



ROYAL
ACADEMY OF
ENGINEERING

Higher Education Partnerships in sub-Saharan
Africa (HEP SSA) programme

Bridging the skills gap in Kenya through Industry-Academia Secondments



"The secondment gave me the opportunity to establish contacts for further engagements and conversations. There is now vibrant exchange of ideas and consultations on matters of mutual interest."

Dominic Samoita, Moi University, Kenya



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In 2013, Kenya's economic growth was reportedly at risk due to a shortage of qualified engineers. As of 2017, Kenya had 2,100 certified engineers registered through the Engineering Board of Kenya, well short of the minimum 6,000 engineers needed to service its growing population of 45 million.

Following a report highlighting this issue, [Engineers for Africa](#), published in 2012, the [Royal Academy of Engineering](#) created the [Higher Education Partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa \(HEP SSA\)](#) programme to strengthen university engineering education in sub-Saharan Africa. The programme aims to strengthen links with local industry, update engineering curricula and expose academia to industry through secondments and workshops with the overarching aim of creating industry-ready graduates.

The HEP SSA programme funded Moi University as a hub university to undertake bilateral secondments with local industries. The secondments helped embed industrial teaching methods and skills into the engineering curricula at the university. Moi University completed 10 academic secondments to industry between 2016 and 2018. Engineer Dominic Samoita, Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Communications Engineering completed a one-month secondment to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company Ltd in 2017.

During the secondment, Samoita shadowed the company's engineers as they repaired and maintained Kenya's electrical grid. This helped Samoita to gain valuable insight into the needs of industry and how Moi university must adapt its curricula to adequately prepare its students for a career in engineering. The secondment exposed Samoita to new technology and potential future collaborations, as he helped to identify cost-saving measures for the company, and potential research projects for his students and colleagues.

The HEP SSA programme has funded 15 hub universities since the programme's inception in 2013 and provides resources to strengthen industry and academia collaboration across sub-Saharan Africa.

For more information, visit the website:
www.raeng.org.uk/hepssa