

Edition No. 01

A publication of Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KENYA-AIST)

# Newsletter



# Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Kenya-AIST Newsletter!

## Highlights in this Edition

<i>A word from the principal.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Council briefing with cabinet secretary.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Staff induction.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Transfiere conference in Malaga, Spain.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Empowering excellence.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Egangement with Stakeholders.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>We are ready.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>A milestone achieved.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Greening the future.....</i>	<i>10</i>

## About Kenya-AIST

Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST) was established as a legal entity through publication in Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 117, Legislative Supplement No. 55, under Legal Notice No. 130; as Constituent College of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The Executive Order No. 1 of 2023 transferred Kenya-AIST from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Information Communications and the Digital Economy, State Department of ICT & the DE.

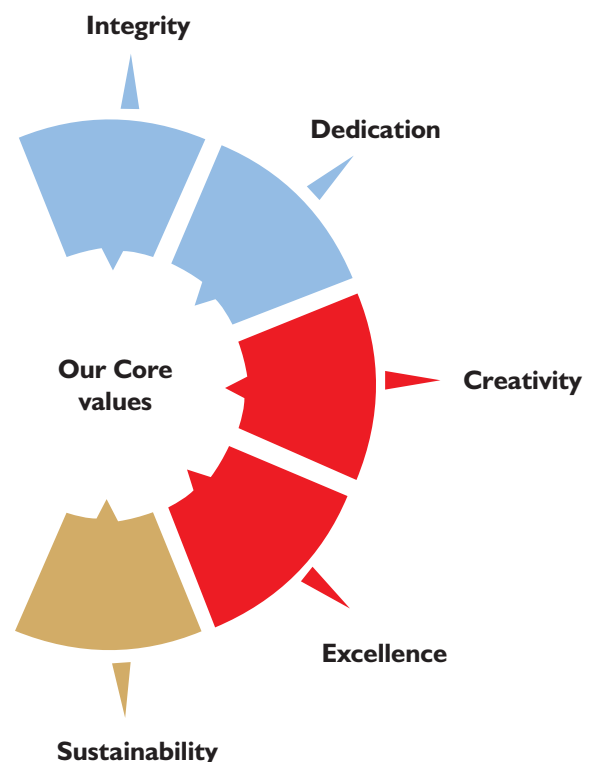
On 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the Cabinet resolved that Kenya-AIST be established as a specialised post graduate only institution of strategic national importance (see Section 24 (1)(a) of the Revised Universities Act, 2012). The Institute is modelled after the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), and is therefore envisaged to make a significant contribution to Kenya's transformation into a prosperous and innovative country, with its graduates leading Kenya's economic and technological growth.

### Vision

To be a lead pioneer in research, and education in science and technology, and to nurture highly qualified scientists and engineers for Kenya's industrialization and modernization.

### Mission

To nurture highly qualified scientists and engineers by equipping them with theoretical and practical knowledge; conduct socially relevant research and development to improve national competitiveness and speed up industrialization; create social and economic values to improve Kenyans' quality of life.



## A Word From the Principal

*It's been a journey. And we are getting there.  
It's been a long wait. But we are almost there.  
Waiting is a collective experience, that we all encounter at some point in time. Somewhere, something phenomenal is waiting to be celebrated. Soon and very soon Kenya-AIST Charter will be awarded.*



**Prof. J.W. Khamasi**  
Kenya-AIST Ag. Principal



*Soon and very soon, our campus will be vibrant,  
bustling with activities,  
intellectual debates,  
exhibiting innovations,  
cultural events, and hosting  
visitors from all walks of life.*

*Yes, it's been a long wait.  
But we are getting there.*

*"Waiting is learning, learning is waiting" (Lin Min-Tzu)  
The contents of this inaugural newsletter presents verifiable  
evidence; with much gratitude to all our supporters, those who have  
encouraged us, in every step of the way.  
And evidently, "patience is learned through waiting." (E'yen A.  
Gardner).*

*Kenya-AIST twasema, kawia ufike.*



## Council Briefing with Cabinet Secretary, MICDE

On February 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Kenya-AIST Council members, led by the Chairperson Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya, paid a courtesy visit to Hon. William Kabogo, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy. The Council updated the CS on the progress of Kenya-AIST's operationalization in preparation for the upcoming takeover of the facilities and award of the charter.

