



A word from the Director

The University of Nairobi's ICT Centre has the mandate of developing, deploying and supporting innovative, quality and sustainable ICT solutions and services that meet the changing learning, teaching, research and management needs of the University.

The University has recognized the important role ICT plays in the management of its key processes and therefore embraced it as a critical tool for achieving its strategy.

The Centre has a team of skilled, dynamic and highly competent staff charged with the mandate of designing, developing, supporting and maintaining necessary systems and infrastructure. This capacity has been exploited and used to leverage on our competitiveness and responsiveness to issues with an orientation to developing homegrown and customized solutions where others have not ventured before.

Creativity and innovation in the use of ICT has become the hallmark for successful and prosperous business ventures. To respond to this challenge, we have to be dynamic and creative in the use of ICT to be effectively responsive to the demands of the market and to remain relevant in the current setup.

The Centre has a vast pool of resources at its disposal including high speed internet bandwidth, wide network infrastructure coverage including Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) networks and a wide portfolio of servers which are being

utilized effectively to gain a competitive edge.

Consequently, the University through ICT has continued to perform well at the regional and international arena. This has played a major role in enhancing the University brand and visibility. We have developed and implemented relevant ICT Policies including the Website policy to guide the development and use of ICT resources at the University.

ICT Centre has also been greatly involved in community outreach and environmental preservation through various initiatives.

Guided by our core values of honesty, integrity and team work we commit ourselves to offering quality service to our esteemed customers.



Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, Director, ICT

director-ict@uonbi.ac.ke

www.uonbi.ac.ke

<http://ict.uonbi.ac.ke>

Volume 1
Issue 2
March 2013



Our Vision

To become a world-class ICT function powering the university into academic excellence.

Our Mission

To develop, deploy and support innovative, quality and sustainable ICT solutions and services that meet the changing learning, teaching, research and management needs of the University.

Our Overall Strategic Objective

To maximize student and staff productivity, enhance teaching and learning and improve quality of research through ICT.

ICT staff celebrate 2012



Thank you Prof. for supporting the welfare while in office.



We have the answer: ICT Staff compete in teams during the party.

For ICT Centre staff in the University, 2012 was a year that saw the team reach great heights and what other way to celebrate its highs and lows than an end of year party.

Organized by the ICTC Welfare in liaison with the Director, ICT's office and the Central Administration, the party was held on 14th December, 2012 at Hotel La Mada, off Thika Road.

Themed 'Celebrating Success and Recognizing Our Achievements,' the party saw the speakers commend the ICTC staff for a job well done.

Prof. Elijah Omwenga, former Director, ICT and outgoing ICTC Welfare Patron, called on the members to strive to make a difference in society through the work stations. He highlighted the support he received while in office and asked the members to support his successor, Mr. Ibrahim Otieno. Prof. Omwenga was presented with a gift as a token of appreciation for steering the ICTC Welfare during his tenure.

Besides a sumptuous buffet, group competitions with winning teams being awarded and an evening cocktail are some of the activities that were held during the party with Mr. Brian Lugonzo as the Master of Ceremony.

Bravo to the current the ICTC Welfare officials for a job well done.

ICT Centre's upcoming projects

In line with its strategic plan and commitment to provide quality services, ICT Centre has embarked on upgrading the University's network infrastructure to UTP Cat 6 and fiber optic cabling, in order to provide high data transmission speeds.

This will ensure that the University aligns itself with modern IT technology demands that will cater for teaching and learning applications as well as service delivery systems that demand high bandwidth capacities.

The following projects are at implementation stage for the year 2012/2013:

- Pre-Clinical department LAN Extension with 395 data access points.
- Mombasa Campus Computer Laboratory with 50 data points.
- Connectivity to SWA SMU units and student com-

mon rooms in SWA headquarters, Mamlaka 1 and 2, Box Stella Awinja and student center. Most of this will focus on extending the existing wireless coverage.

- Wireless LANS (WiFi) for Mombasa, Kisumu, Parklands, CEES and Health Sciences.

The MIS section's planned projects include:

- Upgrade of the Data Center.
- Automation of the tax filing process on the HRMIS, popularly known as P9
- Online application for degree programmes
- Payment of selected university levies via mobile money e.g. exam center levies
- Automation of the procurement and cash module on the Financial Management System (FIMS).
- Implementation of WiFi networks in School of Law, and College of Agriculture and Veterinary Studies (CAVS).

UoN improves in Webometrics ranking

In January 2013, University of Nairobi improved its performance in the Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics), by being ranked position 12 in Africa up from position 14 last year.

At world level, the University is in position 1,326 up from 1,435 recorded in 2012.

