

Mount Kenya



University

ADDRESS

BY

**PROFESSOR JOHN J STRUTHERS, MA (HONS), MPhil, FRSA,
FHEA, UNIVERSITY OF WEST OF SCOTLAND**

ON

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

AT

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

ON

FRIDAY, 15TH JULY 2016

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS,
THIKA**

1.0 Salutation

- Chief Guest, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth And Gender Affairs,
- Prof. Victoria Wulsin, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Dr. Simon N. Gicharu, the Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Chairman, Board of Directors,
- Madam Jane Nyutu, Co-Founder of Mount Kenya University,
- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- Prof. Grace N. Njoroge, Chairman and Members of the University Council,

- Honorable Cabinet Secretaries present,
- Honorable Principal Secretaries present,
- Honorable Members of Parliament present,
- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

2.0 Opening Remarks

- It is indeed an honour for me to participate in this auspicious occasion of the Mount Kenya University 10th Graduation Ceremony. I am delighted to have been invited to deliver a keynote address on Use of Technology in Education. Allow me to thank the Mount Kenya University management for the invitation.
- I am aware that Mount Kenya University was established following the constituting of its precursor, Thika Institute of Technology, into a University in May, 2008.

- The growth of the University in terms of infrastructure, human resource, academic programmes and student population have positioned this relatively young university among the top universities nationally and regionally.
- As you may know, the world today has become a global village because of modern technology.
- The 10th Graduation Ceremony theme “Lead, Engage, and Re-engineer the New World” reflects the emerging global trends.
- Therefore, I am delighted that my keynote address is on use of technology in education.

3.0 Use of Technology in Education

Madam Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following quote underpins the importance of technology in modern teaching.

QUOTE:

*“Over the past years, a number of studies have shown benefits from the use of technology in education. The role of technology in education is vital, and the question is no longer, if technology enhances learning but rather how do we improve our use of technology to enhance learning.
(edtechreviewin/news/681-technologyin-education)*

Source: Global Trends that Schools in India are adopting - edtechreview.in/news/681-technologyin-education).

- Indeed, technology has revolutionized education for the better as follows:
 - i. Enhanced collaboration and sharing ideas and resources online among teachers / lecturers across the world the world in an instant. This enhances the practice of teaching.
 - ii. Enhanced access to quality information. This leads to learning at a much quicker rate than before which in turn, allows development of valuable competencies and skills easily.
 - iii. Enhanced access to internet which provides a variety of knowledge rather than limiting students to one person's opinion.
 - iv. Enhanced offering of online education which allow students to learn at their own pace.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Technology is used in management of operations in the following areas:

- i. Customer Relationship Management.
- ii. Accounting / Financial Reporting System.
- iii. Project Management System.
- iv. Human Resource Management System.
- v. Career Services System.
- vi. Connectivity (Wireless local area networks).
- vii. Multiple touch points / communication services.
- viii. VPN access.
- ix. Intranet.

Madam Chancellor, Ladies and gentlemen,

The benefits of Technology in Management are:

- i. Electronic management contributes to efficiency, flexibility and accessibility of services.

- ii. Electronic communication offers a mode of communication that is fast and not labour intensive.
- iii. On-line registration facilitates fast-tracking of students status effectively.
- iv. Integrated finance systems allow students and sponsors to transact the tuition payments.
- v. Intranet systems quicken communication.
- vi. Students evaluate lecturers using electronic questionnaires.
- vii. Electronic course content is available to students outside classroom and library set-ups.
- viii. Social-media platforms such as facebook, you tube, Google+, Twitter and others etc enhance communication.
- ix. Online marketing.

3.1 Virtual Learning Approach:

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Education systems have very successfully adopted virtual learning as a very promising mode of delivery.
- This development is well informed and inspired by growth and emergence of new kinds of virtual learning communities as a by-product of the rapid growth of the Internet and related new media.
- Research in the cognitive and learning sciences has also showed us that different people learn in various ways and have distinct learning needs at various times in their lives. As they embrace virtual teaching and learning, this leads to formation of virtual communities.

- This is perfectly what the virtual teaching mode takes advantage as follows:
 - i. Students use software requiring minimal training.
 - ii. Students receive immediate and continuous feedback from facilitators.
 - iii. Facilitators guide only to ensure that learning outcomes are met.
 - iv. Use of you-tube videos enhances paying of attention, asking questions and making valuable comments.

4.0 Laptop Project in Kenya

Madam Chancellor, Ladies and gentlemen,

- I have learnt about the decision by the government of Kenya to widen the use of technology in education and particularly at the basic level through the use of laptops right from primary Schools.
- This is a unique and commendable project which puts Kenya at the highest level of utilization of technology in teaching.
- It will also help to create a firm foundation for the beneficiaries by preparing them for today's competitive and technology driven world. I congratulate the government of Kenya for this initiative.

- However, the success of the laptop project will depend on the installation of power in different regions of the country.
- I am aware that the Rural Electrification Authority under the Chairmanship of Dr. Simon N. Gicharu, the founder of MKU is putting in place the required power infrastructure for the success of the lap top project.

5.0 Conclusion

- Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to congratulate the students, staff and management of MKU for working hard and placing MKU on the global ICT map and positioning the University among the top universities in the region according to webometrics rankings report. The ICT driven Virtual Education is a critical factor in positioning any University in a competitive zone.

- To the graduands, as you enter into the labour market please note that you will need to continuously advance in your use of technology to remain relevant. Allow me to wish you all the best in your future endeavours.
- Finally, I take this opportunity to once more thank the management of MKU for giving me this memorable opportunity to serve as the Guest Speaker. I wish the University fraternity a successful process of implementing the university mission.

Thank you. God Bless you.