A promise to push products’ penetration in regional markets

New Standards set for the energy sector

KEBS fighter appointed to the Anti-Counterfeit Board

Industrialization progress in Kenya
Effects of climate change due to human activities

Kenya Bureau of Standards

Quality products for quality life

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Leaders in Action:
04 Realizing Vision 2030 through Industrialization for Integration
05 KEBS Acting MD takes charge with a promise to push products penetration in regional markets
08 Industrialization comes of age

Focus on KEBS:
14 KEBS certifier pursues Accreditation
16 International standards bodies announces new procedures in a move to allay fears on laboratories accredited to ISO 15189:2007

KEBS News:
18 A critical look at Kenya’s hand weaving textile sector
19 KPA attains world class quality services with the much coveted ISO 9001-2008
26 Kenya voted most outstanding stand at the 17th Uganda International Trade Fair
29 Create more industrialization synergies, ministry urged
33 Renewable energy to lower industrial costs
35 KEBS ushers 2009 World Aids Day in style

Special Features:
39 A Poem: What are standards?
Of New Year and Climate change!

Welcome to the sixth edition of the quarterly magazine, The Benchmark, an official newsletter of the Kenya Bureau of Standards!

We usher in a New Year - 2010- as the world is deeply embroiled in climate change talks for the past few months over the threat posed by the effects of climate change on the environment. Just last month, an agreement was reached during the landmark United Nations Climate Change Conference that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark. What a serious note to have ended the year on!

However, the real outcomes of the Copenhagen deliberations are eagerly awaited since any declaration that would compel nations to reduce green house emissions, increase forest cover, better environmental conservation or encourage better rewards for carbon credits, would do a lot of good to the world’s citizenry.

Consequently, the magnitude of the environmental degradation in the past decade cannot wait to be postponed any further.

We hope, as a reader, that you are equally concerned as we are on the environmental issues in your locality since charity begins at home.

On the current issue of the Benchmark, we are happy to unravel a new face at the helm of KEBS who interestingly happens to have been among the pioneers during the setting up of the national standards institution. Meet KEBS Acting MD, Joel Koko in our exclusive interview.

There is also a ray of hope as new standards are set to be rolled out for the energy sector. As KEBS has always emphasized, standardization contributes to the world’s goals of sustainable development.

As we continue to vary and enrich content within this publication, we welcome feedback and contributions to the magazine as we work to rope in more sector players.

Additional good news includes the inclusion of a respected KEBS fighter, Raymond Michuki who was commendably and deservedly appointed to the Kenya Anti-Counterfeit Board recently. More news includes industrialization progress in Kenya & insights on African Industrialization Day.

Lastly, unwind with features on how to make your New Year’s resolutions come to pass.

Have a Prosperous 2010!

Mr. Patrick Konadu
Benchmark Editor

Leaders in Action

Realizing Vision 2030 through Industrialization for Integration

As Kenya joins hands with other African States to celebrate the 10th Africa Industrialization Day, the 2009 theme is “Industrialization for Integration”. This year’s celebration comes at a time when Kenya has implemented one year of the Medium Term Plan (2008-2012) towards the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030. The Vision 2030 seeks to transform Kenya into a globally competitive, newly industrializing middle income nation that offers high quality of life to all its citizens in a secure and healthy environment.

The Ministry of Industrialization, in carrying out its mission: “To facilitate an expanding, globally competitive and innovative industrial sector by creating an enabling environment” is spearheading the development of the Industrial Sector in this country. Towards this end, the ministry has organized this year’s celebrations to showcase the achievements so far gained in the sector and the strategies of realizing the Vision 2030. The exhibition at Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC) brings together both large and the Micro, Small and Medium Industries (MSMIs) to showcase their products. It also provides a forum for creating linkages between the MSMIs and large industries.

This exhibition also brings together all the state corporations under the ministry who assist in the implementation of functions that include: quality control and standardization; industrial property rights policy and settlement of industrial property rights disputes; industrial research and development; cement production, industrial tooling and machining, and facilitation of access to short, medium and long-term financing for MSMIs.

The challenge facing Kenya today is how to transform the economy from a primary resource dependent country to a more dynamic and diversified industrial economy. The natural resource richness of our country must provide a sure foundation for resource-based industrialization.

Towards this end, the ministry is partnering with the private sector and development partners to implement several projects and programmes that, among other areas, are geared towards the development, growth, and graduation of the MSMI sector. MSMI growth offers the best prospects for job and wealth creation, and improving the standards of living for most Kenyans many of whom are based in rural areas.

These programmes include the MSME Competitiveness Project that is being implemented through a public-private partnership with support from World Bank credit; One Village One Product that is being carried out through collaboration with the Japanese Government and Business Sector Programme Support being implemented through collaboration with Danish government. Among other programmes are Private Sector Development Strategy - Goal 4 – Improve Productivity that aims to improve labour and capital productivity, stimulate R&D activities and increase adoption of modern and appropriate technology; the 4 K MSE Initiatives (2007-2012) where KIRDI, KEBS, KIP and Kenya National Jua Kali Association (KNFJA) have set up an initiative to address issues of productivity, quality enhancement, competitiveness, standardization and mass production of MSE products.

Similarly, the Kenya Integrated Program Phase II is being implemented with support from UNIDO, whose main objective is to build capacities for competitive industrial development in Kenya. UNIDO is also supporting Standards and Labeling, in the attainment of the broad objective of ensuring adequate, quality, cost-effective and affordable supply of energy to meet development needs while protecting and conserving the environment.

Other programmes include implementation of the Anti-Counterfeit Goods Act where the ministry is in the process of finalizing requirements for operationalization of the Anti-Counterfeit Goods Agency; and the Economic Stimulus Package}

Prof. Lonyangapuo
PS, Ministry of industrialization

where the ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Finance is developing 210 Constituency Industrial Development Centres equipped with appropriate tools and machinery.

The year’s theme of Industrialization for Integration” is most appropriate for the ongoing industrial activities especially for Kenya. The five East Africa partner states have signed the Common Market Protocol. This will provide market opportunities for manufactured products that dominate exports from Kenya to other EAC states. With free flow of goods and services, Kenya’s ambition of becoming a regional economic hub will be enhanced.

The celebrations have also come at a time when the 4th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has been held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6th - 9th November 2009. The forum which is held every three years is aimed at exploring business synergies; enhancing trade, investment and economic ties; and exchanging information on potential joint ventures projects. To this effect, the Chinese government has put aside US$ 100 billion for financing development projects in Africa.

The theme is also ideal as it comes at a time that the EAC Partner states have forged a common position for negotiations under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU). Similarly, the 1st Tripartite Summit has been held towards institutionalization cooperation between COMESA, EAC and SADC.

At industry level, integration is already taking effect in the Industrial Sector through value chain approaches, industrial clustering, sub-contracting, franchising and outsourcing. Indeed, the two flagship projects for the manufacturing sector as contained in the Medium Term Plan, that is, Development of two Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and five SME Parks are premised on an integrated approach. For the sustainable growth of the industrial development, integration is being forged with other sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, education, environment, financial sector and the infrastructural sector.

As we celebrate and reflect over this year’s theme, I want to encourage the private sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities to increase investments in the industrial sector for sustained economic and accelerated growth of our economy.
For a man who has built the Metrology department from scratch and gone ahead to secure international links with overseas metrology institutions and related industries, he shares his dreams and insights upon taking helm of the country’s standards and quality facilitator albeit in an acting capacity.

KEBS Acting Managing Director, Mr. Joel Kioko.

KEBS Acting MD takes charge with a promise to push products penetration in regional markets

When he joined Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) 30 years ago, Mr. Joel Kioko did not once imagine he would go on to attain the levels of success he now enjoys.

At the moment, he is the acting Managing Director at the country’s national standardization body, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

Before his appointment, he was in charge of the metrology department, which he has headed for over 25 years.

But as the acting MD is now finding out, the position also comes with its challenges as partisan interests and ‘outside interference’ threatens to derail well intentioned standards and regulations.

But Mr. Kioko’s prevailing and indeed strong defence remains adamant “if there are no standards, there is no good life”.

Although, not very much is known about Mr. Kioko, those who have worked with him have described him as a humble and ambitious leader.

In an exclusive interview with the Benchmark, the official KEBS newsletter, Mr. Kioko candidly reveals his vision for Kenya’s internationally acclaimed standards body.

He told Benchmark recently that his focus at the helm will be to push for the creation of more standards and entranch quality in all sectors of the country. By so doing, he noted, it will help boost the country’s revenue, create employment and wealth as a country.

The acting MD added that he will also push for product acceptance and recognition all over the world.

Indeed, KEBS has a bigger task at a time when the competition is intense and smuggling of counterfeit is at an all time high.

“We are set to enhance security in the borders and all entry points to minimize the smuggling of substandard products,” he says.

KEBS, as a member of World Trade Organization is working hard to ensure that Kenyan products further penetrate neighboring markets in East Africa such as the Common Markets for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), both are inter-governmental organizations seeking to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among numerous African states, since all Kenyan goods bear the standard mark which makes it easier.

Mr. Kioko announced that efforts are in place to harmonize the markets so that the Kenyan products can be accepted in the world market.

“We have been going there to negotiate and we have already passed the conformity tests and we are in the frontline to ensure WTO embraces all our products,” he added.

So far, KEBS has harmonized standards in East Africa making it easier for local producers to look for markets in those regions. SADC will be the next market, although he said that they are working to harmonize it.

To ensure all this is achieved, Mr. Kioko revealed that they are developing more standards and they have begun investing and fitting KEBS laboratory with the modern and latest technology.

The zealous acting MD says that although there is a strategic plan in place, he will be drafting one to remain on standby as the current one lapses. “This will ensure that there is a continuation of current and future investments,” he added.

He said that conformity is dynamic and in order to catch up, the country needs to improve standards on a daily basis.

At the same time, KEBS is aggressively seeking to be distinguished as an international accreditation and standardization body.

“We have already laid down the foundation to facilitate this,” he explained.

