



# The Institution of Engineers of Kenya

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## WORLD ENGINEERING DAY

### **REMARKS BY CHAIR, CAPACITY BUILDING & MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE ON IEK CAREER WEEK FOR UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING STUDENTS**

#### **DURING THE CELEBRATIONS TO MARK 2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD ENGINEERING DAY ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021 AT CHANDARIA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

The President, IEK

The 1st Vice President, IEK

The 2nd Vice President, IEK

The Honorary Secretary IEK

Distinguished Engineers in Kenya and across the world,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Happy World Engineering Day!

Today 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, we join the rest of the world in celebrating World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development.

I am very delighted that one of the highlight activities to celebrate this day, which has been organized by the IEK, is the **IEK Career Week** for university engineering students. This mentorship program is scheduled to run from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and targets engineering students from all universities across Kenya that offer engineering courses. It will be the first of its kind, covering several universities simultaneously, taking advantage of virtual platforms as is the norm in this COVID-19 pandemic period.

The aim of the IEK Career Week mentorship program is to foster continued students' interest in the engineering career, expose the students to various career opportunities available to them after graduation, as well as empower the students to feel part and parcel of the greater engineering community that is celebrating the World Engineering Day today.

The Young Engineers Chapter, which is a subcommittee of the IEK Capacity Building & Mentorship Committee, has played a major role in organizing the Career Week. The IEK Young Engineers Chapter serves the following purposes:

- i) Promotes continued professional training of young engineers;
- ii) Fosters all - round growth and development of the young engineer;
- iii) Advocates for better positioning of young engineers in society;
- iv) Ensures sustainability and succession of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya as the young engineers mature and take up leadership positions in the institution.

Currently the Chair of Young Engineers Chapter is Eng. Geoffrey Marambe.

I am particularly delighted today that twelve (12) universities are expected to participate in the IEK Career Week when it rolls out next week. These are; the University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science & Technology (JKUAT), Kenyatta University (KU), Musinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), Technical University of Kenya, South East Kenya University, Egerton University, University of Eldoret, Strathmore University & Multimedia University of Kenya.

I encourage all students to participate actively in the mentorship program and consider joining IEK as a Student Member so as to begin your career on the right footing. It is very important to get focused on your career as early as possible so that you do not waste time once you complete your university education. There are many advantages of being a Student member of IEK;

- IEK continually lobbies organizations to give attachments to university students (We all know that attachment opportunities are not easy to come by);
- IEK liaises with relevant regulatory institutions to ensure that degree programs offered by universities meet academic requirements thus ensuring a smooth path for the engineer's registration as a professional engineer;
- IEK has linkages with engineering organizations worldwide and is recognized globally (For example IEK is a member institution of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, WFEO);
- IEK organizes quality events for networking and discussing emerging issues. For instance, a webinar on *Digital Trends* was held recently and the 27<sup>th</sup> IEK International Conference was held in November 2020, during which members discussed key infrastructure developments, and also day- to day challenges that we face such as how to cope well during this period of COVID -19 pandemic. Further, IEK provides discounted rates to engineering student members to attend its conferences thus enabling them to network and also access much needed industry knowledge on engineering matters;
- The Institution facilitates student & young engineers to publish their research work, showcase their works and innovations at high level platforms and also on the IEK Website. This increases their opportunities for recognition and sometimes even financial support to progress their ideas;
- The IEK has been at the forefront in advocating for the rights and welfare of the graduate engineer through lobbying for better remuneration and terms of service. This is in line with IEK's vision of upholding the dignity of the profession.
- Through providing guidance on the Engineers' Code of Ethics, the young engineer is moulded into a reliable and respectable member of the society.

It is now very easy to become a student member of IEK. The Deans of the Engineering Schools and Chairpersons of the Engineering Students Associations have been provided with information on how to Register. All this will be clarified further during the Career Week starting next Monday.

Feel most welcome to join the apex Institution of Engineers in Kenya.

I wish you all a Happy World Engineering Day. Thank you very much.

**Eng. Grace Muthoni Kagundu, PE, MIEK**  
**Chair, Capacity Building & Mentorship Committee**  
**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS OF KENYA**