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KENYA WATER INSTITUTE KEWI Fountain Of Water Knowledge

WEEKLY Newsletter

May 11- 17 2024

KEWI-HELB Hold discussions focused on Student Financial Aid

From right: KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, HELB CEO FCPA. Charles Ringera, Mr. Peterson Wambugu, Mr. Brian Wechabe, Mr. Eric Wamiti, Mr. Elvis Songa, Ms. Martha Boke and Ms. Jemima Swanya.

BY: BRIAN WECHABE

In a significant step towards enhancing educational opportunities for students, KEWI CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule EBS, recently held a meeting with the CEO of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), FCPA. Charles Ringera. The discussion centered around securing funding for students, aimed at supporting their education pursuits.

The meeting was held to discuss matters pertaining to the service contract, which established the scheme, that was signed on 16th November 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

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5 KEWI enhances infrastructural development projects

6 The Crucial role Of Micrological Water Quality

7 Kitui Campus Trained on Ajira Digital Program

KEWI-HELB Hold discussions focused on Student Financial Aid

Dr. Letangule giving his inputs during the consultative talks with HELB officials.

The same was in line with a directive from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation to offer financial assistance to bright and needy students at KEWI.

The meeting, held at HELB Main Boardroom in Anniversary Towers 19th Floor, underscored the need for increased financial support for students from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Letangule highlighted the challenges many students face in financing their education, stressing the importance of accessible loans and scholarships to ensure that financial constraints do not impede academic progress.

"We believe that every student should have the opportunity to pursue higher education without the burden of financial stress," stated Dr. Letangule. "Our partnership with HELB is crucial in making this vision a reality. By working together, we can create a robust support system that empowers students to achieve their academic goals and contribute meaningfully to society."

FCPA. Charles Ringera echoed these sentiments, acknowledging the critical role that funding plays in student success. "HELB is committed to providing the necessary financial resources to deserving students. Collaborations with stakeholders like KEWI are essential in expanding our reach and impact," he remarked.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed various strategies to enhance the loan disbursement process, ensuring timely and efficient support for students. They also explored potential initiatives for financial literacy programs to help students manage their funds responsibly.

Both parties expressed optimism about the positive outcomes it will yield. As education continues to be a cornerstone for development, such partnerships are pivotal in driving progress and fostering a knowledgeable, skilled workforce.

Students and educational institutions alike are expected to benefit from this initiative, which aims to bridge the financial gap and open doors to countless opportunities.

In a proactive move to bolster the financial support scheme, potential funders have been identified and will be approached to back the initiative. As a start, KEWI has organized a breakfast meeting of potential funders to mobilize the necessary funds.

This meeting, set to take place in the institute at a date

KEWI-HELB Hold discussions focused on Student Financial Aid

to be communicated, will highlight the significant progress and positive impact of the funding scheme. KEWI aims to provide an in-depth overview of how the scheme will enable students to pursue higher education without the burden of financial stress, thus empowering them to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Engaging with potential funders will be a crucial step in expanding the reach and impact of the financial support scheme. By showcasing the achievements and sharing success stories, we hope to inspire and secure the commitment of funders who are passionate about supporting education and fostering a skilled workforce.

The breakfast meeting will feature presentations on the scheme's milestones, testimonies from beneficiaries, and discussions on future plans to enhance the program. KEWI's leadership will emphasize the importance of financial literacy and efficient loan disbursement processes, ensuring that the funds are utilized effectively to maximize student success.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, including representatives from educational institutions, government agencies, and the private sector. The goal is to build a robust network of supporters who are dedicated to making higher education accessible to all students, regardless of their financial background.

Dr. Letangule was accompanied by the Deputy Director Academic Affairs Mr. Eric Wamiti, Principal Legal Officer Mr. Brian Wechabe and Manager Finance and Accounts Mr. Elvis Songa.

As KEWI continues to prioritize education and development, this initiative marks a significant step towards creating a sustainable and impactful funding model.

Above and Below:
FCPA. Charles Ringera CEO HELB and Mr. Eric Wamiti, KEWI Deputy Director Academic Affairs.

TRAINING

Institute Welcomes New Students with Comprehensive Orientation Program

BY BRITNEY MOKEIRA

Kenya Water Institute across campuses, successfully held an engaging and informative orientation program for its new students who have recently joined the institute for the May 2024 intake. The program aimed to acclimate the incoming students to the campuses' environment and resources, ensuring a smooth transition into their academic journey.

