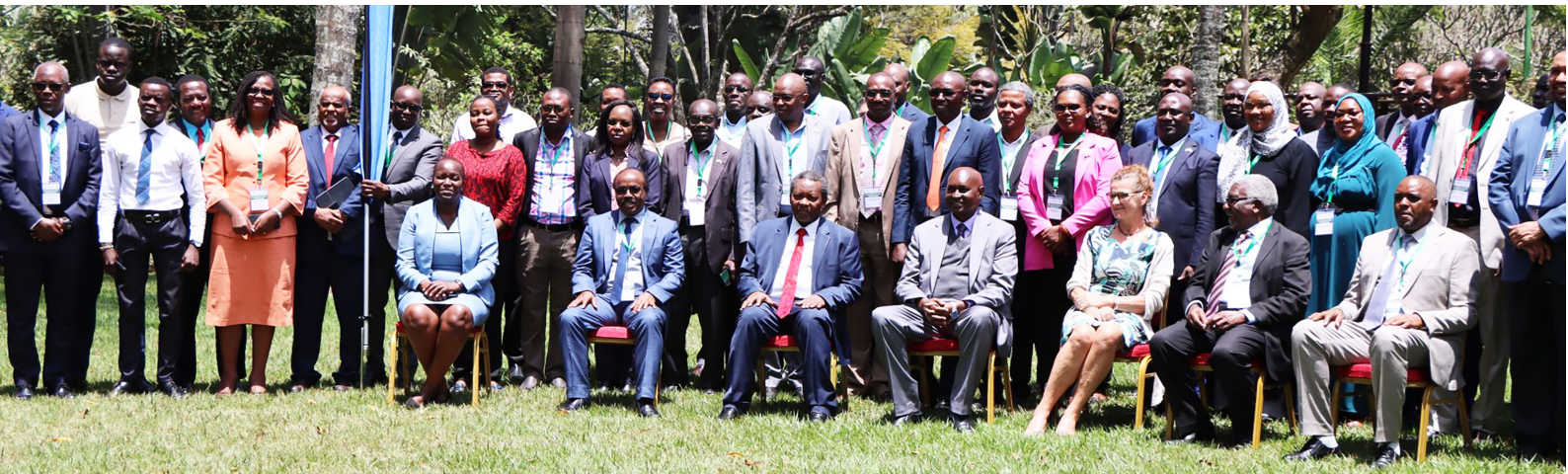


The  
**IUCEA**  
**NEWSLETTER**



# EAQAN 13th Annual Conference concludes in Nairobi



TVET institutions in East Africa foster collaboration through regional student exchange



Prof. Banyankimbona Advocates for Regional Collaboration in Quality Assurance

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**Editor:**  
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# EAQAN 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference concludes in Nairobi



■ Stakeholders from IUCEA, EAQAN, CUE, DAAD, and OBREAL Global at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi Kenya on the 9th of September 2024.

The 13th East African Quality Assurance Network conference concluded in Nairobi, Kenya, marking a significant milestone in the pursuit of enhanced higher education quality in the East African region. This pivotal event was co-organized by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), in collaboration with the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) and the Commission for University Education, Kenya (CUE). The conference took place from September 9th to 12th, 2024, at the prestigious Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The primary goal of the conference was to bolster the capacity of academicians and quality assurance practitioners by delving into crucial issues affecting higher education quality and facilitating meaningful dialogue on this subject. The participants engaged in insightful discussions

encompassing international cooperation, networking, harmonization, and integration to elevate the standard of higher education across the region.

Distinguished by the presence of quality assurance practitioners, higher education regulators, managers, and experts, the forum served as a platform for deliberating on effective strategies to enhance higher education quality. This year's theme, "Advancing Quality of Higher Education through International Cooperation and Networking, Harmonization, and Integration," underscored the commitment to fostering collaboration and synergy in the pursuit of elevated educational standards.

