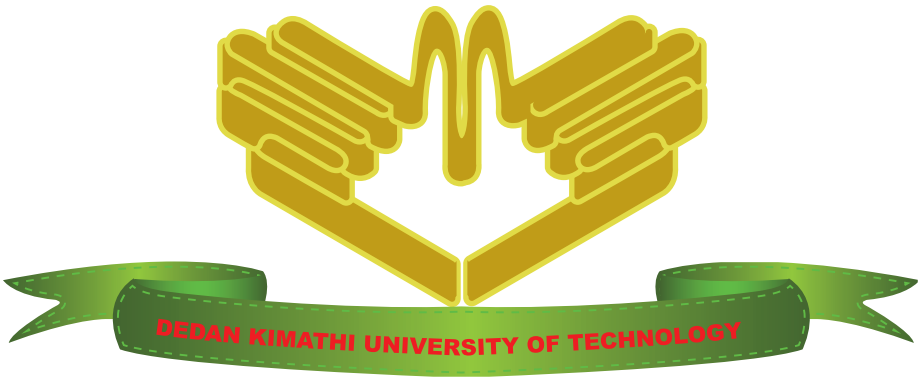


DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

9th GRADUATION SOUVENIR MAGAZINE



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9th GRADUATION SOUVENIR MAGAZINE



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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the 9th graduation of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. This is a grand occasion to all stakeholders most especially the graduating class of the year 2020. The university stands committed to providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse, and quality learning environment that foster research, innovation, and technology development towards producing a relevant human resource in society as well as attaining national development goals.

This is an unusual graduation given that it is a virtual graduation. This move was necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the social distancing requirements passed by the government to curb the spread of the virus. We were therefore not able to bring people together to hold a traditional graduation. We weighed the option of waiting until after the restrictions associated with the pandemic were lifted in order to hold a regular graduation or to have a virtual graduation ceremony in order to enable us to release the certificates to the graduands.

However, the Kenyan labour market today requires people seeking employment of any kind whatsoever to produce certificates. It was therefore important that we release these certificates to the graduands to enable them secure employment. Thereafter when conditions are favourable we will hold a special ceremony for them to celebrate their academic achievements.

As a University we continue to develop human resource for the country. We strive to ensure our students get the right kind of education that empowers them to make an impact in the economy. In line with this, the University is continually transforming to ensure that programs are entrepreneurial in orientation across the board. We are also creating an entrepreneurial environment in the University so that students are able to start companies, explore innovations while being supported by the University

Congratulations graduands. The university has set you on the path to self-realization and service to humanity. Embrace the journey with the courage and determination necessary to make an impact wherever you go.

Prof. Eng. P. Ndirangu Kioni

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE KENYA INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE (KIPI)

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI)



DeKUT recognizes that operating a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) will provide a ready pool of science and technical experts with competence to conduct a patent search, patent drafting as well as assist in patent prosecution and benefit from the IP capacity-building interventions of KIPI which will ultimately result in increased IP creation, protection, and commercialization in the local community.

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the relationship between KIPI and DeKUT concerningthe provision of TISC services.

KIPI and DeKUT have agreed to undertake the TISC project under the terms and conditions set to achieve the following objectives:-

a. Strengthen the institutional capacity of DeKUT to offer a variety of IP services to its clients including patent searches, patent drafting, and assistance in prosecution of IP applications.
b. Increase accessibility by DeKUT to technological information contained in the patent literature and other sources.
c. Increase innovative and inventive outputs manifested by increased patent filing by or through DeKUT.

SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE KENYA FILM COMMISSION

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC). This was enhanced after the previous discussions to start a digital media center to reduce the unemployment gaps among the youth through the use of technology by coming up with digital media products such as films.

The partnership aims 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. It is an industry that can provide employment to a lot of young people and where you can achieve a lot with very little investment. It is prudent to develop the capacity of those going to use the facilities and therefore an important aspect to scale the Human resource and get more people involved in the project.

The university will aid in the provision of capacity development support for the interested parties as the commission's main objective is to provide a vibrant film industry in Kenya. Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) will provide an avenue for dissemination of content. As a sector, the commission is an enabler within the big four agenda. Kenya Film Commission is also working in collaboration with Konza city to create a digital media city.





FROM DeKUT TO BERLIN



I remember being a young boy on the semi-paved streets of Nairobi, Kenya looking at a flying plane way up. A thousand ideas would pass my mind trying to guess where the plane was headed. At the time, no other country but Kenya existed in my young mind. Several years later, I would be landing at an airport in Berlin, Germany alighting a plane, something I only dreamt of. My name is Brian Orina and this is meine deutsche erfahrung (my German experience) courtesy of IAESTE DeKUT.

I learned of IAESTE from a friend 2 years before my internship. Like many Kenyans, the concept of traveling abroad was one I only thought of like a fantasy. It wouldn't hurt to try, I reminded myself promptly. Within the next week, I got in touch with the LC officials at my university, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and over the next few months became familiar with the entire application process and what was required. All this while, however, there were still doubts in my mind as to whether this was a possibility. In all honesty, I was scared of being too hopeful and ending up disappointed. In 2019 however, I was lucky enough to be shortlisted as part of a group of students heading out on exchange for our internships as mandated by our curriculum. I remember the excitement I felt when I was assigned an internship in Berlin. One that remains unrivaled to date. This was soon replaced by anxiety pretty quickly. How would I communicate? Would I be accepted into the society over there? These were some of the questions that troubled my mind. I am very glad that the LC TU Berlin dispelled these fears even before my arrival, sending welcoming notes and getting me in touch with my buddy, a fellow African who's Tunisian. This gave me a general sense of calm.

TU Berlin can comfortably boast as one of German's top universities. Well known for its engineering programs, economics and management just to name a few, the institution is truly a German icon. I am very grateful that I got to be part of this community. As part of the university's industry collaboration programs, I did my internship at Fraunhofer Institute for production systems and design technology. The institution ranks as one of the best research centers in Europe offering valuable research into product development, production processes, maintenance of investment goods, product recycling, just to name a few. The fact that I got the opportunity to train at this esteemed institution is one I am still trying to wrap my head around.

My task mainly involved helping Mr. Christian with various experiments that were vital for his research paper. The research paper was on the effect of various parameter variations on the process of brushing as a finishing technique. I was able to sharpen various technical skills while working on a CNC machine, a digital microscope, and an industrial robot as well as performing related experiments. I was also able to work with various software like Matlab, LabView, Siemens NX CAD tool just to name a few while performing simulations and recording pre and post brushing data. I am forever grateful to my supervisor for his ever extended hand in aiding me in polishing my skills in the above-mentioned skills and more. Together with MSc. Anton, their prowess as engineers remains a motivation to me.
Outside work I was able to partake in a very active social life, I was in Berlin after all and it doesn't get any better than that. From street parties in the city at Kreuzberg for example to Tecno night clubs with friends I made in this vibrant city, I can very comfortably say that I had one of the best times of my life here. I remember my host family taking me out to watch a band from Burkina Faso playing and another Scottish band playing the pipes soon after. All these were beautiful moments I'll forever cherish.

There's no way I'll forget to mention the very diverse cultural composition within the city. All around the city, I'd meet people from all over the world and even occasionally meet a Kenyan.

I recall a time we went out with some friends and realized that we had a representative from every continent in the world. Well, except Oceania. Nonetheless, it was a sight to behold. I was also glad that I was able to partake in various events around the university. From a Blockchain summit in the city to a ted talk hosted near the campus, all these were very valuable in building me as an engineering student.

Finally, some of the best highlights of my internship were my trips. From the visits to the historic centers in Berlin and the magnificent lakes all around the city, hiking in the mountains near Dresden and taking in the magnificent sights of this city's architecture, crossing the Baltic Sea and visiting Copenhagen, Denmark. It would be an understatement to say that these trips and visits were merely memorable.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to IAESTE international for making this whole experience possible, IAESTE/AISEC TU Berlin for hosting me and making sure my stay was as comfortable as possible, my host family for being the best companions I could ever ask for, my supervisor MSc. Christian and MSc. Anton, both of whom were extremely helpful not just for the technical bit of my internship but also socially, the international office at DeKUT who worked tirelessly to ensure that the whole process was smooth not just for me but for the other students on exchange as well, my parents for being supportive of this whole process and above all, God for being my guide.









MY EXPERIENCE AT GIFU UNIVERSITY

By Samuel Kariuki

"Watashi no namaewaSamyueruKariukidesu" is a common phrase that you will hear in Japan from tourists and international students alike. It is translated to mean, "My name is Samuel Kariuki". I am a fifth-year student at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, DeKUT, in the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department.

It was through the faculty of Engineering that I got this chance of a lifetime to be a short-term research student at Gifu University in Gifu prefecture, Japan. I had learned about the opportunity from a friend who had also been lucky enough to go there a few years back. Through the then Dean, School of Engineering, Dr. Ngetha, a very supportive, friendly, and diligent person, I learned about the Japanese Student Service Organization, JASSO, which is an organization that offers scholarships to students to nurture research and promote intercultural understanding. After consultation with my parents through the collaboration between DeKUT and Gifu University, and my application for the JASSO scholarship was successful.

My exchange period in Japan was scheduled to begin on December 16, 2019, around when winter was beginning, for three months' duration. My supervisors were Professor Sasaki, an instrumental part of the collaboration and Professor Matsushita. Little did I know just how hectic the preparation process for all this would have been especially because I had my last end of semester exam ending at 1300hrs on December 13, 2019. Thanks to God, I somehow managed to effectively balance between academics and all my activities including co-organizing a Tree Planting activity and Wildlife Conservancy Clean-up dubbed as 'Wildin Out' as the new in-office Events Coordinator IAESTE - LC DeKUT.

On 15 December at around noon, my family and I were on our way to the JKIA where I would board my first flight to Doha, Qatar followed by another through Hong Kong and finally to my landing port Nagoya in Japan on the following day. Once in Nagoya, I was greeted by two of my soon to be 'New Family', Dr. Waweru, Mr. Muguro, and Dr. Amri after which we proceeded to Gifu-shi which is where I would be for the next three months.

My research project during my time at Gifu University was on Robotics, an interdisciplinary branch in engineering that is gaining traction in the modern world due to the evolving need for automation and high efficiency, repeatability, and accuracy. My focus was especially on the Forward and Inverse Kinematics in characterizing a rigid manipulator motion. I also had an introduction to the Image Processing field concerning Robotics. In my research, I learned life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, consistency in one's work, and progressive goal-evaluation all of which are continual and life-shaping tools to have in one's arsenal. In the Sasaki-Matsushita Laboratory, which was my Lab, I got a glimpse at some of the other probable fields to venture in such as Bio-signal processing from the body-generated electrical signals, Game Development using Virtual and Augmented Reality and the flexible manipulator Vibration Control. During my internship, it was not all books and research, as part of the inter-cultural understanding and work-practice experience, there were tours organized by the Globalization Promotion Office managing the Engineering International students' affairs. As part of these tours, we visited some companies such as Noritake Itron a leading producer of the Vacuum Fluorescent Displays, LECIP Holdings a producer of the fare and display systems in buses and trains and Pharcos an active ingredient manufacturer in Cosmetic Industries. Other places visited were the principal IseJingu Grand shrine and the Tanigumi temple with a history of around 1300 years. In all those places visited, the most outstanding things were the fact that the Japanese were very friendly, ready to help, and diligent in their work.

Other activities that we engaged in were the International Friends Lunch and Dinners African where we enjoyed some of the delicious Japanese dishes such as Curry Udon, Okonomiyaki, Ramen, Sushi, and Steak. A ride on the Steel Dragon, the world's longest rollercoaster, was also one scary yet fun moment alongside riding the famous Shinkansen (Bullet train) traveling up to a speed of 320 kph. It would also not have been truly winter without the crash-full Ice-Skiing. The last of the trips was the visit to an Air and Space Museum, before the Prime Minister's directive that all social places be locked down. This was a step in preventing the spread of the Covid-19

pandemic. Other measures were the widespread use of the sanitizers and use of the face masks which were a relatively common occurrence before then.

Following the end of my internship period, my return flight on March 15, 2020, through Hong Kong was re-routed due to the imposed restrictions to and from there. I now had to Pass through Tokyo to Doha and then to Nairobi. By then, Kenya had reported the first CoVID-19 case two days before and from the New Updates, I had seen online about how all the cases by then were all imported. The news was a bit disconcerting which made me more cautious than I had been before especially since my residential City, Gifu, had no reported case. My caution was quite heightened that during my 10 hours layover at Tokyo, I washed my hands on an hourly basis and had my mask on during the whole journey except when eating.

