

OUT Shines at HESLB's 20th Anniversary Exhibition

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) proudly participated in the 20th Anniversary Exhibition of the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB), held from February 10–16, 2025, at Biafra Grounds.



OUT seized the opportunity to engage with prospective students, offering detailed information on its admission procedures and showcasing its diverse academic programs—from Certificate to Ph.D. levels. The university emphasized its flexible distance and online learning model, ideal for learners balancing studies with work or family commitments.

Attendees also received guidance on student loan schemes and scholarship opportunities, including the Samia Scholarship, the HEET Scholarship for female STEM Foundation Program students, and the Teacher Scholarship Program (TSP), which provides a 50% tuition fee waiver.

The exhibition welcomed several dignitaries, including Kinondoni District Commissioner Hon. Saad Mtambule, who applauded HESLB's role in expanding access to higher education. OUT's participation underscored its dedication to inclusive, accessible, and high-quality education. 92 the university has so far produced 49,668 graduates.

Visitors at OUT Booth: Various guests visit the Open University of Tanzania exhibition booth during the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB), held at Biafra Grounds from February 10 to 16, 2025.

OUT Receives Boost for Inclusive Education

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has received a significant donation of assistive teaching and learning equipment from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to support learners and educators with special needs.

The handover ceremony was held on February 26, 2025, at OUT Headquarters in Kinondoni. Prof. Leonard Fweja, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Regional Services

and Assistive Technology, expressed gratitude for the TZS 80 million donation, which included Perkins Braille machines, projectors, desktop computers, UTP cables, Mikrotik routers, and more. "Each student will now have their own device, enhancing both access and learning outcomes," said Prof. Fweja.

Dr. Catherine Mkude, Director of the Institute of Educational Man-

agement and Technologies, emphasized the importance of proper care to ensure the longevity of the equipment.

Dr. Lilian Mutalemwa, Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Unit, reiterated the university's commitment to inclusive learning, while visually impaired teacher Faraja Jerry Mwansasu praised the initiative as a transformative step forward.

Newsflash Magazine Makes A Triumphant Comeback

OUT's official monthly magazine, Newsflash, has returned! After a hiatus since February 2023, the Communication and Marketing Unit has revived the publication to strengthen internal and external communication.

Dr. Adam Namamba, Head of the Unit, stated that the magazine will cover key updates, events, and success stories. "Newsflash is essential for engaging our stakeholders. We look forward to producing monthly editions," he said.

Communications Coordinator Mr. Yusuph Nandonde encouraged staff from all regional centers to contribute, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the university.

The relaunch marks a new era in OUT's communication strategy.



Female staff from the Open University of Tanzania Headquarters in a pose for a photo before heading out to participate in the International Women's Day commemorations on March 8, 2025, in Dar es Salaam region.

OUT Celebrates International Women's Day

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) proudly joined the nation in celebrating International Women's Day on March 8, 2025, under the powerful theme: "Girls and Women 2025: Strengthening Equality, Rights, and Empowerment."

Women from OUT took part in events across the country, highlighting the university's ongoing support for national policies aimed at uplifting women and girls both academically and economically.

Dr. Betty Mntambo, OUT's Gender Coordinator and Head of the Gender Desk, emphasized the importance of honoring the resilience and achievements of women and girls.

"We reaffirm our commitment to promoting equality, dignity, and empowerment for all," she said. "Let us build a society where every woman and girl thrives free from discrimination."

OUT extend heartfelt wishes to all women in celebration of International Women's Day 2025!

OUT Arusha Celebrates 43rd Graduation in Style

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Arusha Regional Center has extended its congratulations to its graduates who participated in the 43rd graduation ceremony held in Kigoma.

The event took place on February 1, 2025 at OUT Arusha regional centre and was officiated by Longido

District Commissioner Hon. Salim Kali, who encouraged graduates to apply their knowledge ethically and contribute to national development. He also urged TARURA to improve road access to OUT's new site in Materves ward.

Dr. Nangware Msofe, Director of the Arusha Center, urged gradu-

ates to be outstanding ambassadors of OUT and reaffirmed the university's commitment to quality education.

The ceremony also honored retiring librarian Ms. Shufaa popularly known as "Mama Mushi", recognizing her 24 years of dedicated service.

OUT, Norway Strengthens Partnership for Children with Special Needs

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has renewed its commitment to working with Norwegian universities to improve the lives of children with special needs.

Speaking at a welcome ceremony in Dar es Salaam for visiting Norwegian students and lecturers, Dr. Dunlop Ochieng, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, emphasized OUT's dedication to the collaboration.

The Norwegian team will spend three months gaining practical experience in Tanzanian schools.

The project, known as Norwic, is now in its second phase (2025–2027) after a successful initial run (2022–2024). The first phase focused on Uhuru Mchanganyiko Primary School; the new phase adds Sinza Maalum School, expanding its reach.

Dr. Mariana Makuu, Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Welfare, announced that ten Norwegian participants are on the ground to support local efforts in inclusive education.

