University of Eldoret
flame of knowledge and innovation



IPMO QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Volume 2, Issue 1

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University of Eldoret is ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Welcome to New Horizons

Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 1 of the University of Eldoret Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO) Bulletin!

This edition comes at a time of reflection following the passing of Professor Phillip Raburu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Planning, Research and Extension. We honour his memory and acknowledge his service and contribution to the University community.

In this July–September 2026 edition, we celebrate the University's growing innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, highlighting initiatives in entrepreneurship training, robotics and artificial intelligence, student innovation competitions, and research commercialisation. We also spotlight emerging innovations, including Sci-Yetu and DatuShield, and look ahead to the 8th Innovation Week and Public Lecture in February 2027.

As we honour the past and embrace new possibilities, we invite students, staff, alumni, and partners to join us in building an inclusive, collaborative, and impact-driven innovation ecosystem.

Thank you for being part of our journey of turning ideas into impact!

IPMO Team

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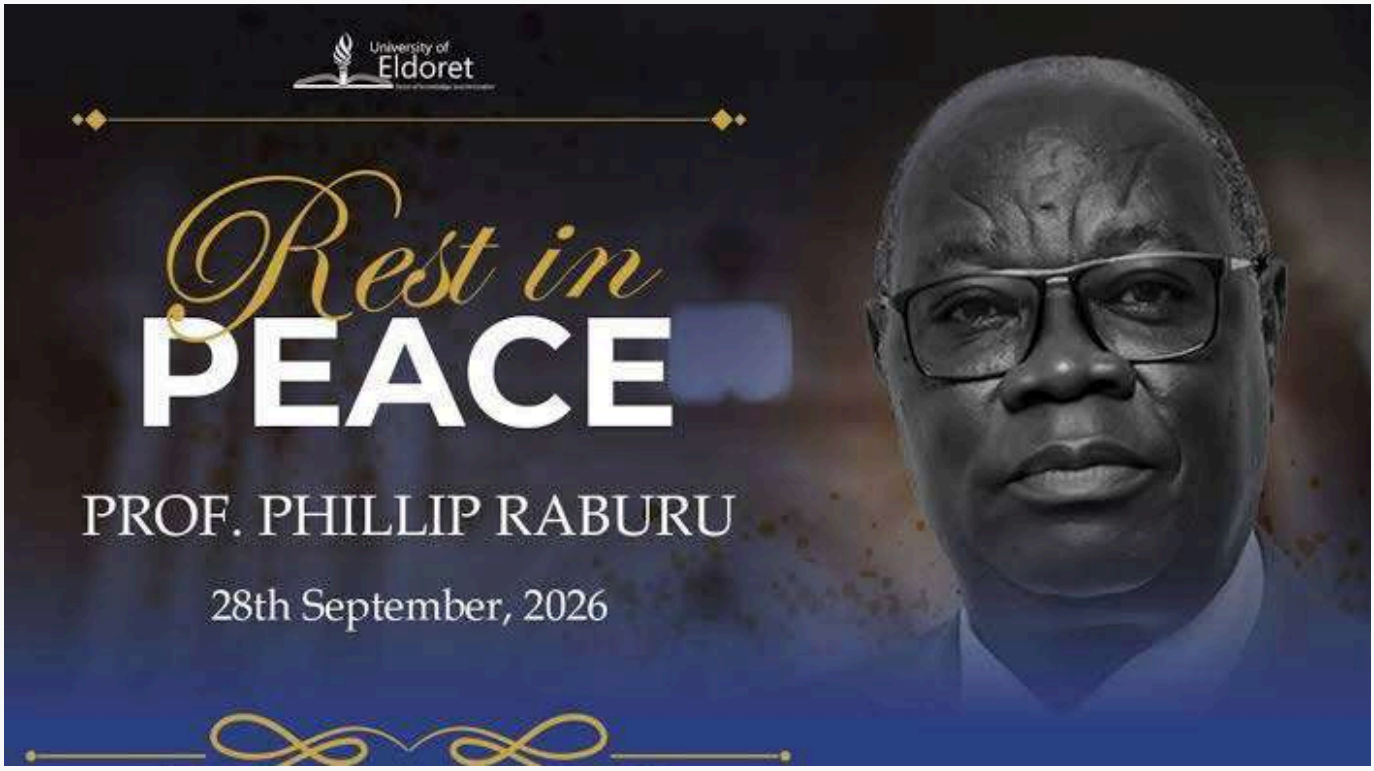
8th Annual Innovation Week & Public Lecture

Looking ahead to the 8th Innovation Week and Public Lecture, featuring innovation exhibitions, pitching competitions, expert discussions, and opportunities to showcase transformative ideas.

