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Kenyatta University newsletter

A Quarterly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives.



At a Glance

KU Set to Launch
Master of Laws (LLM)
Programme

GIZ and Kenyatta Uni-
versity Advance Sports
Education in Africa

ODPC Conducts Data
Protection Compliance
Audit

Council of Legal
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Hon. Rebecca Miano, CS Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife (Centre) is welcomed by Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO) and Dr. Esther Muniyiri, Director GTRMC during the Launch of the Strategic Tourism Human Capital Initiative for Eastern Africa at Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC) on the 7th of March, 2025.



TRANSFORMING HEALTH TECH WITH MDI

Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) representing the Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Mathew Wettergreen, Director of the Master of Bioengineering Global Medical Innovation programme at Rice University, launch a collaboration between the two institutions to develop a Master of Science in Medical Devices Innovation programme.

Kenyatta University (KU) is poised to take a giant leap in healthcare innovation, thanks to a transformative partnership with **Rice University in the USA**.

The upcoming launch of the **Medical Device Innovation (MDI) Master's Programme in September 2025** aims at equipping students and faculty with the skills to develop cutting-edge medical technologies that address local and global healthcare challenges. This collaboration, backed by the Lemelson Foundation, promises to bridge the gap between academia and industry, offering KU's academic community a unique opportunity to lead in medical innovation in Kenya and in the region.

The MDI programme, designed in collaboration with Rice University, is set to offer KU students an education grounded in the best global practices. Led by experts such as Prof. Matthew Wettergreen, a key figure in Rice's Global Medical Innovation Master of Bioengineering programme and Maryanne Muriuki, KU's MDI Programme Education Coordinator, the curriculum will provide hands-on experience through

clinical immersion and real-world problem-solving. This unique approach will help students identify healthcare bottlenecks and devise innovative solutions for improved patient care.

KU's School of Engineering and Architecture is central to the MDI programme's development. The programme has undergone rigorous development phases, led by Dr June Madete and Dr Kenneth Iloka, ensuring it aligns with local healthcare challenges and international best practices. **KU's School of Health Sciences** will also be deeply involved, focusing on preparing the next generation of innovators to address medical needs within Kenya and beyond.

What sets this programme apart is the strong focus on **clinical needs-finding**. Students will spend time in real healthcare settings, such as the Texas Medical Center, learning to identify gaps in medical technology. This immersive experience will allow students to develop medical devices that address both local and global healthcare needs. The programme will also benefit from Rice University's world-re-

nowned Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK), a state-of-the-art facility where students will work on designing and prototyping medical devices.

In addition to academic excellence, KU students will benefit from Rice University's extensive industry network. This collaboration will open doors to internships, joint research, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Industry partnerships are a core component of the programme, ensuring that students gain practical experience in real-world environments while contributing to the development of medical innovations.

Set to launch in September 2025, the programme's approval by the Commission for University Education (CUE) is the final step before KU students can begin enrolling in it. Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting new venture, an opportunity to shape the future of healthcare through innovation.

Are you ready to be a part of the next generation of medical innovators?

KU and Tallinn University: Unlocking Academic Collaborations



Prof. Tonu Viik, Vice Chancellor Tallinn University and Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. DVC (Academic) representing the Vice Chancellor, during a discussion on prospective partnership and collaboration of KU and Tallinn University.

With 437 active partnerships globally, Kenyatta University (KU) is cementing its status as a global academic leader. The latest exciting opportunity? A potential collaboration with **Tallinn University**, Estonia's third-largest institution of higher learning, known for its cutting-edge research and innovation.

Ranked among the top 5% of universities worldwide, Tallinn University offers various programmes, from undergraduate to PhD, making it an ideal partner as KU continues to expand its international academic footprint.

Founded in 2005, Tallinn University has expanded from a teacher-training institution to a leading research university. With a student body of 7,000 and over 1,000 staff, the University is committed to areas

such as teacher training, digital media, healthy lifestyles, and open governance. Research is a priority for Tallinn, with significant grant funding, making it an ideal partner for KU's strategic focus on academic and research excellence.

The Tallinn delegation, led by Prof. Tõnu Viik, Vice-Chancellor, expressed strong interest in forming a partnership with KU, focusing on **student and staff exchanges and joint research initiatives**.

Representing KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. James Kung'u, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), and Prof. Samson Ondigi, Executive Dean of the **School of Education and Lifelong Learning**, highlighted KU's success in fostering European collaborations through programmes like **Erasmus+**.



