Kenyatta University hosted a Pre-Conference to the 3rd National Conference on Curriculum Reforms on Tuesday, 13th August 2019. The theme of the Pre-Conference was University Sector Positioning, Preparedness and Role in the on-going Educational Reforms for Enhanced Access, Inclusivity, Equity, Quality, and Relevance. The Pre-Conference’s aim was to engage participants drawn from a wide spectrum of stakeholders in charting the way forward on university sector positioning, preparedness and role in the ongoing educational reforms.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha officially opened the conference and observed that the Ministry was committed to ensure a successful implementation of the new curriculum. Prof. Magoha added that the Government was keen to see the universities position themselves as well as play their role effectively in the ongoing educational reforms. He encouraged universities to study the reforms taking place at the basic education level so as to position and prepare themselves appropriately to meet the needs of the basic education graduates.

Further, the Cabinet Secretary noted that the Pre-Conference was necessitated by the need to inform the 3rd National conference on pertinent educational issues that are relevant to the ongoing reforms as well as making the process of educational reforms participatory as enshrined in the Kenya Constitution.

Prof. Shem E. Migot-Adholla, the Chairman of Council, Kenyatta University, applauded the Ministry of Education under the guidance of
Hello and welcome to a brand new academic year 2019/2020. This newsletter brings you up to date on all those exciting happenings that took place as the last academic year was ending, so that you can make bolder, longer strides in this new one. You will even get a glimpse of exotic places as you follow the globetrotters into strategic partnerships.

The 46th graduation ceremony took place, of course, but ceremonies are just the tip of the iceberg in the continuum of generating knowledge, building capacity and creating a globally competitive workforce. Talking about workforce, take a look at what the various unions learnt from, and about, the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Prof. George Magoha for spearheading the implementation of the new reforms. He also observed that there was need to embrace the curriculum changes and in turn make necessary curriculum changes in line with the competency-based curriculum. Prof. Adholla reiterated that through a critical interrogation of various issues during the conference, a clear roadmap of the role of universities in the education reforms would be created.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina said that there is a critical mass of experts at the university who could be involved in producing necessary evidence-based information and strategies that can inform effective and efficient implementation of CBC. He urged all university scholars and other stakeholders to dialogue openly and develop a shared understanding of CBC to facilitate more collective engagement and implementation.

The Pre-Conference brought over 200 participants drawn from: university lectures and professors from public and private universities; Commission for University Education (CUE); Teachers Service Commission (TSC); Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC); CEMASTEA; TVETA; Industry; Students; Parents; Unions; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Funding Agencies; Private Sector, among others.

The deliberations of the Pre-Conference advised that universities needed to establish Committees to guide the universities in aligning academic programmes to CBC. Moreover, there was need to harmonize and review academic programmes in collaboration with the market and ensure at least a third of the duration is on the job training, internships, industrial parks, enterprise-based training.

Other resolutions from the Pre-Conference were: enhancing early years education (EYE) Programmes to infuse CBC and introduce student teachers to CBC designs; enhancing special needs education (SNE) programmes to infuse CBC and introduce student teachers to CBC designs; embracing relevant CBC; creating a culture of embracing reforms in the universities; harmonizing university curricular with TVET programmes for easier transition of students to universities; auditing infrastructure and resource requirements for the anticipated changes and strategically planning for their acquisition.

This will be in addition to lobbying for differentiated unit cost in tandem with the various courses to ensure university sustainability in its core mandate.
Kenyatta University Drama Team excelled at the 60th Edition of the Festival that took place at Kibabii University from the 3rd April to 13th April 2019. The Festival was themed “Promoting Moral Responsibility Among the Youth through Theatre and Film”. Kenyatta University presented items in all the competitive categories that included 2 plays, 2 Choral Verses, 2 narratives, 1 creative cultural dance, 2 mimes, 2 stand up comedies, 2 solo verses, 2 Modern dances, 2 spoken words a film and a television advertisement.

