



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch II, 2023

Monday 31st January– 3rd February, 2023

FREE MEDICAL CAMPS FULFIL COMPONENT OF UNIVERSITY MANDATE ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH



DVC (ARSA), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, together with the Senior Chief of the area, undergoing an eye diagnosis by doctors from Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital

Karatina University, in collaboration with Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital from Nairobi, held a successful free medical camp on **Saturday 4th February 2023** at **Karatina Stadium**. The event offered medical support to members of the local community on various services especially eye diagnosis, diabetes screening, high blood pressure and general physician consultations.

The event was officially launched by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARSA) Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho. In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor noted that the aim of holding these medical camps is to fulfill one of the components of the University mandate which is community outreach. This is because, he stated, the relevance of any university is demonstrated by the impact it has on the local community.

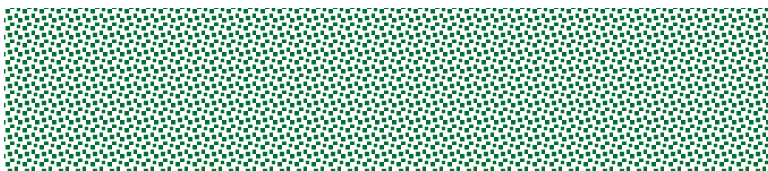
He also noted that the Camp was part of the University's contribution to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage which is one of Kenya's development agendas.



A Community Health Worker (in a blue blazer) assists the MCA Konyu Ward, Julius Kamiri (in a

The collaboration with Lions Sight First Eye Hospital, the third with the University, strategically brought the Free Eye and Diabetes Screening Camp and other medical services to the people of Karatina town and its environs. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the current high cost of medical check-ups, coupled with high transport costs, determinedly made the University to bring the medical services closer to the people. He appreciated the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho for organizing the Camp together with members of her division; the Coordinator of the Community Outreach, Dr. Josphat Kagema, and his Committee who worked on all logistics. This was in partnership with local leaders and chiefs who mobilized members of the public to attend the Camp. He also appreciated the involvement of staff from the Health Unit, students from the School of Nursing, and the Department of Food Science and Nutrition for providing services to the patients.

Prof. Aloo-Obudho, in her remarks, noted that the University has been pivotal in providing quality services to the community including school mentorship programmes, donation of face masks to vulnerable elderly citizens, environmental awareness and sensitizations, and training of youth and caregivers among others. The University will augment such activities in the future to enhance a wider reach to residents in the region and beyond.



SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP EXPOUNDS PLACE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT IN PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

The Sensitization Workshop for Universities, TVETs and Research Institutions in the Central Kenya region on Intellectual Property kicked off on a high note on Monday, 30th January 2023. During the opening session, various speakers from the facilitating institutions expounded on the importance of Intellectual Property management in promoting and protecting innovations and inventions.



Participants of the Sensitization Workshop on Intellectual Property

Vocational Training Centers (TVCs) are not for failures

Starting off the conversation, Mr. Joe Gethi, working in the Department of Education, while representing the Governor, Nyeri County, Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga, stated that the Constitution of Kenya had devolved vocational training centres, formerly village polytechnics, to county govern-

ments. Counties, though, face various challenges in running these learning institutions including limited financing, lack of equipment, shortage of trainers and poor infrastructure. Mr. Gethi, who opened the Workshop, said the biggest challenge, however, was society's attitude towards these vocational

'Majority of Kenyans believe that vocational training centres are for students who have failed in their examinations. This is a misconception that denies the country professionals with technical skills needed by contractors of large infrastructural projects in the country who require people with technical skills like plumbing, welding, building and plant operation.'



Mr. Joe Gethi representing the Governor, Nyeri County

He appealed to universities, TVETs and research institutions to help counter this myth by partnering in, among others, research and training initiatives for exposure of students in vocational training centres to advanced training and equipment, mentorship and guidance to encourage these students that they can succeed in life through technical training even if they do not perform well in their examinations at certain levels of education and universities and national polytechnic students taking short courses in these institutions such as hospitality, bakery, dressmaking, beauty therapy when they are on holiday; skills that could transform them from job seekers to job creators even before completing their studies.