Currently, all KEBS work plans are moving on quite well despite the country requiring a lot of income, capacity building and good infrastructure.

Standards

Among the new standards, he said, will include the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

For now, political interference remains a never-ending threat for KEBS and to deal with this, Mr. Kioko said he will avoid confrontation and instead adopt an engaging approach.

“Politicians are sharp but they lack the technical know-how. We will respond to them by calling them and explaining to them,” he said.

KEBS, he said, would strive to engage all industry players and involve the public in the development and improvement of standards.

Among the achievements Mr. Kioko implemented while at the Metrology department was to secure international links with overseas education institutions and related industries.

“I have built this department from scratch,” he said.

Now, the department has partnerships and collaboration from all over the world. Some of the long term collaborations and partnerships include The China Government, Germany and Netherlands amongst others.

“The partnership is between institutions that are adding value to our department and programmes,” he explained.

He revealed that the department is set to introduce chemical metrology in preparation of the future of the green energy.

We will be training our people to get capability to support all the work that we are doing and all the systems we are introducing, he reveals.

We will also collaborate with institutions of higher education as a measure to promote education for the future generation.

The acting MD says the kind of leadership he is practicing is composite which will include engaging all the employees, and consultative.

“We are using guidelines in the management of performance.

Leadership is like a journey which if you want to achieve the strategic plan as outlined in the National Standardisation Act you must take the correct steps,” he added.

Mr. Kioko doesn’t fear competition from any agencies as he stresses that KEBS is a reference body to all standardization institutions.

Today, the standards are being talked about from all the corners because it has been impacting Kenyans positively. He says that KEBS competitiveness and consistence in creating standards has brought trust to the market.

“We can’t do without technology; we are investing heavily in ICT and automation of our services”.

For now, KEBS budgets remain constrained since most of KEBS undertakings are supposed to be funded by the Government through the Exchequer. But he acknowledges that the Government has begun appreciating KEBS standardization work and has indeed increased the funding for most departments.
Focus on Industrialization

Industralization comes of age

Kenya today faces a major challenge of transforming from a primary resource dependent country to a more dynamic and diversified industrial economy

T

he Africa Industrialization Day celebrated in December 20 and 21 ended on a high note with Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industrialization Prof John Longanyapuo encouraging the private sector to take advantage of emerging opportunities to increase investments in the industrial sector. This will encourage sustained economic and accelerated growth of the country’s economy, he said.

Under the theme ‘Industrialization for integration’, the conference brought together public and private sector players to discuss ways of enhancing the industrialization process in Kenya. ‘Integration is already taking effect in the industrial sector through value chain approaches, industrial clustering, sub-contracting, franchising and outsourcing,” said the Permanent Secretary.

Indeed, he said the two flagship projects for the manufacturing sector as contained in the Medium Term Plan – development of two Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and five SME Parks – are premised on an integrated approach. For sustainable industrial development, integration is being forged with other sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism, education, environment, financial sector and the infrastructural sector.

Addressing the conference, Prof Longanyapuo explained that Kenya today faces a major challenge of transforming the economy from a primary resource dependent country to a more dynamic and diversified industrial economy. “The natural resource richness of our country must provide a sure foundation for resource-based industrialisation,” he said. Africa, the PS noted stands lucky because donor countries have given it their focus, to bring it at par with the developed world. Forums like the African Industrialization Day are usually dedicated at promoting investment in the continent. At the same time, the 4th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held in Egypt on November 6 to 9.

The forum, which is held every three years, aims at exploring business synergies; enhancing trade, investment and economic ties; and exchanging information on potential joint ventures projects. To this end, the Chinese government has put aside US$ 100 billion for financing development projects in Africa.

The theme, Prof Longanyapuo noted was also ideal coming at a time when the EAC Partner states have forged a common position for negotiations under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), with the European Union (EU). Similarly, the 1st Tripartite Summit was also recently held, themed at institutionalizing cooperation between COMESA, EAC and SADC.

To enhance sustained growth, Mr Henry Kosgey the Minister for Industrialization said Africa needs to embrace business synergies and high value addition, especially on its exports, in order to reduce the high levels of poverty.

Mr Kosgey urged Kenyans to shift towards selling processed goods abroad, rather than raw materials. “Africa, which has the largest number of developing countries, is endowed with a large variety of resources, yet has the highest poverty profile,” said the minister.

Among the achievements so far realized since the last industrialization day, he said are implementation of the ministry’s strategic plan that include enactment and operationalization of the Anti-Counterfeit Goods Act, and finalization of the Industrial Master Plan. Others are the National Industrial Development Policy and the National Policy on Business and Technology Incubation which are at advanced stages.

To promote development, Mr Kosgey said KShs 735 million has been set aside under the Economic Stimulus Package for the development of two Special Economic Zones, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Already, the ministry of industrialization has adopted an Integrated Value Chain approach through industrial clusters.

KEY MESSAGES AGREED BY AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21st October 2009

These key messages are based on Africa’s common position on climate change as adopted in Algiers on 21 November 2008 and updated by Special Session on ARCNF Held in Nairobi on 29 May 2009 and endorsed by the Thirteenth AU Summit held in Sana’a, Libya, 1 – 3 May 2009.

We also reaffirm that Africa, in the context of environmental justice, should be adequately compensated for environmental resources, economic and social losses.

In this respect, Africa requires sustained and scaled up finance, technology and capacity building for adaptation and risk management.

We declare developed countries’ historical responsibilities on climate change.

Africa recognizes the UNFCCC and reaffirms its principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and that these should form the basis for the post – 2012 regime. Given the uncertainties of the impacts of climate change, Africa’s adaptation measures should be based on the principle of precautionary principle.

Copenhagen must produce a 2-track outcome:

(i). One track for the amendment of Annex B (Developed Countries ) of the Kyoto Protocol on further commitments by Annex 1 Parties for the 2nd commitment period (Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol)

(ii). A separate legal instrument, for the outcome of the negotiations under the Convention.

Africa will not accept any delay by developed countries to deeply cut their greenhouse gas emissions and support for Africa is to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

For positive and acceptable outcomes in Copenhagen, Africa insists that we must stick to the mandate of the Bali Action Plan under the Convention and to the mandate of Article 3.9 of the Kyoto Protocol.

1. Bali Action Plan : The shared vision

• Africa proposes a fair, inclusive, effective and equitable deal in Copenhagen that will benefit the climate and vulnerable countries and be undertaken in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development and the need for gender equality.

2. Adaptation

• Adaptation for Africa is the highest priority.

• Africa is the most vulnerable continent and has the right for full support to adapt to climate change.

• Africa has also contributed the least to the global greenhouse gas emissions, and stands to suffer the most.

• The provision of financial, technological and capacity building support by developed country Parties for adaptation in developing countries is a commitment under the Convention that must be urgently fulfilled.

• Recognizing that climate change is an additional burden to sustainable development, and a threat to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Mitigation

• The Copenhagen outcome must contain ambitious, quantified, legally binding and economically viable greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments for all developed country Parties, of at least 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020.

• Mitigation actions for Africa should be voluntary and nationally appropriate.

• A firewall must be maintained between mitigation commitments by all developed countries and mitigation actions by developing countries.

4. Means of implementation (finance, technology transfer and capacity building)

• For Africa, the Copenhagen outcome will not be possible without a commitment by developed countries to massively scaled up, stable and predictable finance, technology and capacity building.

• A financial commitment of at least 1.5% of global GDP of developed countries (IPCC, 2007) is required, to support and enable adaptation and mitigation action in developing countries.

• The Copenhagen outcome must provide new, additional, sustainable, accessible and predictable finance.

• For a comprehensive international programme on adaptation, that reduces vulnerability and increases resilience to impacts that are already occurring, and impacts that are likely to occur in the future.

• Institutional arrangements must be equitable and transparent, and not facilitate access by developing countries to the ‘means of implementation’ in a coherent and enabling manner.

• An agreement on technology deployment, diffusion and transfer must ensure access by developing countries to affordable, appropriate and adaptable technologies for enhanced action on mitigation and adaptation that will address the immediate needs of Africa.

• Developed countries should commit to strengthening the institutional capacity in Africa, including through the establishment and enhancement of Regional Centres of Excellence for climate change, among which meteorological observation and services.

• Developed countries should fulfil their commitments in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

II Kyoto Protocol issues :

• Africa will neither accept replacement of Kyoto Protocol nor its merger with any new agreement.

• Developed Countries must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050, in order to achieve the lowest level of stabilization assessed by the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report.
Focus on Standards

New standards for the energy sector

Eva Oduor, KEBS Director Standards Development and International Trade.

Eva Oduor, KEBS Director Standards Development and International Trade, explains why you may no longer have to deal with fake electronics.

A n increase in consumers’ awareness levels and the resultant demand in quality is the reason Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is often going back to the drawing board in a bid to improve its products and come up with new ones.

“We are continuing to maintain standards and developing new ones since they are there to provide solutions,” said Eva Oduor, KEBS Director in charge of Standards Development and International Trade (SDIT).

Unlike in previous years, KEBS has now begun developing and designing quality standards for the service sectors.

This is to ensure that consumers of various services and products are guaranteed of their safety.

“Take, for instance, the health sector where majority of people complain of document mix up or air pollution,” points out Ms. Oduor.

Data handling in hospitals has always been a mess due to the large volumes of information involved and cases of mishandling are rampant.

“By developing such standards, we want the consumers to be comfortable since their expectations are met,” she added.

KEBS has recently developed and harmonized standards in medical and hospitality sectors, a move that Ms. Oduor said will promote trade both in the region and at the larger international level.

Ms. Oduor said that having completed the harmonization process successfully, KEBS is now focusing on the energy sector, which faces an increasing threat from sub-standard products and the attendant risks faced by consumers.

She said the move would help regulate dumping of electronic gadgets in the market.

Recently, the media has been awash with reports that fake solar inverters, bulbs and batteries have flooded the local market stalling growth of local industries and leaving consumers at the losing end.

“We are all importers and we need products that can last longer and are not harmful to our health. To do this, we are coming up with an energy management and efficiency system,” she said.

