

The  
**IUCEA**  
**NEWSLETTER**



# High-Level Breakfast Meeting concludes in Nairobi



**EASTRIP Champions TVET as the Engine for Sustainable Industrialisation**

**Kenya and Tanzania TVET Institutes Collaborate to Enhance TVET Training and Regional Integration**

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# High-Level Breakfast Meeting concludes in Nairobi

On 17th May 2024, the High-Level Breakfast Meeting took place at Raddison Blu Hotel, Upper Hill in Nairobi. This event was jointly organized by the East Africa Business Council (EABC), and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), with support from GIZ.

The meeting brought together senior officials from the private sector, public sector, and academia to discuss the transfer of technology and innovation from academia to industry. This engagement allowed participants to share information and experiences aimed at strengthening academia-industry collaboration mechanisms and advancing towards a digital economy. Notably, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, attended the breakfast meeting in Nairobi. During the brainstorming and co-creation sessions, the participants made the following resolutions:

1. Academic institutions are willing to collaborate with the private sector, emphasizing the importance of aligning interests to achieve common goals.
2. Address the skills gap in decarbonization and the circular economy to achieve zero carbon emissions and waste elimination.
3. Rethink the approach to bridging the gap between the government, private sector, and academia.
4. Embrace the 3D principles (Digitalization, Demand Shift, and Demography) within the Academic-Public-Private Partnership (APPP). Further resolutions included the need for educational institutions to regularly



Prof. Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Kiama, Vice Chancellor of University of Nairobi and Chief Executive Officer of East African Business Council, Mr. Kalisa Bosco on the 17th of May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

update their curricula to align with the evolving needs of the private sector, identifying and mapping the necessary skills and opportunities to accelerate key value chains, and promoting mutual recognition and harmonization of professional standards across Africa. Other key points stressed the importance of investing in research and development, reducing the cost

of education, and enhancing digital innovation.

These resolutions aim to promote collaboration between academia and the private sector, address skills gaps, and ultimately contribute to the growth and sustainability of the East African economy.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona addressing the key Partners during a high-level Breakfast meeting in Nairobi on the 17th of May 2024.

# EALA Committee on Accounts Oversight visits IUCEA Headquarters



IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris A.Rai, and the EALA MPs on the 22 of May 2024 at IUCEA Headquarters.

The East African Community Legislative Assembly (EALA) Committee on Accounts Oversight recently visited the IUCEA Headquarters on the 21st of May 2024. The delegation, led by Hon. Mundela Mbombo Joseph, the chairperson of the Committee on Accounts, engaged in discussions with the IUCEA management about governance and management systems, including the institutional mandate, objectives, functions, and legal instruments within the East African Community. The performance of programs and projects of the IUCEA, as well as the land where the IUCEA headquarters is located (donated by the Republic of Uganda),

were also discussed by the EALA MPs and the council's management.

During their visit, the EALA Oversight Committee members assessed the size of the IUCEA Headquarters through discussions with the council's management. The committee commended the council management for aligning their work with the EAC integration agenda. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai, welcomed the EALA Committee on Accounts Oversight and expressed gratitude for their visit to the secretariat.

# IUCEA Hosts GIZ Delegation



IUCEA Executive, Prof. Banyankimbona and David Roos, Head of the Project for Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dskills@EA) project on 3/5/2024 at IUCEA Headquarters.

The Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, hosted a delegation from GIZ at the IUCEA Headquarters on May 3rd, 2024. The GIZ delegation was led by Mr. Bjorn Richter, the Cluster Coordinator for GIZ in East Africa, and David Roos, Head of the Project for Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dskills@EA). The discussion revolved around the Digital Skills for an Innovative Industry in the East African Community (dskills@EA)

project. Ben Ruhinda, Senior Systems Officer at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), presented the project's overall progress and outlined the planned activities during the meeting.

Additionally, the IUCEA Executive Secretary discussed diversifying the financial approach, engaging with the private sector, acquisition of ICT services, and capacity-building initiatives in line with the project priorities. Topics such as improving

ICT services for universities, supporting IUCEA to enhance ICT infrastructure, and raising awareness for digital access for education were also discussed in the joint meeting at the secretariat headquarters.

Prof. Banyankimbona expressed appreciation for the support GIZ is providing to IUCEA in the implementation of the Dskills@EA project and for supporting the integration process of the EAC Community in line with the four pillars of the integration process.

