



## Vice Chancellors New Year Remarks

Dear Budding Innovators,

Happy New Year!

I trust that you and your families had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year's break. We thank God that no incident was reported affecting any of us during the break, and the Campus was also safe and sound.

With all the reforms taking place in the higher education space, this will be a year in which we will be expected to do things very differently. A lot of innovation and diversification will be required.

At a meeting held on 19th October 2017, the University Senate redefined our **Core Purpose** as a University as **"Empowering Lives; Impacting Communities"**. The Core Purpose is the fundamental reason for which Riara University exists, and it will remain true even when Vision, environment-of-operation, Management teams, etc change. It for now replaces the long-worded Mission Statement that we have been using. Arising out of this, the Vision and Core Values may also be reviewed with the guidance of the University Council and the Directors. All our efforts must therefore be geared towards our Core Purpose and I therefore urge all to internalize it at the individual level and align Departmental activities towards achieving it. The word *Lives* in the Core Purpose refers to both internal and external individuals including students, staff, parents, etc; while the word *Communities* refers to business communities (corporates), professional communities, partners & collaborators, society in general, etc.

Let us remember our core values of *Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence, Innovation, and Leadership by Example* at all times.

Welcome back to Campus and may the New Year bestow on you and your dear families abundant blessings of peace, love, health, increase and total fulfillment.

# A Mark of Excellence

Riara University was ranked the third institution in uptake of the KENET Community Cloud-based Enterprise Service for year 2016/2017.

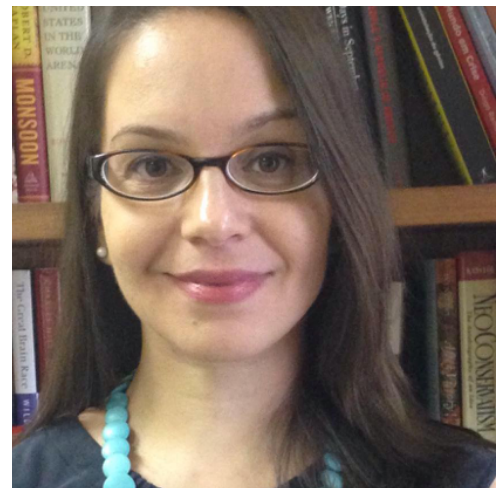
Kenya Education Network, (KENET), is the National Research and Education Network (NREN) of Kenya. KENET is licensed by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) as a not-for-profit operator serving the education and research institutions. In addition to Internet, they also provide shared services such as; co-location of servers, dedicated Virtual servers for e-learning systems, video and web conferencing, and capacity building for technical staff. KENET is also the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the academic community.

As part of the organizations wider business continuity plan, KENET and ICT department designed a Disaster Recovery (DR) solution that allows the organization to maintain or quickly resume mission-critical functions following a disaster. Examples of disaster include but are not limited to fire, theft/vandalism, loss or corruption of critical application (s), cyber attack, environmental hazards e.g flooding, power problems etc.



## 'Innovative Approaches in Conflict Prevention: Lessons from Colombia'

As part of RU's internationalization agenda and in the spirit of supporting this agenda, the department of International Relations and Diplomacy (IRD) students had a public lecture by a visiting scholar from Rio de Janeiro Brazil on Tuesday, 9th January 2018. The visiting scholar, Dr. Adriana Erthal Abdenur gave a public lecture on 'Innovative approaches in Conflict Prevention: Lessons from Colombia'.



Dr. Adriana Abdenur, PhD

Dr. Adriana Erthal Abdenur (PhD Princeton), coordinates conflict prevention and resolution initiatives within the Peace and Security Division of Igarapé Institute, a 'think and do tank' based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her work focuses on security in Latin America and Africa, as well as rising powers and South-South cooperation. She is the co-editor, with Thomas G. Weiss, of the book *Emerging Powers and the United Nations* (Routledge 2016) and has published articles in journals such as *Global Governance*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, *Africa Review*, and *Third World Quarterly*. She is a former Fulbright Research Scholar and fellow of the India China Institute and is a current Productivity Scholar through the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq).



Dr. Adriana E Abdenur, PhD engages faculty and students in her visit to RU's department of International Relations



*Josiah Wamwere, (Left), Mwimali Ongaro, (2nd Left) and Mary Wambui (Far Right) pose for a photo with officials of the competition*

## Riara Law School makes a mark in Mediation & Negotiation In Goa, India

Between 10th to the 13th of January 2018, three students, Mwimali Ongaro, Mary Wambui and Josiah Wamwere, students of RLS were in Goa, India, representing RLS at the Lex Infinitum International Dispute Resolution Competition. It was very exciting competing against some of the best 24 best universities across the world including the University of Kent (the overall winner of the competition), National University of Singapore, Jagiellonian University (Poland) just to name but a few. We are the first African team to win an award at the competition since its inception in 2015.

The three were competitively selected to participate in the competition after submitting an essay on 'Alternate Dispute Resolution' in July of 2017. The competition was divided into two categories i.e Mediator Rounds (where RLS was represented by Josiah) and Negotiator Rounds (where RLS was represented by Mwimali and Wambui).

In the mediator rounds, Josiah reached the Semifinals and was ranked as the 3rd best Mediator in the



*A group photo of the participants during the Lex Infinitum International Dispute resolution competition in Goa, India.*

competition. In the negotiator rounds, while Mwimali and Wambui did not make it into the semis, their outstanding performance was acknowledged by most of the judges in the competition who praised them for their resilience and fortitude during their rounds.

The team scooped two of the eight Awards on offer, with Josiah getting a special award for the best mediator in the Preliminary Rounds and was also awarded the "Upcoming Mediator" of the Competition Award.

Besides all the hardwork that went in, the students had fun! And Goa was an amazing experience for them. We hope more students from the school get to participate in next year's edition of the Lex.

# 2017 Nairobi Robotics & STEM Bootcamp

Riara University hosted the 2017 Nairobi Robotics & STEM Bootcamp from December 11th to 16th in 2017. Students from 5 to 17 years old worked in teams based on their ages. They learned the basics of engineering mechanics, electrical wiring, mechanical trouble-shooting, programming, and collaboration skills. Afterwards, they applied these skills to making their own robot cars.

Moreover, students developed problem solving skills, which are critical for 21st century success.

On the last day of bootcamp, the students competed in a race competition with the robot cars they made. Every team did their best in coding their car to move fastly.

They truly did an amazing job!

This was a culmination from a Memorandum of Understanding signed (MOU) between Riara University and EMCAST on November 29, 2017. This collaboration will boost and enhance Information and Communications Technology (ICT) education to children and young adults in Kenya.



# Welcome to the Riara Community

We most specially welcome the new students who have joined us this semester during our January intake. It is our belief that you have made the right decision by choosing us and you will fulfill your career aspirations with us.

Welcome to RU!



# Staff Publications

- **Dr. Francis Onditi**, HOD Department of International Relations & Diplomacy

**“Emerging ‘Positive Masculinity’ in DRC Congo: An Indication of African Renaissance or Symptoms of Covert Gender Inequalities?”**

Book Title: **“Decolonising Knowledge for Africa’s Perspectives and Philosophies.”** edited by Vuyisile Msila.

# Upcoming Events



Aspiring

Innovator

Intervarsity

Competition

Leverage path finding solutions.



Riara University, Mbagathi Way | 22nd Feb - 23rd Feb 2018

Sign up Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/OljkKB4WgfEed6A3>



## The Holocaust

was a turning point in history, which prompted the world to say **"Never Again"**

The significance of resolution A/RES/60/7 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly is that it calls for the remembrance of past crimes with an eye towards preventing them in the future.

**“ It would be a dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis. On the contrary, the Holocaust was the culmination of millennia of hatred and discrimination targeting the Jews – what we now call anti-Semitism. ”**

*UN Secretary-General António Guterres*

Join us in Marking the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

**DATE: 24TH JANUARY, 2018 | VENUE: RIARA UNIVERSITY, ROOM G15 | TIME: 10:00A.M- 12:30 P.M.**  
**Kindly be seated by 09:45a.m.**



# LANGUAGE LEARNING

Open up new opportunities!

Grab your opportunity NOW and learn any of the following languages being offered at RU:

1. Arabic
2. French
3. Chinese
4. Sign Language

What will I gain?

1. A subsidized fee
2. Twice a week class for 11/2 hour each session

Register now for the January 2018 Intake and come enjoy learning a new tongue!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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