Volume 2 Issue 12

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA WATER INSTITUTE
KEWI
Fountain Of Water Knowledge

WEEKLY Newsletter

March 29– April 5 2024

KEWI and NRF Partner to Mobilize Funds for Research on Water related fields

Prof. Dickson Andala (left) and Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, (right) exchange Memorandum of Understanding after the signing at National Research Fund Offices.

BY PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) has all reasons to celebrate following a commitment by the country's premier research fund entity to help in mobilizing funds for its research division.

In a strongly worded commitment made during the historic signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KEWI and National Research Fund (NRF), NRF Chief Executive Officer Prof. Dickson Andala hailed the partnership noting that it would help address critical water aspects through resource mobilization.

"Our function is to mobilize resources to support research in Kenya and we saw it fit to build a partnership with KEWI so that we can help mobilize fund for research on water," he said.

Prof. Andala praised KEWI for its commitment to address

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challenges that affect the water sector by doing research and giving the way forward. Terming the issue of water scarcity in arid areas and contaminated water in slum areas among other challenges that affect inhabitants of these zones, he further said that collaboration between the two institutions would be keen to offer guided direction on how to address such issues through enriched research.

Prof. Dickson Andala (left) and Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, (right).

"KEWI has partners and part of the funding they receive goes to research thus we are going to top up to ensure that the delivery of this component is achieved."

Prof. Andala promised to put out calls that specifically target the water sector. He said that the two institutions will build a consortium of all the players within the water sector under the auspices of KEWI so that they can all do comprehensive research on water.

On his side, KEWI Chief Executive Officer Dr. Leiro Letangule, EBS said that he was elated that the partnership was taking shape. While appreciating Mr. Nelson Kwamini, Deputy Director, Research, Consultancy and Technical Services for his tireless efforts to make the partnership a possibility, Dr. Letangule further noted that he was keen to see the two institutions jointly mobilize funds and do research.

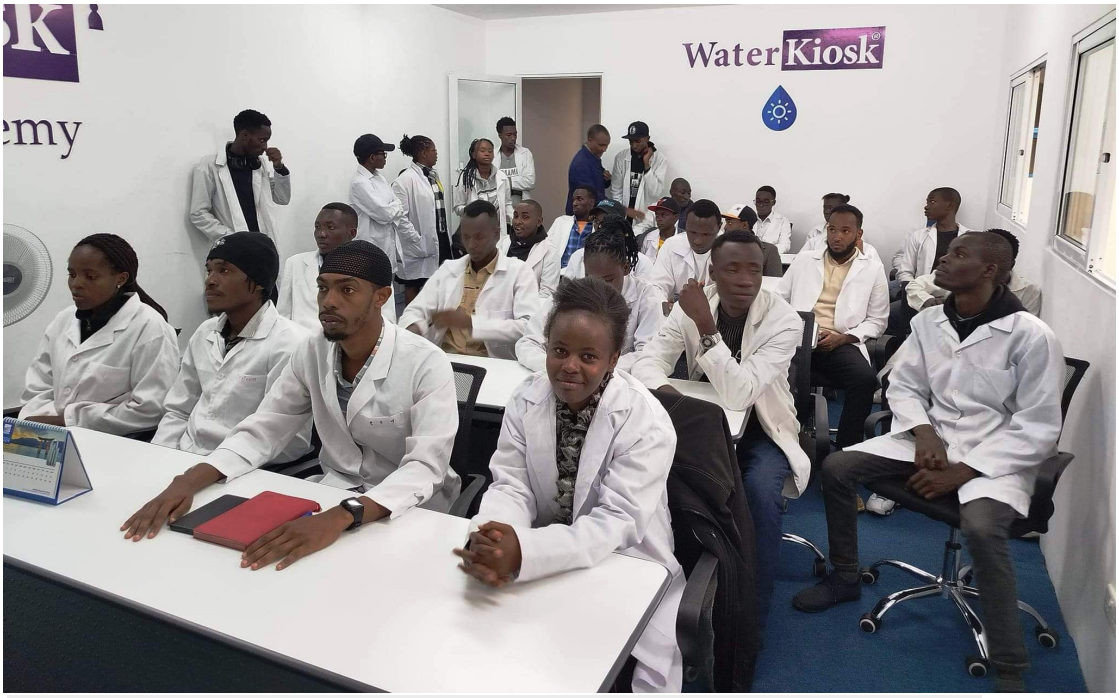
"We are keen and focused on doing everything that is possible to ensure full implementation of this agreement," he added.

