Volume 2 Issue 42

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA WATER INSTITUTE KEWI Fountain Of Water Knowledge

WEEKLY Newsletter

October 26– November 1 2024

Kenya Building and Construction Workers Union Engages KEWI Students on Employment Rights and Industry Safety

Mr. Paul Kiragu, Education Coordinator for Kenya Building and Constructions Workers Union addressing KEWI

BY: FAIZAH JEPKORIR

In an effort to bridge the gap between training and employment, the Kenya Building and Construction Workers Union (KBCWU), led by Education Coordinator Mr. Erick Kanyi, recently engaged second-year students for Plumbing and Pipe Works Fittings Technology (PPFT) program at the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI). The workshop, opened by Mr. Leonard Makokha, Head of the Management Information Technology Department, on behalf of the Deputy Director Academics Affairs, served as a valuable session for students poised to enter Kenya's construction industry.

The event provided students with insights into the realities of employment in construction, focusing on issues such as workplace safety, wage fairness, and professionalism.

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Kenya Building and Construction Workers Union Engages KEWI Students on Employment Rights and Industry Safety

early awareness, Mr. Makokha remarked, "Our students, who are training to become future water service resource providers, have much to gain from understanding their rights and responsibilities before they enter the workforce." The union's visit highlighted the importance of safeguarding safety standards and securing fair compensation, critical aspects for young professionals entering the often challenging construction field.

KEWI Student engages actively with union coordinators by posing a question during the workshop.

The union underscored its role as a professional body, dedicated to protecting and empowering its members in the workplace. They encouraged students to consider union membership as they prepare to join the workforce, noting that the union draws its mandate from the Kenyan Constitution to uphold the rights of workers across the building and construction sectors. According to KBCWU, membership provides a platform for workers to advocate for better working conditions, address underpayment concerns, and access professional support within the industry.

Throughout the workshop, KBCWU representatives shared their mission of promoting high standards of practice and elevating the credibility of industry professionals. They outlined the importance of creating a "niche" in the workforce—standing out through quality work and adherence to safety protocols. By joining the union, students could access tools to navigate the complexities of the industry, benefiting from advocacy on issues such as workplace hazards, access to legal aid, and training on best practices.

For the PPFT students, many of whom aspire to work with leading construction and water service companies, the workshop provided a real-world perspective on the industry. The union expressed its commitment to empowering young professionals by fostering a culture of excellence, safety, and fairness. As the students transition from academic training to employment, the support of the Kenya Building and Construction Workers Union could prove instrumental in ensuring their long-term success and well-being in the field.

This engagement marks a significant step in linking KEWI's academic programs to the broader industry, where unions play an essential role in advocating for rights and setting standards that benefit both employees and employers across Kenya's construction sector.

TRAINING

Upcoming Irrigation Block at KEWI Chiakariga Campus: A New Era of Learning and Innovation

A glimpse of the upcoming tuition block in KEWI, Chiakariga Campus taking shape.

BY: CASTRO NYAGUDI & KORIR KIPKURUI

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Chiakariga Campus is thrilled with the upcoming state of art **Irrigation Block**, designed to meet the modern needs of students, staff, and the community with cutting-edge facilities and resources. This ambitious project signifies KEWI's commitment to fostering academic excellence, practical skills, and an inclusive learning environment to support Kenya's future water and irrigation professionals.

The new irrigation block at Chiakariga Campus is purpose-built with state-of-the-art facilities to provide a top-tier educational experience. Key features of the new building will include modern Library, Conference facility, Classrooms and Offices.

This irrigation block is not just an infrastructural development; it represents a leap forward in practical education for water management in Kenya. KEWI Chiakariga Campus aims to equip students with the knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to solve the water and irrigation challenges faced by local communities and beyond.

The new block allows KEWI to accommodate more students, expand its curriculum, and engage with local farmers and industry experts through workshops, training sessions, and seminars. By establishing this facility in Chiakariga, KEWI will create a hub for innovation in water management and irrigation, empowering students to use sustainable practices that will benefit Kenya's economy and environment.

As the construction progresses, the excitement at Chiakariga Campus grows. This irrigation block, with its modern facilities, marks the beginning of a new era for KEWI, where advanced infrastructure supports the development of future Water engineers and irrigation specialists and environmental stewards.

