

# ATUPA NEWS

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## Take Advantage of **Tremendous Opportunities at EAC,** Dr. Desai Urges TVET Fraternity

The Principal Secretary for East African Community (EAC), Dr. Kevit Desai, has urged stakeholders in the Technical, Vocational Education and Training sector to take advantage of technical education and labour market opportunities across the East African Community.

Page 4

ALSO  
INSIDE:

- **President Adama Barrow Lays Foundation Stone for New University**
- **Equity and Inclusion at the "World Congress"**

# Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in Light of COVID19 through Heritage Based Education

*Date: Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2022 Venue: Elephant Hills Resort – Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe*

Governments are increasingly introducing, adapting to and adopting the philosophy of “heritage based education” as the anchor of innovation and as a way of promoting agriculture for industrialization and driving economic development. The African Union, UNESCO, the European Union, and the United Nations acknowledge that formal educational systems without the augmentation of non-formal education cannot respond adequately to rapid social, technological and economic change. Heritage learning aims to establish relationships with the culture of a particular society. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays an important role in

the coping phase, intermediate phase and post-COVID-19 phase. As the TVET curriculum is mainly practical, it is difficult for TVET institutions to cope with such disruptions as visited by COVID-19.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to reposition TVET with new approaches and solutions to the challenges facing the continent, chief of them being high unemployment amongst the youth. As technological changes accelerate, Africa finds itself at the mercy of tech giants, often with little or no role to play. Africa has become mere consumers of these technologies. There is need for TVET teaching and learning to go beyond the binary approach.

Africa cannot manage or improve its circumstances if we do not control and measure our outputs. A well-constructed, structured and fully adopted research, innovation and industrialisation barometer and policy for Africa, would guide the continent to support the right research, technologies and innovation by the right people, in the right places, and for the right reasons. For this reason, ATUPA holds the 2022 annual international conference with discussions and presentations of researched conference papers on the theme “*Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education.*”



## Welcome to Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls is a southern Africa waterfall along the Zambezi River, and is home to indigenous flora and fauna. Situated at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is among the world's most iconic waterfalls, stretching 1,708 metres wide, and 108 metres deep.

Known as “*Mosi-oa-Tunya*” (The Smoke That Thunders) among the Lozi people or “*Shungu Namutitim*” (Boiling Water) among the Tonga people, Victoria Falls is said to have been first identified by Scottish missionary David Livingstone in 1855, and named it after Queen Victoria. Since the mid 20th century, the site has been an important tourist attraction.

Victoria Falls' surface area creates

the world's largest sheet of falling water, cascading a whopping 500 million litres of water per minute.

The Victoria Falls has no mountains, escarpments, or deep valleys, but has a plateau extending hundreds of kilometres outwards.

The River Zambezi, upstream from the falls, experiences a rainy season from late November to early April, and a dry season the rest of the year. The river's annual flood season is February to May with a peak in April. The spray from the falls typically rises to a height of over 400 metres, and sometimes even twice as high, and is visible from up to 50 km away. At full moon, a “moonbow” can be seen in the spray instead

of the usual daylight rainbow. During the flood season, however, it is impossible to see the foot of the falls and most of its face, and the walks along the cliff opposite it are in a constant shower and shrouded in mist.

Three-quarters of Victoria Falls is in Zimbabwe, with the rest extending into Zambia. One of the two national parks surrounding Victoria Falls, Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### Sources:

Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria\\_Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Falls))

True Travel (<https://www.true.travel/victoria-falls-facts/>)



# ATUPANEWS

# CONTENTS

## EDITORIAL

Dear reader,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to yet another edition of *ATUPANEWS*, a publication of the Office of the Secretary General, ATUPA. In this souvenir edition, we welcome you to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, the hosting city of the August 2022 ATUPA International Conference. This year's Conference theme is "Repositioning TVET Education Ecosystem in light of COVID 19 through Heritage Based Education." This Conference comes after a successful East Africa Regional TVET Conference, held in Arusha, Tanzania. Speaking of Arusha, the Conference successfully deliberated on various cross-cutting issues pertaining to "TVET for Self-Employment, Income, and Quality Jobs."

