KASEA News

Newsletter

2025

KAAD

KATHOLISCHER AKADEMISCHER
AUSLÄNDER-DIENST

KAAD ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS FROM EAST AFRICA
KASEA

Issue No. 017

KATHOLISCHER AKADEMISCHER AUSLÄNDER-DIENST

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July 2025

Social and Economic Business Corridors in the East African Community

Prof. Dr. Esther K. Ishengoma
Chairperson – KASEA-Tanzania
Associate Professor, University of Dar es Salaam

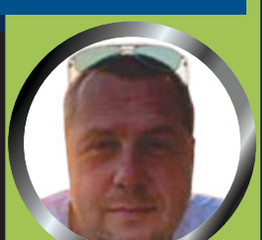
Welcome to KASEA Seminar 2025. The overarching theme for this year is, 'Social and Economic Business Corridors in East African Community'. The discussion on this has come at the right time when there are a lot of developments and advancements in the EAC. EAC has grown from 3 to 8 countries, which means more resources and larger population which translates to a bigger market for products and labor force. Transformation in monetary union such as easy transfer of money, participation in capital markets and interoperability of the national payment systems have made intra-trade easy. Development in infrastructure is making the movement of goods and people easier. The future is promising for us and the generations to come. While we are going to have paper presentations to spearhead our discussion, let me take the opportunity to provide you with some basic information about EAC and ongoing developments. The introduction will also cover Mwanza – the Rocky City- where our seminar will take place. The selection of Mwanza, as our destination, aligned well with the seminar's theme.

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of eight (8) Partner States: The Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The EAC area is 5.4 million square kilometers, population of 331.1 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of US$ 312.9 billion. EAC objectives include deepening and widening economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life for EAC citizens. **Cont...Page 3 & 4**

Bartholomew Thiong'o Kuria
Chairperson, KASEA – Kenyan Chapter

As we reflect on yet another impactful year within KASEA, I am filled with immense gratitude. Our journey has been one of growth, collaboration, and renewed commitment to our core values. KASEA continues to stand as a vibrant intellectual and ethical community that goes beyond academic excellence. Rooted in the spirit of KAAD's mission—to empower individuals for transformational leadership in society—we have remained steadfast in contributing to positive change at an individual level, in our institutions, communities, and the region at large. **Cont Page 4**

The Message from Bonn



I wish all of the participants a fruitful and enjoyable KASEA Seminar 2025 in Mwanza!

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DRIVING INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION IN EAST AFRICA: THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

The East African Community (EAC) is steadily emerging as one of Africa's most promising regional blocs,

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Kiswahili Corner

Kizazi kinachoteketea kabla ya kuwaka: bangi, Pombe na anguko la vijana afrika mashariki

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Social and Economic Business Corridors in the East African Community:

Cont form page 1 EAC Economic Performance

Despite the challenges - continued global conflicts, political instability, and infrastructural deficiencies - EAC's economic performance has remained resilient and continues to grow faster than other African regions. It grew at 4.7% in 2024, and is projected to grow at 5.8% in 2025, and 6.8% per year in 2026-2027. The main contributors to the growth are Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. With a market of over 330 million people, ongoing strategic investments (in the construction/rehabilitation of ports, roads and railways, expansion of power generation projects, agricultural transformations, digital transformation in payment systems and banking sector) present more opportunities for investors and EAC is set to maintain its accelerated growth. Intra-EAC merchandise trade has been growing and in 2023, it grew by 13.1% and reached US$12.1 billion. While agricultural commodities have continued to dominate the intra-trade, there is a steady increase in the share of manufactured goods in the trade. Despite the good performance, EAC still faces challenges (e.g. multiple membership, imbalance in trade and non-tariff barriers). Addressing these challenges could accelerate the economy's growth beyond its current rate.

EAC Monetary Union

East Africa Monetary Union (EAMU) is one of the pillars of the EAC. The EAC has made significant progress in achieving the EAMU. The transfer of money from Tanzania to other EAC members, especially Kenya and Uganda, has been made easier, especially through the use of mobile money transfers. However, countries still face diverse inflation rates and different central banks' policy rates. The extent of capital flow between the countries in the region remains unclear given the differences in central banks' policy rates.

EAC Culture and Sport

In recognition of the importance of culture and sports in both enabling and driving the people-centered integration agenda, the EAC organizes different cultural and sports events that bring together actors and athletes from the member countries. The events include EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) which provides the platform for the citizens to showcase their art and culture; the Great African Cycling Safari (GACS) whose aim is to showcase the East African Community in all its beauty, multiplicity, and reflect the cultural diversity of the people living in the East African region; and Africa Aquatics Zone III Swimming Championships which prepares swimmers to compete in world events. These events are organized on an annual basis and take place in one of the member countries at a time. However, the events face some challenges because in some countries, the events are well organized and the sports grounds are of better quality than in others, a situation that makes some countries attract more participants than others. The level of security in member countries is also different, and thus those with high security attract more participants compared to others.

[Featured EAC Deputy Secretary General, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo flagged off cyclists at the EAC HQ at Arusha for the 5th GACS covering Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and grand finale at Kenya (~6,000 Km) held between August and September 2022.
Theme: Promoting the goals of the EAC, trade and tourism; and mitigating the challenges posed by climate change. https://www.eac.int/press-releases/139-culture-sports-news/2555-cyclists-participating-in-the-5th-great-african-cycling-safari-flagged-off-in-arusha]

There are also high levels of interaction of students and instructors, as well as shared programmes among higher learning institutions within the EAC. However, challenges may arise when students are charged different rates of fees (i.e. the nationals charged lower than those from EAC partner states). While discussions are ongoing on how to harmonize the rates, sometimes the decision-making process can take some time.

Mwanza

The KASEA – Tanzania Chapter is pleased to welcome you to Mwanza, a city hosting about 3.2 million people. Its headquarter's nick name is Rocky City as it is surrounded by beautiful big rocks. It hosts a beautiful island called Saanane.

Mwanza, a region closer to 5 countries in EAC, is one of the big cities in Tanzania and a trade hub in Lake Victoria Zone. Given its location, it plays a significant role in trade as a gateway to the five countries, particularly, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and DRC. It exports agricultural products [maize, rice, beans, and livestock] and fish products [Nile perch, tilapia, and dagaa (silver cyprinid)]. A significant share of dagaa produced in Tanzania, including Mwanza (Lake Victoria) is sold to DRC. Mwanza sometimes exports fish products to other countries through Mombasa Port. Some fish companies in Mwanza are partly owned by Kenyans. Mwanza production of fishes is sometimes affected by illegal fishing in Lake Victoria.

KASEA-Tanzania

KAAD Scholars in East Africa (KASEA) – Tanzania Chapter, comprising about less than 30 active members, has continued to engage in outreach programs as a way to give back to the community. This year (2024-2025), the chapter has provided a significant contribution to the All Saints Nungwi Parish Church in Zanzibar. This was done to meet its commitment made to FR. M. Damas in 2022 during the KASEA – 2022 Seminar held there. In 2022, the church was being constructed. Now it is nearly complete. Twelve KASEA members contributed about TZS 3.88 Million for the procurement of ten church pews, each able to accommodate at least 10 to 14 people.

KASEA-Tanzania acknowledges and appreciates the continued support and guidance from KAAD, particularly Dr. Marko Kuhn. We are looking forward to hosting the KASEA-Seminar 2025 in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Welcome to Mwanza, a beautiful Rocky City.

EDITORS' NOTE

Bartholomew Thiong'o Kuria
Chairperson, KASEA – Kenyan Chapter

We have witnessed revamping in our engagements:

- We held dynamic thematic meetings focused on increasing the team's active engagement and cohesion. This included a goat eating event during our December 2024 thematic meeting, our first planning meeting this year and our team building activity in April this year. We continue to have a hybrid approach to our meetings. However, an increase in the physical attendance has been noted which is very commendable.
- Our members have continued to publish, lead, and advocate in their various disciplines with integrity and impact. Their contributions have continued to both directly and indirectly impact the country's agenda.
- Through the Society of KASEA (SOK), members continue to impact the lives of university students. The members' monthly contributions towards this noble course have enabled the support of identified bright but needy students financially.
- Most importantly, we have nurtured mentorship spaces for new scholars entering the KAAD network, ensuring that the values of accompaniment and mutual support continue to thrive.

As we look ahead, let us recommit to the ideals that shape KASEA: building bridges across disciplines, faiths, and national borders, and being a beacon of hope in challenging times. Let us not forget that we are not only KAAD beneficiaries, but also stewards of a legacy of transformative education rooted in Christian social values.

