

Forum on Innovation—‘The Role of Universities in Building Kenya’s Innovation Ecosystem

A Public Forum on Innovation –‘The Role of Universities in Building Kenya’s Innovation Ecosystem was held today February 23rd 2016 at Taifa Hall. The guest speaker at the forum was Engineer George Tanui who is the Chief Executive Officer for Konza Techno City.

Mr. Tanui noted that “to remain properly competitive as a country, the industry and academia must work closely to produce innovative solutions that are scalable to solve the challenges that we face”.

The world economic forum global competitive report 2016 ranks Switzerland as the most competitive country in the world. Competitive countries are focusing more on technical education, research and innovation so universities and industries should partner and come up with innovative solutions from the theories and research that they develop.

Coming up with new ideas that solve our day to day challenges is one of the most innovative ways of learning. Also, building solutions that are scalable is one of the sure ways retaining what has been learnt.

Mr. Tanui challenged the academic fraternity to ensure that their programs incorporate practical experiences that matches the needs of the industry in order to ensure that they supply the market with well-prepared candidates.

He also noted the need to increase the university collaboration with other industries so that they can both work together to come up with the best innovative solutions

Konza Techno City (KTC) is a national flagship Vision 2030 project. KTC’s main objective is to establish over 200,000 residents by 2030. The city is designed to be Africa’s Silicone Savannah, contributing \$1billion (approximately 2% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) once phase 1 is operational.

The vision for KTC is to be a sustainable, world-class technology hub and a major economic driver for the nation, with a vibrant mix of businesses, workers, residents and urban amenities.

KTC will develop world-class infrastructure and technology to facilitate research, education and business through Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), to position Kenya as a knowledge-based economy and preferred Information and Communication Technology (ICT) destination globally.