



# MMUST NEWS

A Weekly Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

# Post

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## In this week's Edition



### MMUST PhD Student wins Most Promising Innovation Award At Uk-Africa Food Security Symposium



**UPCOMING**

# EVENTS



- 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- National Youth Summit- February 2019



## *Editor's Pen*



Dear MMUST Community,

We present to you the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of MMUST *NewsPost*.

In this week's Edition, we focus on National and International engagements by our various stakeholders; the staff, faculty and student's community. We celebrate their achievements and strides taken by them in placing the University in the global map

Together, let us tell our own stories.

**Nashilluh Brendah Kabindio**

**Ag. Public Relations Officer/ Editor in Chief**

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## MMUST Signs MoU with PowerSpot Kenya Limited Company

**T**he University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PowerSpot Kenya Limited Company, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 to collaborate on matters clean and sustainable energy. PowerSpot Kenya Limited is a fully owned subsidiary of PowerSpot Spain dedicated to promoting access to clean, affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Through collaboration with the School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE), PowerSpot has been among the leading companies in Kenya where MMUST Engineering students have been attached to gain practical skills with four of them currently on attachment. The partnership will expose engineering students to workplace dynamics and also learn various aspects of running a factory. With the official signing of the MoU, more collaborative and linkage efforts are

expected.

One of the company's inventions is the *power stove* that uses pellets from by-products, such as saw dust, instead of charcoal. The Company has set up a factory in Kakamega to produce pellets for fuel, and is looking forward to employ 500 women as agents.

Javier Pascual, the CEO of PowerSpot, together with Alfonso Acebal, the Regional Director for Africa, led the PowerSpot delegation to the University and were received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Fredrick Otieno, the Ag. DVC (PRI), Prof. J. Achoka, the Ag. Dean, School of Engineering and the Built Environment, Dr. Eng. Bernadette Sabuni and the Director, International Relations and Academic Linkages, Dr. Catherine Aura.



# MMUST Journalism Students attend Media Expo

**M** MMUST is determined to train and equip its students with exposure to the job market for easy adoption into the system. In line with this focus, the Journalism and Mass Communication students attended the 1st Lake Region Media Expo 2018 held at Kisumu as from 12th-13th October, 2018. The event was organized by Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW) with the main focus of checking on the role of free, independent media in Kenya in times of disinformation, hate speech, corruption and economic challenges. The event also touched on new digital trends that include open data, digital security and online bullying.

Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya, Mrs. Annett Gunther, recognized the mass use of mass media in the country and the role being played by the journalists but cautioned against harassment of journalists in their line of duty. Mrs. Gunther further said that she strongly advocated for liberal media and freedom of speech among citizens and media.

During the opening remarks, Kisumu Governor, Prof. Anyang Nyong'o, emphasized on the necessity of investigations before going to print since the message is bound to be believed when read by many. He further asked journalists to maintain independence for the sake of holding public interest at heart.



The students were accompanied by their Chairperson of Department, Dr. Perez Wenje, and other staff.



# Tour of Technische Hochschule Brandenburg (Thb)

Once again, MMUST is receiving positive publicity outside the borders of Africa with staff engaging in collaborative efforts with various partners. Dr. Okenwa Vincent Emmanuel, the Chairperson of the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences is in Brandenburg Germany on an academic tour/exchange at Technische Hochschule Brandenburg (THB) on DAAD grant. The project tagged; “Practice Oriented University Education for Western Kenya” aims at learning the THB model of competency-based university teaching, research and project development. The collaboration between THB, Magdeburg University of Applied Sciences and MMUST enables students and staff exchange for purposes of supporting the University develop relevant capacity in different programmes that input skills-based learning in training.

