



SEUCO

Magazine

First Quarter 2011 • Issue no. 002

ARID TO GREEN



SEUCO Launches its *Ten Year Strategic Plan*

Corporate Statement

Our ambition is to be a center of excellence in sustainable regional and national development through the advancement and expansion of opportunities for higher education and research in dryland agriculture, forestry, mining, energy, water and environmental sciences with emphasis on arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs); achieved by way of collaboration, community service, participatory approaches, appropriate technology transfer and innovation.

Vision

A globally competitive Centre of Excellence in Teaching, Research, Innovation and Service.

Mission

To provide quality education through teaching, research, extension, innovation and entrepreneurship with emphasis on dryland agriculture, natural resources and environmental management.

Philosophy

Arid to Green



SEUCO

Magazine

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CONTENT

PAGE

<i>Editorial</i>	3
<i>Message from the Principal</i>	4
<i>Events and Happenings</i>	5
<i>Pictorial</i>	13
<i>Conference & Exhibitions</i>	16
<i>Science and Technology</i>	21
<i>The Social Mirror</i>	24
<i>Humour: the funny side</i>	26
<i>Enrich your Vocabulary</i>	27

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Articles should be submitted to the SEUCO Magazine Editorial Board. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit articles for clarity and space. Contributors should give their names though not necessary for publication.

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Message From The Principal



Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi, Principal SEUCO

Since the year begun we have witnessed various developments in SEUCO. Key to this was the launch of the SEUCO Strategic Plan 2010-2020, which was graced by Prof. Crispus Kiamba, the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. I am most thankful to the steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dickson Nyariki for their tireless effort through which this Plan was realized. As we all know, the Strategic Plan is a guide to ensure that SEUCO remains focused and secures a place in the world map as a centre of academic excellence.

As you may be aware, SEUCO has been a centre of focus. We are proud to have hosted important and distinguished guests including our own Chancellor, Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui, the Provincial Commissioner, Eastern Province; the Mayor Kitui County Council and the Kitui County Councilors. Our visitors have been overly impressed by the way the serene environment has been beautifully transformed.

In anticipation of the new students we have completed a number of facilities. Notable among

them is the Kitchen and Hostel and Office and Tuition Block which assure students of quality accommodation and lecture rooms respectively. The high level of craftsmanship in these buildings and others that are upcoming as well as the brisk pace at which the buildings are completed is remarkable.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate first year students for securing a place in this esteemed institution. You are most welcome. I urge you to take your work seriously, keep away from bad company and remain focused to your purpose.

To the staff, I thank you once more for your continued hard work and cooperation in our strive to realise our mission and vision. Together we shall surely achieve our objectives among which is transforming lives.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi
PRINCIPAL

Events and Happenings

SEUCO LAUNCHES HER STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2020

Jhe University College has realized a major milestone by being the first Constituent College in the country to launch a Strategic Plan. This has left the academic fraternity in awe about the University's Colleges speed as an emerging institution in the national and international arena.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan is estimated at Kshs. 18.5 billion and is expected to transform SEUCO entirely as she works towards being a fully fledged university by 2012. The University College targets to have a student population of 6000 students in 5 years and 11,000 students in 10 years.

This Strategic Plan spells out our Vision, Mission and Objectives that will lead to effective and efficient execution of our mandate and delivery of services. It also articulates strategies that will be used to overcome challenges likely to face us as an institution. The Vision of the University College is to be a globally competitive centre of excellence in teaching, research, innovation and service for purposes of transforming human lives. To achieve this, our Mission is to provide quality and transformative education.

In the 10-year period of the Strategic Plan, the activities of the University College will revolve around eleven key areas, which will, however, be subjected to annual reviews to accommodate new and emerging issues. The crucial areas include: academic programmes, research and linkages, extension services, student welfare, image, processes and systems, governance and management, finance, human resources, physical facilities and technology.

Arising from these strategic areas, the following objectives will be pursued: (i) produce highly

educated, skilled and competent personnel, (ii) produce tangible research based solutions for society and industry, (iii) develop physical infrastructure that meets internal and external demand, (iv) promote collaboration and networking with stakeholders, industry and allied institutions, (v) mobilize adequate resources to fund activities outlined in SEUCO's Strategic Plan and (vi) attract, develop, motivate and retain qualified and competent staff as per the established structure.

In the Strategic Plan, the University College endeavours to create unique academic programmes that are tailor made for the ever changing job market requirements, while the existing programmes will be continually reviewed to ensure quality and relevance.

The launch of the Strategic Plan which took place at the University College's Main Campus in Kitui, on the 25th of March 2011 was graced by Prof. Crispus Kiamba, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST). The PS commended the University College Council, the Management and the whole SEUCO fraternity for this noble achievement.

In his speech, the PS challenged institutions of higher learning to initiate income generating activities in order to supplement government's support thereby improving their financial base. He expressed his concern that many students are opting to go to universities in other East African countries due to cheaper rates but end up getting an education of 'questionable standards'. It is, however, unfortunate that some of these qualifications are not recognized in the Kenyan job market. He challenged local universities to devise ways of reversing this trend.

The PS urged the Department of geology in the school of Earth Sciences to focus on research aimed at identification and exploration of mineral resources in the region in line with Vision 2030 goals. Currently, the University College is in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Kitui County Council for the mapping of the regions mineral wealth.



