DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

Better Life through Technology; ISSUE NO 48, NOVEMBER 2022





IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Familiarization Visit by Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary for Education

2. 6th DeKUT International Conference on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

3. Prof. Bosco gets appointed as the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Representative in the AR-SO-OCEANIS cooperation initiative and one of the panellists for the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation and Economic Diversification held in Niamey, Niger

4. Student Recognition Award Ceremony

5. Launch of the DeKUT Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

6. Financial Education and Career Mentorship Workshop in collaboration with Old Mutual and Faulu Kenya

7. Short-term Consultancy Agreement between National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) - Mental Health Nurses Chapter and DeKUT

8. DeKUT joins the rest of the world in celebrating World GIS Day

9. Swearing in of the 2022/2023 DeKUTSO leaders

Familiarization Visit by Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary for Education



On Friday 4th November 2022, we hosted the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, who visited the Semiconductors Technologies Limited, Leather Technology Lab, Mechatronics Lab, Centre for Biomass Energy Studies, and the Centre for Development of Electronic Devices.

He also visited the Centre for Coffee Technology and Food Safety where he commended the University on its efforts to impact the surrounding communities positively. He acknowledged that coffee farmers have benefitted from the University through value addition and training that has helped them improve their coffee outputs and incomes. The CS also noted, during his visit to the Leather Technology Laboratory, that the University has great potential in the leather sector and urged the University to leverage on this.

Speaking during the event, the Cabinet Secretary congratulated the University for its commitment to finding innovative solutions. He encouraged the University to venture more into research and innovation to solve some of the local problems faced in the country and commercialize some of its innovations as these are viable avenues for revenue generation. "In Kenya, education takes about 25.9 per cent and we have to find other ways of creating and generating revenues for universities and they have to look at other revenues to complement government funding," he said.

He concluded by commending the University's focus on STEM, noting that 71% of the courses undertaken at the University are STEM-based, with 36% of the courses being in the Engineering sector. He also promised to support future partnerships between the University, other government agencies, and private sector players. He stated that these partnerships would bring about a common good for the country.







The 6th DeKUT International Conference on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

We held the 6th DeKUT International Conference on Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (STI&E) from the 9th to 11th of November 2022 under the theme "Leveraging Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability and Development". The conference aimed to create a platform for researchers and practitioners to present, discuss, engage and publish research on national development. The conference covered several topics such as; Trends and Challenges in Text Summarization, Utilizing big data in weather forecasting techniques, Structural Health, Monitoring and Its Ramifications on Kenya's Industrial Growth, among others.



The three-day conference attracted key partner institutions such as; Kenya Wildlife Service, Green Climate Fund, Water and Energy for Food, DeKUT Centre for Biomass Energy Studies, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company. Some of the keynote and invited speakers for the conference included; Dr. Tonny.K. Omwansa, Prof. Minoru Sasaki, Prof. Eng. Bernard W. Ikua, Prof. Michael Herzog and Prof. Nitta Takahiro.

Unlike the past years, this year's conference was conducted differently. To start with, we introduced a new award category, "Prof. Minoru Sasaki Young Researcher's Award category, "which was presented to our very own student 'Gabriel Kiarie. 'This category will encourage young people to venture more into research and participate in such conferences. We also culminated the 6th DeKUT International Conference on Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship with an excursion at the Aberdares National Park, unlike the previous years.





Prof. Bosco gets appointed as the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Representative in the ARSO-OCEANIS cooperation initiative and one of the panellists for the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation and Economic Diversification held in Niamey, Niger



We are privileged to have our very own Prof. Jean Bosco Byiringiro as one of the panellists who attended the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation and Economic Diversification held on November 20th to 25th 2022 in Niamey, Niger. Prof. Byiringiro was selected by the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) secretariat in partnership with the Africa Union Commission (AUC) ETTIM Department to be one of the panellists during a session on the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR).

During the session, Prof. Byiringiro alongside other panellists and attendants explored discussions on the role of Quality Infrastructure in ensuring the production of quality goods and services on the continent and the strategies needed to ensure that SMEs in particular, implement standards and quality tools in their operations. Aside from that, he was also appointed as the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Representative in the ARSO-OCEANIS cooperation initiative. The ARSO-OCEANIS cooperation initiative is a partnership between ARSO and the Open Community for Ethics in Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (OCEANIS) which is a Global Forum for discussion, debate and collaboration for the organizations interested in the development and use of standards to further the development of autonomous and intelligent systems, as well as promoting initiatives to enhance the understanding of the role of standards in facilitating innovation while addressing problems that expand beyond technical solutions to addressing ethics and values.