# Professor Bantu paid a courtesy call to IUCEA

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Dr. Gervais Ndayizeye, Senior Exchange Programme Officer, Prof. Bantu, and Personal Secretary to Deputy Executive Secretary, Immaculate Kibirungi at IUCEA Secretariat on 14 May 2024.

Professor Edward Bantu from Kabale University recently visited the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Headquarters on the 14th May 2024. During his visit,

he was welcomed by Dr. Gervais Ndayizeye, the Senior Exchange Programs Officer, and Personal Secretary to the Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Immaculate Kibirungi.

Over the past 4 months, Prof. Bantu participated in the Staff Mobility program at Kenya Methodist University. He was involved in a teaching exchange from January 15th to May 14th, 2024. Prof. Bantu expressed his gratitude to the management of IUCEA for granting him the opportunity to teach at Kenya Methodist University for this duration.

The goal of the IUCEA Staff Mobility Programme is to promote the sharing of academic human resources, knowledge, skills, and experiences among member universities to address capacity gaps and contribute to the goals of the EAC as a Common Higher Education area and regional integration. Each year, participants in the exchange program are expected to provide their expertise in teaching, research, external examination, quality assurance, program accreditation, and community engagement.

# IUCEA participates in Nairobi Innovation Week



Dr. Salome Guchu, giving remarks during Nairobi Innovation Week at the University of Nairobi on 8th of May 2024.

On the 8th of May 2024, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) partnered with the University of Nairobi on Innovation Week 2024, focusing on the theme "Strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem through Government-Industry-Academia Linkages for Sustainable Development". Dr. Salome Guchu highlighted the role of universities in strengthening the innovation ecosystem and emphasized various initiatives and programs coordinated by IUCEA to provide opportunities for universities, students, faculty members, and researchers across the East African Community (EAC) region.

Further, the Public Relations and Corporate Communications Unit of IUCEA also participated in the booth during the Nairobi Innovation Week. The event focused on topics such as Innovations for Sustainable Community in the Built Environment, the design sector for sustainable development, and fostering collaborations between academic, industrial, and intergovernmental stakeholders, as well as community linkages.

# Prof. Banyankimbona attends EHEA in Albania



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, Doris Harmanne of AQAS, and Prof. Micheal Mawa in Tirana, Albania on 30th of May 2024.

Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, attended the European Higher Education Area Ministerial Conference in Tirana, Albania as a representative of IUCEA.

During his time in Albania, Prof. Banyankimbona had a sideline discussion with Prof. Olusola Bandele, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU), regarding how African higher education policymakers, managers, and stakeholders can learn from the success of the European Higher Education Area.



**The discussion is very significant, especially in 2024, as the African Union has designated education as the theme for the year**



Prof. Banyankimbona noted, "The discussion is very significant, especially in 2024, as the African Union has designated education as the theme for the year."

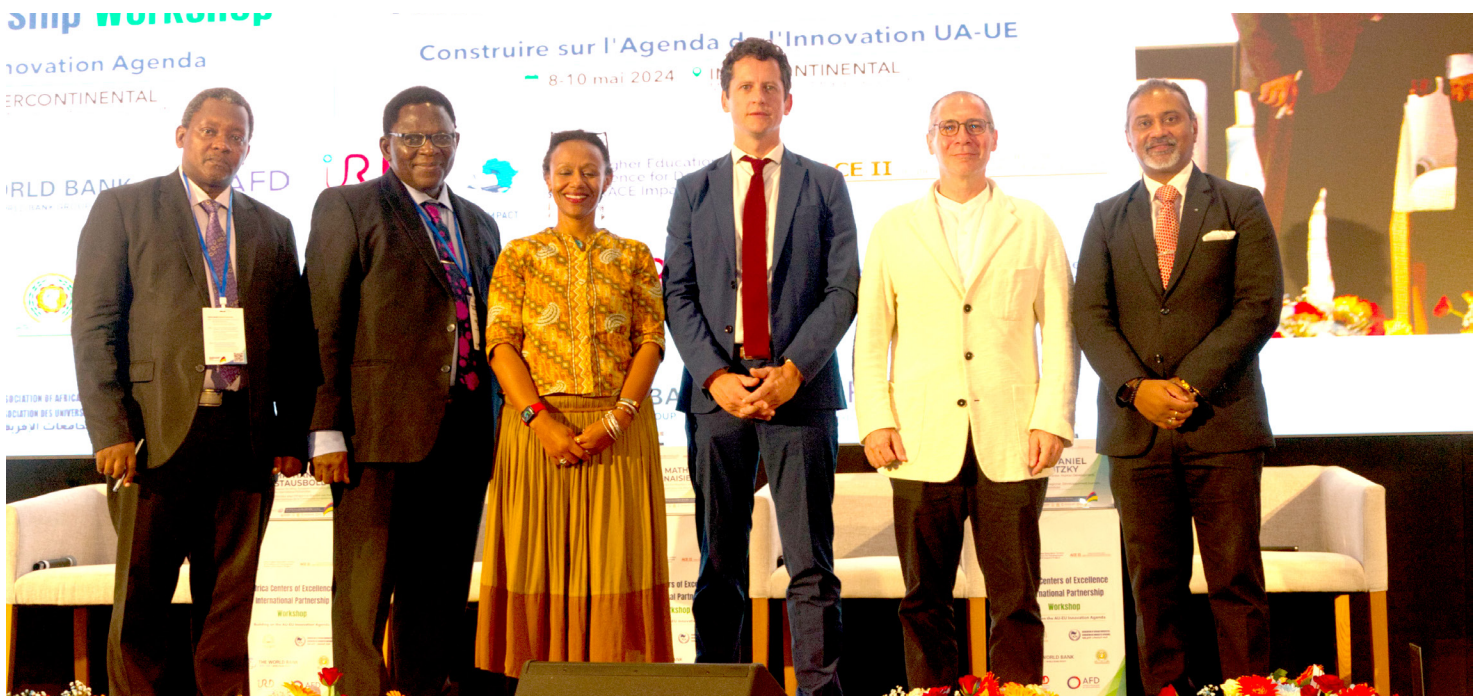
Additionally, IUCEA delegates met with Doris Harmanne, a representative from AQAS in Germany, at the EHEA Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum in Tirana, Albania.

