



# N THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

*Digital edition*



**Transition  
in power**

## CHANGE OF GUARD

Prof. Stephen Agong' exits Office as Vice-Chancellor

The founding and out-going Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Gaya Agong' officially handed over instruments of leadership to the incoming Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Bosire after a successful completion of his tenure.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Council appoints new Deputy Vice Chancellor, in charge of Planning, Administration and Finance.
- JOOUST commences capacity building programmes with Flemish Universities
- JOOUSTES holds a stakeholder engagement meeting on Institutional commercialization masterplan.





Welcome to the first digital edition of “The Oasis”, weekly edition. This is a departure from the bi-annual /special graduation magazine. The editorial team will be highlighting news items of weekly events with special feature stories focusing on topical issues. This is an effort to keep members of staff, students and stakeholders up to date with key milestones within the University We will highlight key activities and updates on the “week that was”.

The focus for this week’s edition is the change of guard in the University leadership. This marks a major transition period in the history of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. The founding Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Agong’ handed over instruments of leadership, after 13 years of service, to the incoming Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Bosire.

At the same time, the University welcomed the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance, Professor Aggrey Thuo. Other key highlights in this edition is the commencement of capacity building programmes with the Flemish Universities and the JOOUST enterprise Ltd meeting with stakeholders on institutional commercialization masterplan.

Feel free to send us an article, opinion piece and project briefs and any other write-up for consideration by the editorial board.

Feel most welcome!

*Keziah Ogada, MPRSK*  
**Editor**





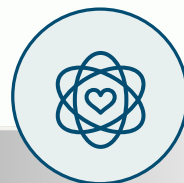
## VISION

A beacon of excellence in University Education and Research.



## MISSION

To provide quality University Education that nurtures creativity and innovation through integrated research and community outreach for sustainable development.



## CORE VALUES

Customer Focus  
Impartiality  
Professionalism  
Responsiveness  
Integrity  
Meritocracy



## FOUNDING VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR STEPHEN AGONG' HANDS OVER OFFICE



The founding and out-going Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Gaya Agong' officially handed over instruments of leadership to the in-coming Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Bosire after a successful completion of his tenure.

While acknowledging the change of guard, the University also welcomed the newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance, Professor Aggrey Thuo. Professor Denis Ochuodho has also been appointed Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, overseeing Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach.



While noting the change of guard, the Chairman of Council, Prof. Shem Wandiga thanked the out-going Vice-Chancellor for the steadfast and exemplary leadership demonstrated during his tenure. He thanked Prof. Agong' for having laid down the foundation upon which JOOUST stands on. "On behalf of the University Council, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Stephen Agong' for the tremendous work and great foundation that he laid for JOOUST. I am glad to see how far this University has come from a humble University College with very few students and infrastructure to a fully-fledged University that is to reckon with within the Region." Said Professor Wandiga.



the University to full arter status in 2013.

Among notable achievements that have been realized under his tenure include; gross increase in student numbers, recruitment of staff to support student welfare, expanded tuition space and improved research capacity and



extension services. Of particular recognition is the operationalization of the World Bank supported African Centre of Excellence for Sustainable use of Insects as Food and Feeds (INSEFOODS), Global Pii Institute and successful bidding of two main grants towards, a) Strengthening of natural resources, food security and health with the support of VLIR; b) Provision of technical support for health service delivery in partnership with four counties supported by USAID among other milestones.

The in-coming acting Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Bosire praised the out-going Vice-Chancellor, Professor Agong' for his servant leadership to the University. He promised that he will work with the entire university fraternity to ensure that the University lives up to its vision of becoming a global leader in university education and research

Professor Stephen Agong' term comes to an end after having served as the founding Principal of the then Bondo University College and later Vice -Chancellor when he led the 2013.



## COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, PLANNING ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



The University Council has appointed Prof. Aggrery Thuo as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Planning, Administration and Finance.

