Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Newsletter

Better Life Through Technology

2nd Quarter 2018 Newsletter

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Tree Planting

The students & staff of DeKUT participated in a wide-scale tree planting exercise on Monday 17th December 2018 at Njeng'u Dam – (Embassy area along Mweiga-Nyahururu road). The theme of the tree planting was "Panda Miti, Boresha Maisha". The government is encouraging Kenyans to devote land, labor and other resources for tree growing and environmental conservation as part of the wider agenda for promoting environmental sustainability. Beyond the value of the trees to the environment, this exercise served as a bonding activity for cohesion, integration, Biodiversity Conservation, Management and the well being of the entire society.



Big Blue Button Volume Use Award

The KENET organization recognized DeKUT eLearning and ICT department with the BigBlueButton Volume use Award. The Big Blue Button (BBB) services are internet-based and are hosted by KENET, who provides reliable internet uptime for the tool to properly function. On a typical day, classes created on the BBB platform range between 6-10 classes, ranging from technical to business classes that target over 500 students. The Center of Open and Distant ELearning (CODEL) at DeKUT uses blended learning as a method of teaching to students enrolled in the eLearning units. The method encompasses a bit of lecturer - student meetings (face to face meetings) and greater online sessions. During the online sessions, the eLearning department uses a web conferencing tool known as the BigBlueButton (BBB), which enables lecturers to have live sessions with their students by creating virtual classes at a specified date and time. The students are invited to the created meetings (sessions) through a link shared by the moderator (lecturer). Lecturers and students can engage each

other through live chats, desktop sharing, and shared presentations. DeKUT CODEL offers about 11 units online, with units cutting across 1st to 5th year. These students use BBB to hold their classes all through the semester.



Police symposium on Violent Extremism (VE)

“Security begins with you.” On 30th November 2018, we hosted the university students - police symposium on Violent Extremism (VE). The event was aimed at creating awareness on the role of technology in countering violent extremism. They discussed the forms and impacts of VE, challenges, and risks posed by technology about VE and opportunities of countering VE using technology-based solutions.



Mock Wedding

As part of their practical assessment for Events Management, our fourth-year students from the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management organized a mock wedding. This was done to apply the skills learned in class in a real-life situation. It is a continuous focus and commitment by the University to produce human resources relevant to contributing to national change and development. With the kind of training offered, these students will be well equipped to handle challenges and provide solutions in the tourism sector.



Fashion Design and Interior Decoration Diploma Students Showcasing their Catwalk Skills

We offer a Diploma in Fashion Design and Interior Decoration. This program has a unit, TCF 1232 Apparel accessories and modeling where the students are required to make fashion accessories as well as learn the turns and moves during modeling show as partial fulfillment of their diploma award. On 28th November 2018, the students showcased their catwalk skills as well as the accessories adorning their various outfits.



DeKUT Traversing Beyond the Borders of Kenya and Africa in Training

As a University, we are leading on so many fronts towards self-actualization and offering solutions to global challenges through a spirit of dedication, self –confidence, determination, and best utilization of resources. We believe in being globally competitive through the employment of global competencies. We, therefore, ensure an internationally excellent environment for education while focusing on providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals. The ultimate goal is to be the Premier Technological University in Africa and beyond Excelling in Quality Education, Research and Technology Transfer. This is being achieved gradually as DeKUT was recognized within the borders of Kenya and beyond for skill-based training and focus on technology and manufacturing for development. The University has attracted the attention of Africa and International Institutions. Recently, a representative of the University, Dr. Jean Bosco, addressed delegates from all countries in Africa on essential technologies in smart manufacturing in Dakar, Senegal. He was also a visiting Professor at the University Bourgogne Franche Comte (UBFC) where he was trained International Masters in Control and Green Mechatronics. An area he is an expert in. This program is a double degree

between DeKUT and UBFC. While there, Dr. Bosco explored the possibility of further collaboration in other programs and competencies.



Film Studio at the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park

The Cabinet Secretary(Ministry of Information Communications and Technology) Hon. Joe Mucheru, Principal Secretary (Broadcasting & Telecom. Strategy, PR, Communications, Branding, and Marketing in the Media) Hon. Fatuma Hirsi and a delegation from Startimes led by its Chairman Mr. Pang Xinxing visited DeKUT to explore the possibility of investing in a Film Studio at the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park. The Chairman stated that Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park offers a great environment for the Studio given its closeness to two National Parks.



Inter-University Seminar & 2018 Award Ceremony

DeKUT is committed to fostering sustainability and acknowledges the important role the Tourism and Hospitality sector plays in National Development. The young sustainable tourism changemakers from 10 universities converged on 24th, November 2018 at DeKUT for the 17th Inter-University Seminar and 2018 award ceremony. The theme of the seminar was “sustainable and inclusive growth in Tourism”. The seminar was opened by The Director Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Dr. Misiko Juma. Judy Gona, the founder member of Sustainable Travel and Tourism Agenda (STTA) gave a breakdown of what sustainable inclusive growth in tourism is and gave broad examples of peoples' expectations in the tourism field. In his speech during the presentation, Mr.Osiako,(Lecturer in DeKUT) addressed the issue of inequality and an increase in accessibility for all in tourism. He also shared on accessibility as an integration right and freedom issue. As a University, we acknowledge the importance of such seminars to our students and we are excited some of them have been attached to different tourism organizations. We continue to ensure the quality education of our students towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals.