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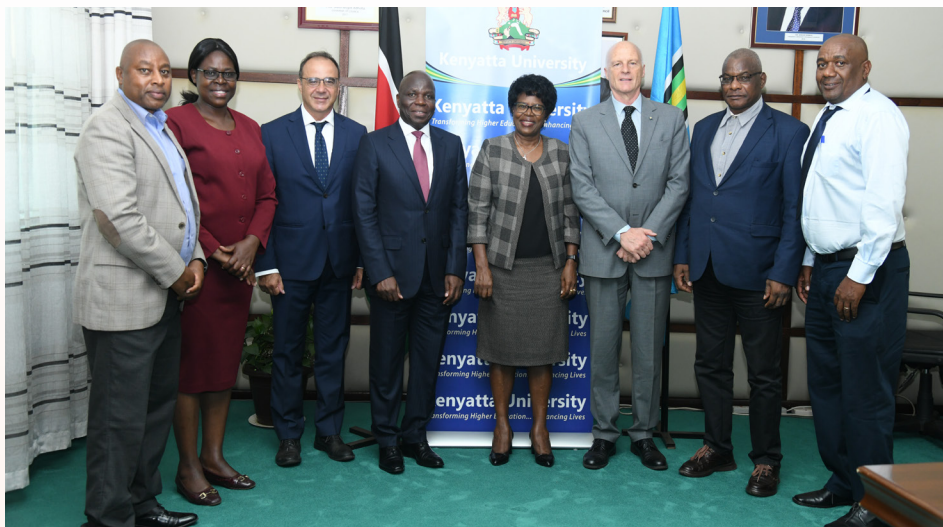
The delegation met with KU's deans, directors, and department representatives during their visit. Prof. Maina Mwangi from KU's Division of Research, Innovation, and Outreach highlighted the University's vibrant research culture, which is supported by major funders such as DAAD, UNESCO, USAID, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The School of Public Health also expressed interest in exploring partnership opportunities with Tallinn.

The delegation also toured the campus, engaging with faculty from the **Schools of Pure and Applied Sciences, Education, and Agriculture and Environmental Sciences**. Shared interests in fields like urban planning were identified as promising areas for collaboration.

As KU continues to host international delegations, the University remains committed to promoting global partnerships, enhancing its research capacity, and offering students and staff valuable international opportunities. This partnership with Tallinn University promises to unlock new academic and research collaboration avenues.

The Together Project Workshop: A Model for Sustainable Development and Partnerships



H.E. Roberto Natali, the Italian Ambassador to Kenya (3rd right), and Hon. James Muhati, Principal Secretary for Economic Planning (4th left), join KU Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, and the Planning Committee for the Together Project Workshop during the courtesy call on the VC.

The Together Project Workshop held at Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC) on 23rd January 2025 celebrated the success of the **Master of Economics in Cooperation and Human Development (MA-ECHD) programme**. This innovative initiative has significantly enhanced Kenya's capacity for economic cooperation and human development through research, training, and strategic partnership. The workshop spotlighted the programme's role in addressing both national and global development challenges, fostering collaboration between academia, government, and international partners.

The event featured prominent speakers, including H.E. Roberto Natali, the Italian Ambassador to Kenya, and Hon. James Muhati, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Economic Planning. Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi opened the session, joined by Dr. Perez Onono, Executive Dean of the School of Business, Economics, and Tourism, Prof. Eliud Njagi, Executive Dean of the Graduate School,

and other notable guests. In her address, Prof. Wanjohi highlighted the transformative impact of the MA-ECHD programme and reaffirmed Kenyatta University's commitment to sustainable development through education. The VC praised the programme's interdisciplinary approach, which blends academic excellence with practical solutions to societal challenges. Hon. Muhati, a KU alumnus, emphasised the government's support for the programme, including **sponsoring 100 public servants for skills enhancement**. He noted the programme's focus on inclusivity and sustainable growth, aligning with Kenya's national development goals.

The workshop also celebrated the vital role of international partnerships in the programme's success. H.E. Roberto Natali praised the cooperation between the Italian Embassy and Kenyatta University, calling the programme a model for human development and governance. The University of Pavia, a key partner, has also supported the programme through research collaborations,

faculty exchanges, and summer schools. Prof. Antonella Forlino, Vice-Rector of the University of Pavia, addressed the participants of the event virtually, celebrating the programme's success and future potential.

