

REPORT ON THE 20TH EAC MSME TRADE FAIR IN KIGALI RWANDA

The trade fair themed: EAC@20: Building EAC through Micro and Small Enterprises. The trade fair is usually jointly organized on a rotational basis by the EAC Secretariat, the East African Confederation of Informal Sector Organisation (EACISO) in collaboration with EAC partner states, brings together artisans from the six partner states: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Kibabii University in partnership with the county government of Bungoma through the Division of (PPRI) facilitated four (4) University staff to participate in the 20th edition of the East African Community Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) trade fair in Kigali Rwanda at Gikonda Expo grounds that was held from Friday 13th to Sunday 22nd December, 2019.

The following innovations were taken to Rwanda

a) Vegetable drier panel

Vegetable drier panel is anew equipment/machine for drying vegetables and other agricultural products. The innovation was well received at the exhibition in Rwanda and the demand was quite overwhelming. The innovation was selected as one (1) of the best ten (10) unique innovations in Kenya

b) Building construction Robotic

The robotic whose task is to construct was well received at the exhibition. Visitors to the stand wanted to know the technology employed in the fabrication of the Robot and where such technology was applicable. They were fascinated at the level of advancement achieved by Kibabii University to come up with such artefacts. Many visitors wanted to know if such could be produced on large scale and if they could buy such for their own assistance. This poses a challenge to the department through the Division of Planning Partnerships Research and Innovation that in future they should innovate market oriented item ready for sell.

c) Accounting management information System and

d) School Information management System



The above two (2) systems were receive very highly by those who visited the stand.

Marketing of the University

The team from Kibabii University to Rwanda carried out the university culture of marketing her products and services.

Three hundred (300) brochures and Seven hundred (700) flyers were distributed in Rwanda during the trade fair.

The number of visitors at the University exhibition stand was quite encouraging as evidenced by the numbers of people who signed in the visitor's book.

Networking and Linkages

The exhibition was established 20 years ago and it plays the role of integration. It consists of the East African Community, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) and the Government. Dr Oloo who was the chief guest on the Kenyan day implored on the exhibitors to the need to develop and increase innovations.

That Kenya is soon starting a one stop shop in the whole country. The Huduma model is going to be used in every county to educate others and those who participated in the 20th edition SMSE will be the first ones to be involved in the whole process.

Exhibitors were encouraged to build networks, make linkages in culture, trade and technology among others in order to learn from one another.

That research needs to be carried out for proper understanding and improvement of standards for value addition.

Symposia: capacity building

During the exhibitions, daily symposia was conducted to build the capacity of the artisans and innovators on integration matters and other issues pertinent to the development of their innovations and businesses.

Key areas of capacity building covered by the symposium component included: the following areas;

- a) Cross Border Trade, the EAC Simplified Trade Regime and dealing with NTBs
- b) Products value addition



- c) Standards, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (SQMT),
- d) Benefits and opportunities of the EAC Integration Process to SMEs
- e) EAC Rules of Origin MSMES and
- f) MSE's development and opportunities in the Republic of South Sudan

Kigali Genocide Memorial: A place of remembrance & learning

The team from Bungoma County visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial which is the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Lessons learned:

That as we remember the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi we should teach peace.

That we should prevent future mass atrocities and genocides, not only in Rwanda but in the world.

That the biggest role is about remembrance and breaking cycles of hatred through education

That we should live as one people, one nation and one world.

Books

The team came with the following few books which will be donated to the library through the Division of Planning Partnerships Research and Innovation,

1. Discover EAC: An avenue for greater livelihood
2. EAC work permit Authority
3. HIV and AIDs workplace Policy(2008)
4. Key support services for small scale women cross border traders and short- term/ temporary service suppliers.
5. Infrastructure sector (Information Guide)
6. Achievements sector(Information process 1999-2015)
7. Consultative Dialogue framework.
8. The EAC child Policy (2016).
9. Simplified version of the protocol for Establishing the East African Community Monetary Union.
10. Background to the East African Community (EAC) and Key EAC statistics and trade data.
11. EAC customs management Act offences and penalties
12. Social sectors.
13. Simplified version of the protocol establishing the East African Community Monetary Union.



14. Manual on the application of the East African Community Rules of origin.
15. Moving EAC to a fully-fledged customs union.
16. EAC trade rules, regulations and procedures on unprocessed agricultural produce and manufactured goods.

Websites

repository.eac.int

reports.eac.int

eac.int/documents

elibrary.eac.int

