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MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology



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Celebrating Excellence: DeKUT's Prof. Jean Byiringiro Bosco awarded the 'Knight in the Order of the Palmes Académiques' Medal



DeKUT recently had the privilege of hosting His Excellency Arnaud Suquet, the French Ambassador to Kenya, alongside Mathieu Guérin, PhD, Attaché for Science and Higher Education. Their visit on June 3rd, 2024 marked a pivotal moment in our University's pursuit of global academic excellence and collaboration.

A significant highlight of this esteemed visit was the ceremonial awarding of the 'Knight in the Order of the Palmes Académiques' medal to Prof. Jean Byiringiro Bosco, Director of the Siemens Mechatronics Certification Centre at DeKUT. This prestigious honor, presented by Ambassador Suquet, recognizes Prof. Bosco's exceptional contributions to academic excellence and his role in strengthening educational ties between Kenya and France.

It is a testament to DeKUT's commitment to fostering international partnerships that enrich the educational experiences of our students and faculty. As we reflect on this milestone, let us celebrate not only the achievements of Prof. Bosco but also the collective efforts of our University in nurturing global academic exchange. The recognition bestowed upon Prof. Bosco underscores the quality of education and research excellence that DeKUT champions.



During their visit, Ambassador Suquet and Dr. Guerin also engaged in productive discussions with DeKUT representatives. These discussions, which focused on potential areas for collaborations and partnerships between DeKUT and French Universities, held the promise of exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and other forms of academic cooperation. These initiatives are aimed at enriching the educational experiences of students and faculty from both nations, a testament to the potential benefits of these collaborations.



The visit also highlighted the success stories of our students: seven PhD graduates, seventeen master's graduates, and six interns from the School of Engineering benefited from exchange programs with French universities. Additionally, five PhD students in Computer Science & IT have thrived in international partnerships. Together, we are shaping a future of limitless possibilities for DeKUT and beyond.



DeKUT hosts the Data Science Africa 2024 Nyeri Summer School and Workshop



DeKUT recently had the honour of hosting the Data Science Africa (DSA) 2024 Nyeri Summer School and Workshop from 3rd to 7th June, 2024. The event commenced with an inspiring address by DeKUT's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter N. Muchiri, highlighting the University's steadfast dedication to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. He underscored DeKUT's commitment to integrating research and development (R&D), fostering human capital development, and driving innovation, mainly through entrepreneurial endeavours.



The DSA 2024 was a unique event that brought together participants from over thirty African countries and also featured guest speakers from prestigious universities and leading organizations such as Google AI, Sunbird AI, Spotify and Edge Impulse, who enriched the discussions with their expertise. Under the theme 'Data Science for Social Good in the Age of Generative AI', the event explored cutting-edge topics in data science such as Edge Machine Learning (Edge ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

The Summer School provided a comprehensive learning experience, combining tutorial sessions led by industry professionals with insightful lectures on both fundamental and advanced topics in data science and machine learning. Participants were inspired to engage deeply with Generative AI, delving into applications like image, text, and code generation to develop solutions for practical issues. Under NLP, they explored the capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs), particularly their relevance to East African languages, and gained hands-on experience through practicum labs.



The workshop sessions, where attendees played a crucial role, provided a vital platform for them to present and discuss projects integrating AI, covering methodologies, comparative analyses, and critical issues in the field. Attendees explored case studies on addressing real-life human-wildlife conflicts, climate change mitigation, healthcare enhancement and predictive modelling, showcasing the intersection of data science and generative AI.





The five-day event not only showcased the latest advancements and challenges in data science for societal benefit but also served as a unique networking opportunity, fostering connections among professionals in the field across Africa and globally. This key event at DeKUT exemplified the institution's role in fostering innovation and collaboration in data science, aiming to impact society through cutting-edge research and education initiatives positively.



DeKUT Mental Health Awareness Week



From 10th to 14th June, 2024 the Directorate of Student Welfare (DSW) spearheaded a landmark Mental Health Awareness Campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), and the County Government of Nyeri. This initiative, themed 'Improving Access to Mental Healthcare', aimed to elevate mental health awareness within our academic community.

