MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

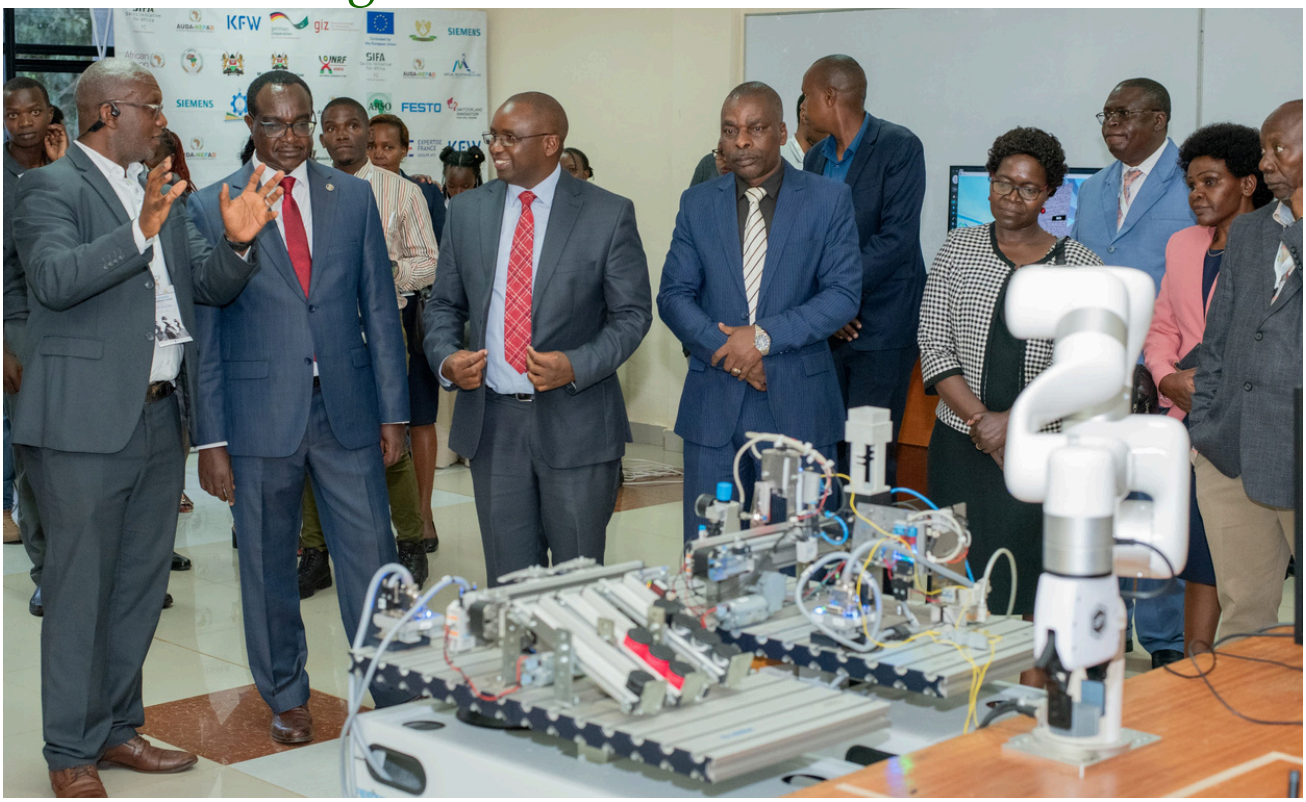
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The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Commends DeKUT for Advancing Technical Education and Innovation



The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Ogamba, recently paid a courtesy visit to DeKUT, reaffirming the government's strong commitment to advancing technical education and innovation nationwide.

During his visit, the Cabinet Secretary addressed Principals of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions at the Industrial Metaverse Stakeholders Workshop, held at DeKUT. The workshop, themed "Leveraging Digital Tools and 4IR Technologies to Enhance TVET Skills Development and Innovation as a Post-COVID-19 Resilience Strategy," brought together key stakeholders to explore how cutting-edge technologies—such as the Industrial Metaverse, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT)—can revolutionize TVET training and equip learners with future-ready skills.







