DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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DeKUT Office of Career Services hosts a Tech Talk Hangouts with professionals from The Jitu and other international guests



The Jitu and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology's collaboration is focused on developing talent to compete in the global market by offering technology training, developing learners, and making talent outsourcing easy and efficient.



During this first hangout, the speakers delved, in unique ways, into project management, design, software development, IT support staff, animation, 3D modelling, unity development and creative art. The team of speakers from both The Jitu and Griffin encouraged students to develop other soft skills such as effective communication, teamwork and networking. Mentorship programs, peer-learning and project-based group study methods are among the innovative approaches used by the Jitu to guide students. The Office of Career Services has been and continues to leverage this.



This unique methodology improves learners' abilities by allowing them to become productive members of international development teams quickly. Students acquire the necessary classroom knowledge as well as the in-demand hands-on skills required for success in our fast-paced industry. From the vote of thanks given by one of the students present, the session was of significant impact.

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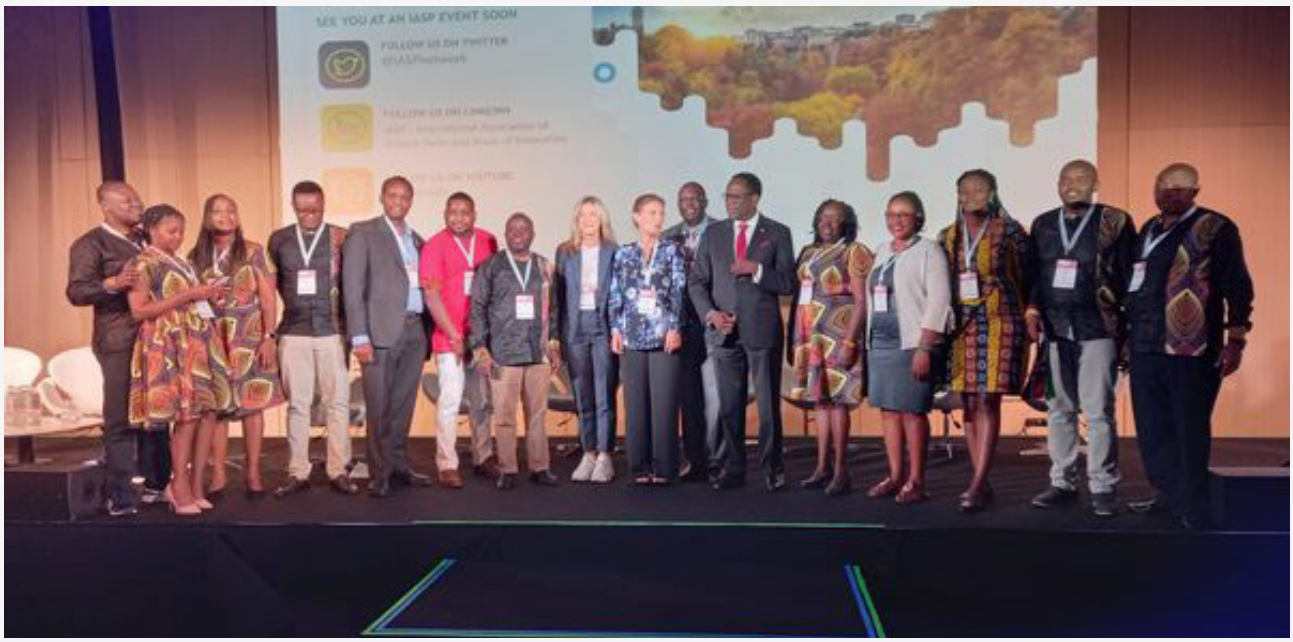
Kenya, led by the Konza Technopolis Development Authority and Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park, playing a supporting role, won the competition to host the IASP Conference in 2024 during the 39th IASP World Conference, held in Seville, Spain.

IASP is a global network of science parks and innovation zones that brings together professionals who manage Science, Technology, and Research Parks (STPs) and other areas of innovation to provide services that help members grow and succeed. Dedan Kimathi, Science and Technology Park, was recently admitted as a member of the IASP, becoming the second member from Kenya after Konza Technopolis Development Authority.



