

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 11th May 2023 - The University of Nairobi (Kenya), 4 schools of ParisTech network (France) – AgroParisTech, Chimie ParisTech - PSL, École des Ponts ParisTech and Mines Paris - PSL – and CentraleSupélec - University Paris-Saclay (France) jointly signed a Tripartite Partnership Agreement launching a four-year cooperation programme for the development of the Engineering and Science Complex (ESC) in Nairobi. Prof. Stephen Kiama, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, made the trip to France with a team of leaders for the signing, and visited CentraleSupélec, Université Paris-Saclay, AgroParisTech, Chimie ParisTech – PSL and École des Ponts ParisTech, respectively.

Mr. Matthieu Peyraud, Director for Culture and Soft Diplomacy at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs as well as Mr. Manuel Bouard, representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Mr. Chahoul Gaffar, representative of the Ministry for the ecological transition and territory Cohesion, H.E. Prof. Judi Wakhungu E.G.H., Ambassador of Kenya in France, and Mrs. Veronika Chabrol, Deputy Head of the Division Education of the French Development Agency (AFD) were delighted to attend the official launch of this partnership in East Africa as France is eager to develop activities with partners in Kenya, where discussions began in 2019.

The University of Nairobi, Kenya's top university, the regional leader in science and engineering, trains the future leaders of the country. This profile matches the French Grandes Écoles AgroParisTech, Chimie ParisTech – PSL, École des Ponts ParisTech, Mines Paris – PSL, and CentraleSupélec, all willing to extend their partnerships in Africa.

The University of Nairobi will construct the ESC on its Chiromo campus, keeping with the national 2030 strategy for better industrialization of the country, the creation of greener and more sustainable jobs, and to tackle global challenges. The partners will share their know-how and best practices in five domains: governance, curricula, university-industry linkages, research and innovation, and internationalization. The ESC will be partly funded by a sovereign loan from the French Agency for Development (AFD).

The aim of this partnership is to build long-term knowledge and skills sharing and transfer, and practice-oriented teaching of technological and digital knowledge, in conformance with the curriculum, in an effort to support the growing needs in East Africa for the emerging manufacturing and service industry.

The French partners will accompany the University of Nairobi, particularly in companies' involvement in University activities around governance, the curricula and research and innovation, as well as in internationalization.

Seminars, conferences and meetings will be organized in Nairobi, Paris and remotely over the next four years. Some of the activities are currently under development, such as joint scientific workshops and delegation visits. They will also jointly apply for European fundings in order to deepen their internationalization, notably the links between researchers and academic staff.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor S. Kiama, said during the ceremony: “by offering high-quality education and research opportunities, the Complex aims to create a new generation of international professionals equipped with the knowledge and competences to become leaders in their respective fields, aware of the impact of their actions, able to contribute to public good and to tackle global challenges”.

Christian Lerminiaux, President of the ParisTech network, underlined: “It’s the first time that some of the most prestigious French engineering schools decide to put resources on a big partnership in English-speaking Africa. We are eager to start this cooperation around the Engineering and Science Complex and to accompany the University of Nairobi. This partnership is particularly important because 4 ParisTech schools are now cooperating with the University of Nairobi and CentraleSupélec, a good way to promote the way we train students in science and engineering in France.”

Romain Soubeyran, the Director General of CentraleSupélec, added: “CentraleSupélec is eager to pursue collaboration with Kenya and the African continent as a whole, through student mobility, academic partnerships and research projects. Building on our experience in industry-academia linkages, we will continue to share best practises and to enhance engineering education and its adaptability to the changing labour market”.

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About University of Nairobi: www.uonbi.ac.ke

The University of Nairobi (UoN) is the premier university in Kenya. The University of Nairobi is a comprehensive university with a mission to transform the community through provision of quality university education and generation of knowledge through research and innovations carried out in its 10 faculties. UoN has established strategic partnerships and collaborations with leading universities and research networks worldwide.

The University has a strong tradition of nurturing talents in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

About ParisTech: www.paristech.fr

ParisTech is an alliance of top French graduate engineering schools that have been working together for over 20 years to develop joint training, research and innovation projects in the fields of science and technology. The members of the network are AgroParisTech, Arts & Métiers, Chimie ParisTech - PSL, the École des Ponts ParisTech, ESPCI Paris - PSL, the Institut d'Optique Graduate School and Mines Paris – PSL.

About CentraleSupélec: www.centralesupelec.fr

CentraleSupélec is a public higher education institution in engineering. It has 3 teaching campuses (Paris-Saclay, Rennes and Metz), which enrol 4,900 students, and one research campus (Pomacle). The School is also known for its high-quality research, carried out in its 17 laboratories. 26% of its students and nearly a quarter of its staff come from abroad. Two hundred partnership agreements with leading universities worldwide, out of which 80 are double degree agreements, contribute to making CentraleSupélec extremely active on the international scene. Together with the Écoles Centrale Group (Lille, Lyon, Nantes and Marseille), it operates international Schools in China (École Centrale Beijing) and Morocco (École Centrale Casablanca), and a four-year Bachelor programme in India (Mahindra École Centrale, Hyderabad). Locally, CentraleSupélec is a founding member of Paris-Saclay University and coordinates its Graduate School of Engineering and Systems Sciences.