DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 40, MARCH 2022



IN THIS ISSUE:

- His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex, meets with the Vice Chancellors as part of a hosted Youth dialogue to educate young people on ICT and Innovation, entrepreneurship, climate change and environmental conservation, and personal branding
- Visit by the Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA) team to discuss commercialization, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- DeKUT privileged to be participating in the World Skills Competitions in Namibia
- DeKUT signs three Memorandums of Understanding with the County Government of Nyeri Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture, and Cooperative Development aimed at capacity-building
- Nurturing Creativity, Inspiring Dreams, and Promoting Sustainable Talents and Skills through Technology
- Capacity Building for Cooperative Leaders and Managers
- Celebrating Africa Environment Day/ Wangari Maathai Day
- DeKUT hosts the 11th Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) Women Championship
- Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (IToHM) students join the rest of the world in marking the World Wildlife Day celebrations at the Aberdare National Park themed: Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration
- Ajira Digital Training
- Mt. Kenya Regional Actuarial Convention

His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex, meets with the Vice Chancellors as part of a hosted Youth dialogue to educate young people on ICT and Innovation, entrepreneurship, climate change and environmental conservation, and personal branding



As part of a hosted 'Youth dialogue,' we had a Vice Chancellor's Meeting with HRH Prince Edward KT, GCVO Earl of Wessex, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, to educate our young people on entrepreneurship, personal branding, ICT and Innovation, and climate change and environmental conservation. There were four groups comprising of students from different Universities, each addressing one of the topical issues.

The Duke Of Edinburgh's International Award is a non-formal education and learning framework operating in more than 130 countries and territories worldwide, through which young people's achievements outside of academia are recognized and celebrated. The President's Award Kenya, the name under which The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award operates in the country, has been greatly supported by the Kenyan Government. The Award encourages young people to learn new skills, get physically active, volunteer within their communities, and discover a sense of adventure outside the classroom. It offers opportunities to young people that help them unlock their potential and be ready for the world, whatever that world may be. Using the Award framework and with the support of adult volunteers, young people develop skills that future employers and education institutions value highly, giving them an edge in the ever-changing modern world as they work towards achieving the internationally recognized Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

The idea behind this function was to allow the students to meet the royal highness and for the royal highness to interact with the students so that he could see how the program is impacting young people in the universities. He was also interested in knowing how universities, through the Vice-Chancellors can leverage "The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award" to achieve their objectives.

During the session with the students, His Royal Highness advised them on several issues, i.e., how they can use the new ICT tools responsibly so that technology does not distract them from other activities. He also advised them on the vast prospects presented by ICT technology and how The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award has incorporated ICT to make reporting the students' actions in the President's Award scheme more efficient. He also discussed the subject of climate change and conservation with them and what they are working on, and how they can integrate it in the society. Personal branding was also discussed, and how crucial it is in this century, where students are expected to be job-ready as soon as they graduate from University.





The Vice Chancellors also discussed how they could leverage on 'The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program' to increase the number of students participating in the program and use it as an excellent example to bring about change to the youth. "As universities, we are all working together with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award to empower our young people to be self-sufficient and able to work for themselves, as well as to become agents of societal transformation by being aware of the skills they need, the abilities they need to develop, and the needs of society.

This visit is particularly significant since it gives The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program a global perspective. More importantly, there is now a focus on university student participation. Vice Chancellors, as university leaders, must figure out how to support them so that they can benefit from the program, as well as how to develop processes and begin mainstreaming the program, even if it can be substituted in existing programs like leadership programs and scholarship awards." concluded the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni.









Visit by the Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA) team to discuss commercialization, innovation, and entrepreneurship



As a Technological University with a primary focus on building capacity through quality education and creating an environment that engenders research, innovation, and technology development towards producing relevant human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals, we have also been keen on being an Entrepreneurial University.

Through the Startup Centre, the DeKUT Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park), and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Management (CIEM), the University has established an entrepreneurial ecosystem where innovators find an avenue to commercialize their ideas and launch startup companies. They turn research outputs into commercially viable innovations and eventually support the innovations towards the establishment of startup companies and fledging enterprises.

