kenic
KENYA NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER

TOP STORY: The 2024 Kenya Internet Summit & .KE Awards A Successful Gathering

As we celebrate the resounding success of the **2024 Kenya Internet Summit & .KE Awards,** it is time to reflect on the key moments and lasting impact of this remarkable event. Held under the *theme **Bridging the Digital Divide & Unleashing the Power of Partnerships***, this two-day summit brought together a vibrant community of stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, internet enthusiasts, industry leaders, and government officials. The discussions centered around the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age. The Kenya Internet Summit provided invaluable knowledge, resources, and networking opportunities, allowing participants to actively contribute to the growth and development of the internet in Kenya.

We were privileged to host esteemed speakers who shared powerful insights on the future of Kenya's digital landscape. **Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS, the Special Envoy on Technology for the Republic of Kenya,** emphasized the importance of trust and collaboration in bridging the digital divide. He stated, *"I think trust is a big deal. You only build trust by doing things together, not alone."* Similarly, **Ms. Mercy Wanjau, MBS, Secretary to the Cabinet,** highlighted Kenya's immense potential in the domain hosting industry, reminding us of the importance of raising the bar. *"We have the necessary infrastructure, capabilities, and skills right here in our country. It's time to raise the bar and set our sights on becoming one of the best countries in this field,"* she said, stressing the role of strategic partnerships in achieving this vision.

The summit featured 35 speakers, eight sponsors and exhibitors, 324 in-person participants, and over 1,000 virtual attendees who joined via Zoom and our social media platforms. The success of this event reaffirms the importance of our ongoing partnership with you in showcasing the technological advancements of the .KE domain name. Together, we will continue to bridge the digital divide, elevate Kenya's internet ecosystem, and unleash the power of collaboration to shape a brighter digital future.

Dear Members & Partners

We welcome you to our 3rd quarter of 2024 newsletter!
You'll find that it is filled with educational information, helpful hints and tips, events, and news.

Your privacy is important to us!
We want you to know that we will not sell, rent, trade, lease, or give your contact info to anyone.
We may use your personal information to send you newsletters, marketing materials, and other information that may be of interest to you.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you'll enjoy reading this newsletter.

KENIC NEWS: Celebrating the Adoption of the Global Digital Compact (GDC)

We are excited to share a significant milestone in global Internet governance. As a proud member of the Technical Community Coalition for Multistakeholderism (TCCM), KeNIC celebrates the adoption of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) by consensus. This crucial step brings us closer to building a more inclusive, open, secure, and sustainable digital future for everyone.

The Internet remains the core infrastructure enabling digital technology, and the GDC acknowledges the importance of keeping it open, global, interoperable, and secure for all. KeNIC, alongside fellow TCCM signatories: *Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AFTLD), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), .au Domain Administration (auDA), Blacknight, Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), DENIC eG, DNS Africa Ltd, DotAsia Organisation, GoDaddy , IE Domain Registry CLG (trading as .ie), InternetNZ (.nz), Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC), Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS), Network Information Center Costa Rica (NIC CR), Nominet UK, Norid, Stichting Internet Domeinregistratie Nederland (SIDN), Tucows and ZA Registry Consortium (ZARC)*, welcomes the GDC's recognition of multistakeholder Internet governance.

It is essential that those involved in the Internet's operations have equal footing in the discussions shaping its future.

The GDC also reaffirms the role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as the leading platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration on Internet governance. We commend the GDC's commitment to supporting the IGF, particularly through efforts to enhance participation from developing nations like Kenya.

KeNIC remains dedicated to engaging with the global Internet community and supporting multistakeholder processes. Together with governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and our technical community peers, we will continue working towards a secure, open, and interconnected Internet that benefits all.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Member States and stakeholders involved in making the Global Digital Compact a reality, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration as we approach World Summit on the Information Society 20-year (WSIS+20)

Stay connected for more updates on this exciting journey!