To all our members, alumni, partners, and friends—thank you for your continued support and commitment. May our collective efforts contribute meaningfully to the flourishing of our society and the strengthening of the East African intellectual and moral fabric.

With warm regards and best wishes for the year ahead.

MESSAGE FROM BONN

Dear KASEA members, The last time we held our KASEA seminar in Tanzania was in 2022 when we started in Dar Es Salaam and then went by ship to the iconic island of Zanzibar. Many of us have fond memories of that time and how well the Tanzania team took care of us and of the programme. This year, we shall be in Tanzania again and enjoy the hospitality and the care of our Tanzanian chapter, KASEA TZ.

Among the topics that were put on the agenda by KAAD and its networks, economic matters have always been a priority. The reason is simple: There's hardly anything that influences our wellbeing and our livelihoods as much as 'the economy' – we often hear sentences like "the economy has been bad" or "we have seen positive economic trends". These sentences reflect the real-life significance of the matter. Jobs, income possibilities, revenue for the state – all those are connected with it. From Catholic Social Teaching we learn that trade needs to be governed by Justice and sustainability, i.e. the integration of the creation. The church has also been teaching throughout, that good economic conditions are important to achieve the well being and the common good of all humans, which is in accordance with the will of our creator.

When we reflect on the topic of this year's seminar, "Social and Economic corridors in the EAC", our eyes turn to Trade, which needs economic corridors, but also people. The free movement of people is a central issue in economic zones that transgress national boundaries. The East African Community is such a zone that includes a Customs Union, operational since 2005, and a Common Market, launched in 2010. But what about the challenges of the existing bureaucratic barriers at borders, the ongoing concerns about job competition or national security in some EAC-countries? Why is it so difficult for example to cross national borders with a private vehicle, whereby vehicle logbooks need to be carried, special insurances have to be purchased and free movement is hampered by bureaucratic barriers like "Temporary Import Permits" or Vehicle Passes at the border? And there is still the thorny issue about land ownership: The Common Market Protocol of the EAC (2010) promotes the right of establishment and residence, but not automatic land ownership. EAC citizens are often treated as foreigners in terms of land rights, unless special bilateral agreements exist. In terms of Business investments and improving the economies this is certainly detrimental, as many countries only allow EAC nationals to lease land for investment under special investment promotion frameworks.

Plenty of EAC aims are therefore left to be achieved: Mutual recognition of IDs across all member states, harmonized immigration procedures, full freedom of movement, including labor and permanent residence and full freedom to buy land for residence and business.

And these problems do not only apply to the EAC. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched in 2021, is a formidable idea aimed at boosting African economies to a new level. The biggest trade agreement on the African continent aimed at creating a single market for goods and services across Africa. It is set to facilitate free movement of goods, services, capital, and people. It wants to promote industrialization, diversification, and intra-Africa trade, aims at setting up mechanisms for dispute resolution and trade facilitation and encourages e-commerce, intellectual property rights, and competition policies. Formidable!

Dr. Marko Kuhn
KAAD head of Africa Department

However, here too, very many obstacles remain before the grand idea can really become a reality on the ground – at the forefront of all of it is the question of the free movement of people.

KASEA wants to be a think-tank, a platform where relevant topics can be discussed, better understood and members can learn in order to be ready for action in their own lives.

I wish all of the participants a fruitful and enjoyable KASEA Seminar 2025 in Mwanza!

DRIVING INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION IN EAST AFRICA: THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

Annet Jasmine – KASEA-Uganda

The East African Community (EAC) is steadily emerging as one of Africa's most promising regional blocs, driven by shared goals of economic integration, social development, and industrial transformation. A key strategy propelling this agenda is the development of socio-economic corridors, which serve as vital arteries connecting production zones, markets, and ports, while simultaneously stimulating industrial growth and socio-economic development along their routes.Annet Jasmine KASEA-Uganda Scholar

These corridors are more than mere transport routes; they represent comprehensive development frameworks that integrate transport, energy, trade, and investment infrastructures to unlock economic potential, foster regional connectivity, and catalyze industrialization. Across the EAC, socio-economic corridors are playing an increasingly strategic role in driving industrial transformation, reducing poverty, and enhancing regional competitiveness.

Understanding Socio-Economic Corridors

Socio-economic corridors are integrated networks that combine transport infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, and airports with industrial zones, energy systems, and social development initiatives. They serve to connect landlocked regions with coastal ports, link rural areas to urban centers, and open up remote regions for investment and development.

Unlike traditional transport corridors, socio-economic corridors aim to generate widespread economic benefits by facilitating trade, attracting industries, promoting urbanization, and creating employment opportunities. They are designed to be multi-sectoral, inclusive, and transformative, contributing not only to economic growth but also to social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and human development.

Key Socio-Economic Corridors in the EAC

- Several strategic corridors are at the heart of the EAC's development agenda, including:

- **The Northern Corridor:** Linking the port of Mombasa in Kenya to Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, and parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Northern Corridor is East Africa's busiest and most critical trade route. It supports the movement of goods, energy, and people while fostering industrial development along its path.
- **The Central Corridor:** Originating from the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, this corridor connects Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and eastern DRC. It has spurred growth in logistics, manufacturing, and agro-industries across its network.
- **The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor:** Envisioned as a game-changer for regional integration, LAPSSET connects Kenya's new port of Lamu to South Sudan and Ethiopia, incorporating roads, railways, oil pipelines, and industrial zones. It holds immense potential for unlocking underdeveloped areas in northern Kenya and beyond.
- **The Central-Southern Corridor:** Extending from Dar es Salaam to Malawi, Zambia, and beyond, this corridor promotes cross-border trade and industrial development across southern parts of the EAC and neighboring regions.
- orridor implementation.
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- **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CORRIDORS AS CATALYSTS OF INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION**

Socio-economic corridors are fundamentally transforming the industrial landscape of the EAC through several mechanisms:

- **Enhancing Connectivity and Trade Facilitation:** Improved transport and logistics infrastructure reduces the cost and time of moving goods, thereby boosting intra-regional and international trade. As tariffs and non-tariff barriers decrease, industries gain easier access to inputs, markets, and technology, fueling competitiveness and production.
- **Stimulating Industrial Clusters and Special Economic Zones:** Corridors attract investments in industrial parks, manufacturing hubs, and agro-processing zones strategically located along their routes. This clustering effect fosters economies of scale, technology transfer, and value addition, accelerating industrial growth.
- **Unlocking Landlocked Regions:** Many EAC countries, such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan, face geographical disadvantages that hinder industrialization. Corridors bridge this gap by linking these nations to international markets, ports, and investment opportunities, facilitating export-oriented industries.
- **Promoting Inclusive Economic Development:** Corridor development often integrates rural and marginalized regions into the broader economy, creating jobs, improving livelihoods, and reducing poverty. Through targeted social infrastructure such as education, health services, and housing corridors foster inclusive growth and human development.
- **Supporting Energy and Digital Infrastructure:** Many corridors incorporate energy transmission lines, renewable energy projects, and digital infrastructure, which are essential for powering industries, enhancing innovation, and ensuring sustainable development

CHALLENGES HINDERING CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT

Despite their transformative potential, socio-economic corridors in the EAC face several challenges:

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Incomplete road, rail, and energy networks limit the full functionality of many corridors.
- **Political and Institutional Barriers:** Cross-border coordination, policy harmonization, and governance bottlenecks slow corridor implementation.
- **Financing Constraints:** Large-scale infrastructure projects require significant investments, which are often constrained by limited domestic resources and competing priorities.
- **Security and Stability Issues:** Conflicts, insecurity, and political instability in some regions disrupt corridor development and trade flows.
- **Environmental and Social Impacts:** Without careful planning, corridor projects can lead to environmental degradation, displacement, and social tensions.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OPTIMIZING CORRIDORS AS ENGINES OF INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

To maximize the role of socio-economic corridors in industrial transformation, EAC governments and stakeholders should:

- **Strengthen Regional Coordination:** Enhance cooperation among EAC member states to harmonize policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks for seamless corridor operations.
- **Prioritize Infrastructure Investments:** Mobilize public-private partnerships (PPPs), development financing, and innovative funding mechanisms to bridge infrastructure gaps and modernize transport, energy, and digital networks.
- **Develop Industrial Clusters Along Corridors:** Establish industrial parks, logistics hubs, and special economic zones strategically along corridors to stimulate production, value addition, and exports.
- Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Development: Ensure corridor projects incorporate social development components, environmental safeguards, and community participation to foster inclusive growth and mitigate adverse impacts.
- **Leverage Technology and Innovation:** Integrate digital technologies, smart logistics, and green energy solutions to enhance corridor efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability.

