

Dr. Peter W. Staecker, the president of the world's largest engineering professional society, IEEE, hosted a consultative session with academia from various local universities at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi on Monday April 15, 2013. The forum was intended to help define how IEEE can work with the academia to grow engineering and technology capacity in Kenya and the region. Departmental staff members who participated in the forum were Prof. Elijah Mwangi, Dr. Wilfred Mwema and Dr. Heywood Ouma, who are all long standing members of the IEEE. In the President's entourage were past President Dr. Gordon W. Day, General Counsel Eileen Lach, Executive Director of IEEE Foundation Matthew S. Loeb, Director of Social Innovations Programs Tara Wisniewski, and the Director of Educational Activities Douglas Gorham. They were on a mission to meet with leaders in academia, government and business in Kenya.

The IEEE is in the process of reviewing how it is involved in Africa and the visit was part of the body's action towards increasing the direct involvement by IEEE chapters and related organs. The review is to enable the global leadership better understand how the IEEE can assist in expanding Engineering, Computing and Technology capacity on the continent.

The visiting IEEE President also hosted an IEEE stakeholder's forum for networking in an informal setting later that evening. A number of students at the department involved in the IEEE EPICS projects attended the second forum where the winning student exhibition entries from 2012 were also exhibited. [Adapted from brief by the IEEE Kenya Section Chair (2012-2013), Mr. Vincent Kaabunga]