



Capacity Building for Transformative Business-driven Green Growth

*Women engineers and technicians during a hands on session at the WISEE-VOCTEC training at Strathmore University in 2015.
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In The Future We Want, the Rio+20 outcome recognizes the vital role of green growth, noting that: “It should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the earth’s ecosystems.” (UNCSD, 2012).

The African continent offers the greatest opportunity for integration of advanced energy and agricultural technologies that limit or actually eliminate CO2 emissions. Of the 1.2 billion people on the planet that live off the electrical grid, 95 per cent can be found in either Sub-Saharan Africa or Rural Asia; 70 per cent of agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa is in the hands of small shareholder farmers.

Bringing access to energy and advanced agricultural techniques to this region is simultaneously a business opportunity and a moral imperative that allows for the introduction of CO2 emission reducing technologies to a vast population and by so doing contributes to transformative and sustainable economic development in Africa.

To tackle these challenges, active participation of academic institutions is needed, as enterprises reduce or change their resource use, minimize generation of waste, develop new environmentally friendly products and services, and increase their demand. Meeting these needs will be a challenge, but for the academia in the developing world, it also presents an opportunity to influence the change.

To respond to the challenge of limited entrepreneurial capacity in the area of green growth, the entrepreneurship for impact (E4Impact) MBA program run by Tangaza University College and the Catholic University of Milan has been in the news lately for the right reasons. The program is a response to one of Africa’s most pressing challenges: The need for a new brand of entrepreneurs who are able to pursue profit while addressing social, economic and environmental issues. The program in its 5th edition trains entrepreneurs to start and scale economically viable businesses with positive social and environmental impact.

The E4Impact MBA program is a “training camp” for transferring business and management skills to active and aspiring social entrepreneurs has been designed with a unique formula that combines the academic features of an MBA in entrepreneurship with actionable business tools and networking opportunities for launching fundable social enterprises.

Since its inception, 142 entrepreneurs have passed through the program, while over 65 are currently under training. A fascinating observation is that close to half of these enterprises are directly related to the two economic sectors which contribute significant quantities of Green House Gas emissions. These are agriculture, renewable and green energy.

Through the empowerment and capacity building that we have provided to them, the growth in the number of the green jobs suggests that a continuous capacity building of MSMEs in incorporating the green design in their business models is key. As seen through the successful

green jobs hackathon that we run last year with the collaboration of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that adopt green thinking design in their business models create sustainable decent green jobs. The green business design thinking has to be incorporated in all aspects of the business value chain in order to maximize the green jobs.

To have meaningful impact, public awareness of training interventions that have positive impact for transforming business driven green growth and provision of decent green jobs is key so as to advocate for the application of green public policies by all. To this end, the E4Impact program has publicly participated and is now part of the steering committee of the annual Kenya National Green growth conference where it has shared methodology and impact forging green MSMEs, participated in the SEED African symposium to contribute in the debate on the role of Academia in spurring the growth of the green value chains and have entrepreneurs exhibiting their innovative green enterprises. Most recently, the program showcased its impact at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21 in Paris.

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The Zayed Future Energy Prize recognizes and celebrates achievements in renewable energy and sustainability that reflect impact, innovation, long-term vision and leadership to meet the global challenges of climate change, energy security and environmental degradation. The Prize rewards imaginative and cutting-edge ways to save energy, cut harmful greenhouse gas emissions and create renewable energy. The Zayed Future Energy Prize has five categories, combining to award a total of \$4 million to a variety of the world’s best solution makers, ranging from large international companies and high schools to individuals.

So what idea do you have? How are you and those around you helping to ensure a clean, liveable environment for future generations? Let the Zayed Future Energy Prize help you create a better planet! Go to www.ZayedFutureEnergyPrize.com to register, enter or to find out more.

For further assistance email info@zayedfutureenergyprize.com



Ministry of Environment partners with JKUAT to Support Training on Solar Energy

A solar Photovoltaic demonstration unit at JKUAT. ©JKUAT

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) is a public university with a mission to offer quality training and education in various technological fields. Based on JKUAT's strength in renewable energy training and research, the University partnered with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities to participate in the Low Emission Climate Resilient Development (LECRD) project. This project is funded by USAID through UNDP and seeks to support Kenya's efforts to pursue long-term transformative development and accelerate sustainable climate resilient economic growth, while slowing the increase of greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the project, JKUAT is tasked with implementing the output on "Enhanced access to clean and efficient energy systems". The tasks include the development of a training manual for solar

water heating, Training of Trainers on solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems and solar Thermal energy, selection and equipping of 10 Technical Training Institutes (TTIs) as training centres of excellence and awareness creation on existence of these 10 centres of excellence. The purpose of these tasks is to ensure that Kenya has at least 10 Technical Training Institutions fully equipped for training on solar PV and solar thermal energy systems.

The first group of 30 were trained from 11-22 April, 2016 at AICAD, JKUAT. The two-weeks training was on Solar Photovoltaic systems. A solar water heating training manual has been developed and the first group of trainees for the solar thermal energy course will take place in August 2016.

In addition to the LECRD project, the IEET is implementing the BRIGHT project. This is a 5-year technical cooperation project

between JKUAT and JICA whose main objective is to improve the capacity of JKUAT in renewable energy education, training, research and development for rural electrification. The target areas are solar PV technology, wind energy, biomass energy (bio- and thermo-gasification) and small hydro energy. Over 800 technicians have been trained under this project since 2012.

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Kenya Climate Change Knowledge Portal

A virtual online platform in the form of a one-stop climate change portal is currently under development to ensure more widespread access to climate change information by the public. You can visit the portal on <http://lecrd.co.ke>

Feedback and suggestions to make the portal relevant can be sent to info@lecrd.co.ke



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