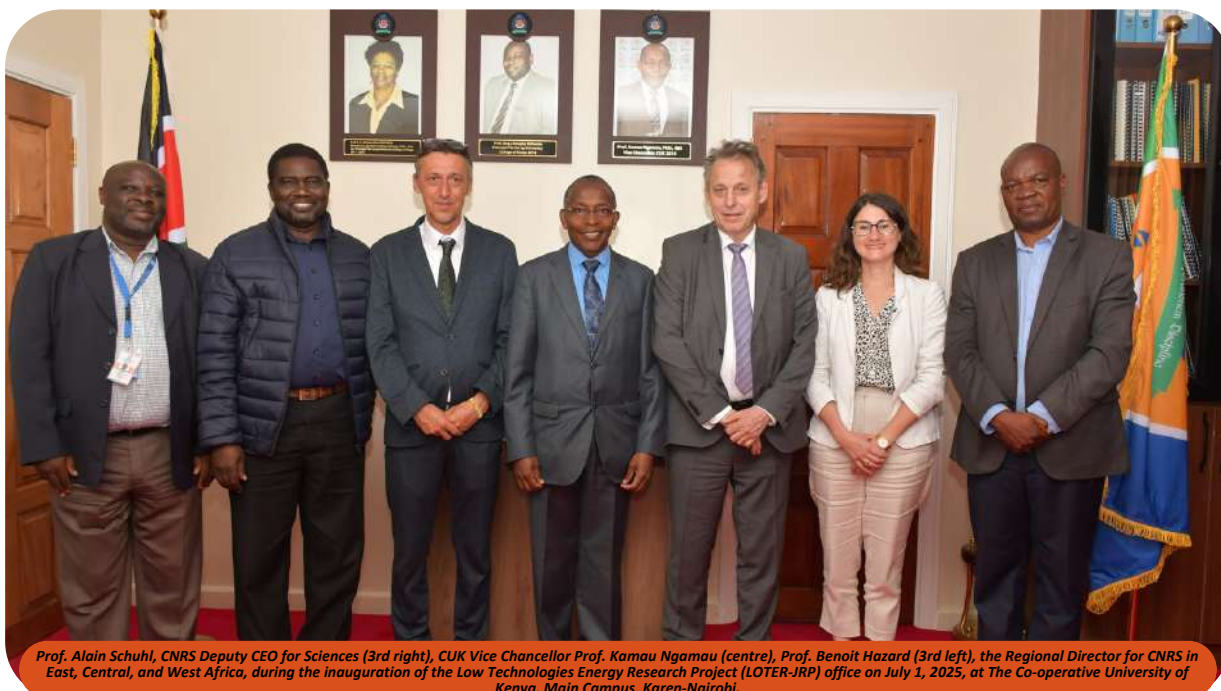




CUK Inaugurates LOTER-JRP Project

By Meshack M. Ngangi & C. Ngalame | July 1, 2025

On July 1, 2025, The Co-operative University of Kenya celebrated a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Low Technologies Energy Research Project (LOTER-JRP) at its Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi. This ambitious initiative, funded by France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), represents a collaborative effort to advance green energy solutions and promote community empowerment through innovative, low-technology approaches.

The ceremony, a vibrant gathering of key stakeholders, was led by Prof. Kamau Ngamau, the CUK Vice Chancellor and graced by Prof. Alain Schuhl, Deputy CEO for Sciences at CNRS. Attendees included representatives from the French Embassy, CNRS delegates, LOTER project leaders, researchers from partnering institutions, and

CUK faculty and staff are all united in their commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

The event marked the official opening of the LOTER research office, which CUK proudly hosts at its Karen campus, providing a dedicated space for cutting-edge research and collaboration. The day featured engaging presentations and exhibitions that showcased the project's innovative activities, highlighting its potential to transform energy systems and uplift communities.



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Nyeri County Governor H.E. Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga receives the CUK Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau at the Office of the Governor during the Nyeri County Ushirika Day 2025 Celebrations on July 5, 2025.

Nyeri County Ushirika Day 2025

By Victor J. Njogu, MPRS | July 5, 2025

The Co-operative University of Kenya joined the Office of the Governor of Nyeri County for the celebrations of International Day of Cooperatives 2025 at the county level on Saturday, July 5, 2025. The event was hosted by Nyeri County Governor Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga and attended by the Deputy Governor Hon. Kinaniri Waroe, and CEC Hon. Tarichia Diana Kendi, among other co-operators and county officials whose presence underscored a strong partnership between CUK and the county government.