Prof. Thuo holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Planning from The University of Waikato, New Zealand; Master of Environmental Planning and Management (Kenyatta University); an Executive MBA from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; MSc in Urban Planning from Sangai International University; and Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Planning and Management) from Kenyatta University. He has also undergone a number of professional trainings in Kenya and abroad



He has over 20 years of work experience at the University levels. Prior to joining JOOUST, he served as an Associate Professor at the Department of Spatial and Environmental Planning, Kenyatta University. He had also served Maasai Mara University as an Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Programme. In addition, he was a Senior Lecturer at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Department of Land Resources Planning and Management. Beginning his academic career, he taught as a Lecturer and Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Environmental Planning and Management, Kenyatta. Between January 2017 to December 2018- he served Honorary Professor, Western University, London, Canada.

At Maasai Mara University he was appointed by the University Council as acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning) and have also on various times served as acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs). He also served in Maasai Mara University as a Dean for more than five years.

At the Universities where he has worked, he have had served as a member in various University committees, Chairperson of various University committees.

Other than University experience, he has also served as a Chairman, County Land Management Board, an appointment by the National Land Commission.



Prof. Thuo is a Corporate Member of Kenya Institute of Planners. He is also a Licensed National Environment Management Authority (Kenya) Lead Expert/ Auditor.



## JOOUST COMMENCES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME WITH FLEMISH UNIVERSITIES



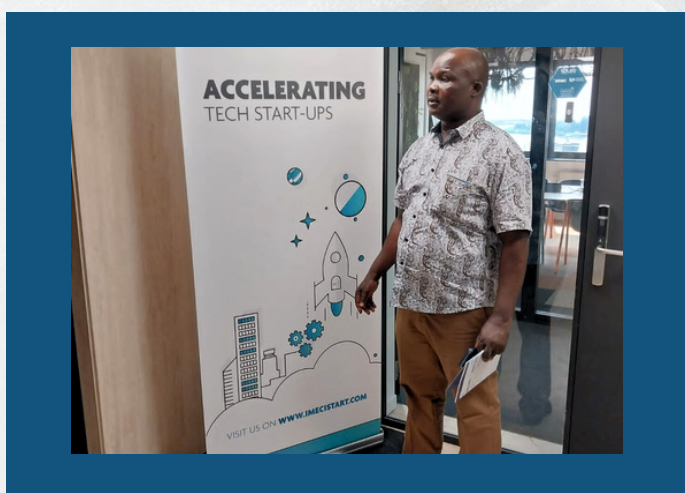
Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) entered into a global strategic partnership with five Flemish Universities to train JOOUST staff on natural resource management, agri-food systems, health systems, ICT, and climate change. The five Flemish universities that the university is partnering with include Vrije Universiteit Brussel, KU Leuven, Ghent University, University of Antwerp, and Hasselt University.

A total of twelve staff members have already been onboarded into the training program on a scholarship basis as Ph.D. students and are expected to commence coursework at the respective Flemish Universities within the year 2023



Already, three members of staff namely Mr. Kevin Onyango, Ms. Dorothy Gwada and Ms. Lilian Wanyonyi are currently in Belgium to commence their coursework. Other staff who have already travelled to Belgium include Prof. Benson Estambale, Mr. Naphtaly Osika, Prof. Silvanca Abeka, Dr. Caleb Olweny and Dr. Jane Owenga

At the end of the ten year period, it is expected that a number of i) programmes shall have been accredited while others reviewed, ii) laboratory equipment procured, iii) ICT network improved, iv) strategic partnerships and networks created, v) publications in peer reviewed journals, vi) at least thirty PhD students graduated.





## JOOUSTES HOLDS A STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION MEETING



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology holds a stakeholder meeting on the Institutional commercialization masterplan. The process is being spearheaded by the Directorate of Enterprise Services (JOOUSTES).

The stakeholders comprise of members of the Senate, Staff, and students of the University.

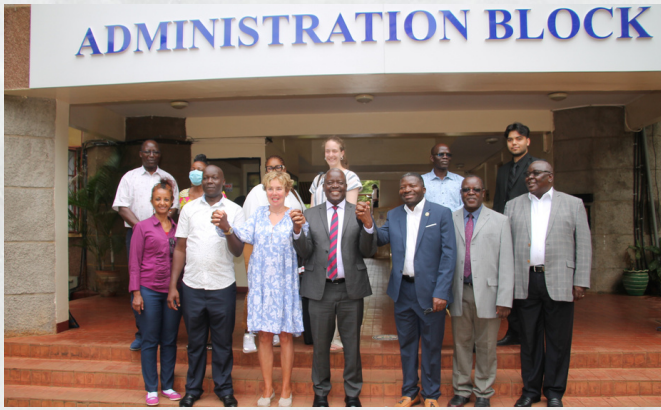
Through the Directorate, the University has been able to conduct Business Development Services Youth Enterprise workshop, facilitated by AGILE. The workshop targeted the youth from Western Kenyaunde the livestock feed commercialization project, birthed out of a collaboration between Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Directorate of Enterprises Services (JOOUSTES) is a limited company that was formed in November 2017 with the sole purpose of identifying income-generating opportunities for the University, among other key functions.