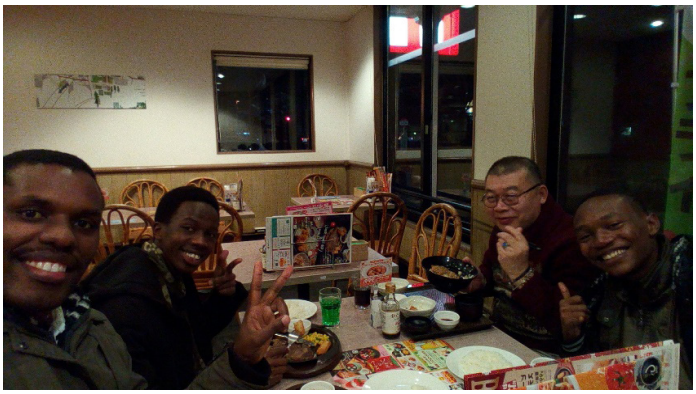
On getting to Kenya, before we could enter into the international arrivals terminal, we had to wait in a queue for some about 20 minutes which was quite confusing since it had not happened before. Unaware of what was happening, I just made sure I touched no one or anything other than my carry-on luggage. When I got to the front of the line that is when I realized that the queue was due to the Thermal Screening for CoVID-19 symptoms. I successfully went through the screening recording some 36.50C which was within the normal range. Some of the people who had some high temperatures were required to wait aside, for further testing, I assumed. I then proceeded to take my luggage where my family awaited me just outside the terminal. Such a happy reunion it was after being away for three months including missing the Annual Christmas and New Year celebrations. Which if I might add, was one of the cultural shocks I had, the fact that Christmas Day is not a National/Public holiday in Japan but that it was a normal workday.

Once I got home, the following day marked the beginning of a long 14 days of non-interaction with the extended family and friends. This was because despite my arrival before the mandatory quarantine imposition and the fact that no direct rule was made to me to quarantine. I understood from the news update and from some of my 'legal-minded' friends and family the seriousness of the 'worst case' after-effects of going around after having come from a country with an already growing number of CoVID-19 cases. The only people I was interacting with, as minimally as was possible, was my immediate family. I washed my hands quite frequently and there was a sanitizer to complement that. Up until when I drafted this article, I had avoided any public/ social places such as supermarkets and church and the only interaction with my friends was through calls and messaging. I would in that regard like to thank my family, especially my father and mother for all the support that they have accorded to me not only in the time that I learned I would be going on an internship but also during the internship period. On arrival, my family and friends went a long way in maintaining my positivity even at times when all this seemed a bit overwhelming especially since any sign of sickness, including a cough or a minor headache to me, seemed like a threat to my sanity.

I eventually completed my 14 days and just for confirmation and the reasoning that I may have a higher immunity due to my age, had an additional 7 days after which I am still healthy. Although we cannot undoubtedly say that I am CoVID-19 free, we can with a high probability, say that I did not contract the virus during my stay or journey back to Kenya.

Despite how easy it sounds, the whole process of successful self-quarantine was not entirely a walk in the park. It was a mental war as I tried to fight the urge to go out and share my experience with friends and family, some of whom I had not met with since August 2019. It was also challenging always reminding myself to wash my hands, sanitize, and only touch what I must even when at home to not put my immediate family at risk.

I hereby end by being grateful to God. I thank DeKUT through the school of Engineering for providing the enabling environment where such a life-changing event was founded. Thank you to Gifu University staff and friends for being great hosts, friends, and "Sensei's" during my stay. Thank you to my family for all the support both mental, spiritual, and financial, and for molding me to be the man I am and to all friends and classmates for playing a great role in both my academic and social life.



1: During a Japanese style dinner. (From left Dr. Waweru, Sam, Prof. Sasaki, and Eric a classmate from DeKUT)



2: With Dr. Waweru, Mr. Muguro with the Steel Dragon reinforced frame background



3: A trip with some of my new friends to an illumination park in the neighboring prefecture



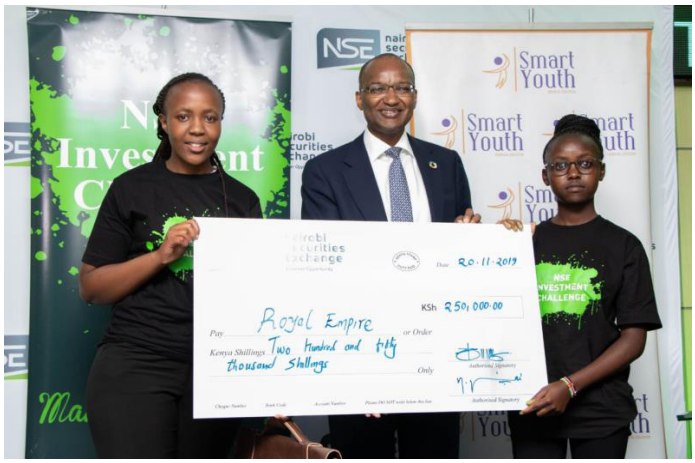
4: During an international student. (Second from Left: One of the Organizers Madam Suzuki)

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE INVESTMENT CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Monica Njambi and Beatrice Njeri, our third-year students pursuing Bachelor of Commerce (Finance Option) for winning the 2019 Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) Investment Challenge held in Nairobi last week. They won a monetary award, mobile devices, and internships at the NSE.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange Investment Challenge (NSE Investment Challenge) is an edutainment initiative targeting Kenyan Youth who are in tertiary learning institutions such as Universities. The challenge is an online simulation of live trading at the Nairobi Securities Exchange, where each participating group/individual is given a virtual startup capital of 3 Million to invest using the NSE real-time information for 3 months. The winner is the team/individual with the highest portfolio value. One can participate as an individual or a group of a maximum of 4 members from the same institution. The challenge creates an avenue for educating the youth on the prudent process of investment decisions and risk management.







DeKUT ALUMNI MAKING WAVES IN THE INDUSTRY

"I joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology back when it was a constituent college of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology going by the name Kimathi University College of Technology ((KUCT). I had an option of alternative institutions of higher learning but my gut feeling very strongly directed me to KUCT and I must say I'm glad I followed that gut feeling; the quality of education I got from this institution leaves me with no doubt that I made the right decision. Besides, the serenity of the environment is unmatched." – Claris KinyaMung'atia

Speaking to Claris, you can tell that she is a proud alumna of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). She graduated in the year 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) and thanks to the exposure she had in terms of knowledge, the industry, and skills, she says that her transition to the job market was smooth. She started working at M-Kopa Solar Kenya immediately after completing her undergraduate studies as an intern and was later employed by the firm.Currently, she is working at Tatu City Limited as an Electrical Field Service Engineer. "The approach to training at DeKUT was very informative; especially the practical sessions. I have encountered most software we were exposed to in school in the job market and this has helped me big time"- she adds.

At M-kopa Solar Kenya, Claris was mostly involved in analyzing different electrical measurement devices that would cause losses thus contributing to increased conservation and utilization of energy. Her key interest is in Power Systems and Load Analysis; "In the distribution of power there are so many losses, with load analysis you understand the causes to the losses and solutions to the same"- explains Claris. Her last project at M-kopa Solar Kenya wasleading and supporting the development of a Solar Fridge; one of the projects of the firm as the company continues to upgrade lives by making high-quality solutions affordable to everyone.This project has been a huge success; it has helped low income earns in different parts of Kenya enjoy the privileges of having valuable appliances, in this case, the fridge, associated with rich people.

As an Electrical Field Service Engineer at Tatu City Limited, she is responsible for Load analysis, Load Sizing and Electrical designs and Installations. "The adequate training in power systems from my undergraduate has enabled me to see through different designs in Tatu City Power Reticulation; the basis on Power analysis tools like Dig SILENT and Power Factory has been very helpful in my current job, gratitude to Roy Orenge (her Power Systems lecturer at DeKUT) for taking us through"- she acknowledges.

Having faced discouraging sentiments and opposition as she insisted on and set to pursue a career in engineering, here is what she says as her parting shot: "I would like to encourage students to believe in themselves as well as work smart. Everyone has their strengths, use that and it will take you places." We celebrate your Claris and wish you the very best in your career, as well as all aspects of your life, as you continue identifying needs and using your wit and competence to provide solutions.

By WanjiruKaburu







HIS DREAM WAS TO BECOME A PILOT BUT DeKUT LED HIM TO HIS DESTINY

I joined the university in 2016 and I will be honest, joining any university wasn't anything I dreamed about. I always wanted to complete high school and join an aviation school and become an international pilot. Unfortunately (or fortunately), that never happened. I ended up joining Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) for a degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering and within the first two weeks after joining the University, I found a new lifestyle – technology. DeKUT has shaped my journey in tech and I now understand what it means when we say "Better Life through Technology" – the University's slogan. The way the institution has embraced innovation and supported tech communities allowed me to thrive."- Joshua Ndemenge



When you meet him, he is a simple young man but if you're keen enough you will notice the weight he gladly carries on his shoulders; the weight of the responsibility to make the world better through the one way he has mastered and continues to; technology. As we start the year 2020, we gladly share his -story with the world.

Joshua is our fourth-year student and represents many of our students and alumni who demonstrate how quality education and a quality, enabling environment can transform students and the world.Inspired by Marvin Ngesa, Arthur Kennedy Otieno, and Chris Barsolai (our alumni and students then), Joshua found his landing in technology and developed immense interest in that world."To this very day, I remember Marvin mentioning DeKUT to be Africa's MIT, and that's when I decided to join the Tech Communities in school. It was the first time I also owned a Personal Computer and learning the different tasks I could achieve on this device pushed me to want to know more; beyond what windows and office are, to knowing how they are built, and that's where my passion for Microsoft Technologies begun. During the day I was an electrical engineering student and during the night an MVA (Microsoft Virtual Academy) student and that's how I learned to write code within my first semester in school. I went beyond learning C# programming to learning the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Cloud Computing"- says Joshua.

Joshua did not find a made path that he just walked through but it's he who created the path through which many students have walked and are thriving working together as the MSP DeKUT Club. This came about through him taking the initiative to share with his fellow students what he had been learning in the Microsoft Virtual Academy. He was doing so well at this that in September 2018, he got accepted into the Microsoft Student Partner program. This, he says, was his first major achievement since he joined the Tech Community. He organized his first event on Internet of Things as a Microsoft Student Partner (MSP) in DeKUT and the event drew the attention of students from JKUAT and Multimedia University and in December 2018, he organized an event in Multimedia University; this marked the dawn of him running tech events outside DeKUT. You can find all major events he has organized so far here https://standwak.com/events.

In March 2019, Joshua was selected among the most active and outstanding MSPs in the Europe Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Region and attended the MSP Summit in Amsterdam, Netherlands. This was a dream come true as he had wished for this whenhe saw Marvin (one of the students who inspired him to venture into tech)travel out of the country to attend tech conferences while still a student. This got Joshua hoping that one day, that would happen to him and sure, it did.It was in this same year that the opportunity to be an Instructor in the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-HABITAT) Internet of Things Makerthon Challenge towards Sustainable Development Goals knocked Joshua's door and he welcomed it with open arms. Joshua went ahead and organized the first ever Engineers' Hack which he says was one of the most successful events he ever organized; there were 72 participants from 7 different institutions in the country. In July 2019, Joshua was named among the 10 insider2campus winners and won a trip to Microsoft Campus and an opportunity to participate in the largest private hackathon in the world; the Microsoft Hackathon. "This is a hackathon that is open to Microsoft employees only and having a chance to participate in such ahackathon was a huge privilege"- he elaborates.Joshua wasone of the twoparticipants from Africa and the youngest individual among the 10 winners.

By, WanjiruKaburu

ALICE NJOROGE, THE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I remember that day as if it was yesterday. I met a Computer Science graduate from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) who advised me to choose Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). He explained to me how he had met quality graduates from DeKUT, the strong Christian Union, and the student-lecturer interactions in the University. He said,"Most universities half-baked graduates, in DeKUT you will be fully baked." I have always been fascinated by technology and wanted to make my dream come true and after that interaction, I didn't think of a better place to make it come true.True to it, my friend was right." – Alice Njoroge



The statement "the world is a global village" is more accurate to some than others; Alice falls in the first category. Two months to her graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from our University (DeKUT), Alice has a record of software development having worked with both local and international companies. While at it, she is laying the foundation to start her own software company here in the country; she is working on a property management software for a Kenyan company called Leo-Realtors and looking to deploy it as a multi-tenant software with an expectation to sell it to a lot more companies.As if this is not enough, Alice has a full – time employer; a company called Griffin Solutions based in Atlanta Georgia which she is working remotely.

