



Kenyatta University newsletter

A Monthly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives.

CS Malonza Visits KU Global Tourism Centre



The Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, accompanied by her Permanent Secretary, Mr. John Ololtua (left) plants a tree to mark her visit to the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre- Eastern Africa.

Kenyatta University Library:
Emerald Knowledge Award

Bridging Cultures: Chinese
Proficiency Competition for
High Schools

Mental Wellness Sensitiza-
tion Forum

YALI East Africa 49th
Cohort Launch

The Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, accompanied by her Permanent Secretary, Mr. John Ololtua, paid a visit to the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre – Eastern Africa (GTRCMC – EA) on 5th April, 2023. They were warmly received by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, at Kenyatta University. Dr. Esther Munyiri, the Director of the Centre, led the delegation.

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of various companies in the sector and

other stakeholders in the industry gathered at Kenyatta University to discuss the management of crises that may impact the tourism industry. Dr. Sisinio Muthengi, a lecturer at the School of Business, Economics, and Tourism, delivered his welcoming remarks. Dr. Esther Munyiri, the Centre Director delivered a concise presentation highlighting its potential impact on the industry. She emphasized the importance of addressing these challenges as a united continent rather than individual countries.

Prominent CEOs, including Mr. Michael Macharia, Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers;



The Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, accompanied by her Principal Secretary, Mr. John Ololtuua (left) and Prof. Paul K Wainaina, tour GTRMC-EA.

Mr. Fred Kaigua, Kenya Association of Tour Operators; Ms. Agnes Mucuha, Kenya Association of Travel Agents; Ms. Edith Alusa, Ecotourism Kenya; and Mr. Stanvas Ongalo, Director General, National Museums of Kenya, expressed similar sentiments. They acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed the devastating consequences of a major crisis and stressed the need for collaboration and preparedness. The CEOs recognized the crucial role played by the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre – Eastern Africa – in addressing future crises.

Prof. Simon Onywere, Chairperson of the GTRCMC – EA, KU Board, explained that with the climate becoming increasingly volatile, it was imperative to develop systems that safeguard data, generate information, and provide solutions. Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), hailed this initiative as an opportunity to create new knowledge and solutions to prepare for future crises. She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, expressed the University's commitment to contribute research data and solutions to the cause. However, he also appealed for financial support from the government. He stressed the role of research in guiding the way forward and highlighted the importance of being prepared for adversities. Mr. John Ololtuua, the Principal Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, expressed confidence in the team's capabilities.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Peninah Malonza, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, explained in her speech that "adversities are a natural part of life, and we must be prepared for their occurrence." She emphasized that the lessons learned from the pandemic had brought together private, academic, and public sectors in the industry to forge a way forward in case of similar crises. The Cabinet Secretary also announced that the President would serve as the patron of the Centre and that the government would establish a resilience fund to support crises management efforts.

Editorial

This seems like a good time to use the expression that golfers are so fond of: "Well out!" The academic year 2022/2023 has ended successfully with many achievements to celebrate. As we slow down and take a break to enjoy the long vacation, however, we have been nudged by the Department of Physical Education Exercise and Sports Science that "Exercise is Medicine". Also, let us all support the department of Psychology in raising public awareness of mental health. Take a look inside for the details.

But please don't stop there - this edition of the newsletter has many other gems. Meet the 49th cohort of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) programme and find out how the programme has been doing since its inception in 2015. And with China Square operating at full blast in the neighbourhood, this might be a good time to learn some Mandarin Chinese – as you enjoy the long vacation, do make time and catch up on the latest achievements and developments. Cheers!

EKM.

YALI EA and Microsoft ADC Partner to Drive Innovations and Digital Skills

Innovation and digital skills are vital for the growth and development of any community. It is in this light that the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Centre East Africa (RLC EA) has partnered with Microsoft Africa Development Centre (ADC) to drive innovations and digital skills development in East Africa during a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony on 3rd May 2023 by Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina and Managing Director, Microsoft ADC, Ms. Catherine Muraga.

The partnership seeks to engage in cooperative support of innovations through investments in new ventures and community initiatives. Both parties are committed to achieving mutual benefits through the development of digital skills programmes and solutions for training participants and alumni in youth leadership.

YALI RLC EA will engage in co-creation with Microsoft ADC to develop digital skills programmes and solutions for training participants and alumni in youth leadership. This will ensure that YALI participants and alumni receive high-quality training that is tailored to meet the demands of the digital age.

In addition, YALI RLC EA will present trainees and alumni to Microsoft ADC for training sessions and idea competitions among others. This will provide opportunities for YALI participants and alumni to learn from Microsoft ADC's experts and be part of Microsoft's innovation ecosystem.

Furthermore, YALI RLC EA will engage YALI alumni to further cascade Microsoft's digital literacy training to other youth. This will help to bridge the digital skills gap in East Africa and empower more young people to participate in the



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina (centre), Managing Director, Microsoft ADC, Ms. Catherine Muraga (2nd left), Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa (right) and Chief of Party YALI RLC EA Dr. George Kosimbei (2nd right) during a visit to Microsoft ADC.

digital economy.

