



# WEEKLY Newsletter

July 13–July 19

## KEWI and WILO Foundation Propose to Set Up a Water Technology Innovations Hub to Transform Sector



*From right on front row: K E W I C E O Dr. Leiro Letangule, Evi Hoch (WILO Foundation) and Deputy Director, Research Division, Mr. Nelson Kwamini pose for a group photo with other members of KEWI and WILO teams after they both held discussions on possibilities of establishing a Water Technology Innovation and Incubation Hub at KEWI Headquarters Nairobi.*

BY: FAIZAH JEPKORIR

In a bid to revolutionize the water sector in Kenya, the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and the WILO Foundation are set to establish a Water Technology Innovations and Incubation Hub (WTI<sup>2</sup>H). This hub is envisioned as a dynamic space that will bring together trainees, trainers, researchers, creators, and innovators in the

water sector to nurture ideas into industry-changing water technology products and services.

Building on this vision, KEWI, through WILO East Africa, submitted a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of the WTI<sup>2</sup>H to the WILO Foundation. This proposal builds on the partnership solidified by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between KEWI

### HIGHLIGHTS

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## KEWI and WILO Foundation Propose to Set Up a Water Technology Innovations Hub to Transform Sector



*From Left: WILO East Africa Managing Director Belete Matebe and WILO Foundation Germany officials Evi Hoch and David Hoectgen respectively during a meeting with KEWI team at KEWI Headquarters Nairobi.*

and WILO East Africa in January 2024, which outlined collaborations in training and capacity building, knowledge and technical dissemination, and research. Through this partnership, KEWI is currently in the process of establishing an energy efficiency lab, which will be part of the larger Innovation and Incubation Hub.

Towards achieving this, a delegation from the WILO Foundation, Germany, embarked on an official tour to Kenya with the key objective of visiting WILO East Africa's key partners. During this visit, KEWI hosted the WILO Foundation delegation, which included WILO East Africa Managing Director Belete Matebe; WILO Foundation Germany Executive

Board member Evi Hoch; David Hoectgen from WILO Foundation Germany; and Christine Amira from WILO Middle & Southern Africa on 15th July 2024.

This significant visit marked a crucial step in the partnership between the two organizations, aimed at fostering innovative solutions in the water sector. During the meeting, both parties discussed the potential impact

of the proposed hub and strategized on the next steps for its implementation.

"Tapping into the youthful energy, creativity, and potential of young innovators and women in the water sector is not only a strategic move but also offers an alternative route for young innovators to translate their innovations into viable start-up models," said Mr. Kwamini.

Dr. Chirchir highlighted the broader goals of the initiative, stating, "The proposed Water Technology Innovation Hub at KEWI is a key pillar of our Waterpreneurship program. It will create an enabling environment for young water technology innovators and entrepreneurs to grow and translate their ideas



## KEWI and WILO Foundation Propose to Set Up a Water Technology Innovations Hub to Transform Sector



*KEWI and WILO team during the meeting at KEWI Headquarters Nairobi.*

into viable business ventures for sustainable socio-economic development."

The Innovation Hub will offer a platform for industry leaders to engage as mentors and trainers, shaping the skills, ethical standards, and sustainability culture of young innovators. The hub will provide capacity-building programs in select water technology and thematic areas, as well as business development support, incubation, and prototyping services. Additionally, it will seek to address critical gaps identified in research, such as the lack of presentation skills, managerial and soft skills, and awareness of intellectual property among entrepreneurs.

The establishment of this

hub aligns with the Kenyan Government's 10-year Innovation Master Plan and the Vision 2030 social pillar, which seeks to promote youth income-generating activities, creating more employment and sustainable livelihoods for the youth. The hub will focus on various thematic areas,



including non-revenue water management, pumping technology and energy efficiency, digitalization and Internet of Things (IoT) in water management, media and advocacy, smart agriculture, water quality management, and integrated water management.

