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Launch of the DeKUT Ajira Club by the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youths Affairs, Ms. Maureen Mbaka



The Ministry of ICT, Innovation, and Youth Affairs, on Friday, June 24, 2022, launched an Ajira Digital Club at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) to reach more youth and expand the footprints of the Ajira Digital Program across the county. The Ajira Digital program is a socio-econominitiative aiming to position Kenya as a top global hub for digital freelancing and business process outsourcing while equipping young Kenyans with the necessary skills to take advantage of digital opportunities locally and internationally.

Currently, we have over 40 Ajira clubs established in various Universities and TVET institutions across the county, with the DeKUT Ajira Club leading with the highest number of online workers in the country. The club, run by students, will act 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.

Speaking during the launch, the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of ICT Innovation and Youths Affairs, Ms. Maureen Mbaka, stated that online work is the way to go and that digital jobs have surpassed the number of digital workers. "As a ministry, we are working hard with our partners to reach out to young Kenyans who are in and out of higher learning institutions," Mbaka said.

In 2018, Ajira partnered with higher learning institutions to enable millions of young people to tap into digital job opportunities. Most youths have been trained in article writing, transcription, digital marketing and virtual assistance to transform their livelihoods by working online. The CAS lauded the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology for its commendable work. "This University has the highest number of online workers among all institutions of higher learning. We have seen several students earn a decent living in this institution. The CAS also urged the youths to seize the online opportunities Ajira Program offers to enhance their skillsets and earn a decent living through digital and digitally-enabled jobs.

Through the Ajira digital program, the country continues to demystify the myths around online work and embrace it as a source of income and dignified employment. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni also stated that the programme will enable graduates to secure online jobs and contribute to the country's economy. "We have put in place systems to ensure that none of our graduates complains that they have not secured a job," Prof. Kioni said.





DeKUT Participates in the 2022 Kenya Space Expo and Conference

DeKUT continues to collaborate with KSA through various research projects, such as the Small Scale Crop Mapping Using AI/ML project and the "Operational Space Weather project. From 15th to 17th June 2022, we participated in the inaugural Kenya Space Expo and Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya. The event, hosted by the Kenya Space Agency (KSA), was themed "Leveraging Space Capabilities for National Development". The Expo and Conference focused on leveraging space science, technologies, and applications to address existential socio-economic challenges and develop national economies. It brought together industry, government representatives, policymakers, academia, representatives of space agencies and international organizations, young professionals, and the general public.

Part of the team that represented DeKUT at the event included Dr. Kuria B. Thiong'o from the Institute of Geomatics, GIS, and Remote Sensing (IGGReS). Dr. Kuria was a panellist in one of the sessions titled "Emerging Technologies in EO Data Utilization", in addition to moderating the session on "Applications of EO for Natural Resource Management".







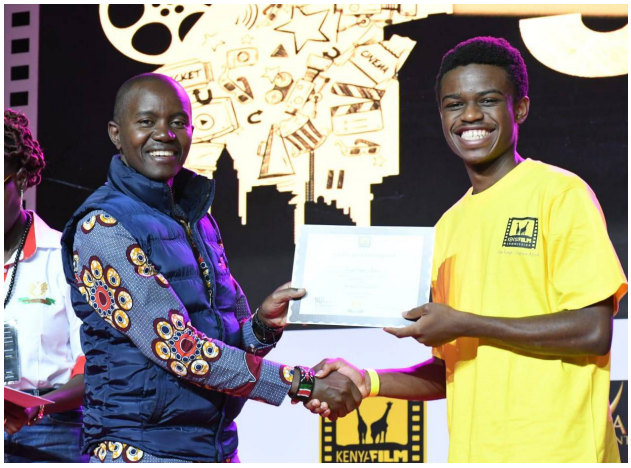
DeKUT Film, Animation, and Gaming Hub organizes a one-month animation Bootcamp in collaboration with the Kenya Film Commission to train young people in animation



DeKUT Film, Animation, and Gaming Hub organized a one-month animation Bootcamp in collaboration with the Kenya Film Commission to train young people in animation. After a month of intensive training, a group of 20 students graduated in a colorful ceremony officiated by the CS ICT, Mr. Joe Mucheru.