KU emerged tops in almost all items, equaling the 2018 remarkable performance at the festival. Categories won included: Winning Film, Winning Cultural Dramatized Dance, Winning Modern Dance, Winning dramatized Narrative, Winning Advert, Best Advert on clean content, most Promising Actor - Dickson Ochieng, most Promising Actress - Cynthia Rao, Best Advert on enhancing moral responsibility among the youth, Most Gender sensitive item (Choral Verse), Best reciter female, Best Comedy, Best comedian - Muigai Austin, Most Original Dance, Best Male Dancers, Best Female Dancers, Best Dance Routine.

Kenyatta University also performed at the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival State Concert on 12th April 2019, with the Deputy President, Dr. William Ruto as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries in-attendance at the State Concert were: Prof. George Magoha, Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Belio Kipsang, Education Principal Secretary, Hon. Wycliffe Wangamati, Governor Bungoma, Dr. Ernest Mwangi Njoroge, Kibabii University Council Chair, Dr. Julius Jwan, the CEO of Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, the CEO of Kenya Films and Classification Board (KFCB), Prof. C. J. Odhiambo, Chairman of KNDFF, among others.
Kenyatta University’s International Biennial Research and Innovation Conference received a major boost through publicity sponsorship by the Nation Media Group in addition to funding of its activities by Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO).

Nation Media Group Head of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Clifford Machoka signed and exchanged the contract agreement for Kshs. 3M to provide media support for the upcoming Kenyatta University Biennial Research Conference.

KETRACO has also partnered with Kenyatta University to bridge the engineering skills gap. This will form a link that will see the development of new products and technology in electricity transmission through scholarships, research funding and knowledge management consultancy.

The scholarship, dubbed KETRACO Scholarship for Orphans and Vulnerable Students (KSOVS), will see KETRACO give Kshs. 1 million worth of scholarship to educate two female orphaned and vulnerable students in the Electrical or Civil Engineering for five years.

The energy transmission company will also sponsor the Kenyatta University Biennial Research and Innovation Conference at the Bronze category with Kshs. 1 million.

Moreover, KETRACO has partnered with the University’s Capacity Development and Consultancy Services Directorate to guide the transmission company on Knowledge Management relating to the role of energy transmission in the achievement of the Big Four Agenda.

Besides financial support for the conference, KETRACO has also partnered with Kenyatta University to bridge the engineering skills gap. This will form a link that will see the development of new products and technology in electricity transmission through scholarships, research funding and knowledge management consultancy.

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Growing Africa’s Voice in Artificial Intelligence
Strengthening African Machine Learning was the theme through the hashtag #SautiYetu for the 2019 deep learning Indaba. The conference which was held from 25th - 31st August 2019, attracted over 700 participants from 35 countries across Africa and the rest of the world. This was one of the largest machine learning teaching events globally. The Deep Learning Indaba is an annual gathering of the African Artificial Intelligence (AI) community. Over the five days, the Indaba brought leaders in the fields of machine learning and Artificial intelligence to Kenyatta University to teach and mentor students, academics, researchers, technologists, entrepreneurs and policy makers, in the theory and practice of deep learning - a type of machine learning that uses deep neural networks and is the basis of recent advances in text-to-speech systems, language translation and object recognition. The Indaba creates a shared community and space for learning, teaching, sharing, and debate on the ongoing advances in machine learning and artificial intelligence, and Africa’s contributions to this scientific endeavour.

“The Indaba is a clear demonstration of the excellence and capacity in modern machine learning and artificial intelligence that already exists on our continent, and the power of grassroots communities to come together to build self-confidence and self-ownership,” noted Shakir Mohamed, a research scientist at DeepMind in the United Kingdom, and the lead of the Indaba Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Africa.

There is an increasing focus both locally and internationally of the impact artificial intelligence to the fourth industrial revolution on economies, societies and countries, and an increasing need for AI-readiness. Because of this recognition, the Indaba organization is working towards strengthening Africa’s capacity in machine learning, and to stimulate the participation of Africans within the research and innovation landscape surrounding deep learning and machine learning.

