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NEWSLETTER



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IUCEA delegation paid a Courtesy call to the University of Kinshasa Vice Chancellor's Office

Prof. Banyankimbona hosts a delegation from KfW at IUCEA Headquarters

Contents



16 Dire Dawa Polytechnic College graduated regional students from Somalia through short-term training



02 IUCEA Launches Translation of Key Policy Documents into French in Kinshasa



06 The Sensitization Workshop on EAC Common Higher Education Area concludes in Kinshasa.



07 IUCEA delegation paid a Courtesy call to the University of Kinshasa Vice Chancellor's Office



08 Prof. Banyankimbona hosts a delegation from KfW at IUCEA Headquarters

13 JICA, KIHBT Collaborate to Enhance Bridge Maintenance Training in Kenya



10 TVET Stakeholders review policy documents to enhance quality of TVET programmes in East Africa

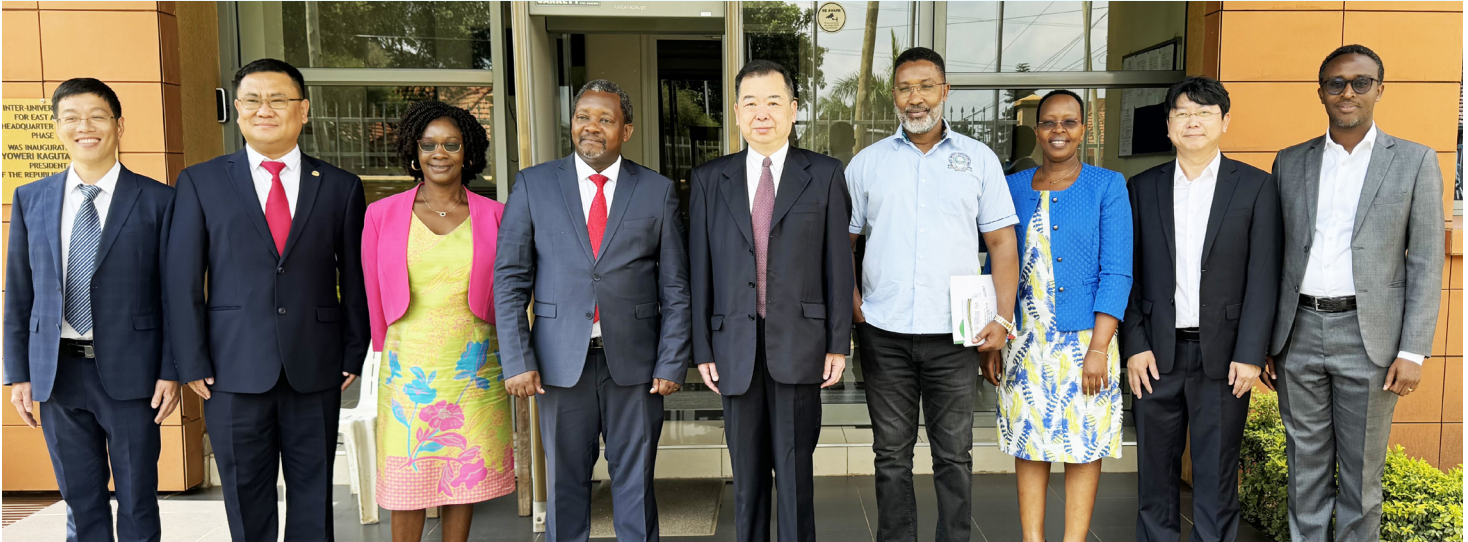
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IUCEA-FJUT Signs MoU for Partnerships



A delegation of FJUT with IUCEA Staff at the Headquarters on the 10th of April 2024.

A memorandum of understanding between the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the Fujian University of Technology (FJUT) of the People's Republic of China was signed at IUCEA Headquarters on the 10th of April 2024.

IUCEA and FJUT have identified several specific activities to be carried out toward the realization of the aspirations of the MoU which complement the

mandates and responsibilities of both institutions. These include but are not limited to the development of mutually beneficial academic programs and courses, coordination of staff mobility for purposes of teaching, research, and training, and Coordination of student mobility programs for study and language learning.

Executive Secretary Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona signed on behalf of IUCEA and Prof. Wu Renhua signed on behalf of the University Council of the Fujian University of Technology (FJUT).

