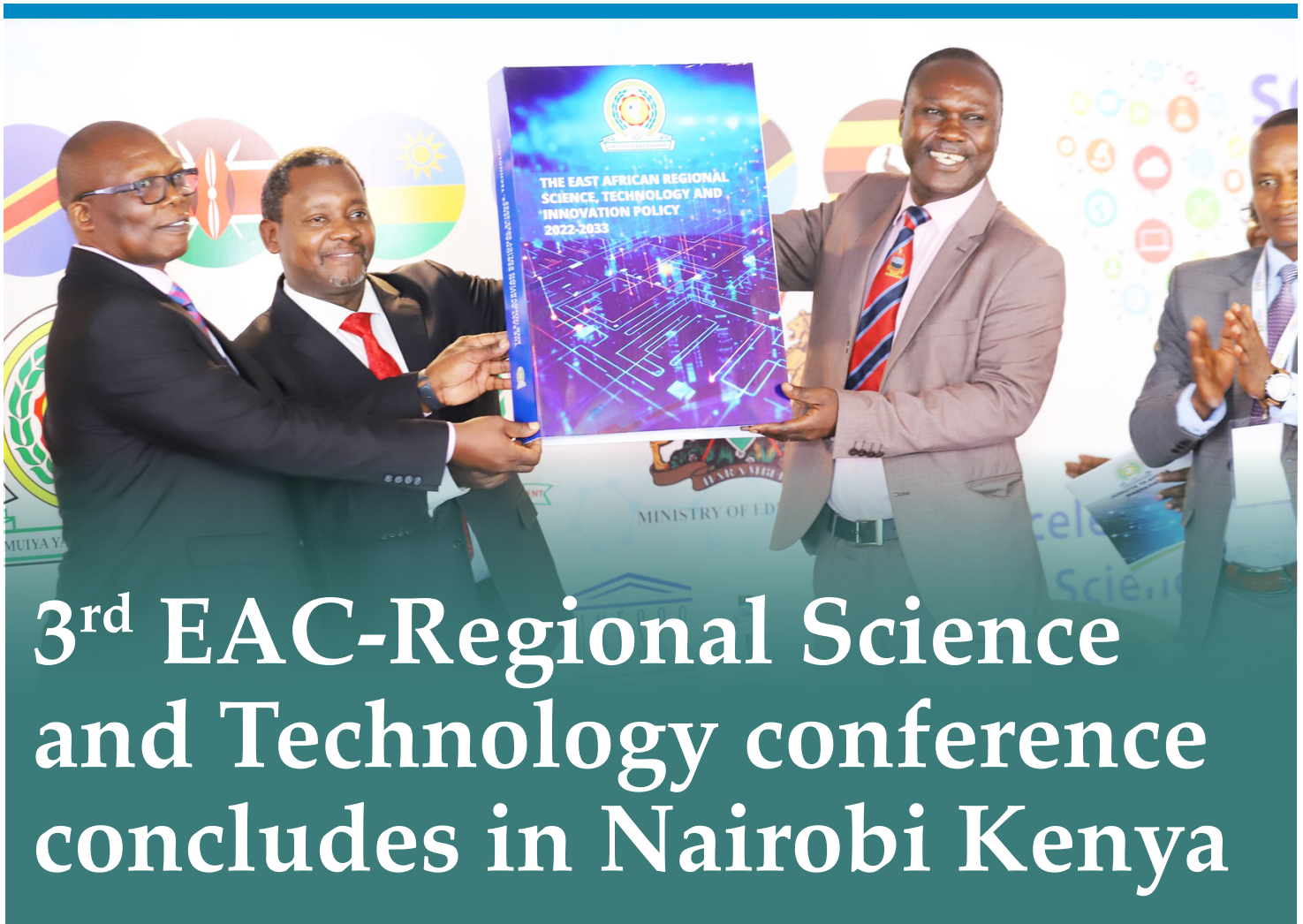


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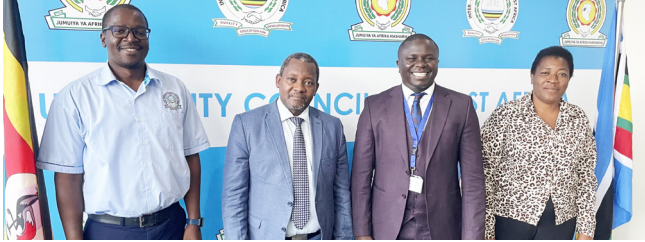