Hosting the IASP Global conference within the African continent, specifically in Kenya, will present many opportunities and advantages. To name but a few, Kenya will have an outstanding opportunity to showcase its economic prowess. The conference will enhance Kenya's National branding and boost its national confidence and international stand from a global perspective.

The conference will draw players from the domestic, regional, and international ecosystems, sparking renewed interest in promoting and developing disruptive innovations that will ultimately accelerate the country's and the African region's transformative economic development. The conference will also spur a high likelihood of joint value-added research and development initiatives among science technology parks (STP) and Areas of Innovation (AOI). This will increase skill sets, talent development, and technology transfer.



Kenya Film Commission visits the Dedan Kimathi Film and Animation Hub to interview the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, together with some of the students, on some of the hub's success stories since it was launched in 2020



The Kenya Film Commission visited the Dedan Kimathi Film and Animation Hub to interview the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, together with some of the students, on some of the hub's success stories since it was launched in 2020. The visit included media representatives from My Gov, People's Daily, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, Standard and Nation Media, Habari Kibra, and three officers from the Commission.

Speaking during the interview, the Vice Chancellor stated that the hub has created jobs in the fields of videography, video editing, animation, graphic design, script writing and game development. He also noted that the hub has directly employed 20 people besides providing over 100 freelance jobs to the youth, students and local people.

The hub has also created satisfactory publicity for DeKUT both locally and internationally. For instance, in 2021, it was featured in a University Souvenir Magazine, which was shared with the general public during the graduation ceremony. It has also been featured on several websites and social media platforms of some critical stakeholders with a global following, like the Kenya Film Commission and the County Government of Nyeri, among others.

The Vice Chancellor also stated that the hub has created room for developing new academic programmes, such as the postgraduate diploma in animation, which is scheduled to commence next month. The hub is open to the public under regulated terms like acting and capacity building. The facility currently serves 100 people per week including students, interns and staff members.

The Vice Chancellor added that the hub has so far produced six 2D animations, four 3D animations, three video games in the category of calphabet, money game and a maths book, three documentaries and short films, scripts, illustrations, soundtracks and a website.

Aside from that, the facility acts as an incubation space for film projects in Nyeri County and helps transform the country into a shooting destination for local and international filmmakers. He concluded by noting that the facility has graduated 15 scriptwriters, 23 PSC interns, and 60 work-study programme students and offered capacity-building training for 95 learners and 50 actors and actresses.

Speaking during the interview was Gilbert Munywoki, a fourth-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. The student stated that the hub has improved his animation skills, which he has been learning part-time and hopes to start a YouTube channel with animation.



DeKUT presents a virtual African Cultural Extravaganza with the theme "I Am an African" during the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) Management of Internationalization Training held from 20th to 30th September 2022



Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

HOST: SHANTALA PAI



Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)

HOST: JOHN WESONGA



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT)

HOST: ANN KIRUGUMI

Partner university of JKUAT



Universidad Católica San Pablo (UCSP)

HOST: MARÍA ALEJANDRA MALDONADO ADRIÁN

Over the past few years, DeKUT has been a co-host of the DIES Africa Regional Workshop on Management of Internationalization Training Programme jointly organized by the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors Conference (HRK). This year, the event took place virtually from 20th to 30th September 2022 and drew participants from different African countries.

This workshop brought together university managers to equip them with skills to manage processes and tasks of internationalization in higher education and enable participants to build up improved and more effective internationalization structures in their home universities.

The event's culmination was a virtual African Cultural Extravaganza presented by DeKUT with the theme "I Am an African" on September 30, 2022. The goal of the extravaganza was to promote African culture through traditional dances, costumes, cuisine, and music.

Continuously hosting this workshop is tremendous progress for the University in being counted among the peer universities that have embraced internationalization.





IAESTE DeKUT LC holds an international evening designed to give international students a platform to demonstrate their cultures while also allowing them to connect and learn from DeKUT students



The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) is an international organization providing cutting-edge work experience for students abroad through paid internships; Students take up internships for eight weeks to 18 months.

