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Celebrating Mr. Muriithi Kaimoe, The Immediate Past Director, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management



Some simply call him Mr. Kaimoe but to others, he is a doctor, professor and there is a category that cannot let go of the name "Dean". He has been a backbone to so many and in so many ways. On the corridors or his office, he interacted with everyone with so much ease and love and it was not hard to tell that he cared not only about the University but every individual and stakeholder of the University.

In this month's spotlight feature, we reminisce on his stay at DeKUT as he marks his retirement and also let you in on some things you might not have had a chance to know about him yet. Where were you in 1978? What were you doing then? This is the year Mr. Kaimoe started working at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (then Kimathi Institute of Technology - KIT) and was 1 of the 2 teachers who foresaw the admission of the first 32 students into the Institute. He has since worked with impeccable dedication to grow the Institution from KIT to KUCT

(Kimathi University College of Technology) and now, DeKUT. As he continued his service in KIT, he pursued further education and in 1992, Mr. Kaimoe graduated with a M.Ed in Small Enterprise Development from the University of Illinois, U.S.A and started working with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the United Nations Development Programme where he was involved in, to mention but a few, conducting all training needs assessment surveys, recruitment, selection and admission of trainees, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects training activities, preparation of various projects work plans and funding proposals, planning and organizing marketing missions, exhibitions, trade fairs and study tours for project beneficiaries.

He was also paramount in training on entrepreneurial and marketing skills. He did all this while still teaching in KIT and his networks bore great benefits to the institutions through collaborations. While it's time to rest from active duty here at the University, we have no doubt that Mr. Kaimoe will continue applying his knowledge and wisdom and with his big heart of service, he will keep being of impact to the society. We are because such great people like him walked before us and made the path clear. We celebrate you Muriithi Kaimoe and wish you a Happy Retirement!

Read his full story here; https://www.dkut.ac.ke/index.php/dekut-spotlight/mr-muriithi-kaimoe

DeKUT signs a license agreement with Mukurweini Wakulima Dairy Ltd (MWDL)

On Monday 21st September 2020, DeKUT signed a license agreement with Mukurweini Wakulima Dairy Ltd (MWDL) to industrial-scale production of natural coffee-flavored yogurt by the company and retail distribution across the country. We strive to partner with the industry stakeholders to provide demand-driven solutions through food value addition innovations. Innovators at the Institute of Food Bioresources Technology, at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, have developed and patented a novel premium quality coffee extract for use as a natural flavor for yoghurt.





Rona emerges among the Top 50 African Innovations by UNDP



Brian Ndegwa, a second-year student at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and the Rona developer, was featured among the top 50 African Innovations by UNDP. Rona is an Artificial Intelligence Powered Bot that provides credible, accurate, and verified information on COVID-19. According to Brian, time had come for Rona. He was growing tired of misinformation which was going round regarding COVID-19 causing a lot of anxiety and panic among people. His friends were also affected by this and that got him thinking of what could be done. He examined the existing solutions; the WHO Bot and the 719 Helpline in Kenya and in his view, these solutions were not as user friendly.

In light of this, he decided to build Rona. The chat interface of Rona came about given Brian's observation that most people love chatting and it would be a great idea if they could get clarification on questions through a friendly chat. To ensure he was coming up with what was really needed as was his aim, Brian shared the first draft design of Rona with some of his friends, lecturers and also the Dean, School of Computer Science and IT at the University, Dr. Kennedy Malanga. With the useful feedback from these quarters, Brian built the first version of Rona. Rona has been evolving over time inspired by the developer's desire to give more value to users, and particularly Kenyans.

At the moment, Rona has an analytics platform that gives visualized statistics per county. Rona Analytics Version 2 therefore has an advanced map feature that displays all the restricted travel zones in Kenya, and some improvements on the graph visualizations. Another great evolvement of Rona is that it now has a feature that allows users to perform a 5 Minute self-test and know their likelihood of having the virus, based on the symptoms they have." Rona is constantly adapting to the challenges that arise with this pandemic and we are dedicated to serving Kenyans, and beyond, to our level best" – says Brian.

Consultative meeting with the CEO Kenya Film Commission, Mr. Timothy Owase



Earlier this year, we launched the DeKUT Kenya Film



Commission Film, Animation & Gaming Hub which was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru. On 30th September 2020, we held a consultative meeting with the CEO Kenya Film Commission, Mr. Timothy Owase.

This creative industry will be open to students, staff, and members of the public who are animators or film makers. This is a great initiative geared towards devolution of filmmaking activities in the counties and encouraging growth and creativity in content creation.

The Film Hub will serve a crucial role in nurturing talent of the creatives in Nyeri County and its environs. The main focus of the DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub is to empower students and aspiring filmmakers to have the requisite skills and techniques that will enable them have a smooth transition to the outside world and make significant contribution to the creative sector in the country. Universities in Kenya are synonymous with academia, but the hub will change this narrative.

Design, Material and Manufacturing Hub Groundbreaking Ceremony



On 16th September 2020, we hosted the Design, Material and Manufacturing Hub Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park Grounds. With sustained average levels of growth over the past ten years, the country's long term development blueprint.

The Kenya Vision 2030, envisions a newly industrialized middle-income country by the year 2030. Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park) is the first national project being implemented by the Ministry of Education as a key enabler of the three pillars of the Vision 2030. It is anchored on Vision 2030, Medium Term Plan II and Medium-Term Plan III as part of the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) sector.

The science and technology park will stimulate and manage the flow of knowledge and technology amongst universities, research and development institutions, companies and markets, as well as facilitate the creation and growth of innovation-based companies

through incubation and spin-off processes and provide other value-added services together with high quality space and facilities. It will also provide the youth with a platform of implementing innovative and research ideas making them a reality. It will provide space and facilities for incubation of ideas and their growth to full potential. This will create employment among the youth thus boosting economic growth and the government's vision 2030 goals. The science and technology park will also create effective coordination and strong collaboration mechanisms in the innovation ecosystem which will enable Kenyan companies go to the market globally, achieving internationalization through exchange of ideas and technology transfer.