The Department has identified key areas of collaboration with its partners as training of MMUST Optometry staff and students on technical areas of optometry – laboratory function and management, harmonizing the applied optics subjects in the curriculum to involve intensive student training in optical dispensing and manufacture/engineering, equipping support where needed, co-supervising in research and development, flying faculties to teach technical subjects of our curriculum, student exchanges to learn skills rich in both institutions, industrial linkages, online training of postgraduate students on Python programming to enable students and staff do their own statistical analysis which will, henceforth, form part of statistics course for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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*“The collaboration is set to be of immense benefit for MMUST and the society in that it will enhance quality of teaching and learning for students, based on practical and hands-on training approach and development of a MMUST Optical Laboratory where students can acquire a lot of optical dispensing skills before graduation”*

At the Academic Vision Centre, the Department will be able to fabricate its own lenses thus saving cost for the University due to reduced spectacle pricing for the clients who will be members of the immediate and distant community seeking eye health. It will also be a rich source of revenue generation for the University’s overhead through offering dispensing optics services to the public. As a country, the quality of our graduates will be enhanced as they will be very relevant in applying hands-on and applicable technical skills in their future professional practice. International and cultural mix in teaching and learning experience is hoped to be enhanced both for MMUST and THB staff and students.

Two members from the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, along with thirteen other staff from different Schools at the University attended a one-week workshop in Brandenburg an der Havel, in the Federal State of Brandenburg, Germany. The other members of the delegation have since returned back. However, four members of the team; Dr Okenwa-Vincent Emmanuel – Optometry, Dr Gladys Mengich – Physiotherapy, Dr Patrick Okoth – Biological Sciences and Mr Emmanuel Ebinga – Mechanical Engineering are still in Germany to allow for a three-week mentorship for programmes identified, at this point, by the direct contact professors in THB.





## The New Block: Now Connected

**T**

The Administration Block is currently undergoing network connectivity cabling right from the server room in the Library. The connectivity will ensure that ABA operates at high fibre speeds. University telephones will also be connected to use bandwidth for calling instead of normal voice calls. The University will, therefore, be receiving one bill for voice and data communication. The fibre connectivity will also link with the CCTV cameras and the Biometric System that the University is planning to install.



***The Director, ICT, Mr. Apollo Waliaro (centre) with other ICT staff supervising the laying of the fibre cable***



## MMUST PhD Student wins Most Promising Innovation Award at Uk-Africa Food Security Symposium Held On 11 September 2018

**B**onphace Collins Mangeni, a PhD student in Crop Protection and part time staff in the Department of Biological Sciences won the most promising innovation award in tackling food insecurity in Africa during the UK- Africa food security symposium. The symposium took place at the Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge on 11 September 2018 and brought together participants with diverse backgrounds from plant biologists to social scientists.

The Theme of the event was “Developing Effective and Equitable Research Partnerships to Address Food Insecurity in Africa”, with an excellent keynote speech from Dr. Debisi Araba, the Regional Director of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture

(CIAT) in Nairobi, Kenya. The two panel discussions addressing research partnerships and food security in Africa, as well as capacity building in African tertiary education institutions, provided a great opportunity both for the invited panelists to give inspiring presentations on their work on the topics, and for the audience to give their views and ask questions.

Bonphace won a prize of £500 for his “One Village One Poultry Vet” project-a socio-economic intensification framework aimed at increasing indigenous poultry production by smallholder rural farmers for economic and dietary benefits in Kenya.

“Bonphace won a prize of £500 for his “One Village One Poultry Vet” project-a socio-economic intensification framework aimed at increasing indigenous poultry production by smallholder rural farmers for economic and dietary benefits in Kenya”



## Bonphace giving a presentation and receiving the competition-winning award

**I**n addition, Bonphace was part of 16 PhD students from 6 African countries that received scientific laboratory training workshop that was hosted at the Department of Plant Sciences. The world class Molecular Laboratory Training Workshop is designed for Africa-based agricultural research scientists and academics. The participants received hands-on laboratory training in various aspects of molecular biology, biotechnology, bioinformatics and computational biology with strong emphasis on biological concepts and lab techniques applied in agricultural and biomedical research. Knowledge and skills gained from the scientific laboratory training programmes greatly contribute to the personal and professional development in Africa.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**A** As we celebrated the reinstatement of Moi Day and shared nostalgic memories, did you know that the former President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Hon. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi was a patron of the Western University College of Science and Technology (WUCST) now known as Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology?

# Our Pictorial



# Students' Fashion





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*Post*

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