Dr. Letangule thanked Prof. Andala for coming through for KEWI on several occasions including recently when NRF contributed funds for the Non-Revenue Water Conference that is slated for next month. On his end, Prof. Andala further promised to work closely with KEWI and urged the two institutions to sit together, work on specific calls and submit them so that they can be successful.

The signed MOU will see the two parties engage and promote joint cooperation in the fields of scientific research on water.

The two entities will also partner in preparing joint research proposals for funding on areas like Water, Health, Energy and Climate Research, Watershed Protection Research, Sustainable Water Infrastructure Research, Chemical and Microbial Risk Research and Nutrient Management Research.

Exploring beyond the Classroom Walls, Learning in Action



Nairobi Campus Water Engineering students during a filed visit Waterkiosk.

BY SALIM BUTE

Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to visit WaterKiosk Africa as part of a study field trip organized by the Kenya Water Institute. It was a truly enlightening experience that shed light on the critical importance of access to clean water and sustainable development in Kenya.

Did you know that in Kenya, millions of people still lack access to clean water? According to recent statistics, over 17 million Kenyans do not have access to safe drinking water, highlighting the urgent need for initiatives like Water Kiosk Africa.

During our visit, I was struck by the dedication of the team at Water Kiosk Academy in addressing this pressing issue. Their commitment to capacity and competency development is truly commendable, as they work tirelessly to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to create positive change in their communities.

One of the most impactful lessons I learned is the integral role that clean water plays in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly #SDG6 - Clean Water and Sanitation. Access to clean water not only improves health outcomes but also contributes to economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Moreover, the academy's' focus on Sustainable Development Goal No. 7 i.e. Affordable and Clean Energy, and Sustainable Development Goal No. 8 i.e. Decent Work and Economic Growth, underscores the interconnectedness of these goals and the importance of holistic approaches to development.

As we reflect on these sobering statistics and the lessons learned during our visit, let us renew our commitment to supporting initiatives that promote access to clean water and sustainable development in Kenya and beyond.

The writer is a student pursuing Diploma in Water and Sanitation Engineering Technology in KEWI Main Campus.

TRAINING

Staff enlightened on the Art of embracing Change

BY JUDY WANJIRA

The Kenya Water Institute Kitui Campus had a staff sensitization session on embracing change in the workplace. By embracing change, employees are encouraged to think creatively, leading to innovative solutions, products, and services.

In his official opening remarks, the new KEWI Kitui Campus Principal, Mr. Elkanah Kaburi, while on topic, emphasized the need to maintain a positive attitude and always be optimistic. “Embracing change in the workplace is not just a one-time event but a continuous journey. As a team leader, I am willing to take calculated risks, develop a growth mindset, and learn from mistakes to foster a culture of adaptability in the campus. I also want to encourage you to challenge the status quo and develop new ideas.” While inviting staff members to bring forth both professional and personal challenges that hinder embracing change, he quoted *George Bernard Shaw,* "Two things define you: your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything."

The Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, Mr. Eric Wamiti, in attendance, stated that in a world that constantly evolves, adaptability is the key to not only surviving but thriving. “As professionals, we find ourselves in a dynamic landscape where change is the only constant. It's not about resisting the current but learning to ride the wave. One of the significant lessons I've learnt is that innovation stems from embracing diversity. It's not just about embracing differences in gender, background, or skills but also embracing diverse perspectives and ideas. This inclusivity fosters creativity, leading to groundbreaking solutions. Effective communication is a pointer in the modern workplace, where it is an ever-evolving ecosystem, and our approach should reflect the same dynamism. Embrace change, foster diversity, build meaningful connections, and never stop learning. Together, let's ride the wave of change towards success!

Sentiments from Mr. Paul Wambua concluded the session on a high note. "I appreciate these routine sensitization meetings, especially because they provide employees with the opportunity to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and concerns in a comfortable **environment.** I, for example, work in the maintenance section, and it's through such sessions that we remind each other that we all share a responsibility in shaping and maintaining a safe workplace."