CISP (International Committee for the Development of Peoples) also played a crucial role. Dr Maura Viezzoli, CISP's President, emphasised the organisation's contributions to local stakeholder engagement, gender sensitivity, and inclusive education.

Since its inception, the MA-ECHD programme has trained over 100 policymakers, equipping them with the skills to drive economic cooperation and human development. Its research projects have provided actionable insights, including industry practice, bridging the gap between academia and the real world.

Dr. Perez Onono commended the programme's ability to foster collaboration and improve societal outcomes. As the workshop concluded, Dr Joseph Muniu, Chair of the Organising Committee, thanked all contributors, including the Kenyan and Italian governments, CISP, and Kenyatta University's management.

The Together Project Workshop demonstrated the power of collaboration in tackling developmental challenges. The MA-ECHD programme reflects Kenyatta University's leadership in academic innovation and its commitment to impactful partnerships for societal change. As Prof. Wanjohi stated, "This programme reflects our dedication to transformative education and impactful partnerships."

Unlocking the Future: The Global Network Project



Prof. Ritsuko Miyamoto (left), leader Akita University delegation, Dr. Mark Chetambe (right), Chairperson Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages and his Faculty members during deliberations on the Study in Japan for Africa Programme.

Imagine expanding your academic career and professional network while immersing yourself in a rich cultural landscape. The **Study in Japan Global Network Project** for Africa presents a unique opportunity, with **Akita University (AU)** in Japan partnering with **Kenyatta University (KU)** to offer both students and faculty the chance to study, teach, and collaborate on international research.

From 25th to 30th January 2025, Akita University delegation, led by Prof. Ritsuko Miyamoto, visited Kenya to strengthen academic ties. The team met with KU's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, and Ms. Njeri Kagea, a KU alumna now an Assistant Professor at Akita University. This visit paves the way for KU students and faculty to explore scholarships, academic exchanges, and joint research initiatives.

KU is further increasing the courses offered in the university by taking advantage of the three active MOUs with Japanese institutions, including Akita University.

The Department of Literature, Linguistics & Foreign Languages is expanding its **Japanese language programme**, equipping students with language skills that are highly valued in the global job market. Additionally, faculty exchanges will enable KU staff to collaborate and develop professionally in Japan.

Through this partnership, KU students and faculty will have access to scholarships and the opportunity to study at Akita University.

KU also provides a platform to support the navigation of scholarships, financial aid, and academic exchanges, ensuring that participants receive the guid-

ance they need to succeed in their international journey. The programme aims to strengthen ties between Kenyan and Japanese institutions and boost student recruitment. Whether you are a student, faculty member, or staff, this partnership offers a unique opportunity to expand your academic and professional networks. To learn more, visit the **Centre for International Programmes and Collaborations (CIPC)** at KU.

Founded in 1910, Akita University is a prestigious research institution renowned for its focus on **Mining Science**. It has 5,400 students, including over 200 international students. With a strong commitment to global cooperation, Akita University provides an ideal environment for KU students, faculty, and staff to connect and collaborate.

Ms. Njeri Kagea's journey is a prime example of the programme's impact. After receiving a scholarship to study at Akita University in 2010 and on concluding her studies there, she was employed as an Assistant Professor at Akita.

Her success highlights the transformative opportunities available through this partnership. Additionally, a KU graduate who completed a PhD in International Resource Science at Akita University now works in Tokyo, further emphasizing this collaboration's career potential.

Don't miss this transformative opportunity to realise your academic and professional potential. Apply today and begin your global educational journey!

SHAPING THE FUTURE: 2025 CAREER WEEK



Prof. Bernard Kivunge, Registrar Academic, welcomes approximately 11,000 high school students from across the country during the 2025 Career Week.

Ku set the stage for a brighter, more sustainable future with its **2025 Career Week**, held from 25th to 31st January. Themed *'Future Outlook: Careers for Sustainable Development in the Digital Age and Green Economy'*, this year's event aimed at equipping students with the skills necessary to thrive in Kenya's evolving green economy.

The official opening ceremony, held on 28th January at the Graduation Square, was graced by Mr. Shadrack Mwangolo Mwadime, Principal Secretary, State Department for Labour and Skills Development, who represented Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Mr. Mwadime shared insights into **Kenya's strategy for youth empowerment in the green economy**. He emphasised the importance of skills development and adaptability in preparing the next generation for the workforce.