KENIC NEWS: Winners of the 8th Annual .KE Registrars Awards Announced

NEW REGISTRAR OF THE YEAR 2023	WINNER: **HOSTRAHA LIMITED** 1ST RUNNER UP: **GEO CLOUD AFRICA** 2ND RUNNER UP: **QUICK HOST**
HIGHEST .KE DOMAIN GROWTH 2023 VS 2022	WINNER: **DEEPAFRICA CO LIMITED** 1ST RUNNER UP: **TRUE HOSTCLOUD LIMITED** 2ND RUNNER UP: **HOST PINNACLE KENYA LIMITED**
CUSTOMER RETENTION	WINNER: **TRUEHOST CLOUD LIMITED** 1ST RUNNER UP: **KENYA WEBSITE EXPERTS** 2ND RUNNER UP: **HOSTAFRICA EAC**
DOMAIN REGISTRATIONS	WINNER: **TRUEHOST CLOUD LIMITED** 1ST RUNNER UP: **GLOBAL INTERNET FORTUNES LIMITED** 2ND RUNNER UP: **KENYA WEBSITE EXPERTS**
REGIONAL REGISTRAR AWARDS 2023	WINNER: **HOSTNALI WEBHOST LIMITED** 1ST RUNNER UP: **GAMMA SOLUTIONS** 2ND RUNNER UP: **ECOBIZ LIMITED**
REGISTRAR OF THE YEAR 2023	WINNER: **TRUEHOST CLOUD LIMITED**

ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

1. Real Talk Session at Pearl Hearts Schools

July 3rd 2024: We had a fantastic Real Talk session at Pearl Hearts Schools, engaging with students aged 6-14 about Internet safety! During this lively session, we explored both the positive and negative aspects of the online world and shared essential tips on how to navigate it safely.

The students were full of curious questions, making the discussion even more interactive and enjoyable. We emphasized the importance of:

- **Protecting personal information**
- **Avoiding cyberbullying**
- **Being cautious of online scams**

Additionally, we introduced the concept of a digital footprint and explained how their online actions can have long-term consequences.

Thank you to **Pearl Hearts Schools`** for hosting us, and to all the enthusiastic students for their participation!

2. KeNIC Hosts Data Protection Training for .KE Registrars

July 17th 2024: In collaboration with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), we were pleased to host a Data Protection Training for our registrars at The African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI). This training was held for 4 days, from 15th to 18th, 2024.

The training was designed to equip our registrars with essential knowledge for handling sensitive and personal data responsibly, ensuring compliance with the 2019 Data Protection Act. This initiative underscored our commitment to securing registrant information and upholding data protection standards.

We were excited about this opportunity to enhance our registrars' expertise in data protection!

3. KeNIC Hosts African ccTLD Registries

July 19th 2024: KeNIC welcomed representatives from nine ccTLD registries for a one-day learning visit, including Angola (.ao), Benin (.bj), Burundi (.bi), Comoros (.km), The Gambia (.gm), Madagascar (.mg), Niger (.ne), Togo (.tg), and Zimbabwe (.zw).

The visit aimed to accelerate growth, exchange valuable knowledge, and empower all participants within the DNS ecosystem to contribute to local and regional digital transformation.

The workshop is part of the broader Coalition for Digital Africa (CDA) Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) capacity development program, which aims to enhance the ability of African ccTLDs to better manage their registries and further contribute to the growth of their local digital economies.

4. KeNIC Holds its 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM)

July 22nd 2024: KeNIC held its 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together key stakeholders, including representatives from Kenya Education Network (KENET), the Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK), the Information and Communication Technology Authority (ICTA), and the Domain Registrars Association of Kenya (DRAKE).

The AGM provided an important platform for discussing the future of the Kenyan domain name space, ensuring continued growth of the Internet, and celebrating our collective achievements. **A highlight of the meeting was the release of KeNIC's 2024 - 2026 Strategic Plan, outlining our vision for the future.**
Read more and learn about our 2024 - 2026 Strategic Plan on our website **http://www.kenic.or.ke**

5. KeNIC Hosts Airtel Kenya's Enterprise Director for Collaborative Discussions

July 30th 2024: We were delighted to host Mr. Joseph Wanjohi, Enterprise Director at Airtel Kenya, at our KeNIC offices.