ARSO, in collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has developed the African Standardisation Strategy for the 4th Industrial Revolution which was launched on 9th December 2021, and as a way of implementing this strategy ARSO and IEEE are committed to pilot a project on Drone's application in agriculture productivity and social security.
His appointment by the ARSO Central Secretariat comes following previous collaborations with ARSO in initiatives and prospects in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). In this new role, he will lead the discussion on the Fourth industrial Revolution and current strategies that have been initiated in this regard.
The discussions will be centred around: Drone's applications related matters, Cyber-physical Systems, Virtual and Augmented Reality, and Capacity Building and Awareness Creation Activities for the same scopes. He will also lead discussions to propose further standardization strategies to enhance the 4IR opportunities for Africa in Trade and Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Finance, Communications, and Health Care systems, in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Agreement and the ARSO 4IR Standardisation Strategy.

Congratulations Prof for these great milestones.



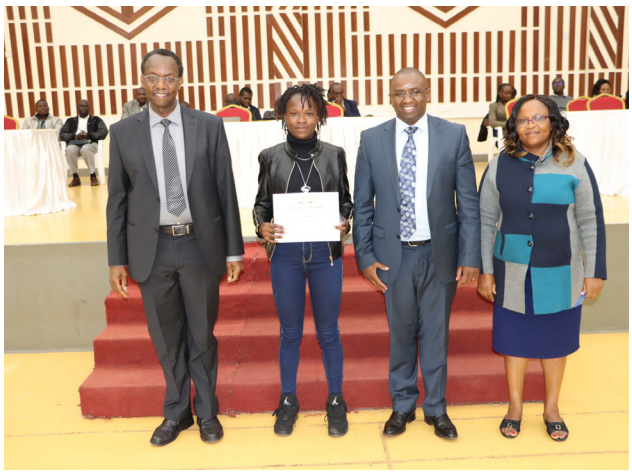
Student Recognition Award Ceremony



Every year, as part of our norm, we award students who have excelled both in their academics and extracurricular activities. This annual award ceremony is among the most treasured occasions of the university calendar. It allows us to reflect on the preceding year and share our students' achievements. This year, we had various awards such as sports awards, talent awards, leadership/organizational awards, ambassador's awards, and extra mile awards.

This being the tenth year since the University was awarded a charter, the qualifications received are a source of pride to us, as they represent the continuation of the legacy of academic excellence, which we have upheld over the past years. These awards reflect our commitment towards the academic, social, physical, moral and ethical development of our students. We further commit to the academic development pillars of knowledge, skills and attitude when it comes to how we offer education as an institution.

Congratulations to all of you for your achievements.





Launch of the DeKUT Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

Through the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, we launched an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a chapter of the global IEEE network. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is the world's largest technical professional organization in this field, dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. This fundamental platform will allow our students to become part of a global network of the most skilled engineers in the field. IEEE is a leader in engineering and technology education, providing resources for pre-university, university, and continuing professional education. The institute offers innovative STEM, university education, and recognition programs for students and lecturers.

It also facilitates the accreditation of engineering programs at the university level and provides ongoing continuing professional education for practitioners and engineering faculties through platforms such as the IEEE Learning Network (ILN). At DeKUT, we have tailored our Engineering programs to produce graduates with a solid grounding in theory and hands-on practical training. With the establishment of the DeKUT – IEEE Club, we look forward to creating a network of engineering professionals who strive for excellence in their field and can promote research and innovation through capacity building, research collaborations and networking.