This was part of the 5th Kenya Film Commission's Kalasha International Film and TV Market, which took place at KICC Nairobi. Kalasha International Film & TV Festival & Market is a three-day trade fair that showcases firms from across the world and East Africa, providing high-level interaction for trading and sharing ideas, as well as side events such as seminars, workshops, coaching, and pitching sessions. The Kalasha Worldwide TV & Film Market is a one-of-a-kind forum for all regional and international stakeholders in the TV & Film industry, as well as festival-goers, to meet, discuss, collaborate, share stories, and generate new business prospects.

Others present included; the Vice Chancellor, Prof Ndirangu Kioni, Kenya Film Hub CEO, Multichoice Kenya, and officials from other partner universities.









University Hosts the 2022 Mater Heart Run



Mater Heart Run is an annual event in the Kenyan Calendar towards the support of heart surgery for needy children. The Mater Cardiac Program began 20 years ago when the Mater Hospital realized that very little cardiac work of good quality was being carried out in the country. Patients who were financially endowed had to go overseas for treatment. A large majority, many of them children, had no recourse to quality Medicare and were destined to a sickly life and premature death.The Mater Hospital, therefore, started a cardiac program in 1995 to cater for children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and the first open-heart surgery was performed in 1996. This was in line with the Sisters of Mercy's values, which emphasize compassion for all and seek to uplift the lives of the underprivileged in the society.

To date, over 3,000 heart procedures have been performed courtesy of the support from well-wishers. Most of these surgeries were done at Mater Hospital by Kenyan doctors, with a few being referred overseas or done by visiting Cardiologists. The Mater Heart Run was started in 2002 as one of the main fundraising avenues for the Cardiac program. Initially held only in Nairobi, the Heart Run has grown over the years.

It is now held in eleven (11) different towns, namely, Nairobi, Mombasa, Machakos, Kakamega, Kisumu, Meru, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nyeri, Kericho & Bomet. In 2008, the Hospital started free cardiac outreach screening camps all over the country to screen for heart ailments and educate the community about the acquired heart disease, which is preventable but could lead to death if ignored. This year's run was held on Saturday, June 11 2021, at the University. Kenyans from all walks of life come together to support the cause. Members of the DeKUT Fitness Club also took part in this noble cause; the club participates in CSR initiatives as a way of giving back to society.



DeKUT Office of Career Services hosts the 2nd Ajira Digital Program Physical Training

To achieve her mission of preparing DeKUT students for the world of work and entrepreneurship and linking them to this world, the DeKUT Office of Career Services (DeKUTOCS) has been building collaborations with entities that can be partners in this mission. One of the successful collaborations is with the Ajira Digital Program. In March this year, DeKUTOCS hosted the first physical training on Content Creation & Digital Marketing. From Tuesday, June 7 to Thursday, June 9 2022, DeKUTOCS hosted the 2nd training in this first round of training on Data Management & Transcription. Several other students are registering and taking virtual classes in interest categories. To continue building students' capacity, empowering, exposing and mentoring them through this program, DeKUTOCS intends to host training on all the five categories every year and keep the trainees linked to mentors.











World Environment Day held at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology



We are privileged to have hosted this year's World Environment Day in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) under the theme 'Only One Earth'. This yearly event, which began in 1973, strives to raise global awareness and concentrate on the importance of living sustainably in harmony with the environment and the possibility of transitioning to a greener lifestyle through policies and individual choices.



The University's mission is to provide high-quality human resources to help society meet its challenges. DeKUT addresses climate change challenges through biodiversity protection, pollution reduction, and educational research and extension efforts. The University also offers civil engineering, sustainable tourism, and hospitality management degrees. These degrees include water resource management, waste management, and biodiversity conservation courses. These focus areas are also addressed by various specialist research and extension centers at the University. Examples include;

1. Data Science and Artificial Intelligent Centre.
This center applies data centers and artificial intelligence, specifically bioacoustics, to monitor the health of ecosystems.