The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that institutions like DeKUT play a critical role in transforming Kenya's education system to meet the digital economy's demands. He noted that fostering innovation and adopting emerging technologies is essential for producing a skilled workforce capable of driving national development and industrial growth.

Prior to the workshop, the Cabinet Secretary toured various state-of-the-art facilities at DeKUT, including laboratories, innovation hubs, and digital learning spaces. He commended the University's leadership for cultivating a hands-on, technology-driven learning environment that aligns with the vision of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

This visit underscores DeKUT's strategic role in shaping the future of technical education in Kenya. By equipping students with advanced digital competencies and practical skills, the University continues to position itself as a national leader in innovation, industrial research, and workforce development. DeKUT remains at the forefront of preparing the next generation of innovators, technologists, and change-makers through partnerships, forward-thinking leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.



Pioneering the Future of Technical Education: DeKUT and TVETA Lead the Charge in Industry 4.0 Training



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, in strategic partnership with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), has boldly redefined the landscape of technical education in Kenya through its inaugural Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Capacity Building Programme on Industry 4.0. Held from 14th April to 8th May, 2025, in two rigorous cohorts, this initiative convened 60 master trainers drawn from 24 national polytechnics and six technical training institutes, all united by a singular mission: to catalyze a nationwide transformation of TVET delivery.

Central to the programme's success was the Virtual Mechatronics Lab (VML), a state-of-the-art virtual reality environment that immerses participants in lifelike simulations of complex mechatronic systems, through an interdisciplinary curriculum, spanning electrical systems, mechanical design, industrial automation, hydraulic and pneumatic technologies, trainers engaged in real-world scenarios without the constraints of physical infrastructure. This blend of theoretical rigour and hands-on VR practice sharpened their technical proficiency and fostered innovative pedagogical approaches for their home institutions.

A consortium of world-class partners underpinned the ToT programme's instructional excellence. The DeKUT Siemens Centre and Smart Factory Swiss brought industrial expertise. At the same time, the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) and regulatory bodies TVETA and the TVET CDACC ensured alignment with continental standards. Together, they cultivated a vibrant community of practice primed to embed Industry 4.0 competencies across Kenya's TVET ecosystem.

A steadfast commitment to gender inclusivity further distinguishes the ToT programme. By ensuring equitable representation and leadership opportunities for women trainers, DeKUT and TVETA have reinforced the principle that a truly future-ready workforce must reflect the diversity of its society.





Armed with cutting-edge VR tools and renewed pedagogical strategies, these trainers will return to their institutions ready to implement and sustain virtual labs, bridging the digital skills gap and empowering the next generation of engineers and technologists.



As DeKUT celebrates this landmark achievement, it reaffirms its role as a national and continental leader in pioneering resilient, inclusive and innovation-driven TVET. Through this partnership with TVETA and its consortium of experts, the University has laid a strong foundation for a future-focused training model; one that will continue to yield dividends for Kenya's educational and industrial sectors for years to come.



By creating a safe space for dialogue and self-reflection, the Men's Empowerment Sensitization Forum reinforced the importance of shaping a generation of men who lead with integrity, responsibility, and empathy. The Counselling Department remains committed to supporting holistic development and fostering a balanced and progressive society through similar initiatives in the future.

Origin Fest 2025: Shaping the Future of Education Through AI and Virtual Reality





Origin Fest 2025 marked a groundbreaking celebration of education, innovation, and immersive technology. Spanning three dynamic days, the festival brought together developers, students, educators, and tech enthusiasts to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality (VR) are transforming the learning experience. Through hands-on workshops, live demonstrations, hackathons, and a vibrant schools fair, Origin Fest established itself as a powerful platform for reimagining education in the digital age.