The PS MoHEST, members of the University College Council and Management display the Strategic Plan after its official launch

The occasion was attended by dignitaries from the academic arena, local governance, public administration and other stakeholders.

SETTING THE STANDARD: PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING IN SEUCO

South Eastern University College marked a remarkable progress in her second performance contract evaluation after being upgraded to a Constituent College by clinching 4th position amongst the University Colleges in the results announced on 16th June, 2011 for the 2010-11 financial year up from position 42 in tertiary institution in the previous year. Performance Contracting was introduced in public institutions by the Government of Kenya in 1991 as a tool for improving service delivery, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. The annual performance contracts are structured to align with the Kenya Vision 2030, Medium Term Plan 2008-2012, institutions strategic plans and annual work plans. SEUCO, which has just launched its ten year strategic

plan, has signed performance contracts with the Ministry of Higher Education Science & Technology since 2008 with the current performance contract for the financial year 2011/2011 being her 4th contract. The SEUCO performance contracting secretariat consists of three officers and reports to the Principal through the Director, Directorate of Performance Contracting and Quality Management Dr. Muusya Mwinzi. The secretariat is charged with the compilation, negotiation and setting of the University College targets with the Government through the Ministry of Higher Education Science & Technology. It also keeps evidence of achievements towards the targets and presenting them for evaluation by the ministry. The secretariat also coordinates all

departments on performance contracting issues.

It is during the 2011-12 Financial Year that the Performance Contract was first cascaded down to individual schools, divisions, directorates, departments, sections and units. In addition Directors, Deans, Heads of Departments and Heads of Sections were trained on performance contracting on 28th April 2011.

The recently launched strategic plan and its ongoing implementation is a big milestone towards achieving the set performance contract targets. The secretariat is now working towards ISO 9001:2008 QMS certification which will enhance the performance of the university college as whole.

DEBUT PERFORMANCES FOR SEUCO STAFF AND STUDENT CHOIRS

Bright uniforms and melodious harmonies were some of the hallmarks of the performances of the SEUCO staff and student choirs during the launch of the Strategic Plan on the 25th of March 2011. The students' choir smartly dressed in green African Attire set off the day by leading the guests with the national anthem.



Student's choir entertaining guests during the launch of the Strategic Plan

The students later performed two gospel songs which called on the Almighty God to bless the institution as it begins its 10 year journey as outlined in the Strategic Plan. The staff choir opened the entertainment floor

with a composition by Rosephine Mwinzi, which was a clarion call to SEUCO to continue on its mandated course and act as a beacon of hope to the community. The staff choir arrayed in brown African outfits complimented the

students' choir uniform to reflect SEUCO's corporate colours.

Other notable performances by the community around SEUCO that made the event colourful were the Nyumbani children's home and their caretakers and the Ngwani traditional dancers, who led the congregation in a dance to celebrate the launch of the strategic plan.



Staff choir making their moves during the Strategic Plan launch.

THE CHANCELLOR TOURS SEUCO

The 8th of March 2011 goes down in history as one of the memorable days in SEUCO when our Chancellor, Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui visited the institution for the first time. The Chancellor toured the numerous ongoing projects as well as assessed the developments at the institution.

The Chancellor commended the University College Council and the Management for their commitment and speed in developing the



The Chancellor listens to the Dean, School of Engineering & Technology in one of their workshops

institution in the short period since its elevation to an Institution of higher learning. He urged the entire University College fraternity to keep up the spirit and strive for even greater development and success.

Dr. Wanjui expressed his pleasure at the rate and

the standard of both infrastructural and academic developments in SEUCO. The Chancellor urged the institution to lay special focus on research in dry land agriculture to fulfil its core mandate. He also challenged the institution to come up with more innovative and productive ways of enhancing livelihoods for those living in arid and semi arid areas. Noting that this region is endowed with a wealth of mineral resources which are yet to be tapped, he encouraged the institution to carve a niche for itself in science oriented courses and research with a special bias in mineral resource exploitation.

During his visit, the Chancellor officially opened the Administration Block while the Vice-Chancellor laid the foundation stone for the University College Hospital. The Chancellor was accompanied by the

Chairman of Council, University of Nairobi Mr. P. N. Simba, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor's, Principals of Colleges and Deans of Schools of the University of Nairobi.

THE PC EASTERN LAUDS SEUCO'S DEVELOPMENTS

Jhe Eastern Province PC, Ms Claire Omollo, paid a courtesy call on the Principal in



The PC, Ms. Claire Omollo, (on the left) consults with the Principal during her visit. Looking on is the DC for Kitui West Ms. Josephine Ouko (center)

SEUCO on 16th March 2011. Having heard of SEUCO's achievements, she could not resist the lure to witness for herself these developments. After touring the University College projects, the PC who was utterly impressed, commended the speed at which the institution is developing. The PC was accompanied by the DC Kitui West and other Provincial Administrators.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR VISITS SEUCO

His worship the Mayor Mr. Mwendwa Muniwoki of Kitui Municipality called on the Principal on 1st March 2011. The Mayor who was accompanied by 9 councilors held lengthy discussions with the Principal and members of the Management. Top on the agenda was the possibility and modalities of establishing an MOU to map mineral resources for subsequent



The Mayor (centre, front row) with the Principal and members of Management together with County Councillors

exploitation. This collaboration will foster the socio-economic development of the region to its full potential.