Conclusion:

Socio-economic corridors hold immense potential as engines of industrial transformation in the EAC. By enhancing connectivity, facilitating trade, attracting investment, and integrating marginalized regions, these corridors can drive economic diversification, job creation, and inclusive development. However, realizing this potential requires concerted efforts to overcome infrastructure, policy, and governance challenges. With strategic planning, regional cooperation, and investment in infrastructure and human capital, the EAC can leverage socio-economic corridors to achieve sustainable industrialization and elevate its position in the global economy.

Annet Jasmine KASEA-Uganda

Which Way Kenya: Gen-z protest a passing cloud or a transformative disruption?

Since the precolonial era Kenya has experienced many challenges and has been at the brink of catastrophes multiple times. But the resilient nation has always risen from dust and emerged stronger and progressive every single time. When I inquired of my great grandmother the secret to her longevity and her remarkable strength well past her 100th year, she credited it to God's grace for being the only survivor of a plague that consumed 24 members of her immediate family. She narrated to us how just before colonialism took hold of the nation at the eve of the 20th century, there emerged a virulent plague (small pox) that ravaged Central, Nairobi, Eastern and Rift Valley regions claiming thousands of lives. It was believed that the very contagious disease had encroached the mainland from the coast through traders, and thus the local herbalists' potions were powerless towards it. It is probably the reason why some communities in those regions became very suspicious of visitors and waged firm resistance especially against the railway construction.

This immediate calamity added to the challenge of confronting the sometimes marauding wild animals and raiders from other communities made the arrival of the first batch of Europeans very appealing to local communities; especially those that bordered forests and rival communities. With the local saying 'palipo na moshi hapakosi moto' (i.e. where there is smoke there is fire), the white man was perceived to have a smouldering fire in the tummy when he smoked. The locals watched the act in awe, since by then cigarette smoking was alien. It also took quite some time before the Europeans could share the 'magic' with the locals, perhaps motivated by this misconception. The white man also possessed a smoking gun that neutralised physical enemies of any kind instantly! They therefore soon became king makers in that the individuals who embraced them saw their clouts and wealth grow by leaps and bounds.

A story is told of one Karuri wa Gakure, a kikuyu leader who embraced the missionaries and Christianity promptly, seeing that the guns could greatly boost his ivory trade and territorial influence. The association right served mutual interest as it boosted his trade and war exploits, and the missionaries set up the first church in his village. The trade in tobacco snuff from Europe as a potent medical remedy, prompted Gakure to become a traditional medicine man to boost his income, though he had never apprenticed for the job. With the growing wealth and war exploits, his influence and territorial claim grew rapidly, earning him the position of paramount chief. It is most probable that the advice of his European friends prompted Chief Karuri to implement quarantine in his village, and thus his people were spared from the spread of the smallpox pandemic.

Before the introduction of tobacco snuff, traditional medicine men used a mixture of herbs and wearisome steam baths as expectorants for flu and cold symptoms. With the then poor scientific knowledge on its myriad health risks, tobacco snuff was introduced and promptly embraced as a convenient remedy for such a universal problem. It was introduced even to children at a very young age to induce sneezing that was thought to help clear blocked air passages, and thus improve breathing in case of flu and cold symptoms. The product rapidly rose in medical and social importance to a point where it was considered indispensable even in traditional dowry negotiations. The fact that the use of the tobacco actually escalated the conditions it was thought to remedy, leading to prolonged usage, ultimate addiction and other grave health conditions, were established much later. After being introduced to the snuff as a child, my grandmother failed in all her efforts to shake off the habit in her old age, after converting to Christianity. She would always rue her dependence on it and the fact that she experienced splitting headaches whenever she tried to wiggle herself off. We would laugh our heads off at her lament that the snuff would trip her on her way to heaven, since her church preached so fervently against it and she couldn't shake it off!

These perceived standard easy fixes to the then prevailing threats and conditions led to the initial embrace of European settlers, even among the communities that had violently resisted their intrusion. But this power was not perceived in the same light by all local administrators, some were quite jittery and largely reserved in embracing the new king makers. As a result many of the admins would later be swept aside and cast to oblivion by rising subordinates always with the support of the new order. This initial shift was appreciated by the locals, since in majority of the situations, the replaced leaders were those with a history of high handedness. It is only after installing royalists in all spheres of governance that the colonialists started using them to oppress the natives and from then on, anyone who tried to resist was swiftly and brutally neutralised. The initial hope in the European settlers as a helpful promising new arrival who brought shared progress, was soon dashed as the locals were turned to slaves in their own land.

The clamour for freedom and independence did not take long to start, with the First World War offering the first opportunity for the natives to weigh their chances. It would however take 60 years before the countrymen could wrestle themselves free.

The precolonial Kenyans practiced much disciplined intercommunity relationships governed by common interest and common welfare. The sense of belonging and duty to the community was well appreciated as everyone needed the community approach for security and wellness guarantees. This order was however not in the interest of the coloniser because a united community could not be manipulated to blindly serve self-interest at the behest of largely exterior interests.

The long held belief that land and environmental resources were communal properties to be jointly and prudently exploited to meet community finite needs and to be preserved and bequeathed to future generations was soon debunked. It was promptly replaced by the unfortunate perception that land and environment resources were scarce and therefore everyone had to act in their own self-interest to have an edge. It is only that the majority of the populace were not convinced and they remained true to the community spirit, thus constituting a ready and persistent fuel for independence struggles.

After the population boom a few years post-independence, the breakdown of community approach to resources allocation became prominent. By then the new norm had already been legalised and the adamant citizens who remained true to the original order found themselves squatters in their own land, which had already been registered under new owners. This new reality gradually and consistently nibbled on the community's fabric breeding mistrust, discord and pessimism as a sense of exclusion fractured the society into social sub-groups (the haves and have nots). The sense of belonging and duty to community has gradually been replaced by individualism and clamour for control of resources through governance structures that are meant to serve the people, but actually get manipulated to make the majority subservient to the greedy interests of a few. There have been sparkles of optimism when governance structures appear to respond to the needs of the populace, especially with the introduction of free basic education and efforts towards universal health care.

These promising signs are credited with invigorating the clamour for reforms and good governance as citizens come to terms with yet another failed promise from their elected leaders. For instance, the current government was buoyed to power by a frustrated section of the society that found themselves at the bottom of the economic pile. They yearned for a piece of the national cake and easily identified with the bottom-up agenda that promised them opportunities at the decision-making table. This promise pretty soon turned to a mirage as the ruling elite wasted no time in reorganising themselves around the new government, yet again locking the main stakeholders (Gen-z) out. This section of electorates has increasingly felt disenfranchised by the business-as-usual approach.

They blame current leaders for the aggravated collapse of institutions, unemployment and plundering of economic resources painting a grim reality of the future of the majority. They are frustrated that governance reforms have not translated to a new order of doing things as the ruling elites have always found ways to flout the rule of law to continue with the old order. The yearning for a more sustainable long-term approach to resource planning and management has never been so fervently prosecuted! You would also have to go back to the colonial era to find a regime that so brutally and unapologetically confronted and sought to distort legitimate and persistent discontent by its citizens.

It is not a secret that there is need for a radical shift in the country's approach to sustainable management of especially land and environmental resources; and for fair allocations of the national cake to create opportunities that uplift lives of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. As it is now, it is a matter of wait and see who will blink first between the Gen-z and the government. But the majority hope that the Gen-z uprising will not be just another passing cloud that elicits piecemeal reforms, but a generational radical transformation towards a more responsive and progressive governance regime that will finally transit the nation from agricultural to industrial civilization!

Eng. Patrick Murigi

Social and Economic Corridors in the East African Community: Pathways to Integration or Challenges to Equity?

The East African Community (EAC) has long envisioned deeper integration through social and economic corridors—strategic networks of infrastructure, trade routes, and human mobility designed to spur regional development. As we gather for this year's annual seminar, the theme "Social and Economic Corridors in the East Africa Community" could not be timelier. With rising geopolitical tensions, climate crises, and socio-political instability across the region, these corridors are both a beacon of hope and a source of contention. In this paper, we explore the real-world impact of key corridors in the EAC, their successes, and the challenges they face. Are they truly fostering equitable growth, or are they deepening existing disparities?

Key Corridors in the EAC: Progress and Pitfalls

Economic corridors are integrated networks of highways, railways, ports, and digital infrastructure that connect production hubs, markets, and labor pools. Social corridors, on the other hand, encompass human capital flows—education exchanges, labor migration, and cultural integration. In East Africa, these corridors are central to the EAC's Vision 2050, which seeks to transform the region into an upper-middle-income bloc. However, their implementation has been uneven, with some countries benefiting more than others.

