

UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN

Report on University of Ilorin's Delegation to Kenya

Introduction The University of Ilorin (Unilorin), a leading academic institution in Nigeria, is renowned for its commitment to excellence in education, research, and international collaboration. With a mission to foster global partnerships, the University's delegation recently embarked on a significant visit to Kenya from December 8 to December 12, 2024. The delegation was led by the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the Director of the Centre for International Education (CIE), Prof. Lateef Onireti Ibraheem; the Director of COMSIT, Prof. Rasheed Jimoh; and the Director of Credits, Prof. Abdul Karim Oloyede. This report highlights the activities, outcomes, and prospects of this landmark visit.

Day 1: Arrival in Kenya: The delegation was warmly received at the airport and accommodated at the Eka Hotel. Mrs. Joan Mbesya, the Chief Executive (CEO) of Tech Mindset Africa, personally visited the delegation at the hotel to welcome them, setting a positive tone for the days ahead.

Day 2: Engagements with Tech Mindset and SchoolTry The delegation held a meeting with Tech Mindset, a Kenya-based organization specializing in artificial intelligence solutions for education and business. Tech Mindset focuses on capacity-building programs, offering training, workshops, and AI-driven solutions to enhance institutional efficiency. In attendance was the SchoolTry teams, an educational technology company which has presence in Sweden, Nigeria and Kenya dedicated to simplifying school operations through digital tools. SchoolTry's platform supports school management, e-learning, and collaboration between institutions. During this session which was held in Tech Mindset office:

- Mrs. Joan Mbesya introduced Tech Mindset's initiatives, emphasizing ongoing AI-driven training programs for Unilorin's students and staff, which was commended by the Vice-Chancellor.
- The CEO of SchoolTry provided insights into their educational solutions.
- The Vice-Chancellor of Unilorin outlined the university's strategic goals, particularly in leveraging AI to enhance academic and operational efficiency.

The meeting culminated in a decision to expand collaboration under the existing memorandum of understanding, focusing on AI applications. The Vice-Chancellor also extended an invitation to the CEOs of Tech Mindset and SchoolTry to serve as lead paper presenters at the upcoming

Visit to Tech Mindset Africa, Nairobi Kenya

AWAU Conference in Senegal, scheduled for February 2025. The invitation was accepted in principle.

For the ongoing training of the Unilorin students on AI to be successful, the Vice chancellor promised to sponsor 500 students. The Director of COMSIT was mandated to compile the list of interested students and the first 500 to registered should be sponsored by the University.



Visit to Craft Silicon

At Craft Silicon's office, the Group CEO, Mr. Kamal Budhabatti, explained that Craft Silicon is a global software solutions provider headquartered in Kenya. The institution specializes in innovative software for various industries, including education, finance, and healthcare. The CEO showcased their innovative software solutions. The discussed potential collaborative areas, include:

1. **Capacity Building:** Training programs for staff and students.
2. **Internships:** Opportunities for students to gain industry experience.
3. **Knowledge Exchange:** Sharing insights and innovations.
4. **Sabbatical Placements:** Facilitating professional growth for staff.

A letter of intent formalising the collaboration was sent to Mr. Budhabatti. He expressed his intention to visit Unilorin to advance the partnership.





VC in the resting Cubicle at the Craft Silicon office

Day 3: Visit to Konza City and Daystar University The delegation visited Konza City, Africa's "smartest city," where they were welcomed by CEO Mr. John Paul Okwiri. Discussions centered on fostering technological collaborations between Unilorin, Tech Mindset, and SchoolTry. The MoU to drive this collaboration was signed between Tech Mindset and Konza City.



After the signing of MoU at Konza City



Picture With CEO KONZA Mr. John Paul Okwiri.

Subsequently, the team proceeded to Daystar University in Nairobi, where they were received by Prof. Samuel M. Muriithi, Director of Academic Affairs, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor., joined by Dr Zipporah Mwololo, the HoD of Computer Science. Agreements were reached on:

- Staff and student exchanges.
- Joint research and publication initiatives.
- Collaborative postgraduate supervision.
- AI capacity building in partnership with Tech Mindset and SchoolTry.



VC and the VC of Daystar University



VC UNILORIN presenting a gift to VC Daystar



Joint MOU signed with Daystar University in the picture, the VC, UNILORIN, Acting VC, Daystar University, CEO Tech Mindset and CEO SchoolTry AB

Day 4: Engagement with Management University of Africa (MUA) The delegation met with MUA's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Washington Okeyo. Discussions led to agreements on:

- Reciprocal staff and student exchange and mobility.
- Sabbatical placements and research collaborations.
- Joint conference organization.

Additionally, MUA and Unilorin committed to joining each other's university consortium, strengthening ties between the institutions. Collaborations with Tech Mindset and SchoolTry were also explored, particularly in artificial intelligence and IT. Three of the faculty members of the University have agreed to become visiting lecturer to Unilorin.



VC presenting a gift to VC MUA



Visit to the Management University of Africa with a warm welcome by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Washington Okeyo

Visitation to ATU: A visitation was also made to the Secretary General African Telecommunications Union John OMO and the visit was a fruitful one.



Prof. Egbewole with Secretary General ATU, **John OMO**

Closing Activities The delegation concluded the visit with a lunch meeting hosted by Tech Mindset Chairman at the Muthaiga Country Club, providing an informal platform to consolidate partnerships and celebrate the week's achievements.

Conclusion This visit marked a significant milestone in Unilorin's drive for internationalization. The outcomes, including strengthened partnerships and new collaborative initiatives, are set to enhance the university's global reputation and provide invaluable opportunities for staff and students. With promising collaborations in AI, education, and technology, Unilorin is poised to make substantial contributions to innovation and sustainable development.

Prof. L.O. Ibraheem