# MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

1. DeKUT hosts the 5th Engineering and Partnerships Convention 2024
2. DeKUT and Geoid Technologies Limited (Geoid) Sign a Collaborative Agreement
3. The United States signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Kenya
4. DeKUT hosts a delegation from Karel De Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Belgium
5. Kenyan Tech Ambitions Soar: DeKUT VC Joins President Ruto at White House for Strategic Tech Partnership Talks
6. DeKUT hosts a delegation from the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA)
7. DeKUT Health Week: A Unique and Inspiring Student-Led Initiative
8. The Mater Heart Run: A Lifeline for Kenyan Children
9. Exploring Collaborative Opportunities
10. Transforming STEM Education: Academics Without Borders Collaborates with DeKUT
11. Assessment of the New University Funding Model

# DeKUT hosts the 5th Engineering and Partnerships Convention 2024






From May 7th to May 10th, 2024, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) hosted the 5th Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC), a significant annual event organized by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK). This year's theme, "Engineering@60: Reflections, Response, Resetting," aimed to reflect on the engineering field's historical journey, address current challenges, and devise strategies for future growth. The convention brought together engineers, scientists, innovators, and stakeholders to share knowledge and shape the future of engineering. Key highlights included an innovation fair, the launch of the EBK strategic plan, and tours to the Kirinyaga Water Treatment Plant and a Semiconductor Technologies Limited.

In a spirit of collaboration, DeKUT worked alongside the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), the Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK), and various sponsors to make the event a success. The convention drew a diverse crowd, including engineers, researchers, government officials, academicians, entrepreneurs, and students.

The opening day featured distinguished guests such as the EBK Chairman Erastus Mwongera, CE, FIEK, CBS, and DeKUT Vice Chancellor Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, among others. The day's activities included an innovation fair with numerous exhibitions and substantive discussions on engineering challenges during breakout sessions.

The convention's final days were dedicated to the crucial topic of the commercialization of education, research, and technology, a key driver for fostering innovation and societal impact. The event culminated with a gala dinner featuring sponsor addresses and awards. On the last day, DeKUT's Vice Chancellor led a tree-planting initiative to remember flood victims, aligning with National Tree Planting Day. This act underscored DeKUT's commitment to combating climate change and preserving the environment. In essence, the convention served as a testament to DeKUT's dedication to applied research and innovation, catalyzing the advancement of engineering in Kenya and beyond.



Tree Planting Activity by Eng. Margaret N. Ogai, CEO - Registrar/CEO, Engineers Board of Kenya



Participants listening to a procession



Dr. Paul Tanui showcasing the Veenky Natural Hair Boost to the Nyeri Deputy Governor



Mr. Chris Githinji showcasing some of the DeKUTES products



Tree planting by Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Roads and Transport, Hon.Kipchumba Murkomen EGH