SEUCO HOSTS KITUI COUNTY CHAIRMAN



The SEUCO Management and the Kitui County Council members

Under the invitation of SEUCO Management, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Councilors of the Kitui County Council visited the institution on 30th March 2011. SEUCO has a long history with the County Council of Kitui. The University College is a direct beneficiary of this relationship having inherited the 10, 000

acres where the Main Campus is situated. This land was originally donated to UKAI, the predecessor of SEUCO, by the Kitui County Council in the early 1970's. The purpose of the visit was for the guests to witness the developments at the University College. During the visit, the guests were taken on a familiarization tour of the University College projects including the

Fishponds, Tuition and Office Block, Greenhouses, the Hostel and Kitchen Block among others. Indeed, the visitors were awed by the rate of development in SEUCO and commended the institution for her commitment to ensure that she become a force to reckon with in the education circles and subsequently the region into the limelight.

CULTIVATE SELF DISCIPLINE, PRINCIPAL URGES NEW STUDENTS

In this life, we cannot succeed with just education alone to our name. Character is equally important. We should make it part of us to develop a character that each one of us would be proud



The Principal gives a speech during the matriculation ceremony

to possess as a person. Self discipline is paramount. Make it a personal conviction to be of good conduct. Indiscipline casts a shadow on our achievement. However well you perform, no matter your achievements, a bad personality will always water them down." The Principal, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi advised the over 300 First Year students during the Matriculation Ceremony at the Main Campus.

He advised the students to develop a good and admirable character. Learn how to relate well with others, both the young and the elderly. "Let us build a character of accountability, responsibility, honesty, patience, kindness, selflessness, and of being considerate." He said.

Matriculation ceremonies are performed at

Universities around the world to formerly welcome the First Year students. During the ceremony, the new students take the "matriculation oath", committing themselves to pursuing their studies and abiding by the university rules and regulations. The First Year students reported on May 9, 2011 for the First Semester, of the 2011/2012 Academic Year.

The Principal asked students to be responsible for their actions. "When you have concerns to raise, please make use of the laid down channels and avoid any form of behavior that may ruin both your studies and your future." The principal advised.

He reminded the students to remain focused so as to attain their degrees in the shortest time possible by ensuring that they plan their time wisely and effectively utilizing the opportunities and facilities availed to them.

David Nkichabe, a first year student of Dryland Agriculture said he was happy to be part of the SEUCO community. "I expect to enjoy the conducive and serene learning environment, and promise to work hard in my studies as the sky is the limit." Commenting on the address, David said he was elated when the Principal said that Diversity is not about how we differ but about appreciating and embracing each other's uniqueness and enriching ourselves with other's tremendous body of knowledge and experiences. "This gives one an assurance and a true sense of belonging."

WELCOME CLASS OF 2011

The Deputy Principal (Academic & Students Affairs), Prof. Francis Mathooko welcomed the students who reported for their first year University education at SEUCO. The students, some accompanied by their parents/guardians, went through the registration process assisted by University Academic Affairs Division staff. The Deputy Principal (ASA), while addressing the over 300 students, encouraged them to be proactive in shaping their destiny by engaging the various University College organs to ensure a smooth stay.

The students, admitted through the Joint Admission Board and self sponsored programmes/Module II, add to the growing number of students currently pursuing various programmes at the Institution. As a public University College, SEUCO was allocated about 800 JAB students from the 24, 221 students who will join the country's institutions of higher learning this year under regular programmes.

The week long registration process was capped by an address from the Principal, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi. This year's candidates are drawn from those that sat the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in 2009. The cut-off point for male students is a B of 63 points while that of girls is one point lower (62). A total 81,048 candidates scored C+ and above, the minimum entry qualification which is for University Education. A total of 20,073 students who sat the National Examinations in 2008 joined the Public Universities on various

dates last year. Having scored a mean grade of B plain of 65 points and above.

In its effort to open up access to higher education in the region, and to meet the ever rising demand for higher education in the country, South Eastern University College has embarked on a growth programme in line with its Strategic Plan launched in March this year. The University College opened the Kitui Town Campus offering various Degree and Masters programmes and currently the Machakos Town and Emali Town Campuses.

The Academic Affairs Division has put in place strategies to fulfil the dream of the University College of becoming a fully-fledged University. New academic programmes have been introduced such as the Bachelor of Arts in



The Deputy Principal ASA addresses first year students during the matriculation ceremony.

Education and Bachelor of Information Technology among others to cater for the increasing number of students seeking higher education in those fields of specialization.

