

March 23- 28 2024

KEWI Launches a Non Revenue Water Center of Excellence



*Mr. Stephen Kihara ,
Secretary Administration
State Department for Water
and Sanitation, Dr. Leiro
Letangule EBS, KEWI CEO,
Senior Superintendent Mr.
John Kamau, Commander
Water Police Unit and Mr.
Abdi Wario Bonaya, Water
Program Director, GATSBY
Africa unveiling the NRW
Center of Excellence
plaque.*

BY PIUS KIMANI

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir, CBS has hailed the newly launched Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Center of Excellence at Kenya Water Institute, Nairobi, terming it as a facility that will accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies and methodologies such as smart metering, leak detection systems and asset

managements strategies that will further enhance efficiency and resilience of water infrastructure in Kenya.

In a speech read on his behalf by Secretary Administration in the same department Mr. Stephen Kihara, the PS noted that the new centre will serve as a hub for research, training and knowledge dissemination. This, he said, will foster collaborations among stake holders from the public and private sectors, academia and civil societies.

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KEWI Launches a Non Revenue Water Center of Excellence



"In launching this centre of excellence, we are signaling our commitment to tackle this issue of NRW head-on. By consolidating our expertise, knowledge and resources, we aim to develop innovative solutions and best practices that will empower utilities across to minimize NRW and optimize their operations," he said.

The PS noted that the ministry was keen to reduce the current NRW from 45% to 30% by 2027 as this would help in reversing the trend of water pilferage and theft that currently stands at Ksh 11.2 Billion.

"The impact of NRW is multifaceted, impacting not only the financial viability of utilities but also hindering the ministry from providing reliable water services to all communities," he added.

On his end, Mr. Kihara added that there was the

need for proper management of the revenue collected by the utilities to enhance sustainability of such utilities and continued provision of the resource.

"There is a clear need to have a proper management of water to ensure that any amount of this resource that is ready for consumption reaches to the intended people and is shared equally," Mr. Kihara said.

While addressing guests and attendants who had graced the event, Kenya Water Institute, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS termed the launch of the facility, which is partnership between the institute and Gatsby Africa, as an enhancement to the technical

capabilities of the institute.

Dr. Letangule noted that the institute was keen to contribute to the NRW agenda. He noted that the recent intensive training of 5 members of staff on NRW in Netherlands was a show of the commitment the institute was having in addressing the NRW issue. The CEO noted that the institute would lead from the front in capacity building for the water sector through offering training, research and innovation programs that would help promote knowledge sharing and best practices.

KEWI is fine-tuning training curriculums on Basic NRW Management, Advanced Technical Training and Managerial and Leadership Training among other institutional frameworks that would help address the NRW issue.

Among those who attended the event were Mr. Abdi Wario Bonaya, Water Program Director, Gatsby Africa, Senior Superintendent John Kamau, Commander, Water Police Unit, TANATHI Water Works Development Agency CEO, Eng. Fredrick Wamwathi among others.



Head of Israeli Economic and Trade Mission Pays a Courtesy Call on KEWI CEO

In a bid to strengthen economic ties and explore collaborative opportunities, Mr. Barak Granot, Minister-Counsellor for Economic Affairs and head of the Israeli Economic Mission to Nairobi paid a courtesy call to the office of Kenya Water Institute's Director earlier this week.

The visit, aimed at exploring a collaboration between Israel and KEWI was marked by discussions around potential areas of convergence in the water sector more so training, consultancy and research. Mr. Granot expressed keen interest in leveraging the strategic position of KEWI in terms of expertise and resources to advance trade through working together with Israeli companies in the water, sanitation and irrigation space.

The conversation underscored the importance of forging strategic partnerships to address emerging opportunities and gaps. Mr. Granot highlighted Israel's



Mr. Barak Granot Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs and Head of the Israeli Economic Mission to Nairobi (2nd left), Dr. Leiro Letangule KEWI CEO (2nd right), Mr. Polycarp Otieno International Trade Manager (right) and Ms Virginia Nanetia (left).

renowned expertise in fields such as technology, agriculture, and innovation, emphasizing the potential synergies that could be harnessed through a collaboration with KEWI. Further, Mr. Granot reiterated the upcoming NRW conference as a platform for Israel's organizations offering services, solutions and products to exhibit to water sector stakeholders and consumers.

KEWI Director/CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, extended a warm welcome to Mr. Granot, affirming the institute's commitment to fostering meaningful

collaborations with international partners. He referred to the keen interest the government through the Ministry of Water Sanitation and Irrigation has in water as an enable to BETA plan.

The conclusion paved way to further dialogue on firming up partnership

opportunities. Both parties expressed optimism about the potential for fruitful collaboration and agreed to follow up on specific action points identified during the discussion.

