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REPORT ON THE ATTENDANCE OF THE CANADIAN BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCE IN TORONTO AND SIGNING OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Background

In October 2022, the Murang'a County Government was invited to attend the **Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Annual Conference** that was hosted in Toronto from November 13 to November 16, 2022. CBIE is an education service provider based in Ottawa, Ontario with a membership of 150 colleges, institutes, universities, school boards and language schools, which enroll over 1.2 million students. Since 1966, CBIE has supported, designed and implemented over 100 projects worldwide, in 60 countries and 17 languages, valued at CAD 2 billion. CBIE is a trusted partner of the Canadian government, playing a consultative role in the development of Canada's International education strategy. CBIE has been responsible for mobilizing over 35,000 students, professional and academic faculty through the management of Canadian and internationally sponsored scholarship programs. Since 2005, CBIE has organized over 80 training courses or study tours across Canada for international delegations of students, faculty, institution administrators, government officials and private investors. As Canada's knowledge hub in Canadian international education, CBIE publishes research and provides insight into the international education sector for thought-leaders, international education practitioners and policy-makers.

Each year, CBIE hosts an annual conference on trends in international education. This annual event attracts more than 1150 participants and more than 50 exhibitors and renowned thought leaders from all over the world. It offers opportunities for new professionals, education practitioners, decision-makers and strategists to discuss the latest trends, knowledge and tools in the sector. Its mission is to promote the free movement of learners and trainees across national borders.

Following the invitation to attend the CBIE conference, the Governor of Murang'a County, His Excellency, Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, attended the conference and was accompanied by Hon. John Kibaiya Ngugi (MCA, Gatanga), Hon. Grace Nduta Wairimu (MCA, Kanyenyaini), Hon. Gathee wa Njeri (MCA, Gaturi), Hon. Jane Mukami Kigotho (MCA, Nominated), and Prof. Kiarie Mwaura (CECM, Finance & Economic Planning).

Through the conference, the team was not only able to network and learn about the latest trends in international education, but also have consultative meetings and sign Memoranda of Understanding with Canadian universities and colleges. Areas of cooperation under the signed Memoranda of Understanding include the following: facilitating students to study in Canada

through a youth empowerment programme; promoting student mobility between Murang'a and Canada; promoting skills training and customized programme development; collaborating in teaching and learning, including creating opportunities for faculty, students and staff to benefit from the partnership through the Canadian Global Skills Opportunities Program as well as the Canadian Faculty Mobility Program. Apart from of being of benefit to students who shall go to Canada, the skills and technology transfer from Canada to Kenya shall be of great benefit to Murang'a polytechnics, colleges, and university. Besides, this initiative shall boost foreign remittances to Kenya, which posted a record high of KES 422 billion in 2021.

Partnerships with Canadian Universities and Colleges

Following the consultative meetings held in Canada, Murang'a County Government signed Memoranda of Understanding with the following institutions:

1. North Island College in British Columbia;
2. Northern Lights College in British Columbia;
3. Fanshawe College in Ontario;
4. British Columbia Institute of Technology; and
5. Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.

Cost of Courses

The breakdown below provides a snapshot of the average cost of courses offered by the institutions we interacted with. Most institutions confirmed that it is acceptable to pay fees per semester and the County Government can negotiate down the fees depending on the number of students it is able to send. Most courses are offered at the level of certificate, diploma, degree, postgraduate diploma, and master's.

1. College of the North Atlantic (CNA)

CNA is in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and it is one of the largest post-secondary educational and skills training centres in Atlantic Canada, with a history dating back more than 55 years. It has 17 campus locations, throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and offers full and part-time offerings for approximately 8,000 students each year in: academics, applied arts, business studies, engineering technology, health sciences, industrial trades, information technology, natural resources, and tourism.

CNA continues to have the lowest tuition fees of any post-secondary institution in Atlantic Canada. It offers a world-class, nationally accredited range of programming that meets the highest demands of industry; transferability opportunities that promote continuing education at home and abroad; research and development leadership in community and regional innovation; and, precedent-setting international partnerships.