Pictorial



Nyumbani village children entertain guests on the launch of the strategic plan



Nyumbani village children entertain guests on the launch of the strategic plan



Ngwani dancers entertain guests on the launch of the strategic plan



The Chancellor UoN, Dr. Joseph Wanjui opens Deans and Directors Block



SP Launch: The PS MOHEST, Prof. Crispus Kiamba launches the SEUCO Strategic Plan



Guests at the Luncheon after the Launch of the Strategic Plan



First year students listen to Principal during the Matriculation Ceremony



Principal, PS MOHEST and Council Chairman during the launch of the Strategic Plan



Kitui County Council chairman and Councillors during their visit to SEUCO



Chancellor plants commemorative tree



Nzambani Sec. visit Seuco



Principal and Dr Kalua from Green Africa after signing the MoU



Chancellor signs visitors book



Guest from USA



Performance contracting training



Chancellor tours university projects



Chancellor opens workshop

Conferences and Exhibitions

SEUCO MAKES ITS MARK AS THE UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE IN THE SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Colorful tents dotted the grounds and traditional songs rent the air as people milled around the Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos, the venue for the first ever South Eastern Investment Conference and Expo whose theme was *(Unlocking the investment Potential in South Eastern Region-Kenya)*. The conference which was organized by the Machakos, Makueni and Kitui Counties was held on the 7th and 8th of April 2011 with SEUCO participating as the only university which spans the three counties.

The conference's objectives were to: identify and implement home-grown initiatives, document all investment priorities and opportunities in the region, create a

vibrant, interactive, healthy debate and discussion on investment opportunities and identify and approach strategic partners and networks to support the investment programmes.

The Conference was organized by Investment Committees which had been formed in the three Counties. The Kitui County Committee, chaired by (Dean School of E.Sc in SEUCO) Prof. Eliud Mathu,

Investment concept which focuses on the sustainable exploitation of the following areas of investment: Water, Agriculture, Tourism, Human Resource, Infrastructure, Mining, Willingness, Empowerment and Unity.

The conference was opened by the Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports, Hon. Wavinya Ndeti, who urged participants to embrace innovative ideas and adopt new sources of income in



The VP Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka at the SEUCO stand

the country. The Vice President, Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, presented awards to the Counties on the 8th of April 2011. The awards were grouped in various categories and Kitui County scooped the 'Most Practical County' Award. He was accompanied by the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Mutula Kilonzo and Hon. Gideon Ndambuki, MP for Makueni.

Hon. Ndambuki urged farmers to adopt the cultivation of indigenous crops which are drought resistant such as sorghum, millets, sweet potatoes and cassava among others. He pointed out that the commonly grown crops particularly maize and beans were continually becoming unreliable sources of food and income. Hon. Mutula Kilonzo commended the gathering for coming together to look for home grown solutions to their problems. He however noted that the conference did not expound on matters of the constitution and advised the participants to take time to educate themselves on the new constitution as economic growth is usually supported by a sound legal system. The same message was echoed by the Vice President.

While visiting the SEUCO stand, the VP assured the institution of the

Government's support for her push to become a fully fledged university. He added that plans were in the offing to elevate Machakos Technical Training Institute to a constituent college which will further bring higher education to the people.

The SEUCO stand attracted huge interchange as it was the only institution of higher learning which had put up a stand. Visitors ranged from potential students to farmers who expressed a keen interest in visiting the SEUCO demonstration farm to learn some key farming techniques. Other visitors included potential collaborators such as the Kenya Investment Authority through the CEO Ms Susan Kikwai.



Hon. Wavinya Ndeti, Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports, visits the SEUCO stand

SEUCO SHINES IN THE KENYAN UNIVERSITIES EXHIBITION

South Eastern University College made her maiden appearance in the recently concluded 9th Exhibition by Kenyan Universities held between the 17th to 19th March 2011 at the Golf Hotel, Kakamega.

The exhibition attracted over 4,000 participants many of whom came from Nyanza, Western and Rift Valley Provinces. Over 30 Universities and University Colleges participated in the three-day event.

The Theme of the exhibition, "Aligning University Education with Kenya's Vision 2030" called upon Universities to help the Government transform the country into an industrialized middle-income economy in the next twenty years. This would be achieved through re-aligning Universities programmes towards the Government's Vision.

Prof. Harry Kaane, the Director for Higher Education, who was representing the Minister for Higher Education Science and

Technology (MoHEST), Honorable Prof. Helen Sambili, officially opened the exhibition on the 17th of March 2011. In his keynote address, he emphasized the role of universities in creation of

The Director hinted that the Government intends to start running programmes in the 'Open University' by September 2011, a move that will increase access to higher education.



Prof. Harry Kaane, Director for Higher Education and Prof. Everett Standa, chairman, commission for Higher Education (in green shirt) visit SEUCO stand

knowledge that is crucial for the realization of Vision 2030. He re-affirmed the Ministry's support in creating an enabling environment through which the universities can achieve their objectives. In his remarks he reiterated the Government's plan to carry out infrastructural development in the universities as a way of encouraging competence among the institutions of higher learning.

The same message was echoed by the Chairman, Commission for Higher Education, Prof. Ezra Maritim, as well as the Secretary Prof. Everett Standa. Prof. Maritim added that university exhibitions should be supported in order to create opportunities for the institutions to market themselves and for

stakeholders to interact and make informed decisions about what courses to pursue.

SEUCO's exhibition stand was one of the most visited during the 3 day event. Some of the notable visitors included the Director for Higher Education, MoHEST, Prof. Kaane, Chairman CHE, Prof. Maritim, as well as the Secretary Prof. Standa. The University College Principal Prof. Muluvi who was particularly impressed by the display of the stand, congratulated the staff for planning and coordinating the event excellently.

