Sino - Africa Research Centre Unveiled

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1. **Tech Expo**: November 3 – 4, 2016 (JKUAT Main Campus).
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3. **The East African Universities Games**:
   December 16 – 21, 2016 (JKUAT).
4. **CUE Exhibition**: March, 2017

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From L-R: Wang Qing-Feng of the Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of the Peoples’ Republic of China in Kenya, Counsellor Guo Ce; Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Dr. Liu Xianfa; Council Members: Njoki Kahiga and Bertha Dena; and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga cut the ribbon during the unveiling of the Sino-Africa Research Centre.

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We Truly Value all Partnerships

The months of August and September 2016, will remain significant to JKUAT and the country at large.

It was during this period that, besides hosting a number of historic TICAD VI Conference side events which were a great honour to our University, several prominent Japanese guests paid courtesy calls on JKUAT – the brain child of the Japanese Government.

These visits were marked by a partnership that later led to the ground breaking of the Kshs 350 Million food factory, a joint venture between JKUAT and the Nissin Food Holdings Company Limited of Japan, that is set to manufacture instant noodles at the University’s Main Campus. This was just two days before the commencement of the TICAD VI Conference.

Just like the pioneering TICAD VI conference that was being held in Africa, it was also the first time a Japanese company was partnering with a local entity in food manufacturing (see story elsewhere). This was is in addition to other collaborations in research, construction of the multimillion research and innovation centre (iPIC), as well as support to the Pan African University (PAUSTI), just to mention a few.

The following month witnessed a friendship of two professors (that was originally forged in China) give birth to a multi-billion shillings project at JKUAT, which has since been officially handed over to the University. The two, Prof. Robert Gituru and his Chinese counterpart – Prof. Wang Qing Feng, met at Wuhan University some years back. This resulted into what has elevated JKUAT on the world map by becoming the only institution of higher learning in Africa to benefit from a Chinese Government supported initiative, the Kshs 3 Billion China – Africa Joint Research Centre, otherwise referred to as Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC).

The Centre will not only benefit JKUAT researchers, but also African and Chinese scholars who wish to conduct joint biodiversity research activities.

It is evident that high impact achievements and success can only be realized through focused collaborations as individual struggles may not translate into much.

JKUAT is cognizant of the African proverb that says: If you want to go quickly, go alone, If you want to go far, go together.

The University’s determination to engage and benchmark has made it a household name in the region.

The World of academia is diverse, which is why JKUAT believes one may not have to invent the wheel, but can add value to the already existing wheel.

In a nutshell, JKUAT values and appreciates every partnership, be it in research, training, innovation or scholarship, irrespective of the level of contribution.

To all our partners, we salute you, as JKUAT believes we all have a role to play for the good of mankind.

Once again, we cherish our partners!

Hindzane Ntonge
JKUAT’s Kshs 3 Billion Botanical Garden and Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre, the only one of its kind in Africa located on a 40 acre piece of land at the University’s Main Campus in Juja was handed over to the University, courtesy of the Chinese Government, Monday, September 26, 2016.

Addressing guests during the handing over ceremony Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Dr. Liu Xianfa hailed the existing bilateral relationship between his country and Kenya stressing that there was a lot to benefit from the collaboration. The Ambassador also lauded JKUAT’s research prowess which he said had distinct it from most institutions in the region.

The research Centre, expected to be the hub of cooperation between China and Africa in biodiversity related research and conservation for the African region, will among other activities, house administration offices, conference and accommodation facilities, specialist research laboratories, and a modern agriculture demonstration zone.

The initiative, the Ambassador noted, was the first, unique and most compressive research project ever supported by the Chinese government anywhere else in the world.

“Of all the projects we have initiated in Kenya, from infrastructure, energy as well as to health among several others, Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre project stands out as the most unique and significant initiative the Chinese government has ever supported”, said Dr. Xianfa.

The collaboration has further opened other areas of cooperation with the Chinese Government. So far, JKUAT has received over 40 postgraduate scholarships for students to study biodiversity related courses in China. Technical staff have also received scholarships for technical training in various institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the fields of molecular techniques, virology, botanical garden maintenance, dryland management, oenology and viticulture among others.

In a speech read by Council Member, Madam Njoki Kahiga, the Chair of Council, Prof. Paul Kanyari thanked both the Kenyan and Chinese Government for allowing her Institution host the project. This, he noted, was as a result of the University’s strength in research.

There is already ongoing collaborative research with CAS institutes. Floristic investigation in the East African Flora as well as population genetics and phylogenetic studies targeting high altitude plant taxa in Kenya is being undertaken in collaboration with Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Collaboration with the Key Laboratory of Grape Science and Enology, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IB-CAS) is focusing on evaluation and improvement of new cultivars of grapes for local conditions in Kenya. Plans are at an advanced stage to set up a Ground Receiving Station (for satellite data) on the grounds of the Sino Africa Joint Research Center in JKUAT jointly by the Department of Geomatic Engineering & Geospatial Information Systems (GEGIS) in JKUAT and the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences (RADICAS).

The running and management of SAJOREC and JKUAT Botanical Garden facility will be a function of the University (with technical and advisory input from CAS).

On her part during the handover ceremony, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, said the Centre will foster research in the region while boosting human capacity through training in key thematic areas.

“The research at the center will mainly focus on areas such as biodiversity conservation, geographic and remote sensing, natural products development, agricultural science and technology, microbiology and molecular biology,” said Prof. Imbuga.

The Centre, she acknowledged,
will be critical in the fight for food security in the country and continent especially in recent times when the effects of climate change is affecting plant and animal population dynamics as never experienced before.

The facility is envisaged to be an Income Generating Unit and upon attainment of full operation status, is expected to be self-sustaining besides generating revenue for the University. The JKUAT Botanical Garden is expected to serve four main purposes:

1. Provide new plants of economic importance to society including medicinal, ornamentals, trees for forestation and plants for industry, fruits and cash crops.
2. It will further keep plants for study of growth, adaptability, economic and genetic characteristics.
3. Disseminate cultural and scientific information about plants to the general public and
4. Preserve endangered and rare plants, and also investigate methods of conservation in natural habitats.

Additionally, the garden will provide recreation, as well as contribute to agricultural productivity through conservation and distribution of the many promising but underutilized and neglected food, medicinal and industrial crops. This will also focus on wild relatives of crops which are used in plants breeding to impart resistance to drought, pests and diseases and to adapt crops to other adverse environmental conditions.

**The Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre**

The Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre will comprise administration offices, conference and accommodation facilities, and specialist laboratories engaging in cutting-edge research, namely;

1. Biodiversity conservation laboratory
2. Geographic and remote sensing laboratory
3. Natural products laboratory
4. Agricultural science and technology
5. Microbiology laboratory
6. Modern agriculture demonstration zone

Dr. Xianfa said the realization of this project is a testimony of research cooperation echoed by the Chinese Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China His Excellency Li Keqiang while addressing the African Union at the AU headquarters Centre in Addis Ababa on May 5, 2014.

In his address dubbed: ‘Bring About a Better Future for China-Africa Cooperation,’ His Excellency Li Keqiang said, among other things, his government would promote the setting up of a “China-Africa Joint Research Centre” in Kenya which would focus on biodiversity protection, desertification control, modern agricultural demonstration and other areas of interest to Africa. He noted that China would keep stepping up her cooperation on ecological and environmental protection and actively develop clean energy and renewable energy, with the aim of pursuing development and developmental protection in a holistic way and build a green Africa that enjoyed sustainable development. This is what JKUAT can now reveal to the whole world that the centre is at its final stages of completion.

While giving a vote of thanks during the ceremony, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Esther Kahangi, encouraged researchers to forge partnerships and friendship with their counterparts from other countries as epitomised by Professors Wang Qing-Feng of the Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Robert Gituru of JKUAT.

The idea of a Chinese-aided Botanical Garden and Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre in Kenya, where African and Chinese researchers would conduct joint research was conceived during botanical field research treks that Prof. Robert Gituru of JKUAT and his research counterpart Prof. Wang-Qing Feng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, undertook in the Chinese central provinces of Hunan and Hubei in 1999. The initiative has since come to fruition thanks to the support by both JKUAT and CAS and to the long cordial ties between Kenya and China.

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Madam Kahiga receives a symbolic key from Dr. Xianfa to symbolise the official handing over of the project.
Friendship that Culminated into a Kshs. 3 Billion Project

Pro. Robert Gituru left Nairobi as a humble young man for China in pursuit of his long arduous research field treks in 1999. He had no idea that his move and friendship he later cultivated with a Chinese research counterpart – Prof. Wang Qing Feng at one of the Chinese top research institutions would invite China to Kenya and establish a historic academic home at JKUAT. A home that has now opened floodgates for biodiversity researchers to use a Chinese funded China – Africa Joint Research Centre in Kenya where African and Chinese researchers would conduct joint research.

The great idea was conceived by the two during the sweltering 1999 summer heat in wetlands of the Chinese central provinces of Hunan and Hubei. It was close to the dawn of the new millennium and Gituru was imbued with the characteristic optimism expected of a youthful PhD scholarship student on a Chinese Government scholarship in Wuhan University (In 2014 Wuhan University was ranked as the 12th best out of the over 2000 universities in China).

By then, the idea may have appeared rather lofty considering that China was not as well-known as it is today to the average African researcher in fact, very few would have expected that the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center (SAJOREC) initiative would come to be realized let alone that the SAJOREC initiative would merit a mention in the speech that was later delivered by the Chinese Premier His Excellency Li Keqiang on 5th May 2014 when he addressed the African Union (AU) Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and later hold discussions with President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House Nairobi during his visit on 10th May 2014.

Today, China has become an increasingly important player in the arena of global scientific research and academia. As a result, when Prof. Gituru in 2005 returned to Chi-

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Lauds Varsity’s Research Initiatives

On SAJOREC, Prof. Imbuga said JKUAT recognizes the urgent need for conservation of biodiversity and the university is working with counties in the country to foster indigenous plant for conservation in Kenya and strengthen the diversity of the project.

JKUAT is host of a multimillion shillings Botanical Garden and the Sino-African Biodiversity Research Center. It covers 16.23 hectares with an approximate floor area of 4300m². The botanical garden which is expected to be completed by November 2016 will be based on 7 thematic gardens, among them; an African garden, medicinal garden, orchard garden and an Asian exotic garden. The aim of these

Women Vice Chancellors in New Growth Agenda for Africa

Over 20 female vice chancellors of African Universities Tuesday August 23, convened in Nairobi to discuss how African women in academia can effectively contribute to the continent’s development agenda. The meeting which was convened by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology was addressed by seasoned female academicians, leaders and representatives of government and the private sector.