Across Africa, the field of machine learning has grown greatly, especially over the last two years. Through the work of the Indaba, there are now communities of AI researchers and innovators in at least 26 countries. There is already a noticeable increase in the number of Africans participating in leading conferences in the field. Large technology organizations such as Google, IBM and Microsoft have set up research centres for AI on the continent, and needed policy conversations around AI is ongoing in several countries. “Artificial intelligence holds the promise of empowering Africans citizens and creating unity and advancement by exchanging of values and expertise. This is why pan-African gatherings like the Indaba are so important, because they ensure that we develop and identify continent-wide skills and talent that look to address the challenges facing our continent and people,” noted Nyalleng Moorosi, a scientist at Google AI Lab in Ghana, and one of the organizers of the Indaba.
Mr. Robert Kahiga, Kenyatta University career advisor interacts with students from Lenana School during Lenana School Career Day.

First years follow proceedings during the September 2019 Matriculation Ceremony held at the Graduation Square.

Mr. James Owidi, Kenyatta University Librarian during an orientation of first years at Kenyatta University Post Modern Library.

(From left - right) Mr. Anthony Mbaabu, I.C.T Director KU, Prof. Grace Bunyi, Registrar Corporate Affairs, Mr. George Guo, Michael Kamau from Huawei ICT Academy, Prof. John Okumu, DVC (Academic), Eng. Francis Ngokonyo, Dean School of Engineering and Technology and Mr. Harrison Njoroge, Chairman, Department of Computing and Information Technology during a courtesy call.

Ms. Kirsten Hommes, First Secretary Political Affairs, Representative to the Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy to Kenya with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina launch a book on International Criminal Justice in Africa Since the Rome Statutes at Kenyatta University Conference Centre.

H.E Amb. Elizabeth Taylor, the Ambassador for Colombia in Kenya with the winning salsa contestants during Kenya-Columbia Cultural Exchange at Kenyatta University. KU is preparing to host the 2019 Cultural Week Extravaganza from October 27th to 2nd November.
Prof. Paul Okemo of Kenyatta University presents a gift pack to Mr. Ben Ebikwo Director, Executive Secretary office Tertiary Education Trust Fund Nigeria.

Peter Munyi Wanjohi a fifth year student in the School of Engineering showcases his final project. The project, a prototype of automated aeroplane landing system focuses cutting the cost aeroplane landing.

Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, C.E.O of Kenya Film Classification Board addresses granduands of MultiChoice Talent Academy.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina at the Kenyatta University Press (KUP) exhibition stand during the 22nd International Book Fair organised by the Kenya Publishers Association at Sarit Expo Centre.

Prof. Judith Waudo, Chair of ACTIL Technical Committee addresses participants during the opening ceremony of Transformative Leadership Training as a tool for women political empowerment at KUCC.

Professor JaeCheon Jung from KEPCO International Nuclear Graduate School (KINGS) - Korea (Seated in the middle) with Kenyatta University Physics Department staff and Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) where he indulged the Nuclear Power Plant Training at Kenyatta University.

Peter Munyi Wanjohi a fifth year student in the School of Engineering showcases his final project. The project, a prototype of automated aeroplane landing system focuses cutting the cost aeroplane landing.
Dr. J. K. S. Makokha of the Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages has published his tenth book. The book is entitled: Cultural Archives of Atrocity: Essays on the Protest Tradition in Kenyan Literature, Culture and Society (2019). The book has been published by the internationally-acclaimed academic publisher, Routledge who are based in New York, U.S.A. The book is a compendium of twelve academic chapters written by a consortium of scholars based in universities across Kenya, East Africa, Europe and the United States. The volume is edited by Dr. Makokha, Prof. Columba Kaburi Muriungi, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Chuka University and Dr. C. A. Kebaya of Machakos University. It interrogates how narratives on atrocity have taken different discursive dimensions from history, political and human rights perspectives. Using cultural texts from literature, film, theatre and other domains, the peer-reviewed chapters of the book are geared towards understanding the manifestations, extent, political and economic implications of atrocities. The book is relevant to researchers, academicians, graduate students, and the general public. They will find the book is a good reference for further researches on the cultural archives of atrocity in the Kenyan context. It is 352 pages and available from major bookstores across the country.

https://www.routledge.com/

This year, the NHIF Member Education Day was held over three days at Kenyatta University Amphitheatre, starting from 25th to 27th June 2019. A total of 1039 members of staff attended the event on the day that was dedicated to respective union members.