# DeKUT and Geoid Technologies Limited (Geoid) Sign a Collaborative Agreement

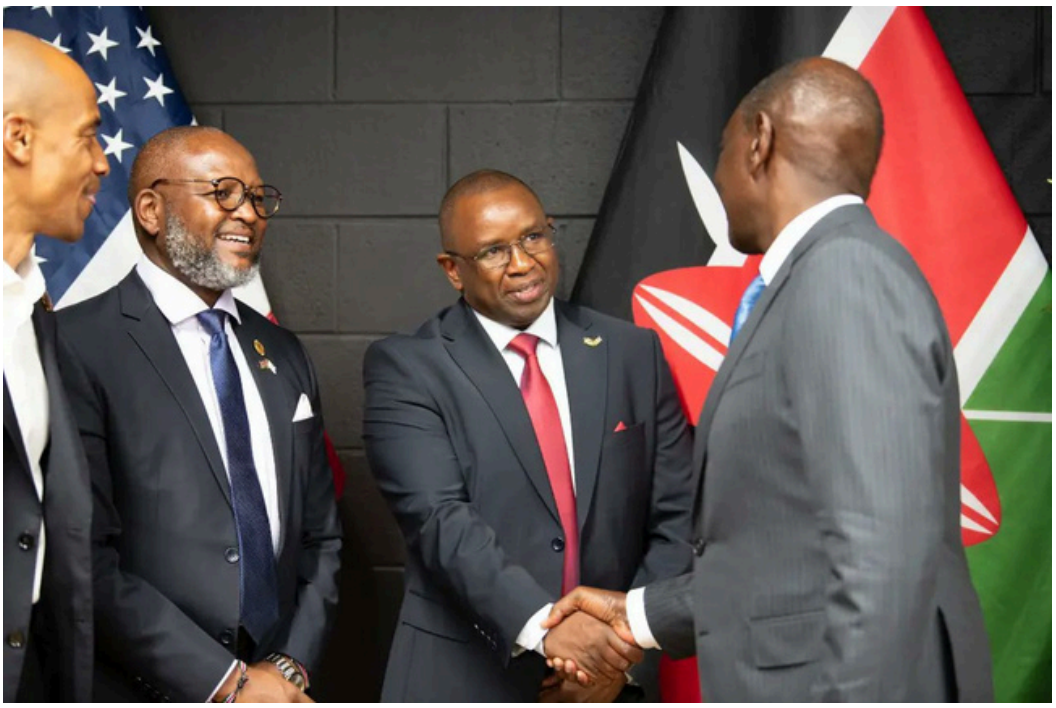



DeKUT and Geoid Technologies Limited (Geoid) signed a collaborative agreement. The signing of the agreement marked an auspicious beginning to provide a framework to harness the strengths between the two institutions.

Geoid is a leading player in geospatial technologies applications in drone technology. The identified collaboration areas include but are not limited to training and applications in aerial surveying and mapping, agriculture, natural resources monitoring, filming/photography and utility/infrastructure inspection.

In addition, a team from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) accompanied the Geoid team to inspect DeKUT's ground and establish its suitability as a drone flying ground (segregated airspace). This is a step towards registering the grounds as a Ground Field Training (GFT) site.

# The United States signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Kenya



The Collaboration Agreement was signed at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, to foster new partnerships between Universities and industry. This initiative aims to drive innovation, research, and job growth in STEM-related fields both in Kenya and globally.

In a testament to the importance of this collaboration, the President of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., and the US Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman, presided over the Signing of the cooperation agreement with 5 U.S.A Universities and 3 Companies, Microsoft, Mastercard and Micron Technologies. It also includes DeKUT and several Kenyan Universities, united in our shared commitment to building mutual capacity in STEM-related programs.



# DeKUT hosts a delegation from Karel De Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Belgium



We are pleased to have hosted a delegation from Karel De Grote University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Belgium, at our institution. During their visit, we discussed potential collaboration opportunities with the School of Computer Science and IT.

During our discussions, we explored various avenues of collaboration, including staff exchange programs, joint curriculum development initiatives, collaborative online seminars, proposal writing endeavours, sharing computing resources, facilitating student internships, and providing supervision.
We are excited about this new partnership's prospects and eagerly anticipate a successful and mutually beneficial collaboration between our institutions. Such collaborations foster academic growth, knowledge exchange, and global computer science and information technology connectivity.





# Kenyan Tech Ambitions Soar: DeKUT VC Joins President Ruto at White House for Strategic Tech Partnership Talks



Prof. Peter N. Muchiri, Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), recently joined His Excellency the President of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., as part of a distinguished delegation to the White House. This visit aimed to explore and discuss potential tech partnerships between Kenya and the United States, specifically focusing on investment opportunities and job creation for Kenyan youth in the burgeoning tech sector.

The meeting underscores the mutual commitment of both nations to fostering innovation, enhancing technological capabilities, and expanding economic opportunities. Prof. Muchiri's participation emphasizes the crucial role that academic institutions play in driving technological advancement and preparing the next generation with the necessary skills to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

# DeKUT hosts a delegation from the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA)




The DeKUT-Siemens Mechatronic Certification Centre recently hosted a dynamic team of engineers and technicians from the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) for an intensive Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program. Held from 20th to 24th May 2024, the program focused on enhancing the participants' expertise in Siemens mechatronic and logistics systems.

Throughout the training, the participants immersed themselves in both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, ensuring they could effectively apply what they learned to their work. The program was designed to equip the KPA team with the latest advancements and best practices in mechatronics and logistics, reflecting DeKUT's commitment to fostering professional growth and technical excellence.

The training culminated in a memorable ceremony, graced by the presence of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri. She presented the certificates of completion to the participants, underscoring the significance of their achievements and the University's commitment to their professional development.

The CPD program at DeKUT-Siemens Mechatronic Certification Centre is a shining example of fruitful collaboration between educational institutions and industry stakeholders. By providing specialized training in cutting-edge technologies, such initiatives play a pivotal role in individuals' professional growth and significantly contribute to the industry's overall advancement.

