

# ATUPA NEWS

A Magazine from the Office of the Secretary General • August-November 2024



## ATUPA COMES TO KENYA

International Conference "Revolutionizing TV in Africa:  
Embracing Innovations for Sustainable Development."

## **Vision**

To be an influential voice in Africa for the promotion of skills development for wealth creation.

## **Mission**

To provide a dynamic forum for:

- ✦ gathering, testing and sharing of innovative ideas in technical and vocational education and training through conferences, workshops and publications;
- ✦ promotion of partnerships and capacity building initiatives; and
- ✦ policy analysis and advocacy in favour of skills development for wealth creation.

## **Aims and objectives of ATUPA**

The aims and objectives of the The Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa are:

- ✦ To stimulate exchanges of experience and ideas by providing a forum for discussion of matters of common interest and arranging meetings, conferences and seminars.
- ✦ To study and help improve the content and methods of teaching in polytechnics and comparable institutions and in particular the associated curricula and also to help improve the organization and management of such institutions.
- ✦ To disseminate information and publications about matters of interest to member institutions, about the member institutions themselves and about education in particular subject areas.
- ✦ To facilitate the movement of students and trainees between member institutions and between countries, especially for courses not available in their own countries, as well as help to administer a programme of fellowships and exchange of students and staff.
- ✦ To study, in co-operation with governments and industry, the problems and needs associated with national development and with the transfer and development of technology.
- ✦ To facilitate collaboration in any other ways agreed by member institutions to advance their common educational interests.



# ATUPANEWS

## EDITORIAL

Ladies and gentlemen, we present yet another issue of the ATUPANEWS, a publication of the Office of the Secretary General.

This special souvenir edition is a dedication to the much-anticipated ATUPA International Conference in Naivasha, Kenya, with the theme to explore innovative approaches to TVET for sustainable development in Africa. The highlights of events include keynote speeches, panel discussions, research workshop and paper presentations. The event will also feature the Sixth Pan-African Youth Forum and the Startup Africa Innovation Olympiad, focusing on youth creativity and innovation. The youth forum will also feature Africa Skills Revolution Launch by AUDA-NEPAD.

This issue also celebrates significant milestones and groundbreaking collaborations across the African Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) landscape. Highlights include Accra Technical University's 75th anniversary, showcasing its sustained impact on society and commitment to innovation, as well as the vibrant partnership between Harare Polytechnic in Zimbabwe and Ningbo Polytechnic in China, which is set to revolutionize education quality and research through a joint teaching program.

The Women in Technical Education and Development, WITED, successes are showcased by Nyakach TVC WITED milestones, and Bumba TTI showcasing how more girls have enrolled in science and technological courses than boys.

We are reminded of the crucial role TVET plays in driving economic growth and empowering the next generation of African leaders. Rosemary Rosemary Gathoni Kagwe, a student from Kenya's Taita Taveta National Polytechnic will represent the nation at the 2024 WorldSkills competition in France, while PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute, a renowned robotics powerhouse, continues to push the boundaries of innovation and success. Rift Valley National Polytechnic (RVNP) showcases how leveraging the digital space can contribute to socio-economic development.

Stay tuned to the quarterly ATUPANEWS for insightful articles, inspiring stories, and much more as we continue to champion skills development and innovation across the continent.

## CONTENTS

### 8. 75 Years of Impact and Innovation at Accra Technical University

*Accra Technical University (ATU) recently marked a significant milestone as it celebrated its 75th anniversary with a vibrant ceremony held at the university's auditorium.*

### 10. Harare Polytechnic and Ningbo Polytechnic at the Centre of Zim-China Collaboration

*Harare Polytechnic in Zimbabwe and Ningbo Polytechnic in China have a five-year Memorandum of Agreement on an "Applied Talents Joint Teaching" programme*

### 14. TTNP's Trainee to Represent Kenya in 2024 WorldSkills in France

*Rosemary Gathoni Kagwe's exceptional skill in CNC Machining has led to her selection as Kenya's representative in the prestigious Competition in Lyon, France.*

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# About Naivasha

Naivasha is a town in Nakuru County, located in southwestern Kenya. It is situated near Lake Naivasha, from which it derives its name.

Here are some quick facts:

**Location:** Naivasha lies in a rift valley basin near Lake Naivasha, one of Kenya's freshwater lakes in the Great Rift Valley, approximately 90 kilometers from Nairobi.

**Economy:** The town is known for its floriculture industry, with many flower farms exporting flowers worldwide. It is also a hub for agriculture, with vegetables and other crops being grown in the area.

**Tourism:** Naivasha is a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to Lake Naivasha, Hell's Gate National Park (the main locations for the popular animated film, The Lion King, including Pride Rock and the Gorge, are modelled after the park), and Mount Longonot. The area offers opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, and boat rides.

**Wildlife:** The region is rich in wildlife, including hippos in Lake Naivasha, a variety of bird species, and animals like zebras and giraffes in the surrounding parks.

**Geothermal Power:** The town is near the Olkaria Geothermal Power Station, one of Africa's largest geothermal power plants, contributing significantly to Kenya's electricity supply.

**History:** Historically, Naivasha was a stop on the Kenya-Uganda railway and has grown over the years from a small colonial outpost to a bustling town.

**Climate:** The climate in Naivasha is generally mild, with cooler temperatures compared to Nairobi, especially in the evenings and mornings.

# ATUPA Goes *Magical Kenya!*

*Welcome To the 54th ATUPA Conference -2024*

*Naivasha, Kenya.*

*David M. Mwangi  
Chief Principal  
The Nyeri National  
Polytechnic  
&  
LOC Chairman*



On behalf of KATTI and the entire TVET Fraternity in Kenya, it is my distinct pleasure and privilege to extend a heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you to this historic 54th ATUPA Conference. , here in the picturesque setting of Naivasha town, where the natural beauty of Kenya meets the spirit of continental collaboration. Allow me to specifically appreciate the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba and your team for finding time to grace this historic conference. The support and commitment to promoting TVET not just in Kenya, but Africa and beyond has been impressive.