Harnessing Incentive-Based Strategies to Combat Non-Revenue Water in Kenya: A Game-Changer in Water Loss Management

BY ENG. WILLIAM ODUOR

Water is a fundamental part of all aspects of life. Water is inextricably linked to the three pillars of sustainable development and it integrates social, cultural, economic and political values. It is crosscutting and supports the achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health, amongst others. Water scarcity is not just a threat; but it is a daily challenge faced in Kenya. As the country grapples with the complexities of water management, one of the most pressing issues remains the high levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Water losses are a big threat to the financial sustainability of the sector. It wastes funds which could have been used to increase access and improve service delivery. According to the impact report no. 15 of 2023, at a total billing of Kshs. 24.62 billion and the current NRW levels of 45%, the total value of the loss is estimated at a Kshs. 11.2 billion, while allowing for the acceptable level of losses at 20%.

The incentive-based model is a strategic approach that leverages financial or non-financial rewards to motivate water service providers, employees, and even consumers to participate actively in reducing NRW.

This model is rooted in the principle that positive reinforcement can drive behavior change more effectively than punitive measures alone.

The traditional methods of combating NRW, predominantly characterized by technical fixes and regulatory measures, while necessary, have proven insufficient. The emerging consensus is that a more holistic approach, one that incorporates incentive mechanisms, could catalyze significant improvements. This approach hinges on the principle of creating rewards and motivations for various stakeholders, including water utilities, governmental bodies, local communities, and even individual consumers, to actively participate in reducing NRW.

The incentive-based approach emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement. By aligning the interests and objectives of water utilities, government agencies, local communities, and international partners, it fosters a collaborative effort towards NRW reduction.

Each stakeholder plays a unique role, from policy formulation and implementation to on-the-ground activities such as leak detection and reporting.

Financial incentives such as performance-based contracts or grants for achieving NRW reduction targets can provide the necessary motivation to invest in advanced leak detection technologies, infrastructure upgrades, and efficient metering systems. Regulatory incentives, too, play a crucial role by offering a favorable policy environment that rewards efficiency and

EXPERT'S VIEW

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penalizes wastage. Communities, on the other hand, could be mobilized through initiatives that reward collective actions towards identifying and reporting leaks and illegal connections. Such community-based programs not only empower citizens but also foster a culture of accountability and conservation.

Supporting these incentives with capacity building and technical assistance is crucial.

Training for utility staff on advanced NRW management techniques, coupled with community education campaigns on water conservation, can enhance the effectiveness of the incentive-based approach. Implementing an incentive-based approach for NRW management in Kenya requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, underpinned by strong political will and sustained financial investment.

In conclusion, managing NRW effectively calls for innovative solutions that extend beyond technical fixes. An incentive-based approach, with its focus on stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and rewards for efficiency, presents a promising strategy for Kenya. By tapping into the collective efforts of all involved, the country can move closer to achieving water security, a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Nairobi Campus Promotes Workplace Wellbeing Through Employee Assistance Programme

BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR

In a concerted effort to prioritize the mental health and wellbeing of its staff, Nairobi Campus recently hosted an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) Session led by Ms. Rebecca Njeri, the Institute counselor.

The session aimed to delve into the specific challenges, concerns, and needs of all staff members, with the overarching goal of fostering a healthy and supportive work environment.

During the session, Ms. Njeri skillfully guided attendees through a series of discussions, addressing key issues that resonate with employees on a personal and professional level. Through open dialogue and interactive exercises, participants had the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns, laying the foundation for a more empathetic and understanding workplace culture.

One of the highlights of the session was Ms. Njeri's insightful exploration of The JoHari window, a psychological tool that illustrates the importance of self-awareness in the workplace. By shedding light on blind spots and hidden aspects of the self, employees gained valuable insights into their own behavior and interactions, fostering greater self-understanding and interpersonal growth.

The EAP session served as a testament to the institute's commitment to promoting workplace wellbeing and fostering a culture of care and support. By investing in initiatives that prioritize the mental health of its staff, KEWI demonstrates its dedication to creating an environment where employees feel valued, and empowered to thrive both personally and professionally.

