



Kenyatta University

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Kenyatta University's Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre Holds First Investor Conference

Friday 15 August 2014: Kenyatta University's Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre held its 1st Investor Conference between Wednesday 13th and Friday 15th August 2014.

This is yet another milestone for the university in a clear demonstration of its commitment to promoting scholarship anchored on innovation and creativity for development.

The conference was organized by the University's Chandaria Innovation and Incubation incubation center with the support of ABC Group and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

The event provided a platform where incubates showcased their products and ideas to potential investors. With the centre being home to 48 incubates from various categories, the incubates showcased their innovations on various disciplines over the three day period. From the presentations, most of the innovations focussed on agribusiness, energy, water & sanitation, transport & logistics, ICT, business process, marketing, robotics, manufacturing, health & nutrition, and fine art.

The event drew local as well as international investors who engaged incubatees on their innovations and potential partnerships to commercialize them for mutual benefit.

Speaking during the opening session of the three-day event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda noted that the conference was a culmination of the growth of an idea which began 4 years ago. In her remarks she noted that institutions of higher learning cannot survive to live to their ideal mandate without being innovative. She further disclosed that besides the Incubation Centre serving Kenyatta University students, 30% of incubates are allowed from the external community as a way of giving back to the society. The Vice-Chancellor lauded ongoing partnerships aimed at growing the initiative and called on all stakeholders to join hands to avail the incubation and mentorship services to more young people.

Of notable consideration was the uniqueness of innovations showcased and their potential contribution to Kenya's industrial growth. Addressing participants during the event, the YEDF Public Relations Manager noted that Kenya is a young nation with a majority of its populace below 35 years. In his national youth profile, he reiterated the need to continuously create opportunities to tap talents and skills to utilize national potential in development. This from his observation would be

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realized through investing in the youth potential nationwide through mentorship, incubation and financing to achieve national development goals. He further commended Kenyatta University for setting up the Incubation and Innovation Centre and pledged continued partnership of the fund with the university in reaching out to more young people

The inaugural investor conference was not only a success but also opened insights on productive potential of young people through innovation. With public expectations from technological innovation evolving with social concerns such as unemployment and sustainable development, most of the showcased innovations and ideas provided useful insights into tackling unemployment, improving business processes, leveraging on modern technologies for higher production, tapping creative potential and realization of sustainable development through green energy generation and use.

The Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre at Kenyatta University provides support to incubates on business basics, networking, marketing, financial management, strategic linkages, higher education resources, technology commercialization, intellectual property management, regulatory compliance, access to investors & investor capital, credit access, among others. With a current population of 48 incubates across various disciplines, the centre is projected to grow at annual rate of 90% in successful innovations based on demand and strategy creation.

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About Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University is the one of the largest universities in Eastern Africa whose vision is to be a dynamic, an inclusive and a competitive centre for excellence in teaching learning and research and service to humanity.

Founded in 1965, K.U has taken significant steps towards becoming a world-class university over the years.

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