The festival started with an exciting focus on AI and VR in education, offering participants an immersive dive into Extended Reality (XR). The Origin Fest Hackathon was a major highlight, which challenged developers to build practical, impactful solutions using immersive technologies. Hackathon themes included AR/VR Field Trips, AR/VR Arts & Literature, Gamified Learning, and Skills Training in XR.

These themes underscore how immersive tools can empower learners to engage with content in innovative, meaningful ways, solving real-world problems through creativity and tech-driven solutions.

Day Two was fuelled by creativity and exploration, with intensive VR/AR development workshops. These sessions introduced students and young developers to XR technologies, guiding them to build virtual worlds, integrate AI-driven adaptive learning systems, and design interactive educational experiences.

A standout moment was the live demo of MediAR, an AI-powered AR platform revolutionizing STEM and medical education. Through detailed 3D models and intelligent overlays, MediAR enabled participants to explore anatomy, biology, and chemistry in ways traditional learning materials cannot replicate.





Also showcased were 360° immersive learning environments that transported users from the ruins of ancient civilizations to the farthest reaches of space. These vivid, interactive experiences demonstrated how immersive content can deepen understanding and ignite curiosity, transforming students from passive recipients of knowledge into active creators and explorers.





The festival concluded with a Schools Fair centred on the role of AI and VR in STEM education. The fair provided a collaborative space for students to engage with emerging technologies and showcase their innovations. Participating schools included Rware High School, Nyahururu High School, St. Christopher's Schools-Nanyuki, Kahuho Secondary, Magomano Girls, Bishop Gatimu Ngandu, and Muringato Junior.

Interactive exhibitions and student-led presentations revealed how frontier technologies are harnessed to address global and local challenges, from promoting environmental sustainability to enhancing inclusive learning. The fair's main competitions celebrated student ingenuity across four categories: AR/VR Training Challenge, Gamified AR/VR Challenge, AR/VR Arts & Literature, and AR/VR Field Trips. These contests inspired learners to think critically and creatively, reflecting the transformative power of technology in education.

Integrating AI and immersive tools can make learning more personalized, engaging, and impactful.

DeKUT Explores the Future of Learning in AI-Augmented Academia Workshop



DeKUT is taking a bold leap into the future of education with a transformative two-day workshop focused on the power of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education. Titled "AI-Augmented Academia: Transforming Pedagogy, Assessment, and Research in Higher Education Through Generative Artificial Intelligence," the event has brought together educators, researchers, and innovators to explore how AI is reshaping the academic landscape.

The workshop provides a dynamic platform for participants to engage with cutting-edge insights and practical applications of Generative AI in teaching, assessment, and research. With a strong lineup of thought leaders and experts in the field, the program underscores the urgent need for institutions to adapt to technological advancements and leverage them for academic excellence.

The first day's sessions focused on understanding the foundational concepts of Generative AI and how these tools can be integrated into existing educational systems. Participants explored practical strategies for incorporating AI into their workflows and discussed the ethical implications of AI use in academic settings.

A key highlight was the session on prompt engineering, where attendees gained hands-on experience in crafting effective prompts to maximize the capabilities of AI tools—a skill increasingly vital in modern education.

In addition, the workshop addressed the evolving role of academic leadership in driving technological innovation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of visionary leadership in fostering a culture that embraces digital transformation while ensuring responsible and equitable use of AI technologies.

Educators also explored innovative approaches to instructional design, including strategies for developing AI-enhanced teaching materials and rethinking traditional assessment methods to align with the capabilities of AI. The session encouraged participants to reimagine how content is delivered and how learning outcomes can be improved through intelligent systems.

By demystifying AI and presenting actionable strategies for adoption, the workshop positions DeKUT as a forward-thinking institution at the forefront of academic innovation. The initiative not only prepares faculty and students for a tech-driven future but also sets the stage for creating a more adaptive, inclusive, and impactful learning environment.