Let us recall that this year's ATUPA conference is a culmination of a very important journey that started in earnest in 1977 inspired by the Pan-Africanism spirit. Like the biblical story of the mustard seed, ATUPA membership has grown steadily to 240 from 15 countries as at August, 2024.

To this end, the 54th ATUPA conference will be the first one of its kind since the transformation from the Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) to Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) here in Kenya. The theme for this year's conference, "Revolutionizing TVET in Africa: Embracing Innovations for Sustainable Development" is a reflection of our collective unity and commitment anchored in the spirit of Pan Africanism to advance the continent's endeavours in repositioning TVET to be responsive to Africa's social and economic development goals. It is critical that TVET institutions across Africa implement their mandate with renewed agility, vitality and change the mind-set of the young people in Africa and make the Master key to-employability.

It is essential to note that this year's conference therefore promises to be an exceptional gathering, bringing together a diverse team of eminent professionals, researchers, and thought leaders from Africa and beyond with their invaluable innovative perspectives and expertise. We are truly honoured and privileged to host you in Kenya. Your presence is a clear manifestation of your institution's bountiful support and commitment to promoting TVET as key enabler to sustainable development in Africa. Today, as we embark on this journey together, let us engage pro-actively, forge new connections, and explore all innovative opportunities for networking, collaboration and growth. I am confident that this conference will be both productive and memorable, and we look forward to sharing enriching and innovative experiences and insights. Let us seize this moment to share knowledge, inspire one another, and work towards a brighter and more impactful and sustainable TVET in Africa. May I take this opportunity to thank all the Ministries, Agencies and County Governments, the private sector and other social partners present for continually partnering with KATTI in driving the TVET Agenda. It is my trust that your presence is an indication of your organization's willingness and commitment to collaborate with ATUPA in driving the TVET Agenda. Once more to our esteemed siblings from all participating countries, please feel free and at home in this beautiful and magical country and explore Kenya's breathtaking landscapes.

*"A famous quote says the world is beautiful and if you were to find one beautiful place in the world then travel to Kenya"*

*(Message from the ATUPA Board Chairperson)*

*Prof. Laila Abubakar  
Vice Chancellor,  
Technical University of  
Mombasa, Kenya*



*Chairperson, ATUPA  
Executive Board*



On behalf of the Executive Board, I am delighted to welcome you all to our 2024 ATUPA International Conference at Naivasha, Kenya. This is a truly unique platform for academicians, researchers, practitioners and innovators from different disciplines to come together and demonstrate how our research findings and innovations are changing the society and reshaping the realm of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems across our continent.

This is the era of the fourth industrial revolution where consumers are easily and directly accessible to innovators at all the stages of research. The internet-based technological innovations have provided us with the facility to get feedback of stakeholders from the very initial stage of idea to the finalization of the product or service. It has hardly left any scope for innovative research to lie idle in the shelves of the libraries. This is the key driver of our conference theme **“Revolutionizing TVET in Africa: Embracing Innovations for Sustainable Development”**.

A lot of innovative research activities take place in our Science and Technology institutions in Africa. Faculties explore questions in bioscience, engineering, human development, communications and more. But the critical question to be answered in this conference is: “How many of these research outputs and innovations reach the market place and what have been their impacts?” I therefore encourage all the stakeholder groups represented here today to actively participate in answering this question, as Henry Ford (the American Industrialist) aptly put: “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; and working together is success.”

ATUPA seeks to tackle this question by empowering its stakeholders by supporting professional and skill development, dissemination of innovative research, stimulating exchange of ideas and experiences in accordance with its mandate. Let us all embrace this conference as architects of change and ignite innovation, nurture collaboration, and steer actionable strategies. It is my sincere hope that your relationships with ATUPA will continue long after this Conference.

Finally, I wish you all success in your deliberations as you share knowledge and network with each other.

# Welcome Note From The ATUPA Secretary General



**Mrs. Jahou Samba Faal (Dr., Hc)**

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen of the TVET fraternity, On behalf of the Executive Board and Secretariat of the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), I warmly welcome you to the 2024 ATUPA International Conference with the theme **Revolutionising TVET in Africa: Embracing Innovations for Sustainable Development**, which is being held in Naivasha, Kenya, 26-30 August, 2024. ATUPA, formerly known as the Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) was established in 1978, following a resolution of the 7th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers held in 1977 in Ghana. Its mandate is to support professional and skills development and to promote policy advocacy in favour of TVET. The headquarters of ATUPA is based in Nairobi under a diplomatic agreement with the Government of Kenya.

The 2024 Conference is a culmination of numerous concerted efforts by the Executive Board, Secretariat and various stakeholders, with whom we have engaged extensively since the 2023 General Assembly in Accra, Ghana, which granted hosting rights to the Republic of Kenya, on a rotational basis.

This Conference comes on the eve of a major milestone in Kenya, in which the nation is celebrating 100 years of TVET in the year 2024. As envisioned in its mandate, ATUPA is proud to be associated with this significant milestone. The Conference aims to bring together academia, industry professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders to explore and discuss innovative approaches to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for sustainable development in Africa. At the end of the Conference, each participant shall be expected to take home case studies and new knowledge, which shall, in turn, help to improve the approaches and critical and creative thinking amongst mentors and learners in TVET institutions. We also expect exhibitors to pitch their ideas and partnership opportunities in the sidelines of the Conference. As we celebrate this momentous occasion of innovation and sustainable development in Africa through TVET, it is noteworthy that ATUPA continues to offer the much-needed support to one of the most vital pillars of TVET in Africa, the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) caucus. This is exemplified by ATUPA's participation in the Kenya Chapter of the WITED Champions' Annual General Meeting and election of new office-holders earlier in the year. The exercise was a huge success. This year has also seen the first-ever ATUPA Secretariat retreat, held in the City of Mombasa, in which the Secretariat members were sensitized on best practice; most notably how to have the ATUPA member-institutions, partners and stakeholders make the most of the existing engagements and collaborations.