On the other hand, Microsoft ADC will provide capacity building opportunities on digital skills, including IoT, AI and ML among others. This will equip YALI participants and alumni with the skills they need to leverage technology and drive innovation in their communities.

Microsoft ADC will also design a challenge on tech for YALI RLC EA training participants. This challenge will provide an opportunity for participants to showcase their innovative ideas and receive feedback from Microsoft's experts.

In addition, YALI RLC EA will have access to Microsoft ADC Garage. This will provide YALI participants and alumni with a platform to collaborate, experiment, and innovate using Microsoft's tools and technologies.

Microsoft ADC will also provide access to human resources for mentorship and coaching. This will

ensure that YALI participants and alumni receive guidance and support from experienced professionals as they navigate the digital landscape.

Lastly, Microsoft ADC will provide access to Microsoft tools for NGOs to YALI RLCEA staff to enhance efficiency in programme implementation. This will help YALI RLC EA to streamline its operations and improve its service delivery to participants and alumni.

The partnership between YALI RLC EA and Microsoft ADC is a step in the right direction towards driving innovations and digital skills development in East Africa. Both parties are committed to achieving mutual benefits through the development of digital skills programmes and solutions for training participants and alumni in youth leadership.

This partnership will help to bridge the digital skills gap in East Africa, empower young people, and drive innovation in the region.

YALI East Africa 49th Cohort Launch



Prof. Michael Gicheru awards Happiness Alison Tandari a certificate.

The 49th Cohort Commencement Ceremony was held at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC). The occasion was graced by admirable icons, among them Ms. Mercy Kimalat, CEO Association of Startup and SME Enablers of Kenya, also Chief Guest; Eng. Andrew Masila, Technology and Innovation Leader at Safaricom; and Ms. Elizabeth Wathuti, Environment and Climate Activist, Founder of Green Generation Initiative (GGI), also an alumni of KU and YALI. The atmosphere brimmed with electric energy as the University Entertainment crew danced to the African themed ceremony.

While delivering his opening speech, Prof. George Kosimbei, YALI RLC EA Chief of Party, gave an analysis of what had taken place during the 4-week training. He stated that the cohorts had been learning how to solve challenges and explore new ideas and opportunities, which is of paramount importance in personal and professional growth.

They were equipped with resilience and adaptability, needed to navigate an ever-changing landscape. Additionally, undergoing a humbling experience of learning how to lead

better and manage resources responsibly fostered a sense of accountability and stewardship in the participants. By distributing resources thoughtfully and ethically, leaders contribute to the betterment of society, ensuring that the benefits reach those who need them the most. This holistic approach to leadership not only drives positive change but also empowers individuals to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world at large.

The cohort representatives stood before the audience, brimming with gratitude and humility, as they expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable training they had received. Shukriya Ali Mohamud, Public Management Track, Kenya, acknowledged that the journey had been one of immense growth and learning, accompanied by a sense of awe at the high-ranking individuals they encountered along the way.

Everyone she met was either a CEO or a Manager somewhere. Initially intimidated by the distinguished titles they encountered, they soon realized that each person they met brought unique experiences and wisdom to the table. Besides, she quoted, 'You're never in a place you

don't belong.' She recalled how a member of her cohort said that 'Africa is not my problem' after learning about the challenges that impact our continent.

Paschal Michael Peter, Public Management Track, Tanzania, narrated that instead of feeling overshadowed, they embraced the opportunity to learn from one another, fostering a collaborative environment that transcended titles and hierarchy. The representatives spoke of their satisfaction with the comprehensive training they had undergone, particularly in the areas of public, civic, and business management.

They highlighted the significance of mastering teamwork, risk assessment, and effective challenge mitigation within their respective jurisdictions. With newfound knowledge and strengthened bonds, they expressed their readiness to apply these skills and principles, shaping their communities for the better while embracing the challenges that lay ahead.

During the reading of the Vice-Chancellor's speech, it was noted that there were over 140 applicants, which was an overwhelming response, quite contrary to expectations but jubilatory. Fund grants were provided competitively and the strategic engagement of partners has seen a scale up in initiatives, which has in turn strengthened the capacity of alumni. Ms. Mercy, over the course of her address recounted how she's always been a CEO since she was 10 years old.

Her mother let her explore and handle responsibilities on her own at the domestic level. This surely prepared her for her future acumen. However, she hasn't always been successful as she has failed at ventures in the past, which fuelled her to learn and explore even further. Today, she sits on round table discussions, designing policies.

She emphasized that investing in the youth is extremely important. She ended her remarks with one of the famous quotes of Nelson Mandela, with whom she shares a birthday, 'Playing small does not serve the world.' Everyone in the room nodded vigorously in agreement.

Teaching Practicum Advisor Induction and Training Programme

The Teaching Practicum Advisors' Induction took place at the Kenyatta University amphitheatre as 412 teacher mentors from various schools gathered for a workshop on Student-Advisor retooling. This workshop was led by a committee of advisors and stakeholders who have been conducting mentorship programmes since 2013.

Dr. Caroline Mutwiri, Director, Centre for Teacher Professional Development and Excellence, welcomed the distinguished guests and teachers to the Kenyatta University Programme for Student-Advisors Retooling.