Additionally, the stand was popular among secondary school students who are our potential clients. They raised many pertinent questions specific to our academic programmes with a lot of interest expressed in programmes offered by the Schools of Agriculture, Engineering, Earth Sciences and Pure and Applied Sciences.

Although SEUCO's mandate is focused more on dryland agriculture and its antecedent courses, the University College is diversifying its disciplines to incorporate liberal arts in order to meet the market demand.

The University College was represented by a delegation of 6 members led by the Registrar Academic Affairs Dr. John F. Koga. Other members were Dr. Paul Mwangi, Dr. Kasina Musembi, Dr. Patricia Muendo, Ms Florence Kioko, Ms Lucy Machoya and Mr. Allan Wekesa.



SEUCO staff attends to visitors in our stand.

SEUCO HOSTS A WORKSHOP ON AGRO-BIODIVERSITY

In March 2011, SEUCO held a workshop on Development of Agro-biodiversity Programmes for Teaching and Research which drew participants from Bioversity International and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). Farmers from the local community also participated in the workshop. The main agenda was to discuss ways and means through which SEUCO could develop Agro-biodiversity programmes for teaching and research.

The two-day workshop revolved around the following topics;

- a) The role of Agro-biodiversity in natural resource management and conservation
- b) Training, Research and Career Opportunities in Agro-biodiversity with reference to SEUCO's main mandate.
- c) Linking agriculture with food and nutrition: Bioversity's Research in Kitui County
- d) Exploring ways of collaboration among SEUCO, Bioversity International and other stakeholders.

The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Francis Mathooko, the Deputy Principal, (Academic and Student Affairs) who gave an informative overview on Agro-biodiversity. The Dean, School of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Titus Kanui, in his introductory remarks emphasized the need for SEUCO to mount courses, modules and programmes on Agro-biodiversity in her curricula.

The proposed courses and programmes include the following:

S/No	Course/Programme	Duration	Award
1.	Policy and Conservation Strategies , Seed Conservation Technology and Participatory Agro -biodiversity Management.	2 weeks	Certificate
2.	Agro-biodiversity Conservation and Conservation Techniques	2 years	Diploma
3.	BSc. Agrobiodiversity and Genetic Resources	4 years	Bachelors Degree
4.	MSc. Agrobiodiversity and Genetic Resources Management	2 years	Masters Degree

Vigorous marketing of these courses is in top gear. The market for the programmes includes but not limited to: Food Processing Industries, Academic Institutions and Research Institutions, Self employment and NGOs.

A possible collaboration

between Bioversity International and SEUCO is being developed and will be actualized soon. The people charged with this responsibility include the following members from SEUCO: Prof. Thomas Akuja, Prof. Nashon Musimba, Dr. Benjamin K. Muli, Dr. Patrick

Kisangau and Dr. Jacinta Kimiti. The Bioversity International (Kenya) is represented by Mr. Henry Kamau while Dr. Pur Rudebjer represents Bioversity International (Rome). The whole team will be chaired and coordinated by Prof. Kanui.

SEUCO SETS UP DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY



Prof. Thomas Akuja, Director RIT

The establishment of the Research, Innovation and Technology (RIT) Directorate marked an important policy decision to promote and set the research agenda in SEUCO. The RIT Directorate was established as yet another way of ensuring that the University College realizes her Mission and Vision through research and innovation.

A knowledge based economy relies heavily on innovations to transform resources into products, processes and

services. South Eastern University College has established clearly defined and supportive policies and institutional frameworks to effectively address research needs.

The Directorate is mandated to; play a leading role in University College resource mobilization programme, coordinate research

proposal development, review and submission of the same to potential funding agencies, maintain a database of potential research funding agencies, ensure that donor and government funded research projects are in line with the University College Mission and Vision as well as Kenya's Vision 2030 and to coordinate projects' progress

and reports to meet SEUCO's obligation and donor requirements. In addition, the Directorate is charged with the responsibility of organizing research and proposal writing seminars within and outside the University College as well as administering intellectual property law.

SEUCO RECEIVES AN ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER (Pg990)

The National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) donated a brand new Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer to South Eastern University College in 2010. The instrument which was installed in January 2011 is now fully functional. The



instrument is housed under the Department of Physical Sciences and can be accessed by all scientists who would want to analyze samples. The Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer is used for qualitative and quantitative analysis of heavy and light metals.

PG990 Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer Flame & Graphite Furnace system is fully computer controlled with an eight lamp self alignment hollow lamp turret. It has D2

and Self Reversal background correction. The changeover from flame to graphite furnace is carried out by simple keystrokes within the software.

This is a highly sophisticated and rare equipment and SEUCO is indeed honoured to have been one of the few institutions to be awarded the machines by the Council. The instrument will promote teaching, learning and research in this institution and the entire region.

SEUCO AND GREEN AFRICA FOUNDATION COLLABORATE

The 18th of April 2011 saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between South Eastern University College and Green Africa Foundation which will be hosted in the School of Environment and Natural Resource Management. The signing of the MoU is yet another channel for SEUCO to realize its core mandate. The functions of Green Africa Foundation are: training the community on moral values and ethics, promoting good health and pro-life peace in the community and environmental conservation.