Igniting Innovation as DeKUT Hosts Transformative i2B Innovation Weekend





DeKUT has once again demonstrated its commitment to nurturing creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship through the successful hosting of the i2B Innovation Weekend. Organized by the DeKUT Start-up and Incubation Centre (DeSIC), the event brought together bright, ambitious students eager to develop transformative ideas and learn how to convert them into viable businesses.

The weekend-long event was opened by the DeKUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS. In his keynote address, Prof. Muchiri emphasized the importance of adopting an entrepreneurial mindset alongside academic excellence. He encouraged participants to focus on solving real-world challenges through innovation and creativity, reminding them that Universities are not just centers of learning but also hubs of impactful transformation.

Throughout the event, students were immersed in practical and interactive sessions designed to build critical entrepreneurial skills. These sessions included hands-on training in crafting compelling pitch decks, a fundamental skill for anyone looking to attract investors or stakeholders to their ideas.

Participants also explored the i2B (Idea to Business) process, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the steps required to transform innovative concepts into sustainable business ventures.

One of the highlights was the exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool for innovation. Students learned how AI can be leveraged to enhance product development, optimise processes, and create more intelligent solutions for contemporary problems. This exposure not only broadened their technical horizons but also sparked discussions around the ethical and strategic use of AI in entrepreneurship.

Beyond technical knowledge, the i2B Innovation Weekend fostered a vibrant environment of collaboration and problem-solving. Students teamed up to brainstorm, prototype, and pitch solutions to pressing societal issues. The energy and creativity on display reflected DeKUT's vision of producing graduates who are not just job seekers but change-makers equipped to drive economic and social progress.

With initiatives like i2B, DeKUT continues to position itself at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education. By empowering students with the skills, mindset, and platform to innovate, the University is fostering a new generation of leaders ready to make a tangible impact in the world.

DeKUT Celebrates the 18th Graduation Ceremony





On Friday, 16th May, 2025, DeKUT held its 18th Graduation Ceremony at the University's Main Campus in Nyeri. The grand occasion marked a pivotal milestone for the Class of 2025, as hundreds of graduates were conferred with degrees, diplomas, and certificates across various disciplines.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS, addressed the congregation, commending the graduates for their resilience and commitment throughout their academic journey.

"As you step into the world beyond these gates," he noted, "remember that the true value of your education lies not only in what you have learned, but in how you use it to solve real-world problems and make a meaningful difference."



The ceremony was also livestreamed, ensuring that loved ones from all corners of the country and beyond could take part in the celebrations virtually. This inclusive approach demonstrated DeKUT's embrace of technology and commitment to broadening access to its milestone moments.

This timeless insight resonated with the message of the day—urging graduates to view their achievements not as a conclusion, but as a foundation for future impact.

As the ceremony concluded with cheers, ululations, and a sea of caps in the air, the Class of 2025 stepped confidently into a new chapter, ready to lead, innovate, and serve. With this graduation, DeKUT reaffirmed its mission to empower transformative leaders equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values to shape the future.

DeKUT Celebrates Successful Mt. Kenya Expedition by Season 8, Expedition 18 Climb to Educate Team



DeKUT recently celebrated the successful return of participants in the Season 8, Expedition 18 Climb to Educate program, following their exhilarating five-day Mt. Kenya adventure. The climbers were warmly received by university leadership and alumni officials, marking the end of yet another chapter in this transformative initiative.

Welcoming the participants back were the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration & Finance), Prof. Esther Magiri; the Acting Registrar (Academic Affairs & Research), Ms. Elizabeth Kingori; the Acting Director of Student Welfare, Dr. Dennis Cheruiyot; and the Outdoor Pursuits' Instructor, Mr. Mwai Kennedy. Also present were officials from the Dedan Kimathi University Alumni Association (DeKUTAA), led by Committee Chairperson Mr. Markfelix Kihonge Kagiri.