The conference attracted stakeholders from the East African Community, including esteemed dignitaries such as Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary, and Prof. Mike Kuria, CEO of the Commission for

University Education in Kenya. Additionally, government representatives from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia, DRC, and Burundi were in attendance, reflecting a collective effort to fortify the quality of higher education through concerted international cooperation, networking, harmonization, and integration.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, IUCEA Executive Secretary, emphasized the importance of quality assurance in higher education for ensuring that institutions deliver education that meets recognized standards and effectively prepares students for their careers, noting that many African countries are developing or enhancing national quality assurance frameworks to improve the consistency and standards of higher education across the continent.

## Prof. Banyankimbona hosts a delegation from the Uganda Vice Chancellor's Forum at IUCEA Headquarters

At the IUCEA Headquarters, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), held a significant meeting with Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo, the Executive Director of the Uganda Vice Chancellors Forum on 3rd of September 2024. The purpose of their meeting was to engage in an in-depth discussion on the myriad of challenges and opportunities that are currently shaping the landscape of higher education in Uganda, the wider East African region, and on a global scale.

During their insightful conversation, both leaders reached a consensus on the pressing need to bolster their collaboration with the Uganda Vice Chancellors Forum, recognizing the immense potential for synergy in addressing the multifaceted issues facing the higher education sector. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of presenting unified strategic counsel to policymakers at a regional level, thereby advocating for measures that would positively impact the development and growth of higher education institutions.

Prof. Banyankimbona enriched the dialogue with valuable insights and perspectives, contributing to the overall depth and breadth of the discussions held.



■ Prof. Banyankimbona, Prof. Eriabu, and Prof. Obonyo at IUCEA Headquarters on the 3rd of September 2024.

# Prof. Banyankimbona Advocates for Regional Collaboration in Quality Assurance



IUCEA, Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona giving remarks at the 13th EAQAN Conference at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya on the 9th of September 2024.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of IUCEA, addressed the EAQAN conference in Nairobi, Kenya on the 9th of September 2024, shedding light on the critical importance of quality assurance in higher education. He emphasized that quality assurance is vital for ensuring that educational institutions uphold recognized

standards and adequately prepare students for their future careers.

Prof. Banyankimbona highlighted the efforts of many African countries in developing or strengthening their national quality assurance frameworks to improve the consistency and standards of higher education across the continent. He also

emphasized the necessity of regional collaboration in quality assurance, which led to the establishment of Quality Assurance Networks such as the African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) at the continental level and the East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) at the regional level.



■ Prof. Mike Kuria addressing stakeholders at the 13th EAQAN Conference on the 9th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya.

These networks aim to promote and harmonize quality assurance practices and standards among African countries. To address quality concerns in higher education institutions across East Africa, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and EAQAN initiated a regional Quality Assurance Forum, held annually and rotating among the EAC Partner States said Prof. Banyankimbona.

In a related event, Prof. Mike

Kuria, the CEO of the Commission for University Education in Kenya, emphasized the importance of regional integration within the East African Community (EAC) and beyond, in strengthening higher education. He commended the theme of the East African Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) conference, focusing on advancing the quality of higher education through international cooperation, networking, harmonization, and integration. This theme aligns with the

Inter-University Council for East Africa's (IUCEA) strategic plan.

Prof. Kuria also highlighted the need for robust quality assurance practices and urged higher education institutions to take ownership of EAQAN. Additionally, he discussed the significance of student mobility within the EAC and across Africa, underscoring its role in enhancing educational quality and regional cooperation.

# Dr. Muganda Acknowledges Remarkable Transformations in Regional Quality Assurance

Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education in Kenya, highlighted the significant transformations that quality assurance in higher education has undergone, driven by technological advancements, globalization, and the growing demand for tertiary education, during her address at the High-Level Quality Assurance Dialogue of the 13th East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum (EAQAN) on the 9th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya.