Ms. Oduor revealed that they have been holding consultative meetings with the Energy Ministry as part of their preparations.

She further revealed that the initiative is set to bear fruits given that our market is saturated with second hands, or virtually all products.

The energy standard provision will cover verification of electronic products given that Kenya is not a producer but a net importer.

Although she foresees a tussle with industry players, Ms. Oduor says she is ready to fight for the implementation and harmonization of the energy standards till the end.

“So far the ministry of energy has been supportive of the issue and they are expected to come up with a regulation which will help us (KEBS) come up with the guideline,”

Once implemented, the standards will protect consumers of computers who constantly face the numerous hazards.

Substandard transistors, wind power or solar power equipment will be a thing of the past, she said.

“A lot of energy needs to be used but can be worked out,” this will also create a living field for both consumers and producers,” she said.

KEBS has also harmonized and strengthened climate change and air pollution framework to secure consumers in a move that puts the standards body on collision path with and producers of substandard goods.

“This year, we have managed to provide solutions to areas of climate change since there is too much carbon which is being emitted into our air and there is no enough trees to consume it,” she explained.

Through this, the standards body can now measure carbon emission, including levels of environmental pollution and prescribe penalties.

Providing quality standards in the service sector is demand driven, Ms. Oduor explained, stressing that through climate standards KEBS is pressing the manufacturers and producers to be responsible in their production processes.

She revealed that soon KEBS will complete developing a standards guide for the hospitality sector, which will ensure hygiene in hotels.

The aim for this will be to safeguard tourism so that tourists can know what they expect from these hotels whether they are benchmarked on international quality standards.

KEBS has also begun issuing and harmonizing standards in the health sector to ensure people are safe when they visit hospitals and their medical records are not interfered with.

These quality standards are now being implemented in clinics, dispensary and health centers.

“We are working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to also ensure that cereals, and foods sold in supermarkets are also fortified,”

Besides, KEBS has ensured and maintained standards on air quality, complimenting National Environmental Management Authority’s efforts to regulate and curb pollution.

Recently, NEMA introduced air quality regulations through the Environmental Management and Coordination (Air Quality) Regulations, 2008, which will be hoping to decrease air pollution for a healthy nation.

NEMA is also going for noisemakers through the Standardization Management Mark for Service (Noise and Excessive Vibration Pollution Control) Regulations.

Further KEBS is also ensuring that credit card and visa are of certain standards.

According to Mr John Abong’s, the Department’s Director, these inspections assists in bringing on board Small and medium size manufacturers.

Common challenges the department is often faced with include doors closing on them when they visit these companies’ premises, but Mr Abong’s says they are upbeat about the operation’s success.

The crackdown is set to commence end of November, at a time the country’s population isUcuring huge influx of counterfeit and sub-standard goods.

Mr Abong’s says their main focus when they visit these industries would be to educate and create awareness about standards.

“We need to work together. Closing industries would be unfortunate, as we want them to stay on and we instead help them improve the quality of product they are producing,” Mr Abong’s said.

During the last inspection, the organization managed to bring many entrepreneurs on board. “Immediately we leave these companies there is usually that fear of the unknown, and people now understand that there is something wrong so they will have to come to us to avoid such circumstances where they are grounded,” he explained.

The QAI works closely with other departments within KEBS and have managed to create a standard mark for both large and small manufacturers.

Mr Abong’s says since the creation of the Standardization Mark for small producers, compliance had grown to 82 percent within the SME manufacturers. “This is an indication that we are doing fine but it also gives us a challenge to create more standards that incorporate all sizes of manufacturers,” he said.

KEBS also uses community leaders to create awareness, especially in changing attitude about compliance to standards.

“We don’t want them (business owners) to close their factories, but just to come closer,” said Mr Abong noting that negotiations as a good avenue.

Another challenge, rigging of KEBS marks by illegal traders is forcing the standards body to begin restricting printers. “Restricting printers will ensure that not many people are able to collude with our marks and it will reduce cases of Illegal marks,” says Mr Abongs.

This year’s emphasis by the department has been to ensure availability of standards across all sectors. Through this campaign more than 10 cases are in court across the country of industries that have not complied with the standards.

“Once we establish there was a mischief in production we carry out our routine visits, test and bring the matter to attention and warn them,” he said.

Food industries are not however spared much due to the sensitivity of their business, and the factories are either closed down, or products recalled. “We always prefer solving the issue through civilized means. We are never happy taking people to court,” said Mr Abong.

“Our emphasis to these companies is that they must know what is expected of them. Their requirements and how they should incarnate the quality on their service,” he said.

Focus on Standards

Quality check up is on

As KEBS scales up crackdown on noncompliance of standards, it seeks to create a friendlier environment by creating a standardization mark for both large and small manufacturers

Industrialization, PS, Prof Lonyangapuo looks on during the ball point pen destruction

The Benchmark Issue 6 2009
Achievement

The council of Kenya Nutritionalists and Dieticians Institute (KENDI) was appointed by the minister of Public Health and Sanitation, Hon. Mrs Beth Mugo following the professionals Annual General Meet- ing held on 3rd October 2009. Mr. Peter Mutua of Standards Development and International Trade who is also a registered Dietitian/Nutritionist was appointed to the council for a period of three years.

The institute is established under The Nutritionist & Dieticians Act 2007 of the laws of Kenya which was assented by the president on 22nd October 2009 and gazetted by the Minister of Public Health & Sanitation on 21st October 2009. An interim Council has been in place in accordance with the second schedule of the Act. Mr. Mutua is among the first council members to be elected in accordance to first schedule of the Act.

The institute is mandated in law to provide for train- ing, Registration and licensing of Nutritionists and Dieticians; to provide for the regulation of standards and practice of the profession; ensure effective par- ticipation in matters relating to nutrition and dietetics and for connected purposes.

This Act is intended to protect this important pro- fession for the benefit of persons who would seek nutrition and dietetic services. Of particular empha- sis, the Act outlaws any person practising under any name, title and style containing the words ‘Nutritionist’ or ‘Dietician’ unless that person is regis- tered under the Act. It further bars any one from practising either on his/her behalf or on behalf of a registered nutritionist/dietician unless when she/he is registered and licensed by the institute to do so. The Act outlaws employment of unregistered person as nutritionists/dieticians. The institute is mandated through its council to accredit institutions that may offers nutrition and dietetics training. Any person practising while not registered or offers un- accredited courses is liable to be fined and or con- victed as provided in the miscellaneous provisions of the Act.

In achieving the mission of the institute of setting gold standards for nutrition and dietetics, the coun- cil on behalf of all its 962 members (as at Septem- ber 2009) aims at ensuring that unqualified person who have been presenting themselves as Nutritionists or Dieticians will be weeded out of the profes- sion. Further the setting of standards will ensure the services provided will meet the expectations of the clients resulting to a win-win situation and improved health of the general population.

In emphasising the important role played by nutri- tionist and dieticians in general health of the popu- lation and programs during the AGM, the minister for public health and sanitation directed the estab- lishment of Nutrition department under the ministry of public health and sanitation to the same levels as colleagues in medicine who are under the depart- ment of medical services.

Mr. Mutua on behalf of the council encourages qualified nutritionists/dietician to apply for their reg- istration and familiarise themselves as well as the general populations with the Act.

As the crucial Board gets to work, expectations are high that counterfeiters will be rendered a thing of the past

Finally there is light at the end of the tun- nel. After years of debate on stringent ways of dealing with illegal trade of fake goods in Kenya, the Anti-Counterfeit Agency Board is finally here.

The Board, Gazetted last month, is charged with a main responsibility of enforcing and con- fiscating counterfeit products. Previously there has been tension between businesses, especi- ally the manufacturing sector, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) over ways to stop proliferation of printed goods.

The KEBS representative at the Board is Ray- mond Michuki, a fierce fighter of counterfeit products over the last years, and currently the standard body’s Testing Manager. “I was given the opportunity to represent KEBS and I am quite happy about it,” says a jovial Mr. Michuki.

Other stakeholders in the board include Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kenya Police, Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) and all gov- ernment anti counterfeit agencies.

The main benefits of the new Act, in addition to it being very wide in its protection, is that the An- ti-Counterfeit Agency will adopt a coordinated approach across the various government law enforcement agencies, each of which will have representation in the agency board. This system and approach is already applied at the Copyright Agency. The central agency will deal in a coordi- nated way with trading, and other matters brought to its attention, including complaints of counterfeiting.

“Among priority areas we proposed is about the market surveillance department. We will imple- ment several programs which will help us in confis- cating counterfeit products,” says Mr. Michuki. As the Board is inaugurated in December, all eyes will be on it to meet expectations; sieving and acting on substantiated products.

KEBS incorporation in the central board was agreed upon during the negotiation process. Since the body may not have all the required personnel and technical skills, it was proposed that various government agencies that deal with inspection – therefore have inspectors – can be allowed to act as anti counterfeit officers.

Mr. Michuki has been actively involved right from the beginning when KEBS launched fight against counterfeit products. KEBS is the only government body with a larger role at the Board; being an insti- tution mandated at enforcing standards. The body has been at the forefront in the battle against the vice.

KEBS fighter appointed to the Anti-Counterfeit Board

Raymond Michuki KEBS Market Surveillance Manager

Consumers urged to volunteer information on fakes

This year, KEBS was successful in netting counterfeiters such as ballpoint pens, solar panels and batteries amongst others and the battle on counterfeiters has just begun.

“With the new Act in place, we will continue fighting counterfeiters,” says Mr. Michuki. As the strict new Act in force, consumers are urged to continue reporting false goods and steps taken toward their enforcement. 

Consumer has been urged to continue reporting false goods and steps taken toward their enforcement.

Mr. Michuki says KEBS has upped its game, and this year achieved good success, managing to net several counterfeit products such as ballpoint pens, solar panels and batteries amongst others.

“We are doing this to ensure that there is a level playing field in the market place,” said Mr. Michuki. He is optimistic that the inception of the Anti Coun- terfeit Board, which he is serving as a board mem- ber, will manage to fight the vice out of the society.