2. Centre for Biomass Energy Studies.
This center has several programs, some funded by GIZ, aimed at increasing efficiency in the use of biomass to reduce the degradation of forests. The center is also part of the Green Institute.

3. Geothermal Energy Training and Research Institute (GETRI)
This Institute researches geothermal energy and has also played an essential role in training at the postgraduate degree level human resources for KenGEN and GDC.



4. Centre for Electronic Device Development

This center has been involved in developing smart devices for monitoring air pollution and can be deployed by NEMA.

5. Adoption of Tanyai Forest

The University has adopted the Tanyai forest, which is 800 hectares, aiming to increase the forest cover and create a model for re-afforestation.

6. DeKUT Conservancy

This conservancy serves as the University's conservation laboratory, extensively used for teaching students and research.

7. Students Clubs

Students have various clubs through which they engage in environmental conservation activities such as tree planting, among others.

8. Water Resources Management Centre

The focus of this center is a better understanding of our water sources, with a special focus on aquifers and how they can be sustained.

We are proud to be part of these celebrations and look forward to developing more synergies in environmental conservation. Other events that preceded the celebrations included a public lecture on Friday, June 3, 2022, at the Freedom Hall and a football match between DeKUT and Kenyatta University considered the World Environmental Day Cup 2022, at the DeKUT Rugby Pitch.









5th Charity Golf Tournament





Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Endowment Fund was established to support talented students to access and successfully complete the highly competitive programs offered by the University through scholarships and bursaries. The fund was developed further to support the wider mandate of the University and its goal to run as a world academic centre of excellence. To this end, the fund has a framework for University supporters.

The general idea behind the endowment fund, as practiced worldwide, is that a contribution is not utilized directly but is put in appropriate investment instruments, and the yields of that investment are utilized in the course for which the principal contribution was made. The idea behind the endowment fund was to provide support to many students who are experiencing financial difficulties. A high percentage of students cannot cater for their study fees, leading to many of them dropping out. With an endowment fund and work-study programs, the University has retained the students. On Saturday, June 4 2022, we held the 5th Charity Golf Tournament at the Nyeri Golf Club after a while since the pandemic. The event registered a record of golfers from different clubs, but most were drawn from clubs within the Mount Kenya region.

As a University, we appreciate all the contributions channeled towards this Charity Golf Tournament and for making the day a success.







Guiding Students in Making Informed Decisions through the Virtual Open/Career Day



We are privileged to have hosted this year's World Environment Day in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) under the theme 'Only One Earth'. This yearly event, which began in 1973, strives to raise global awareness and concentrate on the importance of living sustainably in harmony with the environment and the possibility of transitioning to a greener lifestyle through policies and individual choices.

On May 20, 2022, we organized an open/career day to assist form four leavers, and their parents in identifying appropriate certificate, diploma, or degree courses. They were also given an opportunity to tour the facilities, speak with potential future lecturers, and hear about the University from existing students. We also held a virtual open day on June 7, 2022, for those who missed the physical open day. The event was live on our DeKUT Channel, https://dekutchannel.dkut.ac.ke/ Facebook, and YouTube, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Among the key speakers included Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, Prof. Peter Muchiri, Dr. Ann Sang, Dr. Douglas Onyancha, among others.





DeKUT hosts two interns, Ms. Quiana McLaren and Ms. Elyssa Salmon from the College of the Rockies



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and College of the Rockies (CoTR) have worked together for over ten years, particularly on a maternal access and infant survival for health advancement (MAISHA) project, a sustainable job creation project, and several international youth internship projects. DeKUT shares a variety of interests, including ensuring that women and men receive the education and training they need to take advantage of economic and lifelong learning opportunities

Through this collaboration, DeKUT is hosting two interns, Ms. Quiana McLaren and Ms. Elyssa Salmon, for six months. The interns will be attached to the Directorate of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs as Gender Equality Officers for six months.

