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ISSUE 6, JULY 2026

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EDITORIAL

Beatrice Wangui - Editor

Timothy Mburu - Layout

Shem Aberi - Overall Designer



@HighwaysRfti



Kihbt-rfti



020 2390758



Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology-RFTI Highways



Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT)



principal@kihbt.ac.ke

KIHBT SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE ROAD TRANSPORT

The Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT), a training division under the State Department for Roads successfully concluded its inaugural International Research Conference, marking a significant milestone in the Institute's journey towards advancing research, innovation, and capacity building within the roads sector.



Held from 20th to 22nd May 2026 at Pridelnn Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa in Mombasa, the Conference brought together about 300 delegates from Kenya and across the region under the theme, **“Enhancing Capacity Building and Skills Development for Sustainable Road Transport.”**

The three-day event attracted delegates from government institutions, policymakers, development partners, researchers, engineers, consultants, contractors, county government representatives, academia, private sector players, and students. The Conference provided a unique platform for stakeholders to deliberate on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the future of sustainable road transport.

Organized by KIHBT with support from the World Bank-funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), the Conference underscored the critical role of skills development, research, and innovation in supporting infrastructure development and economic growth.

During the opening ceremony graced by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua described KIHBT as a critical institution in strengthening the technical and professional capacity required to support Kenya's growing infrastructure development.

"Research, innovation and well-trained professionals are not luxuries, they are strategic investments that secure the future of our infrastructure, economy and national competitiveness," said the Principal Secretary.

He emphasized the need for evidence-based and forward-looking infrastructure solutions to address emerging challenges in the transport sector.

'Climate change has introduced a new reality and as engineers and technicians, when the environment changes the road, the designer must change the structure, we must rethink standards, specifications and mitigations measures with scientific precision.'

The Principal Secretary for TVET, Dr. Esther Muoria, said the conference comes at a pivotal moment in Kenya's development journey, where infrastructure expansion must be matched by high-quality technical skills, innovation and institutional capacity.

"Train the young people with an end in mind, and with the excellence with which it must be done" said the Principal Secretary, TVET



(Centre: Eng. Joseph Mbugua Principal Secretary, State Department for Roads, Dr Esther Muoria Principal Secretary, State Department for TVET and KIHBT Board of Management)

Throughout the Conference, participants engaged in robust discussions through keynote presentations, panel discussions, technical sessions, paper presentations, exhibitions, and networking forums.

Deliberations focused on key thematic areas including sustainable road transport, road safety and active mobility, climate resilience, e-mobility and intelligent transport systems, financing and regulatory frameworks, diversity and inclusivity, training and capacity building, Greening and digitalization, and emerging technologies in the transport sector.

Research paper presentations formed a central component of the Conference, providing an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to share findings, innovations, and practical solutions to challenges facing the roads and transport sector.

The discussions highlighted the need for evidence-based policymaking, enhanced research collaboration, and adoption of innovative technologies to support sustainable transport systems.



Ongoing Paper Presentation

A key highlight of the conference was the emphasis on the importance of strengthening partnerships between government, academia, industry, and development partners. Discussions also underscored the need for continuous capacity building, regular sector skills assessments, and investment in research to address evolving infrastructure demands.

The Conference further provided a platform for exhibitors and industry partners to showcase innovative products, technologies, and services relevant to road construction, maintenance, and sustainable infrastructure development. Delegates had an opportunity to interact with exhibitors and explore solutions that can contribute to improved efficiency and sustainability within the sector.



Beyond the conference sessions, delegates participated in technical excursions to Bamburi Cement, Bamburi Solar Plant, and Mtwapa Bridge.

These visits provided firsthand exposure to infrastructure development, industrial processes, renewable energy solutions, and sustainability practices, effectively bridging the gap between theory and practice.

"Seeing these projects firsthand brought the discussions to life. It demonstrated how innovation and sustainability can be integrated into real-world infrastructure development," remarked one delegate.

During the Ag. Director, KIHBT Arch. Geoffrey Githiri closing remarks, he expressed pride in the successful delivery of the Conference and reflected on the Institute's journey over the years. "This Conference has demonstrated that KIHBT is not only a centre for training but also a platform for research, innovation, and sector dialogue. We are committed to making this Conference an annual event that



Excursion at Bamburi Cement Solar Plant



Excursion at Bamburi Cement

will continue to generate solutions for the roads and transport sector," he said. The Director further noted that the Conference had laid the foundation for a stronger research culture within the Institute and would serve as a catalyst for deeper collaboration between government, academia, industry, and development partners.



The Ag. Roads Secretary, State Department for Roads, Eng. Gilbert Arasa while officially closing the Conference, described the event as a significant milestone for both KIHBT and the wider transport sector.

"The conversations we have had over the past three days must now translate into action. We must continue investing in skills development, strengthen Public-Private Partnerships, explore -

innovative financing mechanisms, and implement the recommendations emerging from this Conference," he said.

He further commended KIHBT for creating a platform that encourages knowledge sharing, innovation, and practical problem-solving while advancing discussions on sustainable transport solutions.



As delegates departed Mombasa, there was a shared sense that the inaugural Conference had achieved far more than its organizers initially envisioned.

It had created new partnerships, sparked new ideas, strengthened professional networks, and established a platform capable of influencing the future direction of the transport sector.

The success of the 1st KIHBT International Research Conference reaffirmed the Institute's role as a leading Centre for capacity building and skills development in the road's subsector.