3rd EAC-Regional Science and Technology conference concludes in Nairobi Kenya



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3rd EAC-Regional Science and Technology conference concludes in Nairobi Kenya



IUCEA, Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and Executive Secretary EASTECO, Dr. Sylvance Okoth at Serova Panafric Hotel Nairobi Kenya on the 8th March 2024

The 3rd EAC Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Conference ended in Nairobi Friday (8 March) during which three different policy documents were launched: The East African Regional Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategy, the East African Regional STEM Strategy, and the East African Regional Strategy for Indigenous

Knowledge and Technology Systems. The conference, which ran from Wednesday 6 March 2024, was hosted jointly by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO). Under the auspices of the East African Community (EAC), the conference was held in collaboration

with various STI stakeholders in the region and globally to provide an avenue for sharing experiences, best practices, and applications of STI outputs. It also served to strengthen collaborations, facilitate regional integration, and enhance sustainable development.

The conference was closed by the Undersecretary in the Ministry of EAC Affairs of South Sudan, Beny Gideon, who is also the Chair of the EAC Coordination Committee. Other notable dignitaries present included Uganda's Minister of State for EAC Hon James Magode, senior ministry officials from other partner states, as well as donor representatives. The Executive Secretaries of IUCEA and EASTECO, Prof Gaspard Banyankimbona and Dr Sylvance Okoth, respectively, were also present.

The overarching theme of the conference was, "Accelerating development and diffusion of Science, Technology, and Innovation solutions for a green, inclusive, and resilient East Africa." This biennial conference builds on the deliberations and success of the 1st and 2nd conferences, which were held, respectively, in Kampala, Uganda in 2019 and Bujumbura, Burundi in 2021.

Mr Gideon said infrastructure development was key to achieving

the STI resolutions made at the conference. "Let us closely implement them at the multisectoral level so that the 4th conference will be able to say what percentage has been achieved." Hon Magode said the conference theme was well aligned with the EAC Treaty and development strategy. "Science and technology impact very positively on the society and you can therefore expect the support of the Government of Uganda in what you are doing."

I firmly believe that with the combined efforts and intellect of every individual present, this conference will pave the way for significant progress. Together, we can harness the power of science, technology, and innovation to build a brighter future for East Africa, one where scientific advancement translates into tangible benefits for our citizens, and where collaborative RDI initiatives pave the way for a more prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come said, IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona.

The three-day meeting brought together diverse actors in the STI system, including policymakers, industry players, academicians, researchers, innovators, students, and development partners.

Other stakeholders attending the conference included representatives of EAC Partner States, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, civil society, business and industry organizations, academic and research institutions, and development partners. The conference was being held in a hybrid mode, through face-to-face and virtual platforms. Activities included a high-level policy dialogue, plenary sessions, an exhibition, and a ministerial session. Special sessions included sub-themes and case studies on a wide variety of pertinent topics.

Meanwhile, it was announced that the 4th EAC Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference will be held in Rwanda.

Prof. Obonyo welcomes Dr. Gaspardus , Dr. Mundia to the IUCEA Headquarters



Prof. Obonyo Senior Principal of Exchange and Linkages right, Senior Exchanges and Linkages officer Dr. Gervais left and Dr. Gaspardus and Dr. Mundia at IUCEA Headquarters on the 6th February 2024

Prof. Meshack Obonyo, the Inter-University Council for East Africa Senior Principal, Exchange and Linkages, and Dr. Gervais Ndayizeye, Senior Exchange and Programmes Officer received Dr. Gaspardus Gastus Mwombeki of the University of Dar es Salaam and Dr. Francis Mundia Mwangi of Kenyatta University at IUCEA Headquarters at Kyambogo, Kigobe Road on the 6th February 2024. “Universities working together in different research areas will have a tangible influence on the enhancement of quality education that aims at solving social, political, and economic challenges facing the region. Given that the program also intends to review curricula, universities have opportunities to incorporate ideas from experts in different fields as strategies that can lead to the offering of courses that meet the demands of current issues

in the contemporary world of science and technology said Dr. Mwombeki.

