MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 66, JULY 2024



IN THIS ISSUE:

1. DeKUT hosts the 2nd DeKUT International Day
2. Matriculation Ceremony 2024/2025
3. DeKUT Embarks on Global Engineering Excellence
4. The ENGAGE Project: Empowering Girls in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
5. Sustainable Farming Spotlight
6. The DeKUT CyberSecurity Club Hosts Thrilling CTF Competition
7. Strengthening Student Welfare: DeKUT Hosts Forum with External Hostel Providers
8. The DeKUT Enterprises Company (DeKUTES) Annual General Meeting (AGM)
9. DeKUT Strengthens Global Ties Through Strategic Partnership with the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) Taiwan
10. DeKUT Hosts a Delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)

DeKUT hosts the 2nd DeKUT International Day



DeKUT recently hosted Dr. Dorothy Weyler, the Regional Director of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), for the University's second International Day. This event underscored the importance of international linkages and offered students an enriching platform to explore the benefits of global connections and diverse cultural traditions. The day was a remarkable success, providing students with unique insights into the advantages of international linkages. Dr. Weyler's presence and contributions inspired students to engage in exchange programs and cultivate international relationships.

A highlight of the event was the vibrant cultural exchange between international and Kenyan students. This gathering was more than just a presentation of traditions; it was a celebration of diversity and a testament to the power of cross-cultural understanding. International students showcased their cultural backgrounds, giving attendees a glimpse into the richness of their traditions.

At the same time, these students immersed themselves in Kenyan culture, gaining a deeper appreciation for local customs. This exchange not only enriched their understanding but also fostered a deep sense of mutual respect and understanding among the participants.DeKUT students also shared their experiences and discussed various exchange programs. These discussions were informative and motivational, encouraging many to consider these opportunities to broaden their academic and personal horizons. Beyond celebrating cultural heritage, the event highlighted the importance of fostering international linkages. The event encouraged open-mindedness and global awareness by promoting a comprehensive understanding of the diverse traditions represented at DeKUT. This aligns with DeKUT's mission to prepare students for success in an interconnected world.

In conclusion, the second DeKUT International Day, highlighted by Dr. Dorothy Weyler's participation, was a resounding success. It showcased DeKUT's dedication to fostering international connections, promoting cultural exchange, and enhancing global awareness.



An entertainment session by the DeKUT Drama Club team



Stephanie Kynoch from Ireland showcasing her culture



The DeKUT Drama Club entertaining the participants



Participants listening to the procession



Adrian Gardijan and Lena Laeufer showcasing their German Culture

Matriculation Ceremony 2024/2025



On Friday, July 19, 2024, the 1st Year Students' orientation culminated in the Matriculation Ceremony, a significant event where the Vice Chancellor, the highest academic authority, officially welcomed the new students into the University. This ceremony, a revered tradition among Universities worldwide, marks the formal admission of new students.

At the heart of the ceremony, the First Years took the matriculation pledge, a solemn Act that symbolized their formal acceptance into the University. They pledged their loyalty to the institution and their commitment to its guidelines and policies. Following this, the Vice Chancellor, in a gesture of personal connection, shared a meal with the 2024/2025 first years. This was a unique opportunity for the students to interact with the academic staff, as they also had the chance to take selfies with them, further strengthening the bond within the University community.

As the University community, we extend a warm welcome to all first-year students. We are excited to have you join our fraternity and we wish you every success in your studies. May your time at the University be filled with wonderful experiences and learning opportunities.

Karibuni DeKUT!



Some of the students posing for a photo with the Vice Chancellor



First year students listening to a procession



First year students listening to the procession



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter. N. Muchiri addressing the first year students



Some of the first year students posing for a photo with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter. N. Muchiri

DeKUT Embarks on Global Engineering Excellence



The Journey towards Washington Accord accreditation for DeKUT Engineering programs has kicked off. The VC of DeKUT participated in the meeting organized by the Engineers Board of Kenya Chairman, Eng. Erastus Mwongera and EBK Registrar, Eng. Margeret Ogai, together with other Universities offering Engineering programs in the Country.