Prof. Banyankimbona was accompanied by Prof. Micheal Mawa, the Senior Principal of Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona with the Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, Prof. Olusola Bandele in Albania on 30 May 2024.

# The ACE II Inaugural Partnerships Workshop Concludes in Mauritius



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, AAU Secretary, Prof. Oyewole, Ms. Muna Meky, Education Practice Manager, World Bank, Mr. Thenaisie of AFD France, Dr. Dulitzky of World Bank, Prof. Kiran Ministry of Educ Mauritius at the opening of the ACE partnerships workshop on the 8th of May 2024.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa, in collaboration with partners, organised the first African Centres of Excellence International Partnerships Workshop, which took place from May 8–10, 2024, in Mauritius.

The event, themed “Building Pathways Towards Sustainability through Collaborative Research and Innovation,” aimed to facilitate peer-learning opportunities among Centres of Excellence from Africa and Europe, identify potential areas of collaboration in research and innovation, and engage private sector representatives

and investors to support the commercialization of research outputs.

The workshop featured several panel discussions that generated insights into the innovations that have been developed by the ACEs. A discussion on research and innovation within the health sector, moderated by Ms. Muna Meky, Practice Manager for Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Bank, highlighted some of these developments. For example, the EMOTIVE Intervention developed by the Africa Centre of Excellence in Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) hosted at Bayero University in Nigeria significantly

reduced postpartum haemorrhage mortality rates by 60% in five countries. The takeaways from the discussion emphasised the pivotal role of centres of excellence in driving healthcare innovation in Africa.

In another panel discussion of university presidents that was moderated by Professor Goolam Mohamedbhai, the presidents explored the influence of centres of excellence on their respective institutions. Professor Svein Stølen, the Rector of the University of Oslo and Chair of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, provided an example from Norway,



■ IUCEA Executive, Prof. Banyakimbona giving remarks at the ACE partnerships workshop on the 8th of May 2024 in Mauritius.

where five generations of centres of excellence have contributed to long-term planning, institutional commitment, prioritisation, and transformation of national and institutional perspectives within universities, thus fostering excellence.

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**Building Pathways  
 Towards Sustainability  
 through Collaborative  
 Research and Innovation**  
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Speaking at the opening of the workshop, the Executive Secretary of the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, expressed his gratitude to the African Union and the European Union for adopting a joint agenda focused on strengthening research and innovation (R&I) cooperation.

“This event presents an opportunity for the Centre teams to learn from one another on common topics of interest in key priority research areas, identify potential areas of collaboration in research and innovation, engage private sector representatives and potential investors to support the commercialization of research, and build sustainable partnerships that will have long-term impacts on the ACE programme,” said Prof. Banyankimbona.

