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Communication Authority of Kenya (CA) pays a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to discuss future collaborations and partnerships



The DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, which was launched early last year, was envisioned after several discussions to invest in a digital media centre to promote and grow the creative industry and, in the process, reduce youth unemployment gap. The Hub aims at providing a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in creating digital media products marketed and used widely. The university aids in providing capacity development support for the interested parties as the Commission's main objective is to provide a vibrant film industry in Kenya.

The Hub has also proven to be the heart of production for digital media and learning products, resulting in many honorable visits. One of the major visits was a courtesy call by the French ambassador H.E. Aline Kuster-Menager, the CEO, ICT Authority, Dr. Katherine Getao, among others. The Hub has also attracted benchmarking visits from Embu and Bomet counties.

On September 17th 2021, a Board of Directors from the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to discuss future collaborations and partnerships. The team was majorly interested in the DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub, where they were showcased various projects undertaken at the Hub.







The Kenya Alumni Engagement Program holds mentorship programs and community service projects in several counties

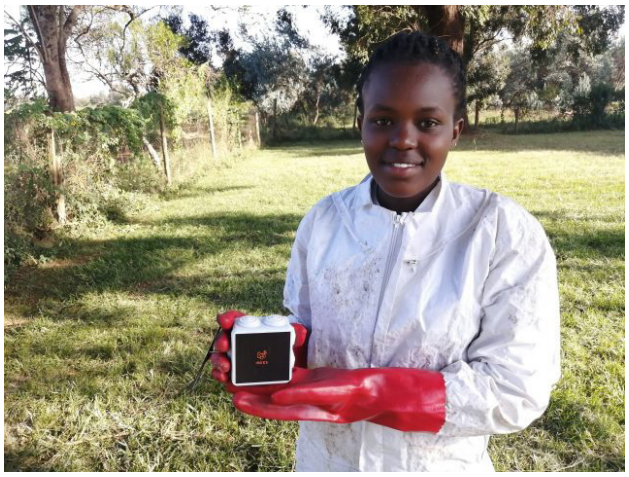
The Kenya Alumni Engagement programme is a partnership between Cultural Vistas, United States and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. The project's primary goal was to recruit alumni of U.S. government-funded programs to help Kenyans address challenges in the nation's forward progress.The programme recruited several alumni to participate in speaker programs, support the development of alumni chapters in counties throughout Kenya, design and implement community service projects, and establish and lead mentor programs that address issues of peace and security, economic empowerment, health and the rule of law. Since the beginning of this month, the programme undertook mentorship and community service projects in various counties such as Kisumu, Embu, Busia, Muranga, Mombasa, Nairobi, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, West Pokot and Nakuru. The central theme of the mentorship programs and community service projects was to empower youths aged 13-25 and assist the vulnerable communities countrywide. Get more information about the mentorship programs and community service projects here https://kenyaalumniengagement.dkut.ac.ke/community-service/







DeKUT students emerge the best during the Producers Direct Innovation Competition



Jackline Tum, Joseph Musya and Clinton Odour, students from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and the co-founders of IBEES – an Artificial Intelligent Solution for Bee Keepers, emerged as the winners during the Producers Direct Innovation Competition.

The competition, which resulted from the UK-Kenya partnership, aimed at reaching youths across Kenya to understand their innovations and hear from key experts in the industry on how best to support them in developing their skills and enabling them to transform their agribusiness

Various young agribusiness innovators shared their agri-tech and agri-business innovations across a broad range of value chains – including horticulture, poultry, dairy, and apiculture – as well as their challenges and successes in the industry.

"I'd like to tell my fellow young people doing agriculture to focus on developing solutions that will solve the problems that farmers face. For example, bees are vitally important for the health of our planet. For every third bite of food we take, bees are the responsible pollinators. Worldwide, approximately 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicine need to be pollinated by bees to produce the foods we depend on to exist in this world. In recent years, annual bee colony losses have reached an unprecedented 30%. If Colony Collapse Disorder continues, we will be missing more than just our coffee and chocolate if it results in our bees dying"- Jackline Tum (Co-Founder IBEES).

IBEES is an automated beehive solution that lets bee keepers monitor the health of their beehives in real-time from their phones. The mobile notification allows bee keepers/ honey farmers to monitor all these things in real-time, keep records such as harvests, tasks and operations, and even receive notifications to remind them of inspections.