The Northern Corridor: Kenya's Lifeline, Uganda's Leverage, South Sudan's Struggle

The Northern Corridor (Mombasa-Kampala-Kigali-Juba) remains East Africa's most critical trade route, handling over 70% of cargo entering the region (EAC Secretariat, 2024). The Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) extension from Naivasha to Malaba has reduced transit times, but delays in Uganda's section highlight coordination gaps.

Success

- Reduced cargo clearance time at Mombasa Port from 21 to 6 days (Kenya Ports Authority, 2024).
- Increased intra-EAC trade by 15% since 2020 (World Bank, 2025).
- Challenges
- South Sudan's instability disrupts smooth transit, with frequent road ambushes.
- Uganda's delayed SGR financing raises concerns about dependency on Kenyan infrastructure.

The Central Corridor: Tanzania's Alternative, Burundi's Marginalization

The Central Corridor (Dar es Salaam-Dodoma-Kigali-Bujumbura) offers an alternative to the Northern Corridor.

Success

- Tanzania's $1.9 billion railway upgrade has improved cargo movement to Rwanda and DRC.
- Reduced Rwanda's import costs by 12% (AfDB, 2024).
- Challenges
- Burundi's political isolation limits its benefits from the corridor.
- Non-tariff barriers, such as strict customs checks, slow down trade.

The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor: A Dream Deferred?

LAPSSET was envisioned as a game-changer, linking Kenya's Lamu Port to Ethiopia and South Sudan. However, security risks in Northern Kenya and funding shortfalls have stalled progress.

Success

- Lamu Port's first three berths are operational, handling 300,000 TEUs annually (KPA, 2025).
- Challenges
- Ethiopia's internal conflicts reduce projected traffic.
- uLand compensation disputes with local communities remain unresolved.

Social Corridors: Labor Mobility and Education Exchanges

Beyond trade, social corridors facilitate labor and education integration. The EAC Common Market Protocol allows free movement, but realities differ:

- Kenya and Rwanda lead in labor mobility, with mutual recognition of professional qualifications.
- Uganda's refugee integration model (allowing work permits) showcases a progressive approach.
- However, xenophobic tensions flare periodically, especially in job-scarce urban centers.

The Political Economy of Corridors: Who Really Benefits?

While corridors promise shared prosperity, asymmetrical gains are evident:

- Kenya and Tanzania dominate infrastructure investments, leaving smaller economies like Burundi dependent.
- Local communities near corridors often face displacement without fair compensation (e.g., LAPSSET land disputes).
- China's debt-financed projects raise sustainability concerns—Kenya's SGR debt stands at $5.2 billion (National Treasury, 2025).

Conclusion: Rethinking Corridors for Inclusive Growth

As EAC scholars, we must ask:

- Are these corridors deepening integration or dependency?
- How can local communities benefit more from mega-projects?
- Can the EAC enforce equitable policies, or will geopolitics dictate outcomes?

The future of East Africa's corridors depends on stronger governance, fair financing, and inclusive policies. Otherwise, they risk becoming pathways of exclusion rather than unity.

John Gati Mwita -
Current Kasea-Kenya Scholar

Technology and Innovation in Advancing the Social and Economic Corridors of the East African Community

Daniel Huba, SoK Coordinator

The East African Community (EAC), comprising Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, is undergoing a digital renaissance. Technology and innovation are central to its Vision 2050, which aims to transform the region into a competitive, prosperous, and resilient economic bloc. Time is ripe to examine how digital tools, platforms, and ecosystems are enabling inclusive growth and strengthening socio-economic corridors across the region.

Policy and Institutional Frameworks
The EAC has established a robust policy environment to support science, technology, and innovation (STI). The East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) coordinates regional STI efforts, including:

- The EAC Regional Innovation and Technology Transfer Strategy
- The EAC Regional STEM Strategy The EAC Regional Bioeconomy Observatory
- National STI policies in partner states

These frameworks aim to harmonize national efforts, promote research and development, and foster innovation ecosystems.

Digital Infrastructure and Interoperability
Digital infrastructure refers to the foundational technology and systems that support the functioning and growth of digital services and applications. This includes hardware like servers, data centers, and networking equipment, as well as software platforms, cloud services, and cyber security measures. Essentially, digital infrastructure is the backbone that enables the digital economy to operate efficiently and securely.
Interoperability, on the other hand, is the ability of different systems, devices, or applications to work together seamlessly. It ensures that various technologies can communicate, exchange data, and use the information effectively.
Interoperability is crucial for creating integrated solutions and enhancing user experiences, as it allows for smooth interaction between different digital components and services.
Here are some examples of digital infrastructure and interoperability initiatives in East Africa:

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):
DPI in Africa supports the continent's digital transformation by providing essential services like identification, payments, and data exchange. These systems are designed to be interoperable, modular, and built on open standards, which helps drive digitalization, foster inclusion, and spur innovation

Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project (EA-RDIP):
This project aims to create a dynamic, seamless "single digital market" (SDM) in line with the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2023. The project includes initiatives like the One Network Area (ONA), which caps rates for cross-border voice traffic and eliminates mobile roaming charges among East African Community (EAC) countries.

Interoperability of Digital Payment Systems:
The East African Community (EAC) has made significant efforts to promote digital economic integration in member states like Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. This includes the development of interoperable digital payment systems to facilitate seamless transactions across borders.
While these initiatives are at infancy stage, they are crucial for enhancing connectivity, improving access to digital services, and fostering economic growth in the region.

Challenges of rolling out Digital Infrastructure
Rolling out digital infrastructure and interoperability in East Africa faces several challenges:

Inclusiveness and Universal Coverage: Achieving universal coverage remains a significant challenge, with nearly 500 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa still lacking legal identification. This lack of identification hinders access to digital services and economic participation.

Regulatory Hurdles: The development of digital ID systems and biometric databases often precedes the establishment of robust data governance frameworks, such as data protection and cybersecurity laws. This can put vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion and hinder the implementation of safe, inclusive, and sustainable digital identification systems.

Interoperability Issues: Despite progress in implementing digital payment systems, digital IDs, and e-Government services, challenges such as interoperability remain. Ensuring that different systems can communicate and work together seamlessly is crucial for creating integrated solutions.

Digital Divide: There is a significant digital divide in East Africa, with disparities in access to digital services between urban and rural areas. This divide can limit the reach and effectiveness of digital infrastructure initiatives.

Capacity Building: Enhancing collaboration, capacity building, and safeguards to protect human rights, privacy, and security are essential. Building the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and maintain digital infrastructure is a critical challenge.

Economic and Financial Barriers: Developing and maintaining digital infrastructure requires substantial investment. Financial constraints can limit the ability of governments and organizations to roll out and sustain these initiatives.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Addressing the challenges of rolling out digital infrastructure and interoperability in East Africa requires a multi-faceted approach from governments, private sector, and international organizations to create a supportive environment for digital transformation in East Africa. Here are some strategies that can help:

Inclusiveness and Universal Coverage: To tackle the issue of nearly 500 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacking legal identification, efforts should be made to implement inclusive digital ID systems. These systems should be designed to ensure that everyone, including vulnerable groups, has access to legal identification, which is crucial for accessing digital services and participating in the economy.

Regulatory Frameworks: Establishing robust data governance frameworks, including data protection and cybersecurity laws, is essential. These frameworks will help protect individuals' privacy and security, ensuring that digital ID systems and biometric databases are implemented safely and inclusively.

Interoperability Standards: Promoting interoperability of digital payment systems, digital IDs, and e-Government services is crucial. This can be achieved by developing and implementing common standards and protocols that allow different systems to communicate and work together seamlessly.

Bridging the Digital Divide: Efforts should be made to reduce the digital divide between urban and rural areas. This can be done by investing in infrastructure development in rural areas, providing affordable internet access, and promoting digital literacy programs.

Capacity Building: Enhancing collaboration, capacity building, and safeguards to protect human rights, privacy, and security is essential. This includes providing training and resources to build the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and maintain digital infrastructure.

Economic and Financial Support: Developing and maintaining digital infrastructure requires substantial investment. Governments, private sector, and international organizations should work together to provide the necessary financial support and resources to roll out and sustain these initiatives.