Subsequently, during his brief opening speech, Prof. Michael Gicheru, Executive Dean School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS), who represented Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor, emphasized that Kenyatta University is the largest teacher training institution that has embraced the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), which is an outcome-based learning compared to the former objective-based learning.

The workshop aimed at highlighting new techniques and approaches to training and assessment of teachers, most especially during their teaching practice at schools. The main focus of the workshop was centred around curriculum development; in the sense that a teacher is allowed to customize it as per the needs of the student, not throwing off balance the end goal, which is helping the learner to grasp content and develop practical skills.

Most importantly, competence, creativity, critical thinking, digital literacy, pedagogical learning, as well as self-efficacy were emphasized. These tools will put teachers at an advantage, precisely because of the shift from 'what you know' to 'what you can do'.

Teachers were advised to bring on



Dr. Evelyn Awoko, Director QAS, State Department Basic Education, Ministry of Education addressing teacher mentors during the Teaching Practicum Advisors' Induction.

board circumstances or scenarios of situations that directly relate and align with various concepts of learning. Moreover, of importance is reinforcing the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), in the three-step process: current level of performance, specific and measurable goal, and service delivery, all need to support each other.

Providing commentary, Prof. Samson Ondigi, Executive Dean, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, pointed out that education is widely perceived as being a crucial aspect of a society's development, and is often seen as the "co-equal" or "co-partner" of economic growth.

In other words, education is recognized as a key driver of economic and social progress, alongside other factors such as innovation, entrepreneurship, and good governance.

By investing in education, societies can help to build a more skilled and productive workforce, foster innovation and creativity, and create more opportunities for individuals to succeed and contribute to their communities.

In the final analysis, nurturing 21st century-ready teachers is about more than just ensuring that students are prepared for the future; it is about creating a culture of continuous learning and improvement that benefits everyone involved in the educational process. In this light, Dr. Evelyn Awoko, Director Quality Assurance and Standards (QAS), State Department Basic Education, Ministry of Education (also an alumna of KU), stressed the need to inject change.

She shared a famous quote by Aristotle: "Those who educate children well are more to be honoured than they who produce them; for education not only gives them life, but the art of living well".

Dr. Evelyn Awoko, in this quote, reminds us what every parent should pursue: the best possible education for one's children. This is possible through fostering a culture of innovation and experimentation, where teachers feel empowered to take risks and try new approaches to teaching and learning.

World Day for Physical Activity: Embracing Exercise for a Healthier Future

Kenyatta University recently marked a significant milestone by commemorating the World Day for Physical Activity on April 6. Established in 2002 by Agita Mundo with support from the World Health Organization, this annual event aims to promote the importance of physical activity in improving overall health and well-being.

This year, Kenyatta University's Department of Physical Education Exercise and Sports Science took the initiative to organize a special celebration to raise public awareness of the benefits of exercise. The University's dedication to fostering a culture of physical activity was evident as they arranged a cost-free Zumba class at the Bishop Square, exclusively for students and staff members.

Under the theme "Exercise is Medicine," the event aimed at inspiring the University community to embrace regular exercise as a means of enhancing their physical and mental well-being. Recognizing the undeniable link between physical activity and improved health outcomes, the organizers sought to promote a holistic approach to wellness that would empower participants to live healthier lifestyles.

The inaugural event witnessed an incredible turnout, with over 200 enthusiastic participants joining the Zumba class. The vibrant atmosphere was contagious as individuals from diverse backgrounds and age groups came together to celebrate the joy of movement. The energetic rhythms and dynamic dance moves showcased during the session encapsulated the essence of physical activity as a source of fun and vitality.

Throughout the event, participants were encouraged to explore different forms of exercise, ensuring that they found activities that resonated with their personal interests and preferences. From cardiovascular exercises like Zumba to strength training, the organizers aimed at providing a comprehensive introduction to a wide range of physical activities.

The celebration also featured informative sessions on the numerous benefits of regular exercise.



Students and staff engaging in an exercise session during the event.

Experts from the Department of Physical Education Exercise and Sports Science delivered engaging talks, highlighting how physical activity can improve cardiovascular health, enhance cognitive function, boost mood, and lower the risk of chronic illnesses.

Moreover, the event emphasized the importance of incorporating physical activity into daily routines, regardless of one's age or fitness level. Participants were encouraged to make exercise a priority in their lives and to embrace the concept of "Exercise is Medicine." By integrating physical activity into their daily habits, individuals can harness the transformative power of exercise to prevent and manage various health conditions effectively.

The success of the World Day for Physical Activity celebration at Kenyatta University underscores the growing recognition of the role of exercise in fostering a healthier future. By organizing such events, the University is taking proactive steps to create an environment that encourages physical activity and prioritizes the well-being of its students and staff members.

Moving forward, Kenyatta University's Department of Physical Edu-

cation Exercise and Sports Science intends to continue promoting physical activity throughout the year. They plan to introduce more recreational activities, sports competitions, and fitness programmes to provide ongoing opportunities for the university community to engage in regular exercise and embrace a healthier lifestyle.

The World Day for Physical Activity celebration at Kenyatta University serves as a shining example of how educational institutions can lead the way in advocating for a more active and healthier society. By empowering their students and staff to prioritize exercise, the University is not only investing in their immediate well-being but also equipping them with lifelong habits that will positively impact their lives in the long run.