We welcome Ms. McLaren and Ms. Salmon and wish them a pleasant stay at the University.

Training of Coffee Farmers/Professionals





In collaboration with CEFA, we conducted training through the ARABICA project to train coffee farmers/professionals. The Italian non-governmental organization CEFA (The European Committee for Training and Agriculture) was founded in 1972 and operates in 10 nations throughout Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. The focus of CEFA's medium- and long-term interventions in the agricultural, environmental, and human rights sectors is on the sustainable development of the communities. This is accomplished by collaborating with local counterparts and encouraging the active engagement of beneficiaries.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation is the source of funding for the ARABIKA project, which was created through cooperation between the Kenyan and Italian governments. The initiative impacts the producer cooperatives' capacity for organization and management, the end product's quality, and the marketing component, all of which will enable access to new and more lucrative markets. The initiative is currently being carried out in seven Kenyan counties: Nyeri, Meru, Kiambu, Muranga, Embu, Machakos, and Bungoma.

Institute of Criminology and Security Studies holds a career symposium on cyber/information security, fraud investigation and security management



DeKUT, under the Institute of Criminology and Security Studies, held a career symposium on cyber/information security, fraud investigation and security management with Mr. John Kiruri, an Information Security Expert, as the main speaker. Other speakers included: Mr. Collins Ayodo, Principal Investigations Officer, Kenya Airways and Mrs. Jane Mugo, CEO, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Kenya Chapter.

Marketing Students Club hosts its second mentorship program to educate marketers with marketing knowledge and skills for the world of work

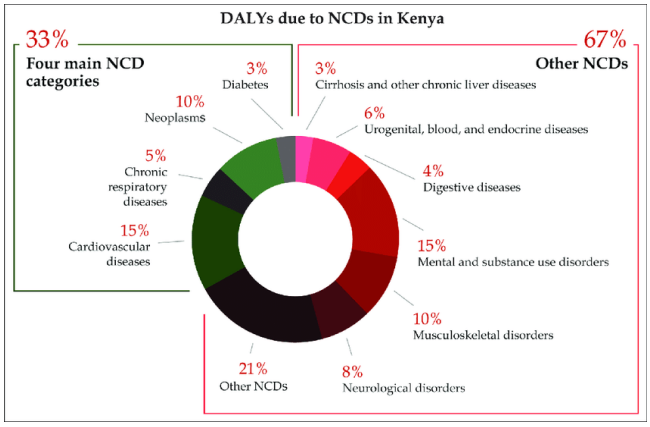




On June 17 2022, the DeKUT Marketing Students Club hosted its second mentorship program to educate marketers with marketing knowledge they can utilize outside the University. Some of the key topics of discussion included; expectations, challenges and best practices in marketing as a profession, developing a career path in marketing, creating a network, and strengthening professional relationships, among others.

The chief guest was Dr. Muriithi Ndegwa, Executive Director/CEO of the Kenya Institute of Management. Among the other guest speakers were Mr. Peter Gathecha, County Business Development Office, Kenya Power, Mount Kenya Region, Mr. David Waweru, Managing Director/CEO Steadfast Credit Ltd, and Mr. Julius Gitonga, Head of Marketing, KNH Othaya, currently at Mwai Kibaki hospital.

Sensitization on Non-Communicable Disease and HIV/AIDS Awareness among Staff and Students



Noncommunicable diseases such as cancer, mental health disorders, diabetes, chronic lung diseases, and heart diseases are the world's biggest killers causing 7 in 10 deaths, translating to 41 million young people annually. This includes 15 million people who die prematurely from NCDs in the prime of their lives aged between 30 and 69 years. These non-communicable diseases share four risk factors that can be addressed through behavior change which are often established during adolescence and carried to adulthood. They include; unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, and harmful use of alcohol and tobacco use. Lower and middle-income countries (LMICs) bear 85% of premature NCDs attributable to deaths.

