also installed at the site.

DeKUT has also been recognized as one of the three Centers of Excellence, where members from the larger Mt. Kenya region will access the centre for capacity building and mentorship. We will also be sending a team of 43 Gold-Awardees to the State House for recognition of completion for voluntary service, Physical recreation, skills, adventurous journey, and a gold-residential project.

In October 2022, the DeKUT PA Club organized a one-week-long Civic Education on Road Safety. The climax was a one-day workshop where the University management graced the occasion, and the PA-K national office delivered two computers and a laptop for the Center of Excellence to facilitate their operations.

DeKUT PA club also planted and managed over 400 trees at the DeKUT farm as part of the efforts to green our institution.





DeKUT hosts the Safaricom Engineering Community



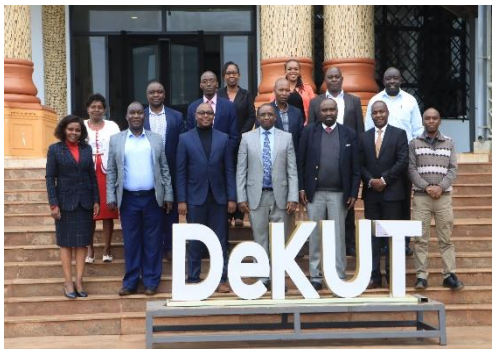


On 25th July 2023, the Safaricom Engineering Community team visited DeKUT to build a centre of excellence in the Internet of Things (IoT) and Robotics to upskill and certify 1400 students from ten Universities nationwide with the ten digital skill sets currently in demand within the digital space. It will foster a culture of engineering excellence among young engineers in Kenya through knowledge sharing, collaboration, networking, and creating innovative solutions. DeKUT will be a centre of excellence where 100 students will be recruited to the Safaricom Engineering Community, where they will receive hands-on training and engage in practical exercises. It will help bridge the gap between the University curriculum and the world of work, which is crucial to empower the youth. It addresses this disparity and prepares students to excel in the ever-evolving world. Embracing digital innovation requires technical skills, a mindset of continuous learning, and adaptability.

Below is a YouTube link to the event: **https://lnkd.in/dzyqWy8i**)



DeKUT hosts New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union directors





On 26th July 2023, the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Muchiri, hosted Directors from New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union(New KPCU), led by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Kiprotich Chemno.

DeKUT is committed to contributing to the improved coffee sub-sector in Kenya through training, research and technology transfer. The fruitful discussions focused on collaboration in various coffee value chain segments, such as; value addition, capacity building, research and development, consultancy, and community extensions. A sub-committee headed by Managing New KPCU Director Mr. Timothy Mirugi and Prof. Eddy Owaga (Director, DeKUT Coffee Technology Centre) was established to spearhead the development of the Cooperation Agreement.





DeKUT Red Cross Chapter Award





On 15th July 2023, the DeKUT Red Cross chapter participated in the Central Region First Aid Competition, where they competed amongst seven other counties, namely; Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Laikipia, Murang'a, Kiambu, Kirinyaga and Embu. The participants showcased their knowledge, skills and attitude in the first aid practicals. DeKUT emerged in position one under the Chapter category, where the Nyeri County coordinator Ms Rose Mureithi awarded them a trophy and a certificate. The team has now qualified to proceed to the Nationals Competition to be held in September.

Congratulations, Red Cross!





MSD at 1 Anniversary





On 15th July 2023, we celebrated the Marketing Students of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology's (MSD) 1st anniversary. The event was graced by the DVC A&F Prof. Esther Magiri, the club patron Dr Mwai, Dr Consolata and the Marketing Society of Kenya in celebrating this significant milestone.

MSD has over 80 members cutting across all programmes in the University. During the event, the club launched membership cards.

Congratulations MSD!

The outcome of the 151 MK projects submitted at Erasmus+.





The Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is the only University in East Africa, with Siemens Mechatronics Centre, University Bourgogne Franche-Comté (UBFC) and the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Siemens Training Centre (De-TRIPLEX) common goal is to increase the number of double-degrees students moving towards PhD. This collaboration aids graduates in schools and projects, and our partners France, Kenya, Israel, and Lebanon got funding amounting to 935,060 Euros.

Since 2018, University Bourgogne Franche-Comté (UBFC) has hosted nine master students from DeKUT in the frame of the Double Degree programme, and two are currently studying at UBFC this year. Out of the exchange of students, three students continued their studies under joint supervision between DeKUT and UBFC. UBFC currently has two joint PhD theses in mechatronics with DeKUT.

The importance of channeling efforts on UBFC's distinguishing areas of research through its Graduate schools, projects bridging master and Ph.D. levels. The current collaboration enters Area 1 (Graduate school EIPHI) - Advanced Materials, Waves & Smart Systems: Advanced materials, smart systems, clean energy, Quantum and brain inspired photonic computing, Programmable matter. DeKUT being the only university in eastern Africa with a department in mechatronics and in the light of UBFC and DeKUT common desire to increase the number of double degree students moving towards Ph.D., this collaboration aids graduates in schools, projects and our partners France, Kenya, Israel and Lebanon got a funding amounting to 935,060 Euros.