Addressing the opening session, Environment and Natural Resources Cabinet Secretary Prof. Judi Wakhungu, called for political commitment to gender mainstreaming in all productive sectors of Africa’s economy. She added that women participation was key to accelerating the continent’s socio-economic progress and realization of the sustainable development goals.

UNESCO’s Regional Senior Advisor for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng urged the participants to build credibility by proving capable of undertaking research that can be tapped to transform livelihoods.

Peggy however challenged African countries to align their STI policies with emerging global trends and needs. She further identified capacity development and fund mobilization through strategic leverages as key to unlocking Africa’s potential.

JKUAT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga informed the meet-

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The government has announced a raft of measures to strengthen university education in the country. The initiatives which include funding universities based on the nature of academic programme and number of students were announced, Thursday, June 30, by Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang’i, at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology during the institution’s 27th Graduation Ceremony.

In a speech delivered by the Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education, Prof. Collette Suda, the Cabinet Secretary also urged universities to take advantage of new credit facility from the French Development Agency to modernise teaching and research infrastructure.

Giving example of JKUAT’s role in implementing the Jubilee’s digital literacy programme, Dr. Matiang’i said time had come for local universities to shape Kenya’s development agenda.

“Countries that have made significant socio-economic development in the past few decades, like the ‘Asian Tigers’ attribute most of their advancement to universities and research institutions,” said Dr. Matiangi.

JKUAT in partnership with a South American technology firm, Positivo BGH, has successfully installed learning devices and facilitated user capacity building for 63 schools in Kenya’s 21 counties.

University Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey Ole Maloiy who conferred degrees to 4086 graduands informed the congregation that JKUAT is spearheading a USAID funded climate resilience project on low carbon emission and renewable energy where ten (10) technical training institutes across the country are set to benefit.

Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, H. E. Toshitsugu Uesawa said the long history of friendly relations between Kenya and Japan was engraved in JKUAT, an institution which has been supported by JICA since inception as a middle-level college in 1979.

This unique tapestry of JKUAT will see the institution host a number of side events during the upcoming TICAD VI, to be held in Nairobi in August 2016.

Council Chairman, Prof. Paul Njuki appreciated JICA for its continuous support to JKUAT adding that the agency is currently sponsoring 6 teaching staff for doctorate training in various Japanese Universities.

Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga said the University was establishing the School of Maritime Studies with support from the Government of Korea. The school, she added, will produce necessary human capital to improve maritime transport and enhance Kenya’s capacity to tap abundant and under exploited marine resource.

A total of 75 doctorate degrees; the highest ever recorded in a single graduation ceremony were conferred. Nationals of Rwanda, Eritrea and Nigeria were feted with Nigeria taking up 25 PhD slots.
Stakeholder Engagement Key in Developing STI Policies in Africa

By Patrick Amunavi

Higher education institutions have been urged to engage various stakeholders in policy formulation that will contribute to the development of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa.

Speaking on behalf of the Education Cabinet Secretary to participants attending the TICAD VI Pre-Event on Higher Education at JKUAT Friday, July 22, the Principal Secretary Prof. Collette Suda noted that “Higher education institutions cannot do it alone. We need to work together, draw on our synergies in order to deliver on higher education as well as strengthening science technology and innovation in Africa.”

The PS revealed that the government had set a target of training 1000 PhDs per year. To this end, she observed, her ministry appreciated the contribution of existing collaborative initiatives between Japanese institutions of higher learning and Kenyan institutions.

“The Ministry is exploring various ways to address the human resource needs including awarding scholarships to students to pursue PhD studies as well as asking universities to invest in the programmes.” This, she added, called for the institutions of learning in the country to strengthen existing relationships with other institutions around the world, and to establish new partnerships in order to transform the world.

The Principal Secretary said the forthcoming Tokyo Conference on African Development is an initiative of the Government of the people of Japan to focus World attention on socio-economic development challenges across Africa. “The purpose is not only to highlight challenges, but through partnership with African countries, to seek lasting and sustainable solutions for Africa and the world at large.”

The PS said the government appreciated what the people of Japan through the Japanese Government had accomplished in Kenya for the benefit of Kenyans. “Indeed, this very institution, JKUAT, is a shining example of that cooperation between Kenya and Japan. JKUAT is arguably one of the best universities we are proud of not only as a ministry but also as a country, in promoting science, technology and innovation, as a centre of excellence in ICT,” Prof. Suda observed.

The Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, Toshitsugu Uesawa, lauded JKUAT for being the epitome and role model in the bilateral relations between Kenya and Japan. He acknowledged that since Japan’s introduction to JKUAT in 1977, over 300 technical experts have been deployed in JKUAT.

Over the years, most countries in Africa have developed policies with the aim of accelerating industrialization through promotion of Science, Innovation and Technology but the application of these policies have been slow due to inadequate human and financial resources.

To address this, the Ambassador said the Japanese government will increase the number of scholarships offered in the continent through the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for Youth in a bid to enhance human resource development in Africa.

He also said Japan will offer linkages support especially in industry, government and academia between Japan and Kenya to nurture cutting edge Science and Technology Innovation in the country.

Acknowledging the support from Japanese Government, Chairman of Council, Prof. Paul Kanyari Njuki said, “The support has transcended infrastructural development into...”

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A multimillion shillings partnership food factory being constructed at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology will be operational by December 2017.

The Kshs 350 Million factory, a joint venture between the University and Nissin Food Holdings Company Limited of Japan, will mainly manufacture instant noodles. The factory is expected to produce 150 packets of noodles per minute.

Speaking during the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the factory at the University in Juja, Friday, August 26, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, hailed the collaboration between the University and the various establishments in Japan, which had positively impacted the lives of many Kenyans.

Once the new venture is completed, Prof. Imbuga pointed out, Kenyans will have an opportunity to increase food security, enhance their incomes through the supply of raw material, create wealth, avail employment opportunities, research and technology transfer.

She urged the Government through Education Ministry to incorporate instant noodles in the school feeding programme as a way of diversifying Kenyans’ nutrition culture. “Instant noodles are easy to cook, easy to transport, have a long life, are nutritious and healthy, and still, they are appropriate for school feeding programmes and other institutional sales,” she said.

The President of the Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO) Mr. Testuro Yano commended JKUAT for its clear focus in her programmes and projects. He said AFRECO was ready to partner with the University’s professionals to venture into a project aimed at building Juja into a ‘Smart City.’

The Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Paul Kanyari Njuki assured those present that his University would strive to maintain the good manufacturing practices in the factory in line with the work ethic inculcated at JKUAT by the Japanese. He thanked the Kenyan Government for the supporting the University.

The joint venture with JKUAT started in 2007 when Nissin Foods Holding Company Limited was celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Back then, the company donated the OISHII Project to JKUAT as a

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University professors have been urged to serve diligently as brand ambassadors of the universities they work for if people are to decipher the respective institutional brands they represent.

The remarks were made by Okoth Okombo, Professor of Linguistics and Communication Studies at the University of Nairobi, when he addressed over 80 professors at JKUAT during the annual professorial luncheon organized in honour of twenty-three (23) scholars who were recently elevated to the position of Associate Professors and Professors of JKUAT after rigorous and competitive interview process.

Characterizing a brand ambassador as the face and representative of the organization one works for, Prof. Okombo explained how professors could increase the brand awareness of their institutions amongst stakeholders.

“You can increase the brand awareness through the work you do.” Do people see the brand in the reports you write and the activities you are engaged in? posed the articulate scholar. As professors acting as brand ambassadors, he told the newly inducted academics, the stakeholders will be able to see the brand of your university, adding that professors by their very nature are expected to be innovators in their areas of specialization.

The don reiterated what brand ambassadors do, stating that they had the capacity to create and increase brand awareness, thus encouraging people to spend on the brand, noting that the role of brand ambassadors is to “increase the client base.”

In her remarks, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, congratulated the newly inducted associate professors and professors whom she urged to rise to the occasion and “provide leadership and advice to university management so that their acquired knowledge and expertise could be utilized in furtherance of the university’s core mandate.”

The professorial luncheon is a major annual highlight on the university calendar ahead of Graduation Ceremony whereby the university management recognizes the achievements and contribution of its scholars in academia and service to the community.

Present at the luncheon were among others; Deputy Vice Chancellors: Prof. Romanus Odhiamb (Academic Affairs), Prof. Esther Kahangi (Research Production and Extension), Prof. Victoria Ngumi (Administration), and Prof. Otoki Moirongo (Finance). Others were Registrars: Dr. Esther Muoria (Academic Affairs) and Dr. Joseph Obwogi (Administration). The function was organized by the University’s Professorial Luncheon Committee chaired by Prof. Aggrey Nyende.

A Professors’ Committee was also formed to organize full professors’ inaugural lectures. The members are Professors: A. B. Nyende, Mary Abukusa, Vivian Matiru and Surindar Uppal.

Women VCs

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ing that despite the huge natural resource endowments, Africa was still home to half of the world’s poor. Prof. Imbuga said for Africa to realize Agenda 2063, there is urgent need to promote innovation and entrepreneurship to sustainable tap the available resources.

The event which came just days before the sixth edition of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) is one among a series JKUAT has hosted. In July, the University hosted a conference on higher education and a panel discussion on Africa’s inclusive growth prospects.

The female vice chancellors’ forum was also addressed by former Higher Education Minister, Prof. Margaret Kamar, Kenya JICA Chief, Keiko Sano, Dr. Asa Torkelsson of UN Women, Prof. Adipala Ekwamu of RUFORUM, and Prof. Nkem Khumbah.
Newly admitted first year students at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology have been urged to “Uphold high standards of integrity and avoid examination related infractions such as cheating.”

Addressing the fresh men and women who reported to JKUAT to begin their academic journey, Thursday, August 25, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Imbuga urged them to “make integrity, their face, maintain high moral standards and desist from enticing excesses of life such as irresponsible drinking, drug abuse and sexual immorality,” vices that she noted, “were detrimental to their career aspirations.”

She reminded them that success was achievable if they got their priorities right, stayed the course and avoided bad company.

“Utilize the rare opportunity that JKUAT has granted you, well,” Imbuga implored.

During the 2016/17 Academic Year, Kenya Universities Central Placement Services (KUCCPS) admitted 4,758 students compared to 3,700 in the last Academic Year.

Prof. Imbuga noted that the students were distributed in 88 undergraduate programmes offered in various colleges and faculties. Out of the 88 programmes, the VC revealed, seven (7) were new innovative, market driven programmes.

The latest new programmes include: Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science (Biological Sciences), Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology, Bachelor of Science (Public Administration and Leadership).