ATUPA would like to congratulate the new kid on the block: the University of applied Science, Engineering and Technology (USET), whose foundation stone was recently laid by His Excellency Adama Barrow, the President of the Republic of The Gambia. Indeed, the future of TVET is bright for the young people of the Republic of The Gambia. This momentous milestone is partially credited to Mrs. Jahou S. Faal, who was previously the Director-General of GTTI, the predecessor of USET.

This year has been a year of greats. Various technical training institutions in Africa have forged important partnerships with local and international organisations to foster the growth and realise the true value of TVET. Some of these partnerships have culminated in direct recognition of the potential of young people, if the outcome of the WorldSkills competition in Swakopmund, Namibia, is anything to go by.

Ladies and Gentlemen, social inclusion and equity in TVET is gaining ground in our institutions of learning. The discussion on this topic is global, and this was the basis of the ATUPA Secretary General's recent keynote at the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics "World Congress" in Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain.

Finally, we would like to urge our esteemed member-institutions to take advantage of "backlinks," both within and without the ATUPA website to create a connection and ease access to their websites.

Once again, welcome to Victoria Falls, and enjoy the Conference!

### 10. KIST Makes a Mark at WorldSkills Africa Competition

*Read about Victoria Wanjiku's WorldSkills entry that emerged second runner-up, bringing pride and joy to the KIST fraternity*

### 12. Thika Technical Training Institute: The Epitome of Women Participation in Technical Education

*TITI is strengthening its resolve to give women and girls the much-needed opportunity to excel in technical education*

### 14. CVT in Automotive Mechatronics – Ready for Industry

*Nairobi Technical Training Institute is collaborating with leading companies to train and graduate automotive mechatronics technicians*

#### Editorial Team

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# Take Advantage of Tremendous Opportunities at EAC, Dr. Desai Urges TVET Fraternity

*Dr. Kevit Desai, Principal Secretary for East African Community, Kenya, addressing the press on the sidelines of the ATUPA East Africa Regional TVET Conference, after his keynote address and official opening of the Conference at the Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, Tanzania*



The Principal Secretary for East African Community (EAC), Dr. Kevit Desai, has urged stakeholders in the Technical, Vocational Education and Training sector to take advantage of technical education and labour market opportunities across the East African Community.

Dr. Desai made this clarion call at the just-concluded East Africa Regional TVET Conference, themed: “TVET for Self-employment, Income, and Quality Jobs,” organised by the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), in Arusha, Tanzania.

Tremendous opportunities have arisen from the years-long integration efforts, he said, as we now have six member-states, and are awaiting the

conclusion of the induction of the seventh member, the Democratic Republic of Congo. The six member-states are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. The EAC, he said, is now a huge economic bloc. He said TVET stakeholders must now get hold of this milestone to augment the manufacturing, trade and service sectors, because, after all, 500 million square kilometres of mineral-rich land mass and a 300-million-strong human population is a resource whose value cannot be ignored anymore.

“Young people should take advantage of the regional integration to move freely, seek new opportunities and promote trade through networking,” Dr. Desai added. He used an allegory of a Tanzanian technician crossing

to Kenya to service a ship, thanks to harmonised technical qualifications to successfully complete the job.

Dr. Desai hailed the huge population of diversity, creativity, curiosity and resourcefulness in EAC, and underscored its potential to promote solutions for environmental and social wellbeing. In reference to ATUPA and the TVET players present, he said: “You are the foundations and the leadership of the TVET movement. We seek your interactivity, thoughts and ideas...”

Dr. Desai urged the TVET trainers and heads of institution to familiarise themselves and encourage their faculty to lead curriculum development on key EAC standardisation aspects, most importantly occupational standards, trade and industry. He



also called on ATUPA to step up to the plate and negotiate and mobilise resources, not only from within EAC, but also from other parts of the world. Dr. Desai reiterated his call for the harmonisation of the all-important recognition of prior learning amongst TVET novices across EAC.