UoN is second to Makerere University in the East African Region while the Stellenbosch University leads the ranking in Africa.

The Ranking Web of Webometrics is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institutions and is aimed at promoting academic web presence, and supporting the Open Access initiatives for increasing significantly the transfer of scientific and cultural knowledge generated by the university to the whole society.

The University has been monitoring her performance on Webometrics and 4ICU rankings.

ICT staff plant trees

In November, 2012, the University of Nairobi ICT staff showed the rest of the University that its mandate is not limited to delivering quality ICT services to the University community and the public. The team, planted 120 indigenous trees within the University's Chiromo Mortuary and swampy area next to the sports ground.

The exercise was not only an important University activity as it is part of the University performance contract requirement but also the centre's contribution to greening the environment. The Centre was required to plant 60 trees but saw it fit to double the number.

Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, Director, ICT, commended the ICT staff members for their efforts in conserving the environment through planting trees. He said that it was important for Kenyans to contribute in different small ways and reverse the damage already done to the environment.



Management Information Systems

ICT Center has made great strides in Management Information Systems.

In May, 2012, the team, in collaboration with the Finance Department started issuing electronic pay slips (e-pays lips) via. The objective of the initiative was to reduce stationery and administrative costs, and improve the distribution of pay slips. The exercise has so far been a great success as all University's members of staff are now receiving their pay slips via email.

The housing registry identified a need for a computer-based information system to automate management of tenants, applications, billing and rent collection. To this end, ICT implemented the Estates Management Information System for the housing registry in Estates Department.

The Staff Performance Appraisal System (USPAS) was developed for Central

Administration and sought to automate the annual staff appraisal process. The system aims to simplify tracking of staff performance over time and hence inform its staff development policies. The process builds up from self, peer, supervisors and finally management appraisal. The system has been piloted in the Administration Department and the ICT Center with an intention to roll out in the entire University.

Coordinating transport operations and facilities in the University has over the years been a challenge owing to the geographical expansiveness of the campuses. To ease this, the ICT Center have developed a Fleet Management System that seeks to keep an inventory of the vehicles, monitor their status, keep insurance records and track daily operations. The developers hope to integrate real time monitoring through Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

In addition, ICT Center successfully launched the Joint Applications Board's (JAB) online application for degree choices by high schools. Using the online system, it is now possible for form four leavers and potential students to revise their degree choices online. The system is not only accessible via standard web browsers but also via mobile phones. The system has also integrated mobile money payment solutions.

Indeed, the development and implementation of these Management Information Systems has confirmed ICTC's mission which is to develop, deploy and support innovative, quality and sustainable ICT solutions and services that meet the changing learning, teaching, research and management needs of the University.

A brief of the latest developments

The University of Nairobi Digital Repository was last year launched to provide open access to research work by various UoN students and staff that was previously not easily accessible. This can be accessed through <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke>.

In December 2012, the University Website policy was approved by management in to manage the University Web presence and content. The policy which is now being implemented will provide a set of manda-

tory guidelines for the university of Nairobi systems of websites.

In addition, the staff profile website tool was also redeveloped and revamped and is now accessible through <http://profiles.uonbi.ac.ke>. The tool provides staff with more functionality and is aesthetically appealing.

The Staff Intranet Portal was also redeveloped for document and content sharing. The new portal boosts better user experience and

design in terms of access and upload of content. ICT Centre has so far installed about 7,800 operational data points in its network infrastructure.

The latest additions were in extra mural centers with 120 data points and School of Business Computer Lab with 40 points. This is a remarkable improvement of an additional 695 data access points up to the period December 2012. By June 2013, the section projects an additional of 500 data access points.

Our Core Values

We strive to abide by the virtues of integrity, honesty and meritocracy in all our activities

We commit ourselves to working as a team, with broad-based consultation

We embrace excellence, efficiency and effectiveness

We endeavour to carry out our duties with commitment, dedication and professionalism

Senior ICT officer interacts with ICT team in Porto



Ms. Munyiva Ngea in Portugal

Ms. Munyiva Ngea, a senior ICT Officer had an opportunity to visit the University of Porto and learn from the ICTs application at the University in order to generate ideas for application in the University of Nairobi.

Through the Administrative Mobility programme at the University of Porto in Portugal within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Programme, Action 2 - STRAND 1, LOT 15, ACP countries, Project "MUNDUS ACP II" coordinated by the University of Porto, Ms. Ngea was hosted by the Faculty of Sports, ICT Department in the University of Porto for one month.

Some of the programmes main goals include mutual enrichment and a better understanding between Europe and the ACP Countries, through the exchange of people, knowledge and skills at Higher Education level and the promotion of transparency and recognition of studies and qualifications at an international level.