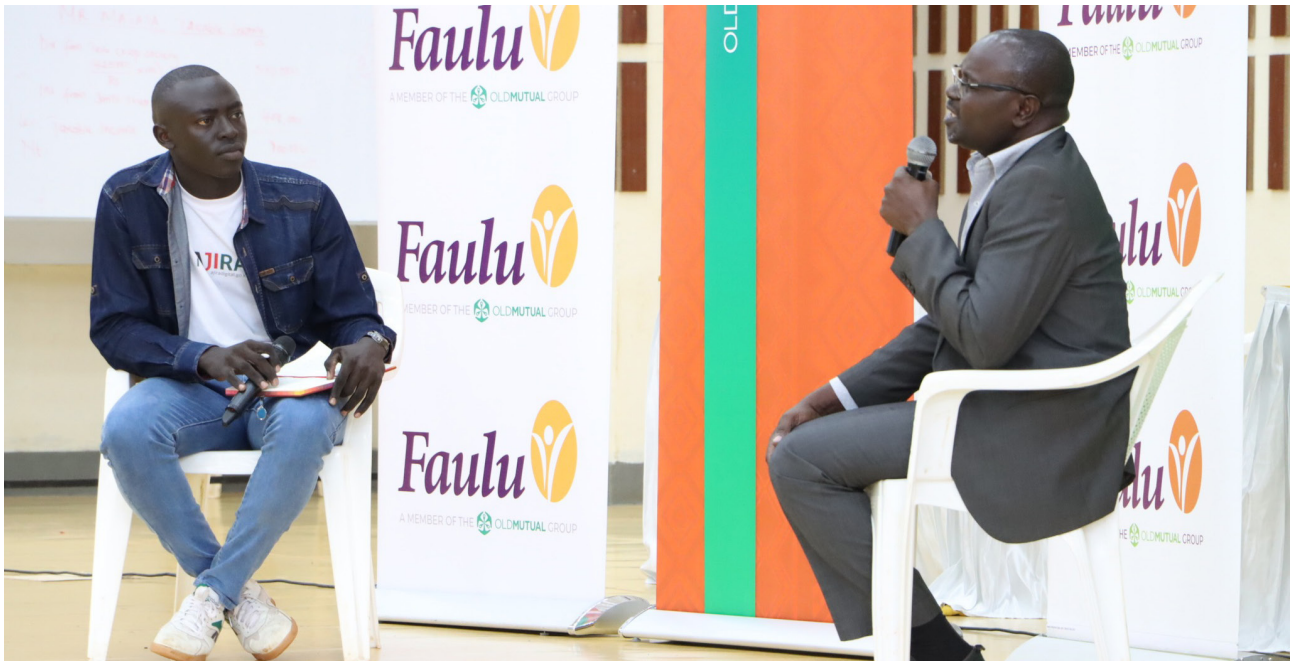








Financial Education and Career Mentorship Workshop in collaboration with Old Mutual and Faulu Kenya



Financial literacy is one of the essential skills recognized globally. In a world where the economy is often unpredictable, it is important to be prepared with the skills and information to guide your financial decisions. In this line, we partnered with Old Mutual and Faulu Kenya to offer financial education and career mentorship workshops to our students.

Faulu Kenya is a microfinance holding under Old Mutual Kenya that offers services in personal banking, business banking, institutional banking and insurance solutions. The workshop involved information-packed sessions where students had the chance to interact with banking and financial sector experts. The workshop involved lessons on achieving financial wellness for young people, investment options for students, pension planning and creating beneficial financial strategies. The workshop also offered sessions on entrepreneurship and career opportunities in the banking and finance sectors.

Among the keynote speakers was Martin Mwongera, a Relationship Manager – Schemes at the Faulu Microfinance Bank, who educated them on financial freedom, financial planning and innovative investment options.

This initiative aims to create a positive financial culture among young people by providing them with financial skills they can adopt early and carry on into their careers.

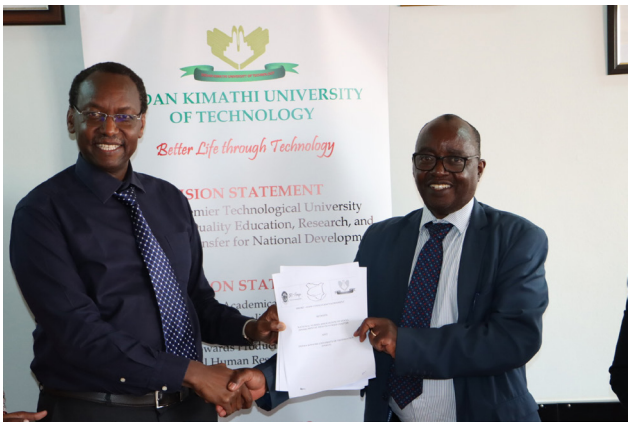




Short-term Consultancy Agreement between National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) - Mental Health Nurses Chapter and DeKUT

Nurses form the backbone of support for hospitals, clinics, and other clinical health service organizations by ministering to people who are most vulnerable. At the DeKUT School of Nursing, our vision is to propel healthcare to its utmost height through excellence in nursing education, research, consultancy and community service.