Prior to the event, Mr. Mwadime paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor's office to discuss the **University's role in preparing graduates for the workforce**. The focus being creating employable graduates, fostering industry linkages, and align-

ing higher education with the national agenda for economic growth.

Addressing the high school students who attended Career Week, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, reiterated the University's commitment to supporting sustainable development through education, highlighting the importance of addressing both local and global challenges through academic and practical solutions.

Over 11,000 students from more than 100 schools participated in the Career Week, which featured a variety of activities such as HR forums, innovation days, and public lectures. These events were designed to prepare students for the competitive job market and connect them with potential employers.

Corporate partners like the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB), and Vivo Energy Kenya, among others, played a key role in offering networking opportunities and career advice.

The KU Centre for Career Development and Mentor-

ing Programmes organized the event, and continues to play a key role in supporting students career growth. With its **Growing Leaders Programme**, a six-week mentorship initiative aimed at KU's final-year students, the centre has taken the lead in career skills development. Mr. Kenneth Njoroge, Head of Career Development and Mentoring Programmes, explained how this programme helps students develop skills that make them more attractive to potential employers.

The event also included a Fun Day, where two lucky students won Ksh. 350 and career guides, providing valuable information on career opportunities and further education options. Prof. James B. Kung'u, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), emphasised the importance of **preparing students for the ever-changing job market**, particularly in digital literacy, cyber security, AI, and green initiatives.

PS Mwadime urged students to focus on skills development and entrepreneurship, rather than job-seeking alone, given the competitive nature of the labour market. The Career Week served as a vital stepping stone for students transitioning from academia to the workforce and reinforced Kenya's commitment to a sustainable, green economy.

KU TO LAUNCH MASTER OF LAWS (LLM) PROGRAMME



The Council of Legal Education delegation conducts an on-site inspection of Kenyatta University School of Law in Parklands.

On February 3rd, 2025, Kenyatta University hosted a pivotal meeting between its academic leadership and The Council of Legal Education (C.L.E.) members to discuss the institution's readiness to roll out a **Master of Laws (LLM) programme**, and inspect the training facilities available at the School of Law for implementing the LLM programme.

During the inspection's opening meeting co-chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. James Kung'u, and Mr. George Nyakundi from C.L.E., and attended by key University representatives, including Registrar (Academic), Prof. Benard Kivunge; Executive Dean of the School of Law, Arts, and Social Sciences, Prof. David Minja; his Deputy, Dr. Tom Ratemo; Graduate

School Dean, Prof. Eliud Njagi, and Chief Librarian, Dr. George Njoroge. In a speech delivered by Prof. Kung'u on behalf of the Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the university underscored its commitment to quality education and service provision.

Prof. Wanjohi highlighted the success of the **Kenyatta University School of Law**, which has **graduated over 1,000 students** and achieved national and international recognition in moot court competitions. She expressed optimism about joining the exclusive group of Kenyan institutions currently licensed to offer LLM programmes.

The meeting featured a detailed presentation by Dr. Tom Ratemo, Deputy Executive Dean in the School of Law, outlining the **roadmap**

for launching the LLM programme.

The presentation included input from legal professionals, curriculum details, graduation requirements, and the names of **12 faculty members who will support the programme**. Dr. Ratemo assured C.L.E. members of the University's preparedness to meet the rigorous standards required for accreditation.

Following the presentation, C.L.E. members posed questions and conducted an audit to evaluate the institution's readiness. The introduction of **Master of Laws (LLM) programme** underscores the University's vision of academic excellence and its ongoing efforts to expand its legal training programmes.

Masterclass with Industry Professionals



Soroush Molana Group, an Iranian ensemble, performing during a Masterclass with the third year students Department of Music and Dance.

The **Department of Music and Dance**, in the **School of Law, Arts, and Social Sciences**, offers a rich and diverse curriculum that balances theoretical knowledge with practical experience. The Department's programmes cover everything from music theory, performance, composition and dance techniques, offering students a well-rounded education. Students not only gain academic expertise but also participate in live performances, workshops, and masterclasses led by internationally renowned artists.

The Department recently hosted Dr. Ali Pourmarjan, the Cultural Counselor of the **Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran**, who was in the company of an Iranian ensemble: Soroush Molana Group. The visit was supported by the Iranian Embassy, and it provided students with invaluable exposure to different music styles and cultural expressions.