Profile of District Governor Nominee (DGN) Dr. Patrisio Njiru Njeru: a Food Scientist, Academician, Entrepreneur, and devoted family man. With a brilliant academic background, Dr. Njeru boasts of a Ph.D. in Food Science from Kiel University, Germany, complemented by an MBA from Strathmore and IESE Business Schools, and an MSc from Egerton University,

where he also kick-started his journey with a First-Class Honors in Food Science and Technology. Dr. Njeru's Rotary journey is as impactful as his academic one. A Rotaractor turned charter member of the Rotary Club of Kitengela, he has held several leadership positions, including that of Club President, during which his club garnered numerous awards. He is a PHF +6 and a Member of Paul Harris Society (PHS). His current roles include the District 9212 Stewardship Sub-Committee Chair. At Rotary Global Level, He is a Board member of the WASH Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG), underlining his commitment to Rotary's values and missions. He is also serving as the Zone 22 WASH Ambassador assisting clubs implement WASH Projects. Has attended 6 DCAs and 5 RI Conventions. In Year 2024/2025- He was Nominated as the District Governor Nominee Designate for Rotary District 9216 IF.

As a recognized Food Microbiology expert, his contributions to academia and public service are notable, with extensive publications and a vital role in Embu County's agricultural development as County Executive Committee Member (CEC) In-charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives. His professional excellence was acknowledged when he received the prestigious Top 40 Men Under 40 award in 2014. He is a lecturer at the University, Research Scientist, A lead Expert with NEMA, A QMS Auditor/Trainer and consultant in Management & Food Processing. His Research interests are Artificial Intelligence in Food Quality, Probiotics, Quality Management Systems and Fermentation.

At heart, Dr. Njeru is a family man, cherishing his role as a husband and father to three. His life is a testament to his dedication to food science, community service, farming and family, making him a distinguished figure in his field and beyond. He enjoys a round of golf, travelling, Hiking, reading Science & Philosophy/History and Microbes Hunting.

District Governor Nominee (DGN) Dr. Patrisio Njiru Njeru

KASEA Western Kenya: Lighting Pathways Through Grounded Purpose and Compassionate Action

Joana Atieno Ochieng
KAAD current scholar & KWK note-taker

In the unfolding narrative of East Africa's social and economic transformation, KASEA Western Kenya (KWK) continues to stand tall as a catalyst for change, igniting hope from village paths to institutional corridors. KWK has continuously worked quietly, passionately, and consistently at the grassroots, creating ripples that echo through the region. What many would simply view as a subsidiary of KASEA Kenya is actually a key organ of its national impact. The soul of KWK lies not in the limelight, but in the dusty classrooms, community homes, and underfunded institutions where many dreams begin. KWK's initiatives bridge the rural-urban divide, uplifting under-represented voices, and inspiring courage among the youth and marginalized, a true reflection of where most of us come from.

Through regular outreach programs, we have made KASEA a household name in villages where once no one had heard of. Our identity is deeply embedded in our people-centric model that sees every student, every child, every educator, and every differently-abled individual as worthy of support, encouragement, and empowerment. As Fr. Ben Didacus Opiyo would sum up the invaluable actions with the theme **"Extending our influence"** (Mathews 5:5-15), linking the contribution of the KASEA scholars to ambassadors representing different countries and influencing changes in the society (e.g., SoK initiatives, mentorship and charity).

In May 2024, our team landed at Mutumbu Girls Secondary School in Siaya County. This event saw over 350 students from four neighboring schools gathered not just to listen, but to reflect, to hope, and to plan their future with new clarity. Our mentorship session was more than just a talk. It was a full-circle experience. Using the diverse professional backgrounds within our membership, we created a living mirror for the students that they could see who they could become and dream boldly. Our donations of books and sanitary towels, a great symbol that their dignity matters, their education is a priority, and their potential is limitless. The smiles and gratitude from these girls and boys are our biggest reward. We're not just speaking to students; we are reshaping futures.

August 2024 saw KWK in Kobujoi, Nandi County, at St. Martin's Small Home for the Physically Challenged. It was not just another visit. It was an awakening for us and for them. Beyond the food and essential supplies, our most valuable offering was our time. We played, we listened, we mentored. The administration shared that KWK was the first group to spend quality time with the children, beyond formalities. This serves as a reminder that often, the greatest gift is presence, not programs or policies. In our laughter, the children saw possibilities. In our interactions, they found belonging.

Just recently, June 2025, we visited Ojolla School for the Physically Challenged and Our Lady of Lourdes Bolo Girls in Kisumu County. This leg of our work leaned heavily into sustainability and holistic empowerment. We painted classrooms, repaired broken windows, and planted trees as living symbols of growth, climate action, and resilience. However, that wasn't all. We also turned the focus inward, to the mental well-being of teachers, who often serve tirelessly with little recognition. Leveraging the professional expertise in our network like educators, psychologists, among others. This was a great step towards helping restore the strength of those who pour into others.

Each act, each visit, each conversation is a thread in the bigger fabric of KASEA-Kenya's rising influence across East Africa. The work of KWK in Western Kenya is not isolated. It is the pulse of a national movement and proof that transformation is not a top-down affair, but a communal awakening. Through every mentorship program, charity event, and institutional partnership, KWK uplifts and redefines what community engagement looks like. The result? A wave of recognition. People now know KASEA because they've seen KWK, not in posters or billboards, but in action.

We have empowered youth with confidence and clarity. We have made room for persons with disability, not as beneficiaries but as vital members of society. We have rekindled the dignity of our educators and planted seeds of environmental responsibility. This is not just an activity. This is legacy-building. KWK is now a beacon through which the larger KASEA movement is being discovered, especially at the grassroots level, our villages, our region. We are not just representatives but living proof of what a people-powered approach can achieve. Our voice speaks for the silent. Our work reflects the change we wish to see. And as our story spreads, so does the name of KASEA-Kenya.

As we continue down these social and economic corridors of the East African Community, we are reminded that no one should be left behind. Whether it's a schoolgirl in Siaya, a boy with a disability in Nandi, or a fatigued teacher in Kisumu, each life holds infinite value. Therefore, KWK invites you to walk with us, support us, and grow with us. There is room for your voice, your hands, your heart. In doing so, you become part of a revolution that starts in the grassroots and rises to define the region's future.


Figure 1: *Students keenly following the mentorship session (left), and presentation of donations to the students (right), at Mutumbu Girls secondary school in Siaya County in May 2024: Photo courtesy of KWK member.*


Figure 2: *Food donation presentation (left), and play moment with the children of St. Martin's Small Home at Kobujoi in Nandi County by KWK: Photo courtesy of KWK members.*






Figure 3: *KWK and friends from Pardue University pose for a photo and selfies with pupils of Ojolla Primary school (top left), Painting of classrooms launch at Ojolla Primary (top right), Painted classroom photo (center-left), mental health session by Ms. Joan Mutahi (center -right), mentorship session at Bolo Girls (bottom-left) and students posing for a photo session with the KWK mentors (bottom-right): Photo credit – KWK members.*

From SoK beneficiary to KAAD PhD graduate: My Life Journey with KAAD through KASEA KENYA

Personal story of Dr.-Ing. Willis Awandu

I am immensely humbled to pen this into paper as I reflect on my life journey. Born and brought up in the schemes of Muhoroni, Muhoroni District in Kisumu County, my school life is shaped in this locality. Under the care of my aunt (now late) who had no idea of the importance of school, I took myself to the nearby nursery school but was sent away after morning lessons having been identified as a stranger for not having the school uniform. With time, I managed to go through nursery education and later joined a local primary school with the support of my aunt.

I joined a local secondary school (St. Augustine's R.C Kandege Secondary school) under the sponsorship of Rev. Fr. Anthony Clarke, a UK missionary priest who was the Parish Priest at Koru. I did my KCSE in 2007 but only managed to score a B (plain) of 65 points. This performance could not grant me a chance to a university at that moment. I took a moment to reflect about myself and wondered if I, too,was to join the club of youth around me. Having been known by Rev. Fr. Felix G.O Atindah (he had replaced Rev.Fr. Anthony Clarke at Koru Parish) as a mass-server at Kandege Secondary school, he met me in Muhoroni roaming around and invited me to his Parish at Koru. He never allowed me to go back to Muhoroni. While at Koru, I encountered Mr. Moses Kadu Onyango (RIP, 2018) who was the principal at St. Stephen's Menara Secondary School. I took the chance and introduced myself to him and later visited his school where I made clear my intentions to repeat KCSE and also confirmed to him that I was under sponsorship which had elapsed and could not afford the fee. He gladly accepted my request and took me in as his son and I only left after my KCSE in 2008 to go back to Koru Parish. I scored an A- (minus) in a school where our class was the pioneer class.