### **The Milestones and the Challenges**

During the opening session of the Conference, held at the Arusha International Conference Centre, Professor Laila Abubakar, ATUPA Executive Board Chair and Vice-Chancellor of the Technical University of Mombasa, urged the participants to ponder: “What have we done so far, and what needs to be done?” Prof. Abubakar added that this was an opportunity to showcase, through case studies and experiences, our milestones, considering that the Conference came barely two months after the reopening of our economies.

Making reference to the theme, Professor Abubakar posed to the TVET congregation, thus:

*We should examine ourselves and see how TVET can promote decent work through job-creation, occupational standards, skills-acquisition and social dialogue.*

The ATUPA Board Chairperson decried that during the pandemic, the most vulnerable of the population — women, the youth, underprivileged and low-skilled workers — were worst-affected, and lost their livelihoods. The employers, she said, devised new methods of work, some of which had far-reaching ramifications.

Going forward, she said, the youth should particularly use the entrepreneurial skills acquired to mitigate against the employment challenges.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the Conference, Professor Abubakar took issue with the mad rush for academic degrees, only for the graduates to end up in employment, albeit unable to satisfy the employers’ expectations and needs as far as technical skills is concerned. This, she said, was occasioned by the dearth of emphasis on technical skills exchange at the said institutions of

learning. As a silver lining on the dark cloud, Professor Abubakar was pleased to explain the involvement of ATUPA, in conjunction with other TVET stakeholders, to the effect that Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) was the ultimate solution to this workplace skills mismatch.

ATUPA, in partnership with GIZ and the Africa Union, developed curricula for CBET, in which trainees with lower skillsets and qualifications get trained for four months, and taken for industry practice for another three months to master new technologies and processes. After this, they either get absorbed in formal employment in those industries, or proceed to set up their own self-employment initiatives.

These sentiments were echoed by the Secretary General and Head of the ATUPA Secretariat, Mrs. Jahou S. Faal, who enumerated the success stories of the harmonisation of skills and qualifications, development digital skills for employment, and establishment of collaborations, notably with China Technical Exchange Programme. Mrs. Faal called upon the participants to share knowledge and experiences on skilling TVET to meet the labour market demands. While mapping out plans to roll out and revitalise continental WITED programmes, the Secretary General urged participants to facilitate participation of women, girls and people with disabilities in TVET, to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation.

The Conference was graced by Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Tanzania, who urged regulatory agencies to become active TVET members to ensure institutions produce skilled graduates.

### **Education Technology in TVET Systems in Light of Covid-19**

The TVET Conference established that, despite the numerous pitfalls, the technical education sector in the East Africa region also saw impressive results as far as the use of education technologies is concerned.

Digital content was developed, and trainers trained to deliver them. Several institutions installed learning management systems, so as to accommodate people with disabilities.

### **The Power of a Woman**

The discussion on effective participation of women and girls in technical education, at the TVET Conference was the apex of the case studies and experiences. The Women in Technical Education and Development (WITED) caucus presented a raft of milestones, as well as challenges and the future of women inclusion in the economic agenda of EAC.

### **Special Needs**

At the Conference, it was observed that the inclusion of people with disabilities in technical education had seen major reforms and reorganisation. In a session chaired by Dr. Thomas Ongolo of Global Project PWD, panelists at the heart of technical education for people with disabilities, gave submissions and case studies from their institutions.

Sr. Celestine Mangiti, Principal of St. Joseph Technical Institute for the Blind, Nyang’oma, Kenya, submitted that the Government had since made concerted efforts to establish or support existing special institutions through grants, infrastructure development and teaching and learning aids, otherwise known as assistive devices. This has greatly enhanced the learners’ participation in TVET and nation-building.