With the inaugural edition successfully concluded, KIHBT has set a strong foundation for future conferences and reaffirmed its commitment to shaping a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient transport sector for Kenya and the region.

KIHBT STRENGTHENS PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH KILIFI COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

KIHBT continues to expand its footprint in specialized capacity building through a proposed partnership with the County Government of Kilifi aimed at strengthening fire and rescue services training.



Group Photo: KIHBT and County Government of Kilifi Representatives

Between 3rd to 7th May 2026, a four-member KIHBT delegation comprising Mrs. Caroline Kamunya, Mrs. Phires Ogoti, Mr. Yuuki Araki, and Mr. Michael Owino undertook a consultative visit to Kilifi County following a request by the Directorate of Fire and Rescue Services to train forty (40) recruits, including thirty-eight (38) newly recruited firefighters and two (2) physical instructors.

The engagement provided an opportunity for both institutions to deliberate on the proposed training programme, covering key areas such as the curriculum, timelines, logistical arrangements, and implementation framework. The training is expected to be conducted in two cohorts of nineteen (19) recruits each, with the first cohort scheduled for June to August 2026 and the second from September to November 2026.



Orientation at the Kilifi Municipality Fire Station

Notably, twelve (12) of the recruits are female, reflecting Kilifi County's commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity within emergency services.

The proposed collaboration builds on a longstanding relationship between KIHBT and Kilifi County, dating back to 2016 when the Institute successfully trained firefighters from the county at Ngong Campus.

The renewed partnership underscores the confidence placed in KIHBT's specialized training programmes and its continued contribution to developing a competent and professional emergency response workforce.



Round table discussion between KIHBT team and County Government of Kilifi

As discussions progress towards formalizing the partnership, KIHBT remains committed to supporting national and county governments through industry-responsive training programmes that equip personnel with the practical skills required to serve communities effectively and safely.

DRIVING THE FUTURE: KIHBT EMBRACES SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM DRIVER TRAINING

The future of driver training is increasingly being shaped by technology, and the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) is taking deliberate steps to remain at the forefront of this transformation.

Through a strategic partnership with Best Truck Driver Sp. z o.o., a Polish company specializing in advanced truck driving simulation technologies, KIHBT is set to revolutionize commercial driver training through the adoption of state-of-the-art simulator-based learning.

Formalized in JUNE 2026, the collaboration brings together KIHBT's longstanding expertise in capacity building and Best Truck Driver's innovative simulation technologies to address the growing demand for highly skilled and safety-conscious commercial vehicle drivers. The initiative reflects KIHBT's commitment to delivering industry-responsive training programmes that meet the evolving needs of the transport and logistics sectors both nationally and regionally.



Ag. Director KIHBT, Arch. Geoffrey Githiri and Paweł Stachowski
Signing the MoU

At the heart of the partnership is a modern truck driving simulator designed to replicate real-world driving environments.

The technology immerses trainees in diverse road conditions, weather patterns, traffic situations, and emergency scenarios, allowing them to safely acquire and refine practical driving skills before transitioning to actual vehicles.



This innovative approach enhances learner confidence while significantly reducing the risks and costs associated with conventional practical training.

Beyond improving the learning experience, the simulator presents significant opportunities for increasing training capacity at KIHBT. By reducing dependency on fuel consumption, minimizing vehicle wear and tear, and optimizing practical training schedules, the institution will be able to train a larger number of drivers without compromising the quality of instruction. The technology is expected to contribute significantly to the preparation of competent drivers who are better equipped to respond to the demands of today's transport industry.

The partnership further aligns with global trends that are increasingly embracing simulation technologies to strengthen transport training systems. As road safety continues to remain a national and regional priority, simulation-based learning offers an effective platform for exposing trainees to complex and potentially hazardous driving situations within a controlled and safe environment.



MoU presentation after the signing ceremony

For KIHBT, this collaboration represents more than the acquisition of technology, it is a strategic investment in the future of skills development. By integrating advanced simulation technologies into its training ecosystem, the Institute continues to strengthen its position as a centre of excellence in driver and operator training while contributing towards safer roads, a more skilled workforce, and a more efficient transport sector.

As Kenya's transport and logistics industry continues to evolve, partnerships such as this demonstrate how innovation and collaboration can create transformative learning experiences that prepare trainees not only for today's challenges but also for the future of mobility and transportation.

DELIVERING SKILLS, TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE: KIHBT'S PERFORMANCE IN FY 2025/2026

The Financial Year 2025/2026 marked another milestone in KIHBT's journey of delivering quality skills development and capacity building for Kenya's roads and infrastructure sector. Guided by its mandate to train, build capacity, and undertake research for the roads subsector, the Institute recorded significant achievements in technical training, institutional development, environmental sustainability, and good governance, further cementing its position as a leading infrastructure training institution in the region. At the heart of KIHBT's performance was its unwavering commitment to developing a competent and industry-responsive workforce

During the year, the Institute successfully trained 8,820 trainees across its diverse programmes, contributing directly to the country's infrastructure development agenda. The trainees comprised 1,596 technicians, 677 artisans, 1,017 learners in Elementary Driving, 2,479 drivers trained in Refresher, Defensive Driving and First Aid, 1,163 plant operators, and 1,151 contractors equipped with practical skills to support infrastructure improvement initiatives. These achievements underscore KIHBT's growing role in bridging skills gaps within the transport and construction sectors.