With this vision in mind, the School of Nursing recently partnered with the National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) – Mental Health Chapter on a short-term consultancy agreement to provide curriculum development and its approval for mental health and psychiatric nurses training at the university.







The National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) is a professional association which brings together all cadres of nurses and midwives in Kenya from different areas, including healthcare practice, education, management and research. Its core mandate is to improve expertise and experience among nurses and midwives. To achieve this, one of the activities carried out by the association is their involvement in the development of nursing training curriculums. The association does this through a partnership with the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) and several institutions.

The short-term agreement will assist the School of Nursing to continue to achieve its mission of preparing highly skilled nursing professionals capable of providing health care services in diverse settings in the country and beyond.



Swearing in of the 2022/2023 DeKUTSO leaders



According to the University policy, students should have their leaders elected by the students to represent them for one academic year. At Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), our student leadership board is known as DeKUTSO. DeKUTSO is established to promote and protect students' rights and interests, nurture and develop leadership skills, and encourage and promote worthy traditions of social, cultural, sports, arts, and academic nature at the University. The duly elected officials are taken through leadership training, after which they are expected to prepare their annual budget and submit it to the management for approval.

Following the successful DeKUTSO by-elections held on 29th November, 2022 and a re-run for the Treasurer vs Sports Entertainment and Security and Secretary General vs Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Secretary held on 30th November, 2022. The following students were elected as DeKUTSO Council 2022/2023.

1. Dennis Kimutai- Chairperson
2. Irene Kavele Mbithi- Vice Chairperson
3. Duncan Mumo-Secretary
4. Clare Nafuna Okumu-Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Secretary
5. Nabaala Stanley Kooku-Sports, Entertainment and Security Secretary
6. Nancy Chesang-Treasurer
7. Marion Wangechi Ndiga- Campus Secretary





DeKUT joins the rest of the world in celebrating World GIS Day



We virtually joined the rest of the world in marking and celebrating the Annual World's GIS Day on Thursday, November 17, 2022. GIS Day provides an international forum for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology users to demonstrate real-world applications that make a difference in our society.

In other news;

10. DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub undertakes a one month Animation Bootcamp

11. Siemens Centre Trains Engineers from Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Tumba (IPRC-Tumba)

12. Peer Educators Training on Drug Abuse

13. Health Week

14. Integrated Chia and Oyster mushroom system for Sustainable food value chain in Africa (CHIAM)

15. Visit by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFOA) & The Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK)

16. Visit by the Presidential Working Party on Curriculum Reforms

DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub undertakes a one-month Animation Bootcamp

Dedan Kimathi Film, Animation and Gaming Hub has continuously partnered with the Kenya Film Commission to provide a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in filmmaking and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. From 2nd November to 9th December 2022, the hub facilitated an Animation Bootcamp to train animators countrywide on animation. This is an industry that will provide employment to a lot of young people by bridging the skills gap.



Siemens Centre Trains Engineers from Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Tumba (IPRC-Tumba)

As part of our efforts to strengthen the capacity of TVET institutions in the East Africa Comnity (EAC) integration and in the context of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (IPRC-Tumba), DeKUT Siemens Centre trained six(6) engineers from Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Tumba (IPRC-Tumba).



Peer Educators Training on Drug Abuse

DeKUT not only focuses on academics but also seeks to produce relevant leaders and human resources to contribute to the attainment of national development goals. On 24th November 2022, the ADA committee trained a number of peer educators on drug abuse, its effects, and how it can ruin your campus life. The session was facilitated by Pst. Enock Moriga, Prison Chaplain, Nyeri Maximum Prison.