Once the irrigation block will be opened, it will usher in a wealth of new learning opportunities and partnerships. At Kenya Water Institute, we are proud to contribute to the progress of Tharaka Nithi County and neighboring counties to support the dreams of students dedicated to improving Kenya's agricultural and water sectors.

Harnessing The Power Of Smart Ecosystems For Sustainable Management Of Water Resources

BY: OTIENO FREDRICK

Water scarcity and other concomitants of climate change, highlight greater need for water service providers to adopt innovations that enhance sustainable use of water resources. While policies on Nonrevenue Water (NRW) management, leak detection and reduction, and sustainable water resources management have been operationalized in many parts of the world, the merits of a holistic strategy that includes smart metering technologies are yet to be internalized. Consequently, owing to the complexity of NRW management, the approach provides greater incentive for partnership among players in the smart metering ecosystem.

Indeed, numerous strategic collaborations are being ratified to leverage the strengths of sector players and technology firms, and to extend the benefits of their products and services for a water secure future. To this end, a number of IoT mediated ecosystems have been developed or enhanced to strengthen existing ecosystem players.

These developments explain recent upsurge in number of acquisition of smart water meters by water service providers. It also justifies the corresponding focus on leak reduction, pressure management, water quality monitoring, demand management, and enhanced revenue.

Similarly, technology firms play a central role in smart water revolution by promoting integration of computer systems for seamless exchange of data between mobile phones, smart meters, valves, and water quality sensors. Moreover, various software for analysis of big data are at various stages of development. Apache Hadoop, Google BigQuerry, and Databricks are notable examples of these technologies.

Since smart grids attract significant capital expenditure, Government departments remain critical for improving access to financial services, and influences business environments through policy interventions such as sustainability benchmark, data formats, data security, and privacy.

For the same reasons, training and research institutions are critical for advancement of core principles of smart water management, technology testing and adoption, support for research on new technologies, and development of sector standards.

Also, water users are an important cog in the smart water ecosystem as they possess insightful information on the strengths and limitations of supply systems. Thus, smart water meters provide real opportunities for accurate billing, and real time usage data.

In light of these dynamics, collaborative engagements should be strengthened to promote innovative interventions for effective management of water resources. This calls for stakeholders to align their strategic objectives with sustainable water use. In that regard, business and operational strategies should be redesigned to take advantage of prevailing patterns in water resources management. One such trend is the utilization of smart meters and IoT to moderate the impacts of climate change and water scarcity.

Public Speaking: A Prerequisite for Quality Service Delivery in the Water

BY: HILLARY MATANO

Several studies globally have shown that 72-75% of individuals suffer from glossophobia; the fear of public speaking. It can then be deduced that the ability to articulate oneself is very vital in our everyday life.

It is through this that problems are identified, solutions brought forth and development arises. The art of public speaking is very important for the service delivery to players in the water sector and it is thus necessary for water professionals, including engineers, planners, policy makers etc to master the art of public speaking.

The water sector is currently undergoing a raft of changes brought forth by the advancement in technologies. The introduction of smart metering technologies may result in the adjustment of tariffs paid by consumers. Such information should thus be packaged and passed in a manner that is easily consumed by the end user. The different issues of the Impact Reports produced by the Water Sector Regulatory Board which communicate the standings of different utilities form a foundational archive for progress tracking in the sector. Given the information is well packaged it is easily consumed, otherwise the sector becomes very chaotic.

A Facilator from NHIF addressing KEWI Staff.