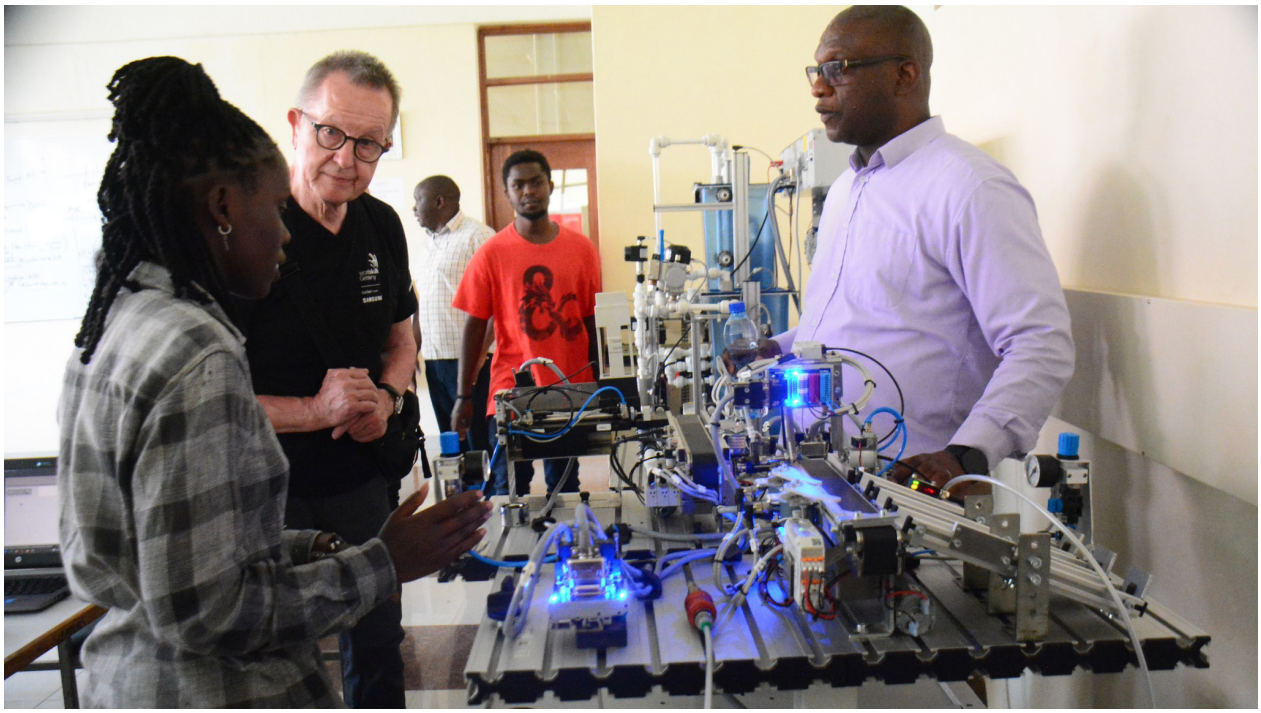
The University has also partnered with the Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA) to support this. KeNIA has continuously engaged the University to understand its commercialization capabilities, systems deeply, and processes within the institution to develop interventions that can support more commercialization aligned to the institutional realities. The Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA), in collaboration with a number of other government agencies, development partners, and the private sector, is working to catalyze the ST&I sector by assessing national and county-level innovation progress and strengthening research and commercialization capacity. The necessity to expand the contribution of research and academic institutions to the national pool of innovations available to consumers drives these initiatives to strengthen the national commercialization of research outputs. On March 14, 2022, the CEO, Dr. Tonny K. Omwansa, accompanied by a technical team from KeNIA, paid a visit to the University to discuss commercialization, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

We look forward to more partnerships and collaborations with the Kenya National Innovations Agency (KENIA).





