



THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



Inside

JOOUST
team visits
Weihenstephan-
Triesdorf
University of
Applied Sciences

Good tidings
for the visually
impaired in
JOOUST

USAID Boresha
Jamii boosts
JOOUST'S
internet
infrastructure

GOOD TIDINGS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED IN JOOUST



Participants testing the Hable One devices with their smart phones as guided by the Facilitators from Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA)

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology has received donations of nine Hable One devices from the Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa (KBTA), a charitable organization based in Nairobi. A Hable One device is an assistive device for use by persons with Visual Impairment (VI) which KBTA, in partnership with the developers, use to enhance digital literacy and skills to learners with visual impairment. The Hable one device is a miniature keyboard and easy-to-use remote access for a smartphone or tablet, designed to enable

visually impaired persons to easily navigate through their phones or tablet.

While expressing gratitude to KBTA's gesture, the Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Joseph Bosire lauded this initiative adding that it is in conformity with the University's objective of inclusivity through creating a dynamic learning environment that is accommodative to all learners. The Department of Special Needs Education and Early Childhood Development, led by Prof. Charles Omoke, conducted a user testing activity on the same day, 18th of June,

2023 at the Special Needs Education Skills Laboratory that was attended and witnessed by the faculty members, county officials and a number of visually impaired students. It was noted that of the nine Hable One Devices received, some will be donated to students and staff, while the remainder will be retained in the department for future training

Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa is currently enhancing digital literacy and skills to learners with visual impairments (VI) in 6 countries within eastern Africa including Malawi.

Their main objective is inclusion of those with visual impairments through delivering ‘an end to end, Education to Employment’ program hinged on 3 pillars namely; access to digital literacy & skills for VI learners from primary school to University, access to STEM subjects, coding and other digital skills to high school learners in order to widen their access to career choices and an employability skills program that supports VI young graduates to gain professional skills in order to access mainstream employment.

This donation comes as a big boost to the University which through the Department of SNE has over the years made concerted efforts to furnish the SNE Skills Lab. . The department has previously attracted funding by the National Research Fund to run a 3-year project that lapsed last year whose thrust was Promoting Awareness and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Education and Community based Programmes (PAPPS) within Siaya County.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire (left) receiving the Hable One devices donated by KBTA



Dr. Rose Koweru (right), a faculty member School of Education Humanities and social Sciences (SEHSS) examines the the Hable One device by hand.



Mr. William W. Gichia, Regional Technical Coordinator, KTBA presenting the donation at the Vice Chancellor's Office accompanied by the Chairman, Department of Special Needs Education, Prof. Charles Omoke (far right)

JOOUST TEAM VISITS WEIHENSTEPHAN-TRIEDS DORF UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



JOOUST faculty members and the WiehenStephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences pose for a group photo

A team comprising School of Agricultural and Food Sciences Faculty members Prof. Stephen Agong, Prof. Monica Ayieko, Prof. Darius Andika, and Prof. Christopher Gor made a consultative visit to Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) from the 2nd - 7th of July, 2023. The objectives of the visit were to assess the progress made in terms of collaboration between JOOUST and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences and to firm up future proposal and plans

for Research.

Fostering the partnership JOOUST Faculty members were able to attend a series of four Workshops and educational Seminars at the University in varied topical areas namely: “Business Management” for Partner Universities, “Corporate Planning” for our partner universities, Entrepreneurship Workshop and TAP Workshop on Design Thinking Idea Pitch and “Developing digital teaching materials” Agricultural Economics.

Additionally, through

competitive partial scholarship awards, JOOUST Alumni were successfully recruited and are undertaking the International Masters in Farm Management Programme at HSWT. Another six Undergraduate Students have been enrolled for a Summer Course at the University.

Consultative meetings
While at Triesdorf campus, the discussion revolved around a planned high profile workshop set to be hosted in Kenya, involving relevant Ministry Officials including The German

Ambassador, DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi, and other Education/Research Stakeholders.

Also discussed was the possibility of exploring joint Supervision of Postgraduate Students and admission of IMFM Graduates for PhD programs such as Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture and possibly as Graduate Assistants/Tutorial Fellows. They equally pitched for collaboration on calls for Research funding by Faculty members from HSWT and JOOUST.

In closing, the two teams agreed that a Multidisciplinary project proposal could be considered by Faculty from both Institutions with components of: Agricultural Economics; Horticulture; and Animal Science.



Dr. Michael Nyagol(left) and Prof. Christopher Gor (center-right), take a group photo with fellow participants during the scheduled workshops and educational seminars



Prof. Christopher Gor exchanging greeting with a faculty member from Wittenstein-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences



A smaller group of the delegates attending the workshops held at the Wittenstein-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences

USAID BORESHA JAMII BOOSTS JOOUST'S INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE



Prof. Anthony Rodriguez, Director ICT (left) with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Joseph Bosire (Center) receiving the smart switch donation from the Chief-of-party JOOUST-UBJ, Dr. Solomon Orero(right)

The JOOUST-USAID Boresha Jamii (UBJ) project six donated D-Link Smart managed switches and Small Form-factor Pluggable (SFP) transceivers for port connection to enable data transfer. A team led by the Chief-of-Party Dr. Solomon Orero delivered the gadgets on the 18th June, 2023 during a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor's office.

This is an initiative of the Project to assist the University enhance its data networking infrastructure. The Directorate of ICT is constantly seeking new ways to enhance user experience

through assessing the latest market demand and trends, embracing a user-based approach in meeting its clients' needs and engaging key stakeholders towards the advancement of tech services within the University. The Director, Prof. Anthony Rodrigues, echoed the University's keen standpoint on enhancing the private and public partnerships for greater developmental impact.

JOOUST USAID Boresha Jamii is an integrated Project that undertakes PEPFAR, Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and WASH activities, through

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implemented by Jaramogi Oginga Odinga of Science and Technology as its prime with PATH Kenya and SCORE Kenya as its Sub Awardees. The project also works with four local implementing partners in the counties of Kakamega, Kisumu, Vihiga and Nyamira.

The aim of the program is to provide integrated activities to achieve the Kenya Health Partnership for Quality Services (KHPQS) goal and objectives, building on USAID's investment in health

systems strengthening, FP/RMNCAH/WASH and Nutrition through supporting the Ministry of Health in achieving journey to self-reliance (J2SR) in Cluster 5 Counties of Western Kenya Region. The focus is to increase the use of Quality County led health and social services in the following programmatic areas : HIV care and treatment, Family Planning, Reproductive Health, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (FP/RHMNCAH), Water and Sanitation (WASH), and mitigating social determinants that affect Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Key and Priority Population (KP/PP) and Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision(VMMC).

The program is based in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Univeristy of Science and Technology's Kisumu Campus.



Prof. Joseph Bosire (Center) chairing the session attended by a team from the Directorate of ICT and JOOUST-USAID Boresha Jamii



Prof. Anthony Rodriguez addresses the JOOUST-USAID Boresha Jamii team



The ICT personnel from both parties Mr. Joseph Okene, JOOUST (right) and Mr. Joachim Oduong, JOOUST-UBJ (second right) listening in on the remarks

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You are all welcome to the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology stand, at the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) grounds, in Mamboleo!

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