She emphasized that emerging challenges and opportunities necessitate a collective effort to ensure that educational institutions not only meet but exceed the expectations of the modern world. She stressed that quality assurance systems are central to this mission, as they ensure that institutions impart the right content in the most effective ways.

The establishment of regulatory agencies and quality assurance bodies across the continent, she noted, is a testament to the commitment to upholding



■ Dr. Muganda, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Kenya giving remarks at the 13th EAQAN Conference on the 11th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi

these standards. She further acknowledged that the High-Level Quality Assurance Dialogue provides a valuable platform for exploring innovative strategies to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in higher education.

By adopting technology-driven assessments, flexible curricula, and personalized learning pathways, Dr. Beatrice noted, education can be made accessible to all, regardless of background or ability. She emphasized the need for investment in innovation within quality assurance frameworks to meet the

diverse needs of learners while upholding the highest academic standards.

Regarding the integration of technology and artificial intelligence into higher education, Dr. Beatrice recognized both the opportunities and challenges they present. She stressed the importance of addressing the ethical considerations that accompany these advancements, ensuring that their use is responsible, equitable, and aligned with the core values of educators.

## Prof. Rai Discusses Regulations, Predefined Standards at EAQAN Annual Conference



IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai making a presentation at the EAQAN Annual Conference at Safari Park Hotel on the 9th of September 2024.

Prof. Idris A Rai, the Deputy Executive Secretary of IUCEA, delivered a presentation on "Advancing the Quality of Higher Education Through International Cooperation, Networking, Harmonization, and Integration" on the 9th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya. He emphasized the importance of Quality Assurance (QA), highlighting the systematic processes and procedures employed to ensure that educational programs

and services meet established standards and criteria.

Prof. Rai discussed the need for compliance with predefined standards, regulations, and benchmarks, which involves monitoring and evaluating institutional performance to confirm adherence to these standards.

He also touched on the broader aspects of internationalization, which, while primarily associated

with scholar mobility, also include several other key elements. These elements encompass staff exchanges, the internationalization of curricula, collaborative research initiatives, dual-degree and twinning programs, as well as summer and winter schools.

Additionally, Prof. Rai mentioned the significance of foreign language teaching in fostering a more globally connected educational environment

# IUCEA Participates in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Technological Advancements



■ A group photo of the participants during the 2nd conference in Kigali Rwanda on 19th of Sep 2024

During the 2nd International Conference on Technological Advancement in Embedded and Mobile Systems (2nd ICTA-EMOS) held in Kigali on the 19th of September 2024, Prof. Idris Rai, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), delivered an insightful address. He highlighted the significant progress achieved by the dSkills@EA project, which received funding from the Federal Republic of Germany and was jointly coordinated by IUCEA and GIZ.

The primary aim of the project was to enhance digital skills within the East African community. Prof. Rai expressed sincere appreciation to Germany and GIZ for their invaluable support and collaborative efforts.

Prof. Rai emphasized that while the dSkills@EA project is nearing completion, it has substantially strengthened partnerships between academic institutions in East Africa and Germany, as well as with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and industries in both regions.

Notable achievements of the project include the establishment of a Center of Excellence in ICT at NM-AIST and the development of a pioneering regional master's program in embedded and mobile systems. This program has provided scholarships to over 148 students, many of whom have successfully graduated with exceptional competencies.

Furthermore, Prof. Rai underscored the profound impact of the project on digital skills and innovation development. The project facilitated professional



■ Prof. Rai gave remarks online on the 19th of September 2024 at Kigali Conventional Centre

training through short courses, benefiting nearly 2,000 university staff, students, innovators, young entrepreneurs, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on diverse aspects of digital technologies.

Additionally, Prof. Rai elaborated on the pivotal role of IUCEA in fulfilling its functions, which encompass developing regional policies, regulations, frameworks, and strategies related to higher education. The council also plays a crucial role in coordinating

staff and student mobility programs, executing capacity-building initiatives, and fostering collaborative activities through networking events such as conferences, forums, networks, and consortia.

