



MksU

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Co-creating sustainable futures



Meet The Editorial Team



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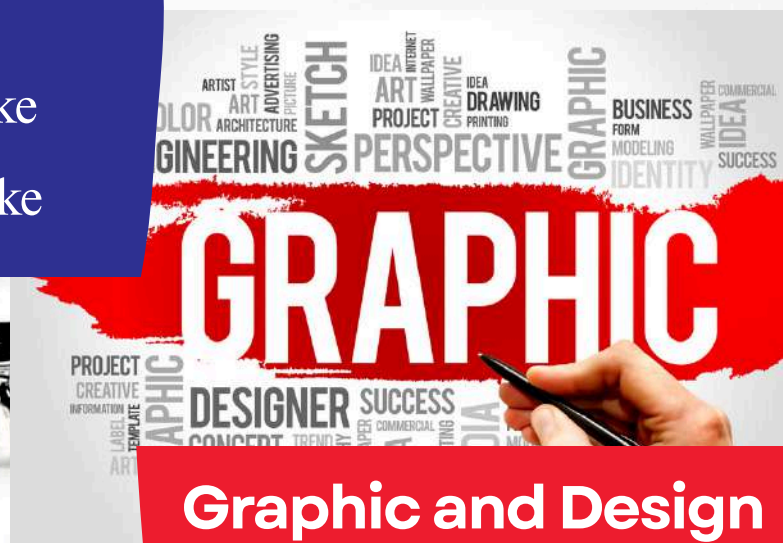
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CO-CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Machakos University 7th International Conference



From the left, Chief Guest Prof Ratemo Michieka, Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo, Prof. Mugendi M'Rithaa and Prof. Charles Ombuki during the opening ceremony.

Machakos University hosted its 7th International Conference under the theme “Leveraging the 5th Industrial Revolution in Research and Technology for Sustainable Development.” The conference brought together scholars, researchers, innovators, policymakers, and industry experts from diverse disciplines to explore how research, technology, and innovation can drive sustainable development and address emerging global challenges. In her welcoming remarks, Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo received the Chief Guest, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, alongside delegates and participants, highlighting the significance of the conference theme and its various sub-themes.



Participants during the 7th International Conference

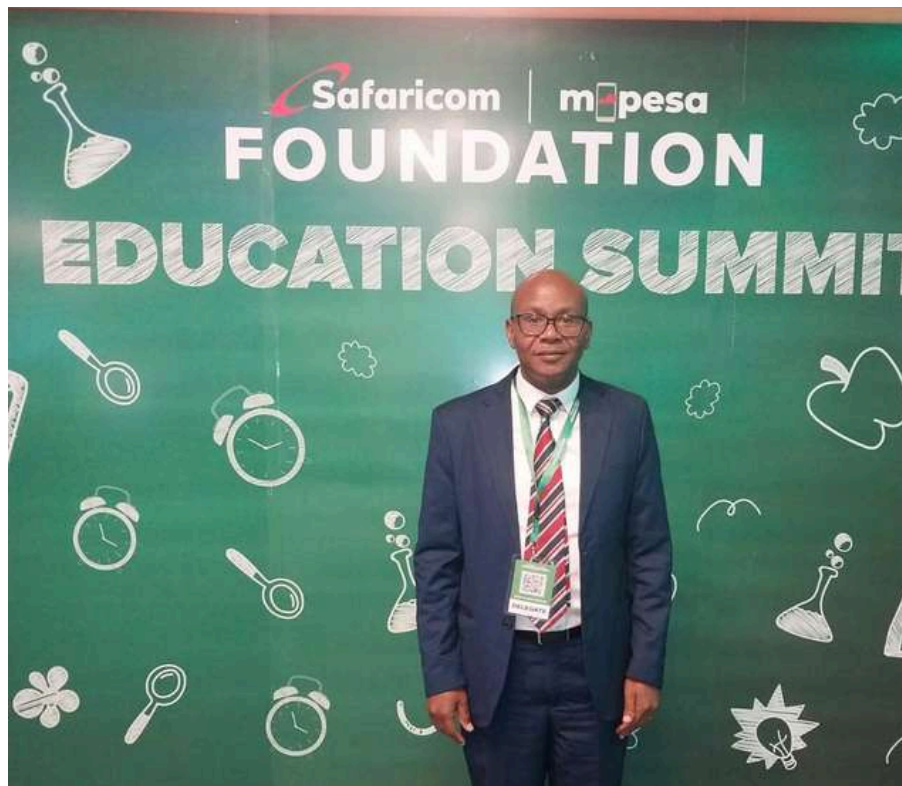
In her welcoming remarks, Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo received the Chief Guest, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, alongside delegates and participants, highlighting the significance of the conference theme and its various sub-themes. She reaffirmed the University's commitment to advancing research, innovation, and knowledge exchange as key drivers of societal transformation. Officially opening the conference, Prof. Ratemo Michieka emphasized the importance of quality research, academic excellence, and innovation in shaping the future of higher education and fostering sustainable development. He encouraged institutions, researchers, and stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in generating solutions that respond to contemporary challenges.

