

THE NAIROBI INNOVATION WEEK
PROFILES OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELISTS
FACULTY OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN

Faculty Sub-Theme

Accelerating Innovation in the Built Environment and Design Sector for Sustainable Development through Academia, Industrial, Intergovernmental Collaborations and Community Linkages

SESSION ONE

Topic: The Role of Digital Technology in the Built Environment and Design Industry

Date: 8th May 2024

Time: 2.30 pm – 3.15pm

Venue: Taifa Hall, University Towers, Main Campus

PROFILES OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Profile of Ms Lorna Juma

Prior to being Program Manager at Oracle Academy Sub-Saharan Africa, Ms Lorna Juma has diligently served in different organizations as a Digital Technology Expert. Some of the notably organizations where she has served include being East Africa Program Manager in EDU Africa, Country Representative in Pan African Youth Organization for the Blue Economy among others. Ms Lorna has outstanding skills in the modernization of education through incorporation of digital technology in higher educational levels. Her passion for mentorship in the digital technology is corroborated by recently spearheading collaboration between Oracle Academy and the Department of Real Estate and Construction Management of the University of Nairobi. Further to the above, her steadfast vision of incorporating ICT in STEM education and higher learning institutions resulted in the signing of an MoU between Oracle Academy and Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Kenya, which for over 6 years has promoted ICT integration in teaching and learning and has seen more than 300 lecturers trained on Cloud Computing Program and both Bytes – Hands On Lab – Intermediate and Advanced. Lorna's greatest potentials is further demonstrated by her hands on skills in providing various organizations around the world with computing infrastructure, software and database creations for innovation, unlocking efficiencies and making organisations become more effective in securing data, improving institutional efficiency and resilience, cost savings and advancement of research. Ms Lorna is a holder of Master of Arts Degree in Project Planning and Management, Master of Arts in Public Management and Bachelor of Arts in Business Information Technology. She has also undertaken Postgraduate Diploma training in Enrichment Education and Leadership, Trainers Business Edge, Effective Communication and Young African Leaders Initiative.

Profile of Arc. Alexander Mwangi Kamunyu

Alexander Kamunyu is the Project Manager at Konza Technopolis Development Authority.. He is a Professional Architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP), a Full Member of the South African Institute of Architectural Technologists (SAIAT), and an Associate with the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa).Alexander holds a Master of Science in Project Management from the

University of Pretoria, South Africa, His seventeen-year career spans both private and public practice. He has a passion for the Built Environment and in particular Health Infrastructure where he has played a leading role in implementing various Capital Projects including but not limited to the revitalization of Provincial Hospitals, the construction of Community Health Centers, Clinics, and Nursing Colleges. Coupled with experience in Contract Administration and Infrastructure Delivery Models, Alexander has a sound understanding of the critical elements that go into the initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and control, and closing out of infrastructure projects.

PROFILE OF MODERATOR/CHAIR OF THE SESSION

Profile of Dr. Rose Kitur, PhD. FKIP

Dr. Kitur has a distinguished career in Urban and Regional Planning in the Kenya Public service straddling plan preparation, plan implementation as well as monitoring and oversight. She received a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a PhD in Public Policy and Administration. Dr. Kitur has been instrumental in improving the practice of planning at the national and county levels as well as making expert contribution to Policy and legislative agenda touching on planning. Currently, Dr. Kitur serves as Director, NEPAD Programmes at the NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat, with a responsibility to domesticate African union core principles and Agenda 2063 that seeks to transform the African continent to be an influential global player.

PROFILE OF PANELLISTS

Ms. Lorna Juma – as the above

Arc. Alexander Mwangi Kamunyu – as the above

Arch. Musau Kimeu Profile

With over 25 years' experience as a practicing architect and 15 years of teaching at the university, Architect Musau Kimeu is well trained and exposed both locally and internationally. He is particularly interested in addressing environmental issues in Architecture. His current research activities are centred on the environmental performance of buildings and is currently focused on the impact of buildings on Climate Change, passive and natural cooling strategies in Tropical Upland such as Nairobi and Warm - Humid (coastal) climates, Swahili architecture, design with light and natural ventilation in libraries and also acoustic design & natural ventilation in conference halls. The Environmental Design Expert, Musau has remarkably contributed to the shape of architecture in Kenya, both in academia and practice by leading from the front. He is a firm believer that an architect must always design for the user of the building and not to please himself with senseless hot buildings especially in our hot tropical climates. In 2015, Musau won the Kenya Green Architect of the Year 2015 award, by the Kenya Energy Management Awards and his project, The LRC at The Catholic University of Eastern Africa won the Green Building of the Year award in 2014.