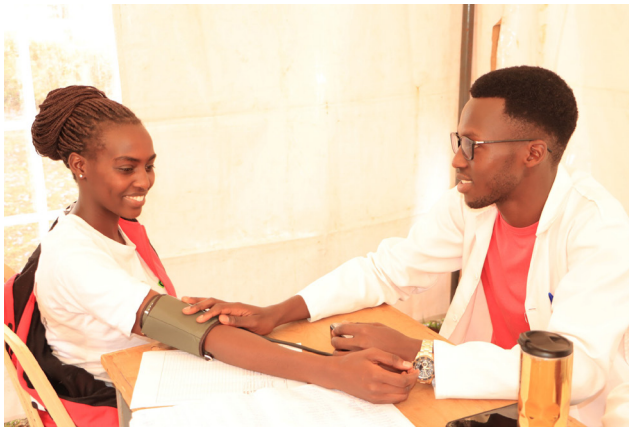




Health Week

The Institute of Food Bioresources Technology, in collaboration with the Nursing Department, held a four-day health week from Tuesday, November 22nd 2022, to Friday, November 25th 2022. One of the objectives of the Health Week was to increase awareness and advertise the courses provided at the institute/school.







Integrated Chia and Oyster mushroom system for Sustainable food value chain in Africa (CHIAM)

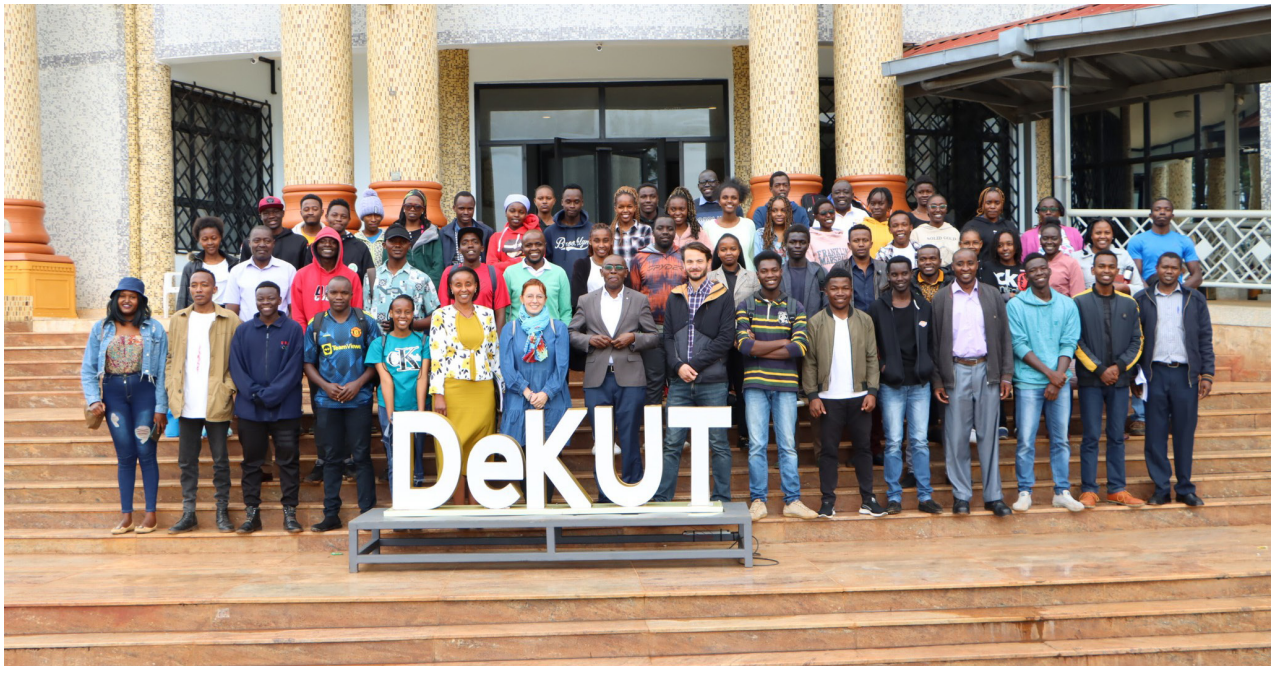
We hosted a training workshop on oyster mushroom production and growing techniques on November 18, 2022, with experts from Hungary, Prof. Miklos Gyalai-Korpos and Adrienn Somosne Nagy from Pilze-Nagy Ltd (PILZE), as part of the "Integrated chia and oyster mushroom system for Sustainable food value chain in Africa (CHIAM)" project.