Knowledge-based economy

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho noted that students from universities and other tertiary institutions represent the base upon which knowledge for a knowledge-based economy is anchored.



DVC (ARSA), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, representing the Vice Chancellor

He further stated that it is important for Kenya to generate knowledge as well as create and commercialize Intellectual Property in order to grow the wealth of the country. Prof. Muchiri called upon academic institutions and scholars to work towards achieving this goal. He encouraged institutions to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) and IP Management systems due to their importance in providing support systems for researchers.

Tool for socio-economic development

Mr. Charles Mutinda, Member, Board of Directors, Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) said that Intellectual Property, which deals with the creations of the human mind, has been identified as an important tool for the promotion of social, cultural and economic development.

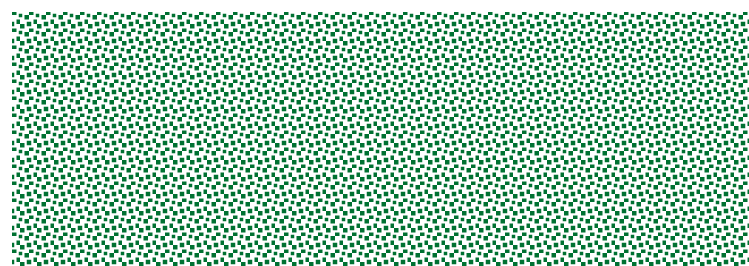
'This is because, with a sound IP system, innovators and inventors are assured of recouping a return on their investment since their IP rights in form of patents, trademarks, plant breeders' rights (PBRs) or copyright are protected. This leads to an increase in innovative and inventive activities which are key drivers to efficient and improved production and competitiveness of products, processes and services in the market.'



Mr. Charles Mutinda, Member, Board of Director, KIPI

According to Mr. Mutinda, in order to stimulate research and innovation in universities, TVET and research institutions, KIPI has been assisting these institutions to come up with institutional IP policies to provide direction on the management of various forms of IP and clearly outlining how the various stakeholders share the benefits accruing from the exploitation of their intellectual property. The Institute has also been providing support to the institu-

Further, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Institute has been working with various universities, TVET and research institutions to set up Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) to facilitate researchers to access the latest scientific and technological information and provide the innovators with various IP support services including searches, preparing and filing applications for grant of IP rights as well as education and creation of awareness on IP.



Role of universities and other institutions

The Acting Managing Director of KIPI, Mr. John Onyango, noted that empirical evidence from developed countries indicate that universities and other tertiary institutions have an important role to play in the generation and utilization of intellectual capital in society.

'Intellectual capital includes both the human capital and intellectual creations which comprise the intellectual property. The objective of this Workshop is to provide general awareness on Intellectual Property and the institutional and legal framework for the protection and exploitation of IP. Further, the Workshop provides a forum for exchanging experiences in IP management and exploitation.'



Ms. Eunice Njuguna representing the MD, KIPI

He stated that with appropriate strategies for the exploitation of intellectual property, new industries can come into being and ultimately lead to job creation and improvement in the welfare of people through the availability of new products and services.

'Publication of research results per se will not solve the problems facing Wanjiku or the hustler in the street. Universities, research and TVET institutions are required to utilize the abundant knowledge existing in various places, both in physical and virtual spaces to solve these challenges.'

Other government parastatals represented are the National Research Fund (NRF) and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). Some of the participating institutions include Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Laikipia University, Kirinyaga University, Karatina University, Mama Ngina University College, Gatanga TVC, Mathira TVC, Thika TTI, Tharaka TVC among others.

INSTITUTIONS SHARE EXPERIENCES AND CHART WAY FORWARD ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs) closing the Sensitization Workshop on Intellectual Property on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri.