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Discovering pathways for innovators and entrepreneurs through the Anzisha Fellowship, DIV Fund support, and the Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF PROF. RABURU

28th Septemebr 2026

With deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of **Prof. Phillip Raburu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Planning, Research and Extension,University of Eldoret**. His life and service leave a lasting mark on the university community and all those whose lives he touched.

As we remember his leadership, dedication, and contribution to the institution, we celebrate a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come. His absence will be deeply felt, but his impact will endure in the people and community he served.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his family, colleagues, and the entire university community find comfort and strength during this difficult time.

1

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & CAPACITY BUILDING

From Ideas to Enterprise: Discover how UoE is equipping student innovators and researchers with entrepreneurial skills, technical expertise, mentorship, and commercialisation pathways to transform promising ideas into viable ventures.









a) Inclusive Entrepreneurship Curriculum Piloting Workshops

Building on the curriculum's co-creation, validation, and Training of Trainers activities, an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Curriculum was successfully piloted at UOE from June to July 2026 under the IYBA-SEED Project, in collaboration with Impact Gateway Africa (IGA) and Eldo Hub. The pilot brought together 11 student entrepreneurs from four Schools in weekly sessions using a practical, activity-based approach on ideation, value proposition design, market validation, business modelling, digital literacy and AI, and financial literacy and management. The pilot provided students with practical tools and mentorship to transform initial ideas into more structured and potentially viable business concepts, while strengthening their confidence and understanding of entrepreneurship as a pathway for innovation and impact.



Beyond the direct benefit to participating students, the initiative strengthens the University's emerging innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialisation ecosystem, creating a practical bridge between student ideas, skills development and potential enterprise creation. The implementation of this pilot curriculum was supported by KES 100,000 through the IYBA-SEED Project.

b) Staff Training on WIPO–TISC Foundation Certification Course 2026

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Foundation Certification Course 2026 is an internationally recognized online training programme designed to enhance competencies in intellectual property management, patent information, technology transfer, innovation support services, and the effective operation of TISCs. The training contributes to building institutional expertise required to support researchers, innovators, and the commercialization of research outputs. Following a call for nominations, the IPMO identified and supported the application of three staff members, who successfully enrolled in the ongoing certification programme. The training is ongoing, with the three participants progressing through the different assessment phases.

No.	Staff Member	School	Department
1	Dr. Emily J. Chemoiwa	School of Science	Department of Biological Sciences
2	Dr. Mercy Murrey	School of Business, Economics and Management Sciences	Department of Business Management
3	Mr. Josam Musambayi	School of Business, Economics and Management Sciences	Department of Business Management

Phase 1 assessment was completed in August 2026, while participants are currently undertaking Phase 2, with the assessment scheduled for 15-28 October 2026. The final evaluation and WIPO certification will follow completion of the subsequent phase, with the exact timing to be confirmed by WIPO. The training, among other things is expected to strengthen institutional capacity in IP management and technology transfer while enhancing the quality of innovation support services through the University's TISC.

c) Students Selected for Embedded Systems, Robotics and AI Training

A hands-on Embedded Systems, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Training Programme targeting first- and second-year students has been launched at the University. Ten students from Mechanical and Production Engineering, Civil and Structural Engineering, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, and Computer Science registered for the programme. The training is designed to provide practical skills in embedded systems, robotics, artificial intelligence, programming, web and mobile application development, and autonomous systems, with students developing real prototypes and applications that can control robotic systems. Participants will also be prepared to represent the University in inter-university robotics and AI competitions.