The orientation program commenced with a warm welcome address by the Registrar, Student Affairs, Mr. Fesial Hassan, who emphasized the institute's commitment to providing a supportive and enriching educational experience.

The new students had the chance to attend insightful presentations from various departments, offering a glimpse into the diverse support services available at the campuses. Academic departments elucidated their curriculum structures, faculty expertise, and research opportunities, while administrative units elucidated administrative processes, student services, and extracurricular activities. From Water Engineering Technology, Water Resources and Environmental Management Technology, Management Information Technology, counseling services to career guidance, library resources to students, each department underscored its commitment to providing comprehensive support to them throughout their academic journey. The presentations emphasized the institute's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to thrive in their chosen fields

The programme concluded with a closing ceremony, during which Deputy Director Corporate Services, Dr. Kimeli M. Chirchir on behalf of the Director/CEO reiterated the institute's support for all students.

"Remember, you are not alone on this journey," he said. "We are here to support you every step of the way."

Mr. Ang'anyo M.O, Senior Principal Registrar, emphasized on discipline as a driving factor for success. "The only thing that stands between you and your goals and success is discipline." Mr. Ang'anyo said.

KEWI is committed to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment, and the successful orientation program marks the beginning of another promising academic year. The institute looks forward to seeing its new students thrive and contribute to the vibrant campus community.

KEWI Enhances Infrastructural Development Projects

BY FAIZAH JEPKORIR

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) is making significant strides in improving its infrastructure, particularly at its Nairobi campus. Recently, KEWI inaugurated a new state-of-the-art lecturer's block, marking a major milestone in its commitment to enhancing educational facilities. This new building, featuring over 46 offices, will accommodate the Deputy Director Academic Affairs, Mr. Eric Wamiti, along with department heads, lecturers, and interns. The addition of this lecture block is expected to strengthen the academic structure and provide a better environment for both staff and students.

At the closing ceremony of the one-week orientation for the May 2024 intake students, Deputy Director Corporate Services, Dr. Kimeli M. Chirchir, on behalf of the Director/CEO, Dr. Leiro Letangule, highlighted the ongoing infrastructural projects at the institute, noting that the management has planned significant initiatives to enhance the school's facilities, boost student enrollment, and improve the efficiency of teaching and research.

Dr. Chirchir emphasized that the expansion and renovations are motivated by the increasing demand for quality education and the necessity to accommodate a growing number of students while enhancing the institution's reputation and

academic standards. He pointed out the completion of the new lecturer's block and ongoing development projects, which include renovations of laboratories, library, lecture rooms, and the forthcoming 12-story tuition block. These enhancements are intended to support KEWI's educational objectives and improve the overall student experience.

His sentiments were supported by Mr. Ang'anyo M.O, Senior Principal Registrar. "The new lecture block marks the beginning of a new era for KEWI," he said. "By aligning our infrastructure with our mission for efficiency, we now have an academic department unified under one block," he added.

Mr. Alexandor Letapi, Senior Instructor, Water and Waste Water Engineering Technology, praised the new lecture block. "I now feel motivated and comfortable in the new lecture block. The availability of high-speed internet makes everything efficient," he noted.

The institute is not stopping there. Future plans include renovating the hostels and dining area to enhance living standards, providing a more comfortable and supportive environment for students. These upgrades aim to ensure the campus meets the growing demands of education and further improve the infrastructural standards of the institution.

KEWI's ongoing and planned projects demonstrate its dedication to providing high-quality education and a supportive learning environment. By investing in these infrastructural developments, KEWI is positioning itself as a leader in water engineering education, ready to meet the future demands of the sector and its students.