The Sensitization Workshop for Universities, TVETS and Research Institutions on Intellectual Property (IP) organised by the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) drew to a successful close on Friday, 3rd February 2023. The five-day Workshop held in the Senate Chambers saw participating institutions share experiences on Intellectual Property management and commercialisation.

Shared experiences

Among the wide range of experiences shared include the establishment of a research model around key thematic areas that all academic staff and students refer to. This research model is driven by thematic and academic leaders. To mitigate funding challenges bedevilling public universities, this research model is supported by the establishment of defined Financial Independent Centres (FIC). The leaders of these Centres are given full responsibility to work out modalities of self-financing. In these institutions, Intellectual Property management is coordinated by FIC.

Some institutions have also established functional Science and Technology Parks which generate funds and run their own budgets. They also have a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC)

Officer who is in charge of Intellectual Property management. Other institutions shared that they have established Innovation and Incubation Hubs, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committees, Intellectual Property Committees and Intellectual Property Policies. They also participate in Innovation Fairs, sensitization trainings and seminars among others.

Challenges

The institutions also shared challenges they face including a lack of awareness of IP, patenting, registration and commercialisation among staff and students, lack of trust especially in revenue access and sharing between innovators and mother institutions, insufficient funds to innovate and knee-deep bureaucracy between universities, innovators and accelerator institutions.

Way forward

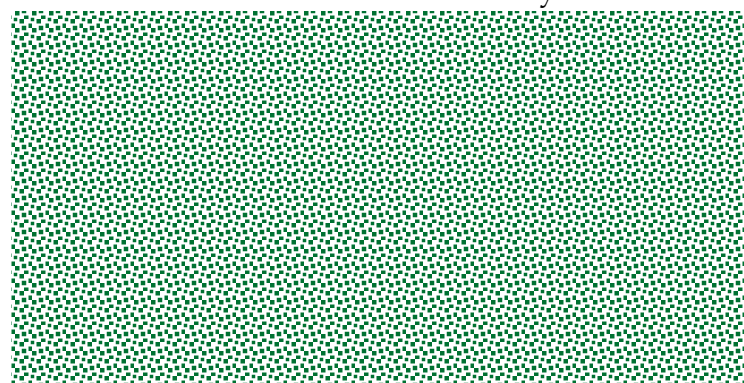
Despite these challenges, however, a raft of recommendations were made. Key among them was the formulation of a commercialisation policy that will feature the establishment of financial centres responsible for commercialising innovations and products. This would be handy to researchers who may not necessarily be entrepreneurially savvy despite coming up with innovations.

A shift in the approach to education where industrialisation is introduced to pupils at an early age was also recommended. This approach, if adopted, will prepare the young for experiences in universities and TVET institutions where innovation is domiciled. Apart from this, KIPi, in collaboration with other institutions, was urged to find ways of conducting trainings on IP to undergraduate students. This would expose and grow them in this era of innovations and inventions.

In order to compete globally, institutions should embed Intellectual Property management in their Performance Contracts. Once this is ratified, it would be easier to monitor and measure how many IPs have been introduced in an institution at a given time. In addition, one of the core functions of KIPi is to promote to the public industrial property information for technological and economic development. Towards achieving this, therefore, it was proposed that, just like the Kenya School of Government, KIPi should come up with a standing schedule of specific courses to sensitize institutions and the public on matters of IP management.

On the issue of mistrust mentioned as a challenge, there was need to break the state of non-disclosure in the sharing of knowledge and information. Other proposals entailed the organisation of internal workshops on IP where KIPi can provide resource persons, relooking the model of funding and the roles of different actors involved especially in the sharing of proceeds, the development of an IP policy to iron out any emerging issues and the establishment of an IP management office.

Participating institutions were also encouraged to establish TISC for purposes of accessing available databases on IP. Towards this, KIPi invited the institutions to a TISC Conference in May 2023.



SPORTS AND GAMES

In the 4B League Games, Handball (Women) scooped Position 2 after losing to Meru University with just a goal. Rugby (Women) came at Position 3 while Rugby (Men) and Netball (Men) both finished at Position 6.



Basketball (Men) team

