

The
IUCEA
NEWSLETTER



IUCEA Board Induction for Executive Committee Members Concludes



Stakeholders Forum on Higher Education Data Collection concludes in Kenya

Prof. Banyankimbona Expresses Gratitude to Germany for KfW Scholarship Support

Contents

05

Stakeholders Forum on Higher Education Data Collection concludes in Kenya



09

Prof. Kuria highlights the vibrant interplay of cultural dynamics and regional integration



04

Prof. Banyankimbona Expresses Gratitude to Germany for KfW Scholarship Support

10

Two Scholars from EAC Celebrates Academic Achievements

11

Strengthening Ties: Dr. Ndayizeye's Visits KDU for Partnership



07

Inaugural EAC Scholarship programme Summer School kicks off in Nairobi Kenya



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IUCEA Board Induction for Executive Committee Members concludes

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Governing Board induction took place from October 1st to 2nd, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. This two-day induction aimed to orient the new board members about their roles and responsibilities.

On July 17th, 2024, Prof. Robert Mayom Deng, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba, was elected as the Chair of the IUCEA Governing Board for the term 2024-2026. The Governing Board is responsible for overseeing all IUCEA operations and activities, ensuring the effective execution of its mandate. The induction was attended by newly elected board members from IUCEA member universities in the East Africa Partner States, along with IUCEA management and staff.

This event served as a crucial platform for fostering collaboration and setting the strategic direction of the organization.



■ IUCEA New Board Members and IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona at Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Kampala on 1st of October 2024.

Additionally, the IUCEA Executive Committee Members, led by Chairperson Prof. Robert Mayom Deng, visited the construction site of the IUCEA Phase II Headquarters. This visit highlights the committee's commitment to overseeing the progress of this significant project. The construction site is bustling with activity and showcases remarkable progress toward the completion of the IUCEA Phase II Headquarters.

The team evaluated the ongoing construction activities, demonstrating their dedication to ensuring that the project meets the highest standards of quality and functionality. It is anticipated that the construction will be completed, and the headquarters will be fully operational by December 2024. This development marks a pivotal moment for IUCEA, signifying

the organization's continued growth and expansion.

The new headquarters will serve as a focal point for promoting collaboration and cooperation among member universities, ultimately advancing education and research in the East African region.



■ IUCEA Phase II ongoing Construction.

Prof. Banyankimbona Expresses Gratitude to Germany for KfW Scholarship Support

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, expressed his gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany for its ongoing support in funding the EAC Scholarship Programme. Their steadfast commitment to higher education in East Africa has enabled hundreds of students in the region to pursue their academic dreams. He also thanked the EAC Secretariat for entrusting IUCEA with the implementation of this vital initiative during the Summer School Tour at the United States International University-Africa in Nairobi on October 17, 2024.

Prof. Banyankimbona noted that since its inception in 2018, the EAC Scholarship Programme has provided opportunities for 180 scholars to pursue master's degrees in various fields across the region.

This program has been instrumental in advancing the objectives of the EAC Common Higher Education Area, a framework established by the EAC Heads of State in 2017 to harmonize curricula, qualifications, and certification across the region. The mobility of students that this scholarship facilitates is essential for achieving the free movement of labor, a key aspect of the EAC Common Market Protocol, according to Prof. Banyankimbona.

He also highlighted that IUCEA has been actively promoting student mobility in the region through other initiatives, including the EAC Student Mobility Scheme (EAC-SMS). This



■ Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary giving opening remarks during the EACSP Summer School Tour at USIU on the 17th of October 2024.