The collaboration seeks to partner in the following areas: dryland agriculture and environmental related projects and research, environmental

conservation initiatives, capacity development programs, community empowerment initiatives, modern technology transfer and development as well as implementation of research proposals/projects in areas of special and common interest. This MoU will also open up more areas of potential collaboration such as climate change, biodiesel production and ground water resources.

This collaboration is a valuable move to both institutions and the beneficiary communities. Green Africa Foundation targets to have SEUCO as a green village in this region and make it a reference centre of the Foundation where activities will be designed and formulated for replication elsewhere. SEUCO will on the other hand provide

scientific resources, expertise and training in the areas of collaboration.

Currently, two research proposals from the School of Water Resources, Science and Technology have been funded by the National Council for Science and Technology. The team leaders for these proposals are Prof. Dorothy Mutisya and Dr. Johnson Kitheka. Prof. Mutisya and her team are investigating the 'status, opportunities and challenges of e-learning in public universities in Kenya' while Dr. Kitheka and his team are examining 'promotion of surface run-off and rain water harvesting for application in aquaculture and horticulture development in Kitui District, Kenya'.



The Principal and Dr. Kalua, Chairman of the Green Africa Foundation, sign the MoU

The Social Mirror

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Drug abuse in Kenya is escalating rapidly from alcohol and cigarettes to hard drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin, khat among other drugs. Interestingly, there are marked changes in the demographic profile of users: women and youth are increasingly initiating using drugs.

According to a study by NACADA, 8 percent of 10-14 year-olds have used some alcohol at least once in their lifetime and about 13 percent of them have ever used other drugs and/or substances such as cigarettes. The same study found that close to 40 percent of adults aged between 15 and 65 years have used one type of alcoholic beverage or another in their lifetime with huge variations in the types and the rate of consumption across regions, rural-urban residence, age, gender, education level, religion and economic status. At least 13 percent of people aged 15 to 65 from all provinces in Kenya except North Eastern were

consumers of alcohol (NACADA, 2007).

The current trend of drug and substance use among the youth is particularly nerve wrecking. Many fingers have been pointed at the youth themselves while ignoring the very people who abet the youth's drug habits, and wantonly purvey rot among the youth. These are generally cohorts of the middle aged and adults, including parents, in whose care the young generation lives are presumably placed.

The height of social decadence and breakdown comes when the older generation fails to live up to their responsibility and duty of guiding the younger generation. It is not surprising to see drunk adults and parents unashamedly fondle each other on the streets, to the detriment of young people's mentality. It is then hypocrisy to hear the same old folk and their ilk often asking where the current festering decadence among

the youth came from.

Beer brewers, drug peddlers and barons are increasingly targeting the youth, a symbol of freshness and revolution, who they seek to sacrifice at the alter of money and mental derangement. Self-seeking and clamouring for the minds and souls of the young people, these drug peddlers have no regard for the consequences of their bloodied actions.

In the world of today, drugs are readily available to the youth. Weekends usher in festive moods among the youth. You will spot many of them inebriated, bloodshot eyed and yet others visibly drunk. Many deaths from road accidents and HIV/AIDS infections are directly attributed to drug abuse and addiction. These portend a great economic problem to the majority of the third world countries where development aspirations are generally pegged on manpower and expertise.

It is pitiful that drug peddlers lead the youth into temptations through the advertised byways of the wilderness of 'glamour lifestyles' where the youth are deluded until their minds acquire a mis-educated appetite for more drugs and strong drink thereby becoming loathsome sots, poor and sometimes ending up in caskets.

Manufacturers of drugs have unwittingly brought in the mortal mind, of a higher decrease than the drugs, which governs their sales. One would thus hear of adverts such as, "smooth all the way" and many other deceptive platitudes imposed and bestowed on alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs to the detriment of the misinformed youth

Cigarettes and alcohol are some of the commonly used legal drugs, accepted as part of our culture. Alcohol, for instance, is a mood altering drug which and when consumed in large quantities, can act as a depressant and affect judgment, balance and co-ordination. Young people are at risk of alcohol related injuries, including road accidents, trauma, violence, sexual coercion, accidental death (eg. drowning), death from overdose and suicide. Prolonged alcohol abuse affects major body systems and organs, including the liver and the brain. Adolescent drinking is largely a social activity and peak consumption occurs on weekends.

The consequences of illegal drug use include physical health complications such as kidney, liver and heart damage, loss of memory or concentration, depression, the transmission of infections through sharing of needles, as well as psychological and physical addiction.

Some illegal drugs can lead to increased aggression or hostility. The effects of smoking appear in almost every major system and organ in the body. Heart disease, stroke, lung disease and cancer are directly linked to smoking.

Our youth are dying morally, socially, psychologically and physically from drug abuse and addiction as the drug barons and peddlers bask in the dark glory of plagued monetary gains amid the incessant catastrophe. Many are now asking whether the relevant authorities are doing enough, with revelations that law enforcement agents are being bribed by drug barons and thus, turning a blind eye to this illicit trade.

The parental role in bringing up the youth has also come under serious scrutiny. Before anything else, parental care is the most important control and preventive measure against drug abuse and addiction. Are the parents really doing enough to guide and spend quality time with their children despite their tight work schedules? Are our youth going to be left at the mercy of drug dealers? How and when will we come up with an effective and lasting solution to this menace?