The ATUPA 2024 Conference is also scheduled to witness, in its sidelines, the Sixth Pan-African Youth Forum, which shall culminate into the StartUp Africa Innovation Olympiad themed **Igniting the Power of African Youth: Embracing Unity, Innovation, and Sustainability**. This Forum is an ingenious platform that puts the spotlight on the young people of Africa, giving them the much-needed opportunity to showcase their creativity and innovation, with the aim of attracting entrepreneurial opportunities from their well-thought-out intellectual property. As we welcome you to Kenya and to Naivasha Town in particular, we hope that the Conference activities lined up will be beneficial to you in your quest for skill and knowledge exchange. ATUPA, in conjunction with the Kenya Association of Technical Training Institutions (KATTI), which forms the Local Organising Committee, has also more exciting benchmarking activities at the end of the main Conference, and shall pleasantly expect your participation. We would like to extend our special gratitude to the ATUPA Executive Board, the ATUPA Secretariat, the KATTI Governing Council through the Local Organising Committee, our partners and stakeholders for their tireless efforts to make this Conference a success. We congratulate the Honourable Cabinet Secretary on his recent appointment and welcome him to the TVET family. We thank him for gracing this conference at a very short notice.

Distinctions are always invidious, but it is apt that we express our gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, the President and the Government of The Republic of Kenya for their warm hospitality and support to ATUPA. Enjoy your stay in Naivasha and enjoy the serene surrounding.



## 75 Years of Impact and Innovation at Accra Technical University

Accra Technical University (ATU) recently marked a significant milestone as it celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a vibrant ceremony held at the university's auditorium. The event served as a testament to seven and a half decades of the institution's profound impact on society and its unwavering commitment to driving innovation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

During the ceremony, the interim Vice-Chancellor of ATU, Professor Amevi Acakpovi, took the stage to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of the university over the years. These achievements included a notable rise in student enrollment, the establishment of centres of excellence, the establishment of a second campus at Mpehuasem, significant infrastructure development, and the implementation of expanded revenue-generating initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman of the Governing Council

of ATU, Dr. Wilfred K. Anim Odame, commended the Government of the Republic of Ghana for its continued commitment to recognising the importance of TVET in national development. He emphasized the pivotal role that technical and vocational education plays in equipping individuals with practical skills essential for driving economic growth and innovation.

The Deputy Minister of Education in charge of TVET, Mrs. Gifty Twum-Ampofo, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Education, urged master craftsmen to seize training opportunities and embrace the digital age to acquire new skills. She underscored the critical importance of master craftsmen possessing the necessary skills to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development agenda.

One of the highlights of the anniversary celebration was the unveiling of the commemorative logo, which featured shades of metallic

gold and Bahama blue. Symbolizing the institution's steadfast dedication to excellence in TVET and academic pursuits, the logo also represented ATU's commitment to maintaining rigorous academic standards.

The anniversary festivities encompassed a diverse range of activities, including games, a CEO series/public lecture, a vice-chancellor's conference, an awards ceremony and dinner, a grand exhibition and fashion showcase, an anniversary concert, and a Thanksgiving service. These events were designed not only to celebrate the university's rich history but also to inspire continued excellence and innovation in the years to come.

As Accra Technical University embarks on its journey into the future, the institution remains steadfast in its mission to provide quality education, foster innovation, and contribute meaningfully to national development through technical and vocational education and training.

# ATU Expands Academic Offerings and Celebrates Graduates

Accra Technical University (ATU) is set to introduce nine new master's degree programmes in the upcoming academic year, following partial accreditation from the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission.

The announcement was made by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Amevi Acakpovi, during the University's 23rd Congregation held at the National Theatre in Accra.

The new programmes include Master of Science degrees in the fields of Logistics and Transport Management, Marketing Strategy, Administration and Management, Construction Technology and Management, Food and Bioprocess Engineering, Integrated Infrastructure Systems, and Interior Design Technology.

The congregation, themed "75 Years

of Impacting Society and Driving Innovation," saw 5,862 graduates in Bachelor of Technology, Higher National Diploma, and Diploma programmes being honoured.

In addition to the academic expansion, Professor Acakpovi revealed that the University's Governing Council has allocated GHc 400,000.00 for scholarships in the next academic year. Scholarships were also granted by Progress in Education and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation to deserving students.

Professor Acakpovi highlighted the establishment of Centres of Excellence, backed by external stakeholders through grants. These centres aim to provide training in digital literacy and artificial intelligence, with collaborations in place for drone technology development.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor also noted the University's progress within its 134-acre facility at Mpehuasem, Samsam, particularly in providing practical sessions to students pursuing engineering and the built environment. He mentioned various Memoranda of Understanding signed by the University, enabling exchange programmes, and the University's impressive performance in the previous year's Times Higher Education rankings.

The Deputy Minister of Education, who was also the Guest-of-Honour, Reverend John Ntim Fordjour, assured the University of government support in addressing any emerging challenges and emphasized efforts to bridge the gap between industry and academia.

Awards were given to deserving students who excelled in their various fields of study.

## ATU Welcomes Record-Breaking Number of New Students

In a momentous event held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, Accra Technical University (ATU) officially matriculated 10,390 students for the academic year 2023/2024. The ceremony, held at the university auditorium, marked a significant milestone in the institution's history, boasting a record-breaking number of admissions.

Guided by the Registrar, Dr. (Mrs.) Sylvia B. Opong-Mensah, the matriculating students pledged their obedience and commitment to the institution. Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Amevi Acakpovi then officially welcomed them, administering an oath that signified their initiation into the esteemed student body of ATU.

In his address, the Acting Vice-Chancellor underscored the

university's commitment to a vibrant community and provision of essential resources. He highlighted the impressive admission statistics, with nearly 11,000 students welcomed, including 10,390 who completed their registrations. Notably, 4,614 of these students are pursuing Bachelor of Technology degrees.