The campaign provided various free services designed to support mental well-being. These included mental health screenings, informative talks by experts, individual and group counseling sessions, and comprehensive referral services. Throughout the campaign, participants engaged in meaningful discussions about mental health, helping to reduce stigma and encourage open conversations. The informative talks provided valuable insights into managing stress, enhancing resilience and seeking timely support.





The initiative received strong support from various stakeholders, reflecting a community-wide commitment to mental health advocacy. This partnership highlighted the collective responsibility in promoting mental well-being. The collaborative effort underscored the University's dedication to fostering a supportive environment where mental health is prioritized.

Empowering Students through the AI & Data Annotation Ajira Training Program





From 11th to 14th June, 2024 our institution proudly hosted a transformative training program in collaboration with Ajira Digital. This initiative aimed to bring together students from diverse disciplines and equip them with advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Annotation skills.
The program featured a blend of interactive lectures and immersive practical sessions designed to empower participants with essential tools for success in the dynamic field of AI. Students gained valuable insights into AI technologies and practical experience in data annotation processes by engaging in hands-on activities and learning from industry experts. The curriculum was meticulously crafted to ensure that participants acquire technical skills and develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities essential for navigating the competitive job market.





Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing industries worldwide, making proficiency in AI technologies increasingly valuable. Through this partnership with Ajira Digital, a steadfast supporter of our students, DeKUT continues to play a crucial role in shaping the future of AI and fostering excellence among our students. The collaborative learning environment facilitated networking and knowledge sharing, further enriching the educational experience. As we reflect on the success of this initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to providing cutting-edge training opportunities that prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow's technological landscape.

Visit by the University of Franche-Comte to DeKUT



On 18th June, 2024 DeKUT was honoured to host Professor Sounkalo Dembele and Ms. Maureen Berthelot from the University of Franche-Comte (UFC), France. This visit marked a significant step in the ongoing partnership between our institutions, which spans over five years.

DeKUT and UFC have established a robust collaboration, including student and staff exchange programs and a prestigious double degree Master's program. The primary objective of the visit was to further enhance and solidify this fruitful relationship.

Through this collaboration, thirteen DeKUT students have had the privilege of engaging in exchange programs at both Master's and PhD levels at UFC. This has not only enriched their academic journey but also provided them with a global perspective, highlighting our commitment to nurturing global connections and offering our students a platform to thrive in an international academic setting.

MSD@2: Commemorating Two Years of Marketing Excellence at DeKUT



On 20th June, 2024 the DeKUT Marketing Students Association celebrated two years of remarkable growth and achievement since its inception. This milestone underscores our commitment to fostering an environment that supports and nurtures students across various disciplines and activities. The success of the Marketing Students Association is owed to the dedication and hard work of our students, the guidance of our esteemed faculty, and the unwavering support of our community.