Dr. Gaspardus and Dr. Mundia participated in the four-month IUCEA Staff Mobility program of 2023/2024. Dr. Gaspardus was hosted by Makerere University. Dr. Francis Mundia Mwangi of Kenyatta University from the School of Health Sciences, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, was posted to Kyambogo University Uganda.

“I highly commend IUCEA for conducting an impactful four-month-long Staff Mobility 2023/24 program. I appreciate the invaluable experiences I have gained interacting with postgraduate students, faculty, and community members in and around Kyambogo University. The IUCEA is truly at the forefront of East

Africa integration” said Dr. Mundia.

The Staff Mobility Programme is a remarkable opportunity to foster the sharing of academic resources and knowledge exchange among member universities. By bringing together diverse experiences, skills, and expertise, we can overcome capacity gaps and achieve EAC’s objectives as a Common Higher Education area and regional integration. Let’s take advantage of this initiative to enhance our academic human resources and bring our universities to new heights.

Exchange program participants are expected to spend four months offering their services in teaching, research, external examination, quality assurance, program accreditation, and community engagement at IUCEA member universities throughout the EAC region.

IUCEA, China-Africa Vocational Educational Alliance signs MoU



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, Senoir Legal Officer Alex Mukunzi, Dr. Cosam Joseph Project Coordinator EASTRIP and Ma Bo Representing China-Africa Vocational Educational Alliance at IUCEA Boardroom on 15th December 2023

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the China-Africa Vocational Educational Alliance signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IUCEA Headquarters in Kyambogo, Kampala on the 15th December 2023.

The Memorandum of Understanding (Memorandum) represents a statement of intent by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the China-Africa Vocational Education Alliance to collaborate to achieve common objectives.

The parties desire the collaborate in jointly organizing seminars/conferences on China-Africa TVET collaborations, carrying out activities to review/develop Regional TVET Qualification Frameworks and National Occupational Standards (NOS), program delivery standards, curriculum Standards, teaching, and learning.

The parties further warrant that they will conduct business with integrity, openness, transparency, and accountability. China-Africa Vocational Educational Alliance confirms its conformance to the laws and rules of the EAC countries.

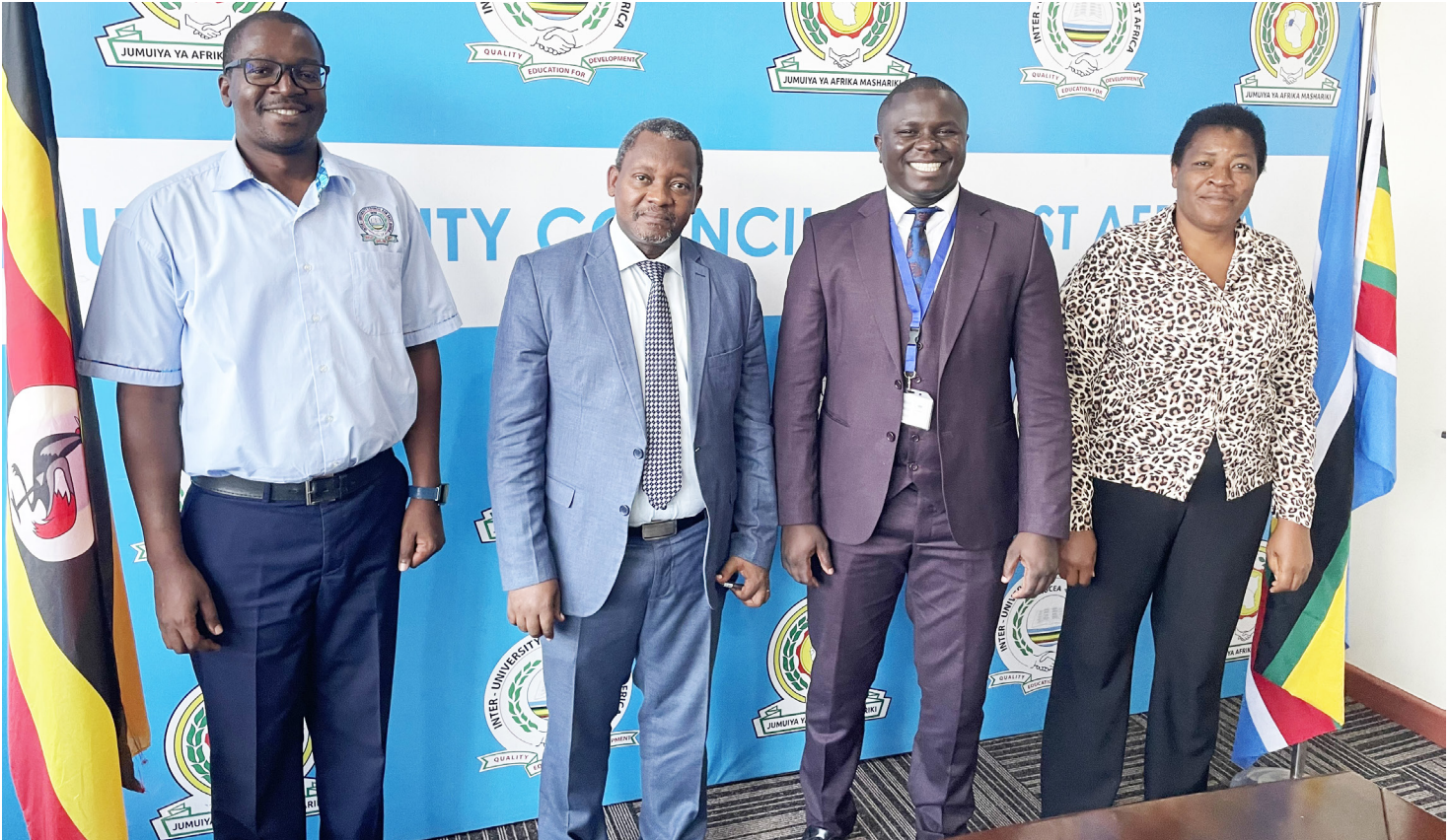
Also, IUCEA confirms its conformance to the adherence to the IUCEA Ethics policy.