In addition, the Department **connects students to real-world opportunities**, including performances, collaborations, and masterclasses with esteemed musicians like the

alongside international artists exhibiting their understanding of different musical traditions and performance styles. By engaging with musicians from diverse backgrounds, such as those from Iran's rich musical heritage, students gain invaluable insights into **world-class artistry** and deepen their appreciation for global music, enriching their own creative ability.

KU's Department of Music and Dance is the perfect place to nurture your artistic potential. With a **comprehensive curriculum**, hands-on experience, and international exposure, the Department equips students with the tools they need to excel in the world of music and dance.

Hossein Sajoodi and Mohammad Sarbaz, Soroush Molana Group. These experiences help students sharpen their skills and prepare for careers in the global music and dance industries.

Furthermore, **Culture Week**, which the Department is central in planning and executing, helps students immerse themselves in a global cultural experience. This event allows them to showcase their talents

Third-year KU students, Victor Mangi Yaa and Moses Muigua Kariuki, in the Department of Music and Dance, showcased their talent in performing with traditional African musical instruments during the event. Their performances reflect the Department's dedication to blending local cultural heritage with modern musical education.



Victor Mangi Yaa and Moses Muigua Kariuki showcase their talent using African traditional instruments.



Dr. Faith Nkuru, Director Students Affairs, inspires students during a mentorship seminar for Orphan and Vulnerable Students (OVS)

Mental health is essential to overall well-being, enabling individuals to cope with life's stresses, realise their potential, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In recognition of this fact, **Kenyatta University's Endowment and Alumni Programmes Directorate (EAPD)** held a mentorship seminar for **Orphan and**

Vulnerable Students (OVS) on 14th February 2025 at BSSC Hall 14. The seminar, themed '**Mental Well-being and Career Alignment**', was attended by key figures, including Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. James Kung'u, Dr. Faith Nkuru, Director of Student Affairs, and Dr. Mwangi Gachara, Director of EAPD.

Promoting Mental Wellbeing and Career Alignment

The seminar, which encouraged student interaction, covered various aspects of life. Prof. Kung'u, the Guest Speaker, urged students to work hard and make the most out of their scholarships, stressing that life decisions are shaped by one's actions, not past circumstances. He also advised students to embrace new skills and extra-curricular activities.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, in her speech delivered by Prof. Kung'u, commended the seminar as part of the **University's mission to offer all students equal opportunities** for success beyond academics.

The event also included discussions on mental health, life skills, and career development, providing the students with tools to manage stress and make informed career choices.



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LOCATED AT KENYATTA UNIVERSITY RUIRU CAMPUS



Pictorial



Kenya National Paralympics Committee hosted the national qualifiers for athletics at the KU Sports Ground.



Students of Confucius Institute at Kenyatta University performing during the 2025 Career Week held at the Graduation Square.



Amb. (Dr.) Francis Muthaura (Right) together with (Left - Right) Prof. Waceke Wanjohi and Dr. Ben Chumo, present a portrait of the late Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla to his cousin, Mr. Zephaniah Akengo-Adholla.



Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. DVC Academic receives the award of Best Training Institution (universities) on behalf of KU during the Kenya National Theatre Awards, 2025.



Olympian Ferdinand Omanyala takes students through his exercise drills during his recent visit to Kenyatta University.



Dr. Ben Chumo, Chairperson of the KU Council and Sen. Kembi-Gitura, MGH, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital (KUTRRH) during a courtesy call.



Dr. Mwangi Gachara, Director of Endowment and Alumni Programmes making remarks at the Orphans and Vulnerable (OVS) Students Seminar.



(Left - Right) Prof. Peter Kamau, Prof. Kevin Lanza, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa and Prof. Vincent Onywera (KCA University) during a discussion on Urban Heat and Health Information System initiative.



Mr. David Mutuma Mutonyi facilitates a Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) Capacity Building Committee training for the School of Education and Lifelong Learning.



H.E. Musalia Mudavadi, the Prime Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya and Prof. Waceke Wanjohi at the 76th India Republic Day celebration.



International students celebrating and sharing their diverse cultures at International Students Culture Day.



Mr. Shadrack Mwangolo Mwadime, Principal Secretary, State Department for Labour and Skills Development, inspects a guard of honour mounted by the KU Panthera Scouts during the official opening ceremony of the 2025 Career Week.