During the courtesy call with our Chief Evangelist, Mr. Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, they explored innovative ways to enhance Kenya's digital ecosystem through collaboration. Andrew also highlighted their mutual commitment to mentoring and coaching the next generation of leaders as they prepare to transition into new roles.

Here's to strengthening industry ties and paving the way for future collaborations!

6. KeNIC CEO Participates at the 2024 Kenya Internet Governance Forum

August 1st 2024: KeNIC's CEO participated in the Kenya Internet Governance Forum hosted by KICTANet.
During a panel session themed *"Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Development and Sustainability",* our Chief Evangelist, Mr. Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, shared a compelling perspective:

"Public digital infrastructure requires accessibility, efficiency, and security to function optimally. However, its true value lies in the trust built and inspired among its users. Any breach of that trust undermines its utility."

KeNIC remains committed to fostering a secure and trustworthy digital environment as a foundation for Kenya's economic development and sustainability.

7. KeNIC CEO participates at the 2024 Digitally Fit Awards

August 8th 2024: KeNIC CEO was honored to be a guest at the "Digitally Fit Awards" hosted by the Oracom Group, celebrating individuals, businesses, and brands making an impact online. During the event, the CEO shared the stage with esteemed figures such as Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, Charlene Ruto, Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu, and others. Reflecting on the accolades and the concept of being "digitally fit," he pondered if we, as a nation, are truly digitally fit. Drawing a comparison to physical fitness, he defined digital fitness as an individual's ability to navigate, use, and adapt to digital technologies effectively, encompassing skills like cybersecurity, information management, communication, adaptability, and digital literacy. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in the ever-evolving digital landscape, urging everyone to reflect on their own digital fitness and the nation's readiness for a digital future
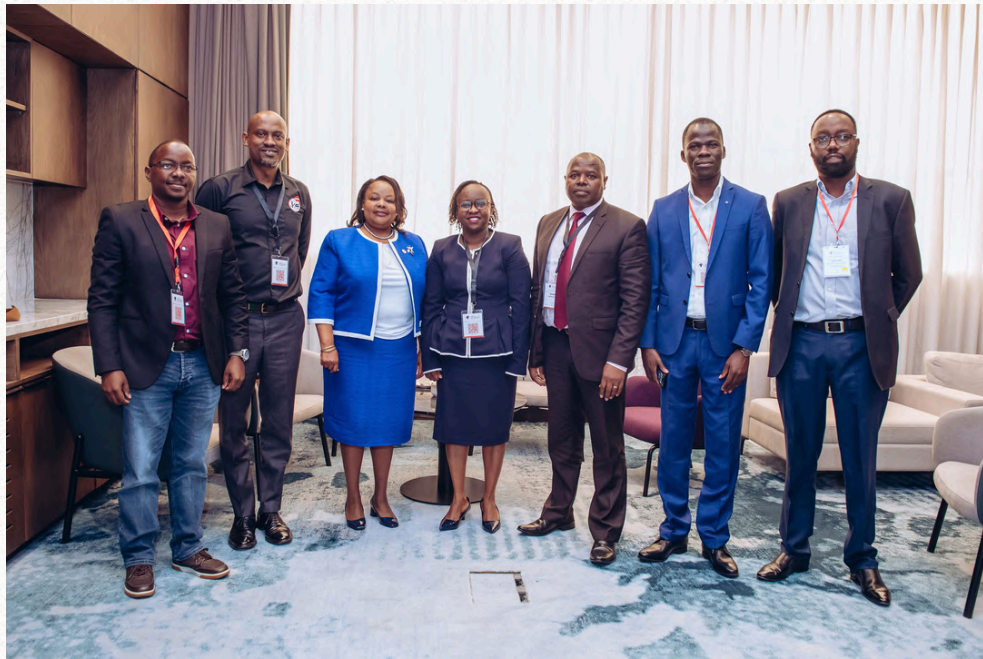
8. KeNIC Hosts Secretary to the Cabinet at the Kenya Internet Summit and .KE Awards 2024

August 14th 2024: KeNIC had the honor of hosting Mercy W. MBS, Secretary to the Cabinet of the Republic of Kenya, at the inaugural Kenya Internet Summit and .KE Awards 2024. Reflecting on her background in the ICT sector and her current role, she remarked: *"I have witnessed the transformative power of technology firsthand. Kenya currently boasts 108,000 domains, which is a good start, but it's time to aim higher and strive for excellence. We have the infrastructure, capabilities, and skills right here in our country.t's time to raise the bar and set our sights on becoming one of the best in the field.*

Strategic partnerships will be key in achieving this goal. Let's work together to push the boundaries and reach new heights in the domain hosting industry."