Courses offered include: software development, para-medicine, agriculture technician, aircraft maintenance technician, architectural engineering technology, art and design, auto-body and collision technician, early childhood education, cyber-security, carpentry, chemical process engineering, civil engineering technology, culinary arts, digital fluency, biomedical engineering, mental health and addictions, mining engineering technician, practical nursing, welder, x-ray skills for laboratory technologists etc. www.cna.nl.ca

The cost of the courses is CAD 3795 per semester (KES 345, 000 per semester or KES 690, 000 per academic year). Housing cost ranges from CAD 600 per month (KES 55, 000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited hours and the minimum wage in Newfoundland and Labrador is CAD 13.75 per hour (KES 1, 250).

2. Northern Lights College

Northern Lights College serves an area covering more than 324,000 square kilometres in northern British Columbia. NLC opened in 1975, and has campus locations in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Tumbler Ridge, along with access centres in Atlin and Dease Lake. It is a member of British Columbia Colleges (BC Colleges), a provincial group comprised of 11 colleges from throughout the Province of British Columbia. BC Colleges have a unique regional advantage and a long history of collaboration with industry, employers, communities and policymakers. This collaborative approach allows BC Colleges to graduate highly skilled workers who are equipped to support their families, build healthier communities, and power the economy in all regions of British Columbia.

NLC is a Centre of Excellence for British Columbia for three key areas of training:

- **Oil and Gas:** A provincial Secretariat, which coordinates oil and gas training in the province, is based at the Jim Kassen Industry Training Centre at the Fort St. John Campus. As well, much of NLC's oil and gas oriented training is based at the Fort St. John Campus.
- **Clean Energy Technology:** Energy House, a multi-use facility that produces all its energy needs through a wind turbine, solar panels, biomass, and geo-exchange systems, is the focal point of the Centre of Excellence, which is based at the Dawson Creek Campus.
- **Aerospace:** NLC's Dawson Creek Campus is home to its Aerospace program. NLC has intakes each year in September and February in its Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Basic Training program. As well, NLC regularly attracts students from around the world for its helicopter-type training courses.
- **Other courses offered include:** wind turbine maintenance, interactive technologies and game design, early childhood education, practical nursing, social services, land and water resource, business management, engineering, aircraft maintenance, education assistant, applied business technology etc . www.nlc.bc.ca

The average cost of tuition fees is CAD 10,980 per year (KES 997,886)
Student accommodation goes for CAD 550 per month (KES 50,000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited number of hours and the minimum wage in British Columbia is CAD 15.65 per hour.

3. British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)

BCIT is a public polytechnic institute in Burnaby, British Columbia. The technical institute has five campuses located in the Metro Vancouver region, with its main campus in Burnaby, British Columbia. There is also the Aerospace Technology Campus in Richmond, the Marine Campus in the City of North Vancouver, Downtown campus in Vancouver, and Annacis Island Campus in Delta. The school operates as a vocational and technical school, offering apprenticeships for the skilled trades and diplomas and degrees in vocational education for skilled technicians and workers in professions such as engineering, accountancy, business administration, broadcast/media communications, digital arts, nursing, computing, medicine, architecture, law. Courses offered include: construction of mass timber structures, road area manager, technology teacher, architectural technician, carpentry, interior design, joinery, plumber, welder, telecommunications systems technician, refrigeration, airport operations, automotive technician etc. www.bcit.ca

The average cost of courses is CAD 8,000 per year (KES 722,000) and the accommodation cost is CAD 746 per month (KES 67,000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited number of hours and the minimum wage in British Columbia is CAD 15.65 per hour.

4. Olds College of Agriculture and Technology

Olds College, the largest agricultural college in Alberta, offers integrated learning and applied research specializing in agriculture, horticulture, land and environmental management.