During the celebrations, the CUK Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau delivered inspiring remarks, emphasizing the University's dedication to empowering communities through the cooperative movement. Speaking at the Nyeri County Ushirika Day Celebrations 2025, Nyeri County Governor H.E. Dr. Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga lauded the management of The Co-operative University of Kenya for sponsoring the Ushirika Football Cup with KES. 250,000, providing branded jerseys and footballs, and bringing its university team to compete for the prestigious trophy. At the function, CUK Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the county leadership for inviting CUK to participate and

highlighted the university's active role in the celebrations.

CUK exhibited and showcased its cutting-edge range of academic programs, from Certificate to PhD levels in Cooperative Management, alongside offerings in Business, ICT, Community Development, Agriculture, and Disaster Management.



Prof. Kamau Ngamau also reaffirmed the active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Nyeri County on March 18, 2024, noting successful collaborations like a policy workshop in June 2025 and training for worker cooperatives with Global Communities and Democracy at Work Initiative (DAWI). With the new financial year 2025/2026 underway, the University aims to deepen this partnership to enhance cooperative training, governance, and innovation.



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H.E. Hon. Rev. Mutuma M'Ethgingia, Governor Meru County, (4th right), with our Vice Chancellor, Prof Kamau Ngamau, (4th left) and a team from the University during a courtesy visit at the County Headquarters on July 9, 2025.

CUK and Meru County Renew Commitment on Cooperatives

By Victor J. Njogu, MPRSK | July 5, 2025

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) and the County Government of Meru (CGM) have reinforced their longstanding partnership aimed at empowering agricultural cooperatives and transforming rural livelihoods. With Kenya's cooperative movement being the largest in Africa and seventh globally, this renewed collaboration highlights a shared vision for sustainable economic growth, enhanced agricultural productivity, and inclusive community development.

Meru County, renowned for its agricultural richness and as the birthplace of Kenya's cooperative movement, has over 450 active co-operatives. Through the Department of Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives, the County Government, under the leadership of H.E. Governor Hon. Rev. Mutuma M'Ethgingia, has taken significant strides to grow self-sustaining cooperatives, support value chain development, and expand access to affordable credit.

As part of this renewed partnership, Meru County has committed to allocating land to CUK for the establishment of a full-fledged campus in the County. The Governor emphasized that this development aligns with the county's goal of utilizing cooperatives to economically empower

youth and communities.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, reaffirmed the university's commitment to setting up the School of Life Sciences, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Technology in Meru. He highlighted plans for collaborative agricultural research institutes with both local and international partners. These centers will support local farmers with skills in modern farming, post-harvest handling, value addition, and market access, while serving as innovation hubs for the cooperative sector.



Through this collaboration, CUK proposes the rollout of a Co-operative Stimulus Programme and a Kenya Rural Transformation Centres Digital Platform (KRTC DP).



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Prof. Kamau Ngamau (8th left), CUK Vice Chancellor and Prof. Benoit Hazard (6th left), the Principal Investigator of the LOTER-JRP project, flanked by delegates and participants of the Low Technologies Energy Research Project (LOTER-JRP) Regional Symposium held between 15th and 16th July 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

LOTER-JRP Regional Symposium at CUK

By Meshack M. Ngangi & C. Ngalame | July 16, 2025

The Co-operative University of Kenya hosted the Regional Symposium for the Low Technologies Energies Joint Research Project (LOTER-JRP) between July 15th and 16th, 2025, at its Co-operative Retreat and Conference Centre (CRCC) in Karen, Nairobi. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, the CUK Vice Chancellor, outlined that the event theme, **Renewable Energy Cooperative Model: Prospects and Quest for Sustainability**, was timely in convening researchers, policymakers, and community stakeholders to advance low-tech renewable energy solutions through cooperative models.

Conducted in collaboration with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Maasai Mara University (MMARAU), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NMAIST - Tanzania), University of Paris-Cité, and The Co-operative University of Kenya, the symposium highlighted the LOTER-JRP's contributions to addressing energy poverty and promoting sustainability in East Africa.

The regional Director for CNRS in East, Central, and West Africa, Prof. Benoit Hazard, affirmed that the LOTER-JRP, which CNRS funds, focuses on developing affordable, low-tech energy solutions to reduce reliance on woodfuel, which accounts for 70% of household energy use in East Africa—2.5 times the global average.



The project integrates cooperative principles to foster sustainable energy access and economic empowerment.