With the excellent performance, I secured an admission at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in a course leading to BSc. Civil Engineering. At JKUAT in the first Semester, I met Dr. Eddy Okoth Odari who was teaching us HIV/AIDS, a common unit at the university. The encounter was funny but led to a lasting friendship to date. While preparing for a long holiday, I approached Dr. Odari for an opportunity to enable me to get some financial self-reliance. He got curious and conducted extensive inquiries regarding my background. I opened up to him and from there he initiated the search for the partial scholarship of the Society of KASEA (SoK). I was lucky to be accepted as the third beneficiary. This opportunity gave me the avenue to learn with minimal worries about financial needs. I managed to pay the school fee for my brother and a son to my guardian. My sustenance was always made through Rev. Fr. Lance (then Kenyatta University (KU) Chaplain). Later I would pick my cheques directly from Dr. Peter Wangai. He was always encouraging and introduced me to the university staff spaces. I came to appreciate the atmosphere among academic staff. He would leave me in his office while he attended to his lectures and would then take me for lunch at the staff Cafeteria. While in my fourth-year attachment in Nairobi, I was contacted by Mr. Daniel Huba (then SoK coordinator) who asked me to join them at the United Kenya Club during the KASEA thematic meetings. I came to know many KASEANS and more about KASEA; KAAD and the scholarships. My perception about life changed based on the stories, encounters and mentorship.

Upon completing my undergraduate studies, Dr. Odari encouraged me to apply for the KAAD scholarship. My first attempt failed, and was successful during the second attempt. This was the case with my buddy Dr. Fernandos Ongolly, and our friendship grew stronger since we were birds of the same feather. Through Dr.-Ing. Patrick Murigi, I was able to get a list of German Universities offering MSc., Water Engineering. My luck was in Stuttgart where I did my MSc., courtesy of a KAAD scholarship. I returned to Kenya and narrowly missed the Ethiopian plane crash (I had reserved this flight but changed at the last minute and booked Turkish airlines since I wanted to arrive in Kenya on Saturday and attend Holy Mass on Sunday – PRAISE GOD).

In 2021, I made my application to both KAAD and DAAD but failed the first attempts in both. My initial supervisor changed her mind and declined to assume the supervisory role. However, having been identified as a potential candidate but not able to secure a supervisor, Prof. Franz Nestmann of KIT through the intervention of Dr. Marko Kuhn, secured me a supervisor at TU Darmstadt. In March 2022, my scholarship application went through and I secured a second chance by KAAD to undertake my doctoral study at TU Darmstadt under the supervision of Prof.

Dr.-Ing. Boris Lehmann and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Markus Noack. In 2023, I was unanimously selected as the third beneficiary of Dr. Hermann Weber scholarship, an award given in recognition of the outstanding achievements of KAAD long serving Secretary General; Dr. Hermann Weber, donated by Prof. Dr. Helmuth Galego Sánchez, a KAAD Alumnus from Colombia.

As I have been awarded the doctorate degree (Dr.-Ing.), by the TU Darmstadt on 10.07.2025, I am a proud KAAD alumnus and member of KASEA Kenya. I am grateful to the immense support I received from all the KASEA family, KASEA Western Kenya and everyone. I am grateful for the support of Ms. Fidelis Nasimiyu Wamalwa during the times of need. She took up the role of a caring sister and made my stay in Germany feel like home though away from home.

Figure 1: *Willis, his second supervisor, Prof. Noack and friend (Fatima-PhD student) admiring the PhD hat (left), Willis and his first supervisor, Prof. Lehmann tossing a glass of Champagne while sharing light moments8right) – Photo credit: Dr.-Ing. Katharina Bensing.*

Kiswahili Corner

KIZAZI KINACHOTEKETEA KABLA YA KUWAKA: BANGI, POMBE NA ANGUKO LA VIJANA AFRIKA MASHARIKI

Afrika Mashariki inakumbwa na janga linaloendelea kukua kwa kasi—matumizi ya bangi na pombe miongoni mwa vijana. Kundi hili linaloonekana kuwa nguzo ya maendeleo ya baadaye linazidi kujichoma kwa kuchagua njia hatarishi za maisha, zikiwemo matumizi ya mihadarati na vileo. Tatizo hili linazidi kuenea, likichochewa na hali ngumu ya kiuchumi, ukosefu wa ajira, msongo wa mawazo, na ushawishi wa mitandao ya kijamii.

Catherine Okwaro, Current Scholar

Katika miji mikubwa kama Nairobi, Kampala, Dar es Salaam na Kigali, bangi inatumika kwa wingi, mara nyingi kwa siri au hata wazi wazi. Pombe, licha ya kuwa halali kwa watu wazima,

hutumiwa vibaya na vijana wadogo bila udhibiti. Wengine wanatumia vileo kama tiba ya msongo, wengine kama ishara ya hadhi, na wengine hujikuta wakifuata mkumbo wa marafiki.

Ukosefu wa ajira ni chanzo kikuu cha matumizi haya. Kila mwaka, vijana wengi huhitimu kutoka vyuo vya elimu ya juu na taasisi shirikishi bila fursa za ajira. Kupoteza hamasa kutokana na kukosa ajira kunawasukuma baadhi kuingia katika maisha ya ulevi na matumizi ya mihadarati ili kusahau machungu. Matumizi haya si tu yanaharibu afya, bali pia yanapunguza tija, kuharibu mahusiano ya kifamilia na kuchochea mienendo ya kihalifu.

Madhara ya kiafya ni ya kutisha. Bangi imehusishwa na matatizo ya akili kama skizofrenia na kupoteza umakini. Pombe husababisha magonjwa kama ini kushindwa kufanya kazi, mshtuko wa moyo, na ajali za mara kwa mara barabarani. Mbali na hayo, vijana wanaojihusisha na matumizi ya vileo wako katika hatari ya kupata mimba zisizotarajiwa, maambukizi ya VVU, na kukumbwa na dhuluma.

Serikali zimejaribu kukabiliana na hali hii kupitia kampeni za uhamasishaji, sheria kali za udhibiti, na uanzishaji wa vituo vya ushauri nasaha. Hata hivyo, juhudi nyingi ni za muda mfupi na haziwafikii vijana walio hatarini. Badala ya kushughulikia kiini cha tatizo—ukosefu wa ajira, upungufu wa msaada wa kisaikolojia, na mfumo duni wa malezi—mara nyingi hatua zinazochukuliwa huwa ni za adhabu badala ya msaada.

Ukombozi wa kizazi hiki unahitaji ushirikiano thabiti kati ya serikali, familia, taasisi za dini, na vijana wenyewe. Elimu ya maisha, programu za ajira kwa vijana, na huduma za afya ya akili zinapaswa kupewa kipaumbele. Viongozi wa jamii na mashujaa wa mitandao ya kijamii wana nafasi ya kipekee ya kufundisha, kuongoza, na kuwa mfano bora kwa vijana.

Ikiwa Afrika Mashariki inataka kulinda kesho yake, ni lazima iwekeze leo katika kizazi chake. Vijana wasikubali kuendelea kuteketea—badala yake waongozwe katika njia za matumaini, mafanikio, na mabadiliko.

Catherine Okwaro
Current Kasea-Kenya scholar

Photo Gallery (Feb 2024 to Now)

THEMATIC AND TEAM BUILDING

Thematic Meeting- June 2024 Members and German delegation during Symposium on Refugees and Migration

Team Building Activity– with Kasea members held in April 2025 in Limuru – Kenya.

LOSS

Photos of KASEA-K member Stella's funeral

WEDDINGS

James Ole Mwangi's Wedding

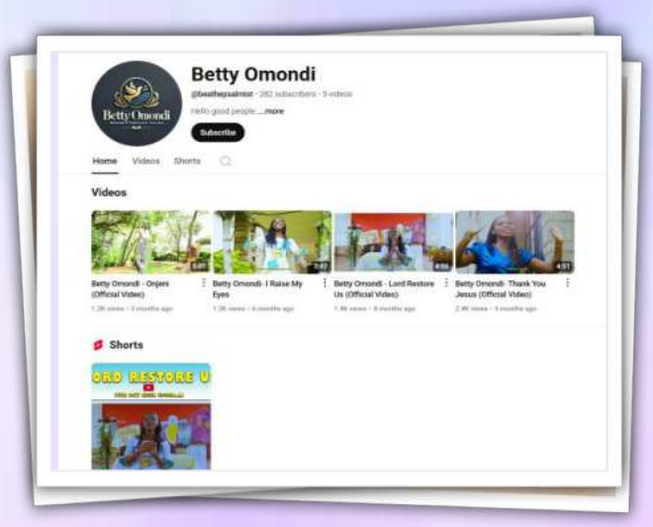
Cosmas's wedding

George's wedding

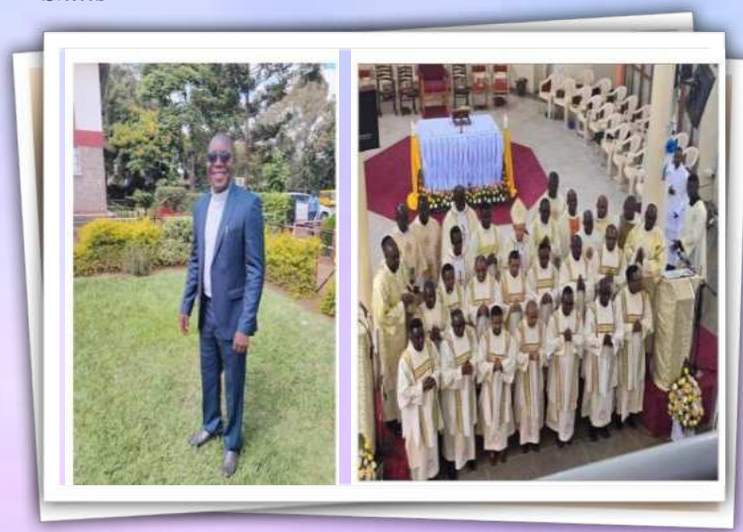
BOOK LAUNCHES

Kanja's book launch Mr. Samuel Kanja published a book by the title: "My Money Matters".