Meanwhile Dr. Daniel Dulitzky, Regional Director, Human Development, World Bank, noted, “workshop’s goals are ambitious yet attainable. We are here to foster peer-learning among Centres of Excellence and to delve into common topics of interest that are vital for our collective advancement. We are here to uncover and forge new pathways for collaboration in research and innovation—pathways that lead to the commercialization of our intellectual pursuits. And crucially, we are here to draw in the private sector, to engage with those who have the means to elevate our research from theory to practice, from the lab to the lives of our people”.

Further Mr. Hans Stausboll, Director for Africa at the European Commission's Directorate for International Partnership lamented that we are also working on better connecting access to innovation through the establishment of an African Union-European Union innovation platform, which will be operational in 2025.

# EASTRIP Champions TVET as the Engine for Sustainable Industrialisation



■ Dr. Cosam Joseph speaking at the 6th PASET Forum and RSIF Annual Conference

Technical and vocational education can play a critical role in creating sustainable industrialization on the African continent. Speaking at the 6th Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET) Forum held recently in Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Cosam Joseph, Regional Project Coordinator for the World Bank-funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), said: “TVET is critical in developing skills set necessary to achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and fostering sustainable industrialization. It promotes increased efficient use of natural resources and the adoption of clean, environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes”.

The forum brought together stakeholders to discuss how TVET can empower Africa's workforce for a sustainable future. In a panel discussion on strengthening PASET to leverage TVET in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa's Industrialisation, Dr. Cosam

emphasized the importance of collaboration between TVET Institutes and industries for developing relevant green skills programs that meet industry needs.

The EASTRIP project focuses on developing specialized technical skills in crucial sectors like transportation, energy, manufacturing, and information communication technologies with emphasis on ensuring these skills contribute to a greener future.

It recognises TVET as a powerful tool for achieving environmental sustainability promotes greening through the development of sustainability-focussed curricula. “The project advocates for curriculums that equip graduates with “green skills” relevant to areas like renewable energy and resource-efficient technologies,” Dr Cosam said.

For instance, the Arusha Technical College (ATC) in Tanzania, the Regional Flagship TVET Institute in renewable energy, offers training renewable energy including hydropower, solar, and wind energy, and has established a research centre for small hydro turbines.

The college fosters innovation by developing products like solar-powered carts for

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**“TVET is critical in developing skills set necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and fostering sustainable industrialization.**

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the disabled and industry-certified welding programmes. Strong industry partnerships have resulted in over 16 Memoranda of Understanding with local and international companies, ensuring graduates are equipped with skills needed to meet the demands for the labour market.

KenGen Geothermal Training Centre (GTC) in Kenya, the Regional

Flagship TVET Institute in Geothermal Technology, offers training in Geothermal, equipping Africa's workforce with the skills necessary to harness geothermal energy, a clean and renewable resource thus helping African countries reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

EASTRIP's model of "greening" TVET institutions provides a blueprint for other

African countries seeking to balance industrial growth with environmental sustainability. By equipping trainees with skills needed for a green economy, the region is well-positioned to achieve sustainable development.

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

# EASTRIP Student Exchange Graduate at Meru Polytechnic Excels as Film Entrepreneur

In Kenya, at The Meru National Polytechnic, Rashid Lizangari began a journey driven by ambition. After enrolling for a Diploma in Information and Communication Technology, he joined the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) in Tanzania as part of the student exchange program between DIT and The Meru National Polytechnic. The exchange programme was supported by East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) with funding from the World Bank.

Through the programme, Mr Lizangari studied 3D Modeling and Animation/Film Technology, finding a passion that would guide his future career. He also completed a specialist short course in 3D modelling and Multimedia Technology at DIT. After graduating with a diploma in Information Communication Technology from The Meru National Polytechnic, Lizangari founded Zangtics Digital, an IT and Film Company. Zangtics Digital became known for reliable software development and film production services. Lizangari and his team managed to turn creative ideas into professional films and software applications.

Their focus on quality and efficient processes ensured good user experiences and set a high standard in their field. Lizangari's experience illustrates how Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions can

■ Rashid Lizangari, a graduate of the EASTRIP Student exchange programme has curved out a successful career as an entrepreneur in Film and Animation



shape the futures of young Kenyans. His success highlights the role TVET institutions like The Meru National Polytechnic have in preparing students for real-world challenges by equipping students with important skills and encouraging innovation.

The exchange programme supported by EASTRIP helped broaden these

opportunities through international collaborations and skills sharing, helping students like Lizangari succeed.

Today, Rashid Lizangari's story inspires both entrepreneurs and students. It shows the value of education, hard work, and grabbing opportunities. As he continues to lead in technology and storytelling at Zangtics Digital, Lizangari

values the education he received from The Meru National Polytechnic, through the EASTRIP exchange programme, which continue to transform lives across East Africa and beyond.