Mr. Michuki says KEBS is committed and will con- tinue to fight the anti counterfeit war, by leading education especially in areas proving to be most problematic. The ultimate goal is to ensure the society make a habit of purchasing the right qual- ity products, and shunning cheap and sometimes disastrous counterfeiters.

“We have also realized that not all business people are honest,” said Mr. Michuki, explaining that these trades in fake products without caring about the im- pact they have on the end consumer. He said as a body concerned with standards, KEBS would con- tinue to enforce and encourage compliance. Manu- facturers are always encouraged to visit KEBS for any necessary information.

“Ak we will continue holding goods in the ports,” he added, saying however that KEBS is always ready to give any information wherever called upon to do so. At times, challenges will include slow-to- respond police officers whenever called upon to assist in capturing culprits or confiscating goods – which at times would lead to the illegal traders evading arrest.

Public education is a key element in eradicating counterfeiting, and bringing about culture change when it comes to usage of counterfeited products in the society. The Anti Counterfeit Board, Mr. Michuki is confident will address key issues, given that it has more muscle.

He says that Kenyan manufacturers should not view KEBS an as enemy, rather as a body willing to work with them.

“Consumers should always raise an issues if they suspect that a product is not up to standard so that we carry out investigations. The fight against coun- terfeit is long and we need to partner with all the stakeholders,” said Mr. Michuki.

Focus on Standards

Industralization PS, Prof Longyangya keenly follows the destruction activity of the ball point pens
KEBS certifier pursues Accreditation

In a bid to remain steadfast amid stiff competition, KEBS is pushing its certification body to grow muscle

In its endeavor to become the certifier of choice for industries, manufacturers, producers and personnel, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Certification Body (CB) is set to receive accreditation by June next year.

“The accreditation may come early but not after June 2010,” says the CB Manager, Ms. Carol Outa.

CB offers certification services to companies. It has five certification products including ISO 9001 Quality Management systems, ISO 14001 Environmental Management systems, HACCP, ISO 22000 Food safety Management systems and OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management systems.

“There are many bodies offering certification, and for companies to prefer us we need to get cer-

Benchmark that CB will be quick to respond with the requirements of the assessor. Already the department is on its toes implementing the finer details. Unlike the standardization mark, which is mandatory, certification is a management system, which is voluntary. After a company identifies what they want, the KEBS CB designs and develops the requirements.

Although CB is facing cutthroat competition from other certification bodies, mainly from Europe, Ms. Outa is convinced that accreditation will take them a firm step ahead. The plan she says is to put noth-

In preparation for the accreditation, CB has imple-

Despite the countless preparation measures for the accreditation, Ms. Outa says CB has also contin-

Ms Outa. “There are many ben-

Ms. Outa says the NDTC scheme is good for the coun-

She said, “Being a body that deals in certifying com-

Another development that we have begun to establish is a certification of information technol-

Jonathan Kovacs (2001) states that “E-waste” is a subset of electronic and electrical waste. This is because the materials involved are typically classified as hazardous, and the waste stream is a result of the rapid increase in and changing needs of electronic and electrical products. These products are being bought and sold daily and global demands are expanding. Coupled with the commercial demand for new products with new functions and properties is the increase in the turnover and disposal of such products. While the use of electronic and electrical products reflects today’s lifestyle, the amount of used and end-of-life equipment is growing at a drastic rate. Electronic waste is a global issue because it affects everyone. E-waste can harm human health and the environment. The presence of various potentially toxic or hazardous components in e-waste is the key

The rapid increase in and changing needs of customers for electrical and electronic devices and information technology on a global scale has resulted in a significant rise in electronic and electrical products. These products are being bought and sold daily and global demands are expanding. Coupled with the commercial demand for new products with new functions and properties is the increase in the turnover and disposal of such products. While the use of electronic and electrical products reflects today’s lifestyle, the amount of used and end-of-life equipment is growing at a drastic rate. Electronic waste is a global issue because it affects everyone. E-waste can harm human health and the environment. The presence of various potentially toxic or hazardous components in e-waste is the key

1. Lead: Lead exerts toxic effects on various systems in the body such as the central (organic affective syndrome) and peripheral nervous systems (motor neuropathy), the hemopoietic system (anemia), the genitourinary system (capable of causing death in all parts of the nephron) and the reproductive systems (both male and female).

2. Mercury: Mercury causes damage to the genitourinary system (tubular dysfunction), the central and peripheral nervous systems as well as the foetus in expectant mothers. When inorganic mercury spreads out in water, it is transformed into methylated mercury, which bio-accumulates in living organisms and concentrates through the food chain, particularly by fish.

3. Cadmium: Cadmium is a potentially long-term cumulative poison. Toxic cadmium compounds accumulate in the human body, especially in the...
It is therefore critical that laboratories should provide accurate test results so that physicians can make right diagnoses of diseases afflicting patients hence provide right treatment to patients that will lead to timely recovery. In other words the effectiveness and efficiency of the whole process of patient care will be improved.

It is in light of this that if labs implement management systems that conform to the said standard as well as the other requirements mentioned above, they will be able to support the effective and efficient provision of services to the patients and the Kenyan citizenry making it in line with the Government’s Vision 2030.

Advantages accruing from accreditation in medical laboratories include:-

- Third party attestation and hence recognition of competence to perform medical tests taking into account the various scopes of testing
- Cost savings considering the effectiveness and efficiency that will be realized
- Improved service delivery to the customers i.e. physicians, patients etc.
- Increased level of business, profits hence creditworthiness of the organization and employment
- A benchmark for further training that will provide marketing advantage and International recognition of your laboratory
- Acceptance of medical test results across borders under the principle of “one test accepted everywhere”. This is in view of the fact that the accreditation will be recognized across borders
- Reduced waiting time for medical test results
- Faster movement of services across borders
- Contribution to the desirable improved economic indicators of the country
- Assurance of patients on the quality of treatment provided

A laboratory that is accredited to ISO 15189 will also have fulfilled the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 - Quality Management System -Requirements.

Only a few medical/clinical laboratories are now accredited in Kenya. It’s time for Laboratories in Kenya and the rest of Africa to pursue accreditation it is the surest way for a laboratory to demonstrate its good laboratory practice. We cannot provide high quality care, no matter what type of disease we fight against without competent laboratories. Accreditation of medical/clinical Laboratories will greatly strengthen our health systems both in the short term and long term. It is all about building sustainable health systems for our beloved country for now and the future.

The writer is the current Director of the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS).
A critical look at Kenya’s hand weaving textile sector

The hand weaving industry in Kenya is gaining momentum and is becoming increasingly competitive on both the local and export markets. This has been facilitated by efforts to ensure that the products meet international quality standards. The Hand Weavers Association (HAWESA) is a key player in the industry, working to promote and support hand weaving as a viable livelihood option for many Kenyans.

Key priorities to be addressed by the conference

From March 2009, it has become mandatory that all goods manufactured in Kenya meet the standardization mark and in order to issue the mark, standards are checked. The conference will address issues related to standardization and the production of better goods through research by such bodies as KIRDI and other relevant bodies. The conference will therefore assist small manufacturers to appreciate that they can also patent their products, leading to increased competitiveness.

The conference is being organized to benefit small textile manufacturers and the textile industry as a whole. It is aimed at improving the quality of goods produced, ensuring compliance with relevant standards, and enhancing customer satisfaction.

KEBS Acting Managing Director, Mr. Joel Kioko (centre) admires some of the products on display during the ‘Conference on Hand Woven Textile Products’. With him is KEBS Corporate Communications Manager, Ms. Patricia Kimanthi and KEBS Corporate Communications Manager, Mr. Ephraim Gitrini, Assistant Manager Textiles Department at KEBS.

**KEBS**

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) will be organizing a conference on hand woven textile products, whose theme is “Hand Woven Textile Products: Issues and Challenges in the National, Regional and International Context.” Here is an analysis of the local sector and priority areas.

An overview of the hand weaving industry in Kenya

The hand weaving sector in Kenya is growing, although very minimally compared to countries like India, which is booming and with a large domestic market. In contrast, the local hand weaving industry relies very much on exports, as the domestic market is persistently small. The range of manufactured products includes skirts, mats, and sheets among others.

The Hand Weavers Association (HAWESA) is trying to tackle the challenges faced by its members, through collaborations with other organizations like KIBU, Kenya Industrial Research Institute (KIRDI), Kenya Textile Training Institute (KTTI) and universities. The organization has a membership of about 30 hand weavers and this could grow if challenges of availability of raw materials and market are tackled comprehensively. Under Kenya’s Vision 2030, small manufacturers are expected to grow and produce quality goods that are acceptable to both local and export markets, and ultimately eradicate poverty.

**KEBS**

**Focus on Standards**

**KPA attains world class quality services with the much coveted ISO 9001-2008 certification**

**KPA Boss, James Mulewa**

“**We feel proud to join the select few that have embraced best practices for efficiency and customer satisfaction through provision of quality service.”**

Kenya Standards aim to ensure that goods and services offered for sale to consumers, do not endanger their health, safety and the environment. In order to adequately meet this requirement, KEBS has adopted both Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVOC) and destination inspection services. To complement and strengthen import inspection processes mentioned above (PVOC and destination inspection), KEBS has made a deliberate effort/arrangement through its market surveillance department to carry out planned surveillance on goods being offered for sale in the local market.

The result of the market surveillance exercise is fed back into the inspection process. Substandard products netted in this process are removed from the market through product recalls and or removal from the market in a coordinated manner through KEBS market surveillance system.

Prior to the KPA certification, the Authority enlisted the services of a re-known British firm to implement the best management system on the port leading to its certification with the prestigious ISM Code. It was then only logical that the Authority pursues ISO certification which embraces the whole-organization and spreads benefits to all departments and professionals.

“Our mission remains that of facilitating sea borne trade in the most efficient manner by progressively benchmarking our operational targets to internationally acceptable standards. It was with this in mind that the rigorous development of 360 full procedures and corporate manuals began.