These diseases have a substantial negative impact on the productivity and economies of LMICs. In Kenya, the health system is struggling with a double burden of the disease. They are estimated to be responsible for more than half of hospital admissions and deaths. If we do nothing, noncommunicable deaths will exceed the combined deaths from communicable and nutritional diseases, as well as maternal and perinatal deaths by 2030.

On 29th June 2022, the University Medical Department held an online event to sensitize staff and students on non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS awareness. The key areas of discussion included; types of non-communicable diseases such as mental disorders, cancer, diabetes, and hypertension, risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases, and prevention measures.

Security Department holds a Road Safety Awareness Event for MSEA Management and DeKUT Staff Members

Traffic crashes have become a global epidemic. Fortunately, the government and NGOs around the world are working hard with a combination of awareness, behavior, and infrastructure strategies to reverse this deadly trend through traffic safety initiatives. It is estimated that about 3,000 deaths occur from road crashes annually in Kenya with the main factors being road user behavior such as speeding, careless driving, drunk driving/riding, fatigued driving, distracted driving, aggressive driving, etc.

This month, the security department held a road safety awareness event to sensitize staff members and the MSEA management on the importance of road safety measures to curb the number of road accidents in Kenya. Road Safety Mainstreaming is a multi-sectoral approach to ensure road safety becomes an integral part of all Government programs.

The aim purpose of the event was to educate all road users on the proper and safe use of roads in order to change user attitude behaviour and to stimulate an awareness of the need for improvement in road safety. Road user behavioural changes are necessary to help reduce and prevent road collisions. This can be partly achieved through awareness programmes of education, training, publicity and promotion.

Consequences of Substance Abuse among the Youth



Youth who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic related, health-related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Additionally, there are consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society.

a) Academics challenges: Declining grades, absenteeism from school, and increased potential for dropping out of school are problems associated with adolescent substance abuse. Research by NACADA, and KiPPRA, (2019), indicate that a low level of commitment to education and higher truancy rates appear to be related to substance use among adolescents. Cognitive and behavioral problems experienced by alcohol and drug-using youth may interfere with their academic performance and also present obstacles to learning for their classmates.

b) Physical health: Injuries due to accidents (such as car accidents), physical disabilities and diseases, and the effects of possible overdoses are among the health-related consequences of teenage substance abuse. Disproportionate numbers of youth involved with alcohol and other drugs face an increased risk of death through suicide, homicide, accidents, and illness.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) study in a representative sample of hospitals throughout the United States reports trends in people seeking emergency department treatment related to illegal drug use or nonmedical use of legal drugs. NACADA,(2019) estimates indicate that drug-related emergency department episodes for youth ages 12 to 17 increased by 17 percent from 2010 to 2018. This increase was greater than for any of the older age groups reported. A worrying number of youth die of drugs and substance abuse.
Transmission of HIV/AIDS primarily occurs through exposure to the body fluids of an infected person during sexual contact or through sharing of unsterile drug injection equipment. Many substance-abusing youths engage in behavior that places them at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. This may include the use of psychoactive substances (particularly those that are injected) or behavior resulting from poor judgment and impulse control while experiencing the effects of mood-altering substances. Rates of AIDS diagnoses currently are relatively low among teenagers, compared with most other age groups. However, because the disease has a long latency period before symptoms appear, it is likely that many young adults with AIDS were actually infected with HIV as adolescents.

These limited examples illustrate the catastrophic health-related consequences of substance abuse among adolescents. Besides personal and family distress, additional healthcare costs and loss of future productivity place burdens on the community.

