

News Flash

The Open University of Tanzania

President Mwinyi: OUT Design Curricula in Response to the Blue Economy

The President of Zanzibar and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, has appealed to the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) for designing and developing curricula that will enable marine resources experts to propel the blue economy to the ideal level.

President Mwinyi made the appeal during the 40th graduation ceremonies of the Open University of Tanzania, held at Mao Tse Tung stadium, Kikwajuni, Zanzibar.

“In spite of your commendable achievements, you must continue to design more curricula that are responsive to the evolving national and societal needs and aspirations. This in turn will ensure that the university continues to be a centre of Excellency and an important catchment for various experts needed in the implementation of significant national programmes including the Tanzania’s 2020/2025 development plan, Zanzibar’s 2020/2050 Development Vision plan, the blue economy agenda as well as other regional and international initiatives.” Said President Mwinyi.

Deputy Minister of Education Science and Technology, Hon. Omary Juma Panga, on behalf of the substantive Minister, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, highlighted that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under the World Bank-funded Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, has allocated Tshs. 20.7 billion for the university’s development projects.

Hon. Panga, said the project will build seven zonal

modern science laboratories across the country that upon completion will tremendously improve the learning and teaching environment for science disciplines and subsequently upscale the enrollment of science students at The Open University of Tanzania. He added that part of this funds will be used to train academics staff, thus improving the quality of academic staff in the university.” Said Hon. Panga.

The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, urged authorities responsible for processing and disbursing government loans to higher learning students to consider giving students enrolling at the Open University of Tanzania equal chance of access to the loans, so that more Tanzanians can benefit from the loans offered by their government.

“Despite of being the pioneer university that provide its education through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in Africa, yet 48% of its students enrolled in 2019/2020 academic year failed to start their studies because of their inability to pay tuition fees. The university’s tuition fee is affordable as students neither needs accommodation nor meal allowances. If the respective loan authorities had accorded them with equal access chance to the loans, many more would have benefited,” Recounted Prof. Bisanda.

During the 40th graduations ceremonies, 3110 students graduated successfully. 1319 (42%) were women. Cumulative university statistics indicates that since its inception in 1992 the university has so far produced 49,668 graduates.



A Cross shot of academics and graduates at the graduation procession during the 40th Graduation Ceremony of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) held on September 25, 2021 at MaoTse Tung stadium in Kikwajuni, Zanzibar.

Our Government Recognizes and Values the OUT's Cognitive Contribution

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Zanzibar, Hon. Ali Khamis Juma affirmed that the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar recognizes and value the cognitive contribution of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) on its citizens and leaders which has enhanced the government performance on various sectors.

Hon. Juma made the assertion during the 31st Convocation of the OUT held on November 24, 2021 at Sheikh Idrisa Abdulwakil Hall, Kikwajuni in Zanzibar. He added that the OUT made a wise move to organize its 31st graduation convocation and 40th graduation ceremonies in Zanzibar and the events are a great encouragement for more citizens to join higher leaning studies than ever before.

“These events not only offer a perfect publicity of the university in Zanzibar but also inspire many people to upgrade their education. I congratulate all who have decided to upgrade their education status despite of facing family and career responsibilities.” Commended Hon. Juma.

The Vice Chancellor of the OUT, Prof.

Elifas Bisanda, assured that the university will continue its commitments on providing education through Open and Distance Learning mode by investing more on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in order to reach more Tanzanians who needs education.

Expounding on the OUT's ICT initiative Prof. Bisanda said “The University won the Best ICT Transformative Training Institution Award for 2021 at the 5th Tanzania Annual ICT Conference (TAIC). This is due to the excellent use of ICT on delivering education and other institutional services”.

Also, Prof. Bisanda congratulated all the 40th graduation graduates and professed that without successful completion of their studies and their physical presence at the occasion, the ceremonies could have not been as colorful as they were.

The President of the University's Scholars Conference, Prof. Modest Varisanga, pleaded with all the OUT's graduates to cooperate with their university in preparing graduation convocations in the future, which as of now relies solely on the auspices of the university's management.



The Minister of Water and Irrigation, Hon. Juma Aweso, (at the center) with Bagamoyo District Commissioner Hon. Zainab Abdallah, (on the left) sitting among graduates who attended the 31st Annual Meeting of the Convocation of the Open University of Tanzania held on September 24, 2021, at Sheikh Idriss Abdulwakil Hall in Kikwajuni, Zanzibar. On the right is the President of the Student's Government of The Open University of Tanzania Mr. Felix Lugeiyamu.