Operational targets were developed as key processes for the efficient running of the port. It involved harmonization of documents to attain proper standardization, conformity and compliance with the Quality Management System.

The process entailed training of the entire KPA workforce on ISO principles and conducting intensive and extensive awareness campaigns. Several audits were also conducted by internal audit teams and Kenya Bureau of Standards experts to ensure that the Authority was fully and correctly implementing the procedures. These audits will continue regularly to guarantee compliance.

“As an Authority we are committed more than ever before to observing quality standards in whatever we do bearing in mind that we will now be judged in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2008,” said Mr Mulewa. He thanked his Chairman and Board of Directors, Management and staff of KPA for their commitment and hard work and reminded the entire KPA staff that the certification is not an end in itself, but the beginning of a thousand miles’ journey!”

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**Issue 6 2009**
KEBS officials on a market surveillance assignment.

Mr. Prateek Ghose, Finance Manager JIK, Mr. John Abong, Georgina Gachanja Brand Manager JIK.

Mrs. Ida Odinga flagging off the Paraplegic wheel walk.

Mr. Joel Kioko receiving a token of appreciation from Zimbabwe Bureau of Standards Managing Director.

Mrs. Eva Oduor, Mr. Joel Kioko and Industrialization Minister Henry Kosgey during the World Standards Day celebrations.

George Onyango, The Chief Executive Officer Numerical Machining Complex Ltd explaining some features of some of the products that the company makes.

Delegates follow the proceedings of celebration the Africa Industrialization Day at KICC.

Eng. Musonik, UNIDO officials and Charles Moturi, tour Incas stand during the celebration of Africa Industrialization Day.}

UNIDO officials sample some of the merchandise prepared by beneficiaries of a training offered by Ministry of Industrialization through the Kenya Industrial Estates.

KEBS participants F. Kane, Kizito, J. Bosire and P. Onjala during the wheel walk.

Prosecution trainees pose for a group photo.

Mr. John Abong cuts a cake during the world Aids Day 2009.
New guidelines to end buildings’ collapse

The standards will guide civil engineers and help weed out constructors of substandard buildings. Kenyan construction companies have been recklessly flouting safety regulations, a factor blamed as the reason for the recent collapsing of buildings, especially those under construction.

A month ago in Kiambu town, at the outskirts of Nairobi, close to 12 people lost their lives after a building under construction came tumbling down. Several other incidences have been reported after the infamous Nyamakima building that collapsed, killing at least 10 people and injuring 70 others. Other cases have been reported in Kiwi and Mombasa, where a big number of lives have been lost.

According to a survey released by the Kenya Architectural Association (KAA), 65 percent of the country’s buildings do not meet required standards. After the collapse of Sunbeam Supermarket in 1996 that killed 16 people, the government stepped up efforts and assured Kenyans of its commitment to maintain quality standards in construction. This seems to be reversing in the recent past. Nairobi is currently experiencing a construction boom, and companies are often criticized for cutting corners and failing to enforce safety measures. The motivation for profitability has often been seen to surpass safety measures.

The national standardization body Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Non Destructive Testing Department (NDT) has expressed concerns about this buildings collapse.

An officer at NDT, Mr Wilberforce Abunya told Benchmark that although there are standards in place to govern the sector, they are never followed. KEBS is involved in developing standards for the different sectors in the market. “There is a technical team somewhere failing us,” says Mr Abunya. “KEBS can only expose the constructors, as it does not carry out prosecutions.”

At the same time, the KEBS Certification Body (CB) is coming up with standards that will regulate the sector, by ensuring that human skills employed in the construction sites are accredited, to entrench standards. According to CB Chief Manager Ms Carol Ota, the construction scheme is urgent, for intervention to be done before this destructive culture entrenches itself.

The new standards in the offing, she said will play a fundamental role in guiding civil engineers and thwarting construction of substandard building.

The NDT department has a capacity to stop further construction of buildings but is barely involved when new buildings are being put up. “We have to be invited to carry out inspection,” says Mr Abunya. “We have officers on the ground that ensures that the material used is standardized.”

The department uses radiography solutions to test whether building materials used are of required standards, especially if they can hold weight. The material is taken to NDT laboratory for testing, where it is passed through an X-rays process and a picture captured. A message is relayed back and fed in the system then the status communicated.

KEBS as a standard developer is committed to intervening and pressuring for enforcement of standards. "We can order for altering in construction of any building which has not complied with the standards," said Mr Abunya citing vices such as greed and ignorance as the main factors behind collapse of buildings. Technical teams want to take shortcut, while constructors fail to take standards seriously, he says.

As a department, Mr Abunya says they are looking at the possibility of putting in place new guidelines on construction materials, requiring them to be in line with recent technology. Already the department has automated its operations in an effort to get immediate test results.

An additional factor, AAK chief executive Mr Steven Oundo told Benchmark, is that City Hall lacks capacity to approve or supervise developments to acceptable standards. Regular inspection of buildings would ensure developments that do not meet safety standards are demolished, with those that can be salvaged reinforced. Controversial developments are still under construction even as the Physical Planning Act empowers local authorities to vet building plans.

The Kenya Federation of Master Builders (KFMB) prepared a position paper for the creation of the NCA Bill. The Federation also proposed the formation of the Contractors Registration Board similar to the Contractors Registration Board of Tanzania.
This day, Africa Industrialization Day celebrated recently, was set aside by the UN General Assembly in 1989 to be celebrated in all African states every year, with the intention of mobilizing the commitment of the international community to the industrialization of Africa. The continent, which has the largest number of developing countries, is endowed with a large variety of resources yet has the highest levels of poverty. Since 2000 the average economic growth for Africa has averaged 6.1 percent mainly from its industrialization initiatives with an aim of improving efficiency in the utilization of resources, and shifting towards exports of processed goods. Africa should also strategize and take advantage during this period that the international community is refocusing its approach from aid to trade and investment.

In Kenya, this day comes at a time when the global economy is beginning to recover from the financial crisis and the effects of the post elections violence of 2008. The day is equally significant as it comes at a time when the Ministry of Industrialization has just completed its first year of existence and the country is in the second year of implementing the Medium Term Plan (2008 – 2012) for the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030. Under the Vision 2030, Kenya aspires to be a middle income rapidly-industrializing country, with the aim of becoming “a globally competitive and prosperous nation, offering a high quality of life to all its citizens” in a secure and healthy environment. Further, the role of the manufacturing sector in the Kenya Vision 2030 is to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country by creating jobs, generating wealth, and encouraging both local and foreign investments. The Ministry is therefore spearheading the implementation of the Kenya Vision 2030, by delivering its new vision “To be a leader in catalyzing a diversified, globally competitive and sustainable industrial sector in Kenya as contained in the Ministry’s Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012.”

The country's strategic plan seeks to develop Kenya's industrial sector through the implementation of five key strategic objectives that include: capacity building for industrial development and quality service delivery; establishing the policy, legal and institutional framework for industrialization; attracting local and foreign investments; promotion of the development of Micro, Small and Medium Industries (MSMIs); and promotion of research and development (R&D), innovation and technology adoption.

The achievements so far realized in the implementation of the ministry’s strategic plan include the enactment and operationalization of the Anti-Counterfeit Goods Act and finalization of the Industrial Master Plan. The National Industrial Development Policy and the National Policy on Business and Technology Incubation are at advanced stages. To promote regional industrialization, the ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Finance, through budget speech 2009 – 2010 provided 150 per cent investment allowance for investment in any satellite town around the major cities. Similarly, to promote the development of MSMIs Kshs735 million was set aside under the Economic Stimulus Package for the establishment of the Constituency Industrial Development Centres and is currently being implemented.

This year’s theme “Industrialization for Integration” is most appropriate as it fits well with the ongoing integration efforts in Africa. For Kenya, this day also marks a major milestone in regional integration as the five East Africa states of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi have already signed the Common Market Protocol. Kenya has also adopted an Integrated Value Chain approach through industrial clusters. The two flagship projects of developing two (2) Special Economic Zones and five (5) SME Parks are also geared towards an integrated approach to industrialization.

This year’s celebrations at the Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC) involved a two-day exhibition and a conference. The exhibition provide an opportunity to showcase the activities of the industrial sector, with special emphasis on what the ministry’s agencies are doing for the development of the industrial sector; whereas the conference bring together the public and private sector players to discuss methods of enhancing the industrialization process in Kenya.

In celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Africa Industrialization Day, I take this opportunity to thank our partners, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the state corporations under the ministry; the private sector players, the development partners; the ministry’s staff; and all individuals who have contributed to the development of the industrial sector in Kenya. Together, let’s forge in the match towards making Kenya a Newly Industrializing Country by the year 2030.

The benchmark

A

fter the climate summit in Copenhagen last month agreed to “take note” of the Copenhagen Accord, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (photo above left) concluded that “finally, we sealed the deal,” BBC reports.

According to the Associated Press, he added that he was aware this was just the beginning of a process to craft a binding pact to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, but pointed out that the agreement would have “an immediate operational effect.”

“It may not be everything we hoped for, but this decision of the Conference of Parties is an essential beginning... The importance will only be recognized when it’s codified into international law... We must transform this into a legally binding treaty next year,” he said according to British Broadcasting Corporation.

The background of the talks stems from a 2009 accord when the world’s governments agreed to aim for a complete climate treaty by 2015. Some leaders have called for the talks to be concluded by 2011. That did not happen. But there was now a tentative deal that would have “an immediate operational effect.”

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UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon: An essential beginning

By Rie Jørichtow and Helene Poulsen

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Kenya voted most outstanding stand at the 17th Uganda International Trade Fair

Export Promotion Council (EPC) coordinates Kenya’s participation at the Fair to showcase and enhance the visibility of its products in Uganda and neighboring markets.

By Margaret Ng’ang’a

The Trade Fair had over 900 exhibitors showcasing products ranging from modern technologies, agricultural, textiles, household, personal items, food, engineering and telecommunications technology. Exhibitors were drawn from Africa, Asia, Europe and Middle East. The countries participating were Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Turkey, Syria, Indonesia, Germany, Thailand, and Britain among others.