On the first day, Kenya University Staff Union (KUSU) leaders and members assembled to learn about their entitlements and benefits under the NHIF comprehensive medical scheme. On the second day, University Academic Staff Union (UASU) leadership and members attended their education session. The third and final day was reserved for the Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA). A special session was held on Friday afternoon for staff working on seasonal contracts and covered under the national scheme.

Each of the education sessions was highly interactive and punctuated my members’ queries and experiences under the scheme. The NHIF delegation for the event was led by the Ruaraka Branch Manager, Mr. Nick Tsuma, who was accompanied by Senior Benefits and Quality Assurance Officers. For issues that could not be tackled at the plenary session, a complaints desk was set up outside the hall to address individual cases.

Outside the amphitheatre, medical personnel from the Kenyatta University health Unit set up multiple health screening points. Attendees of the member education day benefited from free blood pressure screening. A nutritionist was also at hand to provide appropriate advice based on weight and height measurements. Laboratory services were also provided including free blood sugar testing to screen for diabetes mellitus. Prostate-specific antigen testing was also provided to men over 40 years of age to screen for prostate cancer. Voluntary HIV testing services were also provided.

Baobab Circle, a digital innovation company specializing in the provision of diabetes self-management and education had an exhibition stand outside the amphitheatre. Kenyatta University staff had an opportunity to learn about features of a Mobile Diabetes Companion Application called “AfyaPap”. They also received a free blood sugar test from a cell-phone operated glucose meter.
The School of Business held its International Business Research and Industrial Conference on 20th and 21st June, 2019 in North Coast Beach Hotel, Mombasa. The conference was organized by a team of experts in business, leadership and management with the support of the Kenyatta University Management and conference sponsors: the Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Tourism Board and Savannah Cement Limited.

Prior to the main conference, a pre-conference event was held at the Kenyatta University, Main Campus on the 18th June 2019 to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of the conference, promote business and entrepreneurship development targeting consumers, and the surrounding community.

The Conference themed “Emerging Trends in Business Management for Global Sustainable Development” brought together international, regional and local participants from all over the world and created an interface between academia and industry sectors to debate on how business management can be leveraged and scaled up to support the achievement of SDGs, Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda. Specifically, the conference provided a forum for inter-sectoral debate that will go a long way to define the role and value of business management principles for sustainable business development.

In addition, the conference took stock of sector-wide strategies for leveraging creativity and innovation promoting equitable and quality lifelong opportunities for all. Varying papers cutting across management issues from the industry and the academia were presented.

It is envisaged that the conference debates will inform action plans and policies that will form a basis for future partnerships among academia and industry in enhancing sustainable industrial development.

The conference attracted a broad spectrum of participants drawn from experts in the industry, policy makers and researchers in academia.
T he School of Engineering and Technology has had a fairly busy time during the year with the Dean accompanying the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Paul K. Wainaina and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. John Okumu on the US visit to Iowa State University (ISU). During the visit very good collaboration arrangements were made and the team also met KU students who are pursuing PhD degrees in Material Science and Civil Engineering.

The Dean was invited to Arizona State University (ASU) together with the Dean, School of Education and the Dean, School of Medicine on a reciprocal visit. A team from ASU had visited Kenyatta University in May 2018 and entered a general collaboration agreement. During the April 2019 visit, a colloquium was organized where presentations were made on topics of Kenyan interest.

The School played host in May to GIZ and FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences who visited to progress preparations on implementation of an MoU on Biomedical Engineering. They are supplying laboratory equipment and giving support to the Biomedical Engineering programme.

The School has also had visits from delegations from Shandong Jianzhu University, Qingdau University and Jinan University all from China and looking forward to finalizing MoUs with them.

Capacity building in radio astronomy

T he School of Pure and Applied Sciences spearheaded by the Department of Physics is actively engaged in capacity building in radio astronomy. Recently, the University received from the Kenya National Education Network (KENET) a donation of two 7.2 million dishes for use in radio astronomy training. The dishes will be used for training in radio astronomy in the country and the region.