Beyond training delivery, the Institute made notable strides in strengthening institutional systems and enhancing customer service. Through ongoing digital transformation initiatives, improved service delivery mechanisms, and timely resolution of public complaints, KIHBT continued to promote efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in its operations. These interventions have enhanced stakeholder experiences while reinforcing the Institute's commitment to excellence in public service delivery.

In line with the Government's environmental conservation agenda, KIHBT contributed significantly to the National Tree Growing Initiative by planting 12,266 trees across its campuses through collaborative efforts involving staff and the EASTRIP Project Implementation Unit. This initiative reflects the Institute's commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development while contributing towards the national goal of increasing forest cover.

The Institute equally remained steadfast in promoting integrity and ethical leadership through the successful implementation of all prescribed measures under the Presidential Directive on Corruption Prevention. Staff capacity-building programmes on ethics and integrity, coupled with anti-bribery and corruption mitigation measures, strengthened institutional accountability and fostered a culture of transparency across the organization.

As KIHBT looks ahead, the achievements realized during FY 2025/2026 provide a firm foundation for continued growth and innovation. By investing in people, strengthening institutional systems, embracing sustainability, and responding to the evolving needs of industry, the Institute remains committed to its vision of becoming the preferred infrastructure training institution in Africa and beyond while contributing meaningfully to Kenya's socio-economic transformation.

FY 2025/2026 AT A GLANCE

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

8,820 trainees equipped with industry-relevant skills across technical, driver, plant operator and contractor training programmes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

12,266 trees planted across KIHBT campuses in support of the National Tree Growing Initiative and climate resilience efforts.

INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

Enhanced service delivery through digital transformation initiatives, improved customer service mechanisms, and strengthened institutional systems.

GOOD GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY

Successful implementation of Presidential Directive measures on corruption prevention, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership.

KIHBT AND THE TOOLKIT FOR SKILLS AND INNOVATION HUB FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

KIHBT has taken another significant step towards strengthening industry-responsive skills development through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Toolkit for Skills and Innovation Hub.

Officiated by the Director, Arch. Geoffrey Githiri, the partnership marks the beginning of a strategic collaboration aimed at enhancing technical training, fostering innovation, and equipping learners with globally competitive skills for the modern workforce.

The collaboration brings together KIHBT's expertise in infrastructure and capacity-building programmes with Toolkit's innovative approaches to competency-based training in Welding and Fabrication, Electrical and Solar Technologies, and Regenerative Agriculture.

Through the integration of advanced technologies such as Metal Inert Gas (MIG) Welding and Virtual Reality (VR) simulation, Toolkit has demonstrated how emerging technologies can transform practical skills acquisition by improving learning outcomes, reducing training costs, and promoting inclusivity in technical education.

Toolkit is accredited by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and is pursuing international accreditation through the International Institute of Welding (IIW).

Beyond technical training, Toolkit has distinguished itself in workforce development by facilitating international employment opportunities for its graduates, with trained welders securing placements in global industries, including France.

The institution's smart solar farm further serves as a practical learning environment that showcases renewable energy technologies and sustainable agricultural practices, reflecting the growing intersection between skills development, innovation, and sustainability.



Through the partnership, KIHBT and Toolkit will jointly implement and enhance technical training programmes, promote curriculum development and harmonization, facilitate staff and student exchange programmes, and strengthen industry-aligned competencies through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiatives. The collaboration will also provide opportunities for sharing specialized equipment, facilities, and expertise

to ensure trainees acquire practical skills that respond to emerging labour market demands. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Ag. Director KIHBT, Arch. Geoffrey Githiri reaffirmed KIHBT's commitment to building strategic partnerships that strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and prepare graduates for opportunities within both local and international labour markets.



Captions, L to R: Acting principal Nairobi Campus Emmanuel Maithya,
Ag. Director KIHBT, Arch. Geoffrey Githiri ,
Mr. Hosea Mugeru – Manager
Hellen Mongare – Incharge of job Linkages/ILO

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH SKILLS: NAIROBI COUNTY WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE LAUNCHES NGAAF-SPONSORED DRIVING PROGRAMME AT KIHBT

The Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) has reaffirmed its commitment to empowering Kenyan youth and women through market-driven skills development following the launch of the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF)-sponsored Elementary Driving Training Programme for 266 beneficiaries by the Nairobi County Woman Representative.



The initiative marks a significant milestone in expanding access to technical and vocational training by equipping participants with professional driving skills that will enhance their employability and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Through the programme, beneficiaries will acquire competency-based driver training designed to meet industry standards while contributing to safer roads and a more skilled transport workforce.

Speaking during the launch, the Nairobi County Woman Representative, Hon. Esther Passaris lauded KIHBT for its continued contribution to skills development, road safety, and workforce preparedness.

She commended the Institute for delivering quality driver training programmes that empower individuals with practical and marketable skills, particularly among vulnerable and underserved groups.

Beyond the launch of the driving programme, the visit provided an opportunity to showcase KIHBT's ongoing investments in innovation and technology-driven learning. The Woman Representative toured the Institute's Driver Training School and experienced the state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) driving simulator, which offers learners immersive and realistic driving experiences in a safe and controlled environment.

The simulator enables trainees to develop essential competencies such as hazard perception, defensive driving techniques, and sound decision-making skills before progressing to practical road sessions.