Professor Acakpovi emphasised the importance of adhering to the institution's rules, focusing on learning and academic excellence. He urged students to develop skills and competencies and familiarize themselves with the university's online systems for information exchange.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor also noted the university's global reach, with the international students constituting 1.5% of the total student population. With 160 international students, this

milestone marked an 18.7% increase in the entire population from the previous year.

Encouraging new students to aim for excellence, Professor Acakpovi highlighted that outstanding performance could lead to scholarships and further education opportunities. He also urged students to fully leverage the academic tools available for a rewarding and successful university experience.

The matriculation ceremony was organised in three segments, starting with students from the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, followed by students from Applied Sciences and Arts, and concluding with students from the Business Faculty.



Students doing their industrial internship at Haitan Group International Company

# Harare Polytechnic and Ningbo Polytechnic at the Centre of Zimbabwe-China Collaboration

Harare Polytechnic in Zimbabwe and Ningbo Polytechnic in China have a five-year Memorandum of Agreement on an “Applied Talents Joint Teaching” programme that was facilitated by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) under the auspices of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation. The aim of the partnership

is to enhance collaboration for further improvement of education quality, research capabilities, and academic impact, and to cultivate high-level technical and vocational talents for both institutions. Ninety skilled graduates are expected to be produced during the five (5) year period of the agreement with dual qualifications of a National Certificate in Millwrights works and Diploma in Mechatronics from Harare and Ningbo Polytechnics respectively

## Applied Talents Joint Teaching Programme

Harare Polytechnic enrolled the first batch of thirty students in 2022 who then travelled to China-Ningbo Polytechnic in March 2023 at Haitan International Company in China. The students have trained in and worked with some of the best state-of-the-art technologies.

The second group of twenty-eight students was enrolled in 2023. They travelled to Ningbo Polytechnic in



Students during the teaching and learning session at Ningbo Polytechnic

March 2024 and are now doing their first semester.

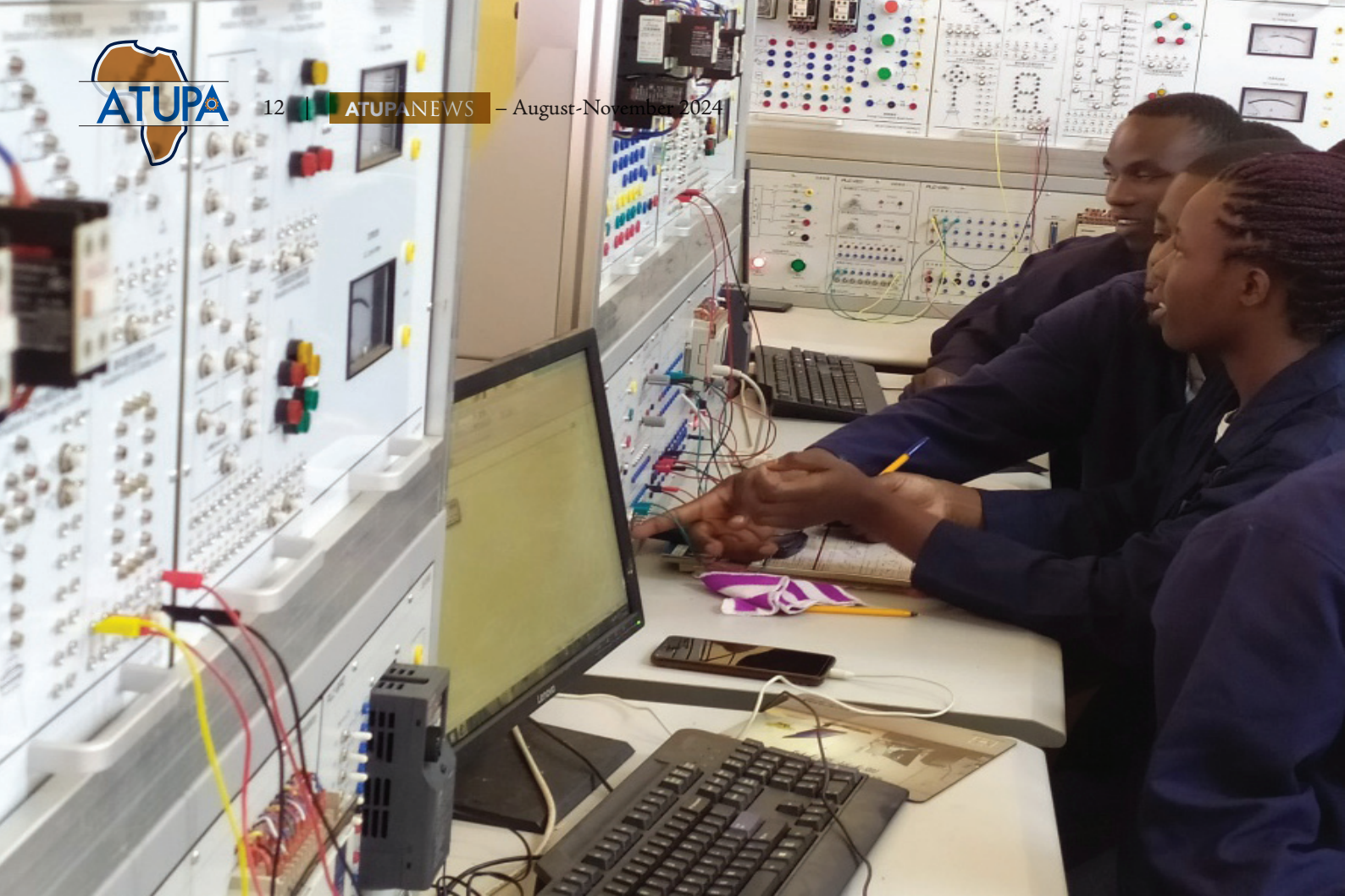
The third and final group of thirty students under the Agreement was enrolled in January 2024 and is expected to travel to China-Ningbo Polytechnic to pursue studies leading to Diploma in Mechatronics. Zimbabwe-Harare Polytechnic extends its

gratitude to the People's Republic of China, and especially Ningbo Polytechnic for the opportunity, as it has exposed our students to crucial knowledge and emerging technologies in their areas of specialisation. This is expected to provide Zimbabwe with the much-needed human resource for its developmental trajectory.