The Crucial role Of Micrological Water Quality Testing

BY: DRYDEN KAZIRA
LABORARY TECHNOLOGIST

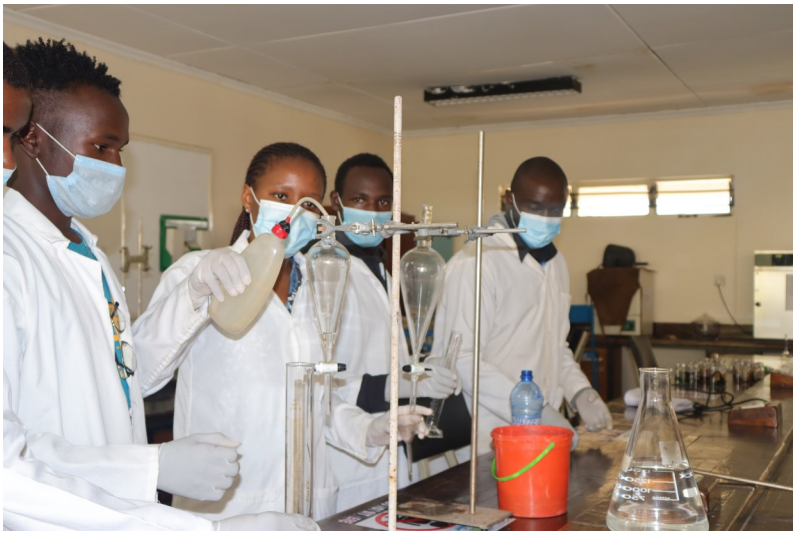
Water touches every aspect of development and it links nearly every Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). It drives economic growth, supports healthy ecosystems and it is essential and fundamental for life. According to the world bank approximately 2 billion people around the globe do not have access to safely managed drinking water services, 3.6 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services and 2.3 billion lack basic handwashing facilities.

Currently the country is experiencing flooding due to the prolonged rains. This poses a threat to the quality of our drinking water due to possible contamination. It is therefore critical to ensure that drinking water is subjected to water quality testing; physical, chemical and microbiological analysis.

Microbiological water quality testing is the process of analyzing water samples to detect and quantify the presence of bacteria and other microorganisms that can indicate contamination or pose a risk to the human health. The test is crucial in water quality monitoring and ensures that water is safe for consumption and other uses.

Microbiological water quality testing is crucial as it: helps prevent outbreak of water related infections; proactive testing ensures identification of microbes and treatment is done before it is dispatched to the consumers to prevent water related infections outbreak for example: cholera, typhoid, salmonella, guides public health intervention; testing provides critical data to health authorities to make informed decisions on necessary intervention or deploy emergency measures response in case of detected contamination, maintains public confidence; testing builds trust in the drinking water supplied to consumers, ensures safe drinking water; regular testing ensures that water remains safe for drinking, cooking and hygiene uses.

In conclusion microbiological water quality testing is essential in preventing water borne infections, maintaining public confidence in water supply, ensuring safe drinking water and protecting the public health.



Kitui Campus Staff and Students Trained on Ajira Digital Program

BY: ABIGAEL SONGOK

Kenya Water Institute Kitui Campus held a two-day training for staff and students on content writing, data entry and transcription for staff and students. The training which was spearheaded by Ajira Digital and which was meant to impart the right knowledge, skills and attitudes was to complement the AJIRA Digital Program, a ground-breaking initiative of the Government of Kenya driven by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy (MoICDE), which seeks to position Kenya as a leading labor destination and a business process outsourcing hub.

Kitui Campus Staff in a group photo after the AjiraDigital Program Training.

In his remarks, Mr. Elkanah Matara, the Campus Principal, acknowledged that, in addition to boosting productivity, digital skills acquired can foster workplace innovation. Mr. Matara added that by staying updated with the latest digital tools and techniques, employees can develop new and creative solutions to problems, create new products and services, and find new ways to reach customers.

"Students with digital literacy skills are better equipped to adapt to new technologies and platforms as they emerge, ensuring they remain relevant in an ever-evolving job market," he said.

Ms. Ida, a Water Engineering diploma student, appreciated the opportunity to participate in the training. "This is my first contact with basic computer and internet skills since I had no opportunity to access computers in high school. Most importantly, these are training areas on emerging trends that introduce potential online workers into the technical career of technology to be able to work and earn online. "

The training administered the Basic Module as the first phase, which covered computer and internet basics, while the second phase, the cross-cutting module scheduled for next month, is relevant to multiple areas of digital skills that include technical and soft skills such as entrepreneurship, financial management, and communication skills, which are fundamental in establishing a thriving online work career in all fields. And thereafter, an advanced training module that focuses on areas of emerging trends that introduce potential online workers into the technical career of technology to be able to work and earn online.

The Importance of Water Quality Testing

BY HILLARY MATANO

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 on Water and Sanitation under target 6.1 envisions that by 2030 we should achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and target 6.3 envisions that by 2030 we should improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials and halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally. This aligns with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 under 43 (1) d which states that every person has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities and other legislations, regulations and policies in Kenya. These provisions of the law and international convention require that individuals irrespective of where their demographic, geography, occupation and social status are guaranteed access to quality water for their consumption.