At the same plenary, Dr. Priscilla Nduku, Principal of Machakos Technical Institute, also gave impressive milestones in TVET for people with disabilities. Her institute, established to train people with visual impairments, has over the years enrolled two more categories of learners: The deaf and the deaf-blind. Even though nurturing these learners has proved difficult, the Institute, with the support of the Government, has developed curricula specific to their needs. Furthermore, MTI has implemented the concept of “Reverse integration,” which involves enrolling learners without any disabilities.



President Adama Barrow of The Gambia lays the foundation stone for the new University of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology (USET) on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## President Adama Barrow Lays Foundation Stone for **New University**

**The establishment of USET has been outlined in the Ministry's five-year Strategic Plan to upgrade the public tertiary education institutions.**

His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia, Mr. Adama Barrow, on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022, laid the foundation stone for a new University of applied Science, Engineering and Technology (USET), to house the erstwhile Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI), as it transforms into a technical university. The laying of the foundation stone took place at Brikama, West Coast region of The Gambia, where the new campus for USET is situated.

The upgrading of GTTI into USET is part of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoHERST) Strategy towards an innovative tertiary

and higher education system that responds adequately to the country's development aspirations.

It is worth noting that the establishment of USET was conceptualised five years ago under the leadership of the current Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia, Badara A Joof, when he was Minister for MoHERST. At the time, the Director General of the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) was Mrs. Jahou Samba Faal, the current Secretary General of ATUPA. Mrs. Faal had provided all the necessary support to the initiative held within The Gambia and outside, as part of the numerous consultations held. Therefore, even though both His



Excellency Vice President Joof and Mrs Faal are no longer directly involved in the country’s higher education subsector, the duo are celebrated by MoHERST and the entire Gambian people for their visionary leadership that will give new impetus, reflections and reorientations to TVET in the country both for now and posterity.

H.E. Vice President Badara A Joof led His Excellency President Adama Barrow to the historic groundbreaking ceremony in Brikama graced by dignitaries, including the ATUPA Secretary General. The event was presided over by Dr Yusupha Touray, the Permanent Secretary of MoHERST. Honourable Professor Pierre Gomez, the current Minister for MoHERST and former acting Vice Chancellor of the University of the Gambia, received the delegation.

In laying the Foundation stone for USET, President Barrow said as opposed to the past when only a selected few had access to higher education, “the education system in the country now provides pathways that allow students from Grade Nine to choose careers in Vocational Education and Training”. He added, “the new

University of Science, Engineering and Technology provides an opportunity for students who desire to become engineers and architects to proceed beyond the Higher National Diploma (HND) level, to pursue degrees in engineering and related disciplines.”

The establishment of USET has been outlined in the Ministry’s five-year Strategic Plan that to upgrade the public tertiary education institutions namely; Management Development Institute (MDI), Gambia College and GTTI into degree-awarding institutions. USET is currently running three (3) Engineering programmes namely, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical and Electronic Engineering, while other programmes are to be launched soon. The main objective of the transformation is to revamp the TVET subsector with new reflections to reduce dependency on foreign expatriates, and to harness the growth of the economy by promoting critical thinking, inclusivity and innovation.

USET will serve as an Emerging Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Engineering that will groom skilled job creators through

institutionalised entrepreneurship, for youth employment and employability to address the current developmental challenges of the country. The new University will also create new pathways for students in the physical sciences and engineering fields to go beyond the Higher National Diploma (HND) level, to pursue degrees in engineering and related disciplines.

The Ministry appreciates the World Bank for designing a programme linked to the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) initiative to influence development positively. Aside from the World Bank and AAU, the Ministry is working with other development partners to construct faculties to house additional programmes, including Chemical Engineering, Architecture and Fine Arts and Computer Science.

The gathering was equally excited to note that The Gambia is now part of 53 centres of excellence under the ACE Impact Project, which is currently supporting the three Faculties of USET Kanifing Campus mentioned previously (Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering).