A key component is the **Community Biogas Pilot**, featuring a cyclic bio-methanization digester system that produces 85-90% bio-methane with zero effluent or emissions, utilizing co-digestion of animal dung and succulent grass. The system operates for six months without fresh water.



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Joint Co-operative Conference 2025

By Victor Njogu & Meshack Ngangi | July 24, 2025

The Joint Co-operative Conference 2025 was a three-day event held from July 22nd to 24th, 2025, at Sawela Lodge, Naivasha, Kenya. The conference was co-organised by the State Department for Cooperatives (Kenya), The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK), and Moshi Co-operative University (Tanzania) under the theme: “Co-operatives Build a Better World: Re-energizing the Collective Power of Co-operatives in Africa.”

Prof. Kamau Ngamau's remarks at the 3rd co-operative movement stakeholders' annual conference and the 8th scientific conference reinforced that the conference brings together public officials, NGOs, development partners, policy makers, scholars, and researchers to deliberate on sustainable co-operative growth.

Held in celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives, the event combined the 3rd Co-operative Movement Stakeholders' Annual Conference and the 8th CUK Annual Scientific Conference. Its primary aim was to bridge the gap between academia and co-operative practitioners by fostering collaborative research and

developing impactful programmes for the co-operative movement—both in Africa and globally.

The Chancellor of The Co-operative University of Kenya, Dr. Bernard W. Chitunga, highlighted that the two public Universities, The Co-operative University of Kenya and Moshi Co-operative University, are the only institutions in the world specialised in matters of co-operative movement and co-operative development.

The event was graced by Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, EBS, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education, who served as the Chief Guest. He acknowledged the vital role co-operatives play in pooling resources and contributing meaningfully to Kenya's GDP. He noted that the government is exploring ways to leverage the KES 1.2 trillion under the control of the co-operative movement to drive industrialization in Kenya and across Africa.



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CUK's Corporate Communication and Marketing Department staff interact with St. Monica Girls' Mulutu High School (Kitui County) fraternity during the school's Career Fair on Saturday, July 26, 2025.

St. Monica's Mulutu Girls School Career Fair

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | July 26, 2025

The University's staff from the Corporate Communication and Marketing Department participated in a dynamic career fair at St. Monica Girls' Mulutu High School in Kitui County, engaging with 355 students. Hosted by the school's career department under Ms. Francisca John, the event provided a platform for students to explore their future academic and professional paths as The Co-operative University of Kenya's team offered insightful career guidance, highlighting the diverse opportunities available at the university.

The team showcased the University's market-driven 36 degree programmes across its three faculties: the School of Co-operative and Community Development, the School of Computing and Mathematics, and the School of Business and Economics. Additionally, students learned about 32 Diploma and 4 Certificate programmes offered through the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

(I-TVET), designed to equip learners with practical, market-relevant skills. This comprehensive presentation inspired students to consider various educational pathways aligned with their career aspirations.

With the 2025 Candidate Class consisting of 105 students, St. Monica Girls' High School is poised to achieve over 75% university-entry grades, making it a strategic partner in CUK's mission to empower communities through education. The event underscored CUK's commitment to fostering talent and providing transformative educational opportunities.



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The Co-operative University of Kenya's Corporate Communication and Marketing Department staff at St. Charles Lwanga National High School (Kitui County) for a marketing activation and the school's Career Fair on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Marketing Activation at St. Charles Lwanga School

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | July 27, 2025

St. Charles Lwanga, a premier secondary school located in Kitui Central, is an academic giant that emerged third in the 2024 KCSE examination ranking, with a 98% transition to the University. As a result, The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) staff facilitated a career talk on Sunday, July 27, 2025, for 303 form four students.

With an invitation from Hosel Consultants who had organized the Unifair, Mr. Stephen Mutiso, the Head of the Careers Department, expressed that the school, which was recently upgraded to a National School category, aims to garner a whopping 9.5+ mean grade in the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations, with a goal of 100% university transition.

The marketing team shared qualification requirements and details about our 36 degree programmes across three faculties: School of Co-operative and Community Development, School of Computing and Mathematics, and School of Business and

Economics. They also highlighted 32 Diploma and 4 Certificate programmes under the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (I-TVET), inspiring students with practical career options.

The officers engaged the learners on the University's seamless admissions process, application requirements and student life, and the government funding/scholarship opportunities under the Universities Fund and the loans offered through the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) for bachelor's students. The event strengthened ties between CUK and St. Charles Lwanga School, supporting their shared mission of empowering communities through education.



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