Others are: Bachelor of Science (Geophysics), Bachelor of Science (Nutraceutical Science and Technology), Bachelor of Science (Renewable Energy and Environmental Physics) and Bachelor of Science (Operational Research).

While upbeat about the expansion of programmes, the VC said, the University was “committed to address the asymmetrical gender representation in accessing educational opportunities at the University level, which she explained, was still “skewed in favour of the male gender.”

She however, said, the University would “sustain the momentum witnessed in some of the established and new programmes in order to progressively enhance gender representation.

On Taifa Laptop, the Vice Chancellor said, ICT had become an important driver of knowledge production and dissemination, and the University Management had made arrangements for new students to access the customised Taifa Laptop at a discounted price of Ksh. 41,500, payable in two instalments to ease the burden of acquiring them.

“While the amount may pose a challenge,” the Vice Chancellor outlined the expected benefits which she said, surpassed the “pain” of acquiring the laptops since students will access specific taught units offered through the university’s online mode of delivery, as well as e-books and e-journals and other quality learning materials.

Acknowledging the application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in development, Imbuga counselled students against its unintended negative effects, and asked them to apply their ICT knowledge to develop outstanding innovations.

The VC nudged the freshmen to exploit their God-given talents through extra curricula activities as a way of nurturing good character, social skills and tolerance. She challenged them to actively participate in the forthcoming East African Universities Games, set to be hosted by JKUAT in December.
CUE Chair: Devise Better Training Techniques

By Ogeke Araka

Faced with emerging challenges from multiple statutory regulatory bodies that have to be fulfilled in the provision of higher education in Kenya, there is urgent need for universities to formulate creative approaches useful in entrenching a culture of self-evaluation to enhance quality and relevance of academic programmes. According to Prof. Henry Thairu, Chairman, Commission for University Education (CUE), the agency that regulates university education in Kenya, it was vital for universities to pursue excellence as a way of augmenting the requirements of the various regulatory bodies.

Prof. Thairu was addressing over 10 officials of the Council of Engineering Deans, a body established in March 2014, with members drawn from 11 Universities in Kenya to address the challenges associated with accreditation of engineering academic programmes in the respective universities.

Prof. Thairu told the engineering heads, their academic fields had to endure dual accreditation by the Engineers Board of Kenya and by CUE, a fact that he admitted was responsible for the confusion as to which body had the final say in the accreditation of engineering programmes.

‘The situation has been made worse by the removal, from the purview of the CUE, of the provision to accredit academic programmes of chartered universities,’ said Prof. Thairu.

The Chairman however said his Commission was working closely with Engineers Board of Kenya to ensure seamless accreditation of engineering programmes.

‘The Commission has taken the route of constructive engagement with professional bodies even as legal solution is sought through the amendment of the relevant laws to institutionalise dual accreditation’. Prof. Thairu said he was aware the Universities Act 2012 was in the process of being revised saying he was confident it would cure some of the problems associated with programme accreditation.

He told the engineering deans that the country had largely overcome access to university education dilemma through the establishment of more universities which now stands at 70 besides the introduction of module two programmes.

A decade ago he said, a minimum entry grade in some of the degree programmes stood at A minus, a situation that has now drastically changed as a result of the establishment of more universities, now offering over 1000 academic programmes.

Since inception in 2014, the Council of Engineering Deans, chaired by Prof. Bernard Ikua, Principal, College of Engineering and Technology, JKUAT has reported various innovative outcomes crucial in enhancing the accreditation, training, and research in engineering programmes in Kenya.

Kenyatta University’s Dean, School of Engineering and Technology Eng. Martin Nzomo, said one laudable approach initiated by the Council is the launch of a resource sharing programme among member universities, which too allows sharing of engineering facilities.

The deans were drawn from Council member institutions including University of Nairobi, Moi University and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.
Varsity Marks the 7th Open Day

By Jane Karani

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology held its 7th Annual Open Day, Wednesday, September 7, 2016. The epitome of this annual event was to showcase the various innovations at JKUAT.

The Open Day, themed: “Agriculture, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development and Food Security,” was opened by the Women Representative, Kiambu County, Ms. Annah Nyokabi Gathecha who lauded JKUAT for its research and innovation prowess evident by the assembling of the Taifa Laptop, mechanization of agricultural product among other research initiatives. “Innovations like the ones being showcased here today, will not only empower individual innovators, but also the country’s research and innovation competence,” said Ms. Nyokabi

She acknowledged that agriculture is the backbone of the country’s economy and urged the youth and women to embrace agriculture as an income generating activity reducing the burden of unemployment in the country.

Urging Kenyans to embrace locally produced products and as a gesture of confidence in JKUAT’s impressive progress in the enterprise of research and innovation, the County Women Representative placed an order for the production of 5 plant mill machine, 2 multi grater machines and 5 juice pulper machines to boost women enterprises in her county. Ms. Nyokabi called on higher education institutions to nurture innovative ideas so as to avoid jeopardising the sustainability of the human resource of the country.

On her part, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, said sustainable development and food security needed concerted efforts to develop practical innovations that would assist in solving some of the challenges facing our communities.

She urged the government and the private sector to partner with researchers in the country in order to transfer and upscale the technologies for wealth creation and improved livelihood at the grassroots.

“Investing in Science, Technology and Innovation is our best means of successfully tackling major societal challenges, such as food insecurity, climate change, energy resilience, resource scarcity and health,” said Prof. Imbuga adding that it was the only way of propagating Kenya’s Industrialisation agenda.

The Vice Chancellor called on the youth and women to embrace more agricultural projects to enhance food security and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The congregation was also addressed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Esther Kahangi and Director, Performance Contracting and Appraisal, Prof. John Wesonga.
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) has once again lived to its leadership mantra in Setting Trends in Training, Research and Innovation by clinching the top six (6) top honours in six trade classes including the coveted “Best University Trophy” at this year’s Central Kenya Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show.

JKUAT beat other exhibitors to be declared: “The Best University Stand” during the Show, which opened its doors to the public Wednesday, September 14, at Kabiruini grounds, Nyeri County.

The University also won: “The Best Engineering Based Institution of Higher Learning,” “The Best Stand Exhibiting Agricultural and/or Earth Moving Equipment” and “The Best Stand in Research Development.”

JKUAT’s technological innovations, agro-processing as well as value addition initiatives paid handsome dividends as the University was crowned: “The Best Innovation and Invention Stand,” and “The Best Agro-Processing Stand” during the Exhibition that attracted over 100 trade exhibitors, running under the theme: “Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.”

The University also won: ‘The Best Engineering Based Institution of Higher Learning,’ ‘The Best Stand Exhibiting Agricultural and/or Earth Moving Equipment’ and ‘The Best Stand in Research Development.’

President Uhuru Kenyatta in a speech read on his behalf by Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Mrs. Sicily K. Kariuki, noted that the “Theme of this year’s Show resonated well with the spirit of transforming Kenya into a rapidly industrializing middle income nation as envisaged in the national economic development blueprint.”

He further said, the Government was committed to “Transform agriculture into a profitable economic business capable of attracting private investment, providing gainful employment and improving food security.”

Earlier, the Cabinet Secretary toured the JKUAT Stand guided by the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research, Production and Extension Prof. Esther Kahangi, and was impressed by the level of ingenuity, and utility technologies and innovations developed by the University researchers and innovators.

Nyeri County Executive Member in charge of Agriculture, Robert Thuo, was equally fascinated by the calibre of innovations that could help empower the youth.

Chairman of Council, Prof. Paul Kanyari Njuki and Council Member Bertha Dena lauded the exhibitors at the University Stand whose outstanding work culminated in winning the top honours. The University Management led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, paid tribute to all JKUAT exhibitors for showcasing cutting edge innovations that underscored the University’s core mandate of “Training, Research and Innovation.”
JKUAT in Kshs 5.6 Million CSR Gesture to Coast Schools

By Hindzano Ngonyo

As part of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology’s (JKUAT) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the University has donated books worth Kshs 5.6 Million to nine institutions from three different counties in the Coast region of Kenya.

The institutions, drawn from Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa counties are: Amani Primary, Ushindi Baptist Child Development Centre, Likoni, Kajembe High School, Kadzondzo Girls Secondary School, Makombani Secondary School, Women and Girls Empowerment Programme, St. George’s High School, Kaloleni Giriama, and Kizurini Secondary School. Each school was presented with books worth Kshs 600,000.

While presenting the books to the school heads and their students at a colourful ceremony held at JKUAT’s Mombasa CBD Campus, JKUAT Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga, said it was her University’s desire to ensure that there is equity in distribution of knowledge to all counties for the good of national development, a reason why her University was reaching out to complement training in areas that may be considered remote.

Prof. Imbuga said JKUAT was rolling out a programme to send out career guidance personnel to such schools in order to enlighten students on available courses offered at the university.

“It is our desire to bring all schools up to speed with the developments taking place in our university as interested stakeholders. We are aware that development can easily be achieved if everyone made a contribution towards our national goal,” she told the elated crowd.

Prof. Imbuga who was flanked by the JKUAT Mombasa Campus Director Dr. Frida Simba and the University’s Head, Corporate Communications Dr. Hindzano Ngonyo, pointed out that her University was trying to create capacity through the introduction of new and market driven courses such as Marine Engineering, Mining and Mineral Processing courses, among others.

The Vice Chancellor said, it was time the country started utilizing local expertise for the jobs that are awarded to expatriates since the local professional had come of age. Kenya, she pointed out, has the best and advanced ICT knowledge, creative and innovative population whose output has made tremendous impact globally. She advised the students to develop a reading culture, be responsible, remain focused and desist from any acts that could compromise their studies.

She urged the students to ensure their performance in form four earned them government admission in public universities.

Addressing the same gathering, Mr. Edwin Okoth, an Assistant County Commissioner for Mwanamwing in Gotani location, hailed the gesture by JKUAT terming it a new trend in the academic sector. He said, the University had already become a household name in the region because what it offered at the University and its extension services had touched many hearts not only in the Coast region but also nationally.

While appreciating the donation made to his school, the Principal of Makombani Secondary School, Mr. Moses Olenyo characterized JKUAT as an institution that was focused on supporting education in the country. He urged other Universities to emulate JKUAT’s gesture.

The Vice Chancellor also presented certificates to students who underwent the CISCO short courses training at the Campus.

Elsewhere, while donating books

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Nairobi and Environs

Staring at Water Stress

By Cavince Adhere

Nearly all urban centres in Kenya including Nairobi, have a water problem. But the water supplies to Kenya’s towns and households could be further strained due to sedimentation of water sources such as dams and reservoirs. Nairobi in particular, is predicted to suffer this predicament, a new study has revealed. The study conducted at Ruiru dam indicates that the dam’s volume has reduced by 10% to 2,564,590 cubic metres, most of this loss happening over the last 20 years. This revelation comes in the wake of continued water stress in urban dwellings with only 40% of Nairobi residents receiving water on 24-hour basis. Ruiru dam which was commissioned in 1949, supplies up to 21,000 cubic metres of water per day to Nairobi City.