Prof.Gaspard Banyankimbona signed on behalf of IUCEA and Ma Bo signed on behalf of the China-Africa Vocational Educational Alliance.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by IUCEA Senior Legal Officer, Alex Mukunzi and Dr. Cosam Joseph, the Project Coordinator for the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP).



CCA delegation visits IUCEA Offices for partnerships



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, Prof. Obonyo Senior Principal Exchange and Linkages with delegations from CCA at IUCEA Headquarters on the 7th February 2024.

A delegation from Corporate Career Academy (CCA) made a courtesy call to the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona at the IUCEA Headquarters, Kigobe, Kyambogo on the 7th February 2024.

The purpose of the visit is to update the IUCEA Executive Secretary on the upcoming East African Community (EAC) employability summit. The team from CCA headed by Executive Director and Lead Mentor Mr. Philip Pande

also briefed the Executive Secretary on career services, supporting mentorships for students, and linkages with the universities in the region. The leaders also discussed pertinent issues on cooperation and future collaborations.

The high-level meeting was attended by Kimberly Teka, the Corporate Career Academy (CCA) Country Representative in Uganda, and Prof. Meshack Obonyo, the IUCEA Senior Principal of Exchange and Linkages.

Five graduated from EACSP Cohort Two funded by KFW



Five Students sponsored by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) under the East African Community Scholarship Programme (EACSP) graduated from the University of Dodoma in the United Republic of Tanzania on the 30th of November 2023.

Among those who graduated are Anampiu Jackson Kobia, Kenyan, with a Master of Science in Mathematics, Kisakye Abigail, Ugandan, with a Master of Science in Mathematics, Malang Maluak Paul Kuot, South Sudanese, with a Master of Science in Chemistry, Nyangena Duke Nyarera, Kenyan, Master of Science in Petroleum Geo-Science and Matendo Didas, Ugandan, with a Master of Science in Information Technology respectively.

The young EAC students were awarded the EACSP in 2021 (2nd cohort) and the Federal Republic of Germany funds the EACSP through KfW.

A group Photo of the beneficiaries of IUCEA-KFW Scholarship programme



EAC-SMS consultative meeting concluded in Nairobi



IUCEA, Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and Prof. Kiama Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi at Sarova Panafric Hotel Nairobi on the 15th March 2024.

The East African Community Student's Mobility Scholarships Scheme (EAC-SMS) Consultative Meeting concluded in Nairobi, Kenya. The high-level meeting attended by the Vice Chancellors and educational Experts within Eastern Africa was successfully concluded with several resolutions on implementing EAC-SMS.