Nairobi Women Rep Hon Esther Passaris during a Simulator session with Nelson Mandela KIHBT Trainer

Impressed by the transformative potential of simulation technology in enhancing road safety and improving learning outcomes, the Woman Representative pledged to explore strategic partnerships with potential sponsors and development partners in Poland and Greece to support the acquisition of additional training vehicles and advanced driving simulators. Such collaborations would significantly expand KIHBT's

training capacity while making quality driver education more accessible to aspiring learners across the country. The NGAAF-sponsored programme reflects the shared commitment of KIHBT and its partners to creating inclusive opportunities for skills development and economic empowerment. It also highlights the critical role of strategic partnerships in advancing innovation within Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).



KIHBT ENHANCES ROAD SAFETY THROUGH DRIVER TRAINING FOR 117 KMTC DRIVERS

KIHBT continues to strengthen road safety and professional driver competence through its specialized capacity-building programmes.

From 7th to 11th April 2026, the Institute successfully conducted a Refresher and Defensive Driving Training Programme for 117 drivers from the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) at the KMTC Kisumu Campus.

The comprehensive training was designed to enhance driver competence, safety awareness, and operational efficiency, particularly within medical and emergency transport services where professionalism, precision, and road safety are paramount.

By equipping drivers with industry-relevant skills, the programme contributes to safer and more efficient transport services that support the delivery of quality healthcare across KMTC facilities.



KIHBT trainers



Ongoing training sessions

The training was officially launched by the Chief Executive Officer of KMTC and his delegation, who emphasized the critical role drivers play in supporting healthcare service delivery. In his remarks, the CEO underscored the importance of professionalism, discipline, and continuous skills development, noting that drivers are indispensable members of the healthcare ecosystem whose commitment to safety directly impacts patient care and institutional efficiency. He commended the partnership between KMTC and KIHBT and encouraged participants to fully embrace the training as an opportunity to enhance their competencies and service delivery.

Led by the Head of Driver Training, Mr. Mandela, the programme combined both theoretical and practical sessions covering key areas such as hazard perception, defensive driving techniques, road safety regulations, vehicle handling, emergency response, fatigue management, and customer care. Participants also undertook interactive learning activities and practical on-road assessments to reinforce the application of the skills acquired.



The training reflects KIHBT's commitment to delivering high-quality, industry-responsive programmes that address emerging transport sector needs while promoting a culture of safety and professionalism.

Through strategic partnerships with institutions such as KMTC, the Institute continues to contribute meaningfully to building a competent workforce capable of delivering safe, reliable, and efficient transport services across the country.



KIHBT'S CONFERENCING FACILITIES DRIVING LEARNING, COLLABORATION, AND GROWTH

Beyond its mandate of training and capacity building, the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) continues to provide dynamic spaces that bring together professionals, institutions, and stakeholders for learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Through its conferencing facilities located at the Nairobi, Ngong, and Kisii Campuses, the Institute is steadily positioning itself as a preferred destination for meetings, conferences, workshops, and capacity-building programmes across the public sector.

Over the last two quarters, KIHBT's conferencing facilities have hosted a total of **2,046 participants**, underscoring their growing role in supporting professional development and institutional collaboration. Of these, **596 officers** participated in KIHBT's capacity-building programmes, while **1,450 officers** drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and County Governments utilized the facilities during conferences, workshops, and stakeholder engagements.



Conferencing facilities



The increasing uptake of KIHBT's hospitality and conferencing services reflects the confidence institutions continue to place in the Institute's conducive learning environments and quality support services. Strategically located across its campuses, the facilities provide versatile spaces suitable for conferences, seminars, trainings, retreats, workshops, and corporate engagements, offering organizations an environment that promotes productive discussions and meaningful outcomes.



Complementing these facilities is the state-of-the-art Tuition Block at Kibiko, constructed with support from the World Bank through the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). Originally developed to strengthen KIHBT's capacity for technical training and skills development, the modern facility has also emerged as an ideal venue for conferences and knowledge-sharing engagements. Its contemporary learning spaces continue to support a wide range of institutional events while enhancing the overall conferencing experience for participants.



As KIHBT expands its infrastructure and service offerings, the Institute remains committed to creating spaces that foster innovation, collaboration, and continuous learning. The growing utilization of its conferencing facilities not only reflects their versatility but also demonstrates KIHBT's contribution to building institutional capacity across both national and county governments.



Looking ahead, the Institute seeks to further strengthen its hospitality services by positioning its campuses as centres of excellence for conferences, professional training, and stakeholder engagements. Whether hosting technical workshops, strategic retreats, or large-scale conferences, KIHBT remains dedicated to providing quality facilities that support knowledge exchange and institutional growth while advancing its broader mandate of capacity building for sustainable development.

KIHBT ADVANCES ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AT ITS 1ST INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE THROUGH MANGROVE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Sustainability is not only about building resilient infrastructure—it is also about safeguarding the environment for future generations. In line with this commitment, the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) incorporated environmental conservation into the programme of its First International Research Conference by undertaking a mangrove restoration exercise at Dongo Kundu, Mombasa.

Held on 19th May 2026, ahead of the Conference themed "Enhancing Capacity Building and Skills Development for Sustainable Road Transport," the exercise brought together conference participants and key stakeholders who planted 1,000 mangrove seedlings in support of the National Tree Growing Initiative. The activity reaffirmed KIHBT's commitment to promoting sustainable development and contributing to national efforts aimed at increasing tree cover and strengthening climate resilience.