Sports Activities

“Too much work without play makes Tom a dull boy." To improve national cohesion and integration the students' ladies' football team, "DeKUT Starlet", played a friendly match against the staff men's team on 15th November 2018. This was a great chance for interaction outside the offices and lecture rooms for the students and staff members. The students also used the friendly match as a warm-up for the upcoming KUSA games that were held on 24th November 2018



Coffee Harvesting

At DeKUT we are about improving society. Located in a region where coffee is the main cash crop, the University has taken the initiative to educate the community on coffee farming. The University further does value addition to the coffee; the whole coffee chain from the seed to the cup. Our students expressed their pleasure as they participated in the coffee harvesting competition organized by the DeKUT farm. The harvesting activity gave some first time experience in coffee harvesting and an opportunity to interact outside the lecture rooms in a fun way while making money; harvesters were paid KShs. 100 per debe. "DeKUT coffee is addictive. I'm yet to taste a better brand." Our clients share these sentiments.



Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign

DeKUT has stipulated policies on Sexual Harassment. DeKUT Kings and Queens Club which constitutes of vibrant like-minded students who believe in the fight against Gender-Based Violence organized an Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign on 14th November 2018. Sexual harassment is bullying or coercion of any sexual nature and the unwelcome promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors. It includes a range of actions from mild acts to sexual abuse or assault. Harassers are of any gender, it can be anyone too; from victim's supervisor, lecturer and fellow student as well. If you become a victim no matter how mild it is, REPORT and keep a detailed copy of the record. If it happens to another person, do not turn a blind eye. Sexual harassment ends TODAY with YOU. We encourage people to speak out



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day

DeKUT joined the rest of the world in celebrating GIS Day which is held on every second Wednesday in November. GIS Day provides an international forum for users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. To demonstrate the application of GIS in the community, the final year DeKUT students pursuing Geomatics & Geospatial Information Systems (GeGIS) and GIS & Remote Sensing courses undertook a mapping exercise for some facilities in Nyeri town and uploaded the data on prototype County Online Portal. DeKUT staff participated in the inaugural Dr. Wahome Gakuru Memorial Half Marathon held today at the Ruring'u stadium, Nyeri town. The objective of the event was to promote cohesion and fitness through sports. The marathon was flagged off by the Deputy President H.E William Ruto.



Science and Technology Park

DeKUT believes in being globally competitive through excelling in quality education, research, and technology transfer for national development. For the 4th time now, we hosted a conference on Science, Technology, innovation and entrepreneurship whose theme is “Leveraging Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” and the aim is “To provide a forum for researchers and practitioners to discuss, engage and publish research information”. In his speech during the official opening of the conference, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. P. N. Kioni, gave a breakdown on the importance of having a collaborative effort towards this agenda especially with the upcoming Science and Technology Park at the University.



DeKUTSO Elections

We are proud of our students for going through the campaign and election process peacefully. The elected officials were sworn in office on 29th October 2018, in an event that saw outgoing Student Council leaders hand over to the newly elected DeKUTSO council members. The following are the DeKUTSO council members who were sworn into office:

1. Boniface Micha - Chairperson
2. Sharon Cherotich - Vice-Chairperson
3. Kiplimo Ian Sabul - Secretary General
4. Norah Karimi - Gender and Disability Mainstreaming Secretary
5. Humphrey Email - Sports, Entertainment and Security Secretary
6. Faith Nyawira - Treasurer
7. Joyce Wanjiku - Campuses' Secretary

We wish them all the best as they represent the students and nurture leadership skills with honesty, integrity, and sincerity.



Dedan Kimathi at 98

Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri was born on 31st October 1920 and died on 18th February 1957. In 2007, he was officially recognized and honored as a national hero by the then Kenyan government. On the anniversary of the day he was executed, a bronze statue of Kimathi was unveiled in Nairobi city center. Kimathi was held in high regard by anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. In July 1990, five months after his release from 27 years of imprisonment by South Africa's apartheid regime, Mandela visited Nairobi and requested to see Kimathi's grave and meet his widow Mukami. Established to improve the material well being of ordinary people, DeKUT commemorates the liberation struggle in Kenya. It is the spirit of the likes of Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri which led to independence; Dedan Kimathi’s vision, ideas, life-time engagements, actions, and outcomes are attributes

which this University strongly identifies with in pursuit of our mission to bring about improvement in the society. DeKUT is therefore named after the freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, and serves as a living commemorative monument to this phase of Kenya's history; the struggle for independence - as we strive to be a great contributor to change.