The participation in Washington Accord for DeKUT Engineering Programs opens a significant opportunity for international recognition of DeKUT Engineering programs. It provides for the mutual recognition and mobility of engineers and their participation in the global industry. Indeed, this accreditation will underline DeKUT as a Centre of Excellence in Engineering training.

The ENGAGE Project: Empowering Girls in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science



We are thrilled to announce the launch of the ENGAGE Project—ENabling Girls in AI and Growing Expertise. This groundbreaking initiative, a testament to the collaborative spirit of academia, aims to train young women in data science, focusing on applying their skills to public health within their communities. The project is a joint effort between the esteemed University of Nairobi (UoN) and the globally renowned University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). From August 5th to 30th, 2024, students and participants from six regional Universities will undergo training at DeKUT. The opening ceremony took place online today, connecting all six Universities involved in the project.

DeKUT was honoured to host Dr. Peninah Masibo from UCSF, who served as the host and MC for the event, accompanied by Jennifer Mwaniki from UoN. During the ceremony, the DeKUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter. N. Muchiri, reaffirmed his unwavering commitment and enthusiasm for the ENGAGE Project's success and its impactful goals. Following the ceremony, students began their classes in our lab, a testament to our commitment to providing the best learning environment for our students. This lab, generously equipped with 15 computers, one laptop, and one projector, all donated by the ENGAGE Project, is where these young women will hone their skills and significantly contribute to public health advancements in their communities.

We are excited to witness the transformation of these young women as they grow and excel in data science, contributing to public health advancements in their communities. Their journey is a beacon of hope, inspiring the next generation of female data scientists. Stay tuned for updates, and follow us on our journey to empower these bright minds!



Some of the students in the computer lab during the training



Dr. Diana Wangeshi guiding one of the students



Some of the participants listening to the procession



Some of the participants listening to the procession



A group photo of the participants with their trainers

Sustainable Farming Spotlight





The Centre for Food Safety and Naturopathy (CeFoNa) and the Green Thumb Movement (GTM) recently joined the Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre's exhibition to showcase their innovative products and initiatives to advance African sustainable agriculture. The event allowed CeFoNa to feature its Integrated Chia and Oyster Mushroom System for Sustainable Food Value Chain in Africa (CHIAM) project, which focuses on creating innovative, value-added products from chia and oyster mushrooms.

The CHIAM project, central to CeFoNa's mission to improve food security, was a significant exhibition highlight. This initiative combines the cultivation of chia and oyster mushrooms, two highly nutritious crops, into a sustainable food value chain. This strategy encourages biodiversity and offers small-scale farmers new opportunities to boost their income by producing and selling value-added products. CeFoNa's work in this area reflects a proactive approach to tackling food security challenges in Africa, emphasizing resilient, nutritious crops adaptable to various conditions, thereby contributing to a more sustainable and secure food system.

The Green Thumb Movement, through its GTM Initiative, has been a driving force in inspiring communities to adopt innovative farming practices that support sustainable agriculture. At the exhibition, GTM showcased various smart garden farming solutions designed to boost productivity in small spaces. These included mobile gardens, garden grow bags, and keyhole gardens, all of which are essential tools for enabling urban and rural communities to grow food efficiently.

These methods are particularly beneficial in regions with limited or degraded land, offering families a way to grow their food and enhance household food security. GTM's focus on smart garden farming is part of a larger mission to promote sustainability and self-reliance in agriculture, helping combat hunger and malnutrition by empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to grow their food.

The DeKUT CyberSecurity Club Hosts a Thrilling CTF Competition



The CyberSecurity Club of Kimathi recently concluded a unique three-day cybersecurity competition, featuring an engaging session with CTFRoom. The event, held during the club's regular Wednesday meeting, was highlighted by the CTF (Catch the Flag) challenge, a format that brought together some of the brightest minds in cybersecurity.

After an intense competition, the team Ctrl+Shift+Win emerged victorious. The team, composed of Brian Ndegwa from DeKUT Brian Karanja and Lansmith Mureithi from Kirinyaga University, demonstrated exceptional skills and teamwork, setting a high standard for future competitions. DeKUT's CyberKimathi team secured second place.