The initiative provides an important pathway for early exposure to emerging technologies and practical innovation skills, enabling students to complement classroom learning with hands-on experience in designing intelligent and automated systems. The programme is led by Lawrence Mwangi, a UoE alumnus and Graduate Assistant in the School of Engineering, creating an additional opportunity for alumni to contribute to student mentorship and skills development. Priority is given to members of the UoE Innovation Club and AI & Robotics Club to further strengthen the University's student innovation ecosystem and nurture a pipeline of technically skilled student innovators.

d) Bridge for Billions Incubation

Two University of Eldoret participants, Naomi Okumu and Rasoah Moraa, are participating in the Bridge for Billions Program, a virtual entrepreneurship incubation programme designed to support early-stage innovators and entrepreneurs in developing and validating their business ideas. The programme commenced in July 2026 and will conclude on 14 November 2026. Participants will also have an opportunity to pitch their innovations in a prize-winning competition. The programme provides participants with structured business development tools, mentorship, practical learning, and opportunities to connect with a global community of entrepreneurs and mentors. Training undertaken so far has covered value proposition development, competitor mapping, stakeholder mapping, business model development using the Business Model Canvas, marketing funnels, and product pricing strategies.

SN	Name	School	Innovation
1	Dr. Naomi Okumu	Science	Datushield
2	Rasoah Moraa	Agriculture & Biotechnology	NunnyBear

The remaining components will focus on financial management, impact planning, and growth planning. The programme provides the participants with an opportunity to strengthen their entrepreneurial and business development skills and refine their innovations. The programme also supports the University's efforts to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of research and innovation outputs.

2

STUDENT INNOVATIONS & COMPETITIONS

Ideas in Action: Celebrating UoE's rising innovators as they take on real-world challenges, sharpen their pitches, and earn recognition on national platforms through creativity, ingenuity, and bold problem-solving.









a) The NEIL Campus Spark Student Innovation Challenge

The Campus Spark Student Innovation Challenge 2026 is a flagship student innovation programme spearheaded by the Network of Entrepreneurial Institutions Leaders (NEIL) to identify, nurture, and accelerate student-led innovations by providing mentorship, business development support, industry linkages, and opportunities for commercialization. Successful teams from participating universities proceed to an inter-university innovation bootcamp and national pitching competition, where they receive further mentorship and exposure to potential investors, industry partners, and innovation support organizations. As part of the programme, the University of Eldoret held its Campus Spark Intra-University Pitching Competition on 16 July 2026 to identify and select outstanding student innovations for the national programme.

Category	Innovation	Innovators Name	Score
Agriculture and Food Security	**Pumpbites**	**Marion Dede**	**59.5**
Health and Wellbeing	**Shelf Stable Porridge**	**Lwiza Khisa**	**59**
Digital Transformation and AI	**Sci Yetu**	**Victor Isahi**	**74.25**
Climate Action and Green Innovation	**Upcycled Prebiotic Flour**	**Evaline Wanjiru Gacheru**	**61**

A total of 20 student teams participated, presenting innovative solutions across the four thematic categories of the competition. Following evaluation by an independent panel of judges, one winning team was selected from each category to represent the UoE at the forthcoming inter-university bootcamp and pitching competition. The competition provided students with an opportunity to strengthen their pitching skills, receive expert feedback, and refine their business ideas. The students are currently undergoing an online bootcamp on an LMS and a physical bootcamp, and an inter-university competition is scheduled for October/November.

b) Climate Tech for Resilient Communities Hackathon at Eldohub



The Climate Tech for Resilient Communities Hackathon was organized by EldoHub Tech & AI Academy and held on 31 July 2026 in Eldoret. One University of Eldoret student, Loyara Ekai from the City campus, participated in the hackathon by presenting an innovative solution addressing climate resilience and community challenges. The platform provided valuable exposure to innovation development, mentorship, networking with industry experts, and validation of innovative ideas within the climate and agricultural technology ecosystem.





Participants gained practical exposure to core innovation tools and technologies, including Raspberry Pi and Arduino microcontrollers, sensors, motors, and NFC-based systems. Through live demos, students engaged with functional prototypes such as a robotic arm controlled via remote interface, an autonomous car with obstacle detection capabilities, and a smart home and earthquake detection system. These activities enhanced skills in hardware integration,while strengthening understanding of how AI and robotics can be applied to real-world challenges. The hands-on nature of the training reinforced experiential learning in student-led innovation pathways at the University of Eldoret.

c) Falling Walls Lab Nairobi 2026



The University of Eldoret participated in the Falling Walls Lab Nairobi 2026, held at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, on 13th August 2026. The University was represented by two student innovators from the School of Science, who presented Gesture-OS: An AI-powered touchless interaction platform that enables users to control computers and public digital systems through hand gestures and sign-language-inspired commands using a standard webcam, and Keratin Kibble, an innovation that converts waste hair into keratin-based protein feed for birds and fish.