"My stay in Porto was pleasant and I was able to interact with the people, enjoyed the food and visited various sites around the city," she said. Porto is the second-largest city in Portugal, after Lisbon, and one of the major urban areas in Southern Europe.

ICT Staff go on motivational retreat

In August, 2012, the University of Nairobi ICT staff members had a fruitful retreat at Green Hills Hotel, Nyeri. The staff had time to bond and know each other better, especially with the merger between the ICT and the former Telephony - now Data Centre and Communications.

The two day event saw Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN, give the key note address. In his remarks, Prof. Magoha challenged the ICT staff members to not only put more effort in their daily responsibilities but to think of innovative technological ideas that can generate income for the institution. He commended the team for a job well done and called on individuals to work towards attaining the university's

overall objectives.

The members present were also taken through various presentations by different speakers including the Director, ICT, Mr. Ibrahim Otieno who talked about the role of ICT and its strategic plan. After all the presentations were made, the director led the team in crafting the way forward for ICT.

The participants were also treated to motivational talks by Prof. Evans Aosa on time management, and stress management for betterment of health which was done by Dr. Pius Kigamwa. Other presentations made include performance contracting principles and guidelines by Mr. Busienei Peter Kiprono, an overview of MIS by Mr. Paul

Kariuki, ICT network and infrastructure and communication and data centre by Mr. Elijah Tenai, innovation and consultancy by Dr. Agnes Wausi, ICT User support by Mr. Joseph Muchina, anti-corruption awareness by Mr. Situma Achung'o, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming by Dr. Gordon Ambayo and the merger between ICT and telephone by Prof. Elijah Omwenga.

Also present was Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension and various college principals.

ICT Centre revises Quality Objectives

In May, 2012, the ICT team revised its Quality Objectives. The new objectives are:

1. To enhance ICT infrastructure reliability through Data Centre upgrade by 2013
2. To enhance availability of ICT resources by expanding the network infrastructure coverage from current level of 90 percent to 93 percent by 2013
3. To improve access to ICT resources by increasing Internet Bandwidth from current 180MB/s to 250 MB/s, implementing two new wireless sys

tems and improving computer-user ratio from a combined average of 1:8 to 1:7 by 2013

4. To increase Automation Level of the University from 72 percent to 75 percent through the deployment of additional three cost-effective Information Systems by 2013
5. To extend the teaching and learning function through the integration of Student Management Information System (SMIS) and e-learning content portal by 2013

Some important user tips Personal Websites

How do I edit my personal website?

1. Go to the link <http://profiles.uonbi.ac.ke/user> and login with your University of Nairobi email and its password. the following screen should appear

2. Click your name under Site Membership Summary

3. To edit the image hover over the image area and click on the small arrow that appears.

4. Click on configure, if there was an image remove the image first then browse to upload another image. kindly note the image should have 180 by 140 dimensions

5. To edit site information, hover over the area and click on configure. Change the information as desired then click on save button

6. To add or update cv, click on the tab BIO and click and the green button add new then select add cv to add a cv or add bio to add bio information

7. To add or update publication click on the tab PUBLICATIONS and then click on the green button add new then select add publication. Fill in information and click save button

How do I access my personal website?

1. You need to have your Personal Website tool activated

2. Once you are sure your Personal Website has been

activated, use the link <http://profiles.uonbi.ac.ke/user> to login with your University of Nairobi email address user-name and password.

Procedure for obtaining a personal website

1. Login with your University of Nairobi email address and its password under personal website tool link by clicking on the button titled login or open the url <http://profiles.uonbi.ac.ke/user>

2. An email will be sent to Website team to activate your personal website.

3. You will receive an email from the website team informing you of the website activation.

4. You will now be able to login and use the personal website.

Requirements for obtaining a personal website

1. You should be an employee of University of Nairobi

2. You should have an active University of Nairobi Email address.

If you do not have an email from University of Nairobi kindly send an email to mailadmin@uonbi.ac.ke providing your Full Names, Payroll Number, Department, Desired email address and alternate email address where your credentials will be sent.

ICTC Pics



(Left) Deputy Director, Mr. Joseph Muchina, Mrs. Jedidah Kibuna, Administrator and Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, Director, during the tree planting exercise.



(Right) ICT Staff play a game of basketball during the sports day last year



ICT Welfare donated Kshs. 10,000 to the pediatric cancer ward in Kenyatta National Hospital last year



UoN partners with Google: Prof. G. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN and Mr. Joseph Mucheru, Google Sub-Saharan Africa Ambassador and Country Manager.