The research conducted jointly by the JKUAT based Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC) and Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC), was the first among a series of surveys to be conducted on a number of reservoirs to establish ground level of siltation.

Speaking during the launch of the study, NCWSC Managing Director, Eng. Philip Gichuki had expressed optimism the survey could lead to knowledge based decision making in the country’s water sector.

Scientists at JKUAT deployed a remote sensing equipment to determine depths, topography and water storage volumes of the dam. It is the first study of its kind to be conducted on Kenyan reservoirs.

According to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Joseph Sang, sedimentation can be attributed to human activities along rivers servicing the dams. He called for targeted conservation measures to cushion the critical water installations from siltation.

A similar survey is currently underway at the Ndakaini dam which supplies 85% of Nairobi City’s water needs. Through the partnership, JKUAT will also help NCWSC build human capacity and resident knowledge in relevant areas. Two staff of NCWSC are part of the team undertaking the survey.

While lauding the survey, WARREC Director, Prof. Bancy Mati said time had come for the water sector in Kenya to interact with researcher and make use of scientific knowledge for decision making. She added the Centre which is a Vision 2030 flagship project, was keen on actualizing research undertakings that could form a fulcrum of policy orientation in Kenya’s water value-chain. The bathymetric survey equipment used to assess sedimentation of Ruiru and Ndakaini dams, uses cutting-edge scientific tools, to improve knowledge on reservoir sedimentation, enabling better planning for water supplies to Nairobi and its environs.

Noodles Factory

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Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity to provide free lunch of instant noodles to school pupils for two years. The project became successful as it improved performance of the pupils, their school attendance, good health and happiness. The two later established JKUAT Nissin Foods Ltd which was registered in 2013 with part of the agreement being to provide technology transfer, research facilities and employment opportunities.

Currently, the four instant noodles flavours manufactured at JKUAT namely, Nyama choma, Chicken, Tomato-onion and Masala are available in the sales outlets of big supermarkets and retail shops. Others who addressed the gathering were Mr. Tsuyoshi Shiotsu from Nissin Foods Holdings Company Ltd (Japan), University’s Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research, Production and Extension Prof. Esther Kahangi and the Project’s Director Prof. Simon Muhoho Njoroge.
JKUAT Students Represent Kenya at Total Summer School, Paris

By Stephen Wakhu

Sarah Wanjohi and Lisa Kimondo both from the College of Engineering and Technology (COETEC), were selected to represent Kenya for the Total Summer School 2016 that took place from July 10 – 14, 2016 in Paris.

The Total Summer School 2016 brought together 84 students from 33 countries around the world with 40 leading academics from Total’s Professorial and Research Chairs programme, 75 senior Total representatives as well as Total partner Universities for interactive learning and discussion. The focus this year was the future of energy with a keen interest in renewable energy.

While seeing off the two students, Total Kenya Managing Director Ms. Anne-Solange Renouard said she was impressed by their resumes and was confident that they will learn a lot and come back with a broader view of the challenges and solutions facing the energy sector.

She also highlighted the Memorandum of Understanding JKUAT had signed with her company in June 2015 saying Total Kenya is committed to the partnership which aims at enhancing educational partnerships, contributing towards educational development in the country.

“This partnership will continue to define our mutual interest in creating positive outcomes in educational opportunities for the young people of this country,” said Ms. Renouard.

On her part, JKUAT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga said she was proud of the two students and urged them to take advantage of the opportunity to broaden their knowledge.

“I am confident that you will make us proud. I urge you to learn as much as possible, open your minds, grab your opportunities, come back and share your experience with your fellow peers,” said Prof Imbuga.

On JKUAT’s Commitment to the partnership, Prof. Imbuga said the University will be starting a Masters Programme in Petroleum Engineering sponsored by the African Development Bank in September this year and invited Total Kenya to avail adjunct lecturers in order to bring industry experience into class.

Sarah left the country looking forward to the exposure. Upon her return, she said “it was an incredible experience that brought together brilliant minds from all over the world,” adding that the summer school provided her with an opportunity to learn from people with different cultures and expertise.

Lisa said the Summer School was an eye opening and engaging experience. “The energy challenges are relatively the same in every country that were present,” said Lisa adding that the potential of renewable energy is immense and it will be the future of the energy sector.

Sarah is a Fifth Year Electronic and Computing Engineering student while Lisa is a Fifth Year Mechatronics Engineering student. The two are fully sponsored by Total Kenya for the Total Summer School 2016.
Students and Staff Conclude Japanese Language Training

By Stephen Wakhu

Staff and students, July 4-15, 2016, had a two-week long language training geared to improve Japanese proficiency especially for those who will undertake exchange programmes in Japan.

The training conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) in collaboration with Africa-ai-Japan saw a cohort of 44 JKUAT staff and students acquire skills in basic Japanese language for life.

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the training, JICE Vice President, Ms. Masako Kishimoto said, JICE was committed to contributing to the development of the global society through activities that will lead to strengthening mutually beneficial relationships between Japan and other nations.

“JICE in addition to its language training, is determined to further promote international cooperation and exchanges for human resource development through the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for Youth,” said Ms. Kishimoto.

She also applauded the 44 students for their passion and enthusiasm towards the Japanese language and was impressed at how much they had learned in a span of two weeks.

“I’m happy to see you introduce yourselves, describe where you come from and write your names in Katana,” noted Ms. Kishimoto.

Reiterating the importance of cultural exchange between different countries and strengthening Academia-Institution relations, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, lauded JICE for the two-week Japanese Language Course.

“I’m delighted you chose JKUAT for the programme and I’m certain that this will provide a framework to share our cultures and enhance cooperation in technical and educational support,” said Prof. Odhiambo.

He also encouraged the training participants to hone their skills further making sure what they have learned in the two weeks did not go to waste.

Dean, School of Business, Dr. Margaret Oloko, appreciated the JICE team for training JKUAT staff and students and congratulated the participants of the training for their commitment during the training.

“I’m proud of these participants for their sacrifice in order to complete the training,” said the dean.

Hope Mworia, one of the training beneficiaries said, apart from impressing a few people around me, the training will help her to establish deep connections and cross-cultural understanding.

“Learning a foreign language and getting soaked into an entirely new culture and world view is the sur-

Ms. Kishimoto (left) presents a certificate to Ms. Mworia (right). Looking on is Mr. Miringu.

I’m happy to see you introduce yourselves, describe where you come from and write your names in Katana, – Ms. Kishimoto.”
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension), Prof. Esther Kahangi (left) gives a vote of thanks during the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the JKUAT-Nissin factory at the University. Looking on are Council Members, University Management and Nissin Officials.

Newly promoted professors follow proceedings during the professorial luncheon hosted in their honour by the university.

Female Vice Chancellors, academicians, Representatives from the Government and Private sector pose for a photo during the Pre-TICAD 6 event for female Vice Chancellors in Africa on Women Leadership in Higher Education and their Role in Economic Empowerment.

Dr. Lawrence Karanja, COD Clinical Medicine (left) hands over the non-pharmaceuticals medical supplies (on behalf the Vice Chancellor) to Kitale Referral Hospital Superintendent, Dr. Emmanuel Wanjala.

Dr. Morris K’Orowe, the Patron of JKUAT Society of Exploration Geophysicists, presents book donation to Carmel Girls school representatives after the Society’s career talk.

From L-R: World Global Agenda Moderator, Ms Aiko Doden, JKUAT VC, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, Safaricom’s Director of Corporate Affairs, Stephen Chege, CEO of the South African organization, Made with Rural Ms Leeko Makoene, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Executive Vice President, Dr. Katsumi Hirano and Head of Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement at University of Stellenbosch Business School, Prof. Brian Ganson Prof. Ganson during pre TICAD 6 panel-discussion on development in Africa.
JKUAT Presented in Pictures

AFRECO President, Tetsuro Yano (center) have a taste of the cricket delicacies during Young African and Nihonjin Innovators Expo (YANIE), an official TICAD VI pre-event on young innovators.

Prof. Florence Lenga, Chairperson of Ribe Girls’ High School Board of Management, addressing students and parents during the school’s Prize Giving and Prayer Day which was graced by the Vice Chancellor as chief guest.

Primary School pupils could not hold back their joy when they visited the JKUAT Demonstration Farm at Nyeri, Kabiru-ini ASK Show Ground in September.

AWARD Mentee from Kenya (JKUAT), Daisy Chepkoech Ng’eno (centre), with other mentees from Nigeria and Ethiopia, demonstrate team work spirit through artwork during a training session held in Ghana.

Ms. Lucy Kamunya takes weight and height of one of the residents of Gachororo in Juja during a Medical Camp organized by the Department of Community Health Nursing.

Council Member, Bertha Dena and Council Chair, Prof. Paul Kanyari interact with cricket research team at the Edible Insects Stand during the Nyeri ASK Show.
Varsity Renews Training Pact with Eritrea

By Ogeke Araka

JKUAT has renewed a MoU with Eritrea’s National Commission for Higher Education, (ENCHE) the statutory body regulating the provision of higher education in Eritrea. The renewal, signed by Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Tadesse Mehari, Executive Director, ENCHE will largely allow JKUAT to assist Eritrea in capacity building of its nationals to train at JKUAT at graduate level in selected disciplines mainly in agriculture, engineering and applied sciences.

During the first phase that commenced in 2012, a total of 15 Eritrean students have benefited through their graduate training, 3 of them at doctorate levels while another batch of six candidates are expected to graduate in November 2016. The agreement too has been credited for initiating the revision of 12 relevant curricula, while JKUAT has benefited from the Eritreans, who have developed a curriculum for JKUAT in Chemical Engineering, domiciled at the department of Biomechanical and Environment Engineering.

According to Prof. Aggrey Nyende, the coordinator in the Eritrea-JKUAT collaboration, jointly funded by Japan International Corporation Agency and the African Development Bank, has also been useful in facilitating three joint research programmes in biotechnology and agriculture. The collaborating universities in Eritrea are: Hamel Malo Agricultural College, Eritrea Institute of Technology and College of Marine Sciences and Technology.

Geophysicists Reach Out to Students

By Evance Odero

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) geophysicists have always been at the forefront in creating awareness on geosciences to various stakeholders. Geophysics, which is the study of how the earth works, has many fields which include environmental, mining, marine, gravity etc.