As the significance of physical activity gains more recognition worldwide, Kenyatta University's commitment to promoting exercise as a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle is an inspiration to other institutions and communities. By embracing the notion that "Exercise is Medicine," we can build a brighter, healthier future for ourselves and future generations.

Kenyatta University Library: A Beacon of Academic Excellence with Emerald Knowledge

Kenyatta University Library stands tall as a symbol of academic excellence and intellectual growth. Recently, the library achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the prestigious Emerald Knowledge award, securing the top position among libraries in the entire African continent. This achievement not only highlights the library's dedication to providing exceptional resources and services but also solidifies its position as a beacon of knowledge and learning. Let's delve deeper into the remarkable journey and accomplishments of the Kenyatta University Library.

Emerald Knowledge Award: Recognizing Excellence:

The Emerald Knowledge award, one of the most esteemed accolades in the library community, recognizes outstanding libraries that excel in their efforts to promote knowledge dissemination and facilitate research. Kenyatta University Library's top-ranking position in Africa underscores its commitment to excellence, innovation, and academic support. The award acknowledges the library's exceptional contributions to the advancement of knowledge, enhancing the academic experience for students, faculty, and researchers.

A Hub of Intellectual Growth:

Kenyatta University Library serves as a dynamic hub for learning, research, and intellectual growth. With an extensive collection of books, journals, and electronic resources, the library provides a rich

academic environment that supports the diverse needs of the University community. It offers access to an array of scholarly databases, e-books, and e-journals, enabling users to explore a vast range of subjects and stay updated with the latest research in their respective fields.

State-of-the-Art Facilities and Services:

The library's infrastructure boasts modern facilities and amenities that foster an atmosphere conducive to learning and discovery. The spacious and well-designed reading areas offer comfortable seating, natural light, and a peaceful ambiance, allowing students and researchers to delve into their studies with focus and concentration. Additionally, the library provides state-of-the-art computer labs equipped with high-speed internet access, enabling users to harness the power of technology for research, collaboration, and knowledge acquisition.

Moreover, the Kenyatta University Library offers specialized services such as reference assistance, further facilitating research and expanding access to relevant resources. The knowledgeable and helpful library staff play a pivotal role in guiding users through the research process, assisting in information retrieval, and imparting information literacy skills.

Embracing Technological Advancements:

The library is at the forefront of embracing technological advance-

ments to enhance its services. In an increasingly digital age, the Kenyatta University Library acknowledges the importance of e-resources and digital platforms. Through subscriptions to a wide range of electronic databases and journals, the library ensures that its users have access to cutting-edge research and scholarly publications. By providing remote access to these resources, the library extends its services beyond the physical boundaries of the campus, empowering distance learners and researchers.

Additionally, the library aims to address the ever-evolving needs of its users by incorporating emerging technologies, expanding interdisciplinary collections, and fostering collaborations with other institutions. By remaining adaptable and forward-thinking, the Kenyatta University Library strives to stay at the forefront of academic research and knowledge dissemination.

The Kenyatta University Library's remarkable achievement in winning the Emerald Knowledge award reflects its unwavering dedication to academic excellence and knowledge advancement.

With its modern facilities, extensive resources, and a committed team of professionals, the library has become a shining example of a vibrant and supportive academic hub. As it continues to evolve, overcome challenges, and embrace new technologies, the Kenyatta University Library stands poised.





Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor Kenyatta University accompanied His Excellency, Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya to the Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital to launch the new CyberKnife System.



Entertainment during the 16th Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition for High Schools that took place at Kenyatta University Confucius Institute.



The Deputy British High Commissioner to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UNEP and UN Habitat, Josephine Gauld (3rd left) paid a courtesy call to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor represented by then Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Paul Okemo (3rd right) and other university officials.



Prof. Richard Oduor, Ag. Registrar, Research, Innovation and Outreach (right) shares a light moment with Prof. Rick Godman, University of Nebraska, USA.



Prof. Michael Gicheru awards a certificate to Munezero Ornella, a cohort 49 participant.



Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul K. Wainaina (centre) receives forest trophies won during the 2022 National Drama and Film festival accompanied by other University management officials, actors and actresses who participated.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina (centre) paid a courtesy call to the Director General KURA (3rd left) Eng. Silas Kinoti and other officials from both institutions.



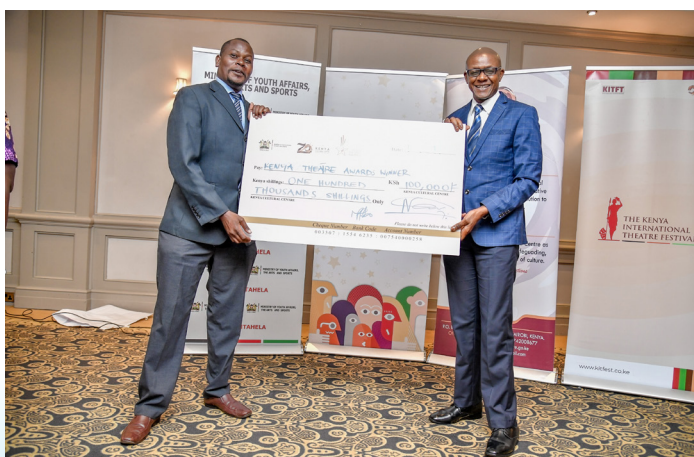
International students enjoying a light moment during the International Cultural Day.