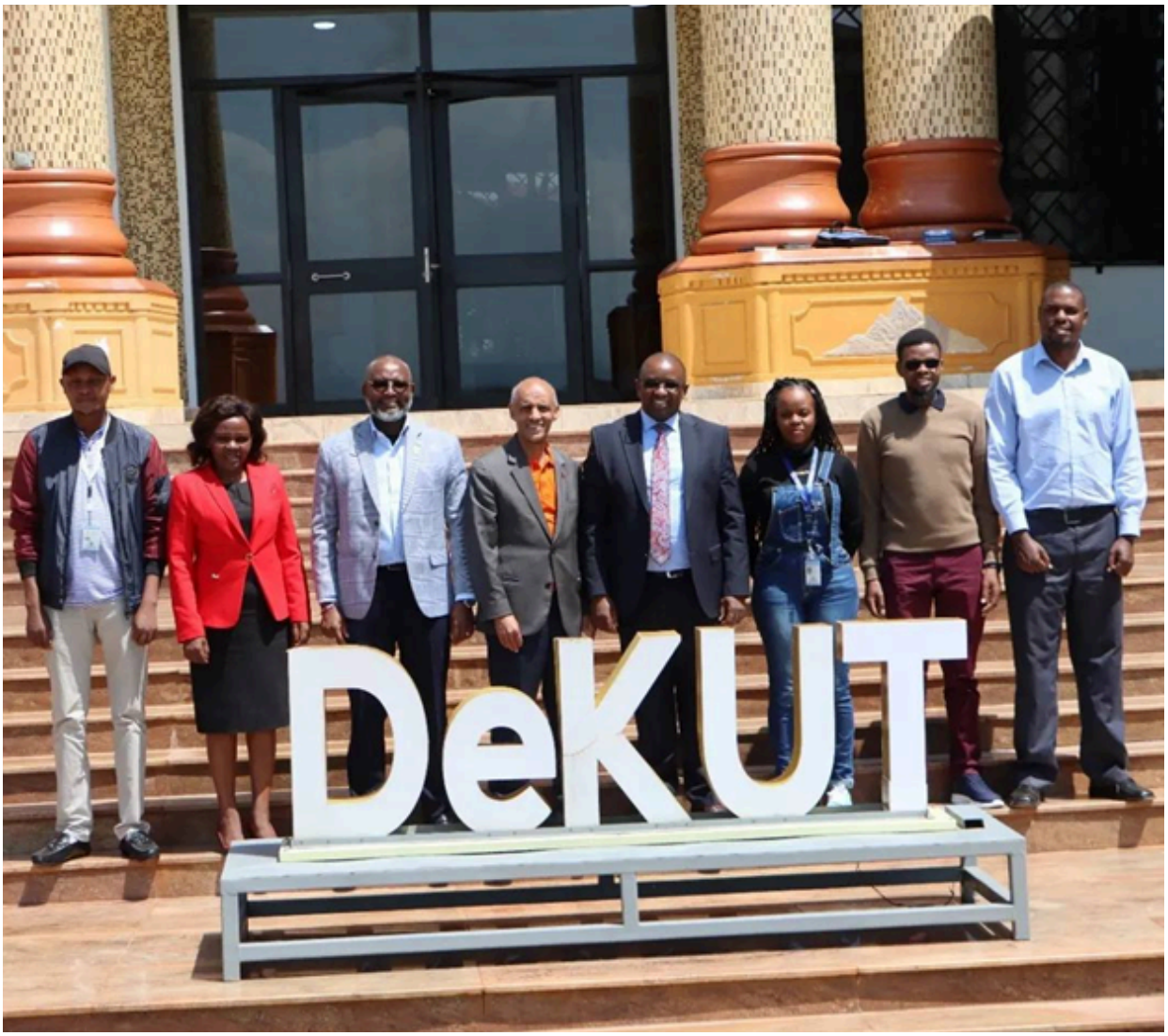
We were honored to have had Ms. Zuhura Ogada Odhiambo, Chairperson of the Marketing Society of Kenya, and Ms. Lucia Musau, CEO of the African Elite Group, grace the special occasion. Their presence and insightful contributions regarding industry trends and professional growth significantly enriched the educational experience of our students.

We congratulate the Marketing Students Association on their two years of outstanding achievement and growth. Their success is a testament to DeKUT's commitment to nurturing future leaders in marketing and beyond.





Visit by Morgan State University



We had the privilege of hosting Dr. Yacob Astatke, D.Eng., Assistant Vice President for International Affairs and Associate Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Morgan State University, and Dr. Anthony Githinji, Managing Director of Semi-Conductor Technology Limited. Dr. Astatke provided valuable insights and discussed collaboration opportunities, paving the way for a promising future.

This visit not only strengthened our institutional bonds but also unlocked avenues for innovative progress that could positively impact society. Our shared vision is centered on creating research opportunities and educational programs to empower aspiring engineers and technologists. Anticipation surrounds potential projects, exchange programs, and workshops aimed at enhancing skills and knowledge. We eagerly look forward to the opportunities ahead and remain committed to nurturing these relationships for mutual growth and success.

The Fourth Biennial Conference on Universities, Research & Innovation



The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, EGH, played a vital role in the 4th Biennial Conference organized by the Commission for University Education (CUE) at the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC) from 12th to 14th June, 2024. The conference theme, "Catalyzing Systemic Social Transformation through Research and Innovation," created an opportunity for Universities to demonstrate their capabilities in research and innovation.

The Cabinet Secretary issued a compelling call to action, urging public and private Universities to intensify their commitment. He stressed the need for increased research efforts, promotion of innovation, and development of market-oriented courses that address critical societal issues. This urgent call to action underscored the pressing need for research and innovation in our education system.

The event was also attended by Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary State Department for Higher Education and Research; Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO Commission for University Education (CUE); Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha, Chairman Commission for University Education; Vice Chancellors; and other key figures in the education sector.

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