Prof. Makulilo: Perceive Innovation Issues as More Resilient Opportunity

The Vice Chancellor Regional Services and Learning Technologies of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Alex Makulilo, said it's high time ICT stakeholders, including OUT staff, have perceived innovation issues as greener and more resilient because nowadays the world depends on ICT.

Prof. Makulilo made the remarks when opening the workshop for launching the Open Innovation Hub, on September 9, 2021 at the OUT temporary headquarters in Kinondoni. Pinpointing the main objective of the workshop, Prof. Makulilo said various stakeholders from inside and outside the OUT have been brought together with the aim of first, raising awareness among OUT staff in relation to innovation issues, and

second, enabling participants to showcase their experiences.

The Coordinator of the Open Innovation Hub, Dr. Nangware Msoffe, emphasized that “We need to change our mindset from doing conceptual research to innovation oriented research”.

Unveiling constraints towards innovation, one of the participants, Lulu Ameir, said although challenges may change depending on the type of innovation one is engaged on, but generally lack of adequate financial support is a substantial challenge restraining sustainable or business ideas.

Lulu called upon the OUT community to come up with innovative ideas that will not only generate positive impacts to the society but also generate income to the university.



Director of Examination Syndicate (DES), of the Open University of Tanzania, Dr. Said Ally, expressing gratitude to innovators and members of Huria Innovation Hub at the closing remark of the Innovation Hub workshop held on September 9, 2021 at Head Quarters of the Open University of Tanzania, Kinondoni in Dar es Salaam were various innovators around the country attended the session online.

The 1st Winner of Best ICT Transformative Training Institution Award

Director of the Institute of Education Management and Technology (IEMT) of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Dr. Catherine Mkude said the OUT emerged the 2021 academic year's first winner of the Best ICT Transformative Training Institution Award.

"The OUT received the award because it has integrated ICT in its Teaching and Learning activities. As a result, unlike other educational institutions in the country, its teaching activities have not been affected by COVID-19 pandemic" said Dr. Mkude.

Unveiling the reason which enabled

the OUT to emerge the first winner, Dr. Mkude, said the inventiveness of staff in IEMT and ICT department has enabled the university to design and develop its unique E-Systems. The systems make the OUT one of the leading ICT innovators in the education sector in the country.

Head of Department of Training and Consultancies in IEMT, Ms. Jane Bethuel, highlighted some of the systems which have been designed and developed by the OUT which includes, Online Oral Examination System (OREX) which was very useful amid the 2nd Covid 19 wave and electronic filing systems.

Ms. Bethuel enunciated that the filing system has enabled the university to transform from the traditional paper centred filing system into a paperless filing system which enables the OUT HoD's, Deans, Directors and dominant coalition to act on the files even when they are away from their physical office.

The Best ICT Transformative Training Institution Award competition has been organized by the ICT Commission in the country. Various Education Institutions participated in the competition. The aim is to encourage reforms towards better use of ICT in Educational Institutions.



The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Bisanda, receiving an Award from the Director of Institute of Education Management and Technology (IEMT), Dr. Catherine Mkude, while being witnessed by the Head of ICT Service Control and Planning Department, Ms. Luly Bulili, at the Vice Chancellor's office on November 4, 2021.

Human Suffering is a Clear Indication of Lack of Peace

The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Bisanda, commended the government's free basic education initiative during the International Peace Day on September 21, 2021 at the Open University of Tanzania temporary Headquarters at Kinondoni in Dar es Salaam.

"Basic education is crucial in banishing three vices; poverty, diseases and ignorance. Where people are suffering from diseases or lives in poor

health condition, it is a clear indication that there is no peace" asserted Prof. Bisanda.

Besides, prof. Bisanda implored all the Tanzanians to remain cautious of the COVID-19 pandemic and encouraged them to get vaccine in order to free themselves from unnecessary worries of the shadow of death. He added that the vaccine will enable them to have inner peace that ultimately will make the entire country peaceful.

On the same event, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, Jacqueline

Mahon, thanked the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its significant contribution to the UN peacekeeping mission all over the world.

"The UN commends the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for remaining a strong base of peace. It is also grateful for hosting over 300,000 refugees, bringing its neighboring countries in East and Southern Africa together and indeed for extending its support on building their peace" acclaimed Mahon.

Professor of Medicinal Chemistry Hamisi Malebo, said Covid-19 is not

only a global health threat but it is also a threat to the world peace. He posited that as countries grapple with the pandemic, unbalanced delivery of health-care can lead to disruption of peace. On psychosocial aspect, the pandemic can cause trauma which may lead to disruption of peace in communities, hence the connection between health and peace is real.