“The partnership between the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the Fujian University of Technology (FJUT) shall help in fostering collaboration on student and staff mobility,” said Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona. Also, Prof. Banyankimbona further urged the delegation of FJUT to coordinate staff mobility for purposes of teaching, research, and training, and Coordination of student mobility programs for study in China and language learning.

The Fujian University of Technology delegation also visited Makerere University, the University of Dar es Salaam, and the University of Nairobi as part of the partnership with East African Universities.



IUCEA Executive Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona and the head of FJUT) delegation after the signing of the MoU at the IUCEA Headquarters at Kyambogo on the 10th of April 2024.

IUCEA Launches Translation of Key Policy Documents into French in Kinshasa



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona with participants and representatives from the Congolese government during a translation workshop in Kinshasa on the 22nd of April 2024

The Meeting to Launch the Translation of the IUCEA Regional Quality Assurance Framework and Policy Documents into French kick-off in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo from the 22nd to 23rd of April 2024 at the Secretariat of Commission of Higher Education in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting brought stakeholders from both academia within the East African Region and

key Government Institutions from the Congolese government.

The primary objective of the translation of the IUCEA Regional Quality Assurance Framework and Policy Documents into French is to foster the integration process and ultimately contribute to the enhancement of higher education quality within the EAC by ensuring that all higher education institutions have access to all policy documents regardless of linguistic

background.

General Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education and University, Pacifique Ilosyo Imonano, and Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona graced the launching of the IUCEA Regional Quality Assurance Framework and Policy Documents in Kinshasa.

IUCEA Executive Secretary Remarks focused on the pivotal task of translating regional quality assurance documents into French. Prof. Banyankimbona extended gratitude to attendees, with special recognition given to Hon. Antipas Nyamwisi, the Minister of State from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Stressing the significance of the translation for facilitating integration and ensuring quality education across the East African Community, he commended the expertise and dedication of the translators and the collaborative spirit among stakeholders. Prof. Banyankimbona reiterated the workshop's role in fostering regional

collaboration and emphasized IUCEA's unwavering commitment to supporting such endeavors.

In conclusion, he reaffirmed IUCEA's dedication to regional integration and thanked governments, partner states, universities, and development partners for their ongoing support" said Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary while addressing the participants during the event of translating the IUCEA key policy documents into French.

The IUCEA has, over the years developed several higher education policies, frameworks, and guidelines to enhance quality and promote

harmonization of higher education in the region. Some of the key policy frameworks include; guidelines for Mainstreaming East African Community Ideals into Teaching Curricula in Universities in East Africa, Standards & Guidelines for Postgraduate Studies in East Africa, Quality Assurance Handbook Vol. 1 & 2, Principles & Guidelines for Quality Assurance, Quality Assurance Guidelines on disabilities & other Special Needs, East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, Recognition of Prior Learning Policy, East Africa Policy for Students Mobility and Staff Exchange and Benchmarks for Academic Programmes.

The Sensitization Workshop on EAC Common Higher Education Area concludes in Kinshasa.



Participants at the EAC Common Higher Education Area workshop at the University of Kinshasa on the 24th of April 2024.

The Sensitization workshop on the EAC Common Higher Education Area concluded in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. The workshop that was conducted from the 24th to 26th of April 2024 was concluded and key recommendations were approved by the different Vice Chancellors and key government Institutions in Kinshasa.

University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) hosted the sensitization workshop on the East African Common Higher Education Area. The workshop was attended by the different rectors/Vice Chancellors from various Universities in Kinshasa and key government institutions. "The Common Higher Education Area

speaks to the need for harmonization and quality of higher education which we, at IUCEA, are coordinating its implementation through the East African Quality Assurance guidelines and standards, students Mobility and staff exchange programmes, the East African Harmonized Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, the development of programme benchmarks, and introduction of regional programme accreditation," said Prof. Idris Rai while addressing the participants at the University of Kinshasa.

The purpose of the national stakeholders' sensitization (dialogue) forum is to raise awareness and bring to speed all EAC Partner States of

the existence of the policies, tools, and documents developed on quality assurance, qualifications framework and mobility to facilitate harmonization and realization of the East African Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA).

In the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC), the Partner States made explicit agreement and commitment to undertake concerted efforts to foster cooperation in education and training in the community, in particular, the harmonization of education and training systems for them to be comparable and compatible among the Partner States.