Consequences of Substance Abuse among the Youth

c) Mental health; Mental health problems such as depression, developmental lags, apathy, withdrawal, and other psychosocial dysfunctions frequently are linked to substance abuse among adolescents. Substance-abusing youth are at higher risk than non-users for mental health problems, including depression, conduct problems, personality disorders, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, and suicide. Marijuana use, which is prevalent among youth, has been shown to interfere with short-term memory, learning, and psychomotor skills. Motivation and psychosexual/emotional development also may be influenced (NACADA, 2019).

d) Peers; Substance-abusing youth are often alienated from and stigmatized by their peers. Adolescents using alcohol and other drugs also frequently disengage from school and community activities, depriving their peers and communities of the positive contributions they might otherwise have made.

e) Families;In addition to personal adversities, the abuse of alcohol and other drugs by youth may result in family crises and jeopardize many aspects of family life, sometimes resulting in family dysfunction. Both siblings and parents are profoundly affected by alcohol and drug-involved youth (Nowinski, 1990). Substance abuse can drain a family's financial and emotional resources (Josphine Kawira Nkonge, 2015).

f) Social and economic consequences; The social and economic costs related to youth substance abuse are high. They result from the financial losses and distress suffered by alcohol- and drug-related crime victims, increased burdens for the support of adolescents and young adults who are not able to become self-supporting, and greater demands for medical and other treatment services for these youth (Josphine Kawira Nkonge, 2015).

g) Delinquency; There is an undeniable link between substance abuse and delinquency. Arrest, adjudication, and intervention by the juvenile justice system are eventual consequences for many youths engaged in alcohol and other drug use. It cannot be claimed that substance abuse causes delinquent behavior or that delinquency causes alcohol and other drug use. However, the two behaviors are strongly correlated and often bring about school and family problems, involvement with negative peer groups, a lack of neighborhood social controls, and physical or sexual abuse (Hawkins et al., 1987; Wilson and Howell, 1993; Josphine Kawira Nkonge, 2015; NACADA, 2019). Possession and use of alcohol and other drugs are illegal for all youth. Beyond that, however, there is strong evidence of an association between alcohol and other drug use and delinquent behavior of juveniles. Substance abuse is associated with both violent and income-generating crimes by youth. These increases fear among community residents and the demand for juvenile and criminal justice services, thus increasing the burden on these resources. Gangs, drug trafficking, prostitution, and growing numbers of youth homicides are among the social and criminal justice problems often linked to adolescent substance abuse.

The DUF study found the highest association between positive drug tests of male juvenile arrestees and their commission of drug-related crimes (e.g. sale, possession). However, a substantial rate of drug use also was found among youth who committed violence, property, and other crimes (National Institute of Justice, 1996; NACADA,2019).

Conclusion

The youth are the backbone of any civilization. They are at the core of any progressive society yet threaten to be consumed by the vice of drug and substance abuse. To save this vital group, we have to engage in candid discussions on drugs and substance abuse. As the youth, we need to take the frontline in the fight against drug and substance abuse. We cannot afford to live in oblivion.

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Demystifying Leather Technology, "Si Ya Kushona Viatu Tu"

The leather industry is robust and lucrative, worth over KSh.50 billion. In Kenya, this industry is currently undersupplied with skilled workers.
The Leather Technology programme offered at DeKUT equips students with skills in processing hides and skins into leather and producing exotic leathers. The students learn the design, fabrication and testing of all kinds of leather goods and footwear. This program is very marketable and quickly gaining popularity in the industry.

Since the launch of the Leather Technology Program, all our graduates have secured employment, and those interested in entrepreneurship have created lucrative ventures.
Are you interested in manufacturing leather products? Would you like to work in the leather industry? If so, join us today for a diploma, degree, and Master's in Leather Technology.
Visit our website at www.dkut.ac.ke to apply.





September 2022 Intake in Progress

Are you a prospective student looking to attend University? Would you like to study at the most progressive University with a keen focus on Quality Education, Holistic Development of Students, Serene Learning Environment, and Timely Completion of Studies? September 2022 Intake is in progress. Qualified candidates interested in undertaking their Certificate, Diploma, Degree, or Masters are encouraged to apply via our website at www.dkut.ac.ke. You can also reach us via email: marketing@dkut.ac.ke or phone: 0713123021