Assistant Lecturer Alexander Ndibalema addressed the social and legal challenges facing people with disabilities in Tanzania, he



A cross-section of a delegation of students and teachers from Norway visited Tanzania under the Norwich Project during a special reception hosted by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) on January 20, 2025, at the university's headquarters in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

noted that societal perceptions of disability vary, with some viewing it negatively as a burden or even as a curse, while others take a more positive and inclusive approach.

Professor Karen Reimers from Norway highlighted her country's strong legal protections for children's rights. "In Norway, children's rights are legally safeguard-

ed to guarantee access to essential services, including quality education in an inclusive and supportive environment," she stated.

The Norwic Project includes four institutions: HVL and Molde University (Norway), and OUT and Pantandi College (Tanzania). It aims to promote quality, inclusive education in line with international conventions.

OUT, Zou Strengthen Ties Through Benchmarking Visit

On February 26, 2025, the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) hosted a delegation from the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) to explore collaborative opportunities and share insights on innovations in higher education. The visit aimed to foster stronger academic partnerships between the two institutions and enhance their contributions to regional education development.

Prof. Leonard Fweja, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Learning Technologies and Regional Services at OUT, highlighted the significance of such collaborations, pointing out

the potential benefits of micro-credentials and joint academic programs. These initiatives are expected to bolster the institutions' educational offerings and align them with the growing demands of the global workforce.

During the visit, ZOU's seven-member delegation, led by Prof. Nyakatawa, shared Zimbabwe's experience in transitioning from a traditional two-semester academic system to a modularized learning approach under the country's Education 5.0 initiative. This new model emphasizes practical learning and aims to produce gradu-

ates who can drive industrialization and commercialization.

In return, ZOU sought to learn from OUT's examination-on-demand system, trimester management structure, and admissions framework, which have been instrumental in OUT's growth and success.

Both universities expressed a strong desire to engage in a long-term partnership, focusing on knowledge exchange, research collaboration, and curriculum development that incorporates industrialization and innovation.



Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, presents a gift to a guest from the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) during their visit to OUT on February 26, 2025. The visit aimed to benchmark various aspects based on blended mode and Open and distance learning.



The Regional Commissioner of Dodoma, Hon. Rose Senyamule, joins the Management of the Open University of Tanzania during the official opening of the 11th General Workers' Council Meeting, held on March 21, 2025, in Dodoma City.

OUT 11th General Workers' Council Meeting Held in Dodoma

The 11th General Workers' Council meeting of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) was convened in Dodoma on March 21, 2025, bringing together university leadership and staff to discuss key institutional matters.

The main focus of the meeting was to increase student enrollment, improve revenue generation, and enhance overall service delivery at OUT.

Hon. Rosemary S. Senyamule, the Dodoma Regional Commissioner, officiated the opening session and encouraged members to deliberate on improving efficiency within the university. She commended OUT for its strategic expansion of examination centers, particularly the new center in Mpwapwa, which brings educational services closer to more Tanzanians, particularly those in remote areas.

In addition to these operational goals, the

meeting also addressed ways to enhance staff capacity and the use of ICT to keep up with technological advancements in higher education. Prof. Elifas Bisanda, Vice Chancellor of OUT, emphasized the university's agreement with the Higher Education Institutions Trade Union (THTU), which will allow for biannual online General Workers' Council meetings via Zoom. This move is expected to enhance communication and decision-making, making it easier for staff members to engage in crucial institutional discussions.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Alex Makulilo, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research, and Consultancy, urged staff to continue professional development efforts and to explore innovative ways to boost revenue while reducing operational costs. This will allow OUT to further its contribution to national development, particularly in sectors like agriculture, where research and community engagement are essential.



Group Photo: Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, poses for a group photo with organisers and participants during the opening of a three-day training session for Student Counsellors and Gender Desk representatives. The training was held from March 24 to 26, 2025, at the OUT Dodoma Regional Centre.

Confidentiality and Professionalism Emphasized for OUT Student Counsellors

The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Tozo Bisanda, stressed the critical importance of confidentiality and professionalism in student counselling services during the opening of a three-day training session at the OUT Dodoma Regional Centre.

The training, held from March 24 to March 26, 2025, was aimed at equipping Student Counsellors and Gender Desk representatives with the skills needed to provide effective and confidential support to students facing various personal challenges.

Prof. Bisanda highlighted the diverse issues students encounter, such as loneliness, financial hardships, excessive technology use, and experiences of sexual abuse. He emphasized that counselors must maintain confidentiality and uphold high ethical standards to foster trust and provide practical guidance.

Dr. Betty Mntambo, OUT's Gender Unit Coordinator, noted that the training would enhance reporting systems and support mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence, while Dr. Wambuka Rangi, HIV/AIDS and Non-Communicable Diseases Unit Coordinator, underscored the role of the unit in raising awareness and offering support for HIV and mental health issues.