IUCEA delegation paid a Courtesy call to the University of Kinshasa Vice Chancellor’s Office

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) delegation led by Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris A. Rai paid a courtesy call to the University of Kinshasa Vice Chancellor's Office on 24th of April 2024. On the other hand, Prof. Jean Marie Kayembe Ntumba, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kinshasa welcomed the delegation of the IUCEA and made a brief presentation about the University programs.

“The University of Kinshasa is ready to apply for membership of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) to foster the EAC regional integration agenda within the Community,” said Prof. Jean Ntumba while addressing the IUCEA Staff at his office. Meanwhile, Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Rai appreciated the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kinshasa for the warm welcome and appreciated the willingness of the UNIKIN to join the IUCEA membership.

Among the staff that accompanied the Deputy



IUCEA Staff at the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) on the 24th of April 2024.

Executive Secretary (DES) to the University of Kinshasa Vice Chancellor's Office were Prof. Obonyo, the Senior Principal, Exchange and Partnerships and Acting Coordinator of ACE II Project, Dr. Salome Guchu, the Principal Innovation and Outreach Officer, Prof. Micheal Mawa, Senior Principal, Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework and other senior staff from Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework unit, Partnerships and Linkages, Public Relations and Communications and Accounts unit as well.

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is one of the Institutions of the

East African Community with the main mandate of coordinating higher education in the East African Community (EAC) as provided for in the IUCEA Act of 2009. The Act gives IUCEA the responsibility of advising the EAC Partner States on all matters related to higher education in the Community. Specifically, section 6 (b), (j), and (n) of the Act directs IUCEA to promote collaborations; conduct subject meetings, conferences, and workshops; and promote, through relevant activities in the member universities, the meaning and value of East African Unity.

Prof. Banyankimbona hosts a delegation from KfW at IUCEA Headquarters



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona with the delegation and IUCEA Staff at the Headquarters on the 11th of April 2024.

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona welcomes a delegation of KfW at the IUCEA Headquarters on 11/4/2024. Nina Jantos, the KfW Portfolio Manager for Health, Education and Social Protection Eastern Africa and African Union, and Stephan A. Neu, a consultant.

The purpose of the visit aimed to conduct the regular monitoring of

disbursements to students, introduce Stephan as the new member of the project team, and address various pending matters, including discussions on the phase 2 agreement on the East African Community Scholarships Scheme (EACSP) with the Executive Secretary.

The delegation discussed extensively the progress of the scholarship and the completion of cohorts 1,2 and 3 of

the students who benefited from the IUCEA-KfW scholarship program.

Also, a review of the East African Community Scholarship Programme (EACSP) selection criteria, selection process, project management and reporting, and support of East African community training were discussed by the executive and the delegation from KfW.

Nina Jantos also made a courtesy call to Makerere University. Stephan A. Neu, a consultant of KfW, and Ms. Dorine Rwehera, the EAC Scholarship Officer at the Inter-University Council for East Africa, accompanied Jantos.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress of EAC Students under the IUCEA-KfW scholarship at Makerere University. The delegation from both IUCEA and KfW was received by Professor Robert Wamala, the Coordinator of the EAC Scholarship at Makerere University.

“The EAC Scholarship Programme has been a beacon of hope for 180 young East Africans, unlocking doors to the education they thought were closed. I am excited to witness these bright minds harness their acquired skills for the betterment of their communities. Heartfelt gratitude to the German Government for their invaluable sponsorship” said Ms. Dorine Rwehera, the EAC Scholarship Officer at the Inter-University Council for