As a reward for their outstanding performance, the winning team was invited to a one-day boot camp at DeKUT's Nairobi Campus. Here, they had the unique opportunity to further hone their cybersecurity skills and knowledge, gaining insights from cybersecurity and security management students and professionals.





Strengthening Student Welfare: DeKUT Hosts Forum with External Hostel Providers





In a significant step towards enhancing the living experience for students, DeKUT hosted a productive forum with external hostel providers. The meeting focused on critical topics such as student welfare, ADA (Alcohol and Drug Abuse) sensitization, and building stronger relationships between landlords and students. The discussions centred on several key issues, including identifying students facing challenges, recognizing and referring drug users, and the procedures for doing so. The forum also delved into the first-year intake and orientation processes, gender and disability mainstreaming, and addressing security concerns within student accommodations.

The dialogue served as a crucial platform to address pressing issues and, more importantly, to foster a spirit of cooperation and understanding between the University and hostel providers. This joint effort aims to create a safer, more inclusive, and supportive environment for all students. As DeKUT continues to place student welfare at the forefront, such initiatives underscore the University's unwavering commitment to ensuring that students have a positive and enriching experience both academically and in their living situations. The collaboration with hostel providers clearly demonstrates DeKUT's proactive approach to addressing the diverse needs of its student community.



The DeKUT Enterprises Company (DeKUTES) Annual General Meeting (AGM)



We celebrate the success of the DeKUT Enterprises Company (DeKUTES) Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM was graced by the presence of its Board members, the University Council, and external auditors. DeKUTES, as the proud University Enterprise arm, is committed to offering top-notch consultancy services, utilizing cutting-edge technologies to produce high-quality products, and commercializing other innovative products from the University.

DeKUTES offers a diverse range of products that are designed to meet specific needs and cater to a wide spectrum of requirements. From the rich and aromatic DeKUT premium coffee to practical protective wear, from branded promotional items to robust equipment and machinery fabrication, and from the delicious DeKUT yoghurt to the versatile multipurpose detergent and handwash, our range of products is sure to excite and intrigue you.





DeKUT Strengthens Global Ties Through Strategic Partnership with the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) Taiwan





DeKUT is steadfast in its commitment to internationalization, continuously forging strong, strategic partnerships with Universities across the globe. Among these, our collaboration with National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) in Taiwan stands out as a particularly impactful alliance. This partnership transcends the traditional academic framework, establishing a dynamic platform that promotes student and staff exchanges, joint research initiatives, cultural exchanges, and industrial linkages.

Recently, we had the distinct privilege of hosting 24 students from NTHU. These students have been at the forefront of ICT capacity building in five high schools across Nyeri, Kisumu, and Busia Counties. Their efforts in these regions exemplify how global partnerships can effectuate positive local change. By sharing their expertise, the NTHU students have not only strengthened the ICT capabilities of these schools but have also left a lasting, positive impact on the communities they have served.
These collaborative endeavors are instrumental in raising the academic and research standards at DeKUT, enriching our institution with new knowledge, perspectives, and innovative approaches.

The success of this initiative underscores the immense potential of collaboration and the transformative changes that can be achieved when institutions unite with a common purpose. The partnership with NTHU is a shining example of how strategic international engagements can lead to tangible, beneficial outcomes for both the institutions involved and the communities they serve.

As DeKUT continues to broaden its global footprint, we are deeply committed to nurturing and expanding these international partnerships. Our collaboration with NTHU Taiwan is just one of the many initiatives that underscore our dedication to achieving our internationalization objectives. Through these efforts, we aim to cultivate a vibrant, interconnected academic community that not only enhances our institution but also contributes to the advancement of societies around the world.

In conclusion, our partnership with NTHU is a cornerstone of DeKUT's strategy to promote global engagement and academic excellence. We look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration and to the ongoing success of initiatives that create meaningful change for students and communities both locally and globally.

DeKUT Hosts a Delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)



We are pleased to have hosted a delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) team at DeKUT.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

Private Bag-10143, Dedan Kimathi

Nyeri, Kenya

www.dkut.ac.ke

0612050000