The Cabinet Secretary expressed strong optimism about Kenya - AIST's future, emphasizing the importance of sustained government backing to help the institution thrive. He pledged his full support and commitment to champion Kenya - AIST nationally. Also in attendance was Eng. John Tanui, MBS, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy, who reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to the success of Kenya-AIST.

The Kenya-AIST Council was appointed on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023. The Council Members are: Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya (Chairman), Prof. Washington Yotto Ochieng, FREng, CBE, EBS, Ms. Purity Nyawira Mureithi, Dr. Collins K. Tanui, Eng. Meshack Otieno Kidenda, Dr. Roselida Owuor (representing the State Department for Higher Education & Research), Ms. Sarah Kabira, Mr. Nusu Mwamanzi (representing State Department for ICT & the Digital Economy) and Prof. J.W. Khamasi, EBS (Council Secretary).



## Staff Induction

Year 2025 began on a high note as Kenya-AIST proudly welcomed its very first team of staff. The inaugural Staff Induction was held between 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the serene Subukia Retreat Centre and was graced by the Council Chairman, Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya.

Over the course of four days, staff members engaged in a series of interactive training sessions designed to provide a deep understanding of Kenya-AIST's Vision, Mission, Governance structure, and operational principles. Staff got the chance to understand the institution's transformative journey - from concept to reality.

Highlights of the induction included sessions on institutional code of conduct, effective communication, team work, the need to understand gender issues in the family & workplace, etiquette, and environmental stewardship. A special session on the need to take care of one's physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being at all times was also held.



Induction facilitators : (Front Row From Left to Right): Dr. Fatuma Daudi, Dr.Hoseah Kiplagat, Prof. J.W. Khamasi and Prof. Gertrude Were

*My takeaway from this has been that Whatever you do,do it well and in silence and also None of us is as smart as all of us.*

**Jemima Wanjiru Njeru,**  
Kenya-AIST Plumber

*My take home message was unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved.*

**Ronald Cheruiyot,**  
Kenya-AIST Technologist II

*Today is just a beginning, together we are building something great!*

**Dennis Ngare Mwangi ,**  
Kenya-AIST Electrician

*Being at Kenya-AIST is a blessing to me, especially stamped by the induction held here at Subukia Retreat Centre. The lessons learnt—from etiquette and communication to environmental cleanliness—were invaluable. I promise to make Kenya-AIST better than I found it.*

**Lalai Samuel Ntongai,**  
Kenya-AIST Senior Technologist I

*I have learnt that team work begins by building trust and the only way to achieve this is by pursuing the interest of the organisation and others before yours.*

**Phineas Muriungi,**  
Kenya-AIST Asst. Housekeeper



## Building Global Bridges for Innovation and Growth

At Kenya-AIST, we believe that meaningful international partnerships are key to unlocking the full potential of science, technology, engineering, and innovation (ST&I) for national and regional development. Our focus is on becoming a hub of cutting-edge research through postgraduate training and to create global connections that will not only strengthen our academic and research capacity, but also facilitate alignment with industry needs, attract world-class expertise, and create sustainable innovations.

Between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya the Kenya-AIST Council Chairman, and the Acting Principal, Prof. J.W. Khamasi, advanced Kenya-AIST's global partnership goals in Spain where they attended the renowned Transfiere Conference - Europe's largest forum for research, development, and innovation in science, technology, and innovation (ST&I).