It is thus needful to ensure that the water for domestic consumption is tested and confirmed to contain the statutory parameters in their right proportions. The physical/ chemical parameters are pH measured on the pH scale, color measured in Hazen, turbidity with the unit measurement of nephelometric turbidity units abbreviated as N.T.U, total alkalinity, iron, calcium, magnesium, total hardness, chloride, fluoride and sulphate ions, total dissolved ions, manganese and ammonia all measured in milligrams per liter (mg/l) and conductivity (250C) with the unit measurement micro siemens per centimeter (µS/ cm).

Ms. Damaris Muthoni, Lab Technician, doing a water test in KEWI Laboratory.

The World Health Organization (WHO) standards recommends that the listed parameters fall within the following ranges: pH-6.5-8.5, colour, turbidity, total alkalinity, iron, calcium, magnesium, total hardness, chloride, nitrate, fluoride, manganese and sulphate ions, ammonia, total dissolved ions, should be within the maximum of 15, 5, 500, 0.3, 100, 100, 500, 250, 10, 1.5, 0.3, 450, 0.2, 1500 milligrams per liter respectively and conductivity should be at the maximum of 2500 µS/cm.

In Kenya water quality testing is guided by the Kenya Bureau of Standards which has stipulated the use of (KS EAS - 12:2018) standards that are similar to the WHO standards except for adjustments on the conductivity to a maximum of 1500 micro siemens per centimeter (µS/cm) and calcium ions to 150, total hardness to 300, nitrate ions to 45, manganese to 0.1, sulphate ions to 400, total dissolved solids as ions to 1000 and ammonia levels to 0.5 all measured in milligrams per litre (mg/l).

These parameters may vary from one sample to another due to a variety of factors.

RESEARCH

The Importance of Water Quality Testing

Some of these can be corrosion of the water piping networks which introduces contaminants, floods which cause severe damages to the supply infrastructure, leaks along the lines, disposal of effluents into the water sources etc.

Water quality testing is important for the following reasons: Foremost, to protect public health which is very critical as encapsulated in the Public Health Act and whose safeguarding is critical for human life. Waterborne diseases are considered amongst the highest causes of death globally. According to the World Health Organization there is 1.3 to 4.0 million cases of cholera, and 21,000 to 143,000 deaths worldwide due to cholera. Within the African region, it was reported that there was a total of 271,109 cases of cholera across 18 countries. Therefore, it is important to ascertain the quality of water used domestically to significantly reduce those statistics. Secondly, compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks. Kenya has its laws such the Constitution, the Water Act 2016 and other regulatory frameworks which require the quality of water consumed to be of good quality. Lastly, to support the maintenance of water infrastructure because it helps to detect sources of contamination within the system, allowing for the necessary action to be taken.

The Kenya Water Institute offers water quality testing services to individuals, industries, utilities, institutions and communities at a modest cost and issues the results in good time to ensure the quality consumed is safe. In case of any divergence from the base parameters, guidance is offered on what is to be done. The institute prides itself in a pool of competent staff in the water sector who deliver training and short courses on water quality testing for practitioners within the sector as a way of continually disseminating information and continued awareness creation on this important aspect of water.

Quote of the Week

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things, is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things."

-Ronald Reagan.

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Round up of The Week's Events

Volker Falch,Managing Director, Head of International Division Bildungswerk der Bayerischen Wirtschaft(bbw)g GmbH, Aurelia Starringer ,Team Lead Migration and Dave Roy Kenyan Representative (bbw) paid courtesy visit to KEWI Director/CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule.
Present was PWaSS KEWI Representative Ms. Bernaddatte Maundu. They discussed about previous partnership, current and future prospects of KEWI Cooperation with bbw (Germany). This was influenced by the successful projects of BIWAC(KEWI ,WASPA & KWIA partners) and PWASS (KEWI,WASPA & WIWAS partners) undertaken in partnership with KEWI.

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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OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

Water Quality Laboratory Services
Drilling and Test Pumping Services
Ground water Assessment Services
Conferencing Services
Troubleshooting of pumps boreholes and distribution systems
Repair of pumps boreholes and distribution systems

Your feedback is crucial for our improvement

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