The conference featured thematic sessions focusing on:

- Business, Entrepreneurship, Employability and Economic Resilience
- Governance and Institutional Transformation
- Youth, Communities, Language, Culture and Technology
- Research, Science and Technology Transfer for Sustainable Development
- Technology for Environmental Sustainability, Food Systems and One Health
- Transformative Learning and Pedagogy

The conference continues to serve as a vibrant platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and the generation of innovative solutions that contribute to sustainable development at local, regional, and global levels.

Advancing Skills Through a Smart TVET Centre



Mr. Nicholas Mwunda, MksU TVET Director

This landmark project is generously funded by the M-Pesa Foundation, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing quality education and empowering young people through practical, future-focused training. The project is expected to be completed within 14 months and will provide state-of-the-art facilities designed to support digital skills development, technical innovation, and smart learning environments.

Once operational, the Smart TVET Centre will offer students greater opportunities to acquire hands-on skills that align with current industry demands. The facility will not only enhance learning experiences but also foster creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship among learners. By integrating technology into vocational training, the centre will help bridge the gap between education and the evolving needs of the job market.

Machakos University is proud to announce the establishment of a Smart TVET Centre, a transformative initiative that will redefine technical and vocational education by equipping students with modern, industry-relevant skills.

According to the Director of TVET, the centre represents a major investment in the future of education and skills development, ensuring that learners are prepared to thrive in an increasingly digital and innovation-driven economy.

The Smart TVET Centre is expected to deliver numerous benefits, including:

- Enhanced access to digital and technical training for students.
- Development of practical, industry-relevant skills for employability.
- Increased opportunities for innovation, research, and entrepreneurship.
- Strengthening Kenya's workforce through future-ready competencies.
- Creation of a modern learning environment that embraces emerging technologies.
- Establishment of a hub for innovation and skills development in Machakos County.

The establishment of the Smart TVET Centre marks a significant milestone in Machakos University's journey towards becoming a leader in smart education and innovation. Through strategic partnerships and continued investment in training infrastructure, the University is positioning itself at the forefront of vocational education while empowering young people to contribute meaningfully to national development.

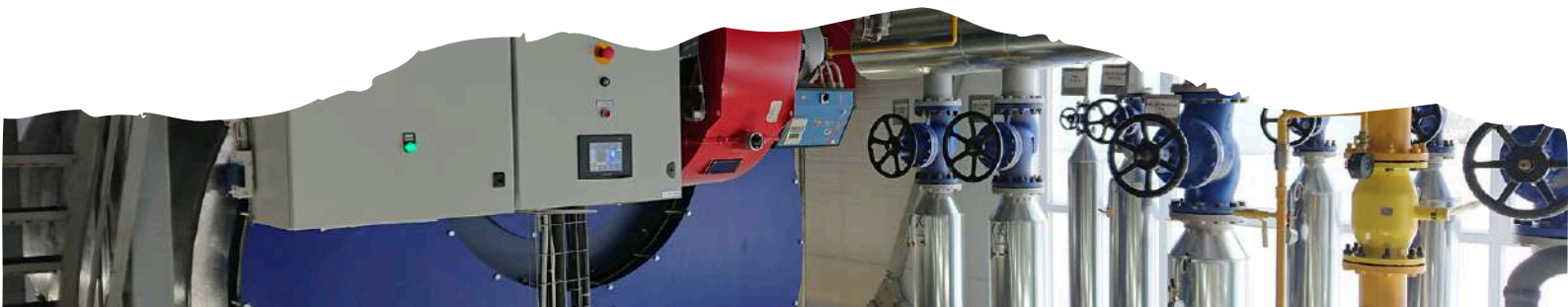


Enhancing Practical Engineering Training with a New Steam Boiler

Machakos University's TVET Directorate has taken a significant step towards strengthening practical engineering education through the acquisition and installation of a steam boiler at the Training Facility. The new equipment will provide students with valuable hands-on experience in key areas such as steam generation, boiler operation and maintenance, industrial safety, thermodynamics, heat transfer, and energy management. This practical exposure will help bridge the gap between theoretical classroom instruction and real-world industrial applications.

Steam boilers are widely used in manufacturing, power generation, heating systems, and other industrial processes, making them an important component of engineering training. By interacting directly with the equipment, students will develop industry-relevant skills and gain a deeper understanding of how modern steam systems operate. The facility will also support research, technical demonstrations, and innovation within the department.