The training program was organized collaboratively by the Gender Unit, the HIV/AIDS and Non-Communicable Diseases Unit, and the Directorate of Student Services.

It brought together counsellors from regional centers and the university's headquarters, ensuring that they were well prepared to provide professional, confidential, and transformative support to students, thereby improving the overall student experience and academic environment at OUT.

OUT Vows to Promote Gender Equality and Respect Across Campuses

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting gender equality and building an inclusive, respectful environment across all campuses. Vice Chancellor Prof. Elifas Bisanda made the remarks during a gender training workshop for office assistants held on March 13, 2025, at the university's headquarters in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

Prof. Bisanda emphasized the importance of eliminating discrimination and fostering teamwork among staff of all genders and ranks. He also urged Suma JKT security personnel to uphold gender sensitivity during gate checks by ensuring the presence of both male and female guards.

"The aim is to eliminate discrimination and ensure everyone feels valued and works together to advance our nation," he said, crediting improvements in gender relations efforts made by Gender Desks and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

Dr. Betty Mntambo, Gender Unit Coordinator at OUT, highlighted the vital role

office assistants and security staff play in maintaining a safe and respectful campus atmosphere. She stressed that gender-based violence undermines institutional unity and reputation, making awareness and prevention essential.

"You are vital to this community, and we value your role in promoting gender equality. Gender-based violence is a serious issue that can damage an institution's image and disrupt unity," she noted.

Inspector Mudathir Kato Makora, from the Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone's Gender and Children Desk, defined gender-based violence as any act intended to harm a person emotionally, physically, mentally, or psychologically, regardless of gender or status. He urged participants to avoid or report such incidents.

Flora Issa, a supervisor from the university's cleaning company Kishengweni, said the workshop underscored their responsibility in maintaining OUT as a safe space and called for similar trainings to be held regularly.



OUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Elifas Bisanda in a group photo with Coordinator and Head of the Gender Unit at OUT, Dr. Betty Mntambo, and Inspector Mudathir Kato Makora from the Gender and Children's Desk of the Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police, together with Office Assistants during the launch of a gender training workshop held on March 13, 2025, at OUT Headquarters in Kinondoni.

OUT, Bielefeld University Signs MoU to Boost Academic Collaboration

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Germany's Bielefeld University, marking a significant step toward strengthening research collaboration and academic exchange.

The signing ceremony took place on March 20, 2025, at OUT's headquarters in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, and was attended by senior officials, faculty members, and invited guests from both universities.

Speaking at the event, OUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Elifas Bisanda emphasized the importance of academic leadership in ensuring the quality of teaching and research. He commended Prof. Dr. Tobias

Hecker of Bielefeld University for his contributions to psychological research, particularly in the areas of domestic violence, parenting, and children's mental health.

Prof. Bisanda also acknowledged the role of department heads in implementing academic programs and praised their commitment to educational excellence.

Prof. Hecker shared insights from his work on the psychological effects of teacher violence on students, stressing the need for transparent and well-structured research teams. He outlined strategies for successful academic collaboration, including the involvement of PhD students, research assistants, and data analysts,

aimed at producing impactful and reliable research outcomes.

OUT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics, Research, and Consultancy, Prof. Alex Makulilo, hailed the agreement as a key milestone in OUT's internationalization efforts.

His sentiments were echoed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Regional Services and Learning Technologies, Prof. Fweja, who reaffirmed OUT's commitment to implementing the MoU effectively.

The partnership is expected to pave the way for joint research projects, staff exchange programs, and the sharing of academic resources between the two universities.



OUT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, and Prof. Dr. Tobias Hecker of Bielefeld University from Germany, exchange signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), marking a significant milestone in enhancing research collaboration and academic exchange. The ceremony took place on March 20, 2025, at OUT Headquarters in Kinondoni.

Dr. Mabagala, Mkonyi Elected to Lead OUT Workers' Council

The 11th General Workers' Council Meeting of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), held on March 21, 2025, in Dodoma City, culminated in the election of new council leaders following the end of tenure for the outgoing officials.

The election process, which saw several names proposed for leadership positions, ultimately resulted in the selection of Dr. Daphina Mabagala, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Psychology and Special Education and Mr. Abdillah Abdulrahamani Mkonyi, Senior ICT Officer from the Directorate of Teaching, Learning and Examination Services as the new leaders. They take over from Mr. Innocent Messo, former Council Secretary, and Ms. Luly Bulili, former Assistant Secretary, who successfully completed two terms of service totaling six years.

Announcing the results, the Chairperson of the Council and Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Eli-fas Bisanda, declared that Dr. Mabagala had secured the role of Council Secretary with a majority of 60 votes. Mr. Mkonyi was elected as Assistant Secretary with 46 votes.

With their election, Dr. Mabagala and Mr. Mkonyi will lead the General Workers' Council for a three-year term starting from the 2025/2026 academic year.

The university management and staff extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the new leaders as they embark on their responsibilities.



Dr. Daphina Mabagala



Mr. Abdillah Abdulrahamani Mkonyi