Mangroves play a critical role in protecting coastal ecosystems by preventing soil erosion, supporting biodiversity, storing carbon, and serving as natural buffers against the impacts of climate change.

Their restoration is therefore essential in preserving fragile coastal environments while supporting sustainable livelihoods for surrounding communities.

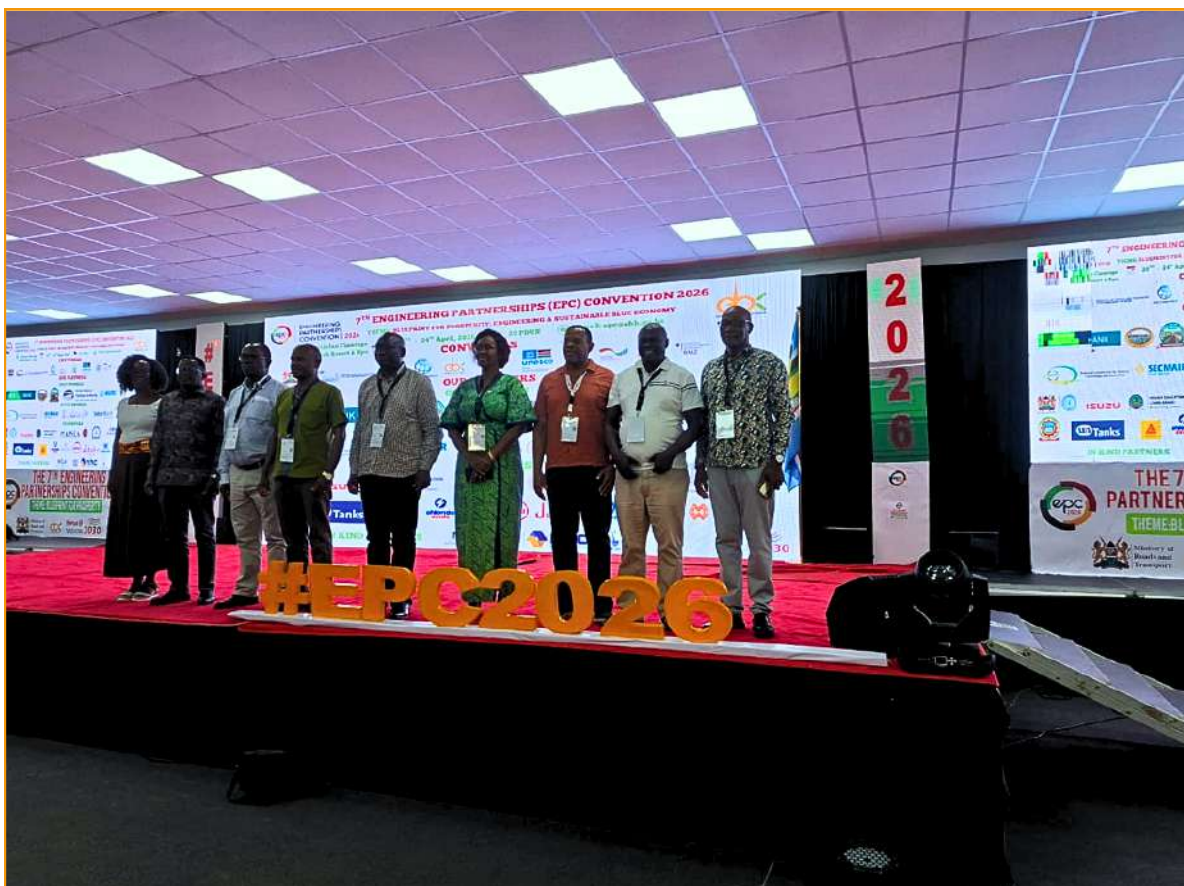
The tree planting exercise underscored the important relationship between infrastructure development, capacity building, and environmental stewardship—a key conversation that resonated throughout the Conference. As the transport and infrastructure sectors continue to evolve, sustainable practices must remain central to the planning, development, and maintenance of infrastructure systems.



KIHBT PARTICIPATES IN THE 7TH ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIP CONVENTION 2026

The Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) participated in the 7th Engineering Partnership Convention (EPC 2026) held in Mombasa and organized by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK), joining engineers, policymakers, academia, and industry leaders in shaping conversations on the future of engineering practice and sustainable development in Kenya.

Held under the theme, "Blueprint for Prosperity: Engineering a Sustainable Blue Economy," the Convention explored the critical role of engineering in advancing maritime infrastructure, enhancing coastal resilience, driving innovation, and unlocking opportunities for sustainable economic growth. The forum provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas on strengthening engineering capacity, fostering innovation, and promoting collaboration between regulators, training institutions, and industry players in support of Kenya's national development agenda.



KIHBT's participation reflects the Institute's commitment to remaining responsive to emerging trends within the engineering and infrastructure sectors while continuously aligning its training programmes with industry needs. The discussions at the Convention highlighted the growing importance of sustainable infrastructure development and the need to equip future professionals with the technical competencies required to address evolving global and national challenges.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, the Director of KIHBT reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to delivering industry-responsive training programmes that support sustainable infrastructure development and contribute to the realization of Kenya's Blue Economy agenda. He emphasized that strengthening practical training, industry exposure, and competency-based education remains central to producing skilled engineers and technicians capable of addressing real-world infrastructure challenges.