Several key resolutions were discussed extensively during the two-day consultative meeting. Vice Chancellors unanimously agreed to continue with the EAC-Student's Mobility Scholarships Scheme for successful integration within the East African Community.

IUCEA, Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona graced the two-day consultative meeting that Vice Chancellors of both public and private universities of the EAC Partner States attended in Nairobi, Kenya from the 14th -15th of March 2024.

"This EAC Student Mobility Scheme is meant to be our indigenous student exchange, inter-University, and Inter EAC Partner States

programme. It is one of the ways to demonstrate the self-sustainability of students' mobility in the region which will enhance our credibility towards the EAC community." Stated Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona.



Prof. Stephen Kiama, Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi at Sarova Panafric Hotel Nairobi on the 15th March 2024.

Deputy Executive Secretary led a delegation to Pretoria for a learning visit on higher education data management



IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof Idris A. Rai, the IUCEA staff and members of staff of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) South Africa 19th March 2024

IUCEA team led by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof Idris A. Rai visited Pretoria, South Africa for a learning visit on higher education data management.

At the University of Pretoria, the team was received and hosted by the Vice Principal for Research, Innovation, and Postgraduate Education, Prof Sunil Maharaj on the 18th of March 2024. The team further engaged with the key staff in the Department of Institutional Planning led by Prof. Gerald Ouma on data, planning, and reporting, including Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) and relevant tools.

At the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the IUCEA team engaged with the team responsible for HEMIS at the national level and the Central Application Service project team.

The Deputy Executive Secretary was accompanied by the Principal Innovation and Outreach Officer, Dr. Salome Guchu, Ben RUHINDA, the Senior Systems Officer, and Dr. Gervais Ndayizeye, the Senior Exchanges and Linkages Officer.



IUCEA staff received gifts from the University of Pretoria, South Africa on the 18th March 2024.

Capacity building workshop on Internal Quality Assurance held in Entebbe



IUCEA, Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and participants from Partner States during capacity building workshop on Internal Quality Assurance at Entebbe Uganda.

The capacity building workshop on Internal Quality Assurance for Universities in East Africa was held at Entebbe, Uganda from the 18th to the 20th of March 2024. The workshop participants were drawn from Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop focuses on EAQAN activities and the preparation of the 13th EAQAN Forum scheduled for September 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The primary objective of the training programme is to equip quality assurance practitioners in East Africa with the knowledge and skills to

effectively implement Internal Quality Assurance Systems.

“In the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education, our Internal Quality Assurance Systems must be not only robust but also adaptable. This is only possible through a continuous process of assessment. This workshop provides a platform for us to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and learn from one another on how to enhance IQAS. The workshop is an excellent opportunity for you, the quality assurance officers, to enhance your knowledge and skills, embrace emerging trends, and collectively contribute to the

continuous improvement of our higher education institutions” said Prof. Banyankimbona while addressing participants in Entebbe, Uganda

“The EAC Common Higher Education Area was declared in May 2017 by the Heads of State of the EAC Partner States. This declaration is not only about recognition of the developed higher education frameworks but also about a vision for a harmonized, collaborative, and world-class quality higher education system in East Africa,” said Prof. Banyankimbona

Prof Rai opens the joint planning workshop in Nairobi, Kenya

Professor Idris Rai, IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, and Bjoern Richter, GIZ EAC Cluster Coordinator for East African Community opened the joint planning workshop for the digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA project) planning workshop on the 4th March 2024. The event was held in Kenya at Raddison Blue Hotel, Nairobi discussed the full inclusion of DRC as the Seventh EAC-Partner State into the project implementation in alignment with IUCEA and EAC structures.

Further, among the key components for the discussion was the sustainability and future of the regional Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa and stocktaking of the progress of the last two years towards building the capacity of young people in digital skills in the region.



Prof Idris Rai, IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, representatives of GIZ and IUCEA Staff during joint planning meeting at Raddison Blue Hotel, Nairobi Kenya on the 4th March 2024

The joint planning meeting was attended by representatives from EACO, East African Business Council, Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology (NMAIST), EAC social sector, GIZ, and IUCEA.

The dSkill@EA is an initiative of the German government and East African Community aimed at strengthening the digital skills of young people in the region.