## How ATUPA member institutions can benefit from website backlink exchange

Backlinks, also known as inbound links are simply links that point to a website from another website. One of the benefits of backlinks is that they help a website get referral traffic. Backlinks are also a major metric for ranking a website. A page with more backlinks is included for higher rankings on all major search engines, including Google and Bing. Webometrics, the prestigious cyber metrics lab that ranks web of tertiary academic institutions, uses backlink as a key indicator in their ranking criteria.

With over 200 member institutions, each ATUPA member institution stands to realise this benefit with the exchange of backlinks. This can be achieved by placing institutions list on each of the member’s website. Each institution name in the list should be hyperlinked to the respective institution website. The hyperlink membership list is already available on the ATUPA website

For more information or assistance in setting up the list contact ATUPA ICT officer on [info@atupa-sec.org](mailto:info@atupa-sec.org)

### ATUPA Member Institutions by Country

GHANA
• <a href="#">Accra Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Bolgatanga Polytechnic</a>
• <a href="#">Cape Coast Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Ho Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Koforidua Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Kumasi Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Sunyani Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Takoradi Technical University</a>
• <a href="#">Technical University of Tamale</a>
• <a href="#">Wa Polytechnic</a>
KENYA
LESOTHO
MALAWI
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
NIGERIA
RWANDA
SENEGAL
SIERRA LEONE
SOUTH AFRICA
SWAZILAND
TANZANIA
THE GAMBIA
UGANDA
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE



*Participants follow proceedings at the ATUPA East Africa Regional TVET Conference in Arusha, Tanzania*



*Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Tanzania, addressing participants at the East Africa Regional Conference*



*ATUPA Secretary General Mrs. Jahou S. Faal addressing participants during the closing ceremony of the East Africa Regional TVET Conference*



*ATUPA Board Chairperson Professor Laila Abubakar addresses the press at the sidelines of the Conference*



*Panellists fielding questions at a Panel Discussion on social inclusion, at the East Africa Regional TVET Conference*



*Dr. Consolata Mutisya makes a presentation on the strides so far made by WITED Kenya Chapter*