The international exhibition’s main purpose was to seek investment and business opportunities in Uganda and the East African region. With the inclusion of Rwanda and Burundi in the EAC, the region is now one of the strongest trading blocs with a population of 130 million and a Gross Domestic Product of $41 billion.

The Export Promotion Council (EPC) coordinated Kenya’s participation at the Fair. It was a chance for Kenya to showcase and enhance the visibility of its products in Uganda and neighboring markets. Kenya and Uganda are strong trading partners and with the East African union coming soon trade within the union is expected to grow.

Kenya had eleven exhibitors. Among these were KEBS, Del Monte, East African Portland, Premier Foods, Brookside Dairies, Nairobi Hospital, KPA and Pwani Oil Products. Brookside won the best prize in the Kenya Pavilion.

The KEBS role was to support and partner with the Kenya industry at the Fair and showcase the importance of standardization in trade in accordance to the theme of the Fair “continuous improvement a prerequisite to global competitiveness.”

The Trade Fair was ready and raring to go on the first day of the show. The public started streaming in slowly and greatly increased as the days progressed. Many visitors were impressed with the Kenya Pavilion and goods on sale were sold out. At the KEBS stand, the most frequently asked questions were on the role we can play to prevent the influx of counterfeit goods. They are damaging consumer confidence especially in Uganda. These include expired food, drugs, shoes, textiles, and toys among others.

A member of the public voiced concern on skin lighteners which are on sale in the Ugandan market but remain banned in Kenya. A number of visitors wanted contacts in Kenya in order to import some raw materials for their industries and they were directed to the right contacts.

One visitor complained that he had come across some substandard products with a label ‘made in Kenya’ and yet the importer had sourced them directly from China. A Dr. Farouk from Dubai paid a visit to our stand to complain that he had wanted to sell Biros in Kenya but was denied the permit after his samples failed laboratory tests in KEBS.

He wondered why his product failed in Kenya yet it sells in Europe and Asia. A teacher from western Uganda had a wonderful poem on ‘where are the Standards’ and promised to email it so that we can feature it in the Benchmark Magazine.

The overall turnout of the Trade Fair was estimated at 450,000 people. And so the Fair ended on 12th October 2009. As the Kenya Pavilion took their well deserved trophy home.

The Trade Fair was ready and raring to go on the first day of the show. The public started streaming in slowly and greatly increased as the days progressed. Only many visitors were impressed with the Kenya Pavilion and goods on sale were sold out. At the KEBS stand, the most frequently asked questions were on the role we can play to prevent the influx of counterfeit goods. They are damaging consumer confidence especially in Uganda. These include expired food, drugs, shoes, textiles, and toys among others.

One visitor complained that he had come across some substandard products with a label ‘made in Kenya’ and yet the importer had sourced them directly from China. A Dr. Farouk from Dubai paid a visit to our stand to complain that he had wanted to sell Biros in Kenya but was denied the permit after his samples failed laboratory tests in KEBS.

He wondered why his product failed in Kenya yet it sells in Europe and Asia. A teacher from western Uganda had a wonderful poem on ‘where are the Standards’ and promised to email it so that we can feature it in the Benchmark Magazine.
At KEBS, online banking takes shape

An automated system, whose installation commenced two years ago, is paying off handsomely as KEBS moves to align its performance with international standards.

Among the automated services include credit as payment, churn issuance, impress application process, revenue collection and monitoring, fixed assets and procurement processes.

“Only one system, payroll, remains manual, but we hope to have completed that too by April 2010,” said Mr. Kamochi.

One major challenge the department currently faces is internet fluctuations, which is brought about by the fact that the system in place currently cannot accommodate heavy data the department wishes to automate. But Mr. Kamochi stresses that his team is ready to implement and fully embrace new technology.

“As a department, we are headed to a position where a transaction happening in our upcountry offices is transmitted and reaches us almost instantaneously. We will also make sure access of information in those rural areas is made easy,” he said.

After accomplishing full automation of the finance department, next will be to bring in technology that can boost interfacing between various departments, key of them, accounts and finance offices across the country, said Mr. Kamochi.

Through this automation, which has been implemented in phases, the CFO hopes that integrity and transparency will be strengthened at KEBS.

Mr. Kamochi says this can only be achieved when enablers such as science, technology, innovation, law and regulations to create strong linkages with universities for science, technology and innovations. Kenya must attract, train and retain high caliber scientists and engineers to drive the process of industrialization, as well as establish technology service centers to serve as hubs for technology identification, outsourcing, negotiation and technology acquisition.

There is a need to mobilize Kenyans, particularly in the rural areas, to engage in industrial activities and utilize locally available raw material, therefore curbing rural-urban migration.

There is need for further development of incentives and policies to promote subcontracting and increase local content of manufactured products,” said Eng Moturi. “There is also need for capacity building in packaging and bar coding for government ministries and regulatory bodies driven by the ministry of industrialization.”

The manufacturing sector has potential to grow its contribution to Kenya’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current 10 to 30 percent, if proper strategies are implemented.

According to Engineer Charles Moturi, an engineer in the Ministry of Industrialization, with most businesses in Africa trade-oriented, there is an urgent need for change of mindset and inculcation of industrial culture in the society.

“For a long time Kenya has relied on agriculture but with population growth, pressure on land has increased, leading to subdivisions. There is therefore a need for industrialization for employment and wealth creation,” Eng Moturi told the Africa Industrialization Day conference held recently at Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC).

Time has come for Kenya to borrow from newly industrialized nations by prioritizing manufactured products. It would be a way to brand the country, he said. Increased competition from other African countries indicates that there is urgency to hasten the industrialization process. Eng Moturi however says this can only be achieved when enablers such as sciences, technology, innovation, law and regulations, research and development, human resource development, security, finance and market development are incorporated in the industrial process.

Speaking to participants at the industrialization conference, Eng Moturi urged Kenya Industrial Research Institute (KIRDI) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) to assist MSMEs through technology transfer and quality improvement; and raise exports to the East Africa Community (EAC) from 7 to 15 percent by the year 2012. “It is only through transfer of knowledge that R&D (Research and Development) output can be relevant to society,” he said.

Patenting of innovations is critical to commercialization of research findings.

Eng Moturi says in order for Kenya to attract large numbers of investors, a couple of laws and regulations need to be put in place. “Investors look for countries where Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection is effective as a key investment decision. Knowledge based economy is heavily dependent on protection of IPR and the industrialization process should embrace this emerging trend,” he said.

On standards, Eng Moturi urged KEBS to continue engaging Small and Medium Enterprises (SME’s) in order to ensure that their goods meet required standards. He said the spirit of entrepreneurship should be encouraged, and the Jua Kali sector learns to embrace mathematical and scientific operation to add value to their products.

“Packaging and bar coding is the last step to value addition and provides the interface between the product and consumer. It is the link between production, distribution and marketing. Bar coding is necessary for Kenya to be globally integrated and is also key to addressing counterfeit,” said Eng Moturi.

For industrialization to become a continuous process he recommended ministries and state corporates to create strong linkages with universities for science, technology and innovations. Kenya must attract, train and retain high caliber scientists and engineers to drive the process of industrialization, as well as establish technology service centers to serve as hubs for technology identification, outsourcing, negotiation and technology acquisition.

There is a need to mobilize Kenyans, particularly in the rural areas, to engage in industrial activities and utilize locally available raw material, therefore curbing rural-urban migration.

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Engineer Charles Moturi, an engineer from the Ministry of Industrialization during the Africa Industrialization Day conference recently.

Kenya Bureau of Standards

Focus on Standards

Create more industrialization synergies, ministry urged

Well harnessed, industrialization could be the next frontier for Kenya’s development, conference is told
**Industrialization Progress in Kenya**

The establishment of the Ministry of Industrialization analytics on industrialization in the Kenya Vision 2030 as the vehicle for driving the manufacturing sector is seen as an important opportunity, especially considering the emerging focus on value addition activities in the manufacturing sector; the availability of key domestic raw materials for local industries; and the strategic geographical location that makes Kenya a regional hub for investment. The situational analysis recognizes the threats to industrialization in Kenya, including the poor physical infrastructure in the country and the high energy costs. Others include the proliferation of counterfeit and contraband goods, weak corporate governance as well as the unsatisfactory legal and regulatory framework for industrial promotion, and the promotion of MSMEs.

The Ministry has identified various strategies to achieve its mandate which include: capacity building for technology adoption; attraction of local and foreign industrial investments; the promotion of the development of MSMEs as well as research and development, innovation and technology adoption.

The overall goal of the manufacturing sector, as envisaged in the Medium Term Plan (2008-2012), is to increase the sector’s contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by at least 10 per cent per annum. This is to be achieved by pursuing four key objectives, namely: strengthening the production capacity and local content of domestically-manufactured goods; increasing the generation and utilization of Research and Development (R&D) results; raising the share of products in the regional market from 2.5 per cent to 15 per cent; and developing niche products for existing and emerging markets.

The main objective of the Ministry is to map out its strategic direction towards making Kenya an industrialized middle income country by 2030. In line with the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2008-2012, the Ministry intends to implement several flagship projects which include:

1. **The Strategic Plan (2008-2012)**
   - The Ministry of Industrialization recently launched its Strategic Plan. The Plan, to be implemented between 2008 and 2012, marks a major step by the Ministry to map out its strategic direction towards making Kenya an industrialized middle income country by 2030. In line with the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2008-2012, the Ministry intends to implement several flagship projects which include:
     1. Development of industrial and manufacturing zones;
     2. Development Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) industrial parks and Specialized Economic Zone in key urban centres;
     3. Value chain analysis programme. This will be done by undertaking a value chain analysis for the Agro-subsector, Chemicals subsector, Metals and Allied subsector and Mining and Quarrying subsector. Incentives will also be provided to promote linkages in the value chain;
     4. Product and market diversification and development programmes;
     5. Capacity building for technology adoption and standards conformity;
     6. Research development and commercialization programmes. These will be undertaken through improvement of the companies’ capacity and upgrading of technology that will result in the uptake of hides and skins;
     7. Business and technology incubation programmes;
     8. One village one product;
     9. Industrial linkage, subcontracting, outsourcing and franchise development programmes;
     10. Entrepreneurship development, product development, standardization, prototyping and patents development programme;
     11. Placement apprenticeships and internship programmes;
     12. Create an MSME research and development, risk and venture capital fund; and
     13. Create a Business and Technology Incubation Fund.