As Kenya continues to position itself as a regional hub for innovation and economic growth, partnerships such as these are integral to driving forward progress and fostering inclusive development. The visit by Mr. Barak Granot and the Israeli Economic Mission marks a significant step towards realizing this vision and underscores the importance of international cooperation in shaping a prosperous future for all.

KEWI and KITWASCO Forge Alliance to Combat Non-Revenue Water

BY JUDY WANJIRA

In a groundbreaking collaboration aimed at enhancing water service delivery, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and the Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (KITWASCO) convened for a high-level operation and maintenance and non-revenue water (NRW) forum. Held at the Agricultural Training Centre in Kitui, the forum brought together key stakeholders to strategize on mitigating NRW and optimizing operations and maintenance practices within KITWASCO's operations.

The event, spearheaded by Mr. Timothy Mutunga, a Lecturer at KEWI Kitui Campus, marked a pivotal moment in the operationalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between KEWI and KITWASCO. With a shared commitment to improving water management practices, both institutions pledged to leverage their expertise and resources to drive meaningful change.

Capacity Building and Training took center stage as participants discussed the importance of ongoing skill enhancement among KITWASCO staff. Recognizing



Participants from Kitui Water and Sanitation Company during the Training.

KEWI's role as a catalyst for capacity building, training programs tailored to address key competencies in O&M practices, leak detection technologies, data analysis, and customer engagement were proposed and enthusiastically endorsed.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Strategies emerged as a critical focus area, with stakeholders emphasizing the need for regular maintenance schedules, workforce training, and the adoption of advanced technologies.

Proactive measures to optimize existing infrastructure and enhance service reliability were highlighted, underscoring the importance of community involvement in O&M

activities.

The scourge of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) was not overlooked, as participants delved into strategies for NRW reduction.

From leak detection and repair programs to pressure management and metering

improvements, collaborative efforts were deemed essential for addressing NRW challenges effectively. Calls were made for regulatory support and policy alignment to incentivize utilities demonstrating excellence in water management.

In summary, the KEWI-KITWASCO forum represents a significant step forward in the quest to combat NRW and improve water service delivery in Kitui and beyond. With a shared vision and collaborative spirit, these institutions are poised to make a tangible impact on water sustainability and resource management, setting a positive example for the entire water sector.

Strengthening Systems for Delivery of Sustainable Skills in NRW Management: The Role of Kenya Water Institute



BY ENG. WILLIAM ODUOR

In Kenya, like many other countries, Non-Revenue Water (NRW) poses a significant challenge to water resource management and utility sustainability. The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) stands at the forefront of efforts to address this issue by providing specialized training and capacity building programs tailored to the unique needs of water professionals in the country. Through a multifaceted approach encompassing education, technology, policy advocacy, and community engagement, KEWI is strengthening systems for the delivery of sustainable skills in NRW management, thereby contributing to the efficient use of water resources and the financial viability of water utilities.

Non-revenue water, comprising losses from leaks, theft, and unbilled consumption, poses a substantial threat to the sustainability and efficiency of our water supply systems. The consequences of non-revenue water are complex, impacting not only the financial viability of utilities but also hindering our ability to provide safe, reliable water services to all communities. At a Non-Revenue Water level of 45% Kenya currently losses close to 205 million cubic meters of water which is equivalent to the amount required to serve the city of Nairobi with a daily requirement of 750,000 cubic Metres per day for nine months.

At the heart of effective NRW management lies the need for skilled professionals capable of implementing advanced techniques for leak detection, repair, and water conservation. Developing comprehensive training programs tailored to various levels within utility operations can significantly enhance the understanding and handling of NRW issues. KEWI offers a range of training programs and courses designed to equip water professionals with the

knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to effectively manage NRW. These programs cover various aspects of NRW management, including leak detection, repair techniques, water auditing, and pressure management. By providing both theoretical knowledge and practical training, KEWI ensures that water professionals are equipped to implement best practices and innovative solutions in NRW reduction.

Leveraging technology is key to detecting and managing NRW efficiently. Recognizing the transformative potential of technology in NRW management, KEWI integrates cutting-edge tools and techniques into its training programs. This includes the use of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), GIS-based leak detection systems, and data analytics platforms. By familiarizing water professionals with these technologies, KEWI enables them to leverage data-driven approaches for optimizing water distribution networks, identifying leaks, and reducing water losses.

A robust regulatory framework that mandates regular water audits, sets NRW

Strengthening Systems for Delivery of Sustainable Skills in NRW Management: The Role of Kenya Water Institute

management efforts. KEWI plays an active role in advocating for policies and regulations that support NRW management and sustainability. Through research, policy analysis, and engagement with government stakeholders, KEWI seeks to influence the development of regulatory frameworks that incentivize NRW reduction efforts, promote investment in water infrastructure, and ensure accountability and transparency in water utility operations. By advocating for an enabling policy environment, KEWI creates opportunities for water professionals to implement sustainable NRW management practices.