By David Maingi, Communication Officer at Meru Polytechnic College

## DIT Mwanza Facilitates Regional Integration through Skills Training in Leather Manufacturing for students from Rwanda and Kenya

The Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) in Mwanza continues to offer both online and offline training sessions focused on leather product manufacturing to students and experts from Kenyan and Rwandan colleges. The six-month program aims to enhance participants' understanding of the latest technologies in shoe manufacturing.

One of the participants, Mr. Michael Habumugisha from Rwanda, highlighted the benefits of the training, stating, "We have learned various innovations in creating high-quality and attractive shoe patterns, surpassing our previous knowledge. We plan to share this new information with our colleagues back home."

The training involves participants from both Rwanda and Kenya and is conducted

at DIT Mwanza campus. The practical training sessions are held in-person and build upon the online sessions that began on January 15, 2024.

Ms. Jane Kalatu from the Machakos Technical Institute for the Blind in Kenya also expressed her satisfaction with the program. "We came to DIT - Mwanza Campus to learn about new technologies in leather manufacturing, which will help us enhance the value of the products we produce back in Kenya," she said.

Mr. Leonard Mayunga, the coordinator of the training, elaborated on its objectives, explaining that the goal is to deepen the knowledge of leather product manufacturing for trainers and entrepreneurs from Kenya and Rwanda. This initiative is part of the EASTRIP

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**We have learned various innovations in creating high-quality and attractive shoe patterns, surpassing our previous knowledge. We plan to share this new information with our colleagues back home.**

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Project, which facilitates the exchange of professional knowledge among colleges in the East African region, aiming to increase the value of leather products locally and

internationally.

By Joshua Kasase, Public Relations Officer, DIT Mwanza

## IUCEA pays a courteous visit to the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi

On May 21, 2024, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, along with the Senior Principal for Quality Assurance, Prof. Michael Mawa, paid a courtesy visit to the DAAD Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. They were warmly received by the DAAD Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Dorothee Weyler, and her Deputy, Ms. Margaret Kirai.

During the visit, the Executive Secretary expressed sincere appreciation to the Director for the warm welcome and thanked DAAD for their longstanding partnership in establishing the regional quality assurance system in East Africa. The Director of DAAD also acknowledged and celebrated the 20 years of partnership with IUCEA.

The heads of the two institutions discussed various important aspects based on their yearly Master Plan, including preparations for the 13th East Africa Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum, which is being spearheaded by EAQAN, the regional Quality Assurance Network. This forum



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, DAAD Region Director for Africa, Dr. Dr Dorothee Weyler, and Prof. Micheal Mawa, Senior Principal of Quality Assurance and Frameworks in Nairobi Kenya on 21st of May 2024

will provide a unique opportunity for EAQAN members and higher education institutions in East Africa

to engage in dialogue and establish collaborations and partnerships with universities from Germany.

# Harmonised TVET Qualifications to Foster Regional Integration through Increase Mobility of Students and Staff



■ The Principal Secretary, State Department of Vocational and Technical Training, Ministry of Education, Kenya, Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria (Seated Centre) with Participants during the sensitisation workshop in Ethiopia.

Stakeholders in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13th to 14th May 2024 for a regional sensitisation and dissemination workshop on the recently Adopted Regional Policy Frameworks for harmonisation of TVET qualification among the three countries.

The Regional Policy Frameworks, which include the Regional Framework for Occupational Competency Assessment and Certification (RFOCAC) and the Regional Policy Framework for TVET Integration (RPFTI) are expected to facilitate regional integration and enhance the mobility of skilled labour through the implementation of standardized curricula and occupational competency.

Speaking at the workshop, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Vocational and Technical Training, Ministry of Education, Kenya, Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, who was the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of the workshop, stating, "This workshop is a testament to our collective commitment to elevate the standards of TVET in East Africa. By harmonizing our occupational standards and qualifications, we are not only facilitating the mobility of our skilled workforce but also fostering a unified labour market that stands robustly competitive on the global stage."

The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa, Prof. Idris Rai, said: "The adoption and implementation of these frameworks will pave the way for a mutually recognized system of qualifications across



■ Dignitaries from Ethiopia, Kenya Tanzania, the World Bank, and IUCEA during the sensitisation workshop.

East Africa, enhancing both learner and labour mobility. This is a significant step in our journey towards greater regional integration.”