Dr. Mugo's book launch-
https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-51490-6
The book is Titled: *"The contextualization of 21st Century Skills"*



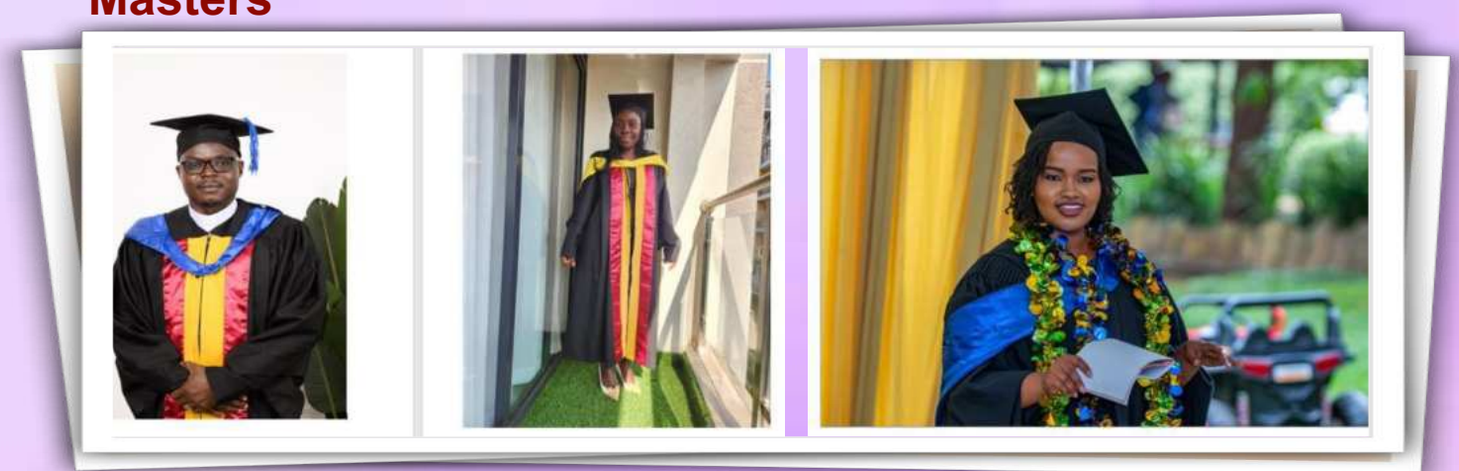
MUSIC RELEASE- KASEA *scholar Beatrice Omondi launched a Youtube channel where she shares her music. "*



KASEA- *Kenya was blessed to witness the diaconate and priestly ordination*

GRADUATIONS

Masters



(left) Fr. Ben Didacus - MA Educational Psychology, Catholic University of Eastern Africa.
(center) Ms. Annet Jasmine - Masters in Peace and Conflict studies, Catholic University of Eastern Africa.
(right) Ms. Eda Mumo - MSc. Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

BAR ADMISSION

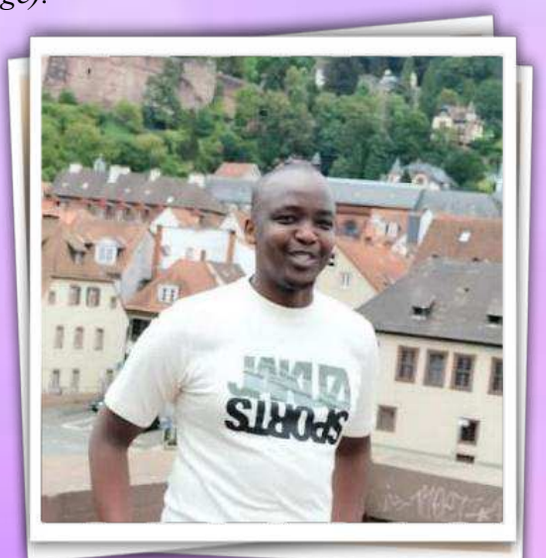
Dominic Elema, *a Masters of Law student- Law, Democracy and Governance at University of Nairobi, passed his Kenya School of Law Bar exams and was gracefully admitted to the Bar as an advocate. A week leading to this seminar, he joyfully celebrated his traditional wedding (Fuud/Oros in Borana/Gabra language) in Marsabit County.*

GRADUATIONS

PhD

(Left)- Dr. Gloria Kenyatta- University of Freiburg- Political Science Department
(Centre)-Dr. Fernandos Ongolly- University College – Dublin-Anthropology who also invited scholars to workshop on possible exchange program opportunities (Right image).

Figure 1: *Willis, his second supervisor, Prof. Noack and friend (Fatima -PhD student) admiring the PhD hat (left), Willis his first supervisor, Prof. Lehmann tossing a glass of champagne while sharing light moment (right) Photo credit: Dr. -Ing. Katharina Bensing .*



Dr.Ing. Willis Awandu *whose inspiring journey is documented in an article in this newsletter.*

Sr. Dr. Margaret Musyoka was conferred her PhD Business Administration- Strategic management Machakos University.

Dominic Mutunga's ordination.

Sr. Dr. Margaret Musyoka during her consecration (ordo virginum) at Lourdes Machakos Catholic Cathedral.

Publication

Blood Global Hematology

Available online 14 June 2025, 100016

In Press, Journal Pre-proof What's this?

Recommended articles

No articles found.

Brief Report

ERYTHROCYTE ALLOIMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA IN KILIFI, KENYA

Michael Muteti [1,2], Ephy Akoko [1], Caudencia Nyakundi [1,2], George Mochamah [1], Johnstone Makale [1], Patrick Ombati [1], Brian Tawa [1], Steven Nyanjom [2], Lilian Antwi Boateng [3], Russell E. Ware [4,5], Thomas N. Williams [1,6], Sophie Uyoga [1]

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Recent publication by two scholars; Mr. Michael Muteti and Ms. Caudencia Nyakundi

Scholar Dr. Patrisio Njeru appointed as a District Governor Nominee Designate- Read his profile within this newsletter.

Message from the Secretary General, SOK

A journey of hope, faith and action: witnessing the fruits of dedication and commitment through the art of giving

Pilgrims of Hope!

The Society of KASEA (SOK) is celebrating twenty (20) years of service in supporting very needy students undertaking undergraduate studies from Kenyan Universities and colleges. We remain grateful to all members who have sacrificed their resources to support the SOK scholarship kitty and dedicated time to mentor our beneficiaries. The support is immeasurable and the impact is invaluable. As the theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year by the Church reminds us, "Hope does not disappoint". It is thus nostalgic to note that SOK has weathered storms to continue with the noble work of living her motto '*committed to touching a soul'*. The journey demonstrates fervent hope, faith and action in holistically touching and transforming lives of our marginalized, vulnerable and deserving brothers and sisters.

In Philippians Chapter 1, Verse 6, Apostle Paul reminds us that [we should be] "…confident of this very thing: that He who has begun this good work in you will perfect it, unto the day of Christ Jesus". In the KASEA Newsletter Issue for 2024, I narrated the treacherous journey of SOK dubbed "The making of a Society: SOK's expedition from initiation to maturation". We may have different interpretations of the term 'perfect [ion]' implied by St. Paul and 'maturation' of an association such as SOK. However, in simplest terms, 2025 marks an extraordinary moment of God's 'perfection' and 'maturation' of the work SOK does, as we celebrate Dr.-Ing. Willis Awandu, the first SOK Beneficiary to be conferred with a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Darmstadt, Germany (see photo below and read his article within this newsletter). This is a perfect testimony that however small a stream is up-stream, it can grow into a magnificent river down-stream, hence giving life to humans and nature.