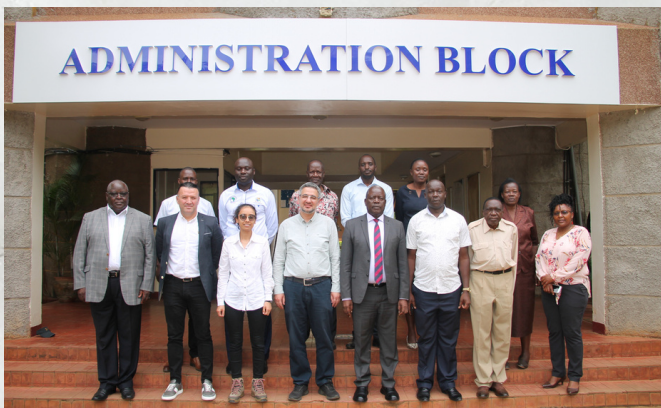
The main functions of the enterprise include reviewing the IGU policy of the University from time to time, categorize income-generating opportunities for ease of administration among more.



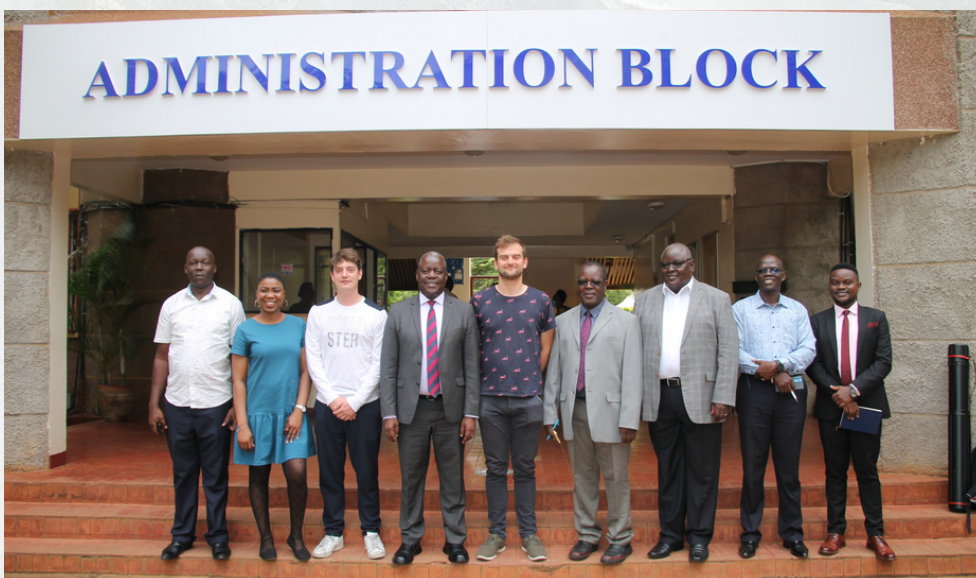




The University received a team from the International Undergraduate Research Symposium (IURS). The Symposium sought to inspire and prepare each student for successful scientific life of service to humanity.



The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) led by the Director Mr. Eyüp Yavuz Ümütlü, paid a courtesy call to JOOUST with the aim of assessing the capacity of the University to implement an Aquaponic project.



JOOUST ushered a team from Ghent University and University of Pisa for an exploratory visit under the VLIR-IUC Sub-project II: Building Capacity for Transformative Agri-Food Systems for Resilience in the Lake Victoria Basin of Kenya.



# WHO WE ARE

The Oasis Newsletter is a publication of the Office of the Vice Chancellor that seeks to inform and educate by giving weekly updates on the events and activities going on in the University.

*KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW!*



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