Courses on offer include:

- Trades and Apprenticeship: John Deere Technician, Case New Holland Technician, Motorcycle Mechanic, Welder, Agricultural and Heavy Equipment Certificate and Diploma, Agricultural Equipment Technician, Landscape Horticulturalist
- Land and Environment: Land and Water Resources Diploma, Surface Land Management, Land Reclamation, Environmental Stewardship and Rural Planning Major
- Tourism, Meat, Brew: Brew-master and Brewery Operations Management Diploma, Hospitality and Tourism Management Diploma, Meat Processing Certificate.
- Animal Health: Animal Health Technology Diploma, Veterinary Medical Receptionist Certificate, Veterinary Technical Assistant Certificate.

- Agriculture Technology: Bachelor of Digital Agriculture Degree, Agriculture Technology Integration Post-Diploma Certificate, Precision Agriculture Techgromony Diploma etc. www.oldscollege.ca

The average cost of courses is CAD 15,000 per year (KES 1.4 M). On campus accommodation goes for CAD 700 per month (KES 64K). Students are permitted to work for unlimited number of hours and the minimum wage in Alberta is CAD 15 per hour.

5. Fanshawe College

Fanshawe is a comprehensive college serving the greater London region by providing flexible learning arrangements and experiential education opportunities developed in response to labour market needs. One of Ontario's largest colleges - with four campuses in London, Simcoe, St. Thomas and Woodstock, Fanshawe serves close to half a million people with a promise to educate, engage, empower and excite. It offers more than 200 degrees, diplomas, certificates and apprenticeship programs to 43,000 students each year, helping people unlock their potential and achieve success in a variety of disciplines including applied arts, business, health care, human services, hospitality, welding and fabrication, aircraft structural repair technician, auto body repair technician, broadcast journalism, civil engineering technology, computer systems technology, early childhood education, refrigeration and air-conditioning, horticulture, power engineering, construction engineering, agri-business management, food processing, mobile application development, urban planning, behavioral psychology etc. Fanshawe also plays an important role in providing re-skilling and skill upgrading opportunities for mature learners through the design and delivery of custom training for federally and provincially sponsored trainees, community organizations, sectoral training councils and private sector employers in the business, health, industrial and services sectors. It has 8, 500 international students from 119 different countries.

The average school fee, which is payable per semester, is CAD 16, 000 per academic year (KES 1.4M). Accommodation charges, which include meals, amount to CAD 1, 225 per month (KES 110, 000). Students are permitted to work and the minimum wage for students in Ontario is CAD 14.60 per hour (KES 1, 326). www.fanshawec.ca

6. Thompson Rivers University

The university serves more than 25,000 students on its campuses in Kamloops, Williams Lake, and via online courses. From traditional academics to trades, from certificates to graduate degrees, TRU offers over 140 on-campus programs and 60-plus open learning programs. Students apply what they learn in co-op work terms, study abroad, undergraduate research, field schools and practicums, service learning and other opportunities.

Courses offered at the university include: early childhood education, horticulture management, power engineering, water and wastewater technology, refrigeration and air

conditioning mechanic, automotive service technician, carpenter, diesel engine mechanic, electrician, heavy-duty equipment technician, industrial mechanic, machinist, metal fabricator, plumbing, welding, practical nursing diploma, instrumentation engineering technology, accounting technician, forestry, journalism, software engineering, education, Master's in human rights & social justice. www.tru.ca

The average cost of courses is CAD 15,788 per year (KES 1.4M). Accommodation on campus without meals goes for CAD 689 per month (KES 62,000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited number of hours and the minimum wage in British Columbia is CAD 15.65 per hour.

7. North Island College

In Vancouver Island, North Island College is a comprehensive community college that focuses on student success. It serves more than 9,000 students annually at its four campuses and through online and in-community learning. Its popular courses include: nursing, humanities and social sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math; business; fine art; digital design and development; early childhood and education; human services; electronics and industrial automation; aircraft structures technician; furniture design and joinery certificate; tourism and hospitality; culinary arts. They also offer foundation courses that allow a student to transfer to university after one year. www.nic.bc.ca

The average cost of courses is CAD 17,000 per year (KES 1.5 M). Accommodation on campus goes for CAD 1,323 per month (KES 119,000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited number of hours and the minimum wage in British Columbia is CAD 15.65 per hour.