Profile of Arch. Peter Njeru Njue

Arch. Peter Njeru is the chairman and lecturer at the Department of Real Estate Construction Management and Quantity Surveying, in the faculty of Built Environment and Design, University of Nairobi. Arch. Njeru has presented numerous conference papers in many countries, supervised graduated innumerable Master's and undergraduate students, researching

in various areas of the built environment. He has won numerous grants with the latest being the Erasmus+ teaching mobility grant. Professionally, Peter Njeru is a sustainability consultant and architect, EDGE Expert, Green Star Accredited Professional by the Green Building Council of South Africa, member of Kenya Green Building Society, with more than 14 years of expertise creating impactful building and master plans for corporate, NGOs, governments and individuals across numerous industry verticals.

SESSION TWO

Topic: Bridging the Gap between Academia, Built Environment Industry and Design Sector through Appropriate Training

Date: 8th May 2024

Time: 3.15pm – 4.00pm

Venue: Taifa Hall, University Towers, Main Campus

PROFILES OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Profile of Jacques Matara

Jacques Matara is the Deputy Director, Space Research and Innovation at the Kenya Space Agency (KSA). He spearheads research and innovation initiatives in the space ecosystem and coordinates Earth Observation (EO) application programs at the Agency. He is also very passionate about conducting space education and outreach to students, professionals and the general public. He has previously worked at the Ministry of Lands and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Interior and coordination of National Government in diverse technical and managerial capacities. He has a background in Geospatial Technologies, Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability, Disaster Risk Management and International Relations & Diplomacy besides other management and professional certifications and competencies. He focuses on harnessing space technology for socio-economic development, Climate action and environmental sustainability as well as safeguarding national and regional strategic and security interests.

PROFILE OF MODERATOR/CHAIR OF THE SESSION

Profile of Dr. Arthur Munyua Mwaura

Dr Mwaura He has vast experience working as a research coordinator and team leader in international collaborations, with the national and county governments, and with non-governmental organizations. He is currently the Head of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Nairobi. Dr Mwaura's research interests lie in urban planning, urban design, housing, human settlements planning and collaborative planning processes in residential neighbourhoods. He is vast practitioner as corroborated by his registration as an Architect, Physical Planner and an EIA/EA Lead Expert with over 30 years' experience. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from UoN, a Master of Arts Degree (in Planning) from UoN and a PhD in Urban & Regional Planning from Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK.

PROFILES OF PANELLISTS

Jacques Matara – as the above

Profile of Dr. Musyimi M. Mbathi (PhD)

Musyimi Mbathi holds a PhD in urban planning from the University of Newcastle, UK in addition to Post graduate qualifications in Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information from the International Institute of Aero Space Surveys and Earth Sciences (ITC), The Netherlands. He has worked as a planner with the Government of Kenya for over 10 years and the United Nations (UN-HABITAT) as a consultant within the Global Urban Observatory where he managed the 1000 cities GIS project. He has urban planning experience in Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Somalia. Mbathi possess skills and training experience in urban hazard, risk and disaster Management, research Methodology and environmental planning and management. He has carried out extensive work within informal settlements within sub-Sahara context supporting international and civil society organizations. Specific areas of specialization include Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing, Environmental Impact Assessment, Urban and Regional Planning, Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods, Training and Capacity Building. Dr. Mbathi recently completed a World Bank sponsored course on Building Safe and Resilient Cities

Profile of Commissioner Reginald Okumu

Commissioner Reginald Okumu holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Strathmore Business School, a Bachelor's Degree in Land Economics from the University of Nairobi, a Post Graduate Diploma in Valuation and Estate Management Surveying from the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya and Certificate in Land Administration in Africa Searching for Land Tenure Security from the World Bank Institute. Commissioner Okumu is well conversant with the land estate sector, having specific expertise on land use and hands on experience in acquisition, development, valuation, management and disposal. He has chaired the Institution of Surveyors Kenya and a Board Member, National Housing Corporation. He is the chair of the Commission's Land Administration & Management, Natural Resources, Survey and GIM Committee.

Profile of Dr Samuel M Maina

Dr. Samuel Maina is a Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the Department of Art and Design Faculty of Built Environment and Design, University of Nairobi teaching, mentoring, and supervising undergraduate, masters and PhD students. He is also involved in the editorial duties as editor in chief of the Africa Design Review Journal. Dr. Maina has authored 7 books on diverse issues in design and published more than 70 academic journal papers locally and internationally. Among his major achievements is the award of the Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya (OGW) for exemplary service to the nation. Dr. Maina is also the Chairman, Department of Art and Design, the University of Nairobi, fully responsible for the implementation of all coursework instructions for Undergraduate students in the Product Design Area of Specialization. He has consistently delivered exceptional results through rigorous research, strategic partnerships, and a passion for creativity in his current and previous works. He aspires to continue making meaningful contributions to a world where everyone can learn and prosper.