GIZ EAC Cluster Co-ordinator
Bjoern Richter



Prof Idris Rai, IUCEA Deputy
Executive Secretary



Participants during consultative meeting

Prof. Banyankimbona Pays Courtesy Call to Nkumba University



The IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, and Prof. Jude Lubega Vice Chancellor of Nkumba University at Nkumba University VC office on the 20th March 2024

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor of Nkumba University, Prof. Jude Lubega. Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Executive Secretary with a delegation from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) visited Nkumba University for benchmarking on Institutional Quality Assurance Systems on the 20th of March 2024.

The Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, and his team were welcomed by Prof. Jude T Lubega, the Vice Chancellor of Nkumba University. The visit was after the closing of a two-day capacity-building workshop on Internal Quality Assurance for Universities in East Africa which was held in Entebbe, Uganda. The workshop participants were drawn from Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop focuses on EAQAN activities and the preparation of the 13th EAQAN Forum scheduled for September 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, and Prof. Jude Lubega having a discussion on High Education Quality assurance matters at Nkumba University VC office on the 20th March 2024

Deputy Executive Secretary attends the 8th EAC Debate in Tanzania



IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary Prof. Idris Rai, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC, Deputy Secretary General for Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors and Representatives from European Union delegation on the 25th March 2024 at ARDHI University, Dar es Salaam

Prof. Idris Rai, IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary is attending the 8th EAC University Student's Debate on Integration at ARDHI UNIVERSITY, Dar es Salaam.

The East African Community Secretariat organized the 8th EAC University Student's Debate on regional integration from 25th-26th of March 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The overall objective of the EAC University debate is to enhance youth participation in the EAC integration agenda and processes. The theme for the debate is "EAC Political Integration, Peace Building, and Youth Participation". The debate aims at continuously promoting the dialogue on the East African identity among university students and the youth to engage with the EAC integration processes.

"The choice of the theme of the 8th annual EAC student debate "EAC Integration, Peace Building, and Youth Participation" is very commendable. It is also very timely given the rapid expansion of the EAC with new partners still joining the block, it is very relevant given the emerging regional conflicts that threaten the peace and security of the citizens of the community and at times even the existence of the community itself, and finally, the theme is well-timed due to the importance of recognizing the role of our increasingly youthful community in the regional integration

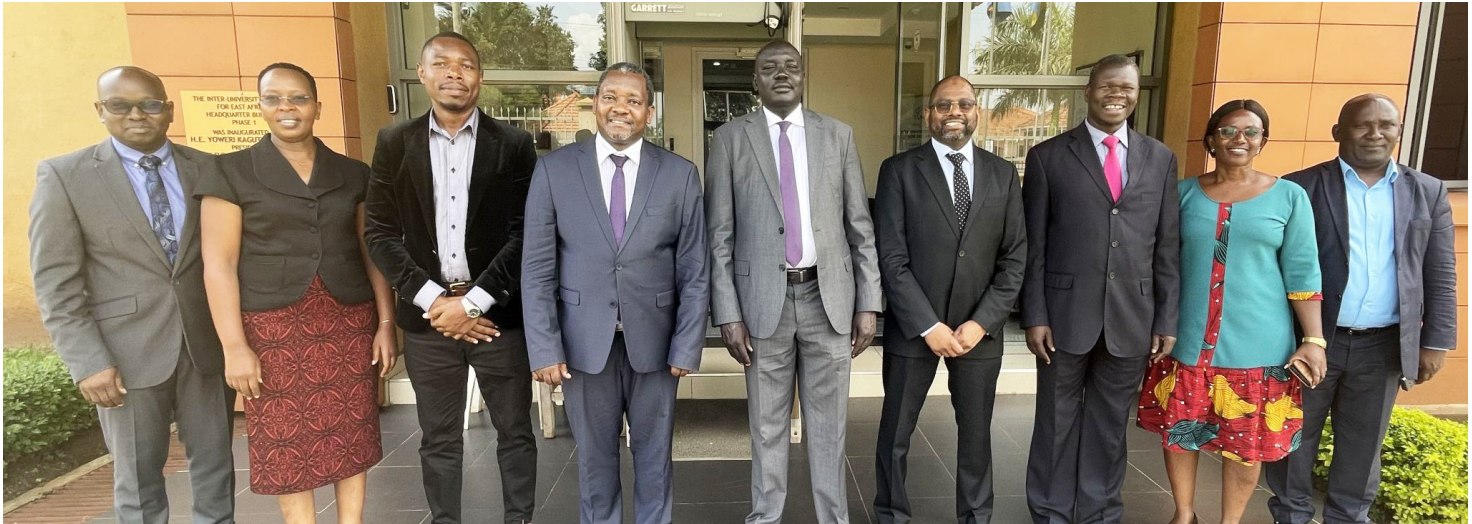
process" said Prof. Rai while addressing the huge gathering at Dar Es salaam, Tanzania.