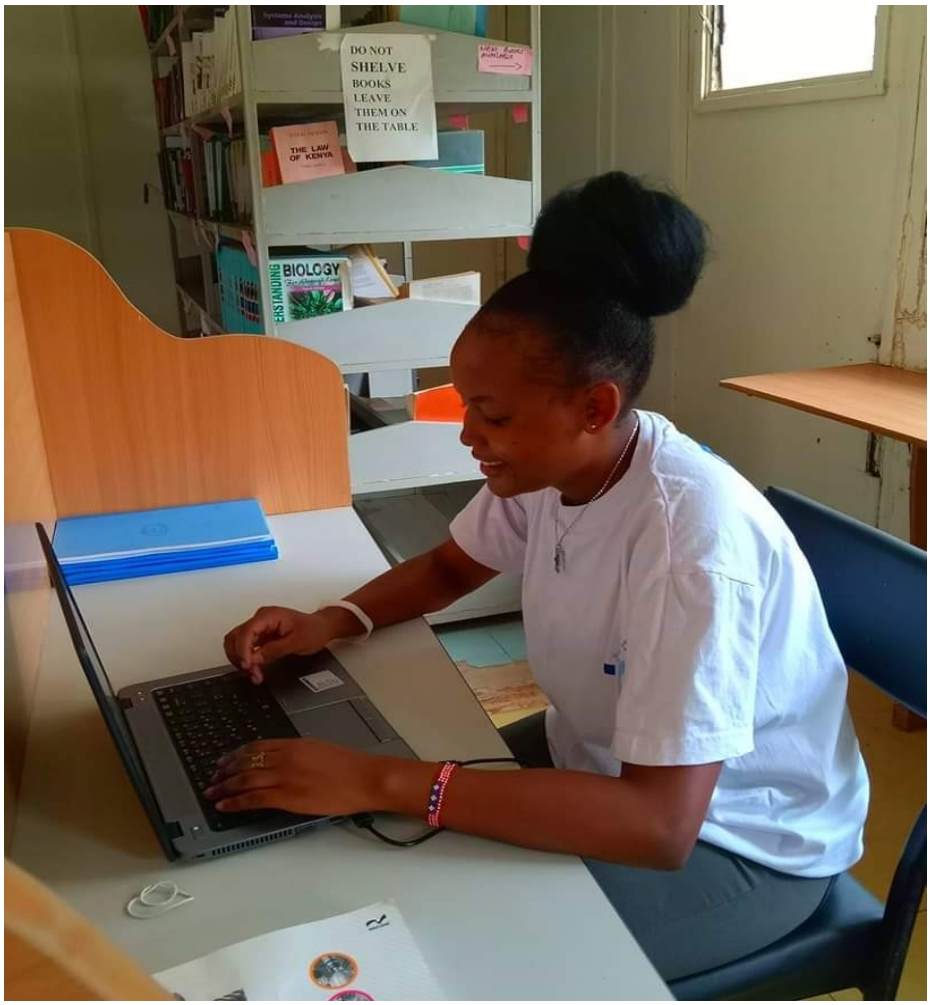
Public speaking provides the platform for players within the sector to come together through forums such as conferences, seminars and even workshops to ventilate on issues that affect the water sector.

Examples of such include the World Water Day which is annually celebrated on 22nd March, is a global platform for governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector and individuals to come together to discuss and iron out issues that affect the sector by speaking to the wider global community.

Crises are other avenues through which public speaking and communication as a whole become very pivotal in addressing the concerns of the consumers in the water sector. During the floods that ravaged the country and critical water infrastructure was destroyed, it was apparent that the authorities were intentional about saving lives by encouraging individuals to move to higher grounds and as well documenting the infrastructure that was destroyed. Moreover, there was communication on the shortage of water in some of the areas with damaged water supply networks. Therefore, this makes it easier for the consumers to plan their supply and consumption of water.

The Institute, a key player in training, research and consultancy services for the sector, is very intentional about enhancing public speaking skills for the sector. Through conferences, workshops, seminars and trainings professionals in the sector are afforded the opportunity to grow their speaking skills as they make presentations on research findings, make cases for different innovations and shared experiences.

Student SpotLight of the Week.



Meet Maureen Gichungo, a third year student at KEWI Chiakariga Campus, Pursuing Diploma In Water Engineering Technology has shown incredible dedication in rainfall analysis and together with Mathew Ngatia a fellow student they have been able to retrieve rainfall data for Tharaka South Sub-County without visiting a meteorological station.

Quote of the Week

"If you actions inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader"

Lao Tzu.