2. **National Industrial Policy**
   - The Ministry has developed a draft National Industrial Policy for guiding, stimulating and managing industrial activities in Kenya. The National Industrial Policy aims to contribute towards the achievement of the long- and medium-term goals of Vision 2030 by facilitating Kenya’s industrial competitiveness domestically, regionally and internationally. This will be realized through product value addition and diversification; technological advancement and appropriate human capital (through training, research and development, technological transfer and adoption); appropriate incentives; promotion of rural industrialization; optimal utilization of production capacity of existing plants; and protection of intellectual property. The quality standards, environmental management and protection will always be part of the Ministry’s policy agenda for industrial growth to be sustainable.

3. **Master Plan for the Industrial Development**
   - The Ministry, with the help of technical assistance from the Japanese Government and in collaboration with various stakeholders, has completed the formulation of a Master Plan for the Industrial Development in Kenya. The Master Plan identifies several flagship projects whose implementation has already started. These include Promoting graduation of Informal Sectors in Value addition, Rehabilitation of industrial networks, giving access to Industrial Information, Setting up Funding Scheme for Commercialization of Research & Development Activities, One Village One Product Project, Creation of an Integrated Economic Zone in Athi River, and Strengthening collection and disclosure of Industrial Statistics among others.

4. **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Competitiveness Project**
   - The project is being implemented through direct World Bank, as a Public-Private sector partnership. The aim of the project is to increase productivity and employment in participating MSMEs through three components namely: Access to finance, Strengthening Entrepreneurial Skills and Market Linkages, and Improving the Business Environment. The project is implementing the ongoing JITIHADA Business Plan Competition under the management of Kenya Institute of Management (KIM).

Focus on Standards

The Ministry is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the following:

- **Enactment of the Anti-Counterfeit Goods Act 2008**: This Act which had been pending finalization for some time became an Act following its acception by the President Mwai Kibaki at the beginning of this year 2009. The Act proposes the formation of an Anti-Counterfeits Agency in the Ministry of Industrialization. The Ministry is in the process of operationalizing the Anti-Counterfeits Agency with setting up of offices on 23rd floor, Teposta Towers, with officers seconded to initiate the process.

5. **Establishment of Constituency Industrial Development Centers (CIDs) under the Economic Stimulus Programme**
   - The Ministry of Industrialization’s responsibility under the economic stimulus programme is to expand economic opportunities in rural areas for employment creation and Regional Development. The main activity is the construction and equipping of Jua Kali sheds (Constituency Industrial Development Centers) in every Constituency. The estimated cost for construction of the sheds is Kshs 455 million (Kshs 2.5 million per constituency) and another Kshs 210 million (Kshs 1 million per constituency) to equip these sheds with appropriate tools and equipment.

   - The CIDCs will provide facilities to support start up enterprises in various industrial sectors. The centre will also provide business development services (BDS) to the start-up enterprises to ensure their growth. In addition, the project will provide incubation for entrepreneurs using the common manufacturing facilities.

   - The following has so far been achieved:
     - Establishment of a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Secretariat for CIDCs Component.
     - Design of the Master Plan of the CIDCs by the Ministry of Public Works has been completed, approved and submitted to the Ministry of Finance.
     - Secretariat prepared a project document and submitted it to the PSC for approval and onward transmission to the Ministry of Finance.
     - Official launching of the ESIF programme by the President and the Prime Minister at Hola Irrigation Scheme using Food Production Credit Corporation.
     - The Secretariat held a three day retreat and compiled an in-depth project document on project management and sustainability and a list of tools and equipment for the CIDCs.
     - Tender Notice for the construction of 210 CIDCs was published in daily newspapers by the Ministry of Finance.

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Kenya Bureau of Standards

**Eng. Musonik from the Industrialization Ministry toured the KEBS stand and thanked them for the good work of assisting traders accessing the diamond mark of quality as required by law**

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As a fundamental core value, CFSK runs an environmentally friendly operation. We are committed to the efficient, safe and conservative disposal of electronic waste. It is these principles that informed the establishment of the CFSK eWaste Management Centre at Embakasi, in Nairobi. The centre implements the Best Management Practices (BMP) for handling e-waste entailing safe reuse of recoverable electronic equipment and components, recycling through material recovery, management for energy recovery, and finally, disposal of materials that cannot be safely handled locally by re-export to competent partners overseas.

**Goal and Objectives of the CFSK eWaste Management Programme**

The CFSK eWaste Management Programme at this time focuses on safe and environmentally friendly disposal of computer and related hardware. The programme has four fundamental objectives:

1. To work with local, national, regional and international initiatives to divert end-of-life equipment from garbage dumps towards sustainable reuse and recycling to protect public health and the environment.
2. To promote the development and implementation of national policies for reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling of electrical and electronic equipment with a view to reducing the need to create new equipment and thereby contributing to sustainable public health and promote nation at development.
3. To explore and promote opportunities for youth and community entrepreneurship offered by the responsible and conservative management of electronic waste.
4. To raise public awareness on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment

**Our Services**

The CFSK eWaste management processes entails reuse, recycling and re-export. Both metals and plastics derived from decommissioned computers and parts of the same are recycling locally while functional electronic parts and components are reused for CFSK own extensive maintenance and support programmes or availed to local electronics repair shops.

Decommissioned monitors are converted into qualityable use computer sets while parts that cannot be recycled or reused locally (printed circuit boards and unconvertible monitors) are re-shipped overseas to various partners who have the capacity to safely dispose of them.

Our e-waste management process is carried out by competent technical personnel using appropriate tools and protective gear, and ensures that no parts of the computers we handle end up in garbage dumps or landfills, over and above generating employment and micro-business opportunities.

1. **Electronic Waste Dismantling and Sorting:** As part of the de-manufacturing process, our personnel disassemble each machine into its component parts, separating plastics, metals, circuit boards and other components. Once the materials have been sorted and dismantled, we then commence step-by-step:

2. **Cathode Ray Tube Recycling:** CFSK provides an environmentally friendly solution for decommissioned CRT monitors, converting them into quality, affordable, high-resolution TV sets. This is a green alternative to landfill disposal, given the potentially toxic elements in CRTs. Lead, mercury, cadmium and phosphorus are just a few of these elements. Lead has particularly been shown to leach into the soil when disposed of in landfills or garbage dumps, posing a serious threat to public health. The CFSK eWaste Management Centre at Embakasi, in Nairobi is the only centre in Kenya that can safely dispose of CRTs. CRTs are also an active member of the Kenya eWaste Network, which brings together various industry players.

**CFSK also has a Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and NEMA are to work closely to ensure proper management of electronic waste, including the development of a policy, statutory and regulatory framework for the same.**

3. **Integrated Programme: Expected to phase commencing the second phase of Kenya Development Organization (UNIDO) has**

4. **Large-scale e-waste management for manufactures and businesses:** This service is designed specifically for the electronics industry and other large clients. Through this service CFSK will be contracted to collect and manage electronic waste on behalf of these clients in keeping with their custom specifications and established laws and regulations. This will include corporate social responsibility initiatives.

**Partners**

CFSK is working with various partners in this electronic waste management initiative.

We have partnered with FAIR Norway as a take-back partner, with the first 25 tonnes of decommissioned equipment sent to Norway earlier this year which was subsequently resent by a subsequent one followed later on. Similar arrangements with Computer Aid International and Digital Links International, both British organisations are on as going as well as NTS Computer Technologies-Netherlands

**The Benchmark**

The Benchmark is a Green alternative to landfill disposal, given the potentially toxic elements in CRTs. Lead, mercury, cadmium and phosphorus are just a few of these elements. Lead has particularly been shown to leach into the soil when disposed of in landfills or garbage dumps, posing a serious threat to public health and the environment.

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**CFSK also has an active member of the Kenya eWaste Network, which brings together various industry players.**

**Conclusion**

In 2008, the CFSK e-waste management programme received special mention at the 8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention held at the United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters in Nairobi for its innovative and proactive approach to the management of electronic waste.

The then Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources subsequently made a grant to CFSK in recognition of this to enable the organisation develop the programme further. The establishment of the CFSK eWaste Management Centre is a culmination of this. We will remain in the vanguard of this important area, and will continue to work closely with all partners to achieve the best outcome.

T he United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has commenced the second phase of Kenya Integrated Programme, expected to phase out use of expensive energy. The project is looking at transforming Kenyans dependent on Kerosene for home lighting to use Made in Kenya LED lamps, rehanded by renewable energy sources.

This is no longer a dream or wishful thinking, but a reality,” said UNIDO Country Director Mr Varghese. Access to affordable energy is the central determinant of economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. Where there is no energy, there is no development, says Mr Varghese.

The energy sector in most African countries is characterized by lack of access, low purchasing power, low energy efficiency, and over dependence on the traditional biomass for meeting basic energy needs. Whereas the Ministry of Higher Education is advocating education institutions to train in nuclear technology to train in nuclear energy and the government is set to open a nuclear plant by 2017, the UNIDO Director challenged the government to tap into the vast energy resources that go unexploited.

Through UNIDO’s ‘Lighting up Kenya’ programme, he said the organization’s plans are to achieve efficient technology and empower Kenya’s rural populations. Those living far away from electricity grids are helped through local technologies that make use of renewable energy resources, as well as sensitized on applying energy primarily for lighting and productive applications. Renewable energy centers are also established for business promotion. The centers are community managed and powered by renewable energy technologies. Electricity made available in these centers is from renewable sources – either a single source of system or a combination of.