8. Ontario College of Arts & Design University (OCAD)

OCAD is a public art university located in Toronto, Ontario. The university's main campus is spread throughout several buildings and facilities within downtown Toronto. The university is a co-educational institution which operates three faculties, the Faculty of Art, the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the Faculty of Design. The University also provides continuing education services through its School of Continuing Studies.

Courses on offer include: advertising, creative writing, criticism & curatorial practice, digital futures, drawing and painting, environmental design, experimental animation, graphic design, illustration, indigenous visual culture, industrial design, integrated media, photography, printing and publications, sculpture/installation, visual and critical studies etc.

The average cost of courses is CAD 27,000 per year (KES 2.5 M). Average living cost in Toronto is CAD 1,300 – CAD 2,000 per month for rent (KES 118K -181K) and CAD 1,000 –CAD 1,500 per month for food (KES 90K -136K). Students are permitted to work for unlimited hours and the minimum wage for students in Ontario is CAD 14.60 per hour (KES 1,326). www.ocadu.ca

9. Brock University

Brock University is a public research university in Ontario. It is the only university in Canada in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Centre of Canada's Niagara Peninsula on the Niagara Escarpment.

Some of the courses on offer include: Nursing, Child Health, Medical Sciences, Public Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Sport Management, early childhood education, adult education, accounting, applied computing, biotechnology, environmental geoscience, psychology etc.

The average cost of courses is CAD 36,000 per year (KES 3.3 M). Average cost of student accommodation is CAD 1,000 per month (KES 90, 000). Students are permitted to work for unlimited hours and the minimum wage for students in Ontario is CAD 14.60 per hour (KES 1, 326). www.brocku.ca

Consultative Meetings

Other institutions that the team had consultation with include:

1. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
2. Algoma University
3. Nutrition International, an organization that has been supporting the Murang'a County Government to fight malnutrition. The consultative meeting was held in Ottawa, Ontario, on November 16, 2022. <https://www.nutritionintl.org/>
4. Ontario Centre of Innovation, a centre that maximizes the commercial impact of research developed in Ontario's colleges, universities, and research hospitals, and accelerates the commercialization of Made-in-Ontario intellectual property and technologies. <https://www.oc-innovation.ca/>
5. Future Fit AI, a company that uses advanced labor market data and ethical machine learning algorithms to identify an individual's 'starting point' in the labor market, recommend best fit career path 'destinations', and build a personalized roadmap of learning, resources, and work opportunities to successfully guide them from point A to point B in their career. <https://www.futurefit.ai/>
6. 8B Education Investments, a company that offers student loans as well as advice on grants and scholarships. <https://www.8b.africa/>
7. Grok Global Services, a company that offers consultancy on academic partnerships, digital marketing, advisory, and global access. www.grokglobal.com
8. Elimu International Education Connection, an Education Consultancy that helps international students to find flexible, alternative, and affordable pathways to study in top universities in Canada. <https://elimunow.com/>
9. Joy Bringers Church, an institution that offers pastoral care to Kenyan students in Vancouver.

Visit to Institutions

In order to assess the quality of facilities on offer and sign Memoranda of Understanding, the team visited the following institutions:

1. Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, November 17, 2022.
2. Northern Lights College in Fort Saint John, British Columbia, November 21, 2022.
3. Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia, November 22, 2022.
4. British Columbia Institute of Technology, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 23, 2022.

Scholarships

Students wishing to explore opportunities of securing Canadian scholarships can visit www.educanada.ca

The Way Forward

The availability of short vocational courses lasting between 6 and 18 months opens the scope for more students to join the programme. Whilst students who undertake a one year programme are eligible for a one year work permit after graduation, those who undertake a two year programme are eligible for a work permit for three years. Upon the commencement of work, they are eligible to apply for permanent residency.

The County Executive plans to embark on the recruitment of students in the month of January and February 2023 with a view to having them join Canadian universities and colleges in the months of May and September 2023.

John Ngugi Kibaiya
Chairman
Finance and Economic Planning Committee
Murang'a County Assembly



Date: 28/02/2023