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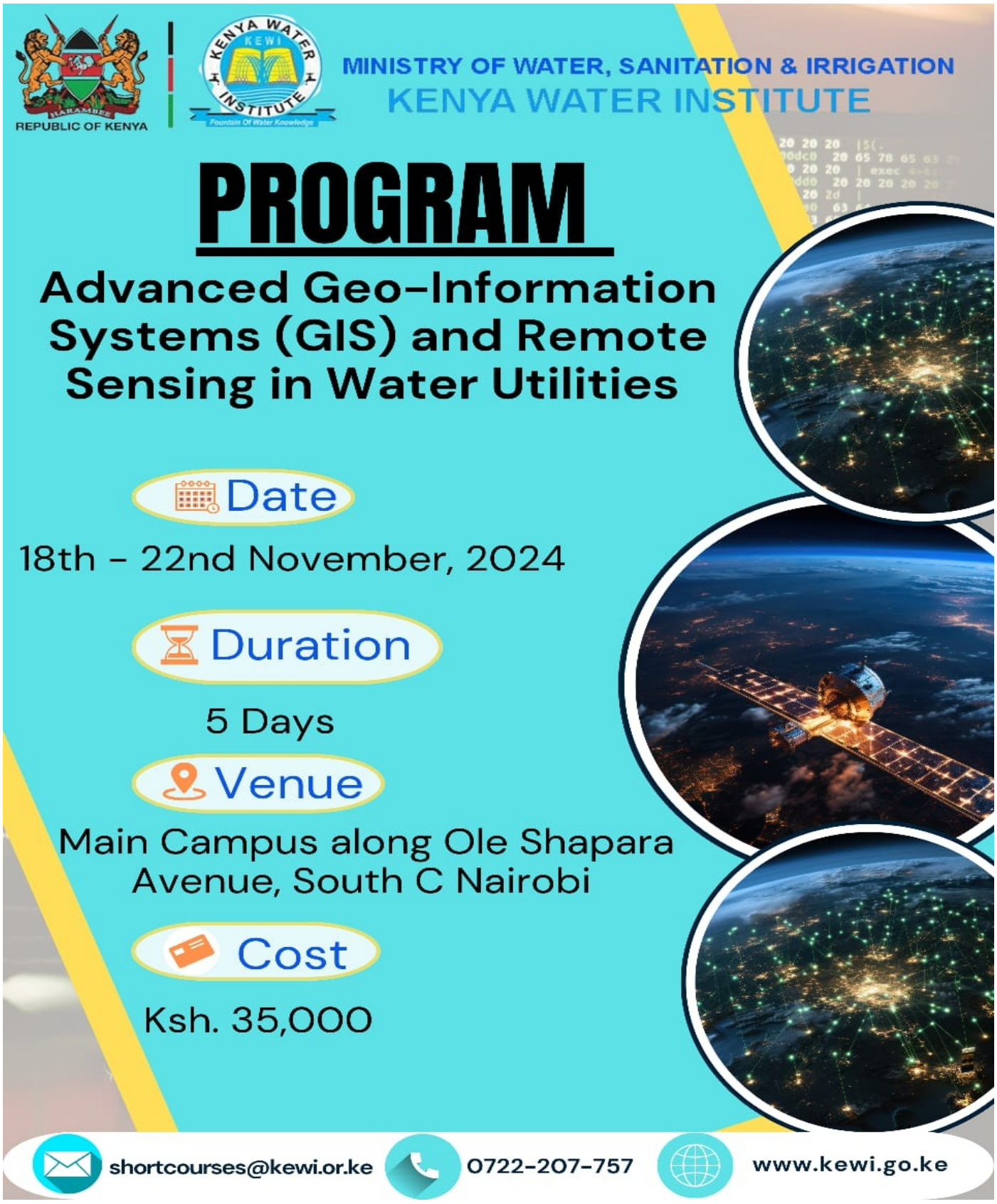
Upcoming Short Course Training.



Round up of the Weekly Events

UNICEF East Africa Team, led by Lavuum Verstraete, Programme Manager-R Wash, in a consultative meeting with KEWI on the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) program. The meeting aimed to request KEWI as UNICEF's Kenyan partner in implementing this critical water resilience initiative.

Round up of the Weekly Events

Water Technicians, from Mombasa Water and Sewerage Company at the closing Ceremony of the Professional Development Programme on Pipework skills for Water supply and Sewage Systems, Cohort 3, held in KEWI Nairobi Campus.

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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