GTRCMC-EA Shines at MEA Future Leaders Challenge 2025 in Dubai



Kenyan Students Win at the 2025 MEA Future Leaders Challenge in Dubai.

Kenya's future leaders have proved their mettle on the global stage at the **Middle East and Africa (MEA) Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) 2025 Finals** in Dubai, where students and educators from across the region showcased their extraordinary talents.

Held from 21st - 24th January, 2025, the event brought together **95 top students and 80 educators, policymakers, and industry leaders from 13 countries**. The Kenyan delegation, consisting of 12 students and 8 educators from

prestigious institutions like Kenyatta University, Kenya's finest, Strathmore University, and Boma College, triumphed in the competition with stellar achievements in innovation and leadership.

Onesmus Kimathi's team took first place in its innovative **EaseStay project**, focusing on accessibility and AI-driven personalised assistance. Diana Njoroge's team secured the second place with a groundbreaking **So-Low app** for solo travellers, while Abdalla Nasur earned the prestigious title of Top

Future Leader Student 2025. Additionally, Mark Murugi and Dorice Morong's **project on cultural integration** won Special Recognition for its effort to preserve endangered cultures.

The event also provided invaluable networking and career development opportunities as participants connected, interacted and learned from industry experts. Kenya's exceptional performance not only highlights the immense potential of its youth but also reinforces the country's growing influence in global tourism innovations.

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Erasmus+ Collaboration with the University of Naples



Prof. Gerolama Condorelli (right), a Professor of General Pathology from the University of Naples and Dr. Titus Kahi-ga, KU Project Representative during a discussion on Erasmus+ Mobility Project.

Kenyatta University remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering global partnerships that enhance academic excellence, research, and knowledge exchange. As part of this commitment, the University hosted Prof. Gerolama Condorelli, a distinguished professor of General Pathology from the University of Naples, from 11th to 12th February 2025 under the **Erasmus+ Mobility Project**.

Prof. Condorelli's visit results from the **Erasmus+ KA171 programme**, which promotes staff mobility between Kenyatta University and the University of Naples. This collaboration, approved under the 2023 Erasmus National Agency call, underscores Kenyatta University's dedication to expanding international engagement and fostering interdisciplinary research.

During her visit, Prof. Condorelli delivered a guest lecture on Early Cancer Diagnosis with an Innovative Aptamer-Based Biosensor Platform at the Department of Pharmacology and Clin-

ical Pharmacy on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in BSSC Room 14. Her lecture presented a unique opportunity for students and faculty to gain insights into cutting-edge cancer diagnostics and medical biotechnology advancements.

A key highlight of her visit was a courtesy call on the Acting Vice-Chancellor on Wednesday, 12th February 2025, in Mandela A Boardroom, during which she briefed the Vice-Chancellor on her activities under the Erasmus+ Mobility Project and explored possible areas of collaboration in cancer research and medical biotechnology between **Kenyatta University and the University of Naples**.

Prof. Condorelli, a renowned cancer and medical biotechnology researcher, Coordinates the Medical Biotechnology Master's Programme and is the Erasmus delegate for Biotechnology at the University of Naples. She has been pivotal in various Erasmus Mundus programmes, particularly precision medicine and bioengineering innovations.

Her extensive research portfolio, numerous publications, and contributions as a grant and journal reviewer reinforce her standing as a leading figure in cancer research.

Kenyatta University values international collaborations, which provide opportunities for faculty members to engage in **joint research projects, student exchange programmes, and knowledge-sharing initiatives**. The University remains dedicated to strengthening global networks that drive academic innovation, promote excellence, and contribute to addressing critical challenges such as cancer research and medical biotechnology.

Prof. Condorelli's visit significantly deepens the relationship between Kenyatta University and the University of Naples. It reinforces the University's vision of becoming a globally competitive institution through meaningful partnerships and collaborative research.

KU's Theatre Excellence Recognized



KU lecturers, Dr. Emmanuel Shikuku and Dr. Susan Gitimu, in a news interview with KUTV host Mariam Ojwang during the Kenya National Theatre Awards, 2025.

Kenyatta University has once again proven its commitment to academic and artistic excellence by winning the Best Learning Institution (Universities) Award at the 4th Kenya Theatre Awards 2025 held on 20th February 2025 at the Kenya National Theatre. This prestigious recognition highlights KU's dedication to nurturing creative talent, solidifying its position as a leader in theatre education in Kenya.