Kenyatta University celebrated Prof. Toyin Falola @70 Conference led by Prof. Godfrey Mse, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance) (3rd right) and Dr. Damaris Parsitau, Country Director, British Institute in East Africa (3rd left) with University Management and participants.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance) Prof. Godfrey Mse gifts Prof. Goski Alabi, African Council for Distance Education President.



Prof. John Mugubi (right) and Dr. Emmanuel Shikuku display a dummy cheque award of Ksh 100,000 from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports, for being the Best University in Theatre Arts Year 2022.



H.E. Ambassador Yeo Sung-Jun, Korean Ambassador to Kenya (centre), Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor (2nd right), Mr. Kim Eungsu, Director, KU Korean Language and Culture Centre (left), Mr. Jared Oduor, President Kenya Police Taekwondo Federation, (2nd left) Dr. Hillary Mulama, representing the Chairman, Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages (right) and Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team during the Korean Language and Culture Centre Taekwondo Demonstrations.

Public Lecture By Executive Secretary of Codesria



“Kenya has only 8.4% of higher education institutions (both public and private) which is only a minor portion of the required average as per global standards.”

Dr. Godwin Rapando Murunga,
Executive Secretary CODESRIA
Dakar, Senegal.

The Department of History, Archeology and Political Studies put together a public lecture on Thursday 27th April, 2023 in honour of Dr. Godwin Rapando Murunga, Executive Secretary CODESRIA Dakar, Senegal. Dr. Murunga is a historian and political analyst of Kenyan origin.

Prior to joining CODESRIA as the Executive Secretary, he was lecturing at the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Nairobi. He was the immediate past director of the Africa Leadership Centre in Nairobi, and was a member of the Executive Committee of CODESRIA for two consecutive terms (2005-2011).

Dr. Murunga formally assumed duties at the CODESRIA Secretariat on 1st June 2017. During the public lecture, he took the physical and virtual audience through a research that was the main highlight of that afternoon: *Persisting Challenges to Production of Knowledge in Africa: A CODESRIA Experience*.

Dr. Murunga explained in detail how the countries of Africa and precisely Kenya have indulged in practices which have contributed to the erosion of the public good. According to his research, growth and privatization have been the most imminent factors expediting erosion of the public good which have brought about the rise of various conse-

quences and trends. We are starting to see more and more incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in school curriculums. Apparently, Social Sciences are gradually being phased out of holding an equal volume of importance.

He added that Kenya has only 8.4% of higher education institutions (both public and private) which is only a minor portion of the required average as per global standards. He compared how the government catered fully for his education when he was schooling in the university during his days. Currently, about 90% of students fully support themselves financially, leaving a gap of the bare minimum that the government caters for.

Universities are responding according to demand in numbers of new admissions and neglecting the access, relevance, equity and quality point of view of the education standard in the country.

Higher education lacks legitimacy due to low funding to back it up. The problem lies in displaced priorities and not lack of resources. He recalled how education was the greatest equalizer in the society but due to privatization, we lost touch and had a class system arising. This makes it extremely difficult for the financially unfortunate

bright students to access higher education. The government ought to have thought it through extensively, while sticking to the primary concern of building, maintaining and protecting the public good of higher education. Private interest may serve a public good but that good is often in competition with its profit motive, thereby displacing positive intents in a dysfunctional equilibrium.

As such, defining very carefully how the public good and private motives intersect is central to proper functioning of tertiary institutions and therefore to Knowledge Production. Hence, CODESRIA's response in its efforts has been to strengthen links and scholarships with universities in Africa and increase policy engagement.

To finish off his eye-opening lecture, he availed books that he brought with him as part of a donation from CODESRIA. The titles being: *Let the story and the lies come*, A critical Anthology of Folktales from Zanzibar by F.E.M.K Senkoro; *Let the People Speak*, Tanzania Down the Road to Neo-Liberalism by Issa G. Shivji; and *A Modern History of Africa* (Vol.1 19th century) by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, Winner of the Noma Award. Zeleza's book has an intriguing inception from a lecture here at Kenyatta University as revealed in the preface.

A Night of Architectural Brilliance: Celebrating Graduates' Accomplishments



Dr. Fidelis Kilonzo, Executive Dean, School of Engineering and Architecture addresses Architecture graduates and guests during the exhibition dinner and awards ceremony.

The Architecture graduates had their exhibition, dinner and awards ceremony, after being in the coursework for six years. Their exhibition stands and content included in them could symbolize years of hard work.

The occasion was blessed to have icons such as Eng. Maurice Akech, Executive Director, National Construction Authority (NCA), Mr. Joel Arumonyang, PS State Department for Public Works, representing Hon. Zachariah Mwangi Njeru, CS, Arch. Nancy Milgo, Assistant Manager, Training and Capacity Building, Ministry of Public Works and Arch. Silvester Muli, Chairman Board of Registration of Architects and Quality Surveyors (BORAQS) among others most especially members of staff from Crown Paints Kenya Limited, who were key sponsors.