IBEES is among the many innovations at the Dedan Kimathi Innovation and Incubation Hub (DeHUB). The Hub, which was launched in March 2015, has continued to support innovations from the idea stage to commercialization. Although the Hub is at the University, it also supports innovations from people around the Mt. Kenya region. The Hub has supported over 100 startups over the years. Some of the main activities currently at the Hub include: incubation, mentoring through meetups, trainings and hosting competitive hackathons that inspire innovative ideas for incubation. The Hub hosts mini hackathons called Hack Rush every fortnight on Fridays at 7 PM overnight to promote the culture of brainstorming and teamwork. This keeps most innovators motivated, and through the exchange of ideas, the quality of innovations at the Hub is assured.

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) visits the University to assess the preparedness of the Ethics Review Committee



The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation was established by the Science, Technology and Innovation Act as, No 28 of 2013 as a State Corporation to regulate and assure quality in the Science, Technology and Innovation Sector. In pursuit of its mandate, NACOSTI accredits Institutional Ethics Review Committees (IERCs) to review ethical aspects of research studies.





On September 10th 2021, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, to assess the preparedness of the University's Ethics Review Committee.

DeKUT Centre for Excellence in Competence-Based Education and Training (CCBET) trains KIHBT on pedagogy and andragogy skills

The Centre for Excellence in Competence-Based Education and Training (CCBET) is among the 17 centres that have been established at the University to provide opportunities for professional and career development to technical institutions trainers, university lecturers, and technical experts in Kenya's various technical and engineering fields.



The main objectives of the centre include; providing technical and higher education trainers with professional training courses at the postgraduate level, providing technical and higher education trainers with continuous professional development training in pedagogy and technological fields, conducting baseline surveys on needs and gap analysis on technical trainers and designing, developing and implementing customized lifelong learning professional development courses. Keeping in view the role of technical and higher education in national development, CCBET helps build competencies in research, methodologies and pedagogy, expansion of technologies in the field of ICT, Science, Engineering and Technology.





From August 30th 2021, to September 4th 2021, this centre held a six-day consultancy training for the Kenya Institute of Highways & Building Technology (KIHBT), with the Vice Chancellor, Prof Ndirangu Kioni, officially closing the ceremony. The goal of this training was to provide KIHBT staff with excellent pedagogy and andragogy skills. From the feedback received, the University demonstrated exemplary capability and expertise in comprehensive capacity building and equipping the trainers with the necessary competitive competencies.

Dedan Kimathi University Farm holds a Coffee Harvesting Competition

Dedan Kimathi University farm adopts the role of income generation in addition to providing opportunities for research in crops and animals. There are three main sections: Coffee, Diary and Horticulture and several acres reserved as biodiversity refuge points. The total acreage under coffee is 295, with a tree population of 179,879. Currently, the major varieties include Batian (65%), Ruiru 11 (15%), grafted Ruiru 11 (5%) and selected blocks of SL 28 (15%). Batian, a true-breeding variety, is the most preferred variety in the farm for its excellent characteristics, including strong deep roots that extend deep into the root zone, tolerant to leaf rust and coffee berry disease, and its high yield compared to the varieties. In collaboration with Coffee Research Foundation (CRF), the farm started a coffee nursery in 2012 to produce high-quality coffee seedlings to gradually replace the old coffee trees and distribute them to farmers in the region. The nursery currently has nine propagators used for the seeds' germination before they are transplanted into plastic bags and has a capacity of 140,000 seedlings. Current seedlings total to 104,075 (main varieties are Ruiru hybrid and Batian).



Every year, the University Farm holds a coffee harvesting competition for students, staff and the general public. This year, the competition kicked off on Monday, September 6th 2021 and is currently ongoing. Various prizes were awarded to the winners, with the best candidate walking away with a smartphone, while the second and third-placed candidates received Ksh.1000 and Ksh.600, respectively. The harvesting activity gave some a 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. Others also got a chance to walk away with various shopping gifts.

The University has also 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.