The participation provided the students with an opportunity to showcase their innovations, develop their pitching skills, and gain visibility and connections within the wider innovation ecosystem. Gesture-OS by Loyara Ekai emerged second in the competition, providing significant recognition for her innovation and highlighting the potential of student-led innovations from the University of Eldoret. The event also provided a valuable platform for networking, mentorship, partnerships, and potential commercialization opportunities for the participating innovations.

3

INNOVATIONS SHOWCASE & COMMERCIALIZATION

From Campus to Market: Showcasing UoE's homegrown innovations as they gain visibility, connect with investors and industry partners, and advance towards real-world application and commercial success.









a) Eldoret International Business Summit Participation



The University of Eldoret participated in the 4th Eldoret International Business Summit (EIBS) 2026, held from 23-25 July 2026 at Rupa Grounds, Eldoret. The event featured business exhibitions, business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking sessions, investor engagement forums, startup and innovation showcases, and enterprise development activities aimed at accelerating commercialization and economic growth. During the summit, the University exhibited Sci-Yetu, an innovative STEM education platform developed by student innovator Victor Isahi.





The innovation attracted considerable interest from business development partners, investors, educators, and other stakeholders who recognized its potential to transform science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through hands-on learning and digital innovation. The exhibition provided an important opportunity to showcase the University's innovation capacity, establish strategic networks, and initiate discussions with potential partners interested in supporting the further development, commercialization, and scaling of the innovation.

b) DatuShield Pitches at Women in STEM Africa Summit



DatuShield, a UoE innovation developed by Dr. Naomi Awino, Dr. Emily Chemoiwa, and Dr. Salinah Rono of the Department of Biological Sciences, was among the innovation pitches at the Women in STEM Africa Summit 2026, which happened at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, on 3-4 Sept. 2026. The summit brought together innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders from across Africa, providing a high-level platform for connecting innovation with investment and market opportunities.



Through the Investor Pitch Arena, Dr. Awino presented DatuShield to a diverse audience of potential investors and partners, providing an opportunity to communicate the innovation's value proposition and commercial potential. Although DatuShield did not emerge as the winning pitch, its participation provided significant exposure and visibility for both the innovation and the University of Eldoret. Such platforms create opportunities for innovators to build networks with investors, industry players and fellow entrepreneurs, receive visibility beyond the academic environment, identify potential partnerships and gain insights that can inform further product development and commercialisation.

c) UoE Researcher Featured in KeNIA Webinar Series

Dr. Naomi Owino, Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Eldoret and Founder of Datushield Innovation (Datura stramonium seed oil bioinsecticide for deltamethrin-resistant Anopheles gambiae mosquito control), was featured in the KeNIA Webinar Series on 24 September 2026 as a speaker on "The Researcher's Dilemma: When Does Scientific Discovery Become a Commercial Opportunity?" Drawing from her experience developing Datushield, a botanical biocide, and her participation in the Research to Commercialisation Programme, Cohort 4, Dr. Owino shared insights on identifying commercial potential within research and assessing market relevance before investing further resources in product development.



The webinar highlighted the importance of moving beyond scientific discovery to consider problem-solution fit, market need, value creation, and pathways to application and scale. Dr. Owino's participation provided visibility for the University of Eldoret's research and entrepreneurship while highlighting the growing role of researchers in translating scientific knowledge into practical, market-oriented innovations.

4

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

Think Local. Build African. Go Global: Meet Dr. Judy Mwende, CEO of Ustawi Foods, whose vision of taking African agricultural products to the world is opening doors to global partnerships while creating opportunities for farmers and championing nutritious, value-added Kenyan products.



Taking Ustawi Foods to the World!



