

The  
**IUCEA**  
**NEWSLETTER**



# Commission for University Education, Kenya CEO pays a cordial visit to IUCEA



IUCEA, World Bank Monitor  
Progress of Regional Flagship TVET  
Institutes in Ethiopia and Tanzania

EAC Students celebrate their  
academic achievements at the KDU  
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## AUGUST 2024

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# Commission for University Education, Kenya CEO pays a cordial visit to IUCEA



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, and Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO of the Commission for University Kenya, at the IUCEA Headquarters on August 28, 2024.

On the 28th of August 2024, Professor Mike Kuria, the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission for University Education in Kenya, paid a courteous visit to Professor Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), at the IUCEA Headquarters.

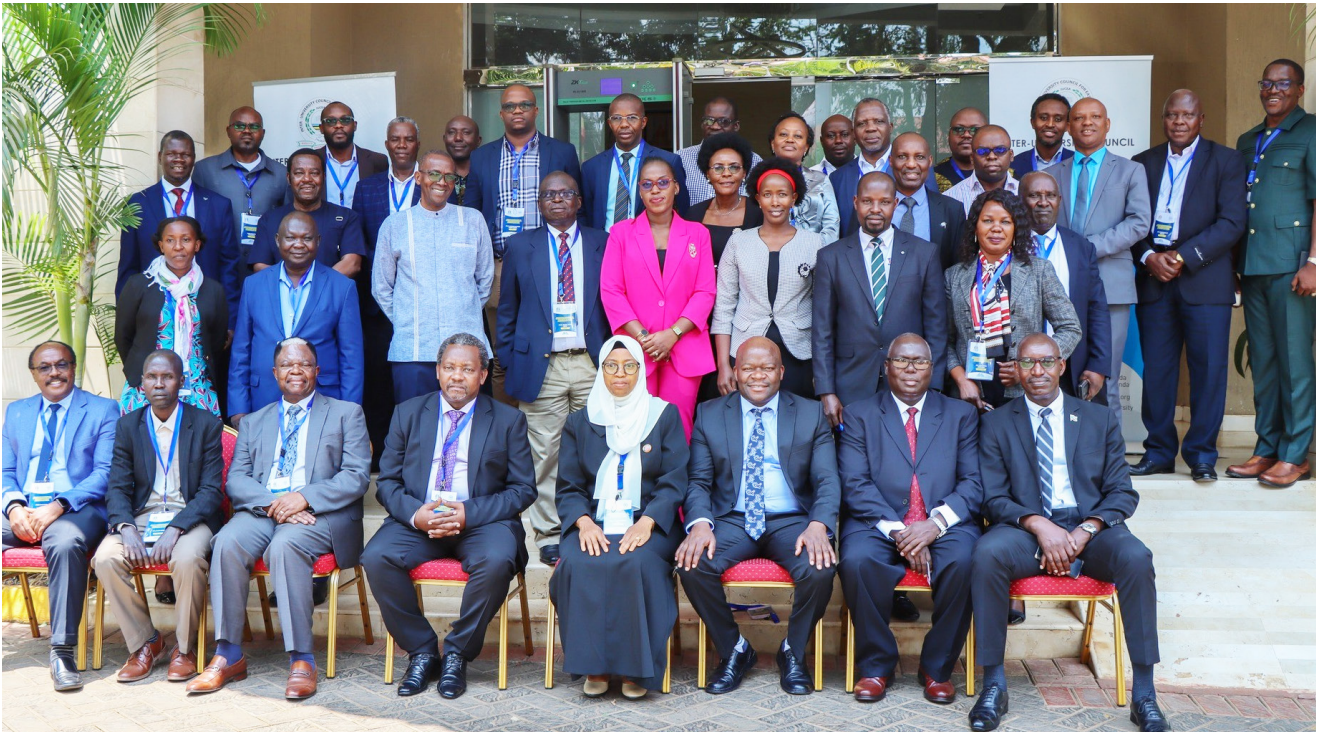
During this highly anticipated meeting, the two prominent leaders engaged in extensive discussions on a wide range of critical topics concerning higher education within the East African Community region. Their comprehensive deliberations encompassed essential aspects such as co-hosting the 13th annual EAQAN Forum in Nairobi, fostering academic collaboration, spearheading curriculum development, ensuring quality assurance, and enhancing student mobility in the region.