The Ag. Director further underscored the importance of fostering stronger partnerships between training institutions and regulatory bodies such as the Engineers Board of Kenya in enhancing skills development, improving graduate employability, and advancing professional standards within the engineering profession. He noted that strategic collaborations play a critical role in ensuring that training programmes remain relevant, innovative, and aligned with labour market demands.

CAMPUS NEWS

NAIROBI CAMPUS

Capacity Building Courses

The just ended training quarter was defined by two threads that ran through almost every course: a deliberate effort to bring youth, women and persons-with-disability (PWD) contractors into the mainstream of public works, and a shift toward flexible, hybrid delivery that met busy contractors where they were. KIHBT delivered one of its most intensive capacity building seasons on record between June and July 2026.

“KIHBT as per its mandate is on course to transition to from the long courses to short courses via capacity building”

— Arch Geoffrey Githiri, Ag. Director, KIHBT

OPENING DOORS AT THE SIRARE CORRIDOR: EMPOWERING LOCAL CONTRACTORS THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure development creates more than roads, it creates opportunities for communities to grow, thrive, and participate meaningfully in economic transformation. Through the Sirare Corridor Accessibility and Road Safety Improvement Project, the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) is helping to ensure that local communities are not merely beneficiaries of development but active participants in it.

The flagship initiative supports the Kenya National Highways Authority's (KeNHA) improvement of the Isebania–Kisii–Ahero (A1) Road, a strategic transport corridor linking the Tanzania border to Kenya's interior and facilitating trade, mobility, and economic activities across the south-western region. Beyond enhancing connectivity, the project is deliberately creating pathways for inclusive participation in infrastructure development.



YOUTH, WOMEN AND PWD CONTRACTORS DURING A PERFORMANCE BASED CONTRACTING SESSION AT KIHBT'S KISII CAMPUS.

On behalf of KeNHA, KIHBT successfully delivered specialized training on Performance-Based Contracting (PBC) to youth, women, and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) contractors drawn from communities along the corridor. The programme sought to equip emerging contractors with the knowledge and competencies required to effectively participate in road maintenance and infrastructure contracts arising from the project.

Performance-Based Contracting represents a modern and results-oriented approach to road maintenance, where contractors are remunerated based on the achievement and maintenance of agreed road performance standards rather than the quantity of work undertaken. The model emphasizes quality, durability, efficiency, and sound contract management—critical competencies for contractors seeking to successfully compete for and deliver public infrastructure projects.

Conducted physically at KIHBT's Kisii Campus (KTC), the training was delivered in three successive cohorts. The first cohort, held from 27th April to 1st May 2026, trained 39 participants, followed by 43 participants from 11th to 15th May 2026, one of the highest enrolment recorded during the programme and a final cohort of 30 participants from 25th to 29th May 2026. In total, the initiative successfully trained 112 emerging contractors from the project area.

Notably, the programme recorded strong participation by women contractors, reflecting the growing role of women in infrastructure development and the positive impact of affirmative action initiatives within public procurement. By equipping participants with practical skills and a deeper understanding of performance-based contracts, the training is helping to bridge the gap between policy and practice by enabling traditionally underrepresented groups to compete effectively for procurement opportunities.

At its core, the initiative demonstrates how strategic investments in infrastructure can simultaneously deliver social and economic impact. By strengthening the capacity of local contractors, the Sirare Corridor project is ensuring that the benefits of public investments extend beyond improved roads to include sustainable livelihoods, enterprise development, and community empowerment.



ASIRARE COHORT 2 BATCH OUTSIDE THE KIHBT KISII CAMPUS (KTC)

STRENGTHENING BRIDGE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY: KIHBT DELIVERS INAUGURAL BMS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Bridges are vital components of Kenya's road network, connecting communities to markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and economic opportunities. Their safety and functionality are essential to ensuring uninterrupted mobility and fostering socio-economic development, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Despite their importance, many small-scale contractors responsible for routine maintenance works often lack the specialized skills required to effectively inspect, assess, and maintain bridge infrastructure.

In response to this need, the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) successfully delivered its inaugural Bridge Management System (BMS) training programme under the Project for Strengthening of Capacity Development on Bridge Management System in Kenya, funded by the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF). The programme marks an important milestone in strengthening technical capacity within Kenya's infrastructure sector and advancing sustainable bridge management practices across the country.



**A BRIDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SESSION IN PROGRESS AT THE
MOMBASA BEACH HOTEL**



The training was conducted in two five-day cohorts at the Mombasa Beach Hotel, with the first cohort running from 23rd to 27th JUNE 2026 and the second from 30th JUNE to 3rd April 2026. A total of 38 participants successfully completed the programme.

The participants comprised National Construction Authority (NCA) Category 7 and Category 8 technical contractors drawn from counties across Kenya, all of whom had previously undergone Performance-Based Contracting (PBC) training. By building upon existing competencies, the programme sought to equip contractors with the specialized knowledge and practical skills required to support effective bridge maintenance and asset management.

The course combined classroom-based learning with practical field exercises conducted at the New Mtwapa Bridge and Nyali Bridge, providing participants with hands-on experience in bridge inspection, defect identification, maintenance planning, repair techniques, and cost estimation. This integrated approach ensured that trainees not only understood the principles of bridge management but could also confidently apply them in real-world settings.