The acquisition is expected to significantly enhance the quality of training offered to engineering students by providing a realistic learning environment that mirrors industry settings. Through practical sessions, learners will gain confidence in operating, monitoring, and maintaining steam systems while applying classroom concepts to real engineering challenges. This experience will improve their technical competence and better prepare them for employment in various engineering and industrial sectors. Beyond student training, the steam boiler will create opportunities for collaborative projects, applied research, and engagement with industry partners. As the University continues to expand its training infrastructure, investments such as this demonstrate its commitment to competency-based education and the development of skilled, innovative, and industry-ready graduates capable of contributing to Kenya's industrial growth and technological advancement.



Department of Institutional Management Strengthens Skills Training at Machakos University



The Department of Institutional Management under the TVET Directorate at Machakos University continues to play a key role in building practical skills that support national development and industry growth. The department offers specialized diploma programmes designed to meet evolving industry demands, including Diploma in Catering and Accommodation Management, Diploma in Food and Beverage Management, and Diploma in Fashion Design and Clothing Technology. Admissions for new students are conducted annually in September. The minimum entry requirement is a KCSE certificate with a mean grade of C- (minus) or its equivalent, or a Craft Certificate where candidates have successfully completed Module 1 and Module 2 KNEC examinations. Through these entry pathways, the department ensures inclusivity while maintaining strong academic and technical standards.

Beyond academic instruction, the department is committed to building learner capacity through updated modules that reflect emerging industry trends. Trainers actively mentor students, ensuring a strong connection between classroom learning and real-world industry practice. This approach equips graduates with the confidence and competence needed to thrive in dynamic hospitality, catering, and fashion sectors. Looking ahead, the department will participate in the Machakos Agricultural National Show in June 2026, where students and staff will showcase their skills, innovations, and creativity. The event presents an important opportunity for collaboration, exposure, and recognition of excellence.

Through continuous innovation, collaboration, and a strong focus on practical training, the Department of Institutional Management remains committed to producing skilled, adaptable, and industry-ready graduates who can contribute meaningfully to both the hospitality and creative industries.

Academic Trip For TVET Mechanical

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Students

Between 8th June 2026 and 12th June 2026, Module 2 Mechanical Engineering students from Machakos University pursuing a diploma under the TVET program undertook an academic trip to Mombasa. The visit included three major industries: Kalu Works, Bamburi Cement, and Associated Vehicle Assemblers (AVA). This trip was designed to bridge classroom theory with practical industrial exposure, allowing students to observe modern manufacturing processes, machinery operations, safety standards, and sustainable practices. By engaging directly with engineers and technicians, the students gained valuable insights into real-world applications of mechanical engineering, strengthening their professional readiness and technical competence.

Kalu Works – Mombasa (9th June 2026)

During the visit to Kalu Works, the students gained valuable insights into aluminum manufacturing processes such as casting, rolling into sheets, and fabrication. They observed the operation of heavy industrial machinery and learned about quality assurance techniques used to maintain product standards such as Aluminum purity test. The visit also highlighted workplace safety measures and environmental considerations in metal production such as waste management. By engaging with engineers and technicians, the students connected classroom theory with practical applications in materials science, and modern manufacturing practices.

Bamburi Cement- Mombasa (10th June 2026)

During their visit to Bamburi Cement in Mombasa, the students gained practical exposure to cement manufacturing processes, including raw material extraction, crushing, blending, and kiln operations. They observed the use of modern technology in production, as well as energy efficiency and safety measures. The visit also highlighted environmental management practices such as dust control through bagging technology and waste recycling. By interacting with engineers and technicians, the students connected theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, enhancing their understanding of industrial engineering, process optimization, and sustainable production methods relevant to their future careers especially for plant engineers.



MksU Mechanical Engineering Diploma students on their academic trip to Mombasa.

Associated Vehicle Assemblers (AVA) –Mombasa (11th June 2026)

During their visit to Associated Vehicle Assemblers (AVA) in Mombasa, the students gained practical knowledge of automotive assembly processes, including chassis preparation, engine fitting, body building and electrical system integration. They observed modern automation techniques in assembly, safety protocols, and quality control measures that ensure vehicles meet industry standards. The visit also exposed them to supply chain coordination and teamwork in large-scale manufacturing. By interacting with engineers and technicians at AVA, the students connected theoretical concepts from their coursework with real-world applications in the automotive industry.

Conclusion

Industrial visits form an essential part of engineering education, as they expose students to real-world applications of the concepts learned in class. By visiting established companies and industries, students gain practical insights into manufacturing processes, machinery operations, safety standards, and modern engineering practices. These experiences bridge the gap between theory and practice, preparing them for future professional roles. Machakos University is committed to link Mechanical Engineering student in TVET to industry in the spirit of dual training.