Students presenting their final projects





## Bumbe Technical Training Institute: A WITED Special

**B**umbe Technical Training Institute is a center of excellence in research innovation and training. The institute is devoted to providing high-quality technical education, nurturing innovation and supporting research endeavors that drive positive change not only in our local communities but also abroad. To realize this, Bumbe Institute has gone a mile ahead to ensure inclusion of both genders to participating in this noble objective. As we speak now, more girls are enrolled in science and technological courses than boys. The vice versa was an approach that dragged us back in the wholesome perspective. Boys have predominated STEM courses but the result has not been effective and efficient as required.

Even though there are many cons, the good news is, WITED program has come to solve the untouched, unsolved and unbearable animal ever since its

inauguration in the year 2022. The main aim of WITED is to identify and handle factors that impede significant participation of women in Technical Education and Development for enhanced National Progress. This gives girl child an opportunity not only to access but also to control and own means of production.

There is a conversation and commitment of females both trainers and trainees to engage in Science and Technology Education same as witnessed in Bumbe Technical Training Institute. Here, together with partnering agencies just to mention but a few; GIZ, AFDB, KCB, NCCI has a track record to ensuring empowerment of girls and women is adversely tackled. This has been done by bridging gender gaps in STEM courses, sponsorship programs and creation of awareness and sensitization of local communities to undertake

STEM courses and emphasize the implementation of equal opportunities in support systems and governmental measures and programs that address social equality.

It's with utmost pride that this approach is for sure a remarkable tool in solving world's inherent challenges. Seeing female students participating in practical lessons in the departments is so encouraging. Girls are remarkably at par to becoming part of the long awaited solution. Today high enrolment of females in Electrical, Building and Civil Engineering, ICT, Hospitality and Institutional Management not to mention Automotive and Mechanical Engineering Departments is overwhelming. In plumbing for instance, girls' enrolment has dominated boys in the ratio 3:1 respectively. In mechanical those enrolled in this course are overwhelmingly girls. Not to mention



electrical engineering.

Affirmative action in Bumbe TTI has been done to bridge gender gap in leadership positions both in administration and in student affairs. It has not been a walk in the park to realize this noble exercise. In Bumbe, we've really managed to squeeze milk out of a stone. Were it not of consistency and determination which has proven to serve a delicious meal of realizing our objectives, we wouldn't be where we are now. Our way forward therefore, is to ensure;



- ✦ Career booklets are submitted to girls in both primary and secondary schools.
- ✦ Advocate and lobby for more enrolment for women in technical institutions
- ✦ Advocate for non-traditional roles Career booklets are submitted to girls in both primary and secondary schools.
- ✦ Advocate for non-traditional roles for women using media
- ✦ Collaborate with policy makers, industries like TOYOTA Kenya, CAPA, GIZ/GFA among others and enhance conduct tracer studies.



Women in Technology and Education Development (WITED), is the way to go. Join us and let's try this so we may bring long awaited solutions to world's integral challenges.





*Team from TTNP during the Africa Tech Challenge Season 8 at Technical University of Kenya (L-R Joel Nzuki (Trainee), Timothy Jumba (Trainee), Rosemary Gathoni (Trainee) and Daniel Mutisya (Trainer/Team Lead)*

# Taita Taveta National Polytechnic's Trainee to Represent Kenya in 2024 World Skills Competition in Lyon, France

**T**aita Taveta National Polytechnic (TTNP) has consistently demonstrated its commitment to excellence in technical education. The institution's recent participation in the eighth season of the Africa Tech Challenge showcased its dedication to nurturing talent and innovation.

The TTNP team comprised of a trainer/team leader: Daniel Mutisya and three trainees: Timothy Ushindi Jumba, Joel Mulwa Nzuki, and Rosemary Gathoni Kagwe. These talented individuals competed against teams in Kenya and at the continental level in two skill areas: CNC Lathe Machining and Mechanical CAD. The team's exceptional performance in the CNC Machining competition

earned them the second position in the country and an impressive fourth place in Africa. Their success underscored TTNP's commitment to excellence and proficiency in technical skills.

Notably, Rosemary Gathoni Kagwe distinguished herself with her exemplary performance and exceptional skill in CNC Machining leading to her selection as Kenya's representative in the prestigious 2024 World Skills Competition in Lyon, France, in September 2024. Rosemary's selection to represent Kenya in the World Skills Competition is testament to the quality of education and training provided at TTNP to the world. We are confident that she will showcase Kenya's talent and expertise at the global stage.

The World Skills Competition is the largest vocational skills competition globally, bringing together young professionals to compete in various skill areas. Miss Kagwe's participation reflects TTNP's commitment to preparing students for success in the global arena. As Rosemary prepares to represent Kenya in Lyon, France, TTNP extends its support and best wishes for her success. Her journey exemplifies TTNP's mission to nurture talent, inspire excellence, and contribute to Kenya's socio-economic development through technical education.



*Tsavorite (Green garnet)*

# The Success Story of the Gemology at Taita Taveta National Polytechnic

Kenya possesses significant deposits of gemstones and other minerals, yet the mining industry's contribution to the country's revenue has remained relatively low, at around 10%. This disparity suggests that there are obstacles hindering the sector's full potential. One of the primary obstacles facing the mining sector in Kenya is the lack of specialized skills and knowledge among local communities. Without proper training in gemology and related fields, residents may struggle to effectively identify, extract, and process gemstones, limiting their participation and income from the industry.

The introduction of the Gemology Course at the Taita Taveta National Polytechnic has undeniably sparked a wave of positive change in the country, unveiling the latent potential of its abundant mineral resources. This educational initiative, aimed at providing specialized training in gemstone identification, extraction, and processing, has galvanized the local communities, offering them a pathway to actively participate in and benefit from their own natural wealth.