Talk of diligence!
Asked how she got here, she narrated: "I first heard about programming when I joined campus in first year. For the first two years, I struggled a lot. I could not get it; nothing made sense at all. It would break me. I would feel this confusion in my head, in as much as my grades were good, I did not feel like I was actually learning the skill. Towards the end of second year,I approached one of my lecturers (Mr. Michael Kagiri). I explained my predicament and he immediately took it upon himself to guide me. He introduced me to a lot of software developers in the industry. He gave me Udemy courses on development and got me involved in a lot of projects. I have done a lot of volunteer work during my practice including CCVKenya; a crane conservation company based in Nyahururu. In my third year, I discovered the idea of working remotely. I would pair program a lot with one of my best friends, (a fellow student); pair programming is an agile programming technique in which two programmers work together in one workstation. I would say the best thing about being in DeKUT is the people I met. They were very influential."

Alice has written a variety of software, some of which she has signed Non – Disclosure Agreements but others include Teaching Software, Management Software, and Content Management Software. Among these, she says that what she considers her greatest achievement is the teaching software; a Digital Learning Object (DLO) software being used by Computer Science students here at the university to help them learn Relational Algebra and Relational Databases. This explains why she is inspired by the feeling of being a problem solver; "There is no better feeling than that of seeing the smiles I put on people's faces when I solve their problems" – she says. In the words of Mr. Michael Kagiri, her mentor and lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Information Technology, "the DLO software has simplified greatly relational algebra concepts to students and changed the students' perception towards relational algebra which is the foundation of SQL(Structured Query Language).I highly recommend anyone learning the relational algebra to use the tool."

Alice also writes articles on a platform called medium every fortnight to help beginners learn more easily.
Alice is set to graduate this April and we wish her all the best as she continues to take on the world of software development and empower, inspire many to follow their dreams and do the best they can at it. We also continue to appreciate and build the spirit of the fraternity here at DeKUT that helps us grow each other too, together, be a force to reckon with in changing the world.

By WanjiruKaburu

LEAVING A LEGACY OF A MAN WHO LOOKED BEYOND HIMSELF



When I saw my first computer, at around the age of 10, I instantly fell in love. Since then, my passion for computers, especially software programming, has been growing more and more every day. It is this passion that led me to pursue Computer Science at my University of choice, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). I chose this University because even in high school, a word about its prowess and success stories in technology had gotten to me. I therefore simply decided to choose nothing but the best."- Reuben Kihiu

Reuben Kihiu is our 3rd Year 2nd Semester student pursuing B. Sc in Computer Science. He is a Web Developer, who has dedicated most of his time and effort leveraging the web and its almost infinite capabilities in solving problems, creating business value, and enhancing connectivity. Besides, he is a Software Product Designer and Graphics Designer. He says that when he is not coding, designing, or teaching students how to program, he loves attending and organizing hackathons both at the university and all over the country. Besides all the tech and computer stuff, Reuben is a fitness and bodybuilding enthusiast.

Reuben is the current President of the Computer Society of Kimathi (CSoK), which is the biggest tech community in the University. He is also the Lead, Developer Student Clubs; a club by Google Developers where students are taught and guided in various technologies such as Web and Android development. In line with that, he is also a Google Developers Group (GDG) Nyeri, Co-Organizer - geared to equip and guide developers, not only at the university but around Nyeri and Mt. Kenya Region. "As a DSC DeKUT, GDG Nyeri, and CSoK Lead, I have always been challenged to learn new technologies and to share what I have learned with the tech community. I am motivated by a desire to give back to the community using my skills and have fun while doing so. The most important work of my life is my service as a volunteer and leader because it is where I get the chance to interact, mentor, and give back to the community" – he expresses.

Outside the University, Reuben is a Technovation Girls Mentor; Technovation is a global program that seeks to train young girls in high school on how to develop software from a young age and use the skills to solve problems in their communities. He is also a tech mentor who works with students and tech communities ranging from high schools to students in other Universities.

Reuben is not just our student but a key partner in the actualization of our vision and demonstration of what Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) stands for; contributing to the betterment of the society and growth and development through Quality Education, Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer. In his 3 years of studies, he has represented the University in various events, both in and out of the country, and won numerous awards. Most notably, Reuben represented the University in the Africa Public Service Day at KICC, where he showcased his work to delegates and leaders from all over Africa. He also got a chance to travel to Accra, Ghana in September 2019 for the Developer Student Clubs Summit, where he represented the University and got to share the skills he learned with the rest of the tech community back at the University. In February 2020, Reuben represented the University and the Country at large at the Open Source Community Africa Festival in Lagos, Nigeria, where he won the "Web We Want (WWW)" Challenge against competitors from all over Africa. Besides, Reuben has participated in various hackathons around the country in Universities such as Strathmore, USIU, Meru University, and many others, where he and his teams have won the University countless awards.

"In all this, I am most grateful to the University for all the opportunities for learning and exposure. Since my first hackathon when I was just a month old at DeKUT, I have experienced immense support from the University, both from the administration and from DeHUB; our innovation and incubation center. My dream is to see many more like me, and even better than

me pass through this great institution and go out there to make marks in the world; to make the world better. It is because of this dream that I do everything I can to train, mentor, and develop many others like me both in and out of DeKUT, and give them the skills to build on and change the world. As I look forward to finishing my degree in a year, this is the legacy I would like to leave. The legacy of a man who looked beyond himself"- this is what Reuben said when asked for a parting shot.

After completing his degree in Computer Science, Reuben desires to be immensely involved in the design and development of software. Later, he looks to lead his startup and use his skills and experience to solve problems and improve the lives of not only those around him but also of millions all over the world.

Go forth and leave a legacy, Reuben! Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is proud of you.

By; WanjiruKaburu

DeKUT BECOMES THE 2ND IN THE WORLD TO PUBLISH ON DIGITAL TRIPLET TECHNOLOGY (INDUSTRY 4.0).

DeKUT becomes the 2nd in the World to publish on Digital Triplet Technology (Industry 4.0). The first was the University of Tokyo, Japan. As Digital Twins gain more traction and their adoption in industry increases, there is a need to integrate such technology with machine learning features to enhance functionality and enable decision-making tasks. This has led to the emergence of a concept known as Digital Triplet; an enhancement of Digital Twin technology through the addition of an 'intelligent activity layer'. This is a relatively new technology in Industry 4.0 and research efforts are geared towards exploring its applicability, development, and testing of means for implementation and quick adoption. DeKUT Siemens Centre established a Digital Twin Technology. Digital Twin Technology is a virtual model of a process, product, or service. This pairing of the virtual and physical worlds allows analysis of data and monitoring of systems to head off problems before they even occur, prevent downtime, develop new opportunities and even plan for the future by using simulations.

The data collected can then be used to create a 'twin' which can accurately predict how these processes, products, or services work. This has become a staple in modern engineering and is used to drive innovation and performance.

DEDAN KIMATHI INNOVATION AND INCUBATION HUB

As the sunset for yet another amazing year, we are excited to share with you our achievements for 2019/2020. Our core business being incubation of ideas to commercial products, the year was full of new energy and market-disrupting innovations.

We participated in International and National competitions and we made DeKUT proud. We always encourage students with innovative ideas to join the incubator. The training mentorship and exposure are unmatched. Here are some of our top highlights for the year.

WildEye seeks to bring technology to the wild to monitor & track animal activities & notify authorities in case animals stray away from the wildlife protected areas (WPAs), reducing poaching & human interaction with wild animals away from Wildlife Protected Areas.
WildEye team testing the device at the DeKUT conservancy.
Team WildEye during the Microsoft Imagine cup regional finals. From left Clinton Oduor, Julia Muiruri,



Joshua Ndemenge.

The team participated in Imagine cup regional finals that are normally held in Amsterdam, but due to Covid-19 travel advisory, the event was held virtually. The Imagine Cup is a skill-based Competition open to students around the world. The competition seeks to honor the most innovative, ground-breaking, and appealing softwarebuilt with Microsoft tools and technology.
The team was third in the regional finals,regional finals consist of ten teams from Europe, the Middle East, and



Africa. We would like to congratulate the WildEye Team for their effort and bravery while working to the success of their now registered company and in the process of signing major deals with Kenya Wildlife Services.

a. Hackathons

We participated in local hackathons and we were able to



win in all of them; Meru University hackathon, USIU hackathon, and Konzahackathon. Our teams have mastered the business innovation skill that has put them ahead of others in all fronts.

Kazi-Link Startup at the Konzahackathon receiving the



Cash prize from the Chief Guest.

White alert Startup receiving the cash prize after winning the Meru University Hackathon.

b. Rona

Rona (http://rona.co.ke/) is an Artificial Intelligence bot that aims to curb misinformation and other propaganda revolving around the Corona Virus Disease 2019. This is by allowing users to ask it questions, and generating a relevant response, or a link to the relevant articles, from websites approved by the World Health Organization, Centres for Disease Control or The Ministry of Health Kenya.

Rona was built by Brian NdegwaWambui, a second-year student in Dedan Kimathi University of Technology taking a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Ndegwa has been a key participant in multiple hackathons both in and outside the university, most of them organized by DeHUB, the university innovation center, under the Facilitation of Kenneth Njihia, Project Coordinator at DeHUB, which has seen him develop a keen eye for problem-solving in the community through technology.



Rona is fighting any kind of misinformation intended to cause fear on COVID-19. Rona can understand when many users ask a question revolving a particular topic, so Rona can understand what to learn about and increase her knowledge base.

By Kenneth Njihia- DeHUB Project Coordinator.

LEVERAGING ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND LINKAGES FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

One of DeKUT's core pillars is research linkages and collaborations with other organizations and stakeholders in academics and industries. These collaboration agreements have created a framework for the exchange of students and staff, undertaking joint research activities and scientific projects, exchange of scientific materials, publications, and information among other collaborative joint ventures. One such collaboration is with the College of the Rockies (CoTR), Canada. DeKUT and CoTR have worked together for over 10 years, in a wide range of projects including a maternal access and infant survival for health advancement (MAISHA) project, a sustainable job creation project, and several international youth internship projects. DeKUT and CoTR share a variety of interests, including ensuring that women and men receive education and the training they need to take advantage of economic and lifelong learning opportunities.



In the year 2019, the University through the exchange program received one intern, Ms. JyotiPrashad, she was a CoTR intern engaged as a Community Health Outreach Officer in the DeKUT School of Health Sciences. Ms. JyotiPrashad during the normal University orientation visited the University library it was at that point that she felt the need to impact the University. Through her networks in Canada, she was able to link the University Library with "The Textbook for Change" an organization in Canada that is focused on improving the educational landscape for post-secondary students by providing affordable and accessible educational material to students both locally and across the globe. It is as a result of her linkage that DeKUT in 2020 received a book donation consignment of approximately 30,000 books valued at USD 168,000 from Textbooks for Change Canada. The book donation comprised of new and relevant titles covering all programs and courses offered at the University. The books, according to the University Librarian Mr. Fredrick Otike will be of great benefit to the University in supplementing the already rich collection of books that are in our Library. The books were officially received by the University Management and University Council members. The University management recognized Ms. JyotiPrashad's efforts by awarding her a certificate of recognition for her initiative.

By Ann Kirugumi
Head of Department, International Office

5TH DeKUT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: OPTIMISING ON BUILDING CAPACITY ON RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The 5th DeKUT International Conference on Science, Technology Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (STI&E) was held on 13th – 15th November 2019 at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in Nyeri. The theme of the conference was 'Leveraging Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development' with thirteen sub-themes. The Vice-Chancellor did welcome all participants and commended the keynote speakers, professors from other Universities, international delegates, DeKUT staff, and students for attending the 5th STI&E conference. He pointed out that the conference provided researchers with a forum to discuss and share ideas on the latest innovations and research outputs that addressed various challenges encountered in society. The two keynote speakers were Dr. Salome Guchu - CEO Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA) and Mr. Sylvane A. Sange - Managing Director, Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI). The international delegates came from countries such as Germany, Japan, and Uganda. It was pointed out that selected papers would be published in the Journal of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology for Development. The journal has a reputation of high international standards and is a major reference to engineering, applied sciences, and development research. Besides, the University developed a better publication platform where participants could track the progress of publication including the reviews.