Climb to Educate is more than a physical journey—it's an experiential program that fuses education, adventure, and the core values of the University. Each expedition is designed to challenge and empower students through a combination of rigorous outdoor activity and character-building experiences. The Mt. Kenya climb not only pushed participants to their physical limits but also cultivated important life skills such as resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving.

One of the defining elements of the expedition is its emphasis on collaboration and inclusion. With participants drawn from diverse backgrounds, the program highlights the strength that lies in unity and shared purpose. The diversity within the team served as a living demonstration of DeKUT's commitment to inclusivity and holistic growth.

As participants summited one of Africa's most iconic peaks, they embodied the spirit of DeKUT—bold, determined, and forward-looking. The University continues to use such outdoor initiatives to instil values of perseverance, leadership, and community service among its students.

The return of the Season 8, Expedition 18 team stands as a powerful reminder of what students can achieve when education extends beyond the classroom. Through initiatives like Climb to Educate, DeKUT affirms its dedication to producing well-rounded graduates who are not only academically competent but also resilient, compassionate, and ready to lead in every terrain life presents.

Empowering the Next Generation of Peer Counsellors at DeKUT





In a continued effort to foster mental wellness, responsible leadership, and a supportive campus environment, the Counselling Department at DeKUT has launched a three-day Peer Counsellors Training program for students. This impactful initiative is designed not only to equip participants with essential counselling knowledge but also to support their personal development and leadership potential.

The training aims to nurture a group of well-prepared student peer counsellors who will serve as pillars of support for their fellow students. These trainees are being equipped with critical life skills, emotional intelligence, and leadership tools, enabling them to promote empathy, resilience, and ethical peer support within the university community.

Through a blend of expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities, participants undergo a comprehensive learning experience. The interactive format ensures active engagement, allowing students to fully grasp the concepts and apply them in real-life scenarios. From managing peer relationships to addressing emerging mental health challenges, the training covers a wide range of topics relevant to student life.

By promoting a culture of care and mental wellness, the program also aims to create a ripple effect across campus—one peer counsellor at a time. These student leaders will play a crucial role in fostering open conversations about mental health, reducing stigma, and supporting their peers in navigating academic and personal pressures.

The DeKUT Peer Counsellors Training is more than a capacity-building exercise; it is a transformative journey that empowers students to lead with compassion and integrity. As the university continues to prioritize student wellbeing, initiatives like this reinforce its commitment to nurturing a community where every student feels supported, heard, and valued.



DeKUT hosts the Mater Heart Run 2025





DeKUT was honoured to host the Mater Heart Run 2025 in Nyeri—a heartwarming initiative aimed at raising funds for life-saving surgeries for children from underprivileged backgrounds. We were privileged to welcome Archbishop Anthony Muheria of the Catholic Archdiocese of Nyeri, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri,EBS, our Vice Chancellor, and other guests who joined hands with the University community in support of this noble cause.

The event brought together students, staff, local residents, and partners in a vibrant show of compassion and unity. It was a testament to DeKUT's unwavering commitment to community well-being and social responsibility through impactful initiatives like this.

The Mater Heart Run is a treasured annual event on Kenya's calendar, dedicated to supporting heart surgeries for children in need. Launched in 2002 as the flagship fundraising event for the Mater Cardiac Program, the run initially took place in Nairobi. It has since grown to cover eleven towns across Kenya, including Mombasa, Machakos, Kakamega, Kisumu, Meru, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nyeri, Kericho, and Bomet.
In 2008, Mater Hospital deepened its commitment by launching free nationwide cardiac outreach screening camps, aimed at detecting heart conditions early and educating communities about preventable acquired heart diseases.

This year's run drew Kenyans from all walks of life, united by a shared goal: to save lives. To date, the Mater Cardiac Program has given over 3,000 children a new lease on life.
Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this incredible cause. Your support continues to make a difference.

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