The project "Integrated chia and Oyster mushroom system for Sustainable food value chain in Africa (CHIAM)" is funded by the Food Systems and Climate (FOSC) ERA-NET Cofund, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany. The consortium comprises partners from Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Hungary and Germany.

DeKUT as the Project Coordinator, has partnered with Keyrio Farm, represented by Dr. Monica Mburu (Principle Investigator), Professor Ngigi Murimi (GIS Expert) and Dr. Peter Mwirigi (Agronomy Expert). The project aims to deploy the integrated chia-mushroom value chain that contributes to the diversification and resilience of African food systems against the impacts of climate change.







Visit by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFOA) & The Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK)

The Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK) brings together actuaries in professional, educational, and research organizations in Kenya and East Africa, whereas the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFA) is the professional body that represents and governs actuaries situated in the United Kingdom. On 8th November 2022, TASK and the IFoA paid a visit to the university to talk to students interested in a career in actuarial science and to catch up on IFoA initiatives.

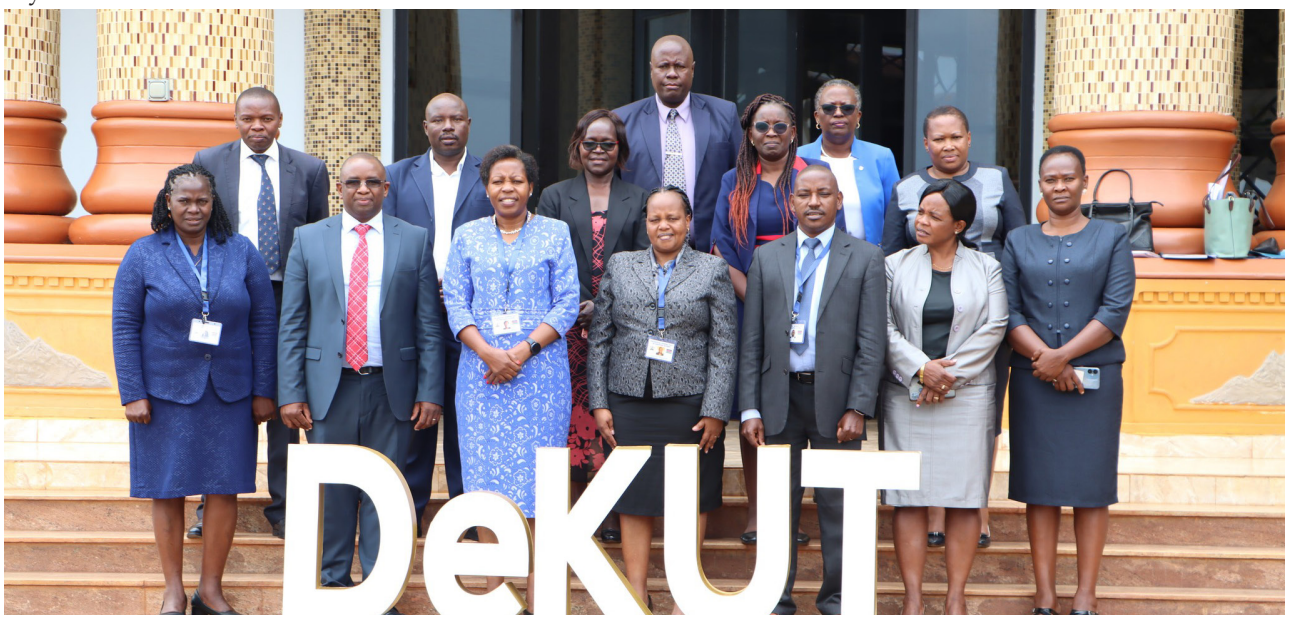




Visit by the Presidential Working Party on Curriculum Reforms

The Presidential Working Party on Curriculum Reforms conducted a Public Engagement at the University to examine and make recommendations for a framework for TVET training and development, university education, research, and training, as well as one for governance and funding.

The task force will also suggest a framework for ODEL (Open, Distance, and Online Learning), a framework for the National Open University of Kenya, and suggestions for streamlining continuity in TVET and university education transfer.



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology
Private Bag-10143, Dedan Kimathi
Nyeri, Kenya
www.dkut.ac.ke
0612050000