The University will continue to seek collaborations with the largest number of authors and institutions. To encourage student involvement in research, the University established Graduate Assistantship Programmes and engages many students in its internship program. To enhance and support research programs, collaborative relationships exist with reputable institutions such as Universities of Gifu and Saarland, as well as with Erasmus & DAAD Programs. Early preparations for research and innovations activities are supported by active Data Science programs, the Directorate of RIMCL, Green Institute, DeHUB, and other initiatives at departmental levels. Research and innovation create a well-developed interface between knowledge generation and its utilization. Innovative activities are enhanced through regular sensitization of IP awareness, commercialization of innovations, and support for IP registration. The STI&E committee takes pride in working closely with the University Management Board in making the international conference a success. The conference provided a platform for a strong regional network of research and innovation practitioners to strengthen individual and institutional capabilities in research management across the region.
(Photos missing)

DeKUT EXCELLED DURING THE 2019 CENTRAL KENYA NATIONAL SHOW

DeKUT participated in the Central Kenya National Show which was held on 11th – 14th September 2019 at Kabiruini Show Grounds in Nyeri. The five-day annual event was organized by the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK). The theme of this year's show was 'Promoting Innovation and technology in agriculture and Trade'. The Show was officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Irrigation, Hon. Festus MwangiKiunjuri on Friday, 13th September 2019. The Chief Guest visited the University stand and was received by the Vice-Chancellor. Other guests included the Governor of Nyeri County His Excellency MutahiKahiga, County Commissioner, and other distinguished guests. The Vice-Chancellor led the Chief Guest through the University stand giving insights about the different projects exhibited. The Chief Guest was impressed by the projects and gave Kshs 29,000 cash award to exhibitors.

DeKUT was awarded one trophy and 10 certificates, three for different categories entered, and seven for Livestock. Besides we got Kshs 6,200 as a cash reward. An extension of the stand was constructed while another plot was acquired to accommodate the farm products as well as the Chia project demonstration. The 2019 ASK show exhibition was considered a success and



with marked improvement in coordination of services and activities. The University stand was a crowd puller because it attracted large numbers of distinguished guests, members of the public and scholars. The exhibition successfully marketed the University and at the same time promoted innovative ideas across the departments. The University Management Board commended all the exhibitors for the good work done. The participants congratulated the Director



– RIMCL for providing guidance, encouragement and support throughout the ASK Show period. The ASK Steering Committee agreed to continuously improve the quality and quantity of innovations exhibited in the coming year.

THE JOURNEY OF THE LEATHER TECHNOLOGY

The School of Science in 2013 started training in leather technology at the Department of Chemistry. This is after the Government in its vision 2030 on the industrialization pillar recognized the importance of the leather sector and its huge untapped potential. In September, the department opened its doors for the first cohort of BSc in Leather Technology students. The program was approved by the Commission of University Education. Soon the department had challenges in getting qualified lecturers locally. This forced the department to source lectures from Ethiopia, Sudan, and India to bridge the gap.

Realizing the biting crisis of human resources in the country, the department of chemistry decided to introduce an MSc in Leather Technology. The department through the University secured a scholarship for the program from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The first cohort was admitted in 2017 with a total of 8 students. Five of the 8 students have completed the course and defended their thesis and will be graduating this year. Their research topics ranged from making Novel leather from a tribe for ornamental use, assessing different tannages for rabbits, the study of the properties of chrome-tanned tilapia, and the potential products it can make and finally the quality of "back to school shoe" made by SMEs. Through their research, they have made a significant contribution to the leather sector. They have also created awareness on the products in the market and usage of certain types of leathers.

Besides, the department in 2018 started a diploma program in leather technology. This was as a result of high



demand by the market for the kind of human resource. Besides, the department has partnered with counties to





train manpower in readiness for the establishment of the cottage industry.

The journey has been long and winding. The department can proudly say it has trained manpower to support the leather sector. It has had its lessons, made partnerships with experienced giants and now it can pride itself as making a significant change in the leather sector in Kenya.

CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP MANAGEMENT (CIEM)

Entrepreneurship is dynamic and it requires any business to keep abreast of what is happening not only locally, but also internationally to remain relevant in the industry. Other than maintaining normal business operations, they need to engage in innovation practices like developing new products, searching for new markets, incorporating new production processes. This gives the business a competitive advantage hence its ability to cope with the fast-growing competition.

Research studies show that entrepreneurs require training as well as business support services to initiate and grow their business enterprises. One is required to keep on building on his/ her knowledge, skills, and attitude to keep up with the trending aspects of the business. Given this, CIEM exists to help entrepreneurs develop the critical skills and attitudes necessary to set up and run business enterprises sustainably.

CIEM aims at contributing to the University accomplishing its philosophy (transforming itself into an entrepreneurial University). The Centre supports entrepreneurs at all levels that is pre- startups starts-ups and practicing entrepreneurs in their entrepreneurship journey. We do this by providing quality training in various business aspects for instance business planning, offering support services like mentorship, our clients also have access to our Repository where they can easily access information on various kinds of business and, we also offer tailor-made training to entrepreneurs and corporates as per their request.

The journey of entrepreneurship and innovation is exciting, join us at the Centre and learn how you can scale your business to greater heights.

"What we need is an entrepreneurial society in which innovation and entrepreneurship are normal, steady, and continuous."- Peter Drucker

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WAYS TO FAIL IN RISK MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

ByCPA.JamesMuthusi,

The benefits of ERM are diverse. These include: aligning the organization's risk appetite and strategy; linking growth, risk and return objectives; enhancing risk response techniques; minimizing operational surprises and losses; identifying and managing cross-enterprise risks; providing integrated responses applicable for multiple risks across the entity; helping the entity in grabbing the opportunity which arises from risk and



rationalizing the overall capital needs of the entity, among others. However, the foregoing notwithstanding, sometimes it helps to embrace a reverse perspective. While there are many blogs, articles, and consultants who are sharing best practices on how to implement a successful risk management process, let us take look at a contrarian view. Regrettably, below are some of the actions which an organization can undertake to ensure that it fails in its risk management efforts.

1. Do not listen to internal audit

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity. Its core role in ERM is to provide objective assurance to the board on the effectiveness of risk management. In reality, though, no source of tension is more frequent (or sometimes more acrimonious) than a disagreement between internal auditors and management over the results of an internal audit. The trouble is that internal auditors undertake an independent, objective, and systemic evaluation of operations that are under the purview of management. Most of the time, management agrees with the internal audit's findings and recommendations. However, as the saying goes, no one likes it when you call their baby ugly. If discussions and negotiations leave both parties at an impasse, the identified risk exposures are best left unattended. The consequence of this is that there have been far too many instances in recent years when high-profile companies have become embroiled in scandals resulting from a risk-management or control failure that had been clearly on internal audit's radar, sometimes for years.

2. Have no sense of urgency to remedy identified risk exposures

Some organizations lack a sense of urgency or may decline to take remedial action on risks identified during assessment exercise. Ignore the potential consequences of emerging risks and do not set any timelines for executing targeted mitigation action. Like a child touching a hot stove, there is an emergence lack of capacity to properly perceive the pain/risk control failure consequence. This will help the organization succumb to pain rather than push through it.

3.Do not link risks with business objectives

When you create your risk universe and define new risks, ensure that these risks are not linked to any business objectives. This will ensure that many risks in your risk universe have little or no relevance to your business and risk managers will waste valuable time on thinking about these irrelevant risks.

4. Do not try to integrate multiple risk assessment methodologies

Today, organizations are faced with many different types of risk (e.g. operational, project, financial, human resources, technological, health, safety, political, e.t.c). These risks present themselves on several fronts as well as high level; high-impact risks demand a co-ordinated, systematic corporate response. Embracing a 'silo mentality' and taking a comprehensive approach to dealing with all these risks using disparate methodologies will ensure that the senior management will never get a consolidated picture of organization's top risks, which will, in turn, ensure that organization will always be caught off-guard, each time a key risk turns into a loss event/incident.

5. Do not establish an integrated risk management function

In establishing a successful risk management function, a shared leadership with a team approach is critical for the organization. The three most important teams responsible for effective integrated risk management are the Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, and the internal auditors. Each of these teams will use their approaches for managing risks. Ensure that you don't collaborate with the disparate systems used by these three teams. This will result in duplication of effort, wasted resources, and minimal collaboration between these teams.

6. Document risk-mitigating actions in an unstructured format

Typically, when risk and control assessments are conducted, various risk-mitigating actions may be required to fix areas of improvement identified in the existing risk mitigation approaches. Ensure that these risk-mitigating actions are recorded in an unstructured format, scattered throughout the organization, and kept haphazardly such as emails, hard-copies, Word documents, etc. This will ensure confusion and inconsistency in implementing risk mitigation actions resulting in duplication and waste of effort.

7. Ensure minimal risk management reporting

Regular reporting on the outputs from the risk assessment exercise is an important means of providing shareholders with confidence that robust risk management procedures are in place. Ensure that minimal risk management related reports and scanty information is published to stakeholders such as senior management, Audit Committee, board, etc. Minimize the frequency of these reports to ad hoc intervals to ensure that no key stakeholders are aware of existing critical risks. This will ensure that those charged with governance do not get the opportunity to prepare to appropriately mitigate these critical risks.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE USING TRADITIONAL FOODS: AN AGENDA FOR CASSAVA ADOPTION BY HOTELS

By: Peninah W. Chege

Institute of Sustainable Tourism & Hospitality Management

There are probably more traditional African foods than African tribes. Before the onset of "civilization," traditional African foods constituted a major component of the Kenya traditional menu. These foods had both nutritional and curative benefits. In post-colonial Kenya, knowledge, and consumption of traditional foods has been threatened by commercial foods and changing values that favor the consumption of exotic foods. The farming and consumption of traditional foods such as cassava has dwindled over the years.

Cassava (Manihotesculenta) is cultivated widely in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America with Africa being the leading producer. Slightly over eight hundred million inhabitants of developing tropical countries consider cassava as a staple root crop. About two-thirds of the cassava root is used for human consumption either in raw or processed form. The rest is used for animal feed and other industrial products. In South America and Asia, cassava is utilized for bioethanol production. This indicates that cassava farming can have both industrial and food security benefits which are particularly important in the era of climate change crises given that cassava is a drought-resistant crop. Since cassava performs amazingly well in drought-prone areas and on poor soils. It should be regarded as an insurance and food security crop for farmers in marginal lands. (Tanyanyiwa, 2017)

However, with all these benefits, one would imagine that cassava has intensive and highly mechanized crop production systems.
Nothing can be further from the truth.

Cassava Consumption in Kenya

In Kenya, cassava is the second most important food root crop after Irish potatoes. However, its production is mainly concentrated in the coastal, western, and central parts of Kenya. As a result of its narrow production base and low utilization among Kenyans, it is ranked as a low priority crop by Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Institute.

Cassava utilization is mainly limited to roasting and boiling roots, making cassava chips and cassava flour for ugali. In the Coastal part of Kenya, cassava leaves are used as a vegetable. (Githunguri Cyrus, 2017)

Nutritional Benefits of Cassava

Cassava is a calorie-rich vegetable that contains plenty of carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. It has been proven to be a good source of vitamin C, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin. Additionally, cassava leaves are believed to contain up to twenty-five percent of proteins.

Can hotels adopt the use of cassava?



The answer to this question is a big YES! Hotels could even be more innovative and use cassava flour in making chapatti and ugali. In South America, Tapioca (cassava starch) is already widely used as pudding and a special type of dessert. With an increase in awareness and demand for healthy eating, cassava can be one of the best alternative food items on the menu for many health-conscious hotel patrons.

CASSAVA FLOUR (TOPIOCA)

By creating awareness on the nutritional and health

benefits of cassava, and promoting its use in hotels, demand for the crop will be created which in turn will provide marketing opportunities for cassava farmers and thus becoming a tool for climate change adaptation and economic empowerment for local communities by the hotels that will embrace cassava a key raw material.

Cassava balls (Brazillian manioc)

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Cassava flour (Topioca)

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Cassava balls (Brazillian manioc)

ADDRESSING WATER AND ENERGY NEEDS THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA



Prof. MariitaBwÓbuya

Geothermal Training and Research Institute, GeTRI

Geothermal as a source of power in Kenya

Three essential needs of Human beings for survival are food (including water), clothing, and shelter. However, in modern society, there is a forth need, i.e., power, mainly in the form of electricity. The greatest scientific achievement of the nineteenth century is the discovery of electricity which has almost changed the face of the earth. Kenya has significant natural power potential. Kenya utilizes various primary sources of energy to generate electricity ranging from hydro, wind, and Geothermal. Currently, Geothermal is the baseload in electricity production. The geothermal potential is currently estimated at 10,000MW and Kenya is one of the leading countries globally with such geothermal resources. The Country (through KenGen) has already injected substantial investment in developing geothermal guided by Vision 2030 and currently has an installed capacity of 860 MWe. Kenya Electricity Generating Company Limited (KenGen) is the leading power generating company in Kenya producing close to 80% of the country's geothermal power equivalent to about 30% of the national capacity of about 2350MW from all sources.