Additionally, both leaders explored innovative avenues to cultivate robust research partnerships and initiatives to fuel the advancement and innovation of education within the East African Community.

Professor Banyankimbona expressed his gratitude for the courtesy call by Professor Kuria and acknowledged the valuable partnerships and collaborations between IUCEA and the higher education Councils and Commissions of the partner states within the EAC.

It is noteworthy that Professor Mike Kuria's prior role as the Deputy Executive Secretary at IUCEA from 2016 to 2022 endowed him with remarkable expertise and invaluable insights, which significantly contributed to the advancement of higher education within the region. His unwavering commitment to nurturing and enhancing academic excellence in the East African Community is widely recognized and deeply appreciated by all stakeholders in the education sector.

# Research Stakeholders Engagement Workshop concludes in Entebbe



A photo of stakeholders during the Research workshop at Admas Hotel, Entebbe on the 26th of August 2024

The Stakeholders' Engagement on the Research Excellence Framework for Higher Education in East Africa began on August 26th and concluded on August 27th, 2024, at Admas Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. This pivotal event facilitated collaborative discussions among key stakeholders aimed at furthering research excellence in higher education across East Africa.

The stakeholder's engagement has brought together esteemed higher education experts and representatives from various universities and commissions of the East African Community Partner States. The purpose of this significant workshop is to facilitate meaningful contributions toward finalizing and collectively adopting a comprehensive Research Excellence Framework. This framework aims to

elevate research quality, foster technological advancement, and promote innovation in the region. In his opening remarks, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, emphasized the transformative potential of the Research Excellence Framework, highlighting its capacity to raise research standards and drive groundbreaking innovation specific to our institutions.



■ IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, giving an opening remark at the Research Workshop at Admas Hotel, Entebbe, on August 26, 2024.

Additionally, Prof. Mike Kuria, the CEO of the Commission for University Education in Kenya, stressed the necessity of investment in research and the vital role it plays in shaping the future.

Also, Dr. Salome Guchu, Head of the Research Unit at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), delivered a comprehensive address on research quality and dissemination, prompting an engaging and productive interaction among the stakeholders present.

Their valuable input promises to enrich the draft framework, with hopeful expectations for its finalization, adoption, and subsequent implementation across the region to further the development and integration of the East African Community through research and education said Dr. Guchu while making her presentation during the workshop.



■ Head of the Research Unit, Dr. Salome Guchu, making a presentation to the stakeholders at Admas Hotel, Entebbe, on August 27, 2024.

# ACE II project Scholarship recipient visits the IUCEA Executive Secretary



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, and M&E Officer for ACEII Project, Mr. Dickson Wangolobo, together with a Malawian student under ACEII scholarship on August 19, 2024, at IUCEA Headquarters.

On the 19th of August 2024, Asante Dankie Nkhata, a dedicated student from Malawi enrolled at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, paid a visit to the esteemed Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona. Asante, with the support of the ACE II Scholarship, is currently pursuing a Master of Water Management with a specialized focus on Water Quality Management, showcasing her unwavering commitment to academic advancement.

During her visit to the IUCEA Headquarters, Asante had the

distinct honor of meeting with Prof. Banyankimbona, where she took the opportunity to express her profound gratitude for being granted the IUCEA Scholarship under the ACE II project in 2023. As a promising scholar, Asante has set her sights on completing her program by 2025 and is determined to maximize the potential of this invaluable scholarship opportunity. Her visit to the IUCEA Headquarters provided an exceptional platform for her to convey her deepest appreciation to the Executive Secretary and the entire management team for their unwavering support and

encouragement.

Prof. Banyankimbona, in welcoming Asante to his office, commended the exchange of gratitude and appreciation, hailing it as a commendable example of the positive influence of nurturing meaningful relationships within the academic community. Witnessing Prof. Banyankimbona reciprocating Asante's gratitude with a genuine appreciation for her respectful visit was truly heartening, exemplifying the spirit of mutual respect and acknowledgment within the academic realm.

# EAC Students celebrate their academic achievements at the KDU Global Graduation Ceremony



EAC students from partner states took pictorial photos during the KDU graduation ceremony on August 16, 2024

During the KDU Global graduation ceremony held on August 16th, 2024, a total of 32 outstanding students from the East African Community (EAC) nations celebrated the completion of their studies, marking an important milestone for Cohort 2 of the IUCEA-KDU Scholarship program.