Early this year, the department hosted a technical team from Square Kilometre Array (SKA), South Africa and the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa. The team comprised of Ms. Carla Sharpe and Mr. Kobus Cloete both from SKA South Africa and Mr. Takalani Nemaungani from the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa. Through the networks, over 20 students from Kenya have benefited through scholarships in South Africa and other partner countries of the SKA.

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is the world’s largest array of radio telescopes that will be operated in Africa and Australia. The array will be used to address some of the fundamental questions on general relativity, dark matter and evolution of galaxies. Kenya is one of the partner countries in the SKA project in Africa.

In addition to radio astronomy, the department is also member of an active group for the establishment of an optical observatory in Kenya. This work is funded by the Science Technology Facilities Council in the UK.

The School through the Department of Physics with Dr. Walter Njoroge as the lead applicant successfully competed for Pan-African Regional Scholarship and innovation fund (RSIF) as a host university for RSIF doctoral scholars, research and innovation in applied sciences, engineering and technology.
All sports teams have been involved in leagues both in the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) and in National Sports federations. In ball games, most KU team sports in KUSA leagues qualified to represent Nairobi conference in the national playoffs which was hosted at KU in April 2019.

The National playoffs bring all top two winners of conferences together in a three-day competition. Out of the teams presented in the playoffs, KU bagged 4 Gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze. In indoor games and individual sports, out of the teams presented in the national playoffs held in May 2019 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, KU won 4 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 bronze medals to emerge overall winners.

In March 2019, the Directorate of Sports and Games presented various women Sports teams in the annual KUSA women championship, the games were held hosted by Kirinyaga University. The KU contingent performed well and finished winners of the championship a position the University has maintained since the start of the games in 2012. The women games are modelled after Olympics but are exclusively for women.

Blak Blad, the KU men’s rugby team has been involved in Kenya Rugby Union league activities and currently the only university side in the top league rugby in the country. This comes after all other University sides were relegated to lower leagues. Other teams in federation leagues (handball, hockey, basketball, table tennis, chess and scrabble) continue to perform well in their various leagues.

Some players have earned call ups to the national teams. Most Notable mentions are Bernard Ochieng who is now a regular call up to Harambee Stars.
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

BIENNIAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE

THEME: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND KENYA’S BIG FOUR AGENDA

DATE: 22ND – 25TH OCTOBER, 2019 • VENUE: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY AMPHITHEATRE (MAIN CAMPUS)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (LOC)

Prof. Paul K. Wainaina
Vice-Chancellor
Kenyatta University (HOST)

Prof. Frederick Q. Gravenir
DVC (Research, Innovation & Outreach) and Chairman, LOC

Prof. Elizabeth A. Bukusi
(ObGyn), MPH, PhD, PGD
Chief Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)

Prof. Washington Yotto Ochien
FREng, CEng, FICE, FCIHT, FRIN, FICErCES
(Imperial College London)

Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
PhD, Executive Secretary (RUFORUM)

PLenary Keynote Speakers

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

1. Food security and sustainable agriculture
2. Health and wellbeing
3. Transformative, inclusive and equitable quality education
4. Gender and development
5. Infrastructure development, energy and industrialization
6. Environment, natural resources, climate change and sustainability
7. National values, social cohesion, peace and development
8. Visual and performing arts, music, sports, hospitality, tourism and development

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1. Partnership for impactful research and development
2. Innovation management, technology transfer and entrepreneurship

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

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CONFERENCE FEES TO BE PAID BY BANKERS CHEQUE/DIRECT CASH DEPOSITS TO:
Bank: National Bank of Kenya Ltd (KU Branch)
Name: Kenyatta University Research Grants Account
Account No: 01021010781300
Swift Code: NBKEKENXXXX
Branch Code: 12044

COREN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

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CALL FOR EXHIBITORS

Date: 22nd - 25th October 2019 I Venue: Kenyatta University (Main Campus)

Contact Details: Mobile: +254 777296748, Landline +254 20 8703026 • e-mail: kubric@ku.ac.ke • Website: http://ku.ac.ke/kubric

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