IAESTE was started in 1948 at the Imperial College in London to promote better understanding between countries and cultures and technical work experience. The association has more than 80 participating countries and exchanges over 7000 students annually, giving them relevant experience in their area of specialization and broadening their global perspective.

DeKUT was incorporated into the association in the year 2013. After completing the necessary application processes, DeKUT was admitted to IAESTE as a cooperating institution. This opened up new opportunities for students to take up internships abroad and gain life-changing global experiences. It also allowed students from around the world to take up internships in Kenya at DeKUT.

Since its inception in DeKUT, IAESTE has sent and received international students for international internships to and from countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom, Austria, the Czech Republic, Malta and Spain, Poland, Sweden, India and many others. The technical and cultural experiences that the students have gained during their stay in the various countries help in their social and cultural integration as well as in enhancing their professional skills out of the internship experience.

Apart from the International exchange opportunities, IAESTE provides a channel through which DeKUT students travel locally. The programme has managed to organize trips to various National Parks and Game Reserves within Central Kenya and the Rift Valley, the Coastal Beaches of Mombasa and Diani and various hiking opportunities for outdoor activities. This has been made possible through the support of the University's administration.

On September 15, 2022, IAESTE DeKUT LC held an international evening designed to give international students a platform to demonstrate their cultures while also allowing them to connect and learn from DeKUT students. International students from Taiwan, South Sudan, and Germany spoke during the event and displayed a variety of cultural artefacts from their countries, including food, traditional clothing, jewellery, and music. The opportunity provided a great platform for students to interact, share experiences, and learn more about the international academic exchange opportunities at the University.

DeKUT participates in the 41st EARSeL Conference



International conferences provide platforms through which researchers from various institutions worldwide share the output of their research work. Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) participated in the 41st EARSeL Conference held in Paphos, Cyprus, from 13th to 16th September 2022. The conference theme was "Earth Observation for Environmental Monitoring". It was organized by the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL) in conjunction with the Erastothenes Centre of Excellence in Paphos.



The Remote Sensing Research Group (RSRG) team from the Institute of Geomatics, GIS and Remote Sensing (IGGReS) presented the first results from the CITGI4 Muringato project at the conference. The results were contained in two oral presentations titled "Characterizing the Changes in Land Use and Land Cover amid Changing Climatic Conditions using Remote Sensing Techniques in the Muringato Basin, Kenya" by Mr. Simon Wachira and "Assessing The Effectiveness of Participatory GIS Tool for Environmental Conservation of the Muringato Catchment Area." By Mr. Wisdom Kipkemboi. The CITGI4Muringato project is a BMBF-funded project in collaboration with the Ruhr University Bochum.

The Directorate of Research, Innovation Management, and Community Linkages holds a joint public lecture with the Kenya Bureau of Standards and other researchers themed" My Food for Thought."



The Directorate serves as the University's reference centre for research, innovation, community projects, linkages, and partnerships. RIMCL coordinates and offers support to activities of the University's engagement with researchers, community, innovators, and industry to provide relevant training, community education, and development. The Directorate is currently tasked with resource mobilization, coordination of research activities by staff and students and their collaborators, intellectual property management, coordination of institutional collaborations and linkages, promotion of innovations, development, and execution of technology transfer programs and community outreach.

The Directorate contributes to the internationalization of training programs by promoting collaborative research with other institutions, which exposes our staff and students to research issues on a global platform. On Friday, September 12 2022, the Directorate of Research, Innovation Management and Community Linkages (RIMCL), in collaboration with researchers from the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Washington State University, held a joint public lecture dubbed 'My Food for Thought.

The event, attended by University staff and students, aimed to promote the scholarly study of food. The presenters highlighted the latest research on the multiple ways food shapes business and economy, nutrition and health, the environment, and social relations. Dr. Njiru and Dr. Luvonga from the Kenya Bureau of Standards highlighted some collaborative efforts between KEBS and various research/academic institutions, including DeKUT.

Part of their collaborations with the University involved the fabrication of a bio-sensor to detect adulteration of meat and meat products before distribution. KEBS has also collaborated with the University to develop a top-notch medical lab gadget that will enhance the storage of vaccines through a smart portable cold-chain system. As part of their strategic objectives, they aim to continue collaborative research with the University by promoting research in standardization and building the capacity of young and future metrologists.

