



THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



JOOUST VLIR-IUC Project members during the Write-off workshop in Kisumu Hotel.

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JOOUST VLIR-IUC PROJECT TURNS ONE!



Council member Joan Atieno Odawa charges researchers during the Writeshop

It is exactly one year since the JOOUST VLIR-IUC project was officially launched and spanners of the five sub-projects got on the wheels. It is time to take a pause and look back to what has been realized and also strategize for the next move in the second year. Three day Write-shop held at the Wigot Gardens in Kisumu city brought researchers in the five sub-projects, University Management Board members and the University Council members together to review and validate the first year's activities and plan for the second year. The Write-Shop had the blessings of the council members led by the Chairman of council

who gave his keynote address as he opened the Write-shop officially. While giving his opening remarks, the chairman of council Prof. Shem Oyoo Wandiga marveled at the collaboration of research minds synergized in the project for the benefit of the university and its immediate community. Prof. Wandiga stated that if all the research findings can implemented, so many societal problems will be solved thus providing access to a better life within communities and beyond. He however regretted the fact that most research works today are only theoretical rather than practical, and urged the researchers to

find a way of bridging this. In support of these, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno acknowledged that JOOUST has built a name for itself, as a home of research sort after for solutions to global challenges. Prof. Akuno stated that it is no mean feat for the



Vlir-Iuc Project Manager Mr. Naphatali Osika gives a brief at the beginning of the Writeshop

University to attract support inform of collaboration, from five renowned world class universities. She added that the five Flemish Universities converging to strengthen JOOUST's capacity, will impact in the region through the consolidation knowledge for holistic development. Prof. Akuno challenged the sub-projects to maximize the potential of the post graduate students to ensure that the project goal is implemented. The local steering committee chairman Prof. Denis Ochuodho, who is also the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Student Affairs and Research, lauded the Sub-project leaders for their excellent performance in the first one year of the

first phase of the project. The JOOUST VLIR-IUC project commemorates its first year with fifteen PhD students already on board, pursuing their degrees in the Flemish Universities in collaboration with JOOUST. The project remains optimistic for what lies ahead of the remaining nine years.



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Emily Akuno giving her remarks on the first day of the Writeshop



Chairman of Council Prof. Shem Wandiga giving his opening remarks



Researchers, UMB and the University Council members pose for a group photo

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF ENACTUS JOOUST!



ENACTUS JOOUST team during the ENACTUS national expo 2023 at Eastland Hotel Nairobi.

*By Denver Kulecho,
Student, SIIS*

What crosses your mind whenever you hear the name Enactus? Perhaps some may have heard of the Enactus World Cup and some hashtags like 'We All Win'. Well, let's have the talk. (EN)Entrepreneurial, (ACT) action made by (us) ENACTUS is a global non-Governmental Organization headquartered in United States of America, headed by a Chief Executive Officer and President, presently Ms. Robyn Schryer Fehrman.

The robust network

encompasses thought leaders webbed from Universities, Colleges and other Institutions of Higher Learning, tasked to who come up with the most successful and impactful projects in their communities. Enactus currently boasts a membership of 33 countries, each participating in national expositions drawn from thematic areas. The champions at National level thereafter proceed to represent its country at the ENACTUS World Cup.

Let's come back home. Kenya, is registered as Enactus Kenya under the Enactus

Global membership. Enactus Kenya has around over twenty active Universities enlisted namely; Enactus JOOUST, Enactus Kenyatta University, Enactus Moi main, Enactus Moi Annex, Enactus Pwani, and more. The National exposition is carried out in the month of July every year, which promotes assessment of the clubs' impact of the years.

Our very own Enactus JOOUST Club, has been very consistent in setting the pace with mind blowing project ideas over the last five years. The club attributes its admirable success to the profound leadership of its able and motherly Faculty

Advisor, Ms. Merrylin Chizanga.

Let's get a highlight of our projects since we came into the limelight. 2019 is the year the club made a massive heat wave that shocked the entire globe. The 'Hyatech' Project emerged the best at the National Expo held in at Pride Hotel in Westlands, Nairobi. Enactus JOOUST proudly wore the championship crown to Silicon Valley, in California to represent the Kenya. The project was aimed at clearing water hyacinth and later use these to make pads named them 'hydropads'. The club made it to the quarter finals during the Enactus World Cup beating countries like France a feat that earned the club a handsome prize money. This not only marked the beginning of a new dawn for Enactus JOOUST, but also set the University on the global map on matters research and innovation.

