



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH

POST WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE REPORT

Submission of Workshop/Conference reports

Two weeks after attendance of workshop or conference, members of staff are expected to submit brief reports. The objective of the report is to identify lessons/experiences for dissemination, share ideas and best practices and potential networks/partnerships to be pursued. The report should incorporate the following:

- ✚ The **Summary Statement** - describe the workshop/conference attended (Where? When? Conference objectives? Target Audience? Conference organisers?)
- ✚ The **Workshop/ Conference Details** describe the themes discussed:
 - Describe your expectations or objectives(s) in attending the workshop or conference.
 - Describe your overall reaction to the workshop or conference and whether your expectations or objective(s) were met.
 - Mention what aspect of the workshop or conference was of particular value to you.
- ✚ List the **Lessons learnt or conference outcomes**
- ✚ Attach additional documents like **paper presented, PowerPoint presentations.**

The report and accompanying documents should be submitted in electronic format to the Registrar Research, Innovation and Outreach at <registrar-rio@ku.ac.ke>.

CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP REPORT

Attendee Name: Dr. Eng. Victor M. Mwongera

Attendee Designation and Department: Chairperson, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

Title of workshop/conference: 28th IEK Annual International Conference

Conference URL: <https://iekenya.org/>

Conference Summary: *Brief description, conference organizers, target audience, venue and duration.*

The Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), in collaboration with the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK), organized the 28th edition of the Annual Engineers International Conference on 08th - 12th November 2021 at Pride Inn Paradise - Mombasa. The conference was a three-day physical and virtual event featuring paper and poster presentations around the main theme "Engineers Accelerating Sustainable Economic Recovery". The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly disrupted normal activities in many industries and labour markets. Sectors such as construction, manufacturing, transport (both road and air), tourism and many other service industries have experienced a significant slump in business activity, necessitating many to downsize. Nevertheless, engineering remains the key to the much anticipated recovery.

The need for and importance of the engineering profession in ensuring economic recovery cannot be understated; this was evidenced by the key guests who attended the conference who included:

- A. H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, CGH & Commander in Chief of Kenya's Defence Forces**
- B. Hon. Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya**
- C. C.S. James Macharia, EGH Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development and Public Works**

The conference was divided into the following sub-themes:

- a) Engineers in Policy Formulation, Planning, Economic Recovery and Regional Integration (Governance of Engineering, Laws & Regulations)
- b) Engineering Education and Research Academia and Development (including capacity Building and Mentorship)

- c) Big 4 Agenda and Vision 2030
- d) Fourth Industrial Revolution and Industry 4.0 (Including Smart cities, and Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure)
- e) Engineers' role in Devolution and County Development

The Engineers conference was targeted to all Fellow Engineers, Professional Engineers, Graduate Engineers, Unregistered Engineers and members of other professions that are dependant on and work with the engineering fraternity.

Workshop/ Conference Objectives: *Describe conference objectives*

To offer a platform for engineers, academicians, industrialists and associated professionals to network, share experiences, challenges as well as new knowledge on emerging technologies and engineering-related matters.

Lessons learnt: *Identify specifically what you are bringing back from the conference that relates to your departmental/school/University objectives.*

The lessons learned (drawn from the resolutions of the conference) as applies to university institutions and, in particular, Kenyatta University, are as listed below:

- 1) EBK to develop a program for early identification and nurturing of students to increase the number of female engineers in the industry
- 2) Government committed itself to support the engineering society and pronounce itself in committing opening up of Engineering jobs in the public and private sector to engineering graduates
- 3) EBK will engage with Public Service Commission to improve on the graduate mentorship program and to develop a training structure akin to other professional societies in the country.
- 4) EBK to conduct an Audit on the state of Engineering practice in Kenya, with regards to the training of engineers
- 5) EBK will follow up with the Attorney General regarding the advisory on Section 5A of the Universities (Amendment) Act 2016 as it is not concomitant with the engineering accreditation and may derail efforts to subscribe to the Washington Accord.

6) EBK and IEK to lobby the government to provide funds for postgraduate studies and research

Title of Paper/Presentations/Lectures done by self:

REVIVING THE AVIATION SECTOR IN THE MIDST OF GLOBAL DISRUPTION

Partnership/Collaborations/Funding Opportunities/Networks Developed: *List new contacts developed that may be useful for collaborations and funding*

- 1) Chairperson, Board of Directors, Engineers Board of Kenya
- 2) Director, Capacity Development, Engineers Board of Kenya
- 3) President, Engineering Council, Institution of Engineers of Kenya

Additional Comments.

It is abundantly clear that the Engineering profession is has been growing and continues to make strides. In particular, I strongly feel that the university needs to take note of the following items:

- 1) The conference was attended by **H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya**, signifying the high esteem the administration holds the engineering profession. In addition, the CS Transport and the Prime Minister also attended, as well as many high level personnel from Kenya
- 2) The conference was attended by over 3,000 delegates, the highest in record of the annual conferences and an almost 60% increase from the previous year. It also attracted many international delegates including the head of engineering institutions from Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana amongst other African countries.

- 3) The EBK is in the process of pushing for Kenya to become a signatory of the Washington Accords. If successful, this will mean that Kenyan Engineers will be recognized as professionals in other signatory countries such as the US, UK, Australia and others; allowing them to consult internationally and proving job opportunities. In this event, it will be critical for Engineering course offered at university level to be aligned to the EBK regulations and guidelines.
- 4) The annual engineering conference contributes 25 Continuous Professional Development points (CPDs) towards any attending professional engineer and a further 10 CPDs if the engineer presents a paper. As every professional engineer is required to maintain 50 CPDs annually, presenters such as myself attain 70% of these just by attendance. University Engineering staff should therefore be encouraged and facilitated to attend, as professionally registered engineers are a requirement for thematic leaders, deans and chairpersons of departments within the School of Engineering & Technology.
- 5) Universities in which members of staff, chairpersons and deans attended managed to get very good networking opportunities, access to high level officials and were recognized by the delegates for their large attendance numbers. Kenyatta University should strive for this large attendance as it has one of the largest and most prominent engineering schools in East Africa.