Geophysicists use various methods to find oil, iron, copper, and other minerals. A geophysicist is also able to look out for environmental

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The Department of Food Science and Technology conducted a two-day probiotic yoghurt production training that ended Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

The training brought together over 60 farmers drawn from the counties of Kiambu, Homabay, Vihiga, Muranga, Migori and Narok to spread the gospel of value addition in dairy products. These farmers are expected to create awareness, and escalate the skills and knowledge to more relevant farmers across Kenyan counties.

Agriculture is the backbone of the Kenyan economy with livestock farming contributing 12 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product of the country. Four per cent of that is from dairy farming.

Acknowledging this, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga said JKUAT is committed in her strive for value addition of agricultural products identifying a number of value added food science products such as probiotic yoghurt, jams, honey, and porridge which JKUAT currently produces.

Prof. Imbuga encouraged the farmers to make use of the training, get skills that will help improve the food security of the country and improve their economic status.

“Open up your mind, go back home and impart the knowledge and skills you have gained from the training to the rest of the society,” said Prof. Imbuga.

During the closing of the training Wednesday July 27, Homabay County Women Representative, Mrs. Gladys Wanga appreciated JKUAT for building the capacity of the women and youth of the country. “Giving these dairy farmers the relevant skills and knowledge will enhance the sustainability of the project and ensure that they are not only economically empowered but are healthy,” said Mrs. Wanga.

Mrs. Wanga encouraged the farmers to make use of the skills and knowledge gained, be trainers of trainers and consider themselves future employers. She said, the initiative, if replicated in the counties will be key in addressing the issue of unemployment in the country.

Jesca Olubayo, one of the farmers from Vihiga County attested to the health benefit of the probiotic yoghurt saying “the normal yoghurt gives me stomachaches but the probiotic yoghurt is gentle to my stomach and at my age, it will be great especially for lowering my cholesterol level.”

Olubayo vowed to cascade the skills and knowledge to her community empowering the people of Vihiga County.

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hazards and evaluate construction sites. The recent discovery of natural resources such as hydrocarbon and groundwater in Turkana, rare earth metals in Kwale, and continued discovery of geothermal sites capable of power production in Kenya has been successful courtesy of geophysicists.

It is in line with this that in March 2016; JKUAT geophysicists conducted an outreach programme at Kiaria Mixed Secondary School in Kiambu County, which was later followed by a twin outreach programme at Carmel Girls High School and Mbiuni High School in Machakos County.

Although the choice of the two schools in Machakos County was influenced by the need for additional water resources, reaching out to secondary schools create an avenue for the students to obtain firsthand experience on the various geophysics fields as well as create awareness on geosciences early enough to help them have a wide spectrum of career choices.

The students also get highlighted on the importance of having a strong background in Mathematics, geography and science subjects which qualifies one to become a geophysicist.

Kenya has insufficient human resource to harness the available subsurface resources necessitating the need to sensitize high school students on geosciences as an alternative field of study. For example, Kenya needs long term solutions for the perennial water shortages in most parts of the country which calls for the nurturing and training of specialists in groundwater exploration and management.

By sensitizing secondary school students on geophysics, the JKUAT geophysicists help in nurturing, developing, advancing, and imparting geosciences knowledge at early stages which deepens the roots of geosciences and create a larger body of geoscientists. This helps tap resources, generate power and reduce water shortages in many parts of the country, and in turn, help in improving the living standards of the people.

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human capacity building, noting that some of the leading scholars in JKUAT have been trained in Japanese Universities.”

JICA, he said, was currently sponsoring more staff pursuing doctorate studies in Japan. “We therefore pass our gratitude to Government and people of Japan for their generous gesture that has made JKUAT emerge as a leading regional centre of excellence in training, research and innovation,” said Prof. Njuki.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Mabel Imbuga said, one common guiding value that defines JKUAT’s academic community is “a culture of research and innovation that has become the accepted practice for both faculty and students setting JKUAT apart as a truly research and entrepreneurial academy.”

This, she said has been possible, courtesy of the Japanese work ethic and scientific rigor planted at JKUAT through its long association with Japan.

“Our partners introduced a creative and dynamic curriculum, with a clear mandate to offer training programmes with heavy emphasis on practical skills crucial to the development of Kenya’s agricultural and industrial sectors,” Imbuga observed.

JKUAT has devised appropriate methods of disseminating new technologies to empower not only Kenyans but also nationals across sub-Saharan Africa, she concluded.
By Cavince Adhere

The Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) was conceived to galvanize international support for an African owned development model.

As the sixth edition of the Summit was staged in Africa for the first time, attention was turned on the continent’s most important natural resource – its youth. With 65% of the 1.2 billion people below the age of 35 years, it is not hard to understand why the continent is continuously looking to her human resource for a more inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth and development.

To tap the ingenuity of Africa and Japanese youth, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and the Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO) staged an official TICAD VI pre-event on young innovators, Friday, August 26th, 2016.

The event dubbed Young African and Nihonjin Innovators Expo (YANIE) brought together over 30 innovators from Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa and Japan and aimed to cement intercultural and international relations through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

The young innovators presented projects in a wide range of areas such as health, agriculture, ICT, engineering, with others focussing on gender and disability issues.

Ngugi Ndung’u, a third year computer science student at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology who emerged top innovator, said it was his desire to succeed as a mobile application developer and create jobs for other Kenya youth. He won the expo with his innovation christened Pepeza; an easy to use virtual noticeboard for organizational communication.

The same sentiments were expressed by Sato Yukie, a fourth year linguistics student from Soka University, Japan who shared the top prize. She believes that tapping youth talent could be a game-changer in development of both Africa and Japan.

AFRECO President, Tetsuro Yano who opened the expo lauded the initiative as a critical step towards narrowing the divide between Africa and Japan. He said the young people could easily share ideas, exchange knowledge and create solutions to power the present and future.

JKUAT Council Chairman, Prof. Paul Kanyari, said youth form an important asset whose talents and energies can be harnessed through higher education and research. He thanked Japan for the continued support to JKUAT and said the University remains steadfast in its resolve to provide quality education, research and innovation.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel said Africa was in need of functional innovations that could help unlock its potential and make life better for over 600 million who still live in poverty.

YANIE was supported by a number of Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) Accenture Japan Ltd, Japan Weather Association, Waseda University, Institute of International Strategy, and Kenya Private Sector Alliance.
Governor Calls for Increased Investments in Renewable Energy

By Cavince Adhere

Kenya can considerably reduce the cost of doing business and enhance investment by tapping its huge renewable energy potential, Uasin Gishu County Governor, Jackson Mandago has said. He explained that prohibitive cost of energy that currently stands at 14 US cents per kilowatt has frustrated investment bids in Kenyan counties adding that it is time the cost was scaled down to below 10 cents.

A possible way of lowering this cost, the governor offered, was by leveraging on various forms of clean energy such as solar, water, wind and biogas which exist in substantial amounts across the country.

Mandago was speaking Tuesday, August 9, when he opened a training workshop on renewable energy planning for counties at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

The governor who heads the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at the Council of Governors warned that should the country continue relying on carbon based energy in the wake of global warming, then the end result would be disaster.

“We need to diversify into sources that are clean, renewable and can keep our environment safe for human habitation,” Governor Mandago said.

Mandago who has been appointed to the World Council of Renewable Energy lauded JKUAT for the renewable energy technologies which he said could be harnessed to help counties increase access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy supply.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga said JKUAT engineers had pioneered innovative research that digests water hyacinth into biogas.

“The technology can be deployed to create jobs to our counties along the Lake while providing a source of clean energy for the residents and Kenyans at large,” Prof. Imbuga said.

The Vice Chancellor also informed the workshop that JKUAT had “launched a home-gas project that seeks to provide rural households with mini-biogas units that run on animals wastes.”

Paul Harris who is one of the workshop trainers said Kenya and Africa could leapfrog the vagaries of fossil fuel by tapping renewable energy sources. To achieve that, he called for proper planning, targeted investments and ownership both at county and national levels.

During the four-day workshop that was organized by the Council of Governors and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the participants will be inducted on how to identify renewable sources, energy planning and utilization of appropriate technologies to optimally exploit available sources.

Charles Kalomba who addressed the opening session on behalf of UNIDO, said the organization remains committed to help counties realize renewable energy potential towards livelihoods transformation.

“A possible way of lowering this cost, the governor offered, was by leveraging on various forms of clean energy such as solar, water, wind and biogas which exist in substantial amounts across the country.”

Governor Mandago (right) tours the JKUAT Tissue Culture banana greenhouse where he hailed the Varsity’s research and technology transfer efforts
GE and JKUAT Strengthen Partnership

By Patrick Amunavi

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and the US-based conglomerate, General Electric, have pledged to work closely to strengthen their existing collaborative initiatives in the areas of engineering training and research.

This was revealed, Monday, July 18, during a consultative meeting at JKUAT when the Global Human Resources Vice President for General Electric (GE), Dr. Jack Ryan, visited JKUAT and held discussions with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga.

Addressing the meeting, which was also attended by the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, Prof Romanus Odhiambo, as well as the faculty from the College of Engineering and Technology (CoETEC), Dr Ryan said he was “delighted to see progress in curriculum review process in various programmes including telecommunication and information engineering, electrical and electronics engineering programmes.

Lauding the quality of JKUAT students and the faculty, Dr. Ryan singled out “a couple of new faces from JKUAT whom he noted were already doing well at GE.”

He further acknowledged the University Management for being open and willing to partner with GE, noting, “We therefore need to keep growing our relationship, so that as we grow, we will reinforce our system and keep communication lines open in order to understand our growth projections,” he said.

Dr. Ryan reiterated that “GE was in healthcare, petroleum, oil and gas, power generation, and energy especially renewables such as the hydro and solar, aviation, areas that he observed, hold great opportunities for growth and collaboration.

In her remarks, Prof. Imbuga said JKUAT was impressed by the partnership with GE, adding, the University was interested in the areas of renewables and health which are part of GE’s operations.

The Vice Chancellor also revealed that the University was ex-

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New Students asked to Uphold Integrity

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Prof. Imbuga also took the opportunity to urge all the newly admitted students to “embrace the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood and rise above divisive ethnic-based politics.

“We all belong to one proud country, Kenya. Let’s appreciate and celebrate our unity in diversity as Kenyans,” she concluded.

A section of the first year students during the Vice Chancellor’s Address
A recent study conducted by the National Institute of Multimedia Education in Japan, showed that an increase in exposure to educational Information Communication and Technology (ICT) solutions has a significant positive impact on the growth of nations.

However, with the emergence of many educational ICT solutions, it is vital to be careful which solution you are using.

Over the years, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has been a regional powerhouse in ICT. To foster her dominance in the region, the institution, Wednesday 3, 2016 partnered with EMCAST of South Korea, to enhance technological development and industrialization in the country.