DeKUT's Contribution

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) is a public university mandated by the Kenyan government to develop the human resource and contribution to the knowledge base and innovation systems required for the technological development of the country. All this is in line with the national development blueprint Vision 2030 and beyond which aims at making Kenya a middle-income globally competitive industrializing country with high-quality life for its citizens by the year 2030. DeKUT, in the last 7 years, has developed and run a specialized course in Geothermal Energy, at Masters Level whose objective is to progressively enhance public awareness on the rich energy resource that exists in Kenya and the East African region. DeKUT is developing its research capability by collaborating with Kenya Electricity Generating Company Limited (KenGen), the leading power producer in the country generating more than 80 percent of the power consumed in Kenya. The university is already becoming recognized in the geothermal energy field as it has received funds for training and research from AfDB as well as from USAID's Power Africa program.

Almost all of the geothermal resources being exploited in Kenya are located within the East African Rift Valley (EARV). At present, whereas geothermal energy is developed at an industrial scale in the country, for feeding, the electrical grid, small-sized applications are nearly unknown, although more accessible for local initiatives. Much of the EARV is semi-arid and is occupied by pastoralist communities who have over hundreds of years lived in these lowlands, and adapted to their arid climatic conditions, including using artisanal means to get geothermal energy to respond to their traditional socio-economic needs such as water condensation, washing, and cooking. Taking this into account, the direct involvement of these indigenous people should not only be regarded as an obligation required by international laws, but also as a condition for real sustainable development.

To try and address the irony of communities living in the Kenyan Rift Valley having a renewable energy resource

below their feet and yet not benefiting from it, a team from DeKUT and KenGen came together and applied to the USAID Power Africa program and was funded to research this between 2014 and 2017. This GeoPower Africa project outcome in terms of development impacts was aimed at benefiting these poor pastoral communities within the EARV. The research findings indicated that many rural communities studied, lacked access to power and water resources, either to due low levels of economic development and incomes of less than 1$/ day or the power is simply not there. They travel long distances to look for water. Lack of electricity for heating and lighting promotes cutting down of trees, resulting in environmental degradation. Lack of power inhibits social-economic activities which would generate income for quality of life improvement. A combination of power and water access provided through applications of geothermal fluids on each site will solve this issue.

Despite all these distinct advantages of geothermal development and the fact that geothermal utilization can be tailored to improve the lives of the nomadic communities in Kenya's Rift Valley, vast resources remain unexploited. Ironically, there are reported cases of community reluctance, or even hostility, in some places regarding geothermal initiatives by geothermal companies, preferring instead to maintain the status quo and their traditional lifestyle. The question that arises from this is, could this be attributed to the role played by thermal manifestations in the culture, religious and spiritual beliefs of local communities? Or is it caused by rumors or underlying, unfounded fears among the local population – such as that geothermal wells cause impotence among men? Or the notion that 'the government will take away the locals' land? Could this be a pointer to a need for enhanced strategic communication with the local community?

This begs the need for a well-thought-out strategic communication with the local community, based on a solid understanding of the community's needs and expectations, engaging them before geothermal initiatives are started and making them key players in the development and exploitation stages. Experience has shown that engaging stakeholders early is critical to ensure broad support of projects among communities living in areas where geothermal resources are being developed. This initiative requires a deep understanding of their traditions and expectations. They need to educate on advantages and opportunities created by the use of geothermal resources, keeping in mind issues and conditions that are sensitive and pertinent to gender. The aim should be that resisters become supporters and thus agents of social change.

The use of local geothermal resources will have the greatest impact on women and girls as they are the most affected by lack of access to water and power sources. This group spends many hours traveling looking for water and firewood. They are traditionally in charge of water and energy issues.

The GeoPower Africa project proposed activities that will enhance the developmental impact through conceiving and piloting an appropriate set of technologies that would adjust to needs and practices, resulting in enhanced quality of life for the target population. To start with, the project will be engaged using a not-for-profit model on a representative site within the rift. The communities we focused on have a very low revenue base that just meets their most basic needs with no possibility of engaging in any project on a commercial basis. Through a socio-technologic arrangement, their incomes can be supplemented. The resulting economic activities will demonstrate that appropriate technologies can allow for small size geothermal development schemes adapted to the African context and hence demonstrate that workable models can leverage additional investments from the private sector or donor organizations, such as USAID.

Recommendations

Examples of uses of geothermal energy at the local level exist in remote areas around the world. A few cases exist in Africa. But, there is a lack of shared knowledge of these applications. Most of this information is site-specific, but the experience accumulated can be shared within Eastern Africa. Development of these geothermal sites for small-sized, local geothermal projects will improve the standard of living for the rural poor; bring equity among the citizens, including conserving the environment.

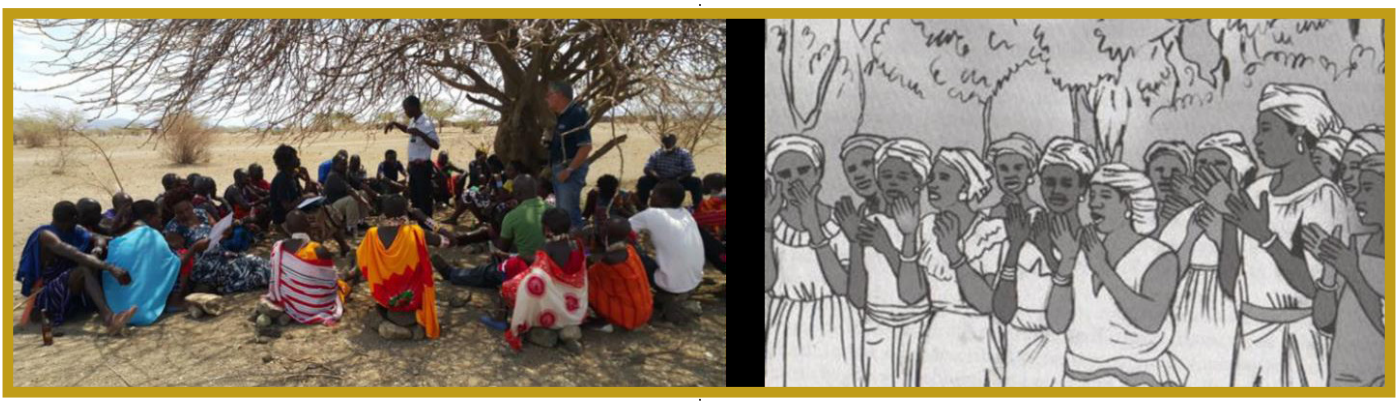
Local communities often have no access to distributed water or energy

An Economic and Social Issue: Women and young girls

unduly disadvantaged

A good number of sites with high temperatures and good fluid rates are traditionally harnessed by the local population to condense the steam and tap water for their domestic use

Involving women and girls most concerned with energy and water issues at the community level



MY LIFE JOURNEY



They say life is a journey, complete with curves and bends. Mine has not been exceptional either. I was admitted at DeKUT a month later after my colleagues had joined and I was in a bend. It had been five months after my arm was amputated and I was still finding the balance and acceptance to my predicament. I was hopeful and scared; that hopefully I would relish my fantasy on university life but scared of how I would cope. I had vowed to have the least social life to minimize explanations of the ordeal that had befallen me. However, God is transcendent and He had other plans.

With counseling and support from the Directorate of Students Welfare, I began the journey towards healing. I got trained as a peer counselor months later and I could better the grief process and how best to assist others. While In my second year, I was picked to represent Kenya in the United States of America for a six weeks leadership fellowship (SUSI). It was an eye-opener experience to the plights of others but first I had to break out of my shell. A shell of pity and shame. I learned how to harness my voice and be a champion for others.

To test my resilience, I immersed myself into student leadership and was elected as the Gender and Disability secretary, a position I fully leveraged in supporting and creating awareness on disability in and out of DeKUT, my experience notwithstanding. Over the years I have been in the university, inclusivity has evolved. Through policies and practices that have ensured students with disabilities can easily access infrastructure and are comfortable.

In the precincts of the university, I have come across incredible people. Interestingly, I have made many friends and associates. I have laughed and cried with strangers. I have found opportunities that have pushed me to grow and develop. Remarkably, earned awards and accolades including; all-round student of the year award. Not only am I graduating with a Bachelor's in Commerce Finance but also a better version of myself. When I flashback three years ago, to that girl who walked and sat by herself, smiled yet broken from inside, envious of the joy her colleagues had, with eyes hollow and cried every night behind Batian hostels, I tear up. If only she had known time is the healer! If she had known that one day I would smile through her pain and be a motivation to others.

As I craft another life from the university, I recognize the fear of the unknown but I am confident and ready to spread my wings and fly because life is a journey also filled with unexpected miracles and a masterpiece to be sculpted.

BY; Norah Mwiti

TODAY'S SECURITY MANAGER

A question often asked is, "In today's world, what are the qualities of an effective security manager/ practitioner?" Traditionally security practitioners were considered to belong at the periphery of the overall organizational structure. As a result, their role was that of protecting the organization's assets from external threats and was regarded as being supportive of the core operations of the organization. This being the case they subsequently had very little input in the overall management functions in an organization in terms of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting, and budgeting.

Naturally therefore not much in terms of knowledge and skills-set was expected of a security supervisor and his team. To fit this role, all an individual had to do was demonstrate physical strength to counter intruders, develop and coordinate a shift schedule, follow instructions and stay out of the way of the organization's core operations.

In contemporary society, threats to personal security have taken on a new more sophisticated form. We are now faced with the threat of terrorism, organized and transnational crime, fraud, cybercrime, and biological agents. This has a direct implication on the overall threat and risk environment for the contemporary enterprise organization with the security practitioner remaining in the frontline of mitigating these risks. Mitigation of these threats and the emergent risks is not tenable with the traditional peripheral role of security. Consequently, security has to be drawn into the core of the organization where it plays a larger management role in the organization. In this environment, security has to become a Comprehensive Integrated Function of the enterprise organization. This new role places extra demand for advanced knowledge and improved skills-set on the part of the security practitioner.

Therefore, in answer to the question posed at the beginning of this article, in his new role, the security practitioner has to manage this integrated function and be able to define security goals and responsibilities and create an integral organization to carry them out. It then becomes the ongoing task of security management to identify potential areas of loss, and security threats to assets (i.e. people, information & property) and to develop and install appropriate countermeasures.

He needs to be able to sit in the boardroom with other executives and articulate the security risks that the organization is exposed to, draw up security mitigation plans and procedures, and implement appropriate cost-effective measures. In addition to the standard qualities of a good security officer (i.e. vigilance, honesty, physical fitness, communication skills, and versatility) a good security manager should be able to; have a vision and communicate it, be autonomous and responsible, assume command, show managerial courage, inspire others and be intellectually adept to keep up with research trends in his field. This is the kind of individual who the programs at the Institute of Criminology Forensics and Security Studies (ICFoSS) endeavors to nurture.

ICFoSS COLLABORATES WITH S. KOREA VARSITY TO OFFER CSM TRAINING

A two-week practical course on Crime Scene Management (CSM) was offered at ICFoSS, Nairobi Campus by officers from the Korea National Police University (KNPU).

The course, which ran from October 22 to November 1, 2019, inculcated in the trainees' practical skills in fingerprint techniques, crime scene and field photography, blood spatter analysis, and footprint impression



Trainees identify latent evidence in mock crime scenes



Message from the Director:

"To penetrate and dissipate this cloud of darkness the general mind must be strengthened by education"- Thomas Jefferson

Welcome to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology-Nairobi Campus. We are a fully accredited Campus located in the uptown market of Nairobi City. We are stationed in Pension Towers, on the 2nd, 9th, and 13th floor, along Loita Street. As you are aware the campus has established itself as a leading Campus offering technology-based quality education, supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team in an ambient learning facility. In line with the university motto, Better Life Through Technology, the Campus aims to provide industry-oriented education. Currently, we are offering a wide range of courses in the fields of security management, geothermal & geospatial engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical & industrial engineering. Over the past year, the campus has experienced tremendous growth.