Participants who successfully met the programme's assessment requirements were awarded certificates of participation, signifying their enhanced competencies in bridge management practices. Feedback from trainees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants commending the relevance of the course content, the quality of facilitation, and the practical nature of the field sessions. Constructive recommendations including extending the duration of practical sessions and providing course materials earlier have been noted and will inform the design of future cohorts.



“Kenya’s bridges are lifelines for rural communities. Equipping local NCA 7 and NCA 8 contractors to inspect and maintain them is exactly the kind of grassroots capacity development this programme exists to support.”

— **Phires Ogoti, Deputy Principal, KIHBT**



PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION TO BMS TRAINEES.

KIHBT EMBRACES HYBRID LEARNING TO WIDEN ACCESS FOR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The Institute rolled out hybrid course delivery, running sessions simultaneously online and in person from its Nairobi campus and the results made a compelling case for making it standard practice.

The thinking behind the model is straightforward. Established contractors often cannot step away from an active site for a full week. Small registration numbers can make a fully residential course difficult to justify financially.

Hybrid delivery addresses both realities in a single stroke: participants join from wherever they are, sessions remain viable regardless of physical turnout, and the Institute holds every delivery to the same standard whether the learner is in the classroom or on a screen.

Over the season, KIHBT delivered three courses under this blended model. A full Performance-Based Contracting (PBC) intake ran from 25 to 29 May, followed by a PBC Refresher from 3rd to 5th June.

The Construction Management Course, which ran across both weeks from 25th May to 5th June, completed the trio.

In each case, contractors could choose to attend in person at the Nairobi campus or participate remotely, a flexibility that proved particularly valuable for professionals managing live projects.

For busy contractors, the ability to dial in from a site office or project location meant training no longer required a choice between professional development and keeping a project on track.

For the Institute, combining a small in-person cohort with online participants kept each session operationally and financially viable, eliminating the overhead burden of a full residential programme without any compromise to content or rigour.

The May PBC intake drew eight contractors, with women making up the majority of the cohort, a notable detail that speaks to the Institute's growing reach among female professionals in a sector that has historically skewed male. The Construction Management Course trained a focused group of four professionals in the planning, coordination, and control disciplines that hold a project together from inception to completion.

Small numbers, one might think, until you consider what each participant was taking back to a real project: structured methodology, practical frameworks, and the confidence that comes from training delivered by people who understand the industry from the inside.

A MODEL WORTH WATCHING

What these three courses demonstrated, collectively, is that a well-run hybrid model does not require a trade-off between access and quality. The two can coexist — and when they do, training becomes available to a wider range of professionals, at a lower cost to both the Institute and the learner, without the delivery losing any of its edge.



HYBRID DELIVERY IN ACTION AT THE KIHBT NAIROBI CAMPUS, LINKING IN-PERSON AND ONLINE PARTICIPANTS.

KIHBT's hybrid approach is not simply a logistical workaround. It is a deliberate response to the realities of a sector where time on site is precious and margins are tight. As the Institute continues to refine this model, the expectation is clear: more contractors reached, more projects better managed, and more professionals equipped for the demands of a modern road construction industry.



IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS DURING A HYBRID COURSE AT THE KIHBT NAIROBI CAMPUS.



PERFORMANCE BASED CONTRACTING COURSE REFRESHER TRAINING

Training a contractor once is a start. Keeping that contractor current is what protects a live contract.

Alongside the PBC intakes, KIHBT ran three PBC Refresher sessions, in April, June, and July bringing 38 previously-trained practitioners back to the classroom for structured updates on the areas that matter most in day-to-day contract administration.



Refresher training occupies a quiet but essential place in the system. Contract requirements evolve. Administration pitfalls that surface repeatedly on live contracts need to be addressed head-on. Best practice moves on, and skills that are not actively maintained begin to erode sometimes in ways that only become visible when something goes wrong on a project.



A PERFORMANCE BASED CONTRACTING INTAKE AT THE KIHBT.

The refresher format is deliberately short and focused. It does not start from scratch; it picks up where initial training left off and targets the specific areas where gaps tend to open over time. For a contractor managing an active road maintenance contract, a refresher can mean the difference between a claim correctly administered and one that unravels at audit.



TRAINED CONTRACTORS RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION.

BEYOND THE ROAD: KIHBT STRENGTHENS FLEET MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

KIHBT's capacity-building programmes extend beyond road construction and maintenance to the assets that drive infrastructure delivery. Beginning 20th to 24th April 2026, the Institute conducted a Fleet Management Training Programme for 20 participants at Nairobi Campus equipping them with essential skills in the efficient management of vehicles, plant, and equipment.



The training focused on maintenance planning, asset utilization, fuel and cost control, safety, and record-keeping—all critical components of effective project delivery. By strengthening fleet management competencies, KIHBT continues to equip professionals with the practical skills needed to enhance operational efficiency, minimize downtime, and support sustainable infrastructure development.



PARTICIPANTS DURING THE FLEET MANAGEMENT COURSE.

CAMPUS NEWS

KISII CAMPUS

EMPOWERING THE WORKFORCE THROUGH TARGETED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Kisii Training Centre has continued to demonstrate its commitment to developing a skilled and competent workforce capable of supporting quality infrastructure development across Kenya. Through well-structured training programmes, the Centre has successfully enhanced the technical and practical capacities of contractors and plant operators, contributing to improved project implementation and sustainability.

A key achievement has been the successful training of **three batches of Performance-Based Contractors**, reaching a total of **110 participants**. The programme equipped contractors with practical knowledge and skills in performance-based contracting, contract management, quality assurance, occupational safety and health, environmental compliance, and efficient project execution.



