

Uzuzi Hub Launches University Innovation Challenge in Partnership with NCBA Bank

Nairobi, Kenya-The University Innovation Challenge, under the theme of Fostering Resilience, was successfully launched at KCA University on September 27, 2024. The challenge, which aims at nurturing student innovators, was organized by Uzuzi Hub in partnership with NCBA Bank, the State Department of Labor and Skills Development, and Nairobi City County.

The event attracted over 100 attendees, including students from various universities, industry leaders, and government officials, all focused on creating a vibrant innovation ecosystem that supports student-led ventures.



The University Innovation Challenge aims to encourage young people in University and recent graduates to develop or showcase their already-made transformational innovative solutions that will help solve everyday problems and create positive change. This initiative aims to prepare students for the future of work by equipping them with entrepreneurial and digital skills.

Dean of Research, Innovation, and Outreach Dr. Lucy Mburu and Director of Innovation, Incubation, and Enterprise Development Dr. Abraham Rotich welcomed all the partners and officially opened up the event to all the guests. They clearly outlined the commitment of the University to creating an outstanding climate of support for KCA University researchers and innovators to enable research and innovation advances.



The Key Partner in the Innovation Challenge, NCBA Bank, spoke on the partnership with Uzuzi Hub over the years and their goal for sustainability and innovation. NCBA City Centre Branch Manager, Md. Constance Ouna stated “Our collaboration with Uzuzi Hub is part of this mission, empowering learning and innovation centers to equip youth with the skills they need to thrive. We are dedicated to expanding partnerships that provide opportunities for learning, development, and business growth, ensuring young people across the country can contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future.”



The CEO and Founder of Uzuzi Hub, Mr. John Wali, emphasized the importance of innovation and highlighted the role of partnerships between institutions, the private sector, government, and innovation hubs. “Young people are the future and we at Uzuzi Hub believe that through innovation, we can solve Kenya’s unemployment, or at least move a step closer...” he stated.



The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Wanjiru Kariuki, Secretary of the State Department of Labor and Skills Development spoke on the National Skills Development Policy of the department. “The Policy aims at promoting sustainable socio-economic growth through the development of a skilled workforce that is employable, productive, enterprising, innovative, adaptable and competitive. It outlines policy actions for entrepreneurship, commercialization of innovations, and commercialization of talents” she emphasized.



A lively panel with representatives from NCBA Bank, Uzuzi Hub, Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Associations, and Nairobi City County leaders explored how universities, the private sector, and the government can collaborate to prepare students for jobs of the future, and what the different bodies are currently doing to enable job placements.

The event offered students the chance to network with industry leaders, and mentors, establishing valuable connections for their future ventures. An alumnus of the KCA University Incubation Program, Samson Mutori, who has a startup on the Internet of Things focusing on automation and University Innovation Challenge Winner 2023 Charles from Retread Africa had a chance to encourage their peers by sharing their experience.

Uzuzi Hub will continue to support student innovators through mentorship, and incubation. The top-performing teams from the challenge will be onboarded into the Innovation Bootcamp program before the National Competition.



The University Innovation Challenge launch was a resounding success, showcasing the potential of student-led innovation in driving Kenya's economic growth and employment creation. With strong support from key, the challenge promises to be a transformative platform for preparing students for the future of work through innovation and entrepreneurship.

About Uzuzi Hub

Uzuzi Hub is an organization that provides safe spaces that spark young people to become innovators and drive disruptive change in industries and society. It has a vision of a future where self-sufficient young learners lead societal transformation for a sustainable world.

Dedicated to nurturing young learners' creativity, growth mindset, and problem-solving skills to become the architects of their success within the exciting realm of the orange economy.

At Uzuzi Hub, we offer a vibrant environment where young people can explore their creativity, and develop essential skills while getting insights from mentors and industry leaders.