The Campus continues to launch and offer more cross-disciplinary programs offering cutting-edge skills and knowledge to our students. For example, just recently, the Commission of University Education accredited the Doctor of Philosophy in Geo-Information Systems, one of its kind in the country. Other programs launched in the last one year are Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Further, the campus experienced exponential growth in the anchor programs, i.e. The Institute of Criminology, Forensics, and Security Studies (ICFoSS). The ICFoSS saw an increase in intake by over 40% in all programs, the Diploma, Bachelors, and Masters Level. This upward trajectory indicates our dominance in the market and a show of pliability. Besides, the Institute hosted the Korean National Police Agency Experts – Sung Oh and Dong Kim, who offered two weeks short courses on Blood Spatter Analysis and Crime Scene Investigation. The Institute also launched and integrated the Kukkiwon Training in our Bachelor's degree curriculum. This integration is one of its kind in Kenya and Africa at large. It is important to note that the ICFoSS extended its MoU with the Korean National Police Agency for another four years. Also, the ICFoSS staff was nominated by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) to help implement the Global Integrity Education Project in Kenya, as the lead university.

As we enter the new decade, we look to enrich our graduates' experience by enhancing their learning and educational opportunities. We also seek to continue courting more partnerships for our students and sing Memorandum of Understanding with new institutions around the globe. The future is bright with interminable possibilities for the Campus.

NAIROBI CAMPUS

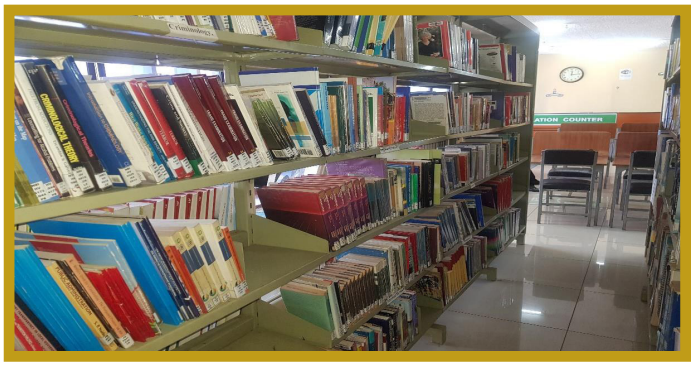
DeKUT -Nairobi Campus is a fully accredited campus located at the heart of Nairobi City. We are based along Loita Street, Pension Towers -on the 2nd, 9th, and the 13th floor. The campus prides itself as a leading institution offering quality learning through dedicated staff and sufficient learning facilities.

Through various programs running within the campus, we can provide robust learning opportunities in different professional industries. Learning at DeKUT Nairobi campus guarantees to set one apart on a path for academic and professional success.

Henry Ward Beecher said," A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." It is for this reason that we have a modern-day library to cater to our student's needs. The library is subscribed to over 200,000 e-books from various databases and a collection of approximately 3,000 volumes of physical books. Furthermore, the library has access to approximately 20,000 e-journals in various subject areas. Finding articles and searching for information is one part of learning about the world of learning and part of the experience of joining the university.,

The Campus Library

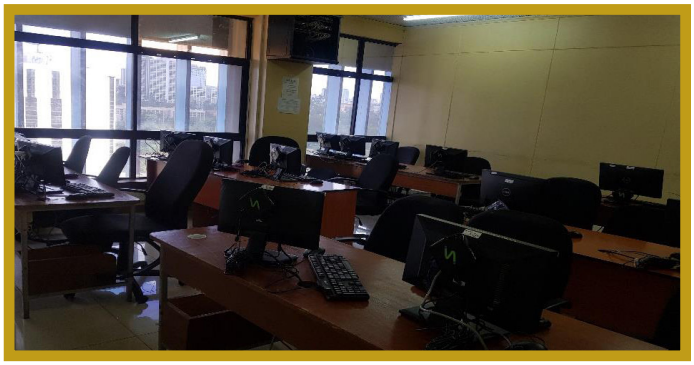
DeKUT Nairobi Campus also has two well-equipped computer labs with state-of-the-art PCs, spacious lecture halls, a post-graduate computer lab, postgraduate lecture



halls, a students' common room for recreation, program coordinators offices, a spacious staffroom among other facilities. All programs challenge high academic achievers and help students of all academic abilities achieve their full potential.

One of the computer labs in the Campus

They enjoy access to high-quality programs and the latest learning technologies and also benefit from the



expertise of instructors who are specialists in their fields. This is achieved from MOUs we have with different institutions. These collaborations allow for the training of our students with different skills. Case in point, we recently carried out a training session with technicians form a Korean police agency who trained students in crime scene investigation. The training was mostly on finger-prints, photography and blood analysis techniques

Students training on Crime Scene Investigation

Additionally, we provide our students with extracurricular activities that are not only essential for



learning but, also vital for our health and development. These activities, aid in promoting team spirit as well as mental well-being. This is achieved through sports, health talks as well as providing a counselor where students talk to trained personnel in private.

Nairobi Campus student's Annual sports day

The campus delight in providing the best service not only by the academic staff but also support staff that goes above and beyond to cater to the needs of the students. Open door policy within the campus is emphasized among all staff more so by the director herself.

Members of staff participating in a customer service week.

"The purpose of primary education is the development of your weak characteristics: the purpose of university education, the development of your strength"-Discover your strength at DeKUT











DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING INITIATIVES

WHAT IS DISABILITY?

The Persons with Disabilities ACT, 2003 defines disability as a physical, sensory, mental, or other impairment including any visual, hearing, learning, or physical incapability which impacts adversely on the social, economic or environmental participation of a person. Disability is a term that refers to the interaction between impairment and barriers within the society that create/reinforce a 'disabling' environment. To understand what disability is, it is important to also define impairment? Impairment is any loss of normal physical or mental abilities. Impairments are usually the result of disease, illness, or injury. Impairments occur at the level of tissue, or organs. For example, impairment from a back injury might cause a disc to rupture or ligament to tear. Disabilities can be physical, Mental, Blind, Deaf, Dumb, Albinism, Cerebral palsy, Autism, Deaf-Blind, Deaf Dumb, Epilepsy, etc.

CAUSES OF DISABILITY

Disability can occur due to: conditions can be,

i) Inborn (congenital) issues. A person can be born with it or can acquire it due to hereditary/genetic issues, suffered an injury at birth. For example, Birth asphyxia or acute brain injury at birth can cause a baby to have permanent brain damage that may result in long-term conditions such as cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, developmental delays, and learning disabilities.

ii) Acquired. This could be due to road traffic accidents, workplace incidents, an infection/disease, as a side effect of a medical condition such as a stroke, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, etc.

iii) Undetermined

DISABILITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA

A survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) released in April 2018 indicated that nationally, the proportion of persons with disability in Kenya was 2.8 percent with rural areas having a higher proportion of 3.3 percent compared to two percent for urban areas.1% of Kenyans have a visual disability, hearing (0.5 %) & physical (1%). Mental disability is more prevalent in rural (0.5 %) than urban areas (0.3 %) (KNBS, 2018)

At the national level, slightly over half (54.7 percent) of persons living with disabilities (PwDs) have difficulties in engaging in economic activity with a higher proportion living in rural areas compared to urban areas (KNBS,2018). Statistics indicate that many of the PwDs in Less Developed Countries, Kenya included, live in abject poverty. There is a need for inclusiveness as an intervention strategy necessary for providing a supportive environment for their participation in development.

It is important as a community to bear in mind that PwDs are our children, brothers, sisters, parents, neighbors in the community, friends, colleagues, and members of the public who should enjoy all fundamental freedoms and their right to participate based on equality in development. It is with this in mind that the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has since its inception progressively put in place disability mainstreaming initiatives to support government machinery that addresses disability inclusivity programs in Kenya.

DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING AND THE LAW

Mainstreaming is a strategy that entails making PwD's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies & programs to realize an all-inclusive environment for them. The Persons with Disability Act enacted in 2003 promotes equality for persons with disabilities and explicitly prohibits their discrimination in accessing services, admission to learning institutions, and employment. Disability issues are also embedded in the Constitution of Kenya (GoK, 2010) which is the supreme law of the Land.

Article 10-national values and principles of governance require all institutions and persons to address themselves to human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination, and protection of the marginalized who include PWDs. The Bill of Rights applies to all and binds all state organs and all persons. All state organs (DeKUT included) and all public officers must address the needs of the vulnerable groups within society and PwDs are an integral component of these vulnerable groups. Article 27 of the Constitution calls for equality and freedom

from discrimination. Every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit from the law. The University is governed by the Universities ACT (2012) and has to observe one of the stated objectives of University Education (3); the promotion for equalization for PwDS, minorities, and other marginalized groups.

MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY AT DeKUT

Since its inception, DeKUT's University Management has progressively built policy and administrative structures that embody initiatives essential for supporting disability mainstreaming in all its programs. These include:

i) The University Charter: According to Section 7 (2) of the Charter made and approved by Council on 28th Oct 2013, the University states that it shall not discriminate against any person in regards to admission to the University or appointment & promotion of staff on basis of physical ability or gender.

ii) Disability Mainstreaming Policy: The University approved its Disability Mainstreaming Policy in 2010 and also appointed a Disability Mainstreaming Committee whose main objective was to propel the University's agenda on disability issues; has reviewed it to align it to the new dispensation enshrined in the charter.

iii) The University Statute XIX (1st published 2012 and revised in 2018) which established the Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs Directorate. The Directorate handles gender, disability, and diverse group interests; Ensures equal access to services for PwDs; and Ensures infrastructure in the University are disability-friendly

iv) Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC); The committee is appointed yearly with its main purpose being to drive disability mainstreaming initiatives as outlined in the Statutes as well as in the Government's Performance Contracting Guidelines.

v) DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING INITIATIVES AND SUCCESS FACTORS AT DeKUT

For any organism to thrive, the provision of an enabling environment is a critical factor. Each of us will appreciate that exploiting our potential and being able to gainfully participate in development programs has been facilitated by a resource given to us that is called an "enabling environment'. PwDs requires an enabling environment to thrive which DeKUT has made steady and tremendous progress to provide. Besides the policy and administrative structures, the University has put in place a series of other mechanisms to mainstream disability some of which include the following amongst others:

i) Disability Sensitization workshops: Through the support of the Vice-Chancellor, the Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC) runs periodic disability sensitization workshops in the University. The workshops initially were annual events and have graduated to become forums where the Committee with the support of Deans /Directors carries out short awareness campaigns in various classes. These initiatives have helped to demystify disability issues amongst the DeKUT fraternity. Of key importance is the endeavor to crash the cultural barriers of stigma regarding disability conversations that lingers in many Kenyan communities. From a community where disability issues were shrouded in small quite undertones, the workshops have provided platforms where staff and students now freely engage in matters on disability.

ii) Disability Awareness weeks: With the support of the management, the DMC schedules an awareness week at least once in the University's calendar of events. Guided by carefully selected themes, the Committee has made substantial progress in using this initiative to demystify disability within the University fraternity. The latest was an awareness week that was held from 18th -20th September 2019 that was graced by the Nominated Parliamentary Senator representing PwDs; Hon. Dr. Isaac Mwaura. Hon. Mwaura gave his captivating life history on his achievements albeit having grown up with albinism and the challenges associated with it, not forgetting the ones his mother had to endure in raising him as a special child in a society where



stigma rules regarding PwDs. Hon. Mwaura's success story epitomizes the gains reaped from resilience and a

resolved spirit to rise above societal stereotypes.

This is a procession of students and PwDs from the Northern end of the University to outside Resource center I on 30th May 2017. The University management the Directorate of Students Welfare mobilized students to participate in the awareness walk. A banner whose slogan was "I am abled differently" was also mounted for 1 week at the University's entry points

iii) E-Platform: The University runs an e-platform on its website where materials on disability are uploaded. The platform was opened on 16th May 2018 by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P.N. Kioni. These materials can be accessed at https://www.dkut.ac.ke/index.php/information-materials-on-persons-living-with-disabilities. The website has also been enhanced through the provision of a screen reader to enhance access by the visually impaired to website information.

iv) Provision of Tuk-Tuk transport services to Students and Staff. Launched on Wednesday, October 24th, 2018, the Tuk–Tuk provides a unique and affirmative approach to supporting Students /Staff who arePwDsnavigate around the University.

v) Provision of ramps: The ramps provide access to buildings in the University. More recently, the University has included lifts in the upcoming buildings in the University, starting with the library. Once complete, the lift will also provide access to the Vice Chancellor's Office that was initially inaccessible to the physically challenged persons

vi) Niko POA Club: The DMC has also put in place a social networking forum for the students who are PwDs. The NiKO POA club provides a platform for the students to share experiences and encouragement. Launched in 2017, the club has two patrons and a draft Constitution and a what sup platform for networking. The club now meets every Wednesday. The DMC encourages all students who are PwDs to join the club and be part of this great team.

vii) Access to library resources:

The University has adopted ROBOBRAILLE SOFTWARE that is used to convert written words to audio to assist the visually impaired students who visit the library. RoboBraille is a software that automatically transforms documents into a variety of alternate formats for the visually and reading impaired.