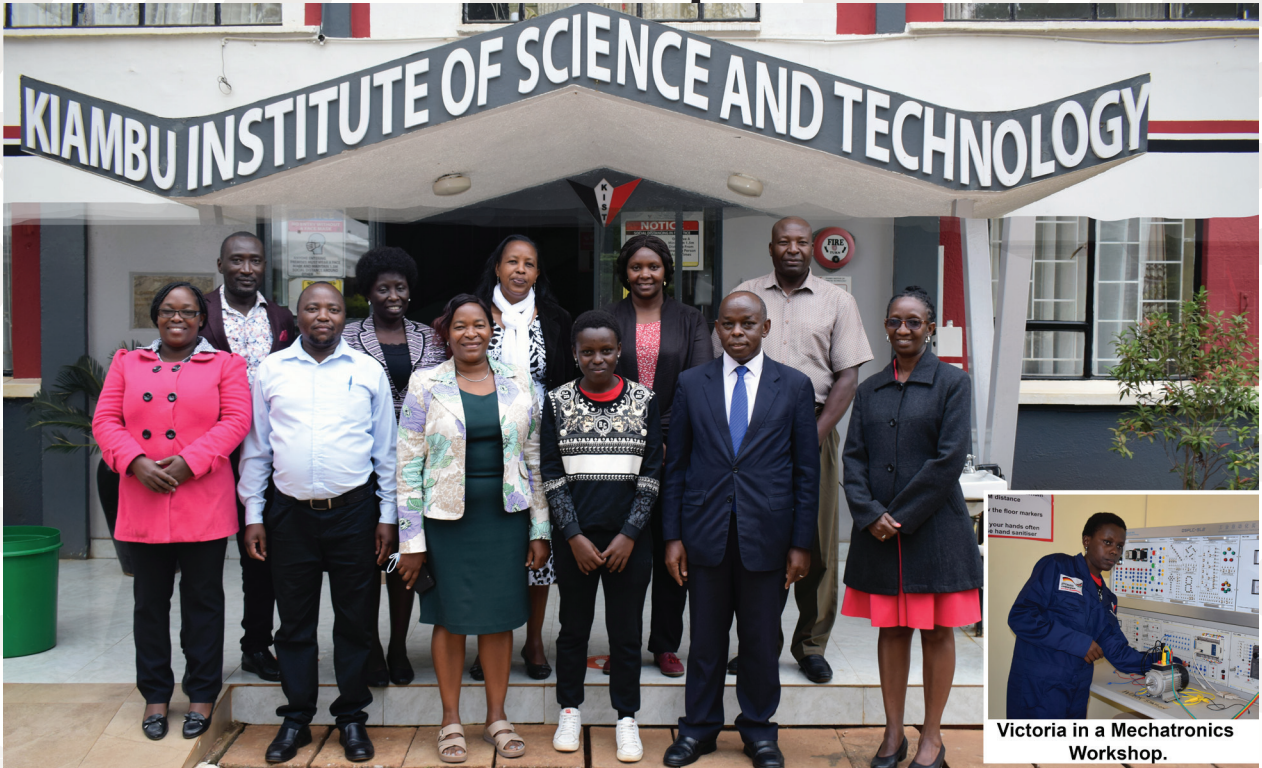


*Delegates follow demonstration at one of the Engineering workshops during the benchmarking visit to Arusha Technical College, Arusha, Tanzania*



*Conference Rapporteur Professor ElyJoy Micheni takes participants through the proceedings of the previous session*

# KIST Makes a Mark at WorldSkills Africa Competition



Victoria Wanjiku with KIST Administration. Victoria, a Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering student at KIST, emerged second runner-up at the WorldSkills competition in Namibia

**K**iambu Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) is located in Kiambu County, 14 kilometres from Nairobi along Kiambu Road. KIST is a middle level TVET institution established in 1973, and is mandated and fully accredited by the Technical Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) and Ministry of Education to provide training in TVET in various courses at Diploma, Craft and Artisan levels. Over the years, the institution has witnessed growth in academic aptitude, student enrolment, staffing, physical facilities as well as extra curricula activities. KIST, which is ISO 9001:2015 certified, has been setting the pace by coming up with innovative ways of increasing access to and promoting quality and relevance of technical education. As a result of its exemplary performance, it is steadily becoming a hub for promotion of research, science and innovation

KIST is a beneficiary of the Kenya-German initiative that has established a Centre of Excellence to offer Industrial Mechatronics Technology Level 6. This has seen the development of the curricula for a cooperative dual training model, which involves fifty percent training in the institute and fifty percent industry experience. This mode of training enhances learners' skills, competence and innovativeness for economic competitiveness, self-employment opportunities and the general satisfaction of all beneficiaries both nationally and regionally.

Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology took part in the WorldSkills Competition Kenya (WSK). The competition was a basis to help develop the country's national competition frameworks in readiness for WorldSkills Africa competition. Victoria Wanjiku from the first cohort of Industrial Mechatronics

Technology Level 6, presented a project on "Handling stations". The project emerged top, making KIST the winner in Kenya pilot Mechatronics competition for the TVET category, beating other similar institutions. This was a great opportunity that gave the trainee a platform to showcase her competencies and skills in Mechatronics. It also gave her good exposure, which propelled KIST to proceed to Swakopmund, Namibia for World Skills Competition Africa, where KIST emerged position three. This was a big milestone for KIST to have been invited to take part where over one hundred young people from all over Africa participated in sixteen skill areas. This puts KIST in the world map. KIST attributed this success to the dual mode of training, which enables trainees to acquire hands on skills as they interact with state-of-the-art workshop equipment and tools.