These exceptional individuals received their undergraduate degrees across a diverse array of disciplines, with specializations in business administration, hotel management and tourism, and computing technologies. The overarching goal of the IUCEA-KDU Scholarship program is to contribute to sustainable and inclusive development within

the EAC member countries by nurturing and producing highly skilled professionals in various fields.

It is noteworthy that the recent graduates represent a rich tapestry of nationalities, hailing from Burundi, Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda, thereby exemplifying



the diverse and inclusive nature of the program. Furthermore, the partnership between KDU Global and IUCEA extends beyond the scholarship initiative, encompassing a shared commitment to expanding the Global Academic Collaboration Centers (GACC) network.

This strategic collaboration is designed to generate increased opportunities for talented youth across East Africa, broadening their access to a diverse range of global educational and professional avenues.

As of now, a significant number of students from EAC nations are enrolled at the KDU Global Campus, underscoring the ongoing dedication to nurturing and empowering the next generation of leaders from the region.



# IUCEA to foster collaboration between TVET institutes in East Africa and China



■ Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of IUCEA speaking at the TVET seminar in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the China Africa Vocational Education Alliance (CAVEA) jointly held a seminar on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) development as part of the EAC Regional Education Conference in Arusha, Tanzania on the 13th of August 2024. The event brought together key stakeholders in the TVET sector from East Africa and

China to explore opportunities for collaboration and advancement in TVET.

Speaking at the seminar, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of IUCEA, emphasized the timeliness of the seminar, stating, "This seminar on Technical and Vocational Education and Training is crucial, especially coming at a time when TVET has gained prominence as

a model for fostering economic growth, social development, and facilitating regional integration."

IUCEA highlighted the progress made through the World Bank-funded East African Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). The project aims to address skills shortage and mismatch by enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET programs in 16

selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs).

Prof. Banyankimbona said, "Through EASTRIP, we have developed the Regional TVET qualifications framework and developed 44 occupational standards focusing on key growth sectors of our economies, including manufacturing, energy, ICT, infrastructure development, and Agro-processing."

Lu Fusheng, Vice Principal of Zhengzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College, expressed enthusiasm for potential partnerships, saying, "Our expertise in railway technology education will significantly contribute to skills development in the region's growing transportation sector."

Hu Yingman, Vice Principal of Hunan Railway Professional Technology College, expressed

willingness to collaborate with TVET Institutes in East Africa to develop joint programs curricula, and occupational standards. "The exchange of best practices between Chinese and East African TVET institutions will lead to innovative approaches in curriculum development and practical training methodologies," Yingmansaid.

The seminar also addressed the importance of aligning TVET programs with industry needs. Wu Yafei, Vice Dean of the School of Nursing at Weinan Vocational and Technical College, commented, "Our training curriculum is closely aligned with the demand for healthcare professionals. We want to share our experience with TVET institutions looking to strengthen their programs in response to the growing demand for skilled healthcare workers."

Prof. Banyankimbona highlighted

the potential for long-term partnerships, stating, "Through our efforts to harmonize and improve the quality of higher education in the region, we have formed strategic partnerships and alliances with leading regional and global organizations, including institutions in China. These collaborations are crucial for the development of a skilled workforce that can drive industrialization and socio-economic development in the EAC region."

The seminar concluded with a call to action for increased collaboration between East African and Chinese TVET institutions. Participants agreed to explore student and faculty exchange programs, joint research projects, and the sharing of curriculum development strategies.

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

# IUCEA, World Bank Monitor Progress of Regional Flagship TVET Institutes in Ethiopia and Tanzania



■ Dr. Teshela Berecha, State Minister for TVET in Ethiopia at the construction site for the Ethiopia Training Authority.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), World Bank, and the National Project Coordination Units for the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), between July and August undertook a joint monitoring and support mission in Ethiopia and Tanzania. EASTRIP is an initiative of the World Bank and African governments to enhance the quality and relevance

of TVET programs in the region.

The purpose of the mission was to assess progress in the implementation of EASTRIP at 11 Regional Flagship TVET Institutes in Ethiopia and Tanzania. It followed a similar successful mission undertaken in Kenya in June involving 5 Regional Flagship TVET Institutes.