The community's enthusiastic

response to the Gemology Course reflects their long-held aspirations to harness the resources at their disposal, and in their land. By equipping themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills, residents are poised to play a more active role in the gemstone industry, which has historically been underutilized.

Dual training has cemented the support of gemstone dealership and the endorsement by the Ministry of Mining, underscoring the broader recognition of the gemology course potential to revolutionize the country's economic landscape. By aligning the curriculum with industry needs and fostering collaboration between academic institutions, government agencies and industry stakeholders, the course has laid the groundwork for sustainable development in the gemstone sector.

Funding partners such as the MasterCard Foundation are supporting the establishment of an applied research centre in Gemology further signifies the growing momentum behind this initiative. Through strategic collaborations with mining ministries, industry associations, and



*Rubby- Taita Taveta*

gemstone centers, the research center aims to drive meaningful exploration and exploitation of gemstone resources across various parts of the country.

In essence, the success story of the Gemology Course at Taita Taveta National Polytechnic serves as a testament to the transformative power of education and collaboration. By empowering communities, fostering economic growth, and unlocking the true potential of natural resources, initiatives like this not only uplift local populations but also offer a blueprint for sustainable development in resource-rich regions in Kenya and beyond.

# RVNP Takes the Lead: A Jitume Success Story

*The Power of Initiative and Self-Driven Leadership*



**S. K. Chemoiwa, Principal**

Under the leadership of the principal, Mr. Sammy Chemoiwa, RVNP seized the Jitume opportunity to empower the youth with its first target being the institute’s trainees. With the support of the government through the ICT Authority, TVETA and

Konza Technopolis, the establishment of the Jitume Lab, equipped with 100 workstations, was executed. This saw the swift setup of the Jitume lab with the desks fabricated at the institute’s Mechanical Engineering workshop. A committee was appointed, and publicity efforts initiated. While awaiting the official launch, registration of trainees began, which attracted just over 100 participants, most of whom had recently completed their studies. The first cohort, with an impressive number of trainees, kicked off its training sessions in August 2023.

The Jitume programme is an initiative aimed at providing the youth with access to Digital Services, Digital Skills, and opportunities to enable them take advantage of technology for job creation. The programme encourages the youth to take it upon themselves (*Jitume*) to access opportunities in the

digital space to learn and gain skills for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and to access digital jobs. It is a bundled programme that takes care of the main challenges facing the citizens on access to digital opportunities. The challenges range from access to digital devices and Internet connectivity, training, and knowledge as well as opportunities that can result in decent and dignified income.

Konza Technopolis has identified the solution to those challenges by providing digital devices known as Virtual desktops (VDIs). Konza has partnered with accredited institutions including Thunderbird School of Global Management (Thunderbird), and Arizona State University (ASU) to offer online global education. The initiative aims to reduce the current rate of unemployment in Kenya, which stood at 10.4% by 2020.

## Jitume Partners





The effectiveness of the training programme was evident when, in just under two weeks of rigorous training, some trainees were already earning through the Remotasks platform. This quick success prompted the initiation of the second cohort, which attracted another 82 participants. After four weeks, the first cohort of 118 trainees under the E-mobilis platform began its training sessions. Currently, the total number of active workers is 400, a reflection of the initiative's widespread impact within a span of six months. Equally noteworthy, are the cumulative earnings by the active workers now at approximately Kshs.3.9M, a testament to the efficacy of the Jitume Initiative in providing tangible opportunities for economic growth and self-sustainability among the youth.

Further, from these successes, collaboration has been established between RVNP and Kenya School of TVET to train 600 trainers from various TVET institutions in Kenya. A team of 20 Master trainers were tasked to roll out the training programme. 10 trainers skilled in online jobs were identified from each of the collaborating institutions. Currently, Mr. Lincoln Langat, the Deputy Principal, Academics at RVNP is the program coordinator. Each of the 600 trainers is expected to train over 500 youths in their institutions. The target for each youth is to earn a minimum of \$142 per month from online jobs, which translates to \$42 million in foreign exchange. This is in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals number 8 on decent work and economic growth and the transformational outcomes aspired by Africa's Agenda 2063.

In essence, the success of the Jitume Initiative lies in its ability to swiftly translate the president's vision into action, with tangible results evident in the form of empowered and skilled youth contributing actively to the workforce and the economy. At The Rift Valley National Polytechnic, we can affirm that Jitume's ripple effect is profound! We are committed to changing financial prospects of the youth, one at a time!

## RVNP Leveraging on the Digital Space for Socio-Economic Development

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, harnessing the power of technology is paramount for driving socio-economic development among the youth. By leveraging digital platforms, young people gain access to a wealth of opportunities that foster skill development, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

Digital spaces offer a diverse array of resources, from online courses and remote work opportunities to e-commerce platforms and social networks. These avenues enable youth to acquire new skills, create businesses, and connect with peers and mentors worldwide, transcending geographical barriers and traditional limitations.

Moreover, leveraging digital platforms promotes inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized youth and underserved communities have equal access to opportunities for growth and development. Through initiatives such as digital literacy programmes and mobile-based services, we can bridge the digital divide and empower all youth to participate actively in the digital economy.

By harnessing the potential of digital innovation, we can drive meaningful socio-economic progress, equipping the youth with the tools and resources they need to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Together, we can harness the transformative power of technology to unleash the full potential of our youth and build a brighter, more prosperous future for all.

**“The Jitume Initiative has unleashed youth potential, spurring economic growth and self-sustainability”**

This visionary initiative transcends conventional boundaries, ushering our youth into a realm of online employment through dynamic platforms. As educators, particularly in the TVET sector, we are faced with the glaring scarcity of employment

among the youth and endeavour to seek opportunities for our graduands. From our experience, Jitume is beyond mere job creation, it is a platform for sculpting a transformative narrative of empowerment. It is a catalyst, a force driving socioeconomic change within our communities. The resonance of success stories born from the Jitume Lab echoes far beyond individual achievement; it reverberates within the collective heartbeat of our society.