EMCAST is a South Korean Education Technology Company that specializes in the development of e-learning contents and platform. The two organizations will develop an innovation space that will connect people, incubate startups and surface information catalyzing the growth not only the country’s technological space but also the continents.

Speaking during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, acknowledged that ICT has become part and parcel of our everyday life especially in the education sector.

“ICT plays a critical role in our society. We cannot move without technology. I am confident that this collaboration will be a boost to the School of Open, Distance and e-Learning (SODEL),” said Prof. Imbuga.

While thanking the Republic of South Korea for introducing EMCAST to the University, Prof. Imbuga acknowledged other partnerships JKUAT has with institutions from South Korea such as the Korea Maritime Institute in Marine Engineering, Yeungnam University in student and staff exchange and Kukkiwon in the field of taekwondo technology and education.

EMCAST Senior Manager of International Development Cooperation, Luke Yung Geun Kim, said his company designs and delivers the most effective and practical e-learning services around the globe, adding that through the partnership, he was looking forward to enhance professional skills of JKUAT staff and students.

“Our strength is in e-learning content and systems and we are ready to support SODEL in designing and delivering practical e-learning solutions,” said Mr. Kim

On her part, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension) Prof. Esther Kahangi, said JKUAT values collaborations that bear fruit. She was confidence that this collaboration will yield tangible results.

The MoU will remain in force for five years at the end of which both parties will review the collaboration.

CSR Gesture

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at Ribe Girls Secondary School, Kaloleni in Kilifi County during the School’s Prize Giving and Prayer Day, Prof. Imbuga urged students to make good choices in life that would assist them achieve their dreams.

The Vice Chancellor who was accompanied by the University’s Head of Corporate Communications, Dr. Hindzano Ngonyo, challenged the young women scholars to abandon the myth that their rightful place was in the kitchen and urged them to wake up to the realities of today. She promised to donate two Taifa laptops to the school, and 100 Tissue Culture seedlings to the students to start a school garden.

Ribe Girls Secondary School, Board of Management Chairperson, Prof. Florence Lenga, promised to advance the agenda of the school to attract students nationally to join the school. She thanked the outgoing Board of Management for their contribution towards the school’s development.
Most of the youth in Africa are reluctant to venture into agriculture saying it is rudimentary. The youth while looking for employment lean towards white collar jobs which brand prestigious and less laborious. To make agriculture attractive to the youth, JKUAT and E4Impact Foundation have come together and are in the process of developing an MBA programme in Agribusiness.

The MBA programme will be key in empowering and directing the youth to agribusiness which has emerged as profitable and employment creator.

E4Impact Foundation CEO, Prof. Mario Molteni, said the MBA, which in each country his foundation offers in partnership with a local university, offers a unique experience to people enabling them to improve their agribusiness skills.

“This is an MBA for job creators with networking, coaching and mentoring opportunities; all features that will make this programme different from what is currently offered elsewhere,” said Prof. Molteni.

E4Impact Foundation was launched in 2015 to enhance the sustainable development of fast growing economies by favoring the formation of impact entrepreneurs and the growth of their businesses. The foundation envisions leading Pan-African University Alliance for training and coaching a new generation of impact entrepreneurs and aims at having over 3,000 entrepreneurs trained, 1,000 new enterprises and thousands of new jobs in the formal economy by 2020.

Acknowledging the potential of the MBA, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga said the programme will not only be great for the country but the continent at large.

“Agribusiness has the potential to transform our economy and create jobs for the youths in the agricultural service industries,” attested Prof. Imbuga.

In her capacity as the Chairperson of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Prof. Imbuga said the network of 60 universities could be critical in rolling out the programme to 25 countries in the continent.

Chairperson, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (DARE), Dr. Daniel Sila said agribusiness is a key focus area for DARE given its potential in fostering an inclusive and sustainable national development. He hopes the MBA programme is adopted regionally to address gaps existing in the agricultural sector in Africa.

Prof. Molteni was accompanied by E4Impact Foundation East Africa Manager, David Cheboryot and Anthony Egem of RUFORUM.

Yoghurt Production Training

Vihiga County economically and aid in fostering a healthy community.

Probiotic yoghurt is indeed good for the health, especially in regulating digestive system, maintaining respiratory function, lowers cholesterol, boost immunity and lessens lactose intolerance.

Mrs. Pamela Odhiambo, the coordinator of the training, urged the farmers to be champions of probiotic yoghurt and implored them to keep in touch with each other, share experiences and ideas to enhance the uptake of probiotic yoghurt hence improving the development of the country.

The training was held in collaboration with Western University, Heifer International and Yoba for life, a network organization, which promotes public health and economic development of communities throughout Africa.
Promoting Gender Inclusivity in Agriculture through Collaborations

A report done by UN Women, the Joint UNDP-UNEP Environment Initiative and the World Bank shows that gender disparity in access to productive and financial resources inhibits agricultural productivity hence food insecurity.

The report articulates that gender gap in agriculture exists because women have unequal access to key factors of production such as land, labour, knowledge, fertilizer and improved seeds.

Making her presentation during the TICAD VI side event for Female Vice Chancellors from Universities in Africa, Dr. Torkelsson Asa, Economic Empowerment Advisor, UN Women said gender disparity in agriculture persists because challenges facing women farmers are still inadequately tackled in agricultural policy strategy and programmes.

She acknowledged that UN Women could not tackle the problem alone and going forward, collaboration with academia in research was inevitable for the gap to be bridged.

In a bid to promote empowerment of women in agriculture, Dr. Asa said UN Women are working to build and strengthen women resilience in agricultural productivity.

“UN Women is working to promote women financial inclusion and entrepreneurship development,” said, Dr. Asa. In an effort to ensure gender equity especially in agricultural productivity, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has partnered with UN Women in post-harvest technology programme for mango farmers in Kenya dubbed ‘Increasing Access of Post-Harvest Technologies for Women Farmers’.

The programme aims to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, lower women domestic care burden and enhance food security in Kenya. It not only enhances the mechanization of agriculture but also shows the transformative role technology adoption play in fundamentally shifting the role of women farmers in agriculture.

Dr. Wanjiru Kamau, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Director urged the professors in the room to mentor young women in agricultural research so as to increase women representation in agricultural research development.

“Only one in four agricultural researchers in Africa is female,” said Dr. Wanjiru adding that mentorship is critical and has proven to be a powerful driver for career development particularly in retaining and recruiting women in science.

Dr. Wanjiru said AWARD has debunked the myth that there are no African women agricultural researchers and since the program began in 2008, it has received over 4,000 applications.

“I am confident that with fora such as this, the number of women in agricultural research will definitely increase aiding in economic empowerment and development of our societies,” said Dr. Wanjiru.

GE - J KUAT Ties Deepen

exploring new frontiers of training in the areas of transport and logistics, aerospace engineering, and appealed to GE to share experts in these areas to boost the University’s bid through training support. Prof. Imbuga further asked GE to “consider provid-

ing opportunities for teaching staff where they could acquire more skills and new ideas which upon returning to JKUAT, they would be more revitalized to impart them amongst students.”

Prof. Imbuga informed the visiting GE team that the University was already making great strides in opening up the “Blue Economy” in the country, with the pioneer graduates of Marine Engineering programme expected in the market in November this year.
Officials Root for Strong Africa-Japan Ties

By Cavince Adhere

Two Japanese officials have called for enhanced and targeted cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) between Africa and Japan.

Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Prof. Teruo Kishi said, human resource development in STI is a key ingredient in the achievement of a prosperous Africa. Prof. Kishi said, Africa has faced a number of challenges, citing most recent as Ebola outbreak, terrorism, plummeting international resource prices and climate change.

He rooted for joint research and development as well as dissemination of findings in areas such as agriculture, nutrition, and climate change as a sustainable response to such socio-economic shocks. He added that targeted synergies augmented with responsive policy frameworks would ease the actualization of Africa’s Agenda 2063. The technocrat was speaking Thursday, August 25, 2016 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) where he lauded the University’s research and innovation efforts and output.

Speaking earlier at JKUAT, Acting Chairman of Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship, Mr. Asahiko Mihara said JKUAT had made significant strides in the provision of higher education and the beneficial relations between the University and Japan would be fostered for greater impact not only in Kenya but also in Africa. While receiving the officials to JKUAT, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga said the strong foundation that the people of Japan laid at JKUAT had enabled the institution to emerge as a centre of excellence in training, research and innovation.

Prof. Imbuga who informed the visiting team that JKUAT had the highest number of engineering students in Kenya, added that the University would continue with its track record of producing competent manpower that is attuned to the demands of knowledge-based economies.

Prof. Imbuga commended the Government of Japan for coming on board as a key thematic partner for the implementation of the JKUAT based Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation. Pan African University is a brainchild of the African Union which aims to foster integration of Africa through higher education. The officials were in Kenya for the sixth edition of Tokyo International Conference on African Development which took place on August 27-28 in Nairobi, Kenya.

SAJOREC’s Friendship Ties

From page 6

na for his post-doctoral biodiversity research at Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, he hoped to leverage in the push to actualize the plan to establish the JKUAT Botanical Garden and Joint Sino-Africa Research Center in the Juja Main Campus.

His reasoning had been guided by the fact that Kenya has prioritized biodiversity conservation and JKUAT being a leading University in East Africa had incorporated conservation of biodiversity into the University strategic plan. The idea of a JKUAT Botanical Garden and Joint Sino-Africa Research Center therefore received overwhelming support from the JKUAT administration mainly because it resonated well with the University’s strategic plan. This was followed by the establishment of the Directorate of Sino-Africa Biodiversity Research Conservation (SABREC) after a series of consultative meetings in September 2010. The project has since been renamed Sino-African Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC), and seeks to ensure conservation of biodiversity through learning.
Training Next Generation Technologists

By Cavince Adhere

Premised on the overriding goal to foster human resources for industry development in the areas of science, technology and innovation in Africa, the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN project in December 2015 sponsored two technologists from JKUAT for short training and research in Japan.

The two: Grace Kimani from Biochemistry Department; and Paul Karanja, from the Food Science Department spent time in different research institutions, engaging in research activities. During his short stay at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Japan, Paul delved deeper into advanced chemical and mineral analysis, under guidance of seasoned scholars led by Prof. H. Koaze. He had the opportunity to work with cutting-edge equipment, not available in Kenya; fostering his understanding and capacity in the transition from theory to practice.

The senior technologist had a chance to visit Okayama University’s Advanced Research Centre and the Institute of Plant Science and Resources; Bizen Chemical Co. Ltd, among others on a benchmarking mission. The practice in these institutions, according to Paul, is bringing together highly specialized multidisciplinary equipment under one roof to facilitate high level research; something he strongly suggests, should be adopted in JKUAT/PAUSTI.