During the Post-COVID-19 era, the team engaged the community around in implementing a project named 'Trash is Treasure'. This project was dealing with collection of plastic waste and recycling these to make planters, flower vases,



A newspaper cut out of Enactus JOOUST when they emerged position 16 at the global stage.

shoe racks and gaming pads. Additionally, the project members braced the initiative of imparting this skill to the peoples around to help them recover their livelihoods after the effect of COVID-19. A year later, Enactus JOOUST came up with, 'Elimu na Pamba', a partnership with farmers within Siaya county where the club planted coffee. The project rallied to help keep learners in schools, a move that saw the club have the most successful impact, becoming the runners up in the Bic challenge Expo. These unrelenting game changers birthed 'Mind you, your Mind matters' in 2020, which involved



A photo of project hyatech that won ENACTUS Kenya national expo in 2019.

planting of sericulture to obtain silkworms used in production of silk and also planting of mulberries. This project was aimed at reducing cases of psychotic depression and mental health. The victims of these cases went through counselling and once reformed were engaged in the club's Mental health camp in Got Kachieng'. We were able to emerge second runners up in the expo with most successful SDG project. A quick dive back into the present, Enactus JOOUST club came up with a project of making 'Liquid biofuels' from algae. Our aim was to counter pollution effects of petroleum products and also offer an alternative source of fuel.

Wrapping this up, Enactus has been our good family for us since we joined year one and as we are leaving, we are happy to have nurtured and mentored people's lives around and within the school. We had an interview with our president Venna Prudence before this column and this is what she had to say, "Enactus is the place to call home, a hub of innovation and a family where we grow together". We look forward to making another comeback in the next year's national expo competitions. We are Enactus JOOUST and our mission is 'Turning Lives Around'!

JOOUST GRACES THE ISACA KENYA GRC CONFERENCE



Students from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology pose for a photo with other delegates

As we close the October Cyber security Awareness month, Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) Kenya chapter ended the month with a bang! ISACA Kenya held a one-week conference profiling experienced speakers on Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) at the Sarova Imperial Hotel, Kisumu. The scope of the presentations covered Governance, Risk and Compliance in lean times. The event was attended by delegates as far as from Botswana, Uganda, South Africa and many others from Kenya. Jaramogi Oginga

Odinga University of Science and Technology was well represented by a team of four students led by the Dean, School of Informatics and Innovative Systems Prof. Solomon Ogara, ISACA is a global body of professionals from Cyber security, accounting, audit, IT persons, bankers among others. The week started by a visit by the ISACA team to the university to engage students pursuing IT and Business courses. The team emphasized on the importance of getting certifications while still in school, which are a requisite in the industry.

The Chief Executive Officer, Preston Odera extended warm greetings to the audience, lauding them for embracing of this noble initiative aimed at coping with the economic downturn. He was accompanied by student representatives to the event. The four students representing JOOUST were Eudine Oyier, Ann Wangómbe, Denver Kulecho and Gordon Odhiambo. While giving the opening remarks, chapter president Dr. Mercy Omollo shared on the benefits of gaining an ISACA membership. JOOUST students took this opportunity to network

and engage the captains of industry with questions. Dr. Katherine Getao, a 40-year experienced lecturer of Computer Science took to stage an inspirational speech on technology and Artificial Intelligence stating that in spite of the benefits of technology, there is still need for humans resource in automated systems. She also encouraged university students to work smart and try to be unique as they exit campus as to create more jobs in this competitive world.

On the second day of the conference Professor Solomon Ogara made a presentation on Data privacy and Protection relation to the theme. He urged the delegates to consider protecting data in their day-today practice. He further reiterated the importance of professional bodies such as ISACA conducting mentorship programmes among the youth. “Having taught many students in US and being the students’ counselor, I gather that the main problem facing our Kenyan students is the lack of mentorship” said Prof. Ogara.

Dr. Raphael Gathecha, a cyber-security engineer, emphasized that on organizations need to incorporate a cyber-security personnel in the organization

structure. He also advised the students to be hands on in acquiring the necessary skill sets.

In closing, the one-week conference culminated with an award ceremony recognizing the cyber-security personality of the year. The students were urged to embrace certification as tool for onward transition into the industry and increase their focus on the digital trust to empower diversity.



Prof. Solomon Ogara makes his presentation at the GRC conference



Delegates representing different organizations at the Governance, Risk and Compliance conference.

PICTORIALS



Staff members from the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences taking notes during their first School board meeting



The staff members listening in during the meeting held at the East Africa Community Integrated Institute.



The Associate Dean, SEHSS, Prof. Emily Ondondo makes her remarks.



The Dean, SEHSS Dr. Charles Otieno opens the meeting, the Dean also indulged the members on the CBC roadmap to be adopted by the school.



Staff members from the School of Health Sciences pose for a group photo with the VC, Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno in front of the Administration block after a successful departmental meeting.

The Oasis

**A Newsletter of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga
University of Science and Technology**

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The quadriangle pathway leading to the Univerisity Library.

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