**Reference:** <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/national/article/2001442183/kenya-tops-hospitality-category-at-the-worldskills-competition-2022-in-namibia>



*WORLD FEDERATION OF COLLEGES AND POLYTECHNICS WORLD CONGRESS*

## Equity and Inclusion at the “World Congress”

The World Congress of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics recently discussed social inclusion in Vocational Education and Training. In a keynote delivered by Mrs. Jahou S. Faal, the Secretary General of ATUPA at the Conference Centre Kursaal, Donostia, Spain, Mrs. Faal emphasised the need for all TVET players to support equity and inclusion, with the aim of uplifting the most disadvantaged in our society.

Making reference to the Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 blueprint “The Africa We Want,” the ATUPA Secretary General reiterated the maxim that skills development could

only be successful if the rollout is relevant, accessible and affordable. “When we train, we make sure we look for the future skills, and the future jobs,” she added, in regards to ATUPA’s resolve to think ahead. In addition Mrs. Faal articulated the mandate and the achievements of the Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa throughout its forty-four-year history, and in the run-up to its rebrand into the Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa. She explained the Pan-African Association’s role in the industry linkages and advocacy in technical education.

WFCP organizes a world congress biannually. The congress attracts large numbers of experts and professionals in the field of professional and technical education and training from all continents.

The **WFCP 2022 Congress** was held in Donostia-San Sebastián, the Basque Country (Spain) from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Tknika, the Basque Centre of Research and Applied Innovation in Vocational Education and Training (VET), under the theme “TVET Excellence for All.” Tknika has been widely recognized for its innovation and workforce development success.

**The World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics is an international network of colleges and associations of colleges. WFCP provides leadership in delivering workforce education for our global economy.**



**Ms. Hannah Mburu**  
Principal, Thika Technical Training Institute

## Thika Technical Training Institute: The Epitome of **Women Participation** in Technical Education

**T**hika Technical Training Institute is marching forward more than ever to realise the ideals and core business of Women in Technical Education (WITED). Under the stewardship of the Principal, Ms. Hannah Mburu, the Institute advocates for inclusivity, equity and equality in opportunities for trainers, non-teaching staff and trainees. The Principal has shown commitment and support for WITED by being its Patron at TTTI. She has also nominated Madam Grace Gakinya as WITED Champion, and appointed a WITED Committee. Some of the milestones attributed to Ms. Mburu’s leadership are enumerated, thus:



**Empowering female student leaders:** Female student leaders from Thika TTI underwent a three-month mentorship programme, culminating in the award of certificates of completion. This was done virtually in selected TTIs and national polytechnics, by experienced female leaders from the Women Educational Researchers of Kenya (WERK), and supported by Uraia Trust.



**Gender mainstreaming policy:** In TTTI, the Gender Mainstreaming Policy has been approved. The Policy provides a framework for staff and students to access TVET education, a conducive environment for gender-parity and inclusive education, and facilitates learning and working opportunities for all.



**TVET Trade Fair:** Women trainers and trainees are increasingly showing interest and participating in TVET-related fairs. In the last fair in Narok County, TTTI's performance was impressive.



**Partnering with G&C on students talks:** WITED — TTTI Chapter has initiated gender awareness, in collaboration with the Guidance and Counselling Department. This has given rise to increased interest of women in technical education. The Committee encourages women and girls to enroll and train in STEM courses, and regularly invites alumni to help mentor the students and share their experiences and successes.

# About Thika TTI



**T**hika Technical Training Institute is a Government technical training institute established under the Ministry of Education, State Department for Vocational and Technical Training. Its history dates back to 1949, when it was started as a vocational training centre. It was then elevated to a technical high school. The Institute is located in Thika Town.

Thika TTI is an active member of CAPA-ATUPA, and passionately participates in the activities of ATUPA. This includes supporting its members of staff wishing to participate in the CAPA-ATUPA conferences. TTTI encourages women to participate in these conferences, and so far, we have four members presenting papers in the Zimbabwe Conference.