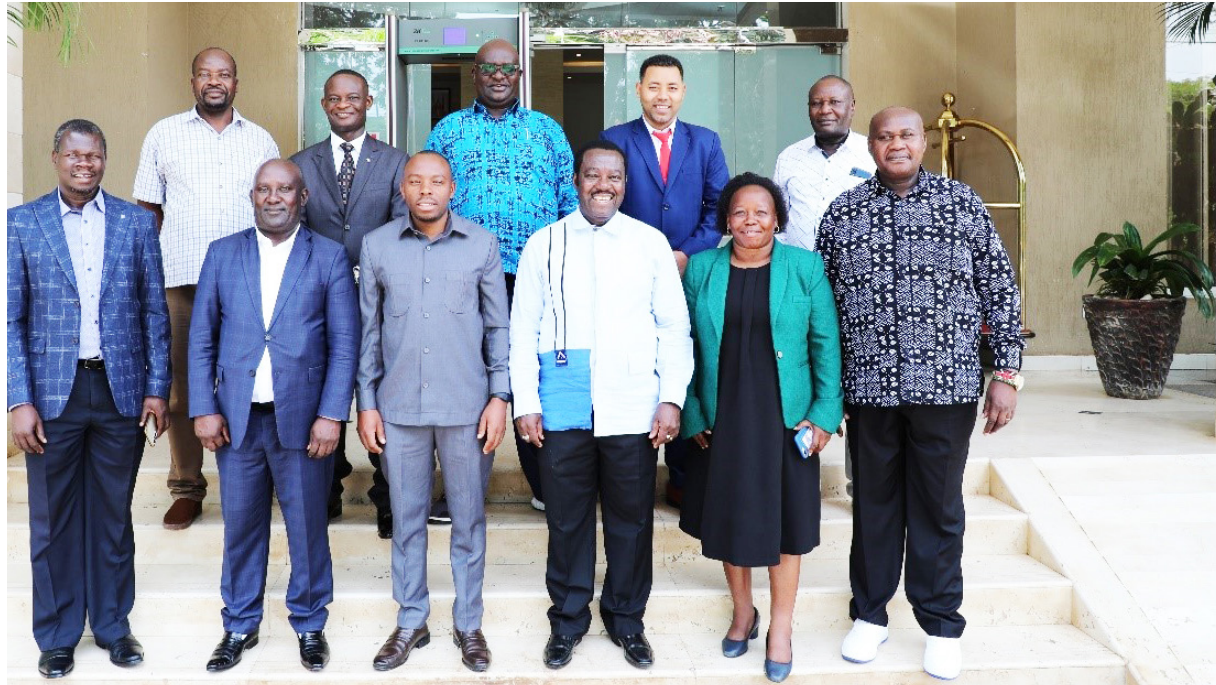
IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona with the delegation from KfW at Executive Secretary Office, Kyambogo-Kampala on the 11th of April 2024.

TVET Stakeholders review policy documents to enhance quality of TVET programmes in East Africa

Stakeholders from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Kenya and Tanzania met in Entebbe, Uganda, from 2nd to 5th April, for a quality assurance workshop to review and improve content for the Regional Framework for Occupational Competency Assessment and Certification (ROCAC) and the Regional Policy Framework for TVET Integration (RPFTI). The frameworks are expected to enhance collaboration among East African countries.

The workshop was organised by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the Regional Facilitation Unit for the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) with support from the World Bank.

The frameworks are expected to facilitate integration of TVET systems and enhance access, quality, and relevance of TVET programmes in East Africa. "The frameworks will streamline and harmonise TVET assessment and certification processes further strengthening integration of TVET



Members of the Technical Meeting reviewing the regional policy frameworks on TVET integration.

systems across the region," said Dr. Cosam Joseph, the Regional Project Coordinator for EASTRIP at IUCEA. "This will result in improved mobility, enhance career opportunities, and facilitate skills transfer within the TVET sector in the region for globally competitive workforce. The common standards and practices established will result in significant rise in the quality of vocational education and training programmes," he said.

The frameworks are critical for establishing consistent and reliable occupational competency assessment and certification systems across the three nations, thereby facilitating mutual trust, easing the recognition of certifications, and promoting the mobility of skilled labour.

EASTRIP, has already registered a number of achievements towards supporting regional

integration of TVET systems in East Africa through the development and adoption of a Regional TVET Qualifications Framework for Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The policy frameworks, alongside the development of harmonised 44 occupational standards and mutual recognition of 235 TVET qualifications, are expected to significantly bolster regional integration in education and skilled labour mobility.

The workshop included officials from Ministries responsible for TVET in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, private sector representatives. The final versions of the ROCAC and the TVET Integration Policy Framework will be prepared for publication.

By Godwin Bonge Project Communication Officer for EASTRIP at IUCEA.

DIT - Mwanza to Boost Skills for Entrepreneurs in Leather Sector



The ambassador of Indonesia to Tanzania His Excellency Tri Yogo Jatmiko in Group photo with Mwanza Regional Commissioner CPA Amos Makala third left with other officers from Both Tanzania and Indonesia.

The Ambassador of Indonesia to Tanzania, His Excellency Tri Yogo Jatmiko, has inaugurated training sessions designed to enhance leather product manufacturing skills among entrepreneurs across Tanzania.