The conference brought together over 70 delegates from academia, industry and government to discuss pertinent issues in built environment and come up with action plans for joint development of courses for energy efficient and sustainable housing in the region.

The persistence of poverty, growing inequalities and environmental degradation are major obstacles to achieving sustainable housing worldwide. This was the narrative during the Sustainable Futures Conference 2016 co-hosted by JKUAT, Augsburg University of Applied Science, Germany and UN Habitat at the UN Headquarters Nairobi, August 31, 2016.

Save for research areas, it was no different for Grace whose training was on molecular biology and genetic engineering. Working with four supervisors she acquired hands-on experience, cementing her knowledge in animal and plant cell towards African Innovation (ai).

“I had a chance to try out some of the concepts I had only mastered theoretically. It has given me the confidence to effectively guide researchers on various procedures within molecular biology,” avers Grace. In particular, Grace learnt about tissue and organ harvesting, DNA/RNA extraction, histological and cytological analysis, and Immunohistochemistry.

“Following the training I can now participate in a number of interventions in areas such as food security, disease diagnostics, biodiversity conservation and Design and drug development. All these areas are important to Africa’s development quest,” adds Grace who continue to demonstrate the benefits accruing from the training at JKUAT/PAUSTI. AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project Chief Advisor, Prof. M. Tsunoda says proper training of technologists is critical to the success of any re-

Fostering Sustainable Development by

By Stephen Wakhu

The conference brought together over 70 delegates from academia, industry and government to discuss pertinent issues in built environment and come up with action plans for joint development of courses for energy efficient and sustainable housing in the region.

Over the years, energy has become the limiting factor for sustainable development and economic growth. The supply and generation capacity for electricity does not keep pace with growing demand for energy for household and production process.

To tackle this, JKUAT, through the School of Architecture and Building Sciences (SABS), with the coordination of Augsburg University of Applied Science partnered with UN Habitat, Stellenbosch University, Uganda Martyrs University, University of Rwanda, European Union, ACP and EDULINK to enhance academic capacity building and knowledge transfer for energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies in the field of sustainable housing.

The project dubbed JENGA offers
Delivering Affordable Housing

Continued on page 36

Dr. Dianga (2nd left) and other delegates keenly follow proceedings.
University is an institution of learning of the highest level. University education is a critical component of human development worldwide. It provides the high-level skills necessary for every labour market whether on employed or self-employed platforms. University graduates are expected to develop the capacity and analytical skills that drive economies, support civil society, teach children, lead effective governments, and make important decisions which affect entire societies.

To live to their expectations universities are guided by curricula which they meticulously develop. An anonymous educator described a curriculum as the “total learning experiences of individuals not only in school, but in society as well”. A curriculum is indeed considered the “heart” of any learning institution which means that schools or universities cannot exist without a curriculum. That then means that developing and following the curriculum is important for any university.

Curriculum development can be defined as a planned, purposeful, progressive, and systematic process that creates positive improvements in the educational system. Universities are often referred to as “The fountains of knowledge” because they follow a curriculum to systematically, progressively and scientifically generate knowledge that is useful for societal development.

Universities do this via their curricula and syllabi. When universities design their curricula they break them down into syllabi to give scope and sequence of the materials to be learned and this sequencing is essentially important.

Whereas a curriculum is the overall content, taught in an educational system or a course, a syllabus is the operational document that contains all the portion of the concepts covered in a subject. Whereas curriculum is the complete set of taught material and is prescriptive; whereas curriculum prescribes the objectives of the learning system, a syllabus is a descriptive outline of units and topics covered within the curriculum. The syllabus describes the contents of a course of instruction and the order in which they are to be taught, and this is important – very important.

The scope and sequence of a syllabus shows the order of the units within a year or stage, and the syllabus outcomes that each unit addresses.

When universities design courses they undertake the hard work of articulating course aims and objectives and then decide which material, in what order, and in what mode of instruction the material will be imparted to the learners. Every decision made about the syllabus is made in the context of how it helps students attain the course objectives.

After establishing the educational outcomes of the syllabus the students will achieve, the next task is to decide what specific content will best facilitate this process. Having decided upon the course content universities work out what order it is to be presented. The obvious goal is to progressively increase the degree of difficulty, and to ensure that different subject areas have a natural affinity and articulation with one another. A common philosophy is one of moving progressively from the known to unknown matter.

My casual observations show that some public universities in Kenya go a long way to design excellent curricula and syllabi which they do not follow. I took a casual case study of the entrepreneurship courses, curricula and syllabi where the following observations caught my eye:

1. Entrepreneurship students at different levels (semesters) are grouped together to be taught the same unit in violation of basic syllabi requirements.
2. Entrepreneurship units are taught and tested by non-entrepreneurship experts violating the how to teach entrepreneurship tenets.
3. Entrepreneurship is taught and tested pedagogically yet it is a practical course.
W at ering D own Ow n Curr icula?

4. Non-entrepreneurship units are adopted (NOT ADAPTED) for entrepreneurship courses thus diluting the specialty.
5. Students are admitted to the entrepreneurship course even if they did not select it
6. Entrepreneurship students are tested via theoretical end of semester written examinations
7. Entrepreneurship students are grouped with non-entrepreneurship students to be taught support units under the guise of common units
8. Entrepreneurship graduates are forced to publish theoretical articles as a condition to graduate.
9. Entrepreneurship students are made to carry out routine/traditional academic projects for defence to earn a degree
10. Graduates of entrepreneurship seek for the elusive wage employment instead of starting their own ventures

In part two we discuss these ten observations:

When universities mix students of different semesters to be taught together it violates the order of learning stipulated in the university syllabus.

Some students are subjected to higher levels of learning before they cover basic and/or foundational units and this is detrimental to the process of learning.

In 1956 educationist Benjamin Bloom and colleagues developed a staircase model of learning and classified learning into three domains: cognitive (intellectual skills and acquisition of knowledge), affective (feelings, values, attitudes and preferences, and psychomotor (physical skills). From this, Bloom proposed a learning approach with levels that build on each other. Many syllabi follow Bloom’s proposal hence mixing students of different levels in one class violates the educationally sensible Bloom’s proposal.

When entrepreneurship units are taught and tested by non-entrepreneurship experts then the centre piece of the teaching is lost. Either rote learning is encouraged or entrepreneurship graduates get misleading concepts and underpinnings.

Take an economist or small business management expert teaching economics/management to entrepreneurs.

The economist may dwell on the equilibrium model yet in entrepreneurship there is the concept of creative destruction which teaches about equilibrium destruction. The business expert may dwell on the product life cycle starting in the positive quadrant and going to decline stage which entrepreneurship disputes.

When universities insist on testing entrepreneurship pedagogically via written examinations then they indeed kill the very essence of entrepreneurship. They do the same when they insist on entrepreneurship graduates undertaking academic research and publishing articles in refereed journals which tend to be a lot theoretical.

Entrepreneurship experts should first and foremost be tested and evaluated by their ability to be creative and innovative. It is not how well they can solve an accounting problem. It is how well they can develop an accounting system for the micro enterprises for example. It is not how well they can construct an econometric model and test a hypothesis.

It is how well they can discover the variables behind some models and build a hypothesis and theory for the same. Rather than demand from entrepreneurship students published articles in refereed journals it would make both sense and cents to demand from them patentable and copyrightable innovations. The innovations could be a marketing model in the unit entrepreneurial marketing; bootstrapping financial sources in the unit entrepreneurial finance etc.

When entrepreneurship students are taught together with non-entrepreneurship students under the guise of common units which are adopted (not adapted) from other courses then again the centre piece is lost. Take econometrics which can generally be defined as the use of statistical techniques to understand economic issues and test theories.

We know that many economic theories are based on abstract assumptions and might have no bearing on reality (even if they are completely rigorous). Entrepreneurship is a reality. What would be useful to an entrepreneur would be how to use econometrics to achieve entrepreneurial goals and cater small businesses and not how to test hypotheses using econometric models.

Clearly therefore lumping entrepreneurship students together with future managers to teach them the same econometrics could easily disorient them because there is a distinct difference between managers and entrepreneurs.

Admission of students to entrepreneurship courses when they did not apply for them not only destroys the career paths of such students but also helps in the additions to the unemployed graduates.

The mind-set of a student forced into an entrepreneurship course is one of wage employment yet an entrepreneurship degree has the main objective of self-employment.

Fewer employers would look for a graduate of entrepreneurship to employ than those who would look for a commerce or business studies graduate.

In summary one would draw the following table on page 36:
Paul Mwangi Maringa commended the JENGA project initiative and stressed the importance of aligning architecture curriculum to the built environment industry standards. He acknowledged the need for contextualising green architecture, energy efficient systems and solutions in the built environment saying, “there is need to use the diminishing resources efficiently as we explore other resources.”

On her part, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga, said although numerous stakeholders are involved in housing delivery, architects bear the greatest responsibility of designing affordable housing.

“It is imperative that schools of architecture in the region take cognizance of the shortcomings of existing syllabi and develop curriculum that addresses the demands for affordable and sustainable housing,” said Prof. Imbuga.

She said JKUAT in partnership with UN Habitat established the Centre for Urban Studies to guide in research, training and development of innovative ideas that will help tackle the inherent complex and diverse issues in the urban setting.

She also said curriculum development should include the incorporation of results from both local and international research studies and reforms made in other countries.

The Coordinator Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN Habitat, Mr. Rafael Tuts, said the UN Habitat strives to aid in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and the New Urban Agenda which assist governments in addressing urbanization challenges through national and local development policy frameworks.

Mr. Tut believes this will enable Africa and the world to focus on empowering urban actors to solve...
Establish Your Success Milestones

By Harrison Hihu

Success milestones are major goals in life that one hopes to achieve or has already achieved and marks an individual’s level of success. Success milestones should be individual rather than group based; unless the group is characterized by the same characteristics and objectives. Mapping out ones success milestones helps in remaining focused on where to direct effort.

Our success stories cannot be synonymous, our achievements can never be of the same magnitude because diversity reigns supreme amidst humanity. People are enabled in different ways and areas of life such as; career, family life, academics, entrepreneurship, health, spiritual life and so on. Success milestones are determined by the prevailing factors in the life of an individual. They should not be influenced or defined by other people. Other people’s success stories should not be used as a yardstick to evaluate our success. Defining one’s own success begins by understanding ones potential and goals then drawing a long term plan towards attaining them.