From DeKUT to UBFC

- 6 SMS (10 months each) – To allow brilliant DeKUT students to not be stopped by their socio-economic level restrictions

- 9 SMP (30 days each) – To allow PhD students to not have their research impaired by a lack of agility

- 9 STA (1 week each) – To teach (in mechatronics) at UBFC Master GREEM

- 3 STT (1 week each) – To support the administrative staff on the other side in looking into all the elements entering international cooperation between UBFC and DeKUT. These elements include, among others,

- knowledge on visa procedures and timelines,

- administrative procedures to be done before leaving and once arrived (at the university and other relevant institutions – e.g. prefecture or equivalent)

- knowledge on cultural aspects, daily life and logistics to allow students and researchers alike to be autonomous as much as possible during their stay. This should allow them to blend in French society and maximize their focus on their study/research

- exploration of other partnership possibilities (whether in different fields or in extending current ones through, for instance, the creation of hybrid programmes)

From UBFC to DeKUT

- 9 SMP (30 days each) – To allow PhD students to not have their research impaired by a lack of agility

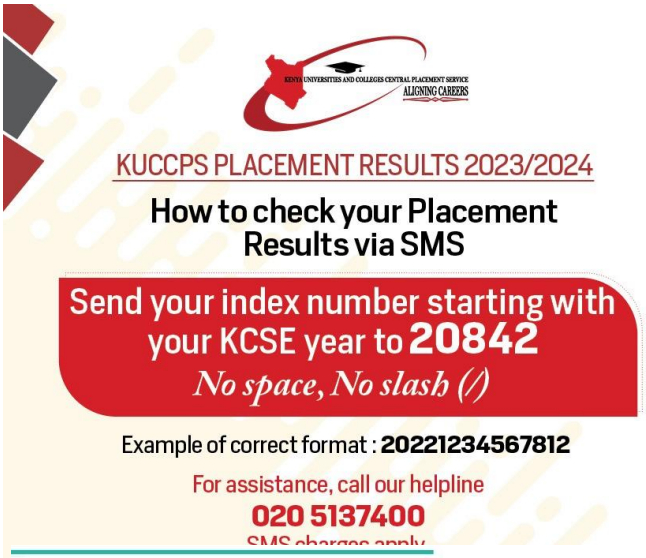
- 6 STA (1 week each) – To teach (in mechatronics) at DeKUT

- 3 STT (1 week each) – To support the administrative staff on the other side in looking into all the elements entering international cooperation between UBFC and DeKUT. The detail is similar to the one above but apply to Kenyan society.

The International relations Office in DeKUT provides a full support in terms of logistics, including pickup and return at the airport as well as guidance and arrangement of hotel/dormitories for the stay. Students are also provided with a reception and orientation, as well as being paired with a DeKUT student for everyday counseling and support through the buddy system.

Congratulations DeKUT!

KUCCPS Placement results 2023/2024



KUCCPS has already placed students in their respective Universities. Those placed in DeKUT can download their admission letters at www.dkut.ac.ke.

HELB PRESS RELEASE

Attn: News Editor

THE LAUNCH OF NEW HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING MODEL'S [NFM] APPLICATION PORTAL FOR BOTH SCHOLARSHIP AND LOANS BY CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

Nairobi, 31st July 2023. The Government has today launched the application portal for the New Higher Education Funding (NFM) **(www.hef.co.ke)** for both Scholarship and Loans for students placed by Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service [KUCCPS] effective Financial Year [FY] 2023/2024.

The launch follows the Presidential Directive on 03rd May 2023 signaling the intention of Government to overhaul higher education student funding model by aligning placement, Government scholarship and loans to be responsive to the needs of students and their programme costs.

Speaking during the launch at the Kenya School of Government, Cabinet Secretary for Education Hon. Ezekiel Machogu stated that the new funding model will ensure inclusivity and no student will be left behind. "**For the first time, students whose households are at the bottom of the pyramid shall enjoy equal opportunities in accessing university and TVET education. Out of the 2022 KCSE graduates, over 45,000 university students and 42,000 TVET students categorized as vulnerable and extremely needy, will be fully funded under the Government Scholarships and Loans**", said Hon. Machogu.

Consequently, the Government through the Higher Education Loans Board [HELB], Universities Fund, State Department for TVET, and KUCCPS has today launched the Higher Education Financing Portal, to receive applications for both Scholarships and Loans.

Furthermore, "**Students who require funding MUST make formal application through Higher Education Financing portal (www.hef.co.ke) upon placement by KUCCPS and getting admission letters to Universities or Colleges. The requirements and application process has been clearly mapped out in the portal.**" added Hon. Machogu.

However, continuing students will not be affected by this funding model and will continue to receive their funding based on the Government's existing model. The Cabinet Secretary also directed the Vice Chancellors, Principals and other relevant Government agencies to ensure smooth and successful implementation of this NFM model.

FCPA Charles M. Ringera,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER- HELB

-ENDS-

HELB PRESS RELEASE 31.07.2023

The launch of New Higher Education Funding (NFM)

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