The Award was received by Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Grace Bunyi, Ag. Registrar Corporate Affairs, Dr. Kiilu Tommy, Chairman of the Department of Communication, Film, Media & Theatre Studies, and Dr. Duncan Wambugu, Chairman of the Music and Dance Department. Speaking at the event, Prof. Kung'u expressed immense pride in the strides that the University continues to make, stating, "This recognition underscores our commitment to nurturing creativity and advancing theatre studies in Kenya. Our facul-

ty's dedication ensures that KU remains a beacon of excellence in academia and in the arts."

Kenyatta University's theatre programme has flourished under the guidance of highly dedicated faculty members who train and mentor students to realise their full artistic potential. Dr. Tommy Kiilu, a driving force in KU's theatre Department, has played a crucial role in shaping the curriculum, ensuring that students receive theoretical and practical training in theatre arts. Similarly, Dr. Wambugu has led the Music Department in incorporating performance arts into KU's broader artistic ecosystem, thus fostering a culture of interdisciplinary creativity.

Other KU scholars, such as Dr. Shikuku and Dr. Ann Mungai, who were also honoured at the awards ceremony, have contributed significantly to KU's thriving arts scene. Their mentorship has shaped talented graduates and ensured that KU alumni continue making an impact in the Kenyan and global thea-

tre industry. Kenyatta University's impact extends beyond its classrooms, with many alumni excelling in the creative industry as actors, directors, playwrights, and cultural influencers. Through practical training, mentorship programmes, and opportunities to participate in major productions, KU students gain firsthand experience that prepares them for professional success. Many alumni have gone on to become celebrated names in the theatre and film industries, further cementing KU's legacy as a hub for artistic brilliance.

The recognition at the 4th Kenya Theatre Awards is a celebration of KU's present achievements and a testament to its long-standing reputation as a powerhouse of knowledge, creativity, and cultural preservation. As Kenya's leading university, Kenyatta University continues to set the standard for academic and artistic excellence appreciating that education and the arts are deeply interconnected in shaping a progressive society.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening for Female Staff



A healthy workforce is a key pillar of any organisation's success. Employers who invest in their employees' well-being foster a productive, engaged, and motivated workforce. Recognising this, Kenyatta University champions staff and student wellness through its Directorate of Wellness and Rehabilitation Services. The Directorate is committed to providing services that address holistic well-being, covering areas such as mental health, stress management, reduction of stigma, and awareness of non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes, and hypertension.

In collaboration with Guru Nanak Hospital, the Directorate organised a breast and cervical cancer screening program for female staff members. The two-day event, held on February 13th and 14th at BSSC, was aimed at creating awareness about cancer prevention, providing free screening services,

promoting early detection and timely medical intervention. In addition to cancer awareness, the programme covered mental health, stress management, drug and substance abuse, and general wellness education.

The screening process included registration, health education, clinical screening, and counselling. Medical professionals conducted breast examinations, pap smears, blood sugar tests, and blood pressure screenings.

Participants with abnormal results were referred for further diagnostic tests and medical follow-ups. Beyond screening, experts provided valuable insights into cancer prevention and the importance of a proactive approach to health.

The programme registered great success. Several challenges were noted including fear and stigma surrounding cancer screening, which remains a

significant barrier, preventing many individuals from seeking early diagnosis. There is thus a pressing need for more interventions to combat stigma and encourage screening. Additionally, logistical challenges and financial constraints hinder large-scale screening efforts. Expanding partnerships and securing financial support from well-wishers to enhance the reach and impact of such initiatives was recommended. Strengthening collaborations with additional healthcare providers to improve service delivery was also emphasized.

Despite these challenges, the screening programme successfully reached female staff members from various University departments. Participants were not only screened for breast and cervical cancer but also received screening for other non-communicable diseases, reinforcing the importance of a comprehensive health approach.

Kenyatta University expressed gratitude to Guru Nanak Hospital, the University Wellness Section, medical professionals, and all participants in the screening exercise for their contributions.

The University remains committed to prioritising staff wellness by providing continuous health education and screening programmes to ensure a healthier and more productive workforce.

GIZ and KU Advance Sports Education in Africa.



(Left - Right) Dr. George Njoroge, KU Chief Librarian, Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Ms. Kristin Richehter, Regional Manager GIZ and Sport 4 Development in Africa (GIZ AND S4DA) during the launch of the Education and Sport 4 Skills: Lower Primary Movement Activities Handbook.