For instance, one man’s success milestone would be owning a beachfront holiday home overseas while another man’s success milestone would be owning a simple bungalow enough to house his family and escape landlord woes. What if they both achieved their milestone but the world put them on the same “success scale” to compare them? That is how unfair the world is. It matters a lot to have our own understanding of success because other people will judge your success according to what they feel fits in the description of “successful”. Having established success milestones, otherwise referred to as life goals, independent of other people’s opinion and attaining them brings forth contentment.

The problem of this century is weakness of craving to approval and validation propelled by the unrealistic world depicted on social media. Social media opens up to a world where everyone is strongly opinionated regardless of their ignorance about your journey; where you have come from, your status quo and where you are headed.

With reference to the hypothetical scenario above, due to the 21st century influence, what if, the later decides to compare himself with the other character; he’ll subject himself to unnecessary pressure to attain goals beyond his potential; and that is why it is important, as individuals, to appreciate our diversity. That is the kind of society that is today; everyone is trying to replicate another man’s success story instead of crafting our unique story as destined by God Himself. People are on missions to attain medals, but they are not ready for the rough course in between, all because it was not in their plan. In the course of their pursuit, the frustrations stream in, thus shortcuts become the way to go. This case is evident in our society when people at all cadres of life are caught up in corruption tussles because they are not ready to take the right but long path in attaining their dreams. Their success fades away like sand castles once the storm hits hard, on the onset of their proverbial 40th day and they make the headlines.

True success stands the test of time, and it’s by being focused on achieving personal success milestones. After every milestone take time and appreciate that achievement, and let content and fulfillment fill your heart and soul.

Above all, commit all your plans to the Lord that he may make, after all, He is the author of your purpose and He’s not done with you until you achieve your purpose on earth.

practical problems, and address the specific challenges of urban poverty through provision of adequate, safe and affordable housing through locally acquired material reducing urban inequality and increasing productivity and resilience.

The meeting was also addressed by JENGA Coordinator, Prof. Susanne Gamper and Leader of the City Planning, Extension and Design Unit at UN-Habitat, Laura Petrella. Also present was Dean, SABS, Dr. Stephen Dianga among other JKUAT staff and students.
Softball: Throw, Hit, Run, Catch

By Stephen Wakhu

Softball has edged its roots in over 25 institutions in the country and is rapidly gaining popularity. The sport, introduced in Kenya in 1970, will be one of the 18 sports disciplines being showcased during the 10th Eastern Africa University Games at JKUAT.

Teams such as Kenyatta University, African Nazarene University, USIU, Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU), Egerton University and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology aim to break JKUAT’s dominance in the sport. Since inception of the National Softball League (Men) in 2009, JKUAT has dominated the league winning 3 of the 6 league titles (2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2012/2013 league). The same has been replicated by JKUAT ladies team that has won the last 3 league titles from the 2013/2014 league, consecutively.

Softball is played by two teams of 9 players each with 7 innings of two halves. Each half of an inning is played until the fielding team makes 3 outs. The objective is to score more runs than the opposing team. The team with the most runs at the end of the game wins. In the infield there is the pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop, and third baseman. In the outfield there is a left fielder, center fielder, and right fielder.

History of the Sport

Softball was invented by George Hancock in 1887, Chicago. The sport has overtime gained popularity and has spread all over the world. Softball, run by the Softball Federation of Kenya was introduced by the Japanese and American Peace Corps in the National Youth Service (NYS).

The then NYS Sports Officer Mr. Miendo Salamba took it up and spread it to all the NYS Units in the country but due to lack of equipment and resources the uptake of the sport was slow. In 2000, with softball gaining popularity globally, Softball Federation of Kenya embarked on a thorough campaign of introducing and promoting the game throughout the entire country.

By 2005, over 25 institutions such as JKUAT, Aga Khan Sports Club, NYS, Kenyatta University, African Nazarene University, Makongeni Softball Team, Moi Air Base, Egerton University, Machakos TTC, St. Mary’s Primary School, Lugulu Girls School, Meru TTC to name but a few had adopted softball in their sports curriculum.

Softball has progressed in the country. From the institutions, three softball clubs have sprout. The Ryderz Softball/Baseball Club formed in 2013 by JKUAT alumni, Knights Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology aim is to break JKUAT’s dominance in the sport.
and Repeat

Softball Club formed in 2013 by African Nazarene University alumni and The Vintagers formed by MMU alumni.

In 2009, the Softball Federation of Kenya also introduced the National Softball League which runs from September to April of the following year. The federation has had seven season for male and introduced the Ladies National Softball League in 2011 that has run for five seasons.

In 2012, due to the growing interest in the sport, the federation introduced a Nairobi League known as the Nairobi Metropolitan Softball League which runs from May to August every year. The federation is planning to introduce the sport in every county in the country.

The teams that currently engage in competitive softball in Kenya are; The Ryderz Softball/Baseball Club (Men), Jiku Main Campus (Men/Ladies), Kenyatta University (Men/Ladies), MMU (Men/Ladies), Egerton University (Men/Ladies), The Knights Softball Club (Men/Ladies), Jiku Karen Campus (Men/Ladies), African Nazarene University (Men/Ladies) and USIU (Men/Ladies) and Lugulu (Ladies).

In July 2016, representatives from baseball and softball federations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania launched the East African Baseball Softball Confederation (EABSC) in a bid to strengthen the sport in the region as well as harmonise competitions among the three East African countries. The 10th Eastern Africa University Games will provide a great platform to encourage the growth of the sport in the region.

With teams preparing for the Games in December, I am willing to bet big money that Jiku’s Team Wisdom (Men/Ladies) has no plans to let any team win the softball trophy.

Witness Gone Wrong
As he boarded the bus the Pastor resolved that he would give a witness of his faith to whoever will be sitting beside him.

However, the one who sat next to him was drunk and the priest despair of being able to give a very effective witness. The drunk unfolded the newspaper he was carrying and started reading.

After a few minutes, he turned to the pastor asking, “Hey mister, can you tell me why a person gets arthritis?”

“Here’s my opportunity!” the pastor thought to himself, “Arthritis is the result of reckless drinking and bad companions,” he carefully explained to his drunk companion.

“But why did you ask?”

“Oh, I was just reading here that the Archbishop of Rumbi is suffering from arthritis!”

(Anonymous)

Stairs too Steep?
Two drunks were walking along a railroad track. One said to the other, “These are the widest steps I ever walked up in my life”. The other drunk said, “It’s not the wide steps that are killing me, it’s the low handrail!”

(R. C. Savage)

Finance
When asked for the most beautiful words in the English language, the student answered: “Cheque enclosed.”

(Anonymous)

– Compiled by Donna Onserio

Lessons from the Hen

1. Planning
She first lays enough eggs before laying on them

2. Discipline
When she starts sitting on her eggs, she minimizes her movements

3. Sacrifice
Eats less losing weight

4. Generous Without Discrimination
Given a chance, she will sit on eggs from another hen

5. Never Discouraged
She sits on her eggs patiently for twenty one (21) days whether they hatch or not. When they don’t hatch, she will still lay enough eggs the next time round.

6. Sensitive and Discerning
She detects unfertilized eggs and rolls them over

7. Wisdom, Consciousness and Realistic
After the twenty one (21) days, she abandons the rotten eggs and starts caring for the hatched chicks.

8. Protection
She protects her chicks from all forms of danger (cold, man, animals, other birds etc.)

9. Bonds of Love and Unity
She gathers all her chick’s together

10. Care and Mentorship
She does not abandon her chicks before they mature.

– By Nancy Oloshukoki
Where to Find JKUAT Academic Programmes

January 2017 Admission on-going

Main Campus – Juja
Thika Superhighway
P.O.Box 62000-00200Nairobi.
Contacts:
Tel. 0722295988, 067-5870001, 067-5870002,067-5870003, 067-5870004, 067-5870005
Email: info@jkuat.ac.ke, registrar@aa.jkuat.ac.ke, corp.comm@jkuat.ac.ke

Nairobi CBD Campus
JKUAT Towers
(formerly ICEA Building)
Kenyatta Avenue,
P.O. Box 62000 – 00200, Nairobi.
Tel: 0705950712.
Email: infonbicbd@jkuat.ac.ke

Westlands Campus
Kabarisiren Avenue, Off Waiyaki Way,
P.O. Box 62000 -00200, Nairobi
Tel: 020 – 4447769, 0729958003, 0708241204
Email: director@nbicampus,jkuat.ac.ke,
westivalandscampus@jkuat.ac.ke

Karen Campus
Bogani Road, Off Langata South Road,
P.O. Box 62000 – 00200, Nairobi,
Tel.0735864163, 0727803636.
Email: karencampus@jkuat.ac.ke

Mombasa CBD Campus
Mombasa Trade Centre,
Nkrumah Road,
P.O. Box 81310 – 80100, Mombasa.
Tel: 041 – 2315434, 0735628272.
Email: jkuatnmombasa@jkuat.ac.ke

Nakuru CBD Campus
Kwanza Motors Building,
P.O. Box 1063 -20100, Nakuru.
Tel: 051 – 2216660, 07147 16957.
Email: Nakurucbd@jkuat.ac.ke

Kisumu CBD Campus
Opp. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga
Teaching & Referral Hospital
P.O. Box 3437 – 40100, Kisumu.
Te: 0736693960, 0724333534,
Email: kisumucbd@jkuat.ac.ke

Kitale CBD Campus
Mega Centre, Mak Asembo Street,
P.O. Box 3347 -30200, Kitale.
Tel: 054-30800.
Email: admin-kitale@jkuat.ac.ke,
info-kitale@jkuat.ac.ke

Kakamega CBD Campus
Ambwere Furaha Building,
P.O. Box 1014, Kakamega.
Tel: 0726239014/0716478099.
Email: adminkk@jkuat.ac.ke

Mombasa CBD Campus
Mombasa Trade Centre,
Nkrumah Road,
P.O. Box 81310 – 80100, Mombasa.
Tel: 041 – 2315434, 0735628272.
Email: jkuatnmombasa@jkuat.ac.ke

Nakuru CBD Campus
Kwanza Motors Building,
P.O. Box 1063 -20100, Nakuru.
Tel: 051 – 2216660, 07147 16957.
Email: Nakurucbd@jkuat.ac.ke

Kisumu CBD Campus
Opp. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga
Teaching & Referral Hospital
P.O. Box 3437 – 40100, Kisumu.
Te: 0736693960, 0724333534,
Email: kisumucbd@jkuat.ac.ke

Kitale CBD Campus
Mega Centre, Mak Asembo Street,
P.O. Box 3347 -30200, Kitale.
Tel: 054-30800.
Email: admin-kitale@jkuat.ac.ke,
info-kitale@jkuat.ac.ke

Kakamega CBD Campus
Ambwere Furaha Building,
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