There was well rounded support from industry related faculty members of TUK, TUM, UoN, and JKUAT Universities.

Prof. Alfred Omenya, a Lecturer from the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, KU, also the Programme Leader during the event, spoke during his opening

speech stating broadly that Architecture plays a vital role in shaping the world we live in. Environmental Sustainability has emerged as a leading factor in Architectural Design. Buildings and structures have a significant impact on energy consumption, resource depletion, and greenhouse gas emissions. He added that by prioritizing environmental sustainability, architects can design structures that minimize energy usage, maximize natural light and ventilation, incorporate renewable energy sources, enhance greenery and reduce waste.

Four students briefly explained the concept of their projects :Fish-Shaped Kisumu Rech Market (decongestion, waste management and flout perception of a fish market), Shopping and Entertainment Complex (enhance greenery, contemporary market place and fluid townscape), Chomyet (love) Eco Lodge (reflection on culture, nature-inspired and inclusive to wildlife) and Proposed KNH Annex Cancer Centre (decongestion, H-form for flexibility, and overall design for sustainability).

The Chief Guest, Arch. Silvester shared that he'd been to KU six

times so far since 2016 when the first Architecture Department, at Ruiru Campus was launched, with six initial-commencing students. During the same year, 55 students enrolled for the course, but only 26 made it to fourth year, and by that day, 21 were in their 5th year of the coursework.

Similarly, Arch. Franklin Mwango, a Lecturer of the same Department added that they had only begun with a staff of 3. Today, they have transitioned to 12 members of staff, who have served with utmost commitment and intrepidity to ensure the students receive the best.

Mr. Abhijit Roy, the General Manager of Crown Paints, while making his remarks advised the students to avoid three things all through the facet of their career namely: fear, ego and greed.

Ms. Maureen Ogachi, Business Development Executive at Crown Paints, gave voice to the company expounding that they have been in operation for 65 years since its inception in 1958 and is the only one of its kind that has ISO Certification. Additionally, they've been the first to launch eco-friendly paints, which have zero Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). They place emphasis on sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Mr. Joel wrapped up the remarks session by updating the students on the current recruitment of 29 architects, already advertised by the public service commission. He correspondingly reminisced on what Mr. Abhijit Roy had earlier said about avoiding fear, greed and ego in their pursuits. 'Yes, you see, there is no such thing as coincidence.' – J.M. Darhower.

Much appreciation was directed to the University and most especially the Chairperson, Architecture and Interior Design, Arch. Aidah Munano and the sponsors, Crown Paints who collaboratively put this together wonderfully.

YALI Alumni Homecoming Forum

Being the first home coming forum since its inception in 2015, it was a special day for all the stakeholders involved in this momentous ceremony on 11th May 2023. The Alumni from cohort 1 to cohort 49, that graduated barely a week before this ceremony, were present; representing the 14 Eastern and Central African Countries. Chief of Party YALI RLC EA, Dr. George Kosimbei, led the guest entourage with the Chief Guest Dr. Robert Karanja, Co-Founder Villgro Africa, leading the line.

Alongside was the University Management hierarchy including Prof. Godfrey Mse, the DVC (Administration and Finance) who was representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina; Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the DVC (Academic); and Dr. James Koskei, the Chairman, Tree Planting Committee KU.

Dr. Kosimbei expressed pleasure and at seeing everyone who came to the leaders' retreat. According to him, discovering projects and experiences, assuring the alumni of the centre's commitment along with fostering care for the environment and climate were some of the top tire reasons for the convergence. Soon after his remarks followed a concession of Alumni Country chapter officials just before the DVC (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, made her remarks.

She applauded the alumni for championing the programme. Moreover, through YALI, youth transition and are enriched. The DVC finalized by saying that the chapters will be encouraged to partner with other organizations in bettering their various countries.

Prof. Godfrey Mse stressed on the need to reattach the bond between the centre and the alumni. Furthermore, an ecosystem of young leaders has been created across all sectors. Chief Guest Dr. Robert Karanja honoured the KU Administration in his address and lauded the togetherness of the alumni. Further on, he expounded on his organization, Villgro Africa, which has supported more than 50 startups.

The tree planting session led by Dr. James Koskei, was done after the speeches and soon after, an after-



Kenyatta University held a dinner for YALI RLC-EA Alumni during the Awards Ceremony.

noon session of panel discussions and presentations by chapter leaders was conducted till just before evening when there was a networking break for the attendees.

The evening transitioned into a beautiful Homecoming Dinner Party graced by some prominent icons, among them Prof. Shem Migot-Adhola Chairman of Council, Kenyatta University; Prof. George Kosimbei, Chief of Party YALI RLC EA; Prof. Godfrey Mse (DVC Administration and Finance), representing the Vice-Chancellor of the University; Mr. David Gosney, USAID Kenya And East Africa; Ms. Rosalind Gichuru, Group Director, KCB Group Director Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Citizenship at KCB Bank Group, representing Group CEO, KCB Bank Group Mr. Paul Ruso; and Mr. Raymond Ochieng, Secretary Youth Development at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and the Arts representing the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH.