From Theory to Practice: Supply Chain Students in Action

In a bid to align theoretical knowledge with the fast-paced realities of the corporate world, the Diploma in Supply Chain Management students from Machakos University recently embarked on a comprehensive academic trip. This industrial tour was designed to expose the next generation of logistics professionals to the intricate workings of major trade hubs and manufacturing giants, transforming textbook concepts into vivid, real-world experiences.

The journey began with an immersive visit to the Regional Logistics Centre Limited, where students stepped right into the heart of freight management. The cohort gained invaluable insights into the complexities of clearing and forwarding operations, observing firsthand how documentation and regulatory compliance keep international trade moving smoothly.

The facility also served as a live classroom for cargo handling and warehousing operations, demonstrating how modern inventory control systems minimize errors and maximize spatial efficiency. Seeing the precise coordination required to manage vast amounts of stock gave the students a profound appreciation for the meticulous nature of modern storage solutions.

Shifting focus from third-party logistics to heavy industry manufacturing, the tour proceeded to Bamburi. Here, the students explored the delicate art of balancing demand and supply within a high-output production environment. They observed how strategic stock control operations and robust material handling systems prevent bottlenecks on the factory floor.

The team at Bamburi also walked the students through their specialized packaging techniques and outbound logistics networks, illustrating how finished products safely reach the end consumer.



MksU Diploma in Supply Chain Management students during their academic trip.

Crucially, the visit highlighted the rising importance of sustainable business practices, showing how an ecology-friendly supply chain can drastically reduce carbon footprints while remaining highly profitable. The grand finale of the expedition took place at the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), a massive gateway for regional commerce.

At KPA, the learning curve extended beyond physical logistics into the legal frameworks that govern public entities. Students received an essential primer on public procurement law and audit processes, emphasizing accountability and the strict regulations surrounding the disposal of unwanted assets.

On the tarmac and by the docks, the group marveled at the sheer scale of port operations and the seamless execution of multimodal logistics, watching ships, trucks, and trains sync perfectly to move global cargo. This academic trip undoubtedly proved to be a resounding success.

By witnessing the entire lifecycle of a supply chain, from procurement law and port handling to manufacturing sustainability and warehouse distribution, the Machakos University scholars have been equipped with a sharper, holistic view of their discipline, ready to innovate and lead in the global marketplace.

Spotlight on Excellence: Prof. Stanley M. Makindi



Machakos University proudly features Prof. Stanley M. Makindi, an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, whose distinguished career reflects deep commitment to teaching, research, and sustainable development.

With over 20 years of experience in higher education, Prof. Makindi has made significant contributions in shaping future environmental professionals through teaching and mentorship, advancing research on the environment–development nexus, guiding academic standards and examinations, and supporting quality assurance in higher education.

His academic work focuses on the critical intersection between environment and development, particularly in areas such as human ecology, where he explores the relationship between people and their environment; biodiversity conservation, aimed at protecting ecosystems under growing development pressures; environmental health, examining how environmental factors influence human well-being; and environmental impact assessments, ensuring that development projects are environmentally responsible and sustainable.

Through his scholarship and professional expertise, Prof. Makindi continues to inspire students, colleagues, and communities.

His work serves as a strong reminder that sustainable development is not only a scientific pursuit but also a shared responsibility that requires continuous commitment and action.

Prof. Stanley Makindi, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences

Luban Workshop: Empowering Career Success



Daniel Muthui, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science graduate from the Machakos University Class of 2024 and currently a Technology Support Engineer at CopyCat Group, credits the Luban Workshop for significantly shaping his professional journey.

Through hands-on training, real-world projects, and exposure to modern technologies, he acquired practical skills in innovation, problem-solving, and teamwork that complemented his academic studies. The experience boosted his confidence, enhanced his technical expertise, and prepared him effectively to thrive in today's dynamic workplace.

Role Models: Shaping Champions Beyond the Field

Role models play a vital role in games and sports by inspiring athletes to pursue excellence, remain disciplined, and uphold strong values both on and off the field. Through their actions, character, and commitment, they demonstrate the importance of teamwork, resilience, respect, integrity, and leadership. A true role model is not defined solely by talent or victories, but by the positive example they set for others. Coaches, teachers, senior players, sports administrators, and accomplished athletes all help nurture the next generation of champions. Kenyan icons such as Eliud Kipchoge, Faith Kipyegon, David Rudisha, Victor Wanyama, and Humphrey Kayange continue to inspire young athletes through their dedication and achievements. Globally, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Serena Williams, Michael Jordan, and Sachin Tendulkar exemplify excellence, perseverance, and professionalism. By following positive role models, young sportsmen and women learn that true success extends beyond trophies- it is about building character, inspiring others, and making a meaningful impact on society.

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