(MANAGING DIRECTORS OF VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES DURING THEIR PLANT MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE MODULE AT KTC)

The training has strengthened participants' ability to deliver infrastructure projects that meet required standards while promoting accountability, cost-effectiveness, and timely completion of works.

In addition, Kisii Training Centre successfully conducted a specialized Plant Operation and Maintenance training programme for 23 participants under the ASAL Project.

The course focused on the safe operation, preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, and efficient management of construction plant and equipment. By enhancing contractors' basic technical competencies, the programme was expected to improve equipment utilization, reduce downtime, lower maintenance costs, and support the sustainability of infrastructure investments in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

These achievements underscore Kisii Training Centre's strategic role in strengthening human resource capacity within the infrastructure sector. By investing in practical, competency-based training, the Centre is contributing towards improved service delivery, enhanced productivity, and the successful implementation of development projects across the country.

The successful completion of these training programmes reflects Kisii Training Centre's dedication to excellence, innovation, and continuous capacity development within the road subsector. As demand for skilled personnel continues to grow, the Centre remains committed to delivering high-quality training that supports national development priorities and equips professionals with the skills needed to address emerging challenges in the infrastructure sector.

Kisii Training Centre remains committed to developing a competent and highly skilled workforce capable of supporting Kenya's growing infrastructure needs. Building on the success of these programmes, the Centre will continue expanding specialized training opportunities that respond to industry demands while promoting innovation, professionalism, safety, and sustainable infrastructure development.

Through strategic capacity building, Kisii Training Centre is not only strengthening individual competencies but also contributing to more efficient project delivery, improved public investment outcomes, and resilient infrastructure that supports communities across Kenya.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY IN LOW VOLUME SEALED ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ISIOLO

The ASAL Project marked a significant milestone in strengthening technical capacity within Kenya's infrastructure sector through the successful training of 25 site supervisors on Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSr) in Isiolo County.

The intensive seven-week training programme was designed to equip participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for the planning, construction, supervision, and maintenance of low volume sealed roads. A unique feature of the programme was its strong emphasis on experiential learning, with three weeks fully dedicated to hands-on practical training on a demonstration road. This practical component enabled participants to apply classroom concepts in a real construction environment, enhancing their technical competence and confidence in delivering quality road works.

By the end of the programme, the trainees had gained valuable experience in road construction techniques, quality control procedures, material selection, drainage works, and site supervision practices that are essential for sustainable road infrastructure, particularly within the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

The training culminated in a colourful graduation ceremony held in Isiolo, which was graced by the Director of the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT).

The Director had the privilege of officiating the course closure and personally awarding certificates to the 25 successful participants. In his remarks, he congratulated the graduates for their commitment and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and practical skills acquired to improve the quality and sustainability of road infrastructure across the country.

This initiative demonstrates the ASAL Project's commitment to developing a skilled workforce capable of supporting resilient infrastructure

development in underserved regions. By investing in local technical capacity, the project is contributing to improved road quality, enhanced connectivity, and sustainable socio-economic development in the ASAL counties.

The successful completion of the training not only celebrates the achievement of the 25 site supervisors but also lays a strong foundation for the implementation of quality low volume sealed road projects that will benefit communities for years to come.



CAMPUS NEWS

NGONG CAMPUS

Preparations have been in full swing at KIHBT's Ngong Campus as students and staff have been gear up for the July/August 2026 KNEC and NITA examinations.

KNEC Practical Examinations began on 20th to end on 31st July 2026 to be followed by KNEC Theory Examinations from 2nd to 7th August 2026.

The candidates sitting these examinations include TEP students specifically the CCRC and PLMC cohorts from the September 2024 intake as well as Module II students in Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Electrical Installation, and Building Technology (May 2024 intake), and Module I students in Electrical Installation and Building Technology.

The Campus wishes all candidates the very best as they take this important step in their professional and technical journeys.

PLANT OPERATOR TRAINING

KIHBT's Plant Operator Training programme has maintained strong momentum through the first half of 2026, with one class graduating and another already well underway.

Class 04 of 2026 successfully completed their training on 23 June 2026, with 97 trainees graduating a sizeable cohort that now joins the growing pool of certified plant operators available to Kenya's road and construction industry.

Class 05 of 2026 commenced training on 15 June 2026, with 76 trainees currently progressing well through both practical and theoretical components of the programme. The class is expected to complete training on 28 July 2026.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At KIHBT's Ngong Campus, talent development does not stop at the workshop or the lecture room.

Preparations are well underway for the Term Two KETISA Games, with student teams putting in dedicated training sessions ahead of the competition – a testament to the Campus's commitment to nurturing well-rounded professionals.

On the football pitch, the Ngong Campus team continues to hold its own in the FKF Lower Rift Regional League 2025/2026, Zone C1, currently sitting 5th overall in the league standings. The team's commendable performance reflects the same discipline and determination that the Campus instils in its technical training programmes.

Additionally, the campus successfully organized the Term Two Interdepartmental Games, which brought together participants from all academic departments, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, healthy competition, and unity among trainees and staff.

Sport, at its best, builds character, teamwork, and resilience – qualities that serve a graduate just as well on a construction site as they do on a football field.



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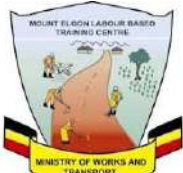
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