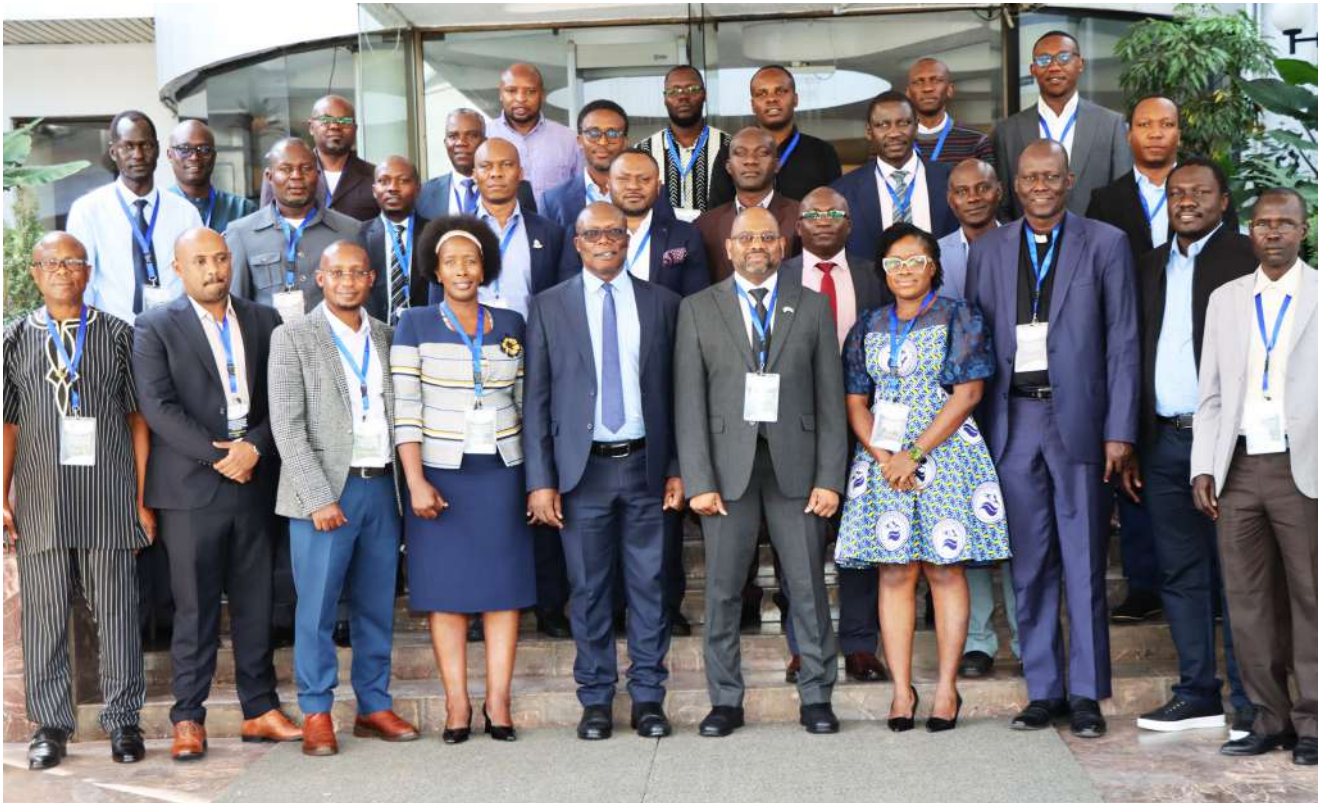
robust initiative is designed to encourage the free movement of students and academic staff within the East African Community (EAC) and plays a crucial role in advancing broader regional integration goals.

It is entirely owned and driven by the EAC Partner States, IUCEA's member universities, and the East African community, which includes parents and guardians, stated Prof. Banyankimbona while addressing students and representatives from the EAC Partner States at the United States International University-Africa (USIU).

However, he acknowledged the challenges faced during the implementation of Phase I of the EAC Scholarship. These challenges include difficulties related to cross-border payments of admission fees due to differing payment systems across the region.

Additionally, some students continue to encounter visa charges and complex administrative processes for the equivalence assessment of academic credentials, which have created obstacles undermining the program's goal of supporting deserving students.

Stakeholders Forum on Higher Education Data Collection concludes in Kenya



■ A group photo during the IUCEA Stakeholders workshop on the 14th of October 2024 at Safari Club Hotel, Nairobi.

The Stakeholders Forum on Higher Education Data Collection Tools and Management Practices took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 14th to 16th, 2024. This three-day event convened stakeholders from various universities across the East African Partner States to discuss and address critical issues regarding data collection and management in the region's higher education sector. The forum was held at the Safari Club

by Swiss-Belhotel.