In Ethiopia, the EASTRIP team,

led by Dr. Teshela Berecha, State Minister for TVET at the Ministry of Labour and Skills, visited multiple institutions across the country. At Hawassa Polytechnic College, significant progress has been made in constructing a garment and textile technology institute, complete with a learning factory. This development is poised to support one of Ethiopia's fastest-growing industries.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona and the Rector, Arusha Technical College (ATC) with World Bank and IUCEA Teams during the visit at Kikuletwa

The team also visited Holeta Polytechnic, where an agro-processing institute is being established to enhance skills in food processing and agricultural product development. At Gen Wingate Polytechnic, plans are underway for an electrical and digital applications institute to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the digital economy.

Dire Dawa Polytechnic College is focusing on railway technology and electro-mechanical engineering, supporting Ethiopia's expanding transportation infrastructure and industrial development. The EASTRIP team spent time monitoring the construction progress and overall project implementation at these sites.

In Tanzania, the delegation led by

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of IUCEA, visited several institutions. The Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) main campus is setting up an ICT institute to cater to the rapidly evolving technology sector. Meanwhile, DIT's Mwanza Campus is establishing an institute specializing in leather products and allied industries, aiming to support Tanzania's leather industry and promote value addition.

The National Institute of Transport (NIT) in Tanzania is creating an aviation institute to support the growing aviation industry in East Africa and enhance regional connectivity. In Arusha, the team visited the Technical College, which focuses on renewable energy to develop skills in sustainable energy technologies.

Each of these Regional Flagship TVET Institutes is designed to become a center of excellence in its respective field, equipped with modern facilities and learning factories to provide practical, industry-relevant training. The institutes are expected to play a crucial role in developing a skilled workforce to meet the specific needs of key economic sectors in East Africa.

The EASTRIP project is currently supporting 16 TVET institutes in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania to enhance the quality and relevance of TVET programs and promote regional integration and economic growth through skills development in vital sectors across East Africa.

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

# Federal TVET Training Institute moves to digitize vocational training



■ Mr. Haftom G/Egziabher, Vice Director for Academic Affairs with FVTI staff during the evaluation exercise.

The Federal Technical and Vocational Training Institute (FVTI) is set to play a leading role in digitizing technical and vocational training in Ethiopia. According to the Vice Director for Academic Affairs, Haftom G/Egziabher, during the institute's weekly update, the institute has been focusing on digitizing training documents as part of its ongoing digital upgrade.

The digitization effort is evaluated every Tuesday with participation from institute trainers and trainers from satellite institutes,

who have supported this effort for the past four years. Thanks to these efforts, high-quality digital teaching units are continuously being developed. Additionally, a book of instructions, which has been in preparation over the past four years, has been completed and distributed to the classes by Mr. G/Egziabher.

Furthermore, Mr. G/Egziabher emphasized the goal of the Ministry of Labor and Skills to digitize the entire technical and vocational training levels within the next five years. He mentioned

that the institute will leverage its expertise and experience in this domain to lead the initiative successfully.

Trainers involved in developing digital teaching materials over the past four years have expressed confidence in their ability to implement these practices nationally once they undergo evaluation and certification. It was also highlighted that the institute has institutionalized the projects effectively, enabling them to progress smoothly.

By FVTI Communication Team

# The Head of Communications at the IUCEA inaugurates the Digital Skills training program in Juba



A group photo of the participants during dskills training in Juba on August 12, 2024.

On Monday, the 12th of August 2024, Gai Peter Manyuon, who serves as the Head of Corporate Communications and Public Relations at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), provided the opening remarks at the launch of the Digital Skills for Universities Transformation towards Quality Education at Konetahub in Juba, South Sudan. During his address, he emphasized the critical importance of equipping university lecturers and students with digital skills to improve the academic experience. Manyuon also highlighted the crucial role of Information Architecture (IA) in the digital age and stressed its significance for all participants.

The Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA) is a regional initiative aimed at enhancing the digital skills of youth across East Africa. The project focuses on building capacity, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and providing short-term training tailored to the digital transformation needs of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States.

dSkills@EA is part of the EAC-German technical development cooperation, implemented by the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project collaborates closely with the private sector and a consortium of

academic institutions from both the EAC and Germany.



Head of Communications at IUCEA, Gai Peter Manyuon, giving opening remarks in Juba, South Sudan on August 12, 2024.



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