In these centers various activities that promote use of renewable energy for productive applications can be carried out. These include processing activities such as juice processing, grain milling, saw milling, welding, powering of ICT centers and entertainment centers, amongst others.

Speaking at the fourth annual Africa Industrialization Day, Mr Varghese said focus of the second phase of the UNIDO country programme is to support selected industrial subsectors to increase their competitiveness and strengthen Kenya’s connections to global trade and investment. “We will mobilize skills, knowledge, information and technology to promote productive employment, a competitive economy and a sound environment to accomplish its goals of transforming Kenya into a middle income country,” he said.

Industrialization will help Africa increase its share of global output and trade, and become a part of the global economy more fully and meaningfully. Greater integration of regional markets on the continent will also foster industrial development by making it easier to produce at economies of scale.

According to Mr Varghese however, the current global financial crisis has somewhat impacted the integration trend and many African countries continue to witness the danger signs of rising unemployment, while poverty remains high and now the occurrence of social instability from crisis.

The African Industrialization Day is a day set aside by African leaders to take stock, annually of the achievements in sustainable industrial development in the continent. “Africa remains heavily dependent on the production of primary commodities with manufacturing, accounting for a small proportion of the GDP,” said Mr Varghese.

Poor infrastructure and unsupportive macroeconomics environment, he said makes Africa one of the highest cost locations for industrial production. Therefore this situation calls for urgent renewal efforts to foster sustainable industrialization, using manufacturing and related services as dynamic forces.

At the continental level, the African Union has adopted a plan of action expected to achieve desirable structural transformation of Africa’s economy, if effectively implemented. The action plan outlines a clear set of programmes, projects and activities to stimulate a competitive and sustainable industrial development process.
Standards guarantee sustainable business practices

As KEBS develops more service standards, businesses and consumers are key targets, expected to reap the benefits.

A measure to enable smooth business operations, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), led by its Standards Office is always coming up with guidelines for the market players. At the moment, it is drafting standards geared at making multinational companies setting up office in Kenya, more accountable. And at the centre of it is an ISO in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

“The practices represent a continuing commitment by a company to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of its workforce, family members, local community and society at large,” says KEBS Standards Manager Mr Titus Oyoo. Mr Oyoo says the standard will be harnessed through ISO 26000 in order to ensure that communities where these projects get implemented do something for the residents. This is what this standard is all about.”

It is common to see multinationals establishing in Kenya, where they make good profits then leave unceremoniously.

Mr Oyoo says these companies should be compelled to leave among others, the environment clean and culture intact. They should also develop and invest in other facilities like schools, infrastructure and water, among others – meeting certain set standards.

“CSR social accounting has been applied in many parts of the world,” he said “And this way, we will be contributing to national development, at a time when the country is looking at achieving Vision 2030.” Taking responsibility for its impact on society means, in the first instance, that a company accounts for its actions. Social accounting, a concept describing the communication of social and environmental effects of a company’s economic actions to particular interest groups within society, and to society at large, is thus an important element of CSR.

When completed, the CSR accounting will emphasize the notion of corporate accountability. In this sense, Mr Oyoo explains it will basically be about reporting a firm’s activities; which stress the need for the identification of socially relevant behavior, determination of those to whom the company is accountable for its social performance, and development of appropriate measures and reporting techniques.

The standard is just one among others the Standard Office is currently developing; most of which are voluntary rather than mandatory. The department Mr Oyoo said is set to establish over 65 service standards by the end of this year. The demand and need to develop service standards began after the 2002 elections, he says, adding that there is need to develop more service standards.

With the market growing bigger every day, the standard office will be creating and developing guidelines for among others, the hotel industry, education and financial service sectors.

In the education sector for instance, Mr Oyoo says it will be about ensuring that the quality of education offered by both public and private institutions contributes to human development. This need to design education standards has been contributed by rapid growth of the number of schools across the country; he said. The standards will cut across all levels of education including elementary, primary, secondary, vocational and universities.

“We are happy to announce that even the Commission of Higher Education is on the technical committee,” said the Standards Manager. In the financial services sector, the areas to be looked at include insurance, banking and capital markets; and the result is expected to be increased investor confidence. This has been plummeting, brought about by collapsed institutions and malpractices in the sector. Mr Oyoo expresses confidence that there will be no conflicts when developing the guidelines.

The future for service standards is bright. And KEBS has not even gone half way in creating the required spread of standards.

Mr Oyoo says Kenya is trying to catch up with the rest of the world’s joined hands to celebrate the World’s Aid Day, Kenya’s standards regulator was also revealing additional measures to eliminate the deadly scourge from the face of the earth.

Kenya Bureau of Standards announced the introduction of a new male circumcision device known as the ‘Clamp’, currently in test for standards at the institution.

KEBS Service Standards Development Manager Titus Oyoo praised the device ‘effective, safe and fast’. Among the benefits of the device is its lack of adverse effects like shock from bleeding as there is no bleeding involved. Clamp is painless as anaesthesia is introduced, and drastically eliminates infections, including AIDS and HIV.

Mr. Oyoo noted that once approved into the Kenyan market, the device is expected to draw more people to circumcision further entrenching the African culture, as opposed to the traditional ways of the procedure which people shun as they find them gruesome. For patients undergoing the rite, the ‘Clamp’ is taken off after five days and it takes approximately seven to ten days of complete healing with no bandaging involved. Further, he reiterated that there are no accidents of gland amputation when using the device as opposed to other surgical procedures.

At the moment, the ‘Klamp’ is currently in use around Africa in Malaya, Botswana, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

At the same time, KEBS Acting Managing Director, Mr. Joel Kikko reiterated the need to address AIDS and HIV to people, as they are the future to invest in. The KEBS boss said that HIV/AIDS presents a great challenge to KEBS management, which has suffered both social and economic loss due to low productivity for HIV infected/affected and increase in health care costs.

Sub-Saharan Africa carries a huge burden of disease, it is estimated that the continent has more than 2 million deaths annually from AIDS, nearly 2 million deaths from tuberculosis, and roughly 1 million deaths from malaria.

Mr. Kikko speech read on his behalf by his representative, John Abong’ was delivered during the World AIDS Day Celebrations which were coupled with the launch of KEBS HIV/AIDS Workplace policy and Staff End of Year party – the carnival like activity filed event enhanced and brought to life the theme ‘Universal Access & Human Rights’ in commemoration of the World AIDS Day at the KEBS headquarters.

He said KEBS recognizes and supports the commitments made by the Government to respond positively by establishing legislative reforms and policies, which are responsive to the needs of the infected and affected.

During the same ceremony, the KEBS Acting MD demonstrated what it meant to lead by example. Mr. Kikko led KEBS senior management staff at the Liverpool VCT centers at the venue to serve as examples to the rest. Additionally, he also urged staff to embrace KEBS core values and professionalism in all activities to enhance KEBS public perception as a trade facilitator and in the promotion of KEBS corporate brand. He reiterated that they must all aim to eradicate incidences of indiscipline and enhance their integrity.
Standards

...Continuation from page 34.

Where are the standards?

Protected like an endangered species

Accredited by the constitution

Where are the standards?

In decentralized units of energy sector
corruption

Journals of education in institutions of
assessed by the professional auditors

Are they established by public debates

Institutions of education in institutions of
Assessed by the professional auditors

Are they by public debates

Complied by the technocrats

Centered around rare materials

Accounted with financial statements
Where are the standards?

Are they established by public debates

Inspected by the environmentalists

Managed in complex laboratories

Assisted by the professional auditors

Are they hidden with journalistic trade

Journals of education in institutions of
Learning much more procurement business

Presence of the global world

Cultural heritage of royal empires
Where are the standards?

Are they in financial gains invested by

corruption

In decentralized units of energy sector

In fragmented blocks of industrialization

In monopolized micro hidden enterprises
Where are the standards?

Are they in proficient information systems

Rebuilt by the engineering firms

Modified by the research units

Kept in constant testing
Where are the standards?

Are they designed by the forces of nature

Accrued by the constitution

Protected like an endangered species

Memorized like a poem

Where are the standards?

Albert Malekana
Kampala, Uganda

A poem
WHERE ARE THE STANDARDS?

Planted in farmed gardens

moving in the integration of transporters

seeking in the countless turbulence

landed by intellectual property rights

where are the standards?

Are they at the altar spot kicked by the entrepreneur

Stumbled by the technocrats

Centered around rare materials

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Where are the standards?

The Benchmark Issue 6 | 2009

Kenya Bureau of Standards

The Benchmark Issue 6 | 2009

Kenya Bureau of Standards

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

A FOOD STANDARDS


ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STANDARDS


CONFORMATION


TEXILE AND GENERAL CONSUMER ENGINEERING STANDARDS


... Check the next issue for more confirmed standards

Agricultural Engineering Standards

Farming Machines and Equipment


For membership fees contact nqi@kebs.org and we will send you a fee table and application forms.

The following courses are offered by NQI:

1. Training on ISO Management Systems:
   - ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems
   - ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems
   - ISO 14000 Environmental Management Systems
   - OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems
   - Internal Quality Auditor Course (IQA)
   - Internal Food Safety Auditor Course (IFSA)
   - Internal Environmental Auditor Course (IEA)

2. Training on Process Improvement
   - Statistical Process Control
   - Process Mapping and Documentation

3. Training on practical application of product and service standards

4. Continual Professional Development for Members

**NDT 2010 Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Mechanism of completion</th>
<th>Target Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Highlight NDT services in KEBS website</td>
<td>Liaise with ICT dept to incorporate this in website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Contact Potential NDT customers</td>
<td>List compiled with addresses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Newspaper articles in the dailies</td>
<td>Liaise with Marketing dept. on:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>1 Day NDT National Workshop</td>
<td>Sending invitation letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.</td>
<td>Facilitating SAW visit</td>
<td>Requesting IAEA by email through NCST to facilitate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.</td>
<td>NDT level I training</td>
<td>Invite applications for PT, MT, UT and RT as per draft programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.</td>
<td>NDT inspection of samples</td>
<td>Continuous inspection in lab and site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>