Fairmont Royal Group Country Di-

rector, Mr. Deodatus Kinawiro said the International Peace Day is of great importance to Tanzania which has been and still is an 'Island of Peace' in Africa and the world at large.

"If peace has to be sustained, youth must be economically empowered because jobless youths can easily embark on crime acts which could lead into disruption of peace. Given this fact the need for creation of more employment opportunities is imperative"

suggested Mr. Kinawiro.

'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world' has been this year's International Peace Day theme. The International Peace Day which sometimes is referred to as the World Peace Day is celebrated every year and seeks to build a peaceful and sustainable world by strengthening the ideals of peace through promoting global solidarity, non-violence, and cease-fire.



Religious Leaders, light candles as a symbol of Peace during the International Day of Peace held on September 21, 2021, at the headquarters of the Open University of Tanzania, Kinondoni in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Maguo: Public Awareness On Higher Learning Education Institution Rises

Director of Communications and Marketing (DCM) of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Dr. Mohammed Omar during the 16th Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) exhibition at Mnazi Mmoja ground, said that people's awareness on higher learning education institution has considerably increased compared to the past years.

"Despite of the challenge of COVID 19, people are visiting the OUT's booths, even though this year the

number of visitors is relatively low compared to other years due to the pandemic" said Dr. Omar.

Dr. Omar all called upon all educational stakeholders to visit the exhibitions with the aim of learning about the various services offered by universities, including modes of education delivery like hybrid mode which is used by the OUT.

The Marketing Officer of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Mr. Mwanuzi Babygeya based at Ilala regional centre, said 16th TCU ex-

hibitions unlike the previous years' similar exhibitions has attracted low number of visitors due to COVID 19.

Mr. Mwanuzi commended the government and the National Service Training (Jeshi la Kujenga Taifa [JKT]) leaders for giving form six leavers who joined JKT, an opportunity to participate in the exhibition so that they get career path guidance and other important university information.

The 16th TCU exhibitions were held at Mnazi Mmoja ground from July 26, 2021 and ended on July 31, 2021.



The Open University of Tanzania's pavilion during the 16th Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) exhibition held at Mnazi Mmoja Graouns from July 26, 2021 and ended on July 31, 2021.

OBITUARY

Another loss count to OUT

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Community lost her Assistant Lecturer, Oscar Hans Mwakasungula on November 9, 2021.

The late Mwakasungula joined the OUT on October 1, 2007 as a Tutorial Assistant in the Faculty of Business Management. On



November 1, 2015 the late Mwakasungula was promoted to the rank of Assistant Lecturer where he worked to his demise.

The late Mwakasungula was born on August 22, 1967 in Mbeya Region.

May his soul rest in peace

The Best Way Up and Out of Shrinking Revenue

The Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Bisanda on September 2, 2021 when addressing the OUT staff at Ruvuma Regional Center urged the OUT staff to become inventive and put in place productive projects in order to increase their income and boost the university's revenue.

“Funds from the government are limited, do not let the shortage of funds affect your work performance and personal development. As an academic institution together we need to figure out how we can help the community and the nation at large.” Said Prof. Bisanda.

Upon his visit to Mbinga district Prof. Bisanda met the District Commissioner, Ms. Aziza Mwangosongo and they discussed the possibility of OUT to own its premises in the district. The discussion was fruitful as the DC shown Prof. Bisanda a building earmarked to be the

OUT Mbinga Coordination Centre. The centre will relieve OUT Mbinga students from the burden of travelling to Songea where they are currently getting services. Moreover, Prof. Bisanda instructed the Director of Ruvuma OUT Regional Centre (DRC) to complete on time the handover process of Mbinga building in order to enable the OUT to proceed with renovation.

On his visit, Prof. Bisanda, also noted that Tunduru Coordination Centre in Ruvuma region, needs major renovations. Subsequently, he directed the responsible staff to prepare the rehabilitation budget so that the implementation can commence immediately.

Before visiting Ruvuma region, Prof. Bisanda's visited Lindi OUT Regional Centre, where he wanted to see the progress of a new office whose construction is in progress. He was contented with the progress made.



The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Bisanda, in a consultation meeting with Mbinga District Commissioner, Ms. Aziza Mangosongo, during his visit in the district to check the possibility of OUT establishing a center at Mbinga. The meeting took place at the DC's office in Mbinga Council, Ruvuma region on September 3, 2021