It was an inspiring experience for Dr. Judy Mwende, CEO of Ustawi Foods and Alumus of University of Eldoret, to connect with visionary founders and innovators from across the globe at MassChallenge Switzerland. These global connections open doors to new ideas, partnerships, markets and opportunities as

we continue building Ustawi Foods into a proudly African brand with a global footprint. From empowering farmers and promoting nutritious food solutions to creating sustainable impact, Ustawi Foods is ready to connect Africa's potential with the world.





At Ustawi Foods, we believe Africa has what it takes to feed and serve the world with quality, nutritious and value-added products. From our biofortified flours to our pure natural honey and mango powder, we are building a brand that celebrates African agriculture while creating products that can compete beyond our

borders. Our vision is bigger than the local market — we are working towards taking Ustawi Foods products to the global market, creating opportunities for farmers, empowering communities and putting Kenyan-made products on international shelves.

Think local. Build African. Go global.

5

8TH INNOVATION WEEK & PUBLIC LECTURE

From Ideas to Impact: Get ready for the 8th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture as UoE brings together bold thinkers, researchers, and student innovators to showcase transformative solutions, compete for recognition, and explore new pathways to turn creativity and research into real-world impact.



Plans for the 8th Innovation Week

Plans are underway for the 8th Innovation Week and Public Lecture from 10-12 February 2027 under the theme: From Ideas to Impact: Innovating for a Changing World. The activities that are planned for the Innovation Week are as follows:

SN	Activity	Date
1	Pre-workshop/bootcamp for	8-9 February 2027
2	Evaluation of Exhibited	Feb 10, 2027
3	Fourth Innovation Challenge	Feb 10, 2027
4	Official Opening and Panel	Feb 11, 2027
5	Public Lecture and Awards	Feb 12, 2027

Want to join? Sign up for the innovation challenge and the innovation week by scanning the QR codes below:

Innovation Week

Innovation Challenge



6

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Unlocking Growth: Explore intellectual property training, entrepreneurial fellowships, innovation funding, and hands-on acceleration programmes designed to help Africa's innovators and entrepreneurs protect their ideas, build sustainable ventures, and scale their impact.

a) Protect Your Ideas (L2Pro Africa)

Learn to Protect Africa (L2Pro) is a free e-learning platform by Qualcomm designed to build intellectual property (IP) awareness and equip innovators, researchers, and students with practical knowledge to protect their ideas. Participants can access an introductory IP course, guidance on Kenya's IP filing process, and a certificate upon completion. Whether you are developing a research innovation or building a startup, understanding IP is a vital step towards turning ideas into valuable assets.

Ready to protect your innovation? Scan the QR code to register on the L2Pro Africa platform and start learning.



b) Anzisha Fellowship

Are you a young entrepreneur building a business that creates jobs and drives change in your community? The Anzisha Fellowship supports young African entrepreneurs through entrepreneurship education, mentorship, and business growth opportunities. It is designed to help young founders strengthen their ventures, develop leadership skills, and build businesses that can grow sustainably while creating employment for others.

Ready to take your venture further? Scan the QR code or visit the Anzisha Fellowship website to explore eligibility and application opportunities.

Deadline: November 10, 2026

c) DIV Fund

The Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) Fund supports innovative, evidence-driven solutions to global development challenges. Through a staged funding approach, DIV helps promising ideas test their effectiveness, generate evidence, and scale solutions that deliver meaningful impact. For entrepreneurs and innovators addressing challenges in health, education, agriculture, and other development sectors, DIV offers a pathway to move from promising concepts towards scalable, cost-effective solutions.

Could your innovation deliver measurable impact? Scan the QR code or visit the DIV Fund application page to learn about the funding process and requirements.

Submissions accepted on a rolling basis

d) JLMCF Foundation Fellowship

The Jim Leech Mastercard Foundation Fellowship (JLMCF) on Entrepreneurship, offered through Queen's University, equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills, resources, and guidance needed to explore and develop entrepreneurial ventures. Through entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and access to a broader innovation ecosystem, the programme helps participants validate business ideas, strengthen their entrepreneurial capabilities, and take practical steps towards launching or growing a venture.

Ready to turn your idea into a business? Scan the QR code or use the fellowship application link to explore the opportunity and application details.

Deadline: 1 December 2026



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