The meeting is being attended by Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC, Deputy Secretary General for Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors. Also, representatives from the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Head of the European Union Delegation, and the Ambassador of Switzerland among others.



Prof. Idris Rai giving remarks during the Student's Debate on Integration at ARDHI UNIVERSITY, Dar es Salaam 25th-of March 2024

Prof. Banyankimbona welcomes the Undersecretary, MEACA-South Sudan to IUCEA Headquarters



IUCEA staff with Hon. Beny Gideon Mabor Undersecretary MEACA-South Sudan at IUCEA Headquarters 21st of February 2024.

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona welcomed the Undersecretary, MEACA-South Sudan to the IUCEA Headquarters on the 21st of February 2024.

Hon. Beny Gideon Mabor, Undersecretary of the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Republic of South Sudan made a courtesy call to the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Executive Secretary at the IUCEA Headquarters at Kigobe Road, Kyambogo.

Undersecretary Hon. Beny Gideon Mabor further discussed pertinent issues on the East African Community Integration processes with IUCEA Staff and the mandate of IUCEA on the Common Higher Education Area within the East African Community.

Further, the two leaders discussed more on the EAC integration pillars like political federation, customs union, Common Market, and monetary union.

Professor Gaspard Banyankimbona appreciated the courtesy call by the Undersecretary, and he appreciated the efforts and the commitment of Partner States' contributions toward the IUCEA mandate on the EAC Common Higher Education Area.

Among the staff that welcomed the Undersecretary of the Ministry of East African Affairs, Republic of South Sudan at the IUCEA Headquarters were Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris A. Rai, and some staff from senior management of the IUCEA.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, and Undersecretary MEACA-South Sudan at IUCEA Headquarters 21st of February 2024.

IUCEA, EAQAN Executives assemble in Entebbe, Uganda



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona with EAQAN Executive Members at Imperial Golf Coast Hotel, Entebbe on 19th March 2024

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the East African Quality Assurance Executive Members met in Entebbe, Uganda. The meeting was held on the 19th of March 2024 between IUCEA and selected members of EAQAN executive members at Imperial Gold Coast Hotel, Entebbe Uganda.

The meeting focused on the preparation for the next East African Community Higher Education Quality Assurance

Forum to be held in September 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Also, the work plan and progress report by the East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) and opportunities for collaboration and resource mobilization were discussed extensively. IUCEA Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona pledged support to EAQAN and that EAQAN will have a full office at the Secretariat once the new IUCEA block is completed by December 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, and in attendance were Prof. Mawa, Chief Principal, Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework, Prof. Alexis Ndabarushimana, Senior Quality and Standards Officer, Dr. Robert Anyine, Senior Qualifications Framework Officer, EAQAN President, The Vice President, and Country representatives from South Sudan, and Burundi.

East African TVET Leaders Gain Skills in Special Leadership Training Programme in China



Participants during the special leadership training session in Guangzhou, China

Senior managers from Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, participated in a special leadership training programme held in Guangzhou, China from 3rd to 7th December 2023.

The training programme was organised by the Guangzhou Technician College (GZTC) in partnership with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) with support from the World Bank through the East African Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). It aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge and strategies to improve the quality of TVET in their respective countries.

The programme was preceded by an opening ceremony to launch the International Teachers Training Centre, a joint initiative by IUCEA and GZTC. The centre is expected to serve as a platform for knowledge exchange and professional development for TVET trainers from East Africa and China.

The training was conducted by renowned professors with expertise in TVET leadership and management. It covered various leadership topics and best practices, giving participants practical skills and innovative approaches to curriculum development, industry collaboration, quality assurance, change management, greening TVET, and institutional management.

The training programme also included field visits to factories and industrial parks which provided participants with firsthand experience of the strong collaboration between

GZTC and local industries, including GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co. Ltd, among others.

Participants also visited GZTC main campus, agricultural training campus, and automotive training facility, demonstrating how the college effectively leverages partnerships to produce high-quality, market-driven graduates.