The collaboration between KEWI and the WILO Foundation is set to provide a nurturing environment for innovative ideas to flourish. By fostering capacity building, mentorship, business development, and incubation, the Innovation Hub aims to build climate-resilient communities and water infrastructure through waterpreneurship, ultimately contributing to a sustainable future for the water sector in Kenya.

## Ugandan Delegation Benchmarks on Institutes' Popular Irrigation and Drainage Program



*Deputy Director Academic Affairs Mr. Eric Wamiti (5th from left) and Chiakariga Campus Principal Mr. Paul Rarieya (3rd from right) pose for a group photo with a delegation from Uganda and KEWI faculty staff at the Campus. The Ugandan delegation was visiting the campus for a benchmarking exercise.*

**BY: CASTRO NYAGUDI & KORIR KIPKIRUI**

**K**enya Water Institute (KEWI) Chiakariga Campus hosted a high-level delegation from Uganda to benchmark its renowned Irrigation and Drainage Program. The visit, aimed to foster knowledge exchange, explore best practices, and establish collaborative frameworks for improving irrigation and drainage systems in both countries, in a significant step towards enhancing agricultural

practices and water management.

The delegation accompanied by KEWI Deputy Director Academic Affairs, Mr. Eric Wamiti was warmly received by the Campus Principal, Mr. Paul Rarieya and other KEWI staff members. Mr. Rarieya highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in addressing water scarcity and enhancing agricultural productivity.

The Ugandan delegation comprised senior officials

from the Ministry of Education, Curriculum Experts, Project Manager, Equipment Specialist and Economist, and leading experts in irrigation and water management. Dr. Eddy Turyatamba, the head of the delegation, expressed their eagerness to learn from KEWI's extensive experience and innovative approaches.

The delegation was taken on a comprehensive tour of KEWI's state-of-the-art facilities, including laboratories, greenhouses, and open field farms. The tour

# Ugandan Delegation Benchmarks on Institutes' Popular Irrigation and Drainage Program



showcased the infrastructure and equipment used in training students in modern irrigation and drainage techniques.

Eng. Castro Nyagudi, a lecturer at Chiakariga Campus, presented an overview of the Irrigation and Drainage Program. He detailed the curriculum, which covers topics such as soil and water conservation, irrigation system design, and sustainable water resource management. Eng. Nyagudi emphasized the program's focus on practical training, supported by extensive fieldwork and hands-on exercises.

The first practical session involved a demonstration of greenhouse irrigation systems. Mr. Abel Mutunga, the Irrigation specialist, showcased the setup and operation of drip and sprinkler systems within the greenhouse environment. The Ugandan delegation observed the efficient water use techniques and automated control systems that ensure optimal plant growth and

resource management.

The delegation also witnessed demonstrations on surface and subsurface drainage systems. KEWI experts explained the principles of designing and maintaining drainage

systems to prevent waterlogging and soil erosion. The visitors were particularly interested in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and planning drainage networks.

The visit included interactive workshops where KEWI faculty and Ugandan delegates exchanged ideas and experiences. Topics discussed included: Climate-Smart Agriculture, Water Conservation Technologies and Capacity Building.

KEWI presented case studies of successful irrigation projects implemented in various parts of Kenya. These stories highlighted the positive impact of effective irrigation and drainage systems on crop yields, food security, and rural livelihoods. The Ugandan delegation shared their experiences and challenges, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Discussions on future

collaboration were a key part of the visit. Both parties explored opportunities for joint research projects, student and faculty exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives. The aim is to leverage each institution's strengths to address common challenges in water management and agriculture.

Dr. Turyatamba expressed their gratitude for the warm reception and the insightful experience. He commended KEWI for its advanced infrastructure, comprehensive curriculum, and the practical orientation of its programs.

"We are impressed by the level of expertise and innovation at KEWI. This visit has provided us with valuable insights that we can adapt and implement in Uganda," he stated.

The benchmarking visit by the Ugandan delegation to the Campus was a resounding success. It highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in addressing common challenges in irrigation and drainage.