- Implementation at DeKUT

The University library is currently using the software to convert all the Theses and dissertations into audio files as an alternative format for library users. At the moment nearly all the theses and dissertations in our University Institutional repository have been converted into audio format.

- How does it work?

a) Word Document: In the availability of a word document, one has to upload the document into the software and convert it into audio.

b) Scanned Documents: In cases where one has to convert a printed book or a manuscript, one has to scan the document into Pdf format then upload it into the software for conversion. The software cannot convert images.

- Robobraille Audio services

The software can convert and translate documents into various language, the audio conversion features include high-quality voices for Arabic, Arabic/English bilingual, Bulgarian, British and American English, Czech, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese), Danish, Dutch, German, Greenlandic, French, Finnish, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish (Castilian and Latin American), Swedish and Welsh.

- E-book services

Other than the word to audio conversion, the software can also be used to convert documents into both EPUB and Mobi Pocket e-book formats. Furthermore, EPUB may be converted into Mobi Pocket and vice versa.

- Robobraille Services

The software is also able to convert print words into Braille format. The University is making arrangements to purchase a Braille printer to offer this service.

viii) Provision of internal accommodation to Students who are PwDs: The University provides



internal accommodation to all students who are PwDs on a priority basis. The University has also designated bathroom facilities across the University for PwDs.

ix) Academic Programmes: More recently, the University has invested in a Biomedical Engineering program that will serve a vehicle for addressing problems at the interface of engineering and modern biology and or clinical medicine. This is expected to provide solutions

to some challenges currently encountered by PwDs.
In conclusion, the DMC urges each one of us to be an ambassador for PwDs and help say No to the stigma encountered by PWDS.

"A society's civilization is measured by how it treats its weakest members" or "The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest member". These are statements attributed to Mahatma Gandhi.

Society is evolving and it's paramount that we all evolve with it, more so because we are privileged to be part of the technological revolution here at the University. We have to use it to solve the long-standing puzzles that have lingered in society, one being, how do we create a just and fair society for inclusivity for PwDs? We have to acknowledge persons with disabilities as rights holders and hence begin to address the numerous barriers that they face and not create stigma; here you find some people not wanting to identify themselves as PwDs while others are hidden by their caregivers.

We must move away from treating PwDs as objects of charity and pity and acknowledge that, like everyone else, they have a wealth of contributions and knowledge to make to our society for it to be richer and better. We must be willing to acknowledge PwDs is part of human diversity and humanity. We must become champions in our villages and counties for this information, that inclusivity for PwDs in all programs not just in the University but in the Nation will catapult us to greater trajectories of development. This should not include creating streets for PwDs to beg.

I pose the question again as Mahatma Gadhi put it; Are we on the road to civilization? Are you part of the solution to making Kenya great? Do not wait for a great opportunity in your life. Get an opportunity and make it great! Our appreciation as the University DMC goes to our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P.N Kioni, and the entire University management for being at the forefront for driving the University's disability mainstreaming agenda. Our congratulations to our graduands who are PwD but have remained undeterred in their fight right to the graduation booklet! HeKo!

DR ROSEMARY K. KAGONDU
CHAIRPERSON, DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING COMMITTEE / DEPUTY REGISTRAR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH











MENTAL HEALTH AS CURRENT GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing isn't a walk in the park. A vigorous and content-bound program. I have found passion in nursing as a professional career. It is more than providing a cure, more than prescribing. It involves emotional care, making hard decisions, giving a shoulder, and giving hope for a better tomorrow.

In my second year, I realized my interest in mental health nursing. I am a beneficiary of DeKUT Peer Counselors Training 2018. This was a kick start in my professional course. For the first time, I held a one-week medical camp at the University, with an annual repeat.

As a student nurse, I have acquired expertise in content and academic writing, which has turned out to be my primary source of upkeep. Being the co-founder of Kenya Student & Novice Nurses Chapter in 2018 was a national achievement. DeKUT offers student-oriented programs, giving exposure to real-life gaps that are present for taking.

I have barely 2 months left in the University, with more than hope for my life out of campus. I am a founder of Mental Wellness Hub Africa, based in Nyeri. The hub offers a safe space for youths to share and learn from personal stories. I was also appointed to serve as a committee member for the KijanaJasiri Foundation that also focuses on Mental Health advocacy.
The skills I have acquired provided a chance to partner with several organizations including St. Lawrence, Marie Stopes, and Family Health Options Kenya and being a champion of the 2020 YEAR OF NURSES.

Mental health is a current global challenge. Is it manageable? I believe yes.

Much gratitude to the DeKUT Nursing Department.

BY. KAGIRI AMOS M.

DeKUT CATERING DEPARTMENT

ONE CANNOT THINK WELL, LOVE WELL, AND SLEEP WELL IF ONE HAS NOT DINED WELL. Virginia Woolf...

The university catering department located on the main campus provides services to the university community. Driven by its mission statement that is to provide an academically stimulating and quality learning environment by offering quality accessible, affordable, and sustainable catering services for a healthy nation, the dedicated staff members strive not only to achieve this mission but also to live by it.

The department has two major sections that provide catering services to the diverse university community; the maankuli center and the chancellor's court restaurant.

MAANKULI CENTRE.

The Maankuli center is an ultra-modern facility both by design and operations that provide services to the student fraternity. Its unique design promises them and their visitors a dining experience that is inviting and fulfilling. With a spacious layout and a large seating capacity, the facility permits them to enjoy their meals in a relaxing atmosphere and still socialize with their peers.





The beauty of this facility is the open view kitchen layout that enhances interactions between the students and the staff without any physical barrier. The students also have a glimpse of how their meals are prepared, cooked, and served.

The food prices at the center are subsidized whereby the Pay as You Eat system is used, thus ensuring that students from all walks of life in the university can access affordable meals. This makes their learning process throughout their campus life smooth and comfortable.

In liaison with the directorate of student welfare and the



finance department, DeKUT catering has introduced a pre-paid meal plan system whereby the students can pay in advance for their meals which further assures them of an easy life within the campus.

To enable our students to have ample time for their meals and attend to their academic and co-curricular activities promptly, the facility opens its doors from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm daily including weekends and public holidays.

CHANCELLORS COURT RESTAURANT

To cater for the diverse community and cultures that DeKUT delights in, the chancellor's court restaurant is the place to be.
The restaurant offers quality and affordable meals from



7.00 am to 8.00 pm on weekdays. This enables the university staff and visitors who are early birds and those who work late have their meals on time.
In line with one of the university mission of fostering cultural diversity, traditional Kenyan foods are offered



during dinner times. This allows our clientele to appreciate cuisines from different ethnic communities in Kenya thus fostering national cohesion and unity.

FOOD QUALITY, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

The quality, health, and safety of the food we provide to our customers are something we hold dearly and take pride in realizing this mission.

To ensure this, our perishable ingredients such as cabbages, kales, onions, tomatoes among others, cereals, beef, dairy, and dairy products, are sourced from the university farm. Our external suppliers who supply us with other ingredients undergo thorough and rigorous vetting processes to safeguard the health and safety of food at the source. This gives us an assurance of ingredient that is free from any chemical, biological or physical contamination, which would otherwise jeopardize the quality, health, and safety of food served to our customers.

Furthermore, our team of dedicated staff is trained, among other areas in matters of food health, safety, and hygiene. They also undergo a medical examination in compliance with the food drugs and chemical substance act regulations of Kenya, after which they are issued with a food handler's certificate allowing them to handle and serve food to the public.

THE YEAR 2019 AND BEFORE…...

During the past years, DeKUT catering has been part and parcel of meetings, training, festivals, and celebrations held in and/or by the university. Some of the functions include,
Centenary celebrations of Nelson Mandela and Mama Sisulu and the unveiling of the bust of Nelson Mandela and Dedan Kimathi,

a. 5th DeKUT STI & E conference,
b. 8th graduation ceremony
c.
d. Training of officials for the 2019 Kenya national population census,
e. The county government of Nyeri coffee stakeholders training,
f. The county government of Laikipia officials training,
g. SUPKEM national meeting
h. Kenya national music festivals where we served over 120,000 visitors participating in the festivals.

DeKUT catering department wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2019. It was great to have been your meal provider throughout your campus life at DeKUT!



Esther Macharia/
senior cateress

CONGRATULATIONS, the sky is not the limit; there are footprints on the moon……

DEDAN KIMATHI WEEK ACTIVITIES

During the Dedan Kimathi Week, which is held to commemorate the life of the freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi, who was executed on February 18th, 1957, the Directorate of Students' Welfare (DSW) in conjunction with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Students Organization (DeKUTSO) organizes several charity activities that are aimed at engaging as many students as possible. The main objective of these activities is to educate students on the importance of selflessness and to encourage them to be philanthropic towards the less fortunate in society.

For the year 2020, Directorate of Students' Welfare organized various activities that were conducted by the Counseling Department, the Outdoor Office, the Gender and Disability Office, and the DeKUTSO council. The following events took place:-

1. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Talk.

Drug abuse is a major public health and socioeconomic problem worldwide. It has led to reduced productivity of those involved in it. University students are among those affected. While substance abuse has led to several students dropping out of the University, some students have been identified, rehabilitated and reintegrated as a result of knowledge gained during sensitization talks. Given this, the Counseling Department deliberately selected the topic ADA for discussion. The events took place on the 17th February 2020; the teambuilding at the DeKUT Challenge Course and the ADA talk in Room 8, School of Business. The merging of the teambuilding and ADA Talk was intentional to attract a large number of students.

The teambuilding building exercise was conducted from 4:45 pm and was facilitated by DeKUT Outdoor Instructor. This was followed by the ADA talk on different types of drugs and their effects which were facilitated by staff from NACADA, Central office. Students were allowed to ask questions and make comments on issues related to drugs. Members of staff from the Directorate of Students' Welfare including the Director and Deputy Director were present. Finally, a 'coffee hour' session: during which coffee and snack were served as the students interacted with one another marked the end of the event.

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Photographs from the ADA talk coffee hour





2. A visit to Karia to Rehabilitation and Health Centre

The above activity took place on 21st February 2020 as one of the Corporate Social Responsibility activities organized by the Counseling Department to mark the Dedan Kimathi week. The visit aimed to expose students to the reality of life. The team from DeKUT comprised five members of staff; three from the DSW (Counseling Department), two from the Public Relations Office, and forty-five students. The majority of students were peer counselors and ADA Peer educators. They were accompanied by other students who expressed interest in the visit.

After a warm reception, the DeKUT team had an interactive session with the staff and clients at the rehabilitation center. The clients shared their experiences and cautioned students against drug-taking emphasizing that 'Alcohol and Drugs have no respect for one's socioeconomic status. The team from DeKUT

applauded the clients for the decision they had made to seek treatment and encouraged them to maintain sobriety. The DeKUT team presented gifts of branded exercise books, pens, yogurt, and fruit to the clients. A photo- session marked the end of the visit.





3. Talk on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The above-referenced event took place on 20th February 2020 in the Auditorium at the Academic block. It was organized by the Director, Gender and Disability, Dr. Nthiga, and DeKUTSO. The theme of the talk was 'Stop Sexual and Gender-Based Violence'. It was facilitated by 2 facilitators from the Gender Violence Recovery Center (GVRC) at Nairobi Hospital; Mr. John Chege and Ms. Angela Gwaro and Professor Khamasi, Registrar A. A & R. Forty-five students were in attendance.

The terms used in gender violence were defined, statistics availed and emphasis on the importance of recognition and reporting of sexual and gender-based violence in and outside the University was discussed. Participants were later presented with T-shirts and bangles by the team. The students had refreshments at the end of the talk.