The training, which is a collaborative effort between Indonesia, Germany, and Tanzania, aims to foster vocational skills in leather processing and manufacturing technologies. During his opening remarks, Ambassador Yogo highlighted the wealth of resources and raw materials available in Tanzania. He emphasized the importance of the diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Tanzania in facilitating skill

development across various sectors.

The training has attracted around 25 participants from different regions of Tanzania, including small entrepreneurs. It marks a key phase in the 'South-south Triangular Cooperation on Technical and Vocational Education Training (SSTC TVET) in Leather Footwear' project, jointly implemented by Indonesia and Tanzania since 2022, with financial support from the German Development Agency (GIZ). Spanning 10 days, the sessions are led by leather experts from Indonesia, supporting Tanzanian efforts to produce leather products that meet international standards. Ambassador Yogo expressed the need

for Tanzania to increase its leather shoe production to meet domestic demands, citing the availability of raw materials as a foundation for reducing imports. He also reflected on the long-standing partnership between the countries, which was strengthened by meetings between their Presidents last year to discuss developmental issues in sectors like oil and agriculture.

The inauguration also featured a tree-planting ceremony by Ambassador Yogo, marking the commencement of a 'green campaign' aimed at enhancing environmental protection on the campus.

Furthermore, Ambassador Yogo remarked on the recent visit by Her

Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan to Indonesia, which has paved the way for cooperation in various fields, underpinned by the shared histories of the two nations.

Mr. Marco Isack, the education officer of Ilemela municipality, on behalf of the District Commissioner of Ilemela, Mr. Hassan Masala, extended his gratitude

to the Indonesian government for providing experts to disseminate new technology in leather processing and manufacturing. Mr. Ramadan Buthu, the coordinator of the training program at DIT-Mwanza, highlighted the opportunity for entrepreneurs to advance this technology in the country. The training participants, including

Trashishi Malibwa, Chairman of the 'Umoja Leather' group in Mwanza, praised the efforts to enhance their skills, recognizing the potential for fostering self-employment among stakeholders in leather processing.

By Joshua Kasase, Public Relations Officer, DIT-Mwanza

IUCEA congratulates Rector Arusha Technical on elevation to the rank of Professor



The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Team congratulates Prof. Musa N. Chacha upon his elevation to an Associate Professor. Prof. Chacha currently serves as the Rector of Arusha Technical College, where he has provided leadership and strategic direction in the establishment of the Regional TVET Centre of Excellence in Renewable Energy at Kikuletwa campus. Under his stewardship the centre has made tremendous progress with world-class infrastructure, including classroom block, lecture theatre, workshops, hostels, adult accommodation, among other infrastructure.

Prof Chacha has spearheaded efforts to improve ATC's training facilities and infrastructure,

reviewing and updating the curriculum. This has not only provided students with a conducive environment with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and learning but also. Ensured that the colleges' training remains relevant, dynamic, and aligned with industry needs to equip students with knowledge and skills to thrive in today's competitive labour market.

"On behalf of the IUCEA team, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for his exemplary leadership and contribution to improve the quality and relevance of TVET programmes at ATC," said Dr. Cosam Joseph, the Regional Project Coordinator for EASTRIP at IUCEA.

BY IUCEA Team

JICA, KIHBT Collaborate to Enhance Bridge Maintenance Training in Kenya

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been conducting pedagogy with trainers from the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT). This partnership focuses on capacity development in technical areas such as Performance-Based Contracting, with the most recent training in Bridge Maintenance Management.

The Government of Japan and Kenya are working together on the development of a Bridge Management System (BMS) aimed at enhancing the maintenance and management of bridges in Kenya's road network. This collaboration has led to the creation of Bridge Inspection Manuals, Bridge Repair Manual, and Training Manuals. Currently, work is underway with the support of JICA on developing a Cost Estimation Manual and Technical Specifications for Bridge Repair Works.

KIHBT, through the EASTRIP project, has enabled two trainers to participate in the creation of these manuals and specifications. Additionally, they are conducting a Training of



Trainers course for 20 engineers as part of the Training of Teachers and Managers component. This collaboration is expected to allow KIHBT to provide training to road sector professionals such as Engineers,

Road Inspectors, and Contractors.

By Betrice Njenga, Communication Officer for EASTRIP at Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology.