## Institute and Karatina University Forge Pathway to Innovative Research Collaboration



*Prof. Callen Kiambiti, Director of Resource Mobilization, and Prof. Michael Lokuruka (seated on left) from Karatina University and their KEWI counterparts Emmanuel Oduory, Simon Ndeweni and John Waweru during a meeting at KEWI Nairobi to discuss on possible areas of partnership.*

BY: PIUS KIMANI

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and Karatina University are on the brink of a transformative partnership that will seek to help build resilient and sustainable clean water supply systems through water harvesting and storage among other collaborative areas of mutual interest to the two institutes

This follows a recently held consultative meeting to explore



collaborative research opportunities between the two organizations that was held at KEWI, Nairobi and which was chaired by Deputy Director Research, Consultancy, and Technical Services at KEWI Mr. Nelson Kwamini, and brought together a distinguished delegation from Karatina University, including Prof. Callen Kiambiti, Director of Resource Mobilization, and Prof. Michael Lokuruka.

The meeting primarily focused on finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will outline potential areas of collaboration. During the meeting, both institutions expressed their eagerness to combine their expertise in research, proposal development, and training

initiatives to address critical environmental challenges and advance sustainable practices.

One of the standout projects discussed is "Building Resilient and Sustainable Clean Water Supply Systems through Water Harvesting and Storage." This initiative aims to address water management issues exacerbated by extreme weather events like droughts and floods. By optimizing the storage of surplus water for agricultural use, the project seeks to mitigate the adverse effects of climate variability on water resources.

The partnership once sealed will also focus on integrating climate change adaptation strategies into water management and agricultural practices. This initiative aims to develop resilient agricultural

## Institute and Karatina University Forge Pathway to Innovative Research Collaboration



*KEWI team during a meeting with Karatina University team at KEWI, Nairobi.*

systems capable of withstanding climate impacts while ensuring a reliable water supply.

Apart from water management, the discussions also explored on a partnership that will explore advancements in environmental management technology. Both institutions expressed their commitment to finding innovative solutions to enhance environmental stewardship and ensure water quality standards for both consumption and agricultural use.

Smart agriculture practices were highlighted as crucial for boosting productivity and sustainability. By leveraging technology

and innovative farming techniques, KEWI and Karatina University aim to minimize crop losses and mitigate climate change effects.

The collaboration also promises to bolster research capabilities at both institutions. Plans include upgrading research infrastructure and establishing state-of-the-art laboratories for water quality analysis. These enhancements will support comprehensive research efforts and enable more

effective environmental management.

Mr. Kwamini, while riding on the goodwill exhibited by the two sides aptly stated, "By joining forces, we can harness our collective expertise to address pressing environmental issues and foster sustainable solutions that benefit our communities." This burgeoning partnership between KEWI and Karatina University is poised to drive significant advancements in environmental management, water quality, and agricultural practices.

While the partnership is still in the formation phase, the recent meeting marks a promising step forward. Both institutions are optimistic about the future and eager to see their collaborative efforts materialize, ultimately contributing to a sustainable future for their communities.



# Call for September 2024 Intake



MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION & IRRIGATION  
KENYA WATER INSTITUTE

CALL FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2024  
INTAKE



## DIPLOMA COURSES

- Water Resources Management
- Water Laboratory Technology
- Water Engineering Technology
- Information Communication Technology
- Wastewater and Sanitation Engineering Technology
- Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Technology

## CERTIFICATE COURSES

- Water Resources Management Technology
- Water Laboratory Technology
- Water Engineering Technology
- Information Communication Technology
- Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Technology
- Wastewater and Sanitation Engineering Technology

## ARTISAN COURSES

- Water Operator Course
  - Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology
  - Water and Wastewater Management Technology
- INTAKES:**  
JANUARY  
MAY  
SEPTEMBER

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## Quote of the Week

*"A single leaf working alone provides no shade."*

**Chuck Page**

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# Round up of The Week's Events



*Smart Water Metering short course participants during the closing ceremony. The course, sponsored by Safaricom brought together contractors who work with the telecommunication giant.*

### 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 (DWRMT)  
 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 (CWLTL)  
 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

To 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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