Aligned with the visionary goals set by our President H.E William Samoei Ruto, PhD, CGH, the Jitume Programme seamlessly translates these aspirations into tangible actions. It becomes more than a platform; it has evolved into a movement, shaping a community of vibrant youth and impassioned workers dedicated to progress and prosperity. The Jitume initiative has unleashed Youth Potential, Creating Economic Growth and Self-Sustainability.

As implementers we can attest that this model does not just secure employment; it nurtures a culture of advancement, contributing to the overall well-being of the society. In the digital space, Jitume is not just creating jobs; it is crafting a future where every click, every task, is a step toward a brighter, more empowered tomorrow. We applaud the Government for this transformative initiative and urge all youth to embrace online jobs as a new frontier in earning sustainable incomes.

# “Empowering Kenya’s Workforce: The *JITUME* Online Works Revolution at Taita Taveta National Polytechnic”

Taita Taveta National Polytechnic in collaboration with the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy has established state-of-the-art IT infrastructure as part of the government’s initiative to equip the youth with digital skills. The Government-sponsored set-up, availability and accessibility of IT infrastructure in TVET institutions, has opened doors for trainees and the surrounding community to tap into the unlimited opportunities in the digital workspace.

*JITUME* is a Swahili word that encourages the youth to take it upon themselves to earn from online work. With the slogan, ‘*finya computer itoe dollar*’ our trainees, the youths from the surrounding areas, have taken it upon themselves to explore the digital workspace to earn dollars.

Through this programme, TTNP has been able to encourage a culture of work-study, encouraging our youth to participate in the digital economy by accessing opportunities in the borderless world alongside their academic pursuits.

The youth of TTNP have seized this opportunity, exploiting the resources provided by the Government, including desktops, free Internet connectivity, training, and round-the-clock operation. Whether they are

engaging in simple virtual assistant tasks such as email management and appointment scheduling or delving into more specialised technical roles, our students are leveraging these resources to carve out a niche for themselves in the digital economy.

In essence, the *JITUME* Program, is a transformative force that empowers Kenyan youth to drive economic progress, and shape a prosperous future for themselves and their nation. It serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity, paving the way for a new generation of skilled professionals ready to lead Kenya into the digital economy age. Taita Taveta National Polytechnic is at the forefront of driving economic growth and empowering the generation of Kenyan youth.

## About TTNP

Taita Taveta National Polytechnic (TTNP) is a fully owned Government National Polytechnic engaged mainly in training, research, Innovation and development of youthful human resources and community at large. The Taita Taveta National Polytechnic originally was established in 1967 as a Tourist Hotel complete with full board accommodation, swimming pool and other necessary amenities of state of the art at that time. The then Hotel was converted to Coast Institute of Technology to train students not only in Institutional Management but also in other fields as Business Studies, Communications Information Technology, Buildings and Constructions, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Applied Science Departments. It was recently elevated to a national polytechnic through a presidential order. Committed to excellence in technical education, TTNP offers a wide range of programs designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for success in the modern world.

For more information visit <https://www.cit.ac.ke/>

A decorative header image featuring a grid of colorful squares in shades of blue, purple, and green. Overlaid on this grid are several icons: a brain with colorful nodes, and several stylized human figures in various colors and poses, representing a diverse group of people.

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Intel is excited to partner with ATUPA to bring our innovative learning platform to educators across Africa. Intel® SFI empowers educators with the tools and resources they need to create engaging, technology-rich learning experiences for their students.

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We believe that technology has the power to transform education and prepare students for the future. We are excited to partner with ATUPA to make this vision a reality.”

Scan this QR code to register for the training:





**WITED**



ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA

# Brief on the WITED Kenya Chapter Meeting

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) Kenya Chapter converged at Kabete National Polytechnic, for an Annual General Meeting and election of new office-bearers.

At the meeting, the women’s caucus discussed various pertinent issues and shared experiences on the various milestones and ongoing projects in their respective institutions and regions, at the same time observing trends in the development of curricula and delivery of technical education in general. Known as “Champions,” the women are drawn from various TVET institutions across the country, with the aim of championing the interests and needs of women, girls and persons deemed to be vulnerable in their quest for technical education and leadership. WITED in Kenya is classified into five different geographical jurisdictions, namely: Nairobi, Mount Kenya, Rift Valley, Western and Coast regions.

The women also enumerated the various collaborations and partnerships with various national and international organisations, geared towards establishing relevant programmes for their students and faculty, for the furtherance of teaching, learning and research in their respective institutions and the community.

The WITED forum was graced by the ATUPA Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, Mrs. Jahou Samba Faal (Dr., Hc), and Dr. Consolata Mutisya, a staunch believer and member of WITED, now CEC in charge of Education in the County Government of Machakos, in the Republic of Kenya. Recounting the success of her candidacy at Machakos, Dr. Mutisya emphasised the need to grow WITED to proportions that would earn the womenfolk recognition and opportunities nationally and internationally.

The champions paid a glowing tribute to the late Dr. Teresia Njue, the Deputy Principal in charge of Academics at Maasai National

Polytechnic, and a strong pillar of the WITED movement in Kenya and a long-time mentor of many.

The ATUPA Secretariat members took advantage of the meeting to enumerate some of the programmes and activities at the Secretariat, which, if implemented, may be mutually-beneficial to both ATUPA and WITED. These presentations were made by Benard Nashon Otieno, Alexander Wamonje, John Mararo, Diana, Kitua, Sylvia Muteshi and Job Matumbai.