Prof. Idris Rai, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), delivered a keynote address highlighting the vital importance of data in shaping strategic decision-making within higher education institutions (HEIs). According to Prof. Rai, reliable and accurate data is no longer a luxury; it is an essential foundation for informed decision-

making, policy development, and effective resource allocation. In today's dynamic global environment, data enables universities and HEIs to optimize operations, improve outcomes for students and faculty, and foster a culture of evidence-based decision-making said Prof. Rai.

Prof. Rai pointed out that a recent project identified critical gaps in data collection and management, particularly concerning faculty

data. These gaps have hindered institutions' ability to effectively plan for faculty recruitment, retention, and professional development. He emphasized that improving data management will allow universities to track important metrics such as faculty qualifications, research outputs, teaching loads, and career progression.

Dr. Salome Guchu, the Head of the Research and Innovation Unit at IUCEA, delivered a comprehensive and insightful presentation on the complex subject of higher education data governance in the East African region. Her presentation covered various aspects of data governance, including the types of data collected and the processes used

for data collection within higher education institutions. Dr. Guchu provided a detailed analysis of the evolving data governance landscape, noting East African countries' different structures and approaches.

During her presentation, Dr. Guchu highlighted proactive measures taken by certain regional countries to enhance data governance by enacting specific legislation aimed at improving data protection and privacy. She noted that a recent baseline study conducted by IUCEA revealed that none of the higher education institutions reported that the implementation of their data collection processes was executed extremely well across departments.

To address these challenges, Phase II of the project will focus on establishing a baseline for higher education data collection tools and management practices. This phase will also involve developing harmonized guidelines for data collection and management, along with efforts to promote the adoption of these guidelines across institutions.

The forum is expected to result in actionable recommendations that will enhance data collection tools and management practices in East Africa's higher education sector, paving the way for more informed decision-making and sustainable growth in the region.

Inaugural EAC Scholarship Programme Summer School Kicks off in Nairobi Kenya



■ Participants and different stakeholders at UISU during the Summer Schol Tour on the 17th of October 2024

The inaugural Summer School for Cohort 3 students, which began on October 17, 2024, concluded at the United States International University Africa (USIU). The program focused on the theme “Free Movement of Workers and Regional Integration: Opportunities and Challenges.” This initiative explored key issues and challenges related to the East African Community (EAC)

regional integration and featured prominent leaders from the EAC Secretariat, IUCEA, Commission for University Education in Kenya (CUE), East African Legislative assembly (EALA), Ministry responsible for EAC affairs in Kenya, Ministries responsible for Higher Education in Uganda and Kenya, participating universities and representatives from EAC Partner States.

During the event, Prof. Banyankimbona addressed students, university coordinators, and other stakeholders of the scholarship programme. He highlighted that since its establishment in 2018, the EAC Scholarship Programme has enabled 180 scholars to pursue master’s degrees in various fields across the region.



■ UCEA, Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona giving opening remarks at USIU during the EACSP Summer School Tour on 17th of October 2024.

Throughout the Summer School, students participated in extensive lectures centered around the selected theme and engaged in mini-research projects on topics of their choice related to it. Students also participated in activities that deepened their understanding and appreciation of the diverse Kenyan cultures.

The overall goal of the Summer School is to enhance the understanding of the value of EAC integration among scholarship recipients. This initiative is designed to stimulate curiosity and a desire to learn more about regional integration. Participants also took part in activities that provided hands-on experience.

This exposure, along with other activities, aims to foster a sense of East African identity among the young participants and prepare them to become future leaders and advocates for regional integration.

Prof. Kuria highlights the vibrant interplay of cultural dynamics and regional integration



■ Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO of Commission for University Education, Kenya presenting during the EACSP Summer School Tour at USIU on the 17th of October 2024.

During the Recent Summer School for Cohort 3 of the East African Community (EAC) scholarship programme, held from October 17 to 19, 2024, at the United States International University-Africa (USIU), Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO of the Commission for University Education in Kenya, delivered an enlightening presentation on navigating employment in a

multicultural environment. Prof. Kuria emphasized the importance of understanding cultural dynamics and regional integration, especially in a diverse workforce. He highlighted that in today's globalized job market, the ability to adapt and thrive in various cultural settings is crucial for both personal and professional growth.