According to Mr. David Gosney, USAID has reserved a grant for the YALI RLC EA in support of their continued innovative efforts. He reported that at least every YALI Cohort alumni has created three jobs since their last workshop and impacted more than 100,000 people in their respective regions.

In her address, Ms. Rosslyn informed the audience that Project Tujiari, has also created pathways to employment, via sponsorship and other initiatives. Furthermore, the bank shall be celebrating 127 good years of operation since its inception in 1896. She emphasized on three pivotal points of being a leader: generosity, integrity, and the ability to mentor others.

Mr. Raymond brought the audience to agreement when he stated 'the Youth bulge in Africa has become the lead topic of discussion in round tables, yet so little is done to fix it.' He stressed the importance of actively participating in the knowledge-economy mindset, which Mr. Robert had earlier mentioned during the morning segment. On behalf of Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH, Mr. Raymond congratulated the cohorts for having reached that far.

The night ended with awards to different nominees who were well-deserving. Some received generous donations to propel them forth in their endeavours while others received gift bags and glass trophies. "You are all doing your part to redefine Leadership in Africa and beyond," said Ms. Rosalind Gichuru, KCB Group Director Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Citizenship at KCB Bank Group representing Paul Ruso, Group CEO, KCB Bank Group.

Mental Wellness Sensitization Forum



Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul K. Wainaina flags-off the Mental Health Awareness walk alongside Dr. Eunice Githae, Chairperson Psychology Department, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO), Mr. Nderitu Gikaria, Human Resource Manager, together with other University staff, students and facilitators of the event.

Kenyatta University recently hosted a thought-provoking Mental Health Awareness Walk and Sensitization Forum, themed: "Mental Illness and Substance Abuse." The event, organized by the esteemed Department of Psychology, garnered immense support and participation from various partners and stakeholders. Led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, also the chief guest of the forum, the forum aimed at addressing the critical issue of mental health in society.

The chief guest led a symbolic procession from the main gate to the Business and Students' Services Centre (BSSC), marking the beginning of the mental health champion's walk.

This inspiring initiative was part of a well-planned series of events designed to raise awareness and encourage discussions about mental well-being. The Vice-Chancellor's presence highlighted the university's commitment to prioritizing mental health.

Distinguished guests included Prof. John Muteti, the acting CEO of NACADA, who was represented by Ms. Susan Maua, the Programme Manager at NACADA. Other notable attendees included Dr. Pame-

la Kaithuru of ISSUP-KENYA; Mr. Boniface Ndirangu of APRAK; and Ms. Hilda Nyareso of SHAMIRI. Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academics, represented Prof. Wainaina in addressing the stakeholders and partners.

Dr. Eunice Githae, the Chairperson of the Department of Psychology, acknowledged her department members' contributions and emphasized the need for the institution to actively engage in conversations surrounding mental health.

She highlighted the issue of stigma associated with mental illness and stressed the importance of collective efforts to make a positive impact. Dr. Matilda Mghoi, a Clinical Psychologist from the Ministry of Health, commended the university for taking the lead in this initiative and recognized mental health as a crucial aspect of overall well-being. She expressed the ministry's commitment to supporting the university in this important endeavour.

Ms. Susan Maua, representing Prof. John Muteti, shared insights from NACADA, emphasizing the complex relationship between mental illness and substance use. She shed light on the challenges posed by substances such as alcohol, khat, tobacco, and cannabis, both legally

and illegally.

Ms. Maua emphasized the need for increased awareness and accessibility to support services, particularly for the young population.

Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, expressed gratitude to all the partnering organizations, stakeholders, and guests who participated in the mental health procession.

She acknowledged the university's commitment to addressing substance abuse cases on campus, highlighting the importance of disciplinary action coupled with a focus on identifying and addressing the root causes of these issues. Prof. Wanjohi emphasized the university's responsibility to support and empower students, calling for a collective effort to fight stigma and raise awareness about all aspects of mental health.

The forum concluded with a heartfelt appreciation for the partners and stakeholders involved, with a strong call for continued collaboration and engagement in future endeavours.

Kenyatta University remains dedicated to championing mental health and fostering a supportive environment for its students and staff alike.

Bridging Cultures: Chinese Proficiency Competition for High Schools



Entertainers during the 16th Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition for High Schools.

The 16th Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition for High Schools recently took place in Kenyatta University Confucius Institute on Thursday 25th May, showcasing a remarkable display of cultural exchange and language proficiency among talented students.

The opening ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries representing both China and Kenya. Counsellor Tang Jianjun, on behalf of Chinese Ambassador Dr. Zhou Pinjiang, expressed delight at the increasing number of Kenyan students embracing Mandarin and immersing themselves in Chinese culture. This collaborative effort between the two nations promotes mutual learning and a brighter future.

Notable guests included Mr. Andrew Too, Technical Assistant



Counsellor Tang Jianjun

representing Dr. Kipkirui Langat, Director General TVETA, and Sis. Dr. Susan Mutune from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). They commended Kenyatta University and the Confucius Institute for their role in promoting cultural diversity and language proficiency among Kenyan students.