Public awareness and community involvement are vital in combating NRW. Educational campaigns can highlight the importance of water conservation and the detrimental effects of NRW on resource availability and utility costs. KEWI recognizes the importance of community engagement in NRW management and promotes initiatives that raise awareness about water conservation and the impacts of NRW on water availability and affordability.

Through outreach programs, workshops, and public awareness campaigns, KEWI engages with communities to empower them to participate in NRW reduction efforts, report leaks, and adopt water-saving behaviors. By fostering a culture of conservation at the grassroots level, KEWI contributes to the sustainable management of water resources and the resilience of local communities.

Participating in global networks and forums dedicated to NRW management allows for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Twinning and exchange programs with utilities worldwide further enhance learning opportunities and capacity building, enabling the adoption of proven strategies and technologies across different contexts.

KEWI actively participates in international networks and partnerships focused on NRW management and water resource sustainability. By collaborating with international organizations, research institutions, and peer institutions in other countries, KEWI gains access to global

best practices, experiences, and expertise in NRW management. This enables KEWI to enrich its training programs, exchange knowledge and ideas, and build capacity among water professionals to tackle NRW challenges effectively.

In conclusion, as Kenya continues to confront the challenges of NRW and water scarcity, the role of institutions like KEWI in strengthening systems for the delivery of sustainable skills in NRW management cannot be overstated. Through its holistic approach encompassing capacity building, technology integration, policy advocacy, community engagement, and international collaboration, KEWI is equipping water professionals with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to address NRW effectively. By investing in human capital and fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration, KEWI is not only building a skilled workforce but also paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient water future for Kenya.

Institute Gears Up for Triumph at KETISA Games in Kisumu.



KEWI students in a past KETISA games tournament.

BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR

Kenya Water Institute is eagerly preparing to demonstrate its athletic prowess at the upcoming KETISA Games, scheduled from March 29th to 31st, 2024, at the Railways Training Institute (RTTI) Kisumu campus. Mr. Michael M.O., the institution's Senior Registrar, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to participate in the KETISA Games and have full confidence that our students will exemplify pride and excellence for Kenya Water Institute."

Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Faisal Hassan, the Dean of Students, highlighted the dedication and rigorous training undergone by the school's athletes. "Our team has

been tirelessly preparing, aiming for nothing short of success," said Mr. Faisal Hassan. "We anticipate bringing home numerous medals, showcasing the exceptional talent and spirit of Kenya Water Institute."

The KETISA Games, an event organized by the Kenya Technical Institutions Sports

Association (KETISA), unites students from technical institutions nationwide to compete across diverse sporting disciplines. It serves as a platform for athletes to exhibit their prowess, foster camaraderie, and uphold sportsmanship values.

As the countdown to the KETISA Games commences, Kenya Water Institute is buzzing with anticipation and excitement. With resolute athletes, unwavering support from faculty, and a collective ethos of sportsmanship, the institution is poised to leave an indelible mark at this esteemed competition.



Institute's Counsellor Fosters Counselling and Discipline to both Staff and Students



Kisumu Campus staff in a group photo after the counseling awareness forum.

BY J. SUMANCHA

In a bid to promote holistic well-being and academic excellence, Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Kisumu Campus recently hosted Ms. Rebecca Njeri, the institute counsellor for a transformative engagement with the campus fraternity. The counselor's engagement spanned insightful discussions with both staff and students, highlighting crucial areas for enhancement within the institution.

The visit, meant to catalyze meaningful dialogue around the Operational Mental Health Office and Staff Mental Wellness and Productivity,

helped address staff mental wellness as a tool that would foster greater productivity among the workforce team. The engagement

further recognized the vital role of mental health in overall performance with discussions revolving around creating an environment that supports mental well-being while maximizing productivity.

Ms. Njeri's insights also sparked conversations about driving positive change across KEWI as a whole with the emphasis placed on collaborative efforts that would cultivate a culture of excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement within the institute.

Engaging directly with students, the counsellor emphasized the importance of

discipline and focus on issues that positively impact their academic journey. Students were encouraged to prioritize matters of significance and maintain a steadfast commitment to personal and academic growth and thus promote a drug-free campus for supportive learning atmosphere.

As a proactive step towards ongoing support, Ms. Njeri spearheaded creation of two peer counselling teams—one for staff and another for students. These teams are poised to provide confidential guidance, support, and resources tailored to the unique needs of each group, further strengthening the support system within KEWI.

In essence, the counselor's visit served as a catalyst for a renewed commitment to holistic wellness and academic excellence at KEWI Kisumu Campus.

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Round up of The Week's Events



*Moments during
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