

NATIONAL STUDENTS CONGRESS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
BUNGOMA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
9-11 JUNE 2011

This year's National Congress on Science and Technology held in Bungoma Boys High School in Western Province marked the 49th edition since its inception in 1962. It brought together 768 student participants, science teachers, Ministry of Education officials, judges and visitors from diverse backgrounds of the eight (8) provinces of Kenya.

The theme "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development" was articulately chosen in line with Kenya's vision 2030 whose bedrock is Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I). It was noted that Kenyan youth have a great potential that remains untapped. While they account for about 60% of the active labor force, their majority are still unemployed. With 800,000 young people entering the job market every year, generation of jobs remains a challenge. Schools and colleges therefore need to release graduates who are job creators rather than job seekers to address the menace of youth unemployment.

The Western Provincial Director of Education, Mr K. Misoi noted that Science Congress is a co-curricular activity that plays a key role in stimulating student creativity and innovativeness, thus nurturing critical thinking which develops talent and shapes career. Mr Said while representing the Consortium for National Health Resources challenged the Ministry of Education to tailor the curriculum in a manner that will change the mindset of the learners and address issues that affect the society. This is because sustainable innovations will enable conservation of the environment and preservation of the resources for today and tomorrow.

The National Congress was officially launched by Professor Shaukat Abdulrazak, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST). He reiterated that science learning should raise the students' understanding of global challenges such as climate change, water, energy, health, limited resources, and equip them with solutions to address these challenges. The culture of innovation and thinking should therefore be inculcated among our youth from the youngest age possible right from primary school.

He also said that changing the approach to education by integrating the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into the system is paramount. Talent in science and technology should therefore be nurtured in forums such as science congresses; these will offer opportunities for future development in ST&I which can lead to great innovations being translated into products, processes and services that the country requires for economic recovery. He promised that the NCST will look into the modalities of organizing regional science congress which will see the participation of schools in the East African block.

During the closing ceremony, Dr Esubius Mukhwana, the Managing Director of Sacred Heart Africa said that having seen the display of the best innovations in each category of subject areas in Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Computer, Home Science, Mathematics, Physics and Technical exhibits, he was quite impressed by the level of students' creativity and innovativeness. He noted there was a lot of talent in students and that the educationists should come up with policies to harness the technologies.

The Congress was sponsored majorly by HACO Industries although other donors such as SCLP Samaj School, book publishing companies, SEPU, KIE and PACN also gave awards to the winning schools and students. PACN's consistency in supporting Chemistry was particularly recognized by the Executive Secretary National Students' Congress on Science and Technology Mr Simon Mururi. Trophies and cash prize awards to the winning schools in positions 1-3 in both chemistry talk and exhibit were given as indicated in the table below.

No	Category	Name	School	Title
1.	Exhibit	1. Harisson Juma 2. Agnes Akinyi	Riruta Secondary School	Making a Simple Air Thermometer
2.	Exhibit	1. Eunice Nafula 2. Rowlay Awino	Nyakhobi Secondary School	Alternative Fuel
3.	Exhibit	1. Isaac Lomunel 2. Ali Imael	Katilu Boys High	Fuel Crisis
1.	Talk	1. Walter Rapela 2. Jean Mitalo	Friends School Kamusinga	Etrichonobic System
2.	Talk	1. Hassan Tasneem 2. Wilfred Otieno	Aga Khan High, Mombasa	Manufacture of Ammonia
3	Talk	1. Payal J. Patel 2. Anindya Gosh	Oshwal Academy	Aerogel