# TVET institutions in East Africa foster collaboration through regional student exchange



Delegation from Aboa Mare Maritime Academy and Kenya Coast National Polytechnic staff

Kenya Coast National Polytechnic and the National Institute of Transport in Tanzania have successfully implemented a student exchange programme as part of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), fostering collaboration among TVET institutes in East Africa.

The programme commenced in March 2024 with the enrolment of 39 students from the National Institute of Transport at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic to pursue a six-month certificate course in Front Office Operations and Administration.

Simultaneously, 40 students from

Kenya Coast National Polytechnic enrolled in a certificate course in International Shipping Management at the National Institute of Transport which is delivered entirely online.

The next phase of the programme will involve students visiting their respective partner institutions to experience the learning environment firsthand, interact with trainers in person, and gain valuable insights into the culture and practices of their host country. This exchange fosters deeper understanding and strengthens regional integration.

Beyond student exchange, Kenya Coast National Polytechnic has forged

a strategic partnership with Aboa Mare Maritime Academy in Finland. This collaboration, funded by the governments of Finland, Germany, and Kenya, aims to enhance the competence of Nautical Science instructors at the Polytechnic through a program titled "Innovative Maritime Pedagogies and Competence Training for Kenya TVET."

The programme will leverage simulators, Maritime Data Solutions, and explore digital education to equip instructors with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies for delivering high-quality Maritime training. This initiative has the potential to revolutionize Maritime education not just in Kenya but across the African region.

By Magdalene Kituku, Industry Liaison Officer for EASTRIP at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic College.

# Prof. Mawa Acknowledges IUCEA-DAAD Partnership



Prof. Mawa gave welcoming remarks during the Erasmus+ Networking Forum held on the 12th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

Professor Michael Mawa, the Senior Principal for Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), addressed scholars from both German and East African universities during the Erasmus+ Networking Forum held at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya on the 12th of September 2024.

Representing the IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Mawa highlighted the significance of the East African Common Higher Education Area,

emphasizing the role it plays in harmonizing education standards across the region.

He also acknowledged the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for its crucial support in promoting student mobility and staff exchange programs, which enhance academic collaboration and cultural exchange between East African and German institutions.

Furthermore, Prof. Mawa

underscored the importance of fostering strong partnerships and collaborative initiatives between universities in the two regions, noting that such alliances are vital for academic growth and innovation.

He expressed deep appreciation for the forum, recognizing it as a valuable platform for networking and building enduring relationships among the participating universities

# Pictorials



Stakeholders from IUCEA, EAQAN, CUE, DAAD, and OBREAL Global at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi Kenya on the 9th of September 2024.



IUCEA, Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona giving remarks at the opening of the 13th EAQAN Conference at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya on the 9th of September 2024.



Dr. Muganda, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Kenya giving remarks at the 13th EAQAN Conference on the 11th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi



The president of EAQAN at the 13th Annual conference at Safari Park Hotel Nairobi Kenya on September 11th 2024



Prof. Mike Kuria addressing stakeholders at the 13th EAQAN Conference on the 9th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya.



A group photo of stake holders during 13th EAQAN conference at Safari Park Hotel Nairobi Kenya on September 11th 2024

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Women Representatives took a group photo with the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education Kenya on the 11 of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya.

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Prof. Mawa gave welcoming remarks during the Erasmus+ Networking Forum held on the 12th of September 2024 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.



IUCEA, Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona giving remarks at the 13th EAQAN Conference at Safari Park Hotel, Kenya on the 9th of September 2024.



Prof. Obonyo Giving a presentation during 13th Annual conference at Safari Park Hotel Nairobi Kenya on September 11th 2024



IUCEA Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai making a presentation at the EAQAN Annual Conference at Safari Park Hotel on the 9th of September 2024.



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