Luckily, drugs are not allowed anywhere in the vicinity of the University College. Students are warned against indulging in drug abuse. The consequences are dire. Stay away from drugs and enjoy a trouble free environment in this institution.

Humour: the funny side

LAUGHTER, THE UNSURPASSED THERAPY

Jack was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always does to shake hands.

The preacher grabbed Jack by the hand and pulled him aside. The pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" Jack replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I almost never see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Jack whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

After writing an economics exam, I met with my lecturer and reported that "the exam was a cinch because the questions were exactly the same as last year." "That may be so," answered the lecturer, "but this year the answers are different." - John Ashman

During the first day of sociology lectures, the professor issued his guidelines for writing assignments. Among them was a warning that plagiarism would not be tolerated. Just as I finished writing that down, the guy next to me said, "Could you move your hand? I didn't catch the last part." - C.J. Thompkins

Walking in the park one day, a couple noticed a young man and woman sitting on a bench, kissing passionately. "Why don't you do that?" complained his wife. But darling, "replied her husband, "I don't even know the woman"

"Mum, my wedding has to be perfect," said the bride-to-be. "We mustn't forget the most significant detail." "Don't worry, dear – he'll turn up!" - Kenneth Hall

I had to laugh when I first heard the greeting on my son's answering machine at university: "Hi, this is Rick. If you are someone from the phone company, I've already sent the money. If this is one of my parents, please send money. If it's my financial institution, you didn't lend me enough money. If you're a friend, you owe me money. If you are a female.....i have plenty of money!" - Kristine Clayton

Hotel guest, complaining at the reception:

"My bill has a surcharge for a swimming pool. But this hotel doesn't even have a pool!"

Manager: "That's right. But the money will go to building one" - Nebelsparter

Life is full of complications. Even when you are born, there's a string attached - Jacqui Bronts Maffra

A man in a flat on the second floor worked night shift and continually woke the occupants in that flat below by taking off his boots and throwing them across the room. After complaints, he agreed to change his ways but, on returning home early one morning, he threw one boot before remembering his promise. He gently placed the second boot next to his bed. Twenty minutes later, his neighbour pounded on the door. "For God's sake," he screamed as the door opened, "throw the other boot so I can get back to sleep!" - R. Ramage

One hot, dry day in a barren area, a traveler arrived at a small highway café. Wiping the sweat from his brow, he turned to a deeply tanned old-timer sitting at the counter and asked, "When was the last time it rained here?" The old man looked at him. "Son, you remember in the Bible when it says it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?" "Well, yes,, I do." The old man continued, "We got a centimeter." - Douglas Irving

Enrich your Vocabulary

Tick the word or phrase that you think is the correct answer. Answers are on the next page

1. Endow - A: Store B: Complete C: Provide D: Plan
2. Gaudy - A: Yarn B: Flamboyant C: depressed D: approved
3. Colloquium - A: Conference B: Restorative C: Poem of Praise D: Large hall
4. Wayward - A: Lacking resolve B: Unpredictable C: Unfriendly D: Always travelling
5. Plagiarism - A: Spreading infection B: Vulgarly C: Pretence D: Arrogance
6. Biodegradable - A: Polluting B: Recyclable C: Endangered D: Scarce
7. Cognitive, based on - A: Emotion B: Knowledge C: Inspiration D: Passion
8. Ecology, study of - A: Diseases B: Evolution C: Balance of nature D: Agriculture
9. Humility - A: Modest B: Resignation C: Shyness D: Mildness
10. Iota - A: Small amount B: Allotment C: Allowance D: Parody
11. Parenthesis - A: Paralysis B: Parenting C: Mimicry D: Insertion
12. Tranquility - A: Calmness B: Meditation C: Grace D: Restraint
13. Ambiguity - A: Complexity B: Blunder C: Dominant D: Uncertainty
14. Formidable - A: Predictable B: Helpful C: Frightening D: Renowned
15. Euphoric - A: Elated B: Messy C: Absent-minded D: Powerful
16. Coagulate - A: Jam B: Solidify C: Accelerate D: depress
17. Bunker - A: Obstacle B: Special club C: Rough ground D: Ditch