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**The success of these policy frameworks lies in our collective effort. It is imperative that every stakeholder, from policymakers to educational institutions, plays an active role in this transformative journey.**

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included presentations and interactive discussions aimed at clarifying the significance and practical application of the frameworks. Participants developed a detailed implementation

The World Bank Task Team Leader for EASTRIP in Ethiopia, Mr. Biruk Gebreyohannes, noted, “The RFOCAC and RPFTI are cornerstone achievements of EASTRIP. Their successful deployment will fortify the trust in and recognition of competency certificates, regardless of where they are issued within the region. This is crucial for ensuring that skills transfer seamlessly across borders, thereby meeting the evolving demands of our industries.”

Throughout the two-day workshop, participants discussed the details of the RFOCAC and RPFTI, exploring their implications and the pathways for effective implementation. The workshop

plan, outlining roles and responsibilities for key stakeholders at regional, national, and institutional levels.

Prof. Rai remarked, “The success of these policy frameworks lies in our collective effort. It is imperative that every stakeholder, from policymakers to educational institutions, plays an active role in this transformative journey.”

Participants developed a clear roadmap for implementing the newly adopted frameworks, laying a firm foundation for the actualization of a harmonized and integrated TVET system in East Africa.

Harmonisation of TVET qualifications is part of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), a collaborative effort funded by the World Bank and the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. EASTRIP to improve the quality and access of TVET programs to foster regional integration in East Africa.

By Godwin Bonge Muhwezi, Project Communication Officer for EASTRIP at Inter-University Council for East Africa.

# IUCEA Launches GRM System for Handling Grievances and Reporting



■ The Deputy Executive Secretary, Inter-University Council for East Africa, Prof. Idris Rai (Centre Right) with participants after the launch of the GRM System.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) for East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), spearhead the launch of a new Grievance Redress Management (GRM) system. The GRM System developed in partnership with the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), marks a significant step in handling and reporting of grievance as part of EASTRIP Monitoring and Evaluation system. The launch of the GRM system was preceded by a capacity building workshop held from 15th to 17th, May, 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for Environmental and Safeguards Specialists from Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania to enter data into the EASTRIP monitoring database.

Dr. Cosam Joseph, the Regional Project Coordinator for EASTRIP emphasized the significance of the workshop. "The centralized management of grievances

is a critical component of the EASTRIP project," noted Dr. Joseph. "Our goal is to ensure that all stakeholders, from national entities to institutional levels, have the necessary tools to monitor and evaluate the project effectively. The launch of the GRM system is a testament to our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement."

The capacity building workshop featured presentation by the DIT system development team, which designed the GRM system aimed at familiarizing all the users with the new system's functionalities and benefits. It also involved hands-on data entry and analysis, with a particular emphasis on integrating the newly added project targets into the monitoring database and updating the monitoring results framework.

Dr. Joseph further emphasized the collaborative effort behind the workshop. "This initiative has been a concerted

effort involving multiple stakeholders across various regions. We are excited to see the results of our collaboration with the DIT. We hope to leverage technology and robust data management systems to enhance monitoring and reporting of grievances related to EASTRIP project implementation and ensuring that they are addressed in a timely manner."

The grievance monitoring and reporting in line with the World Bank Group's effort to ensure successful implementation of the EASTRIP Project across various project implementation units including selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs). The successful implementation of the GRM system is expected to streamline grievance handling, improve accountability, and ultimately contribute to the overall success of the EASTRIP project.

By Godwin Bonge Muhwezi, Project Communication Officer for EASTRIP at Inter-University Council for East Africa.

# Kenya, Tanzania TVET Institutes Collaborate to Enhance TVET Training and Regional Integration



In a collaborative effort to enhance technical education and promote regional integration, The Meru National Polytechnic in Kenya and Arusha Technical College in Tanzania initiated a partnership to reshape the TVET landscape in East Africa. Through the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), with funding from the World Bank, these institutions are working together on joint programmes in electrical and electronic installation level 4, and cyber security level 4.

Fifty students from each institution were selected to participate in this exchange programme. The Meru National Polytechnic sent 50 students to Arusha Technical College, reciprocated by sending an equal number to Meru National Polytechnic. This exchange aims to foster enhancing technical skills and

cultural understanding and promote regional integration for a more interconnected East Africa.

Upon arriving at their host institutions, the students were split into two groups, each focusing on different fields: electrical and electronic installation level 4, and cyber security level 4. The curriculum for each was intended to provide a strong foundation in the principles and practical skills needed in these areas.

