



THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

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THE BULLETIN



Chancellor Dr. Bernard W. Chitunga (centre), accompanied by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau (3rd left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Finance, Planning, and Administration Prof. Esther Gicheru (3rd right), Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Academic, Co-operative Development, Research, and Innovation Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo (2nd right), University Management Board Members, staff, and students, during the inaugural visit on January 28, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

University Chancellor's Inaugural Visit: A Homecoming of Inspiration

The Co-operative University of Kenya's community was excited as it welcomed the newly appointed Chancellor, Dr. Bernard William Chitunga, on his inaugural visit. This was no ordinary occasion—it was a homecoming filled with emotion, nostalgia, and an inspiring reminder of the power of perseverance.

Once a junior staff member serving as an Assistant Programmes Officer at the University's Agri and Co-operative Training and Consultancy (ATC) Services Ltd, the Chancellor's rise to the titular head of the institution was a testament to dedication and growth. His return was met with admiration, pride, and an overwhelming feeling of possibility for staff and students.

The Chancellor's appointment, effective 10th January 2025, was made by His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, and officially gazetted, marking a significant milestone in his distinguished career. He is the second Chancellor to be appointed since the university was chartered in October 2016, succeeding the late Hon. Joseph Nyagah, the institution's inaugural Chancellor.



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CUK Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, and Ms. Julia Beideck, a doctoral student in the Faculty of Management, Economics, and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne in Germany, on January 24, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

An Exclusive Interview with Ms. Julia Beideck, DAAD Scholar

The Co-operative University of Kenya continues to be a global leader and trailblazer in academia, especially with particular emphasis on cooperative training. This January 2025, we had the privilege of hosting Ms. Julia Beideck, a doctoral student in the Faculty of Management, Economics, and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne in Germany.

In an interview with Meshack Ngangi, a public relations officer at the university, Ms. Beideck, a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) scholar, identified her keen interest in cultural cooperatives, which form the basis of her doctoral dissertation. She noted that there are cultural cooperatives in Germany, which are a relatively new subtype of cooperatives, giving examples of cinema cooperatives, theater cooperatives, and museum cooperatives, among which handicraft cooperatives exist.

With an unquenched thirst for knowledge beyond borders, Ms. Beideck expressed academic curiosity about handicraft

cooperatives triggered by a scientific paper she had engaged with.

Given that Kenya's cooperative movement is ranked the leading in Africa and seventh globally with an asset base of over 1 trillion Kenyan Shillings, her interest in collecting data on Kenyan handicraft cooperatives and enhancing a deeper understanding of them by attending (doctoral) courses has been further



established. The data collected, in combination with the insights gained from the university professors and faculty staff would essentially inform her planned scientific study.

"I met a few people. I had several conversations with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, with different professors, PhD students, and the Co-operative Alliance of Kenya (CAK), and with several stakeholders here at the campus," said Julia.



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Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo (2nd left), the Commissioner for Cooperatives in the Ministry of Co-operatives and MSMEs Development, Mr. David Obonyo (far right), and NEDAC Delegation during the signing of the CUK-NEDAC collaboration agreement on February 27, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

CUK Hosts India's NEDAC Delegation

The Co-operative University of Kenya hosted a high-impact seminar that brought together experts and policymakers to discuss the role of cooperatives in food security, rural development, and global collaboration. The event featured a delegation from India's Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific (NEDAC). A key highlight was the signing of the CUK-NEDAC collaboration agreement, which aimed at strengthening partnerships for cooperative growth.

The Chief Guest at the occasion, Mr. David Obonyo, the Commissioner for Cooperatives in the Ministry of Co-operatives and MSMEs Development, emphasized that cooperatives are a key pillar in Kenya's economic transformation and a major driver of the government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Isaac Nyamongo reaffirmed the University's commitment to fostering impactful collaborations with both local and international partners to advance the cooperative agenda, particularly as 2025 marks the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC).



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(L-R) Mr. Chris M. Kathoka, the Registrar of Finance, Planning, and Administration and the representative of the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Edward Nyongesa Wafula, the Guest Speaker and the Deputy Director of the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values, and Dean of Students Dr. Lucinda Mugaa during the opening ceremony of the Cultural Festival 2025 on Monday, March 10, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Karen.

The Cultural Festival 2025

The Cultural Festival 2025 presented a significant aspect of The Co-operative University of Kenya's community since cultural diversity is a strength when celebrated as a fabric that holds any human society together. The week-long celebrations of different cultures within the CUK fraternity provided a platform for students and staff to celebrate their cultural heritage, showcase talents and creativity, and promote cultural diversity within a multicultural environment.

The CUK Cultural Festival 2025 was celebrated under the unifying theme "Our Culture, Our Diversity, Our Pride." The festival assumed various genres, including music festivals, traditional dances, cultural wear exhibitions, sports and athletics, theatrical performances, and beauty pageantry, to promote cultural exchange and understanding.

In the opening ceremony, Mr. Chris M. Kathoka, the Registrar of Finance, Planning, and Administration, represented the Vice Chancellor in delivering the inaugural

address. The day one event's venue was filled to the brim with students, staff, and the Chief Guest from the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values.

This informed the high regard the University upholds for cultural diversity and celebrates its beauty of unifying the institution as a strength that complements our oneness in the spirit of cooperation.