On Monday, 10th February, 2025, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, represented by the Ag. Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. James Kung'u, warmly received Ms. Kristin Richter, Regional Manager of **GIZ and Sport 4 Development in Africa (S4DA)**, during a courtesy call that celebrated the strong partnership between GIZ and Kenyatta University.

The collaboration between the two institutions continues to advance sports as a tool for education and development across Africa.

During the courtesy call Ms. Richehter presented Prof. Kung'u copies of the newly reviewed **Physical Education and Sport 4 Skills: Lower Primary Movement Activities Handbook**. This resource, aimed at enhancing physical education in schools and promoting life skills development, has been reviewed in partnership with the Department of Physical Education, Exercise, and Sports

Science at Kenyatta University. The Vice-Chancellor contributed a foreword to the Handbook, which has now been approved for roll-out in schools nationally.

The S4DA Project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, promotes gender equality, safeguarding, and inclusion through sports.

It aims at creating safe, engaging spaces that foster respect

and equal opportunities. Kenyatta University's collaboration with GIZ has been impactful. In September 2024, the University hosted the 8th International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sports, and Dance-Africa (ICHPER. SD-Africa) Conference, where GIZ and S4DA were key participants.

The Conference emphasised the transformative role of sports in education and community development. This handbook will support teachers in delivering physical education at the primary school level and instil essential life skills in young learners, aligning with S4DA's vision.

The Vice-Chancellor applauded GIZ and the S4DA Project for their dedication to fostering inclusion and equality through sports. She assured the visitors that Kenyatta University remains committed to strengthening partnerships that advance education, community development, and gender equity.

The GIZ-S4DA and KU collaboration reflects the University's strategic vision to create meaningful, sustainable initiatives that benefit society.





Ensuring Alignment with Data Protection Act



Prof. James Kung'u, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic (centre) and Mr. Edmond Wandera, the Lead Auditor (5th left) and senior officers of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and Kenyatta University.

Kenyatta University upholds its commitment to **data privacy and security** by ensuring full compliance with national data protection regulations.

In this regard, a team from the Office of the **Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC)**, led by Mr. Edmond Wandera, the Lead Auditor, paid a courtesy call on the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, represented by the DVC Academic, Prof. James Kung'u, on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, ahead of a scheduled data protection compliance audit.

During the courtesy call, Mr. Edmond Wandera was accompanied by three officials from ODPC: Mr. Godfrey Maruta, Ms. Janet Kimtai, and Mr. Nicholas Kipkoech.

The meeting with top University management served as an opportunity to discuss the importance of data protection and reaffirm Kenyatta University's dedication to ensuring compliance with the law. The ODPC

is a government agency established under the Data Protection Act of 2019, with the mandate to enforce data protection laws, safeguard personal information, and uphold individuals' privacy and fundamental rights.

The office ensures that organisations handling personal data adhere to legal and regulatory frameworks to prevent misuse and unauthorised access.

According to **Section 23 of the Data Protection Act, 2019 and Regulation 53 of the Data Protection Regulations, 2021**, the ODPC is authorised to conduct compliance audits and periodic inspections of data controllers and processors.

These audits assess adherence to data protection laws, ensuring that institutions such as Kenyatta University implement necessary measures to secure personal data and enhance accountability.

The ODPC Team's visit marked the beginning of a Data Pro-

tection Audit at Kenyatta University, which took place from 11th to 14th February, 2025. The audit evaluated the University's policies, systems, and procedures to ensure they are aligned with the Data Protection Act.

As the leading University in Kenya, Kenyatta University recognises the critical role of data security in safeguarding the personal information of students, staff, and stakeholders.

The University remains committed to implementing best practices in data protection, enhancing transparency, and fully cooperating with the ODPC to meet compliance requirements.

The audit exercise enhanced Kenyatta University's commitment to ensuring that its data handling practices adhere to the highest legal and ethical standards, reinforcing its role as a responsible data controller in Kenya's higher education sector.



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We invite you to stay connected with your alma mater by joining Kenyatta University Alumni Association. By becoming a member, you will join a group of vibrant professionals and leaders who share in your passion for excellence.

Together we can support one another, foster networking opportunities and continue to contribute to the growth and development of our beloved University.

To get into the KUAA database and receive regular updates on University matters and opportunities available to our alumni, please register as a member using the QR code below;



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The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit/shorten articles and to decide whether to publish them.

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