In the electrical and electronic installation course, students explored various topics such as electrical circuitry and power systems. They received hands-on training in installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting, equipping them with the skills necessary for a career in electrical engineering.

Students in the cyber security course learned how to protect digital systems and networks from cyber threats. They studied cryptography, performed vulnerability assessments, and learned to use industry tools, preparing them to

defend against cybercrime and protect information in a digital world.

Beyond academics, this exchange programme facilitated valuable cross-border collaboration and cultural

interaction, broadening the students' perspectives and enhancing their educational experience. The skills and certifications they gained will open up numerous career opportunities both regionally and globally.



The exchange students will complete their studies by returning to their original institutions, bringing back enhanced skills and knowledge. Through their experiences, they embody the growing integration of TVET institutions in East Africa's thanks to EASTRIP. This initiative highlights the importance of cooperation, innovation, and determination in creating positive change and improving education. We acknowledge the contributions of The Meru National Polytechnic, Arusha Technical College, the EASTRIP project, and the World Bank in shaping the future of technical education in East Africa, striving



■ MNP and ATC students at Namanga Kenya Tanzania Border

together toward a better future for each student and community.

By David Maingi, Communication Officer, Meru Polytechnic College

# Holeta Polytechnic College Empowers Communities through Solar Ovens and Cookers



■ Some of the Solar Oven Cookers at Holeta Polytechnic College

**T**rainers at Holeta Polytechnic College have developed an exciting project that uses solar thermal technology for designing,

building, and using safe, reliable, and user-friendly solar ovens for outdoor cooking and heating.

Solar thermal technology offers a clean and promising solution for sustainable natural resource utilization. This technology captures the sun's energy

as heat, driving various applications like water heating, space heating, and even electricity generation.

The ovens come in two main designs Parabolic Cookers and Box-Type Solar Cookers. The Parabolic Cookers are curved concentrators that use mirrors to focus sunlight onto a cooking vessel, achieving high temperatures suitable for fast cooking. Their simple construction using bamboo and recycled materials keeps costs low. On the other hand, the box-type solar cookers are made from

wood and glass which heat efficiently, making them ideal for families. A typical model can cook enough dry food to feed 6-8 people.

Solar cooking technology offers a multitude of benefits, impacting economies, environments, and households. It reduces reliance on fuel imports, saving foreign currency, creates employment and business opportunities in manufacturing and distribution, and alleviates poverty by lowering household fuel expenses.

It also reduces demand for firewood, protecting forests and promoting sustainable resource use, improves soil fertility and agricultural productivity by reducing reliance on slash-and-burn practices, lowers net carbon emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation. It reduces indoor air pollution, leading to fewer respiratory illnesses and eye problems and lowers the risk of fire accidents.

## Dire Dawa Polytechnic College generates revenue from partnerships with Industry

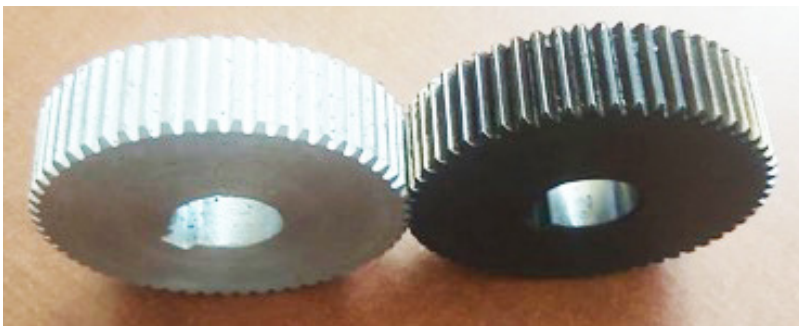


Dire Dawa Polytechnic College has excelled in establishing mutually beneficial linkages with industries, paving the way for income generation through the production of spare parts and the assembly of machineries.

One of the key interventions of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project

(EASTRIP) in the Regional Flagship TVET Institutes is to establish and institutionalize these institute-industry linkages.

Dire Dawa Polytechnic College has already taken steps by signing Memorandums of Understanding and



fostering strong connections with over 15 industries and institutes. Despite establishing these linkages, the College is not only receiving work orders from various industries but also successfully delivering the required work with the expected quality and within the specified timeframe.

Dire Dawa Polytechnic College recently received a work order from Han Plust Manufacturing PLC, situated in the Dire Dawa Industry Park and Free Trade Zone. The order encompassed the

production of machine spare parts, the commissioning of a chiller machine, and the manufacturing of a hot air duct part that is integral to a machine assembly.