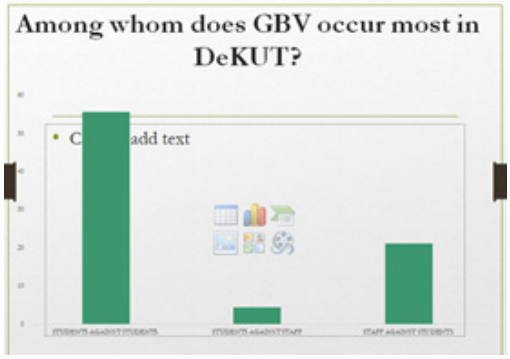


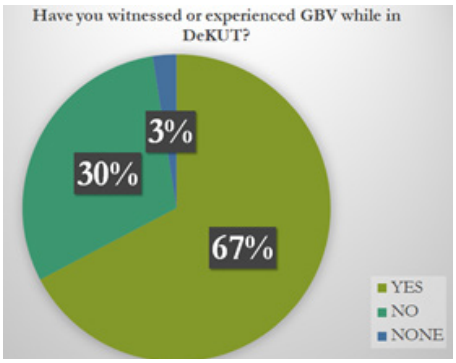


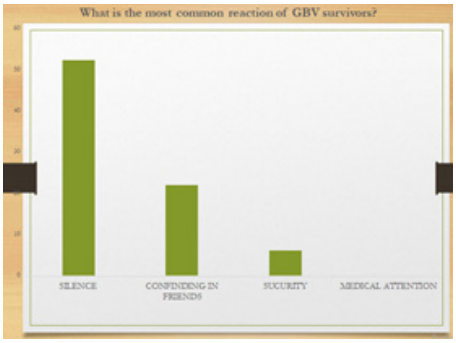
Understanding sexual assault on campus: sex or rape? The difference is consent

It is not the bruises on the body that hurt. It is the wounds of the heart and the scars on the mind. We have to start calling sexual harassment out because only then can we begin to make progress on it. If you blame the rape victim because her clothes were provocative, you must also blame the bank that was robbed because its content was provocative.

Rape is a form of sexual assault that involves sexual intercourse and other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without that person's consent. On the other hand, sexual assault is an act in which one intentionally sexually touches another person without that person's consent or coerces or physically a person to engage in a sexual act against their will. Rape and groping are forms of sexual assault. Sexual assault in the university has become a major cause of concern. University students often suffer from cases of sexual harassment ranging from unwanted explicit messages and sexual advances to catcalling and forced sex. Sadly, most of these cases go unreported- and the perpetrators are never punished. Young women in the university have been left broken, nursing deep emotional and, in severe cases, physical wounds that could last a lifetime to heal and cope with. According to a study done by the Gender-Based Violence Director Dr. Esther Nthiga, sexual assault on campus happens mostly among students who know each other, including friends or even lovers. The results are as shown.







There is a misconception about girls accusing people of sexual assault. There is the common sense of, well, she might be lying, she might be telling the truth, and it's a he-said, she-said. But it turns out if you study the cases, 97 percent of the cases are true. Taking a moment to think about it common sense wise:

Why would a young girl or a woman bring this attention upon herself? It is nonsensical. I have talked to some of my friends who have experienced sexual assault and found out that they had their own experiences that they never shared at the time. It was never talked about it. I think it is because of that normal response – you feel bad, you feel responsible, you feel guilty, you feel like you did something wrong, you feel ashamed, that this keeps on happening to many other girls.

Several measures have been put in place on campus to deal with all forms of sexual assault. The Directorate of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs is located in room FH04 in the Freedom Hall on campus. The Directorate has come up with ways of creating awareness and reaching out to victims of sexual abuse for guidance and counselling. These include:

- Good reporting mechanism
- Creating awareness of the consequences of sexual harassment to the perpetrators.
- Guidance and counselling of rape victims.
- Formal education of the community.

Taking a moment to familiarize with the Kenyan Law, Section 4 of the Sexual Offences Act states that a person who even tries to rape another is guilty of attempted rape and is liable upon conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than five years but which may be enhanced to life imprisonment depending on the circumstances of the case. It should therefore be noted that people found guilty of sexual assault will be dealt with severely according to the Kenyan Government and University law.

In an instance of rape, sexual assault or any form of gender-based violence on campus, one should contact:

1. Medical Centre for medical assistance- 0724721258.
2. Directorate of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs- 0721822163
3. Security Department- 0713172876.

It must be noted that all cases reported to these offices will be dealt with the utmost amount of delicacy, discrete and confidentiality. The offices are also not biased on Gender, and all issues will be handled with equity. You will not be a victim for sharing your story. You will be a survivor setting the world on fire with your truth. And you never know who needs your light, your warmth, and raging courage

It is time we created awareness and dealt with this issue that has caused painful scars to most young girls and even boys in the university. IT IS TIME TO SPEAK UP AND TAKE ACTION! We will not fix the sexual assault epidemic unless we acknowledge that this is not a women's issue; this is a man's issue. The burden should not be on the shoulders of women only to solve this because we can't do it alone, and it's not fair. The tipping point will be when men throughout the campus decide to be our allies. We all need to stand together with all victims of rape and sexual harassment and make sure they are not silenced.

By: Agnes Katanu Nzonzi, Fifth Year Student, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering