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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

March Edition Newsletter – 2025

Most welcome to all our readers!

For this month of March, UNILAK has been vibrant with exciting activities and milestones. We proudly participated in the 13th Academia Public-Private Partnership Forum held in Kigali, an event organized by the Inter-University Council for East Africa, where we engaged with key stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and innovation.

In addition, UNILAK had the honor of hosting international delegates at our Agribusiness Innovation & Incubation Hub, showcasing our commitment to driving agribusiness growth and entrepreneurial spirit. March also marked the official launch of professional courses in CPA, ACCA, CIPS, and PMP, delivered in collaboration with Luthien & Cornerstone Advisory Ltd.

These programs will empower our students and professionals with critical skills to excel in their careers. Our faculty continued to grow in expertise with specialized training: GIS lecturers were equipped with advanced skills in ArcGIS Pro to enhance teaching and research capacities, while faculty members at the Rwamagana Campus received empowerment in Research Proposal Writing.

Students also benefited from insightful sessions, the Red Cross offered valuable empowerment programs, and ILPD provided law students with important perspectives on Legal Practice Programs.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories from UNILAK.

Warm regards,
The Communications Team





UNILAK Shines at the 13th Academia Public-Private Partnership Forum in Kigali

UNILAK proudly took part in the 13th Academia Public-Private Partnership Forum (APPPF) 2025, held in Kigali, Rwanda, and organized by the Inter-University Council for East Africa. The prestigious annual forum brings together academia, industry, and policy makers to foster collaboration for innovation and sustainable development across the region.

Representing the university with pride and excellence, UNILAK students showcased their innovations, skills, and academic projects at the university stand. Visitors were impressed by their creativity and practical knowledge, clear reflections of the quality education and mentorship offered by the institution's dedicated faculty.

"This forum was a perfect opportunity to highlight how education at UNILAK is equipping students with the tools to solve real-world problems," said a university spokesperson. "Our students were excited to engage with industry leaders, gain insights, and share their work on a continental stage."

The university also expressed deep appreciation to the Inter-University Council for East Africa for organizing the event and to all the visitors who engaged with their team, offering valuable feedback and encouragement.

UNILAK remains committed to building stronger linkages between academia and industry and contributing to regional innovation and development.





UNILAK hosts International Delegates at Agribusiness Innovation & Incubation Hub

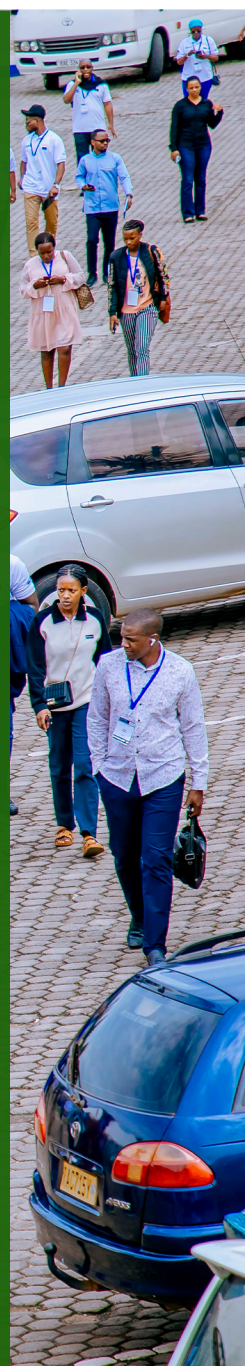
Today, UNILAK had the distinct honor of welcoming a delegation of international visitors to its Agribusiness Innovation & Incubation Hub (AIIH). The visit, sponsored by the AIRTEA Project, underscored the university's commitment to fostering inclusive rural transformation in Eastern Africa.

The AIIH serves as a catalyst for agricultural innovation, equipping students and entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and resources to drive sustainable agribusiness solutions.

During the visit, Dr. Mupenzi Christophe, the focal person for the AIRTEA Project, delivered an insightful presentation detailing the Hub's key achievements and long-term sustainability strategies beyond the project's completion.

Dr. Mupenzi highlighted the Hub's contributions to rural development, emphasizing its role in supporting smallholder farmers, advancing climate-smart agricultural practices, and enhancing value addition in agribusiness. He also outlined plans for maintaining the Hub's impact through strategic partnerships, capacity-building initiatives, and community engagement efforts.

The delegates expressed their appreciation for UNILAK's dedication to agricultural innovation and regional development. UNILAK remains steadfast in its mission to bridge the gap between academic research and practical agribusiness solutions. The visit reinforced the university's position as a leader in agricultural innovation, setting the stage for continued growth and impact in the years to come.



UNILAK officially launched professional courses in CPA, ACCA, CIPS, and PMP

UNILAK, in collaboration with Luthien & Cornerstone Advisory Ltd, has officially launched professional certification programs in CPA, ACCA, CIPS, and PMP.

The launch follows the recent signing of a partnership contract between the two institutions aimed at enhancing the professional readiness of UNILAK students. The event, held at UNILAK Kigali campus, was hosted in partnership with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Rwanda (ICPAR).

It drew an impressive turnout of students, particularly from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, many of whom expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity to begin their professional journey while still in university.

Dr. Christine Umumararungu, Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of UNILAK, praised the initiative as a game-changer for students.

“We are proud to be among the universities offering such a broad range of professional courses under one roof.

This reflects our dedication to academic excellence and career empowerment,” She said.

The professional courses will be offered on-campus, providing students with flexible study options that allow them to balance their university curriculum and professional training.

The training institute will take the lead in delivering these programs, drawing on its extensive experience in preparing students for international certifications.

The partnership aims not only to boost students’ employability but also to position UNILAK as a hub for professional excellence in the region.





UNILAK Signs MoU with Avenay Val d'Or to Foster Cultural Exchange and Internship Opportunities

UNILAK has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the French commune of Avenay Val d'Or, represented by its Mayor, Mr. Philippe Maussire.

The agreement, formalized during a visit by the French delegation, aims to promote cultural exchange programs for students and staff, facilitate internship placements, and create academic links with European universities.

The collaboration will also enhance UNILAK existing partnerships, notably strengthening its ties with UNILAK Rwanda, which has been instrumental in cultivating international relations across academic institutions.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, UNILAK officials hailed the agreement as a vital step toward internationalization.



"This MoU not only provides our students and staff with opportunities to experience new cultures and professional environments, but also opens doors to European academic networks," said Prof Jean Ngamiye, the Vice Chancellor of UNILAK.

Mayor Philippe Maussire expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, noting that it reflects a shared commitment to global understanding and educational advancement.

"We are proud to partner with UNILAK and contribute to developing pathways for international learning and cooperation," he said.

The agreement marks another milestone in UNILAK ongoing efforts to provide a globally relevant education and promote cross-cultural understanding through strategic international partnerships.



Rwamagana Campus Faculty empowered with Research Proposal Writing Skills

In a significant step towards strengthening academic research, lecturers from UNILAK Rwamagana Campus participated in a one-day research proposal writing training held on March 7.

The session was led by Prof. Dr. Gabriele Schafer, a distinguished academic known for her expertise in research methodologies and proposal development.

The workshop aimed to equip faculty members with essential skills to conceptualize, structure, and write competitive research proposals. Participants engaged in interactive sessions that covered key components of proposal writing, including problem identification, literature review, research design, and budgeting.

Speaking after the session, several lecturers expressed their appreciation for the training, noting that it had deepened their understanding of the proposal development process and inspired them to pursue more impactful research projects.

Prof. Dr. Gabriele emphasized the importance of strong proposals in securing research funding and advancing academic careers.

"Research is the backbone of any academic institution. A well-written proposal is the first step towards creating knowledge that can drive development," she noted.

The training is part of ongoing efforts by the university to build research capacity across its campuses and foster a vibrant culture of inquiry and innovation among staff.





Prof. Dr. Gabriele Schafer

Expert in research methodologies and proposal development.

Ministry of Justice Engages UNILAK Law Students On Integrity and Anti-Corruption

On February 13, 2025, delegates from the Ministry of Justice visited UNILAK for a dynamic engagement with students from the Faculty of Law.

The session centered on promoting integrity and strengthening the fight against corruption, fostering meaningful dialogue between government officials and future legal professionals.

The interactive forum was held at the university's main campus, bringing together law students, faculty members, and key officials from the Ministry. Discussions focused on the critical role that integrity plays within the justice system and the broader implications of corruption on governance, economic development, and public trust.

The Ministry's delegation emphasized the importance of instilling a strong ethical foundation in aspiring legal practitioners, noting that the fight against corruption begins with individual commitment to honesty and accountability.

Through real-life case studies and an open Q&A session, students had the opportunity to explore the legal, social, and personal dimensions of corruption and reflect on their responsibilities as future defenders of justice.

Speaking at the event, a representative from the Ministry noted, "We believe that empowering young legal minds with the right values and tools is a strategic step toward building a more just and transparent society.

This engagement is part of our wider effort to partner with academic institutions in shaping ethical leaders."

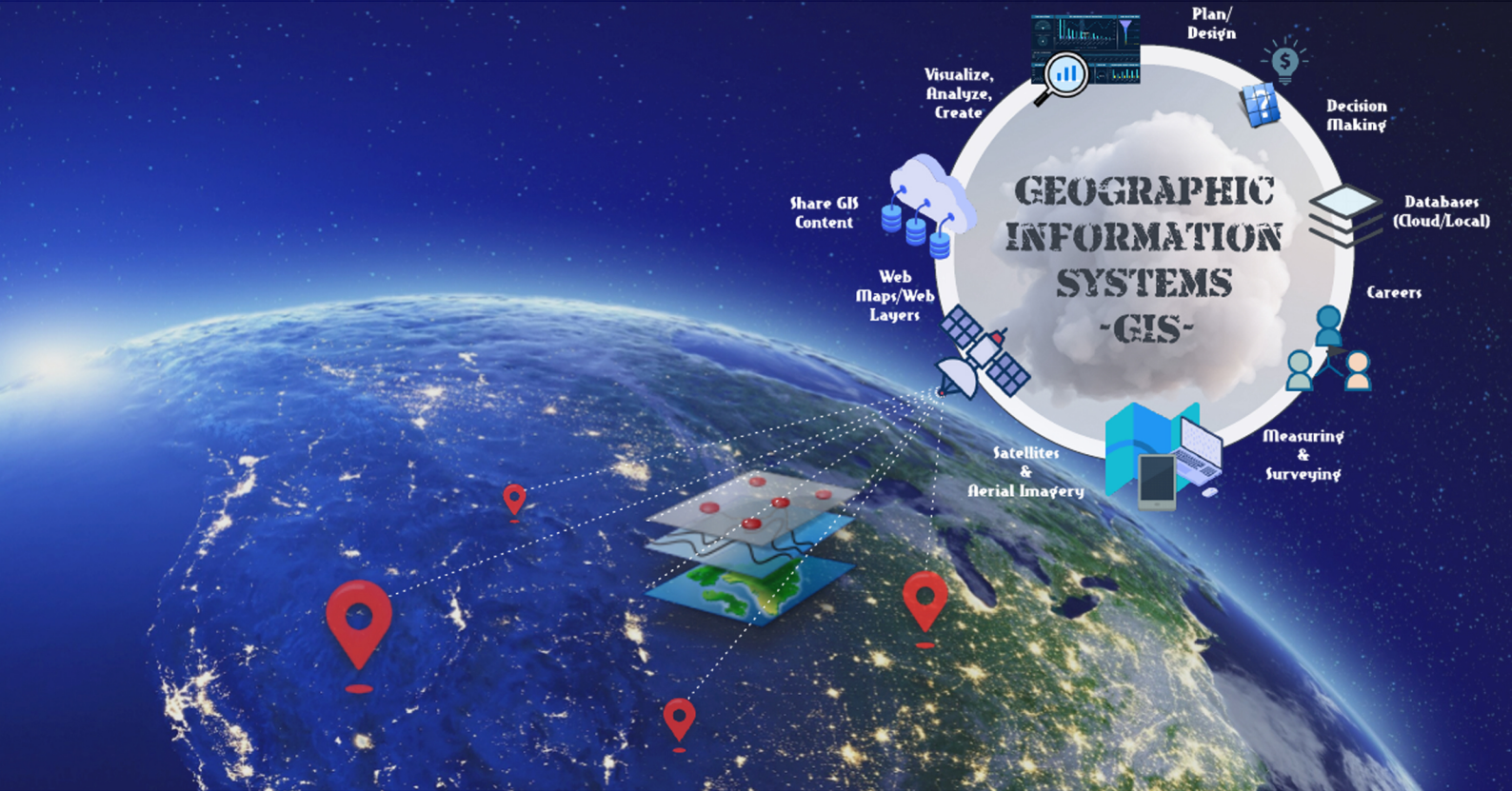
The Dean of the Faculty of Law at UNILAK welcomed the collaboration, applauding the Ministry's initiative to engage directly with students.

"This dialogue reinforces what we teach in class — that law is not just about rules and procedures, but about justice, integrity, and service to society," the Dean remarked.

Students described the session as enlightening and motivating, with many expressing renewed commitment to uphold the values of integrity and justice in their future careers.

This visit marks a significant step in ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between legal education and public service, ensuring that tomorrow's legal professionals are not only knowledgeable but principled and ready to lead the charge against corruption.





UNILAK GIS Lecturers Trained on ArcGIS Pro to Boost Teaching and Research Capacity

Lecturers teaching GIS-related courses at UNILAK have completed an intensive two-day training on ArcGIS Pro, a leading platform in geographic information systems (GIS).

The training, held in collaboration with Esri Rwanda Ltd, aimed to enhance the participants' practical skills in geospatial analysis, enabling them to deliver more effective instruction and undertake impactful research.

Facilitated by experts from Esri Rwanda, the session introduced participants to the latest tools and functionalities of ArcGIS Pro, including spatial data visualization, advanced mapping techniques, and analysis for real-world applications.

“This training is a significant step toward strengthening our faculty's capacity in geospatial technologies,” said Dr. Enan Nyesheja, Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information Sciences. “It will directly benefit our students and boost the university's contributions to research and data-driven decision-making.”

The initiative is part of UNILAK broader strategy to integrate cutting-edge digital tools in academic delivery and aligns with national and global trends in smart data utilization for development planning, environmental management, and urban governance.

The university expressed appreciation to Esri Rwanda Ltd. for the valuable partnership and pledged continued investment in faculty development to





Red Cross Club Members at UNILAK Complete 3-Days First Aid Training

Members of the Red Cross Club at UNILAK have successfully concluded a comprehensive three-day training on first aid skills, conducted by the Rwanda Red Cross. The training, which took place at the university's main campus, aimed to equip students with practical knowledge and techniques to respond effectively to emergencies.

Throughout the training sessions, students learned vital first aid procedures such as CPR, wound care, treating burns, and handling fractures, among other life-saving interventions. The hands-on approach used by the Rwanda Red Cross facilitators ensured that participants not only understood the theory behind first aid but also gained the confidence to apply their skills in real-life situations.

Students from UNILAK expressed gratitude to the Rwanda Red Cross for their commitment to youth empowerment and health promotion. "This training has given the confidence and competence to step up during emergencies. We are now more prepared to serve both the campus and the wider community."

University officials commended the initiative, noting that such collaborations align with UNILAK commitment to holistic student development and community engagement.



ILPD sensitizes UNILAK Law Students on Legal Practice Programs

Today, the management of the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD) engaged with students from the Faculty of Law at UNILAK in an informative session aimed at raising awareness about the various programs offered by the institute.

The event served as a crucial platform to guide aspiring legal professionals on the mandatory steps required to enter the legal profession.

ILPD, a vital institution in the country's legal education landscape, offers specialized training to law graduates, equipping them with the practical skills necessary to become legal practitioners.

Completion of ILPD programs is a compulsory requirement for all law graduates seeking to qualify for legal practice.

The sensitization session was conducted in two parts. The daytime session was led by Dr. Yves Sezirahiga, the Vice Rector in charge of academics at ILPD,

who provided students with an in-depth understanding of the institute's programs, curriculum, and career prospects available upon completion.

He emphasized the importance of practical legal training in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and professional practice.

The evening session is set to be conducted by Dr. Aime Muyombano, the Rector of ILPD, who will further elaborate on the institute's role in shaping competent legal practitioners and address any questions from students regarding enrollment and expectations.

Students actively participated in the discussions, seeking clarity on application procedures, coursework, and career pathways post-certification.

The event underscored the significance of ILPD in preparing future lawyers and ensuring high professional standards in the legal field.

With such initiatives, ILPD continues to reinforce its commitment to legal education and professional excellence, ensuring that law graduates are well-prepared for the demands of the legal profession.



Dr. Yves Sezirahiga

The Vice Rector in charge of academics at ILPD