Recognizing disability and disability mainstreaming as a human rights issue

The Dedan Kimathi University of Technology recognized disability and disability mainstreaming as a human rights issue. The University undertook the task of building a disability-friendly environment in the already existing designs, policies, structure and systems within the institution. Several initiatives have been instituted within the University–among these to improve the movement of the Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) from one place to the other within the institution. It is in this regard that a Tuk Tuk was acquired to ease the mobility of the PWDs while within the expansive University compound. The Tuk Tuk was officially launched on 24th October, by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ndirangu Kioni. This was dedicated wholly to meeting the needs of the PWDs while at DeKUT. Progressively, efforts are being made by the University to remove any barriers facing PWDs to enhance their full participation in all aspects of development while promoting their full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.



Internalization Agenda

One of our relentless pursuits is being globally competitive through the employment of global competencies. The University ensures an internationally excellent environment for education while focusing on providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to development. As a University that believes in self – actualization and offering solutions to global challenges, we recognize the need for global collaborations and integration. We are therefore very deliberate on the Internationalization Agenda.

https://www.dkut.ac.ke/…/leading-the-conversation-on-intern…

Introducing Golf as a sport in the University

We inaugurated a DeKUT Students Golf Club and launched a Golf Practice Range. This came to fruition out of the good relationship between the University and Nyeri Golf Club. As often as possible, students of the DeKUT Golf Club will be allowed by Nyeri Golf Club members to use their golf course to train and become good at the sport. The students club also already had a coach who is our Ph.D. student and one of the best golfers at the Nyeri Golf Club, Madam Stella Mwangi. As she addressed the audience during the launch, Stella mentioned that there is a problem of getting young golfers and commended the University for starting the sport for the students. She then expressed her commitment to coach the students on the sport. The Captain Nyeri Golf Club, Mr. George Kiguta, expressed his commitment and that of his fellow golfers to supporting DeKUT Club in all ways possible. Mr. Kiguta said that he will work towards having the club registered by the Kenya Golf Union and acknowledged as a fully-fledged golf club. Representing the Chairman, Mr. Dickson Mwangi, affirmed the position of the Club Captain. This sport is a great opportunity for our students and we are excited about this development as we are about all efforts towards the holistic development of students coming to fruition.



Educational Clinics

DeKUT prides itself on nurturing young minds into responsible and dependable citizens. It's in this line that we hosted different schools at the University for educational tours. On 18th October 2018, Warazo Jet Secondary School visited the University to have an in-depth understanding of academic activities.



A Courtesy Call by the CEO Positivo BGH Group Pablo Ojman accompanied by the Groups' Technical Person Mr. Ricardo Martinez

The CEO Positivo BGH Group Pablo Ojman accompanied by the Groups' Technical Person Mr. Ricardo Martinez paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor on 18th October 2018. They later visited the proposed Science and Technology Park site. Positivo BGH is a diversified ICT and appliances firm that aims to improve the lives of people through major innovations in two areas: Consumer habits and Education. The Company is looking at setting up in Kenya and introducing its consumer line which comprises laptops, tablets, and mobile phones. Positivo BGH’s mission is to provide technology to transform people’s life from education, communication and knowledge development to home comfort. https://stp.dkut.ac.ke/



The Vice-Chancellor presenting a CPD certificate to the Chief Engineer Ministry of Transport, Housing and Urban Development

We have been training engineers in the industry as an approved institution by the Engineers Board of Kenya for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of engineers. After going through the training, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Ndirangu Kioni presented a CPD certificate to the Chief Engineer Ministry of Transport, Housing, and Urban Development. Prof. Kioni who is a registered Mechanical Engineer also gave a lecture on Design, Manufacturing, and Material - a key thematic area in the upcoming Science and Technology Park at the University.



DeKUT hosts the Kukkiwon Taekwondo Demonstration Team From Seoul Korea

We hosted the KUKKIWON Taekwondo Demonstration team for a live demonstration on 16th October 2018 which aimed at displaying to the spectators the different techniques and feats of the art acquired after rigorous training. The University aims at introducing this art to a wider scope of people as a way of instilling certain valuable tenets in as many people as possible and creating a culture of discipline and teamwork. “Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) is the only Institution in Africa offering degree courses incorporating taekwondo, therefore leveraging with the rest of the world.” Prof. Ndirangu Kioni.



The 4th DeKUT Conference On Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

Our ultimate goal as an Institution of Higher Learning is to be the Premier Technological University in Africa and beyond Excelling in Quality Education, Research and Technology Transfer for Development. In pursuit of this goal, the University continuously promotes Research, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation among the academicians locally and internationally. For the fourth time, we hosted a Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Conference which brought academicians together to share generated knowledge and research findings on various subjects. Implementation of findings emanating from such forums can contribute greatly to development.

https://stieconference.dkut.ac.ke/