DeKUT privileged to be participating in the World Skills Competitions in Namibia



The WorldSkills International competition is the peak vocational skills competition for young people worldwide. It was started in Spain in 1950 and is currently in 85 countries across the globe. On October 13, 2020, WorldSkills Kenya (WSK) was ratified as the 84th state to host skills competitions. On March 15, 2022, we hosted the World Skills Germany team to assess our readiness for the World Skills Competitions, which are currently being held in Namibia from March 28, 2022. This came after Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), as one of the approved TVET institutions by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, was tasked by Technical and Vocational Education and Training to organize World Skills Kenya Competitions in Mechatronics, which attracted 17 colleges, both TVET institutions and technical universities, and emerged as one of the winners. This pilot exercise was to enable WorldSkills Kenya to enhance the country's national competition frameworks ahead of the WorldSkills Africa 2020-2022 international skills competitions. The WorldSkills Africa 2020-2022 initiative focuses on collaborative mentorship between WorldSkills International Experts and National Experts (African TVET institutions), inclusiveness and human-centered design, and knowledge exchange on occupational standards, skills training, test project development with social values, and skills competition management. The objective is to ensure that the skills competition is inclusive and addresses the actual social challenges faced in Africa.

The WorldSkills Africa Competition commenced on March 28, 2022, under the theme "Promoting Skills Development in the 21st Century for Sustainable Economic Growth and Africa Ownership". Over 100 participants from 11 African countries are competing in 16 different technical and vocational trade areas at the event, including an international conference and career exhibition. We are delighted to be among the team participating in the WorldSkills Africa International Competition 2020-2022 and wish them all the best.



DeKUT signs three Memorandums of Understanding with the County Government of Nyeri, Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture, and Cooperative Development aimed at capacity-building

On Friday, March 4, 2022, we signed three Memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Nyeri, Department of Trade, Tourism, Culture, and Cooperative Development. The three MOUs covered capacity-building services for cooperative societies and managers, training of Nyeri County Tourism and Culture Mountain Tour Guides, porters, and cooks, and training of Nyeri County Tourism and Visual Artists in Animation and Creativity. The events happened as follows;

1. Training of Nyeri County Tourism and Visual Artists in Animation and Creativity-themed "Nurturing Creativity, Inspiring Dreams, and Promoting Sustainable Talents and Skills through Technology."
2. Capacity building for cooperative societies and managers
3. Training of Nyeri County Tourism and Culture Mountain Tour Guides, porters, and cooks

1. Nurturing Creativity, Inspiring Dreams, and Promoting Sustainable Talents and Skills through Technology

In an effort to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized middle-income country and provide solutions to global problems, we launched the DeKUT Film, Animation, and Gaming Hub in 2020 to provide a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely hence creating employment opportunities. The hub was officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Hon. Joe Mucheru, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Kenya Film Commission.

This year, in collaboration with the University, the hub signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Nyeri to train 50 participants from the age of 16-70 years in Film Production, 2D Animation, and 3D Animation. The five-day training, sponsored by the County Government of Nyeri, Department of Tourism, Trade, and Cooperatives Development, aimed to empower people in the creative industry under the theme "Nurturing Creativity, Inspiring Dreams and Promoting Sustainable Talents and Skills through Technology."





The Capacity Building Training for Visual Artists in Animations and Creatives training came to an end on Friday, March 18, 2022, with a closing ceremony that was presided by H.E Governor Mutahi Kahiga. The training was officially opened by the Chief Officer, Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Development in Nyeri County, Mr. George Mwangi. Others present were DeKUTES MD Dr. Paul Sang from DeKUT, Director DeKUT STP Ruth Muriithi, Manager Film Hub Anne Kimani, Trade Chief Officer George Mwangi, political advisor Washington Kariuki among others.



2. Capacity Building for Cooperative Leaders and Managers

This was the second training and involved five groups; coffee cooperative societies, dairy and other marketing cooperative societies, transport cooperative societies, rural cooperative societies, urban cooperative societies, and investment & housing cooperative societies. The training aimed to promote and enhance good governance and management practices in cooperative societies.









Celebrating Africa Environment Day/ Wangari Maathai Day

In collaboration with The Green Belt Movement and the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Centre for Biomass Studies, we joined the rest of the world in celebrating Africa Environment Day/ Wangari Maathai Day. This year's theme was "The role of Sustainable Environment in building resilience and combating desertification. Africa Environment Day/Wangari Maathai Day, celebrated annually on March 3, was established by the Organization of African Unity in 2002 to raise awareness of the continent's pressing environmental challenges. Since 2012, Africa Environment Day has been celebrated in conjunction with Wangari Maathai Day to pay tribute to the late Nobel Laureate's green legacy. Professor Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in 1977 under the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK). This was done to respond to the needs of rural Kenyan women who reported that their streams were drying up, their food supply was less secure, and they had to walk further and further to get firewood for fuel and fencing.