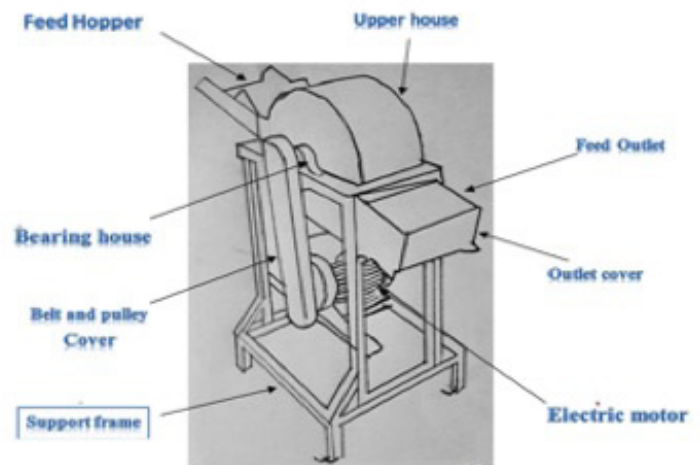
Upon receiving the work order, the College's manufacturing department trainers swiftly designed, produced, and assembled the required parts within the industry premises. Upon receiving the supplied spare parts, both the owner and manager of Han Plust Manufacturing PLC acknowledged that the College had saved them more than

two months of time and a significant amount of foreign currency.

Upon successful completion of the work, the college earned an income of \$4,375. Notably, the College has previously manufactured various spare parts for several industries such as the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company, Dire Dawa Food Complex PLC, and Konel Detergent Factory, among others.

By Mesay Tilahun, EASTRIP Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

# Holeta Polytechnic College Champions Innovation and Excellence in Agro-Processing Through Technology Skills Competitions



Holeta Polytechnic College, through its Centre of Excellence in Agro-processing, organises technology skill competitions among trainers, to provide a platform for students and teachers to exhibit their technical skills, knowledge, and creativity in a competitive setting. Such competitions serve various key objectives, including promoting innovation, fostering skill development, enhancing networking and collaboration, preparing students for their careers, acknowledging and rewarding talent, advocating for technology education, and cultivating a spirit of healthy competition.

One of the instructors at Holeta Polytechnic College, Firomsa Tesfaye, introduced a technology that modified the design and manufacture of an animal feed chopper, blending electric and manual operations. An electric chaff cutter is a machine utilized for cutting straw or hay into smaller pieces to feed livestock. Powered by electricity, typically with a motor, it comprises rotating blade or blades that cut the material as it's fed into the machine. Electric chaff cutters are commonly found in farms and agricultural settings, efficiently processing large quantities of fodder for animals.

The animal feed chopper is a simple yet ingenious device for cutting straw, chaff, hay, and oats into small pieces before being mixed with other forages and fed to horses and cattle. Apart from being more economical than previous feeding methods, this aids in the animal's digestion and prevents them from rejecting any part of their food. Currently, with the increase in cattle population, there is a need to enhance productivity and reduce physical effort required to operate the machinery. This led to the introduction of motorized machinery, particularly beneficial for dairy farmers and those involved in fattening practices.

The technology includes a motor with a revolution of 2800 rpm, a power of 3hp (2.2kw), and an approximate cutting capacity of 200-300 kg/hr. Four blades are utilized to chop the fodder efficiently. The production cost for this technology is 28600 Ethiopian Birr with an electric motor.

By Dawit Tadese, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Holeta Polytechnic College

# Communication Workshop Concludes in Lilongwe



■ Acting Project Coordinator for ACE II, Prof. Obonyo, IUCEA Communication Team with facilitators, ACE II Centers of Excellence participants from Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania during the communication workshop in Malawi, Lilongwe on the 27th of May 2024.

The Communication Workshop took place in Lilongwe, Malawi from 27th to the 31st of May 2024, and was attended by participants from ACE II Centers of Excellence from Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania, and the communication team of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).

The workshop's main goal was to introduce the ACE II Centers of

Excellence in Eastern and Southern Africa to the ACE II Communication Strategy. Its focus was on aligning the communication strategies of the centers with the main communication strategy of the project.






The workshop included hands-on sessions using communication templates to review individual center plans and analyze the use of public relations tools to develop an effective

public relations strategy for campaign development.

Notable participants included Mr. Gai Peter Manyon, the Public Relations and Corporate Communications Officer of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Ms. Agnes Asiimwe, the Information and Communication Officer of ACE II, and Mr. Godwin Bonge, the Information and Communication Officer of the EASTRIP Project.



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