KEWI Secures Second Place Overall in KETISA Competitions

KEWI students during the just concluded KETISA games at Railway Training Institute.

BY J. SUMANCHA

In a thrilling display of athletic prowess and determination, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) emerged as a dominant force at the Kenya Technical Institutes Sports Association (KETISA) competitions held at the Railways Training Institute Kisumu Campus. Despite facing stiff competition from 12 other technical institutions, including renowned names like the Railway Training Institute, Kenya School of Mass Communication , National Industrial Authority (NITA) and the East Africa School of Aviation, KEWI showcased its mettle by clinching four prestigious trophies and securing the second position overall.

The atmosphere was electric as KEWI's Floor Ball Ladies, Relay Finals Ladies, and Floor Ball Men Finals teams delivered exceptional performances, securing second place in multiple categories. Particularly noteworthy was the gripping showdowns between KEWI and the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) Nairobi, where KEWI's Floorball Male and Floor Ball Women team displayed remarkable prowess, clinching a well-deserved second position.

Amidst the jubilant celebrations, Senior Principal Registrar Mr. Ang'anyo M.O expressed unwavering pride in the accomplishments of KEWI's athletes. He pledged to lead KEWI towards even greater triumphs in future competitions, underscoring his commitment to fostering a culture of sporting excellence within the institute.

Mr. Ang'anyo, also extended heartfelt gratitude to the school management for their steadfast support, recognizing their pivotal role in nurturing KEWI's sporting talents and propelling them to national acclaim. He emphasized how KEWI's triumphs go beyond mere athletic prowess, highlighting the institute's dedication to holistic development and a culture of excellence.

The Senior Principal Registrar further eloquently articulated the significance of sporting events as invaluable platforms for promoting wellness, fostering unity, and instilling essential values such as discipline and teamwork among participants. He emphasized the transformative power of sports in society, transcending boundaries to foster camaraderie and mutual respect among diverse participants.

As KEWI revels in the glory of its recent triumphs, the institute remains steadfast in its dedication to academic excellence and extracurricular pursuits. With an unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of sportsmanship, KEWI is poised to continue making significant contributions to both the sporting arena and society at large.

Short Course Training

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Round up of The Week's Events

Moments during Water and Sanitation Operators Challenge 2024 held at Kenya Water Institute Nairobi.

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Long - Term Programmes

Diploma in Water Engineering Technology (DWET) Diploma in Wastewater
Diploma in Water, Sanitation Engineering Technology (DWSET)
Diploma in Water Resources Management Technology (DWRTM)
Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Technology (DIDET)
Diploma in Information Communication Technology (DICT)-KNEC
Diploma in Water Laboratory Technology (DWLT)
Certificate in Wastewater and Sanitation Engineering Technology (CWSET)
Certificate in Water Resources Management Technology (CWRMT)
Certificate in Information Communication Technology (CICT)- KNEC
Certificate in Water Laboratory Technology (CWLT)
Certificate in Water Engineering Technology (CWET)
Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting (PPF)
Water Operators Course (WOC) in:

- Water Supply
- Meter Reading
- Sewerage Operations

Short - Term Programmes

Use of Earth Observation Tools and GIS for Water Resources Management
Entrepreneurship and Financial Management for Water Managers
Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks
Metering and Installation of Water Supply Networks
Leak Detection & Repair techniques
Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
Operation & Maintenance of Pumping Stations
Pump Selection, Installation and Maintenance
Plumbing, Pipe Fitting and Solar Water Heating
Instrumentation for Water and Wastewater Systems
Water Governance, Management and Technology
Application of GIS for Water Utilities Mapping
Drilling Operations and Management
Water Quality Sampling and Testing
Microbiological Water Quality Assessment
Integrated Water Resources Management
Non-Revenue water
Water Management
Customer Care

Vision

A Technical Centre of Excellence in Training, Research, Innovation and Consultancy in the water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector.

Mission

T o offer Competency-Based Training, Research, Innovation, Consultancy and Outreach Services in the Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector for sustainable development.

Core Values

Good Corporate Governance
Professionalism
Customer Focus
Innovativeness
Inclusivity
Patriotism
Integrity

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