This year, the conference carried the theme “Innovation for a Better Future” and brought together hundreds of global experts, innovators, and industry leaders, offering a valuable platform for Kenya-AIST to connect with leading minds and institutions shaping the future of ST&I. Kenya-AIST representatives in the Conference engaged in fruitful discussions with potential partners and also shared Kenya-AIST's vision for transforming Kenya into a knowledge-driven economy.

Kenya-AIST is pursuing more valuable partnerships with global institutions.



*Council Chairman Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya and Ag. Principal, Prof. J.W. Khamasi participated in the Transfiere Conference in Malaga, Spain.*



*Council Chairman Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya and Ag. Principal Prof. J.W. Khamasi pose for a photo with the Mayor of Malaga Francisco de la Torre at the Transfiere Conference.*

The photos below were taken during a visit at the University of Malaga, International Office and School of Engineering respectively.



# Engagement with Local Stakeholders

## Meeting with NGAO

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, we hosted a strategic engagement meeting with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) from Mukaa Sub-county. The visit allowed NGAO members to interact with our team and also tour the campus facilities. Council Chairman Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya welcomed the guests and recognized them as key stakeholders for Kenya-AIST. He emphasized Kenya-AIST's vision, and its role in driving regional development through innovation and technology.

The NGAO stakeholders were encouraged to be ambassadors of Kenya-AIST within their communities, with assurance that the institution is committed to creating local employment opportunities and fostering inclusive development. Acting Principal Prof. J.W. Khamasi echoed these sentiments, expressing appreciation for the continued collaboration and support from the NGAO community.



*A section of NGAO Leadership pose for a photo at the Kenya-AIST Campus with the Kenya-AIST Chairman and the Ag. Principal*

## Kenya-AIST Security is Paramount

Ahead of the official takeover, Kenya-AIST convened a high-level meeting with its key security stakeholders on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025.

The meeting brought together the institution's contracted security partner, alongside representatives from Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) and representatives from the GoK Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit. The teams agreed on a collaborative framework and the need for seamless security transitions pre-and post-handover.

The discussions reinforced Kenya-AIST's commitment to building a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors.



*Multi-sector security meeting proceedings*



# Empowering Excellence: Equipment Training and Systems Familiarization

The Government of Kenya has invested heavily in Kenya-AIST faculty development and technology integration. Between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 different staff teams tested and commissioned academic equipment.

The training sessions covered several key departments including engineering workshops, and science and robotics labs ensuring staff are adept at handling new state-of-the-art equipment. The staff received hands-on instruction in equipment installation, operation, and maintenance to support seamless knowledge transfer to students.

Staff members also participated in the development and customization of various systems including the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System which will be key in streamlining administrative functions such as admissions, HR, procurement, and finance among others. The staff also received training on the Digital Library System which has been customized to ensure Kenya-AIST's library is a digital hub, granting access to global academic resources.



*Training on 3D Printer at the Robotics Lab*



*Training on Gas Chromatography at the Basic Sciences Lab*



*Training on the EDM Machine at the Workshop*



*Customizing the ERP System*



## We Are Ready for Takeover

Our Leadership team held a briefing session with the Project Manager for the Kenya-AIST facility construction, Eng. Dong Yup Lee from the BoMI E&C Consortium in preparation for the Celebration of Completion of Kenya-AIST project on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.



*Kenya-AIST Council Chairman Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya and Ag. Principal Prof. J.W. Khamasi photographed with Eng. Dong Lee Yup and Edward Kim of BoMI E&C Consortium at the Briefing Session*

In preparation for the takeover, Kenya-AIST staff toured the facilities on the first week of April. These final refinements marked a critical step toward ensuring Kenya-AIST's full operational readiness. Led by the Ag. Principal, the staff appraised key infrastructure installations. The team also undertook a thorough walkthrough of the campus core and academic buildings with the hope of moving in soon.