# Cooperative Vocational Training (CVT) in Automotive Mechatronics: Ready for Industry

**“having drawn lessons from Germany, I believe we as a country are on the right track towards skills development.”**

— Dr. Margaret Mwakima

Nairobi Technical Training Institute, in cooperation with leading companies in Kenya, is now offering a new training programme in Automotive Mechatronics. The automotive mechatronics technician combines the skills of an automotive mechanic and automotive electrician. The Cooperative Vocational Training of the Automotive Mechatronics course is based on the German dual system of vocational education and training.

The model offers a holistic approach to skills development for local industry by combining mentorship training in industry and vocational training at Nairobi Technical Training Institute. The trainees spend 50% of their training at Nairobi Technical Training Institute and 50% in company training based on the CBET KNQA Level 6 curriculum on a block release mode. A training block takes three (3) months.

The Automotive Mechatronics Centre of Excellence has received

enormous support from the Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Education and State Department of Vocational and Technical Education. During the launch of the school partnership between Automotive Mechatronics Centre of Excellence and the BSZ Schwandorf College in Germany in June 2022, PS Dr. Margret Mwakima emphasized, thus: “having drawn lessons from Germany, I believe we as a country are on the right track towards skills development.” The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), *Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau* (KfW) and NIRAS have provided support to ensure international best practice on the training of this course. The support includes capacity development of trainers, providing students with PPEs, laptops and stipend during the industrial training block. The institute will also benefit from the construction of a modern Automotive Mechatronics workshop.

“The Automotive Mechatronics curriculum emphasizes on the competence of a trainee thus attaining knowledge, skills, and attitude. This has refocused the content of the training towards a more productive direction and less academic logic,

with an aim of problem solving using modern mechatronics technology,” said Mr. Lule, Head of Department. The minimum entry requirement for this programme is C- in KCSE, application form from the institute and go through an interview for selection.

#### Career Fair

The Nairobi Technical Training Institute plans to hold a career and exhibition fair on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The institute has organized the event under the theme, “*Transforming Youth Skills for the Future-positioning for a successful Career.*”

Experienced educationists and career experts will discuss with participants how young people can be empowered with skills that will set them off in their careers. There shall also be Paper presentation during the event. Departments in the institute shall also showcase their respective innovation projects, so as to highlight detailed information on what Nairobi Technical strives for, in pictorial, practical and theory form.

Some of the innovations include manufacturing of detergents and sanitizers by Health and Applied Science Department, and lab coats and masks by Clothing and Textile

Department, among others. With these innovations in place, the institute benefits by landing sponsors, donors and collaborations from organizations, thus attracting new trainees. The fair is an open market, therefore the participants get to advertise their products and skills.

To promote diversity, the institute will hold a cultural event besides the fair. This aims to showcase the cultural diversity in the institute, to curb the negative aspects of culture such as racism and discrimination. At the event, our students expect to land sponsorships, employment opportunities and donations, and patronage of their products. There shall be entertainment and games to spice up the event.

In this new era, technical education, more than ever, is looked upon to provide the much needed skills and workforce for the global labour market. This calls for more end-tech reforms and the availability of support equipment. The main purpose of education is to gain purposeful employment, to achieve personal development, to contribute to the growth of our communities, and support overall economy.

## About NTTI



Nairobi Technical Training Institute is a public tertiary institution located in the city of Nairobi, under the ministry of Education, state Department of vocational & Technical Training. It was established to offer Middle Level Skills to post

secondary graduates in the field of Engineering, Health and Applied Sciences, Institutional Management, Information communication Technology, Business Studies, Social Work and community Development, Entrepreneurship among others. The

Institute receives full support from the Government through Grants, Training Equipment and Personnel.

The institution has modern training facilities that include those donated by International entities like DEVOTRA and African Development Bank through the GOK. In line with vision 2030, Nairobi Technical offers TVET programmes. It also offers solar photovoltaic and solar water heating courses in collaboration with USAID and UNDP.

The Institute is registered with the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS), which places students for various Diploma and Certificate Courses offered in the Institution.

**ATUPA Member-countries:**

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

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