The participating schools left a lasting impression with captivating performances during the ceremony. The audience was enthralled by impressive showcases from Dagoretti Kung Fu Academy, Starehe Boys' Centre, USIU-A, Rusinga School, Brookhouse School, Statehouse Girls' School, and Martial Arts Trainer Mr. Steve, an alumnus of Confucius Institute at Kenyatta University.

Dr. Hellen Guantai, the event coordinator, expressed gratitude to the participating schools, coordinators, and guests for their invaluable support. She emphasized the significance of the Confucius Institute as a collaborative endeavour between Kenya and China, highlighting the inclusion of Mandarin in the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) learning model. Dr. Guantai encouraged students to consider Kenyatta University for their future academic endeavours.

Excitingly, Mr. Andrew Too announced the accreditation of a Level 6 programme in Mandarin, equivalent to a Diploma, through the collaboration between Kenyatta

University and the Confucius Institute. Starting from September, students will have the opportunity of enrolling in the Diploma in Mandarin, providing access to a world of opportunities. Mr. Too emphasized the importance of learning the language Mandarin, the second most widely spoken language globally, and urged students to pursue current trends in their academic and professional pursuits. Sis. Dr. Susan Mutune reiterated the significance of Mandarin as an optional language in the curriculum.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Outreach at Kenyatta University, acknowledged the resilience and dedication of the participating students. The ultimate winner would receive a laptop and a fully funded trip to China, providing a remarkable opportunity for cultural immersion and academic growth.

The event emphasized the importance of language learning, cultural appreciation, and fostering global connections among Kenyan students. Kenyatta University's Confucius Institute looks forward to building upon the success of this prestigious competition, further enriching the educational landscape of Kenya, and fostering enduring friendships and collaborations between Kenyan and Chinese youth.

Celebrating the Art of Taekwondo



Taekwondo Demonstrations presented by Kukkiwon Taekwondo team.

On the 8th of June 2023, the Amphitheatre grounds came alive with the thrilling Taekwondo Demonstrations presented by the esteemed Korean Language and Culture Centre. The event kicked off with captivating performances by the vibrant Samulnori ensemble and an energetic K-pop band, featuring talented young girls who displayed mastery in playing traditional Korean instruments such as jing, janggu, kkwangaeri, buk, and changgo. The K-pop dancers grooved to the rhythm of Korean popular music.

Amidst the enthusiastic crowd, the renowned Kukkiwon Taekwondo team took center stage, captivating the audience with their awe-inspiring skills. Although the Nova High School students were unable to attend, Ms. Christine Kathurima, their Principal, graciously represented them and extended their heartfelt apologies.

Distinguished guests graced the event, including H.E. Ambassador Yeo Sung-Jun, the Korean Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Jared Oduor, President of the Kenya Police Taekwondo Federation, Prof. Paul Wainaina,

Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, and Dr. Hillary Mulama, representing the Chairman of the Department of Literature, Linguistics, and Foreign Languages.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mulama expressed sincere appreciation to everyone present for their participation in the Korean Language and Culture Centre Taekwondo Demonstrations.

He commended the Embassy's tremendous support and emphasized the invaluable opportunity provided to students to explore Korean language and culture, serving as an enriching alternative to traditional foreign languages such as German, French, and Chinese. Dr. Mulama acknowledged the significant number of students who have benefited from this collaboration and expressed his gratitude.

With over 300 students enrolled in certificate-level courses, the Centre continues to thrive. The dedicated team consists of two Korean teachers and one talented Kenyan emcee, Ms. Phillis Wangeci Ndiang'ui, who hosted the event with flair. Dr. Mulama proposed expanding the

language program beyond the certificate level, suggesting the development of a degree-level proposal that would be mutually beneficial for the institution and its collaborative partners.

Highlighting the immense benefits of martial arts, Mr. Jared Oduor emphasized its positive impact on developing a strong mindset, relieving stress, building confidence, mastering self-defense, enhancing coordination and flexibility, and fostering self-discipline. He also conveyed warm regards from the police body, expressing their regret for not being able to attend the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina was delighted by the exceptional talent showcased by the students in both sports and music. Impressed by the performances, he urged Prof. Grace Bunyi, Registrar of Corporate Affairs, to coordinate with the University Choir, invited to perform at the State House the following day, to explore the possibility of incorporating them into future events.

Prof. Wainaina emphasized that cultures and languages serve as powerful connectors, creating a global village that Kenyatta University proudly embodies. He extended an invitation to Alliance and Maryhill Girls' High Schools to consider further studies at the university, solidifying the institution's commitment to supporting the Centre.

Ambassador Yeo Sung-Jun expressed his delight in witnessing the growth of Taekwondo in Kenya since its introduction to public high schools in 1975, which has now garnered over 200,000 practitioners. He encouraged the students present to embrace martial arts for their personal well-being and development.

The event concluded with a heartfelt expression of gratitude from Dr. Mulama, followed by group photos capturing the memorable moments shared among the esteemed guests.



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMICS AND TOURISM

THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE (IBRIC) 2023

Theme: Strategic Business Innovations and Policies for
Sustainable Social and Economic Development.

Date: 22nd - 23rd June 2023

Mode of Participation: Virtual

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