The control of Listeria Monocytogenes in food products, particularly meat products, was also discussed by Professor Meijun Zhu, PhD, of Washington State University's School of Food Science. Her research focused on epidemics of listeriosis between 1998 and 2014. The research revealed that once connected to a food product, Listeria Monocytogenes increased resistance. To prevent Listeria monocytogenes from growing in raw food goods, the study suggests employing the spray-bar brush bed sanitizing intervention.

Even though listeriosis is uncommon, it can be fatal, so food organizations must monitor it and check products. After her talk, she urged the students to learn more about how Listeria Monocytogenes is controlled in low-moisture food products.

The utilization of bioactive substances to prevent and reduce levels of obesity was discussed in a presentation by Professor Min Du, PhD, of the School of Food Science at Washington State University. According to his research, the polyphenolic component resveratrol, which is prevalent in berries and other fruits, can considerably lower levels of obesity and metabolic diseases. He recommended those present eat a diet high in bioactive and polyphenol-rich substances.

This forum encouraged students and staff members to collaborate with KEBS and Washington State University on research projects. Additionally, researchers from KEBS offered students a chance to become a part of the institution through academic attachments, internships, and research collaborations.

Matriculation Ceremony for First Years 2022/2023.



After reporting on September 5 2022, Friday 9th, September 2022, marked the climax of the 1st Year Students' orientation with a Matriculation Ceremony where the Vice Chancellor Officially welcomed them into the University. Matriculation ceremonies are a significant tradition among Universities across the world. New students are formally admitted to the University during such occasions.



During the ceremony, the First Years took the matriculation pledge, demonstrating their formal welcome to the University, and solemnly declared, under oath, their loyalty to the University and compliance with the various guidelines and policies governing the institution.

As it is the tradition after the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor shared a meal with the 2022/2023 first years, who also had the opportunity to take selfies with the different academic staff.



We welcome all the first-year students to the fraternity and wish them every success in their studies and a great stay at the University.

In other news;

To encourage a culture of active and ethical leadership in the University, the Directorate of Student Welfare conducted a two-day student leadership training through the counselling unit. Through this program, students can develop critical thinking skills, decision-making skills, and an understanding of change processes and think critically about the obstacles to change.





IAESTE DeKUT Local Chapter hosts a delegation from Meru University of Science and Technology, a new member of IAESTE, on a benchmarking visit to learn more about IAESTE Exchange Processes and how students in their University can take up these opportunities.



The Institute of Technical and Professional Studies hosts an Open Day on September 17 2022, at the Freedom hall under the theme "technical skills for living and earning a living." As part of the event, there was a fashion exhibition for the Fashion Design and Interior Decoration students as partial fulfilment of their award.



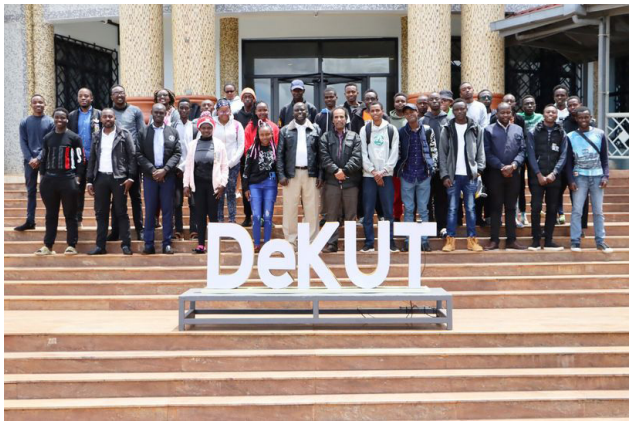






ITPS October 2022 Intake





First-year students from the School of Science, Department of Chemistry, posing for a photo with their chairman, Dr. Paul Tanui, administrators and lecturers.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni with the CEO IASP in Spain.

Happy Customer Service Week 2022!

"To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."-Don Alden Adams.

We at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology wish all our students, guardians, internal and external stakeholders a happy customer service week. We invite you to interact with us throughout the week and look forward to receiving your feedback.