At the meeting attended by 49 champions, the following were elected to hold office, in an election presided over by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya:

**The WITED Kenya Chapter National Officials**

No	Name	Designation	Region
1.	Dr. Dorcas Kheseli	Chairperson	Western
2.	Anita Kosgei	Vice-Chairperson,	Nairobi
3.	Ms. Nyakako Eilleen	Vice Chairperson	Coast
4.	Ms. Grace Gakinya	Vice Chairperson	Mt. Kenya Region
5.	Ms. Catherine Karimi	Vice Chairperson	Rift Valley Region
6.	Beatrice Awino	Vice Chairperson	Western Region
7.	Ms. Topister Obonyo	Treasurer	Coast Region
8.	Ms. Sylvia Motuka	Deputy Treasurer	Mt. Kenya Region
9.	Ms. Jaytee Kivihya	Organizing Secretary	Coast Region
10.	Ms. Lillian Injera	Deputy Organizing Secretary	Nairobi Region



# Nyakach Technical and Vocational College WITED Milestones

In today's world, the role of women in technical fields cannot be overstated. Yet, despite strides towards gender equality, women remain underrepresented in technical education and development sectors. Recognizing the imperative to bridge this gap, Nyakach Technical and Vocational College (TVC) proudly launched the initiative aimed at empowering women in technical education and development. We are stepping up to support women in technical fields because we believe that everyone should have the chance to succeed, no matter their gender.

Through mentorship initiatives, and other programmes, our institution is reshaping the narrative surrounding women in technical education and development. Our approach is holistic, addressing not only academic pursuits but also the societal barriers that hinder women's participation in these fields. By fostering a culture of inclusivity and support, we aim to cultivate the next generation of female leaders and innovators in technology and beyond.

## OBJECTIVES

- Ensure equal opportunities for women in technical education, fostering an inclusive learning

environment.

- Facilitate the acquisition of technical skills among female students, empowering them for meaningful contributions in the workforce.
- Promote awareness and understanding of gender-related issues, fostering a supportive and respectful educational atmosphere.
- Provide guidance and mentorship to female students, encouraging their pursuit of technical careers and breaking gender stereotypes.

## ACTIVITIES

WITED Nyakach TVC Chapter organizes various activities throughout the year to promote STEM education and careers among women. These activities include the following:

- Empowerment programs to boost the students' confidence and self-esteem: The programs aim to empower the women by fostering a sense of self-efficacy and confidence in pursuing technical careers.
- Career Counseling Sessions: We have implemented one-on-one career counseling sessions to guide female students in making informed decisions about their educational and professional paths.

- Sensitization programs: The programs aim to create awareness, promote understanding, and challenge stereotypes and biases which ultimately contribute to a more equitable and supportive atmosphere.

Through these activities, we ensure that women have what they need to thrive in technical education.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Increased Enrolment:** We have witnessed a notable rise in the enrolment of female students in technical courses from only seven female students to over one hundred, reflecting improved accessibility and a more.

**Career Advancements:** Several female students have successfully entered and excelled in traditionally male-dominated fields, challenging gender norms and contributing to a diversified workforce.

In Nyakach TVC, we shall continue to invest in and expand the WITED programs in line with the general objectives, to reach more women and girls in Nyakach community and beyond to drive positive change and create opportunities for women to thrive in the modern world.



# PCKTTI Establishes Dominance: Triumphs in Schneider Grid Challenge 2024



Representatives from Schneider Electric Kenya, including its President Mr. Ifeanyi Odoh, Janet Langa, and Alice Ngatia, visited the Center of Excellence at PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute. The team expressed interest in learning

more about the ongoing Scholar Grid Challenge. During the visit, President Odoh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Schneider Electric Kenya and PC Kinyanjui TTI for the Challenge.

“Green Tech Pioneers” from PC Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute were lauded for their remarkable ingenuity and boundary-pushing solutions.

After careful consideration of all submissions and rigorous evaluation by an esteemed jury, the winner of the Schneider Electric Scholar Grid challenge has been determined. They are working on a 10 KVA clean energy using solar power, all within a budget not exceeding 5000 Euros. We are thrilled to announce their victory in this prestigious competition.



**PCKTTI Secures Victory in Nairobi Region KATTI TVET Fair and Robotics 2024 Challenge at Ruiru TVC**



*Promoting robotics to female secondary school students in the electronics lab through sensitization*

PC Kinyanjui has long been renowned as a robotics powerhouse, consistently pushing the boundaries of innovation and success. Students eagerly enroll in its programs, motivated by a desire to master technology. They understand that triumph in robotics aligns with the school’s illustrious reputation for excellence, which continues to inspire them.



*Celebrating Position 1 at Meru National Polytechnic National Robotics And TVET Fairs Contest. An electronic innovation “Automatic Smart Shopping Trolley”*

**PCKTTI Celebrates International Day of Girls and Women in Science**



Together with a mentor from Schneider Electric Kenya, and an alumni from our institute, we marked the International Day of Girls and Women in Science. The event’s goal was to encourage and enable young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, promoting diversity and innovation in the scientific and technological sectors.

# About PCKTTI

P.C. Kinyanjui Technical Training Institute started in 1979 as a Technical Secondary School with a population of 160 students. The vision to establish the Technical School was borne by His Excellency, the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the First President of the Republic of Kenya.

The elders had donated pieces of land that were consolidated in 1958 as trust land and reserved for the future development of Kinyanjui Memorial High School in honour of the late Paramount Chief Kinyanjui wa Gathirimu who reigned between 1893 – 1929 in the region in which we are.

At its inception, the institute offered training at artisan and craft certificate courses to the growing numbers of standard eight and form four leavers of the 8.4.4. system of education. The institute today offers a wide range of diploma and certificate courses.

PCKTTI is driven by its commitment to education. It provides a wide range of courses, from the accredited Kenyan National Examinations Council (KNEC) to the internationally recognized Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) programme, across eight departments. PCKTTI places a strong emphasis on inclusivity, as evidenced by its efforts to increase female participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses. These initiatives have resulted in a 10% rise in female enrolment, demonstrating PCKTTI’s dedication to a diverse and equitable learning environment.

PCKTTI is dedicated to providing excellent education by investing in infrastructure improvements. This includes building and equipping laboratories, dormitories, workshops, auditoriums, classrooms, and staff amenities. PCKTTI recognizes the crucial support from the Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, and expresses heartfelt appreciation for their ongoing assistance in its educational efforts.

**ATUPA Member-countries:**

**Western Region:** The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra-Leone

**Eastern Region:** Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda

**Southern Region:** Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Republic of South Africa



**ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES  
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA**

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