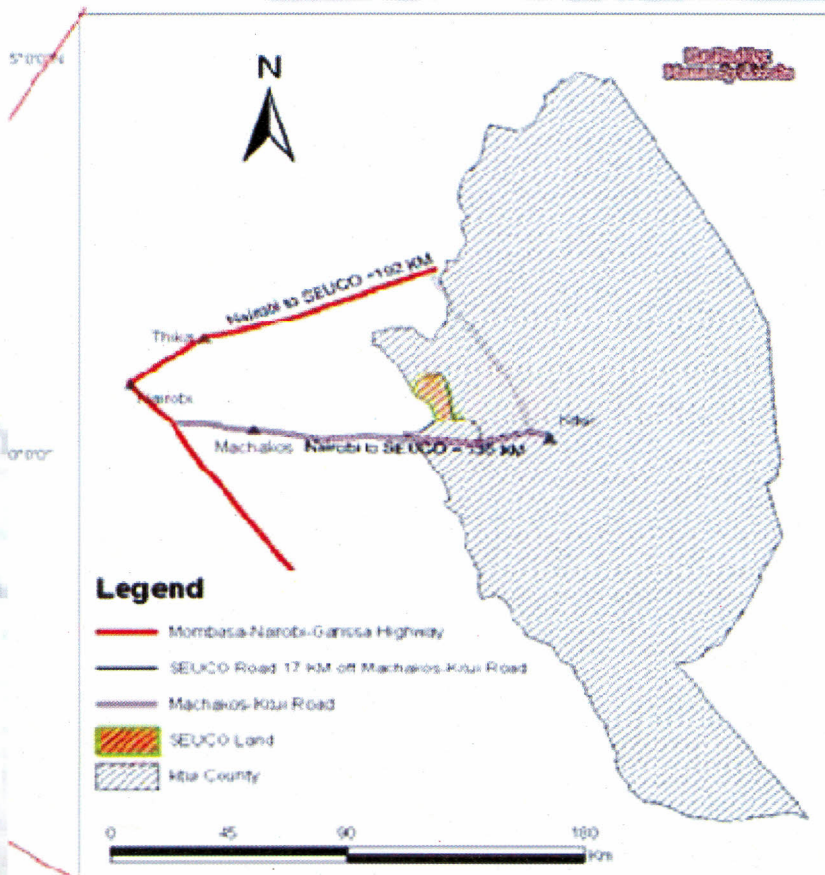
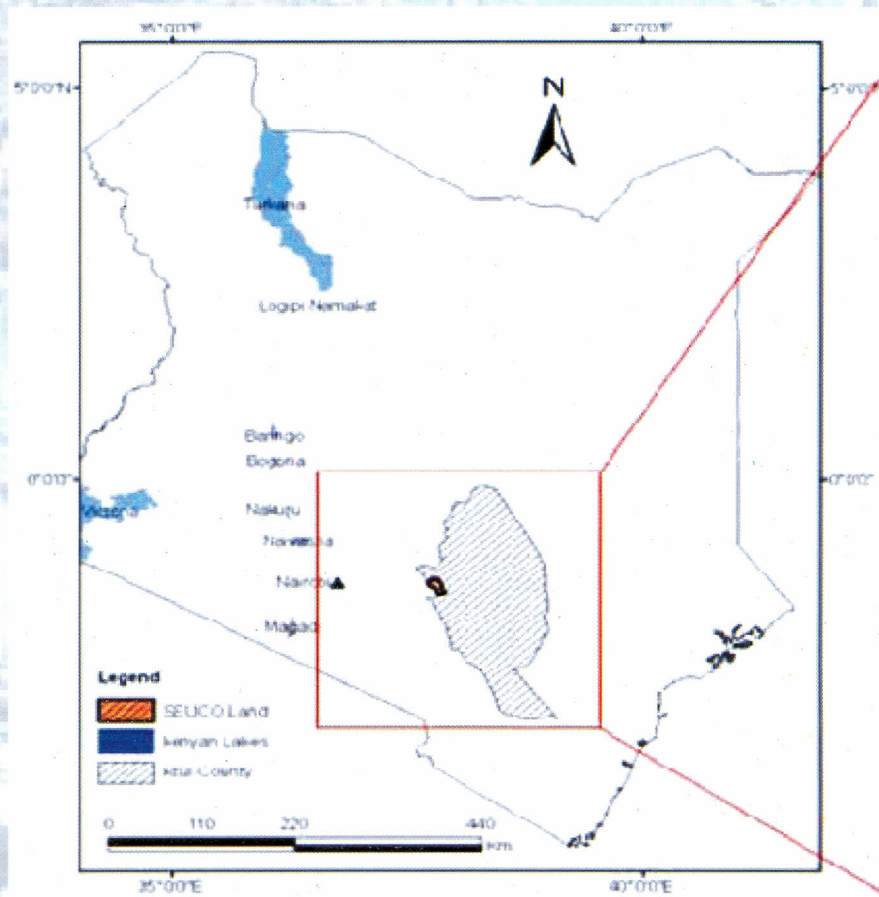
- Rating: 18 -16 Excellent 15-13 Good 12-9 Fair
- Spectrum. D: 20
- Dilemma. C: 19
- Deep covered dish. A: 18
- Ditch. A: 17
- Solidify. A: 16
- Elated. D: 15
- Frightening. A: 14
- Uncertainty. D: 13
- peacefulness Calmness; C: 12
- Insertion of a qualifying or amplifying phrase in a sentence. A: 11
- Small amount. B: 10
- Showing Modesty in attitude and behavior. D: 9
- and their environment. Study of the balance of nature; the interrelationship of organisms. B: 8
- Knowledge. C: 7
- Recyclable. A: 6
- Pretence that another's persons writing are one's own. B: 5
- Conference. C: 4
- Unpredictable. B: 3
- Flamboyant. A: 2
- provide. C: 1
- Answers

20. Gamut - A: Manage B: weighing instrument C: Beauty D: Spectrum

19. Quandary A: Laughter B: Fast. C: Dilemma D: In distress

18. Tureen - A: Deep covered dish B: Evil C: Frying pan D: Pot

TRAVELLING TO SEUCO





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