The programme culminated in a closing ceremony with representatives from the three East African governments expressing their appreciation to the organizers for providing the learning opportunity.

Speaking at the closing session, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, said: "The training sessions were truly inspiring and provided us with a wealth of knowledge that we can directly apply to improve our TVET



Participants on a study tour at GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co. Ltd

institutions in East Africa.” “We are grateful to the professors, staff, and organisers who made this programme such a success,” he added.

Prof. Li Minnggen, the President of GZTC said: “We are honoured to have hosted this leadership training programme and share our experiences with our colleagues from East Africa. We believe that collaboration and knowledge sharing are essential for

advancing TVET globally.”

Dr. Xiaoyan Liang, World Bank Lead Education Specialist, said: “Investing in TVET is crucial for building a skilled workforce to promote economic growth in East Africa. This training programme is a positive step towards achieving this goal. It has given us a platform for sharing best practices and fostering collaboration among TVET institutions in East Africa and China.”

Prof. Banyankimbona expressed IUCEA's commitment to continue its collaboration with GZTC through the International Teachers Training Centre to build upon the foundation of mutual learning and exchange established during the visit to the advanced TVET across the East African region.

By Godwin Bonge Muhwezi, Project Communication Officer for EASTRIP at IUCEA

IUCEA, GZTC launch the International Teachers Training Centre to promote the delivery of quality TVET programmes in East Africa



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbina (Centre Right) and the GZTC President, Prof. Li Minnggen (Centre Left) during the launch of the International Teacher Training Centre in Guangzhou China.

The training centre is part of initiatives IUCEA has undertaken to engage international partners to support higher education institutions and provide learning opportunities for students in East Africa. Some of the institutional collaborations include a partnership with Kyungdong University in South Korea and Galilee International Management Institute in Israel, among others.

“In an increasingly interconnected world, international partnerships are important for advancing higher education and research in the region.

Through our collaborations, IUCEA has created a platform to facilitate research and knowledge exchange, fostering south-south and south-north cooperation,” Prof. Banyankimbona said.

The World Bank’s Lead Education Specialist, Dr. Xiaoyan Liang, said, “TVET has been a key component of the Chinese education system and has had a significant impact on enhancing national employment and competitiveness”.

Prof. Li Minnggen, the GZTC President, said, “We are delighted to partner with IUCEA to establish this international

teacher training centre based on the Belt and Road Initiative. We believe that the training centre will have a positive impact on the development of TVET in East Africa and beyond.”

The training centre will offer several training programmes including leadership training for senior managers of TVET colleges, curriculum development and design, and facilitate the establishment of strong industry-TVET collaborations.

By Godwin Bonge Muhwezi, Project Communication Officer for EASTRIP at IUCEA

IUCEA through EASTRIP contributes to the development of the leather sector in Africa



Hailemichael Asrat, the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for EASTRIP (2nd Left) with other panelists on ALLPI Regional Consultation forum in Mombasa, Kenya.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) are working together to support the development of the leather sector in Africa. This follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IUCEA and ALLPI in October 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

IUCEA is the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), an initiative funded by the World Bank and the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania to increase access and improve the quality of TVET programs in selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes and to support regional integration in East Africa.

The cooperation between the two organisations is expected support EASTRIP's work in addressing skills shortage and mismatch in the leather sector, by providing technical, financial and industry partnerships to improve the relevance and quality of training programmes in selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs). It is expected to facilitate the creation of a high-calibre workforce, including technicians, and technologists, and to encourage research and innovation in the field.

As part of the partnership, in December 2023, IUCEA participated in the 16th annual regional consultative forum organized by ALLPI in Mombasa, Kenya and contributed to a panel discussion on future strategic collaboration under the thematic on cultivation of skilled technicians and the establishment of product design studios.

EASTRIP is currently supporting the Federal TVET Institute in Ethiopia and the Dar Es Salaam Institute of Technology's Mwanza Campus in Tanzania to improve their infrastructure and capacity to deliver quality and relevant programmes in the leather sector to meet the demands of the labour market and ensure the sector's competitiveness in both local and international markets.

The improved infrastructure and facilities are expected to offer opportunities for strategic cooperation serve as potential pilot locations for product design studios, and act as hubs where technicians can be trained to support small to large-scale industries. By Hailemichael Asrat, the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for EASTRIP at IUCEA.



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