# DeKUT Health Week: A Unique and Inspiring Student-Led Initiative



The DeKUT Health Week, a unique and inspiring student-led initiative, is designed to provide students and staff with essential health-related information and services. This dynamic event, organized by dedicated students from the Institute of Food Bioresources Technology (IFBT) and the School of Nursing (SON), with invaluable support from the University through the Directorate of Students Welfare, stands out for its comprehensive approach to health and wellness.

By attending Health Week, participants had the opportunity to engage in various activities and informative sessions, including blood donations, HIV testing, sexual reproductive health services, blood sugar testing, nutrition, and dental care. These activities not only provided essential health services but also offered a platform for learning and community building.

In addition to these services, the program featured a series of insightful talks:

·HIV Talk- provided crucial information about prevention, testing, and treatment.

·Nutrition talk: Offering guidance on healthy eating habits and nutritional best practices.

·Social service talk: Discussing the role of social services in promoting overall well-being.

This year's Health Week was enriched by the participation of students and professionals from various institutions, fostering a collaborative and diverse environment. Participants included the College of the Rockies, DeKUT Students DeKUT Student Nurses Association (DeKUTSNA) and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic. This diverse participation enriched the event, making it a valuable opportunity for learning, community building, and promoting health and wellness.





# The Mater Heart Run: A Lifeline for Kenyan Children



The Mater Heart Run is a beloved annual event in Kenya focused on raising funds for heart surgeries for underprivileged children. Initiated in 2002 as the primary fundraising effort for the Mater Cardiac Program, the event initially took place solely in Nairobi. Over time, it has grown to include eleven towns across Kenya, such as Mombasa, Machakos, Kakamega, Kisumu, Meru, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nyeri, Kericho, and Bomet.

In 2008, Mater Hospital expanded its dedication to cardiac health by launching nationwide free cardiac outreach screening camps. These camps not only detect heart conditions but also educate communities about preventable acquired heart diseases, which can be deadly if not addressed. This proactive initiative has greatly enhanced awareness and early detection of heart issues, thereby saving many lives.





This year's Mater Heart Run occurred on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the University, bringing together Kenyans from diverse backgrounds to support this worthy cause. Participants ranged from experienced athletes to eager amateurs, showcasing the strength of community spirit and collective effort. The success of the Mater Heart Run is a testament to the generosity and participation of many. The event's impact extends beyond the run, as the funds raised directly contribute to life-saving heart surgeries for children. So far, the Mater Cardiac Program has saved over 3,000 lives, a significant accomplishment made possible by the steadfast support of the Kenyan people.

The Mater Heart Run underscores the power of collective action in tackling critical health issues and saving lives. The success of the Mater Cardiac Program in saving over 3,000 lives highlights the lasting impact of this annual event. As we look forward to future runs, let us continue to support and participate in this noble cause, knowing that every step brings us closer to saving another life.



# Exploring Collaborative Opportunities




We are delighted to have hosted Mr. Charlie Dino from THH Company LLC to discuss potential collaborative opportunities. THH LLC is a technology-focused company based in Atlanta and Indianapolis (USA), providing custom software development, technology integration, cloud management, and virtual technology solutions.

During the visit, we explored THH LLC's upcoming model of recruitment directly from Universities, highlighting the immense potential for collaboration. Present at the discussions were the Dean of the School of Business Management & Economics and faculty members from the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

This aligns with our goal to expand and diversify our collaborations into business, hospitality, and other areas where we offer programs.

The company's subsidiaries operate in software development, mergers and acquisitions, IT services, business functional support, and generative artificial intelligence. The visit also included a business talk with our students, where they gained valuable insights from industry professionals. Additionally, we received an invitation to visit The Jitu offices in Nyeri. This opportunity will enable our students to experience the company's work environment firsthand and interact with professionals in the field.






# Assessment of the New University Funding Model



His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya, and Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, E.G.H., Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education, convened a meeting at State House, Nairobi. The gathering included Vice-Chancellors from public Universities and principals of constituent colleges to assess the New Funding Model introduced in 2023.

The Vice-Chancellors reported that the new financing model is proving effective and is anticipated to resolve higher education institutions' financial challenges in three years.

The Government's dedication to bolstering budgetary assistance for the differentiated unit cost allocated to continuing students remains steadfast, ensuring sustained support for their educational endeavours.

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