Speaking at the event, the Ag. Vice Chancellor remarked, *"The University, a teacher of life, establishes the foundation and sustains academic excellence in developing society-suited holistic intellectuals. Cultural diversity is our inevitable human condition; however, this year's Cultural Festival allows us to unite our voices to speak even louder to promote unique African diversity with pride."*



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Dr. Calvins Were (2nd left) and Ms. Janice Bogita (centre), both from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), are accompanied by the Director of CUK-ITVET, Dr. Daniel K. Langat (2nd right), and staff after the Capacity Building Workshop for the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (I-TVET) on March 14, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Capacity Building Workshop for the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (I-TVET) Staff

The rapid evolution of the education industry demands and the growing need for skilled labour in Kenya have placed significant emphasis on the quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). To ensure the effectiveness of TVET programs offered in the University TVET Institutes and other institutions, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) plays a crucial role in regulation and accreditation processes.

Institutions need to adopt effective Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) systems, Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) frameworks, and Competency-Based Education and Training Assessment (CBETA) methodologies. In light of this, The Co-operative University of Kenya's Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (I-TVET) organized a capacity-building workshop between 10th and 14th March 2025, under the auspices of TVETA,

to equip TVET staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance curriculum delivery and assessment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Monday, 10th March 2025, the CUK-ITVET Director, Dr. Daniel Langat remarked that the 5-day workshop was aimed at strengthening participants' understanding of Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) mechanisms in TVET institutions in line with



TVETA standards, enhance knowledge of Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) models and their implementation as prescribed by TVETA, and provide practical insights into Competency-Based Education and Training Assessment (CBETA) approaches in compliance with TVETA regulations.



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Mr. Clinton G. Nyamongo presents on Understanding Family Law to the university staff during the Sensitization Forum on the Marriage Act 2014, Matrimonial Property Act 2013, and the Law of Succession in Kenya on March 20, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya's Nordic Hall, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Understanding Family Law: A Guide for University Staff on the Marriage Act 2014, Matrimonial Property Act 2013, and the Law of Succession in Kenya

Family law governs many aspects of our personal lives, yet few people fully understand its implications until disputes arise. The Marriage Act 2014, the Matrimonial Property Act 2013, and the Law of Succession Act play a crucial role in defining rights and responsibilities regarding marriage, property ownership, and inheritance in Kenya. The office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor in the Finance, Planning, and Administration (FPA) underscored the essence of every university staff, whether married, single, or planning for the future, to be aware of these legal frameworks to safeguard one's rights and ensure compliance with the law as outlined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

According to a presentation by Mr. Clinton G. Nyamongo, the officer in charge of the University's legal services, the Marriage Act 2014 provides a structured legal framework for different types of

marriages. It recognizes five forms of marriage: civil, customary, Christian, Hindu, and Islamic marriages, each with specific requirements. One of the fundamental provisions of this law is that all marriages must be registered to be legally recognized. The Act also sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 years, making child marriages illegal.



Furthermore, it requires that both parties give free and informed consent, ensuring that forced marriages are prohibited. In terms of marital arrangements, the law dictates that civil, Christian, and Hindu marriages are monogamous, meaning one can only have one spouse. However, customary and Islamic marriages allow polygamy, provided the traditions governing such unions permit it.



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Sui Community Kenya's facilitator takes Google Developer Students Club (GDSC) Members through Simple User Interface (SUI) blockchain technology during a Blockchain Workshop on March 21, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya's Computer Laboratory 3, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Simple User Interface (SUI) Blockchain Workshop

The University's Google Developer Students Club (GDSC) recently hosted an insightful workshop on blockchain technology, focusing on the Simple User Interface (SUI) blockchain technology. This training session, conducted by trainers from the Sui Kenya Community led by Ms. Aurelia Mutua, provided attendees with a deep dive into Web3 concepts, the Move programming language, and the unique benefits of the SUI blockchain.

The workshop began with an introduction to Web3, the next evolution of the internet that aims to create a decentralized web. Participants gained insights on blockchain fundamentals, smart contracts, and how Web3 differs from traditional Web2 systems. The session highlighted how decentralization enhances security, transparency, and user ownership over digital assets.

An essential segment of the training focused on Move programming, a language specifically designed for safe and efficient

smart contracts. Move programming is known for its strong security features, preventing common vulnerabilities like reentrancy attacks. Attendees explored how Move enables developers to build scalable and secure applications on the SUI blockchain, ensuring seamless transactions and interactions. The SUI blockchain stands out due to its high scalability, low latency, and user-friendly.



The tech Workshop outlined several key advantages, including parallel execution, which significantly improves speed and scalability, and an object-centric model that makes asset management more efficient and intuitive. Additionally, SUI offers a developer- and user-friendly experience with Move programming and a simplified interface, along with lower gas fees.



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Members of the University Council and the University Management Board (UMB) during a workshop retreat on Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration, and Organizational Excellence for Future Growth on March 27, 2025.

Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration, and Organizational Excellence for Future Growth

The Co-operative University of Kenya recently hosted a high-level workshop for the University Council and the University Management Board (UMB) under the theme “Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration, and Organizational Excellence for Future Growth.” The workshop was aimed at equipping participants with critical leadership skills, enhancing board governance practices, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability within the institution.

The sessions focused on developing leadership skills that drive innovation and sustainable growth, improving governance structures, and strengthening the collaboration between the board and management. Participants explored strategies for increasing productivity and organizational performance, with an emphasis on fostering a results-driven culture. Additionally, the workshop provided insights into financial management,

reporting, and the external auditing process to promote transparency and accountability in decision-making.

The workshop featured distinguished facilitators who led engaging sessions on various topics. FCPA Dr. John Mudany delivered an insightful session on Effective Leadership and Finance for Non-Finance Managers, equipping leaders with



essential financial acumen. Ms Damaris Ndungwa shared expertise on Building High-Performance Teams through Organizational Culture, highlighting the significance of a strong institutional identity in driving success.

FCS, Jeremiah Karanja, CEO, ICS, led an engaging discussion on Team Dynamics & Collaboration in Governance and Emotional Intelligence for Cohesive Teams.



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