First SoK Scholar to get a PhD

SOK alumni and current scholars are a testimony of St. James' assertion of the "living faith" or "Fa in Action" (James 2:26). Their encounter with KASEA members invokes borderless love of fellow Pilgrims anchored in faith for transformation. SOK beneficiaries have received holistic growth emanating from spiritual, intellectual, and material support from college Chaplains, SOK mentors, SOK scholarship kitty and the University/ college academy. The journey is only gathering momentum as we hope to see more beneficiaries realize their dreams in life.

Giving own resources (material and immaterial) in the current global and economic dispensation is purely an act of self-sacrifice. The economic hardships amidst other social and cultural demands are stumbling blocks to the aspirations of a 'willing heart' to share with the needy (Deuteronomy: 15:10). The economic challenges notwithstanding, remember that sharing with the less fortunate members of our society is an obligation from God (Mathew 25:35-39). The obligation does not emphasize on quantification of alms but on qualifying the impact of something given out cheerfully and consistently. The SOK leadership invites you to walk with us in this journey of empowering others through education.

In the sections below, the categories of the SOK scholarship are presented, and a list of SOK beneficiaries since 2009 (Table 1).

2. Scholarship Programme Beneficiaries (2009 to Date)

There are three categories under which financially challenged, orphans and vulnerable students can attain scholarship:

A. Normal scholarship - recommendations come mainly from the respective university chaplain, KASEA members or an entrusted university administrator.

B. Marginalized Communities – Students under this category can also be considered for diploma and higher diploma studies under TVET programmes in Kenya. The highly potential ones can also be supported to progress to undergraduate courses. Recommendations channels are similar to category A.

C. Students living with disabilities – They can be proposed for scholarship consideration by anyone who appreciates their deserving status; they do not have to be proposed by a chaplaincy.

Table 1: List of students supported by the Society of KASEA since 2009

No.	Name & Student No.	University	Academic Program	Type	Entry	Completion
1.	Mr. Andrew M. Wamae C01/0616/2008	University of Nairobi	Undergraduate	A	26/07/2009	26/01/2012
2.	Ms. Doreen Kinya[1] K16S/15008/2009	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	C	10/12/2010	12/3/2014
3.	Dr. Willis Awandu[2] EN251-0512/2009	Jomo Kenyatta University of A. & T.	Undergraduate	A	31/05/2011	23/09/2014
4.	Ms. Margaret Wangu Mbugua Reg. No. SW/ 23/ 2010	Moi University	Undergraduate	A	26/11/2012	12/11/2013
5.	Ms. Mary K. Mwendwa Bachelor of Arts	University of Nairobi	Undergraduate	A	04/06/2013	13/01/2015
6.	Mr. Joseph Kithuka BSc. Education Science	Maseno University	Undergraduate	A	17/09/2013	26/01/2017
7.	Mr. Lewis Mwaki (BSc. Nursing & P. Health)	Pwani University	Undergraduate	A	26/03/2014	11/01/2016
8.	Ms. Alvine Lukea AIJE/04443P/2014	Technical University of Kenya	Diploma	B	11/09/2015	26/01/2017
9.	Mr. Daniel Onyango (BSc. Clinical Medicine)	Egerton University	Undergraduate	A	11/09/2015	26/01/2017
10.	Mr. Jack Oluoch Ochieng (BSc. Bachelor of Commerce)	Machakos University	Undergraduate	A	15/09/2015	26/01/2017
11.	Mr. Samuel Emanikor Lochok K16S/18605/2015	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	B	29/11/2017	04/01/2019
12.	Mr. Martin Mulinge Kilili E35/1778/2015	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	A	29/11/2017	04/01/2019
13.	Ms. Akinyi Lilian Odongo P15/1742/2017	University of Nairobi	Undergraduate	A	15/02/2018	Ongoing

[1] A former student living with disability who currently works in the banking sector

[2] Dr.-Ing. Willis Awandu has attained his Doctorate from University of Damstadt, previously he attained an MSc. Civil Engineering at the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

No.	Name & Student No.	University	Academic Program	Type	Entry	Completion
14.	Ms. Lucy Akinyi Mugeni ED/00462/2015	Maseno University	Undergraduate	A	15/02/2018	20/02/2019
15.	Mr. Victor Otieno Okoth ED/00477/2015	Maseno University	Undergraduate	A	15/02/2018	20/02/2019
16.	Mr. Daniel Miyengo Oluoch S11/11122/15	Egerton University	Undergraduate	A	03/07/2018	26/03/2019
17.	Mr. Duncan Onyango Ouma[3] (Bachelor of Special Needs Education)	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	C	23/10/2018	07/03/2022
18.	Mr. Kiprotich Cornellius Reg. No.: ted/191/17	Eldoret University	Undergraduate	A	04/10/2019	24/06/2021
19.	Mr. Paul Mutua[4] Reg. No.: 1034258	Catholic University of Eastern Africa	Undergraduate	A	04/10/2019	08/01/2020
20.	Ms Jane Wambui Reg. No.: J25/1161/2017	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	A	28/11/2019	
21.	Mr John Mwangi Maina BE108/G/5284/18	Kirinyaga University	Undergraduate	A	10/11/2020	28/04/2022
22.	Mr. Donald Onduso Gekonge I63/1773/2018	University of Nairobi	Undergraduate	A	10/12020	14/02/2022
23.	Mr. Hadan Galishom Wamaitha J174/0900/2020	Kenyatta University	Undergraduate	A	10/11/2020	Terminated
24.	Ms. Sharon Nakhanu HT/M/2720/09/20	Kabarak University	Undergraduate	A	30/12/2020	20/12/2024
25.	Ms. Alice Jepkorir EB2/56302/2021	Chuka University	BSC	A	2/11/2023	Ongoing
26.	Ms. Mary Nyokabi AB1/62613/2022	Chuka University	BED (Arts)	A	2/11/2023	Ongoing
27.	Tura Guyo HRM/104/2016	Moi University	Bachelor degree in HRM	A	2/11/2023	Terminated
28.	Bryan Mukundi	Chuka University	Journalism and Mass Communication	A	16/10/2024	Ongoing
29.	Andrew Muendo	JKUAT	BSc Marine Engineering	A	16/10/2024	Ongoing
30.	Yvonne Wangeci	The university of Nairobi	BSC Biochemistry	A	16/10/2024	Ongoing

[3] A SOK alumni living with disability, who enjoyed a joint scholarship: KU Foundation Scholarship for Orphan and Vulnerable Students (Tuition), and Society of KASEA (Sustenance)

[4] Was granted a one-off support after chaplaincy re-evaluated his case and found it not deserving continuation

No.	Name & Student No.	University	Academic Program	Type	Entry	Completion
31.	Jamilla Susan Nyongesa	KMTC Mombasa	Diploma in Community Health Nursing	A	16/10/2024	Ongoing

3. Summary activities and financial contribution

The Society has also engaged in numerous charitable endeavours, both programmed and adhoc, consistent with its motto "committed to touching a soul". Through the society's platform members have provided motivational talks, financial and material donations in secondary schools and special schools for the children with physical disabilities amongst other charitable ventures.

The total sum discharged under the scholarship program so far stands **Kenya shillings Two Million, four hundred and seventy-two thousand., (Ksh. 2,472,000).** In addition, the society's cash balance as of 11th January, 2025 **(Cash at Bank)** stood at **Kenya Shillings three hundred and fifty nine thousand, three hundred and seventy six (Kshs. 359, 376).** Accounting for all expenditure and contributions to finance societal causes over the time, the **programme has managed to raise over three Million shillings** to give back to the society!

To participate in the scholarship Program

For convenience, transparency and accountability members are requested to credit the monthly subscription to the Society's bank account through direct deposit in cash, standing orders, cheques, bank transfers or through MPesa Paybill services.

For the remittances to Society of KASEA

For Payment

Cash Deposit, Bank Transfers, Etc

- *Account Name: **Society of KASEA***
- *Account No. : **1320668291***
- *Bank: **Kenya Commercial Bank***
- *Branch: **Kimathi Street***

LIPA NA M-PESA
Till Number
5 2 2 5 3 3
Account No
7 7 2 6 4 9 3
Name
Society of KASEA

or

M-PESA KCB
Paybill Business No
5 2 2 5 2 2
Account
1320668291

NB: With this option you get a customized notification and the SOK office also receives a notification.
All KASEA members are specially requested to actively subscribe to boost the scholarship kitty.


KASEA News