*Inspection of Auditorium*

# A Milestone Achieved: Celebration of Completion of Kenya-AIST Project

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025, we officially celebrated the completion of the campus at Konza City with a grand ceremony attended by distinguished guests from government, academia, and industry. The event began with a guided tour of our state-of-the-art laboratories, library, and auditorium followed by a symbolic tree planting ceremony that marked the start of a new chapter of growth and innovation.

Our Chief Guest of the day was Hon. William Kabogo, Cabinet Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, alongside Principal Secretary, Eng. John Tanui. The strong ties between Kenya and the Republic of Korea were highlighted by the presence of H.E. Ambassador Kang Hyung-Shik and representatives from Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), Korea EximBank, and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

Esteemed guests who participated with us include partners from Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Board, represented by the Chairperson, Mr. Emmanuel Nzai and Mr. Mugo Kibati, CEO, Telkom Kenya. Both celebrated the actualization of Kenya-AIST as a flagship Vision 2030 project.



In his keynote address, Hon. Kabogo reaffirmed the government's support and urged Kenya-AIST to work tirelessly with the Ministry's support in the pursuit of excellence as we await accreditation and award of charter.

*Key speakers during the event*

Vcs and DVCs from neighbouring universities were also present including Riara University VC Prof. Robert Gateru, Machakos University VC Prof. Joyce Agalo, Zetech University DVC Prof. Alice Njuguna and DeKUT DVC Prof. Esther Magiri among several other representatives from various universities. Other Institutions present were KoTDA represented by CEO Mr. John Okwiri, AFRALTI represented by Director, Mr. William Baraza and several CEO's from the Private Sector. With our facilities now fully equipped, we are ready to deliver quality education and champion innovation in science, engineering, and technology.



*Traditional dancers welcome the Cabinet Secretary, MICDE in dance and splendor.*



*Chief Guest Hon. William Kabogo signing the visitor's book at the Kenya-AIST Library*



# Greening the Future

Kenya-AIST is deeply committed to environmental sustainability, a commitment proudly affirmed by the recognition by the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI) for meeting the Green Standard for Energy and Environmental Design (G-SEED). On 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 we continued this spirit during our inaugural tree-planting drive held at Akatch Stadium in Ilima Ward, Kyambeke, Makueni County. Organized in collaboration with the Kaiti Greening Champions (KGC) and supported by the County Government of Makueni and the local community, we successfully held the tree-planting exercise under KGC's "One Learner, One Tree" initiative.



As part of our institutional commitment to climate action and in alignment with the Kenyan Government's goal to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, Kenya-AIST aims to plant 150,000 trees. For our first exercise, a total of 3,000 tree seedlings were distributed to 17 schools and an additional 300 trees were planted in Akatch Stadium. Additionally, fruit tree seedlings were shared with community members to promote local livelihoods as well as environmental conservation.



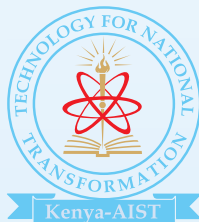
Speaking at the event, Prof. Mutisya reaffirmed Kenya-AIST's long-term commitment to grassroots climate action and urged young learners to envision their future academic journeys at the institution. The Ag. Principal Prof. Khamasi commended the KGC for inspiring environmental awareness among youth and encouraged teachers to foster pride in conservation efforts.



## Look Ahead

From onboarding our pioneering team to unveiling world-class facilities and partnering with communities on environmental sustainability, Kenya-AIST has laid a strong foundation for academic and research excellence. As we prepare to welcome our first cohort of students, we remain guided by our Vision “to be a lead pioneer in research and education, in science and technology, and to nurture highly qualified scientists and engineers for Kenya’s industrialization and modernization.

Stay tuned for the next edition of our newsletter!



Address: P.O Box 30, Konza City, 90151, Kenya  
Cellphone No: +254-741-491563  
Email: [info@kenya-aist.ac.ke](mailto:info@kenya-aist.ac.ke)