Below are photographs taken during the event;-

Facilitator - Mr. John Chege (GVRC Nairobi Hospital)

4. A visit to Little Angel Children's Home





This visit was a corporate Social responsibility event aimed at giving students firsthand experience of a disadvantaged child's life. It took place at the Little Angel Children's home in Kamakwa, on 28th February 2020. The event was organized by the DeKUTSO council and had initially been intended to take place during Kimathi Week but due to unavoidable circumstances, it had to be postponed. Sixty-one participants including a member of staff, four student leaders visited the home.

Participants interacted with children and staff from the home and later donated twenty mattresses and eight boxes of biscuits which were received joyfully by the children and the administrators.

Photos during the visit;

Students and Student leaders (from right Purity Mwende, KihongeKagiri, Cecilia Maina, and John Theuri).

5. DeKUT visit to Nyeri Maximum Prison.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology has been at the forefront to provide milestone skills and knowledge in key areas of life. On 28th February 2020, the Counseling

Department organized a visit to Nyeri Maximum prison





as a corporate social responsibility activity. The main aim of this activity was to instill knowledge to all who attended (both students and staff), on life in prison and have an interactive experience with prisoners on long term, life and death sentences.

DeKUT team was guided on a prison tour led by the prison officers with deeper explanations on the main objectives of the prison and imprisonment, which are.

Rehabilitation

Reintegration

Re-uniting the individual with society

Despite prisoners' limited freedom they engage in several productive activities which include learning basic skills for day to day living for example tailoring, carpentry, and welding. Others serve as paralegals and engage in groups like presidential award Kenya and Crime siPoa to educate citizens on the importance of freedom and avoiding unlawful behavior. DeKUT team interacted with the two groups who shared their experience on how they ended up in jail. Donations to the inmates from the university management, staff, and students were handed over to the officers. Emphasis was freedom is a key milestone that each one of us should protect, engaging in lawful productive activities, and managing anger.

This is an annual event organized during Kimathi Week Celebrations.

Photos during the visit;







DeKUT ENTERPRISES COMPANY

By Dr. Paul Sang, MD DeKUTES

DeKUT Enterprises Company is company fully owned by Dedan Kimathi University of Technology incorporated in December 2017. It is the commercial arm of the University responsible for promotion and coordination of the income generating activities. Establishment of the Company was informed by the need to supplement the University resources by adopting an entrepreneurial approach in utilization of resources. Coupled with innovation the objective was to augment funding to cater for core areas of teaching and research.

DeKUTES PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

a. DeKUT Yoghurt

Our Yoghurt is produced with all natural ingredients and from fresh milk. This is done through the Institute of Food Bioresources Technology (IFBT). The yoghurt is therefore a product of serious research work that ensures that all ingredients are not only safe for human consumption but are free from artificial preservatives that may have long term negative effects on the user. We work hard to contribute to healthier individuals, families and communities and are committed to provide you with yoghurt produced with 100% natural ingredients. The food we choose to nourish ourselves and our family becomes an extension of each of us and our value. Our diverse and unique flavours of yoghurt include coffee yoghurt, chia enriched yoghurt, vanilla flavoured and strawberry flavoured yoghurt as well as natural yoghurt.



b. DeKUT Premium Coffee

Again through IFBT we process our coffee produced from 100% Arabica beans grown at the Dedan Kimathi University Farm into a cup a cup of high quality coffee. The Coffee is processed from a blend of the three premium grades namely AA, AB & PB by coffee experts to ensure excellent quality and that uniqueness of the coffee is maintained. Our medium roasted coffee is prepared for those who prefer black coffee while the dark roasted coffee is for the white coffee lovers. The roasted coffee is medium ground to ensure that flavor extraction is optimized in various brewing methods.



c. DeKUT Hand wash

We work with Chemistry Department to produce a number of products including hand wash, detergent and sanitizers. DeKUT Hand Wash cleans and moisturizes your hands. It is skin friendly and has



deep cleansing and disinfectant effect since it is enriched with natural additives such as aloe vera extract and recommended perfume for hand wash. It is cost effective as lesser quantities are used efficiently.

d. Multi-Purpose Detergent

Our detergent has been developed to effectively wash away dirt and germs; it is standardized hence does not bleach surfaces; its economical and affordable while being gentle on your hands making life beautiful



CORONA VIRUS RESPONSE

The world is currently faced with a major war spearheaded by a tiny microorganism called Covid-19. Dedan Kimathi University of Technology decided to be in the forefront in supporting the Government of Kenya to combat this pandemic. As a result DeKUTES was tasked with working with various departments to provide products at affordable rates to the common Mwananchi. DeKUTES worked with Chemistry Department to produce sanitizer on top of already existing soap and detergent products. It worked with the Institute of Technical and Professional Studies (ITPS) to produce masks and Hazmat PPE.

e. Hand Sanitizer

DeKUTES recently ventured into sanitizer production to respond to Covid-19 pandemic.



In order to achieve its vision of providing solutions to problems facing our society DeKUTES through the Department of Chemistry produced an affordable sanitizer that has since been approved by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS) and licensed by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. We have made the sanitizer the cheapest in the market so that it can be affordable to all Kenyans as our quest was not to provide a helping hand to a distressed population rather than make huge profits. Through these ventures DeKUTES purchased sewing machines worth close to 0.5 million Kenya Shillings that have provided a much needed facelift to the Fashion and Design workshop in ITPS.

f. Face Masks

It is worth noting that one way to prevent contracting corona virus is by wearing face masks. Through ITPS DeKUTES produces quality masks. The quality of our masks is unmatched as they were a product of concerted research through the University Research, Innovation and Community Linkages Directorate. The research was focused on establishing the best material that can prevent droplets from coming through yet at the same time allow good breathing. Through these researches we



settled on a three ply masks that performs at the same competence as that of surgical masks. We had to perform all these researches because there existed no standard for cloth masks with the country relying solely on imported surgical masks. Corona virus pandemic taught us that we can overcome reliance on imports and look in to our local industries to meet our needs. Our hope is that the lessons learnt through this pandemic will propel Kenya to an industrialized nation in the coming years with little to no reliance on imports.

g. Hazmat Suits

Like the face masks, our Hazmat suit was a product of intense research guided by the need for the final product to be resistant to microbe penetration as well as

resistance to fluids penetrating the material. It therefore offers the best solution to front liners that come in contact with potential Covid 19 positive persons. We have produced these in different colours including white, blue and gold.





Armed for battle with Covid 19

h. Consultancies and Training

Our Consultancy Unit engages the huge pool of professionals and specialized facilities at the University thereby creating an avenue for University staff to utilize their expertise, knowledge and skills. We are committed to deliver quality consultancy services and provision of innovative solutions based on knowledge and skills through constant engagement with private and public sectors as well as the wider industry both locally and internationally. Our key focus areas include computer science and information technology, engineering, applied sciences, food science and technology, health sciences, business management and economics, geothermal energy technology, geospatial information systems and remote sensing, tourism and hospitality and technical services.

In the 2019/2020 financial year DeKUTES in collaboration with the Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management trained close to 1,000 Nyeri County co-operative societies` management committee members, supervisory committee members and their secretary managers. The areas covered six broad areas namely, Governance, Financial Management, Managing Cooperatives as businesses, Procurement process management, Application of Technology in Cooperatives as well as Negotiation and Conflict Resolution processes. This consultancy was funded the County Government of Nyeri and lasted 15 days. This provided a chance to the University to disseminate knowledge to the local community and hence build capacity of the cooperatives and Saccos.



Participants following keenly during the Nyeri County Co-operative Societies and Saccos consultancy

i. Conferencing

DeKUT offers one of the most exclusive venues for corporate events in Nyeri County. We have well equipped conference facilities and venues ideal for boardroom meetings, training, seminars and conferences, team building and other outdoor activities. Our different venues can hold small and large groups of up to 1,000 persons

With a unique design, our venue can be tailored to any style or theme that you are hoping to convey. Our state-of-the-art technologies and modern design allow for amazing customized wall graphics or lighting. In the 2019/2020 FY we hosted several organizations for conferences including Kenya Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Treasury and Planning, Safaricom LTD, Leed Becket University (UK), Kenya Civil Aviation, County Government of Nyeri, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), among others. All our clients had all praises for our facilities as well as meals provided during the conferences. The conference meals were provided by DeKUTES in collaboration with our able University Catering Department.

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Dedan Kimathi University Enterprises

MARKETING TO BUILD LASTING RELATIONS

Building customer relationships is essential and key in business which enhances growth as we ensure customer satisfaction. DeKUT marketing team has geared in building, cultivating and nurturing customer relationships. During the season we have engaged with potential clients in the villages, towns and centers as we educate and empower them on the need of education and to why their children need to join Dedan Kimathi of University of technology. Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

During the marketing clinics, we emphasized that power of education extends beyond the development of skills to bring out the potential within a student to enhance creativity,
Innovations and research upon studying at DeKUT where we believe in 'Better Life through Technology'

These can be achieved by enhancing engagement with alumni, friends, parents, students, prospective students, faculty, and staff. This has been made possible by investing a lot in our social media platforms which include Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. The use of social media has made it possible to reach many clients around the country and internationally.

At the beginning of this year, the marketing team in collaboration with Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) organized educational clinics with a theme of: "How to help students sail through their education successfully". The participants were guided on the academic qualifications necessary to pursue different academic programs and how to decide on the right career. The events were publicized via social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp and letters to churches which proved to be very effective as in some areas. The teams were able to interact with current form fours, 2019 KCSE graduates as well as teachers and the parents.

The participants were able to respond to their questions and provide career guidance as well as market the various programs the University offers. We do also seek feedback from the visiting students to enable us to gauge if the visits are helpful to them and the areas we as a department can improve on to ensure their satisfaction. Marketing efforts are meant to guarantee that DeKUT attracts the required number of students in all its programs.

DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Better Life Through Technology

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

- PhD Mechanical Engineering
- Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Master of Science in Advanced Manufacturing &Automation Engineering
- Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechatronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Information Engineering
- Bachelor of Education in Technology (Civil Engineering)
- Bachelor of Education in Technology (Electrical and Electronic Engineering)
- Bachelor of Education in Technology (Mechanical Engineering)
- Bachelor of Technology in Building Construction

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

- PhD in Business Administration & Management
- Master of Science in Supply Chain Management
- Master of Science In Economics
- Master in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Purchasing and Supplies Management (BPSM)
- Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

SCHOOL OF NURSING

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Direct Entry)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Upgrading)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

- Master of Science in Leather Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Industrial Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Leather Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Modeling Process

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Business Information Technology (BBIT)
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (IT)

INSTITUTE OF TOURISM HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

- Master of Science in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management
- Bachelor in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management

INSTITUTE OF FOOD BIORESOURCE TECHNOLOGY

- PhD in Food Science and Technology
- Master of Science in Food Science and Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics

INSTITUTE OF GEOMATICS, GIS & REMOTE SENSING (IGGReS)

- Master of Science in Geospatial Information Systems and Remote Sensing
- Bachelor of Science in Geomatics and Geospatial Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Geospatial Information Science and Remote Sensing

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (GETRI)

- Master of Science in Geothermal Energy Technology
- Post Graduate Diploma in Geothermal Energy Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Geology

INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY, FORENSICS AND SECURITY STUDIES (ICFoSS)

- Master of Science in Forensics and Security Management
- Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Security Management

INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (ITPS)

- Diploma in Business Administration (DBA)
- Diploma of Purchasing and Supplies Management (DPSM)
- Diploma in Security Management
- Diploma in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management
- Diploma in Food Science and Technology
- Diploma in Coffee Technology and Cupping

- Diploma in Information Technology
- Diploma in Furniture Technology and Interior design
- Diploma in Metal work, Welding and Design
- Diploma in Building Technology
- Diploma in Leather Technology
- Diploma in Fashion Design & Interior Decoration
- Diploma in Electrical &Electronics Engineering (Power Option)
- Certificate in Coffee Technology and Quality Management
- Certificate in Information Technology
- Certificate in Furniture Technology and Interior design
- Certificate in Building Technology
- Certificate in Fashion Design and Interior Decoration
- Certificate in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Power Option).
- Certificate in Metal work, Welding and Design
- CCNA I, II,III ,IV

PROFFESIONAL AND CERTIFICATION COURSES

- CPA Sec. I-VI
- Certificate in Accounting and Management Skills
- ATD Level I , II & III
- Associate in Procurement and Supply of Kenya (APS-K)
- Certified Procurement and Supply Professional of Kenya (CPSP-K)
- Siemens Mechatronics Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) LEVELS 1-3

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DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (DeKUT)
Better Life through Technology
DeKUT is ISO 9001: 2015 Certified