The Green Belt Movement encouraged the women to work together to grow seedlings and plant trees to bind the soil, store rainwater, provide food and firewood, and receive a small monetary token for their work. Prof Wangari Maathai saw that behind the everyday hardships of the poor—environmental degradation, deforestation, and food insecurity—were more profound issues of disempowerment, disenfranchisement, and a loss of the traditional values that had previously enabled communities to protect their environment, work together for mutual benefit, and to do both selflessly and honestly.







The work of Professor Maathai and the Green Belt Movement continues to stand as a testament to the power of grassroots organizing, proof that one person's simple idea—that a community should come together to plant trees can make a difference. Her legacy truly lives on through the Movement, which to date remains on the frontline of advocating for environmental conservation in Kenya and making significant progress on reclaiming and restoring forest land.



DeKUT hosts the 11th Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) Women Championship



We hosted the 11th Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) Women Championship from the 4th to the 6th of March 2022. The event was held to commemorate International Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8 each year. The competition, which attracted 15 universities from across the country, was officially flagged off by the Vice Chancellor, Meru University of Science and Technology, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Esther Magiri, among other dignitaries. Football, Netball, Volleyball, Hockey, Tennis, Basketball, and Athletics were among the sports involved.

Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology (JKUAT) emerged as the overall winners after scooping 12 medals, eight gold and four silver medals. The University of Nairobi (UON) came in second with eight gold medals, three silver, and three bronze, while Zetech was third with two gold medals.

JKUAT emerged as the best in hockey, handball, volleyball, badminton, Karate, Taekwondo, chess, and scrabble. In basketball and football, Zetech University took home the gold ahead of JKUAT and Pwani University, respectively.

UON carried the day in swimming and tennis after beating their rivals JKUAT who came in second. In athletics, Meru University took home the gold home ahead of Kisii University and DeKUT. Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) beat JKUAT 25-20 in netball to scoop the gold, while Meru University took home the bronze after beating Kisii University 15-14. Meru University emerged the best with five gold, six silver, and five bronze medals. DeKUT won four gold, three silver, and one bronze, while Kisii University was ranked third with three gold, three silver, and five bronze medals. In softball, the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) thrashed Meru and MultiMedia University, who came in second and third, while in table tennis, Multimedia University carried the day after a 3-0 victory against Chuka University in the finals. DeKUT came in third after a 3-2 win against UON.

Other universities present were Masaai Mara University, Kenya Methodist University, Kabarak University, and the University of Eldoret.

Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (IToHM) students join the rest of the world in marking the World Wildlife Day celebrations at the Aberdare National Park themed: Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration



World Wildlife Day is commemorated annually on March 3 to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and raise awareness of the importance of conserving the ecosystem. The Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (IToHM) students joined the rest of the world in marking the World Wildlife Day celebrations at the Aberdare National Park themed: Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration. The culmination of the event was a tree-planting ceremony at the Treetops Paddocks in the park, where DeKUT students participated in planting trees as a way of protecting and conserving the environment.

Mt. Kenya Regional Actuarial Convention

On March 18, 2022, the Statistics and Actuarial Science Department, in collaboration with the Actuarial Students Society of Kenya, held the Mt. Kenya Regional Actuarial Convention. The Actuarial Students' Society of Kenya is a national organization representing student actuaries and students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science in Kenya. Its mission and goal is to promote the actuarial profession by organizing special events for students to interact, share ideas, compete in product development, and engage with actuaries in the profession. "Leveraging Technological Advancements to Bring Transformative Change" was the theme this year.



Ajira Digital Training

The Office of Career Services, in partnership with the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Technology through the Ajira Digital Program, conducted a one-week training to educate students on online work. The Ajira Digital Program is a Government initiative driven by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Technology to empower over one million young people to access digital job opportunities. The Ajira Digital Project seeks to position Kenya as a choice of labor destination for multinational companies as well as encourage local companies and the public sector to create digital work. The program aims at bridging the gap between skills demand and the lack of jobs. So far, over 1,000 students have undergone the training and are part of the DeKUT Ajira Digital Club. For more information, visit the Office of Career Services and learn how you can become a member of the Ajira Digital Club and benefit from this program.



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