NIT, KIHBT in Partnership to Enhance Transport and Infrastructure Sector Skills

Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) and the National Institute of Transport (NIT) in Dar es Salaam have recently signed a cooperation agreement. During a benchmarking exercise at NIT, the two institutes found common ground and decided to collaborate to enhance skills in the transport and infrastructure sector, aiming to cultivate a more qualified and skilled workforce in the region.



Their shared goals include:

- Participating in joint academic and research activities to exchange expertise and best practices.
- Facilitating the exchange of academic faculty members and researchers to foster collaboration.
- Implementing student mobility and exchange programs including internships and study abroad experiences to promote regional integration.
- Extending invitations to convocation events for the presentation of research and technical papers by students before their graduation.
- Developing curricula



that align with industry needs and emerging trends, and sharing resources and expertise to improve the quality of education.

Both KIHBT and NIT have departments in common, such as Civil & Highway and Mechanical & Automotive. The heads of these departments, along with support from institutional managers, are currently devising

an action plan guided by the Regional Harmonized Qualification Framework. This framework aims to support student mobility and employability across the region.

The student exchange programme will follow a hybrid model, incorporating both online and physical components. The programme is scheduled is expected to be launched in April 2024

Kenya Coast National Polytechnic Dual TVET Programme Integrates Students into Industry Workforce



Mentees at the Africa Marine and General Engineering Company

Kenya Coast National Polytechnic (KCNP), is implementing the Dual TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) training program. This approach involves a balanced training: 50% in the industry and 50% in the educational institution. This dual-training model ensures that students acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills thereby enhancing their employability upon completion of the courses.

The training block is currently ongoing at the African Marine and General Engineering Company Ltd which absorbed nine (9) of the inaugural cohort of students. The CEO of the company, who also serves as a member of the Industry

Advisory Board, brings valuable insights and expertise to the training program, ensuring its alignment with industry needs and standards. Other industries that have absorbed the students in the Maritime, Shipping and Engineering sector include Isuzu EA Ltd, Kenya Navy base, Transpares Ltd and Amazon. The students at the Kenya Navy base are undertaking their industry practical training in Marine Welding. The industries in the Hospitality sector include Voyager Beach Hotel, Nyali Sun Africa Hotel, English Point, Nyali Golf Club, Mombasa Beach Hotel among others.

CBET Curriculum Development

The Kenya Coast National Polytechnic has taken a significant stride in enhancing its position in Marine Transport and Port Logistics by developing two preliminary Competency Based curricula in collaboration with the African Marine and General Engineering Company Ltd. These curricula are Marine Welding Level 4 and Marine Welding and Fabrication Level 5. These curricula aim to address the growing demand for skilled professionals in the Maritime sector. The courses have received approval from the Technical Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA). It is worth noting that Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), the regulator in the Maritime affairs, was also involved in the curriculum development process.

By Magdalene Kituku, EASTRIP – Industry Liaison Officer at Kenya Coast Polytechnic College

Dire Dawa Polytechnic College graduated regional students from Somalia through short-term training



As part of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), one of the project development objectives is to enhance access to TVET programs by offering training to students from the East African region, fostering regional integration. In alignment with this goal, Dire Dawa Polytechnic College, serving as the Regional Flagship TVET Institute, has strategically planned to

welcome students from neighboring countries to provide short-term training in fields such as railway technology, electro-mechanical technology, and metal engineering technology.

In continuation of these efforts, the College recently received a second cohort of 10 regional students from Somalia under the EASTRIP priority program. These students underwent rigorous training in electronics and

computer maintenance, subsequently completing the program and receiving certification. Notably, in the initial round, the college successfully graduated 16 regional students from Somalia through the EASTRIP priority program, further demonstrating its commitment to empowering students from the region.

By Mesay Tilahun, EASTRIP Project M and E Specialist

Dire Dawa Polytechnic College Empowers Female Students with Incentives to Pursue TVET programmes



Various research studies on female participation in TVET have identified several hindering factors, including college-related, trainer-related, parental, and socio-cultural influences that discourage females from pursuing such programs, particularly those classified as difficult. To address these obstacles and enhance female enrollment, Dire Dawa Polytechnic College has designed

a range of strategies. Among these initiatives is the provision of incentives to motivate female students, such as free driving training and Bachelor's degree scholarships, aimed specifically at those considering enrollment in the challenging courses.




By Mesay Tilahun, EASTRIP Project M and E

Pictorial Photos





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