

KOREAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CENTRE TAEKWONDO DEMONSTRATION

Celebrating Diversity and Cultural Exchange at Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University, known for its appreciation of diversity and cultural enrichment, hosted a remarkable event at the Amphitheatre grounds on June 8, 2023. The Department of Literature, Linguistics, and Foreign Languages took the initiative to organize a captivating Taekwondo demonstration, showcasing the talents of various participants.

To kick off the event, the audience was treated to an entertaining performance by Samullori, a group from the Department of Literature, Linguistics, and Foreign Languages at Kenyatta University. The Kenya Police Taekwondo squad, freshly arrived from Korea, along with students from primary and secondary schools, also graced the occasion.

Dr. Hillary Mulama, the acting chair of the Department of Literature, Linguistics, and Foreign Languages, represented the Dean of the School of Law, Arts, and Social Sciences and delivered the opening remarks. He expressed gratitude to the embassy for their invaluable support in promoting Korean culture and language learning opportunities for Kenyatta University students. Dr. Mulama highlighted the growing interest in the Korean language, with an increasing number of students enrolling for certificate-level courses. He further emphasized the department's commitment to meet the demand by introducing higher levels of Korean language instruction.

Mr. Jared Oduor, President of the Kenya Police Taekwondo Federation and a proud Kenyatta University MBA graduate, reiterated the numerous benefits of Taekwondo, emphasizing personal discipline and the equal significance of sports in overall development.

The esteemed chief guest, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, commended the students for their dedication and praised Kenyatta University's exceptional achievements in music, sports, and extracurricular activities, which have earned the institution widespread recognition. Prof. Wainaina emphasized the role of Taekwondo as a powerful tool for exposing students to diverse cultures, acknowledging that Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cultures have had a profound influence. He expressed his gratitude to H.E. Ambassador YEO Sung-Jun for his unwavering commitment to fostering cultural exchange.

H.E. Ambassador YEO Sung-Jun also addressed the audience, shedding light on the history of Taekwondo in Kenya. He mentioned that Taekwondo was first introduced to the country in 1975 and has since grown significantly. With approximately 200,000 practitioners across Kenya, the sport has extended its reach beyond universities and colleges to high schools and primary schools. Ambassador YEO emphasized that through instruction and engagement, Taekwondo embodies the spirit of art, promoting self-inheritance, peace, mutual respect, and endurance.

Dr. Hillary Mulama concluded the event with a vote of appreciation, expressing gratitude to all participants and supporters for making the Korean Language and Culture Centre Taekwondo Demonstration a resounding success.