His discussion underscored the significance of cultural awareness in enhancing collaboration and effective communication among colleagues from different backgrounds. To illustrate these points, he shared a compelling case study based on the book "Culture is Rutan," authored by South Sudanese scholar Prof. Taban Lo Liyong. This case study helped deepen the understanding of concepts such as culture, multiculturalism, and corporate culture.

Prof. Kuria described how these elements influence workplace interactions and organizational effectiveness. He noted that recognizing varying cultural norms and practices is essential for building a cohesive work environment. Additionally, he offered practical cultural tips specifically designed for young East African scholars.

He encouraged them to embrace diversity, remain open-minded, and engage in continuous learning about different cultures. He also advised seeking mentorship and networking opportunities to enhance their cultural competence.

The session provided valuable insights for students navigating their careers in a multicultural setting and reinforced the need for empathy, respect, and adaptability in today's interconnected world.

Two Scholars from EAC Celebrates Academic Achievements



■ EACSP young Scholars after graduation.

Kenya Coast National Polytechnic and the National Institute of Transport in Tanzania have successfully implemented a student exchange programme as part of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), fostering collaboration among TVET institutes in East Africa.

The programme commenced in March 2024 with the enrolment of 39 students from the National Institute of Transport at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic to

pursue a six-month certificate course in Front Office Operations and Administration.

Simultaneously, 40 students from Kenya Coast National Polytechnic enrolled in a certificate course in International Shipping Management at the National Institute of Transport which is delivered entirely online.

The next phase of the programme will involve students visiting their respective partner institutions to experience the learning

environment firsthand, interact with trainers in person, and gain valuable insights into the culture and practices of their host country. This exchange fosters deeper understanding and strengthens regional integration.

Beyond student exchange, Kenya Coast National Polytechnic has forged a strategic partnership with Aboa Mare Maritime Academy in Finland. This collaboration, funded by the governments of Finland, Germany, and Kenya, aims to enhance the competence of Nautical Science instructors at the Polytechnic through a program titled "Innovative Maritime Pedagogies and Competence Training for Kenya TVET."

The programme will leverage simulators, Maritime Data Solutions, and explore digital education to equip instructors with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies for delivering high-quality Maritime training. This initiative has the potential to revolutionize Maritime education not just in Kenya but across the African region.

By Magdalene Kituku, Industry Liaison Officer for EASTRIP at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic College.

Strengthening Ties: Dr. Ndayizeye's Visits KDU for Partnership



■ Dr. Gervias, Senior Exchange and Linkages at IUCEA with the EAC Students at KDU Global campus on the 7th of October 2024

Dr. Gervias Ndayizeye, the Senior Exchange and Programme Officer at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), visited South Korea on the 7th of October 2024, where he met with students sponsored by IUCEA and Kyungdong University (KDU). During his visit, he engaged with 84 students from the East African Community (EAC) partner states of Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The focus of these interactions was to

discuss the student's academic performance, challenges, and social experiences.

Dr. Ndayizeye also took the opportunity to address various difficulties mentioned by the students, aiming to provide support and solutions. Additionally, he held discussions with the management of KDU to explore ways to strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KDU and IUCEA. This collaborative effort aims

to enhance the academic and overall experience of the sponsored students, ensuring that they receive the necessary support and resources to thrive in their educational pursuits.

The primary purpose of the KDU Global – IUCEA Scholarships is to promote sustainable and inclusive development in the EAC member countries by nurturing skilled professionals in high-demand areas such as business administration, hotel management, artificial intelligence, tourism, Korean studies, and computing technologies. Over 80 students from EAC nations are currently studying at KDU Global. Both KDU Global and IUCEA are committed to expanding the GACC network throughout East Africa and providing talented youth with exposure to global opportunities.



■ Dr. Gervias, Senior Exchange and Linkages at IUCEA with members of KDU Global

Pictorials



Young East African Scholars under IUCEA-KfW during summer school tour on 17th October 2024 at USIU in Nairobi Kenya.



Stakeholders during EACSP Summer School Tour on 17th October 2024 at USIU

Young East African Scholars under IUCEA-KfW during summer school tour on 17th october 2024 at USIU in Nairobi Kenya.





IUCEA Phase II ongoing Construction.



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