Her powerful words underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing Kenya's digital economy and reinforced the vision of continued growth and innovation within the .KE domain space.

Secretary to the Cabinet, Mercy Wanjau with KENIC Chairman & Board Members and Industry leaders during a short break at the Kenya Internet Summit

9. KeNIC Hosts Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS, Special Envoy for Technology, Republic of Kenya at the Kenya Internet Summit + .KE Awards

August 15th 2024: KeNIC had the honor of hosting Ambassador Philip Thigo, Special Envoy for Technology, Republic of Kenya, at the Kenya Internet Summit + .KE Awards. The event, themed "Bridging the Digital Divide and Unleashing the Power of Partnership", emphasized the critical role of partnerships and inclusivity in shaping Kenya's digital future

In his closing his keynote address, Ambassador Thigo shared an inspiring message:

"It was a pleasure to offer the closing keynote at the Kenya Internet Summit hosted by KeNIC TLD. The summit emphasized the importance of partnerships and inclusivity, showing how technology can be a powerful tool for addressing global challenges and advancing Kenya's tech diplomacy for the benefit of humanity."

He also stressed the need for emerging technologies, such as AI, to move beyond the hype and be designed, developed, and deployed to create a safe, secure, inclusive, and trustworthy digital future. Ambassador Thigo highlighted that these benefits must be accessible to all, including persons with disabilities.

We are grateful for his powerful insights and look forward to continuing the conversation on driving meaningful digital transformation in Kenya.

Amb. Philip Thigo engaging with KENIC Chairman and Board Members during a short break at the Kenya Internet Summit

10. KeNIC Hosts Benchmarking Meeting with South Sudan's National Communication Authority (NCA)

August 29th 2024: KeNIC CEO and Chief Evangelist for .KE, Mr. Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, had the pleasure of hosting a benchmarking meeting with Mr. Ruben Semmy Moses, Consulting Director for Gateway Services and Data Centers Management at the National Communication Authority (NCA) - South Sudan, and Mr. Kuir Garang Bul, Domain Manager for .SS at NCA - South Sudan.

During the meeting, they exchanged valuable insights on domain management and data centers, while exploring potential avenues for future collaboration.

This meeting marked an important step in strengthening ties between Kenya and South Sudan, as we work together to build a more connected digital future for East Africa

11. KeNIC and ICT Authority Sign MoU to Enhance .KE Domains and ICT Standards

September 4th 2024: We are excited to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICT Authority and KeNIC.

In a landmark engagement, KeNIC and ICTA outlined their shared commitment to:
- Strengthen .KE domain standards: Implement best practices and guidelines for .KE domain registration and management.
- Enhance digital literacy: Promote digital skills and awareness among citizens, especially in government agencies.
- Foster collaboration: Work together to address strategic issues in the digital transformation journey.

Speaking at the ceremony, Stanley Kamanguya, CEO of the ICT Authority, emphasized the importance of building a digital culture: *"This MOU will help us skill, re-skill, and upskill our citizens so they can fully participate in the digital economy while understanding the opportunities and risks of the online world."*

Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, KeNIC Chief Evangelist & CEO, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership: *"This collaboration aligns with our vision of maximizing the value of the internet for all Kenyans. By working together, we can create a more inclusive and digitally empowered society."*

The MOU is initially signed for a three-year period and will focus on key areas such as:
- Digital governance: Addressing issues related to online governance and cybersecurity.
- Digital skills development: Providing training and resources to enhance digital literacy.
- Public awareness: Increasing visibility and understanding of the .KE domain and its benefits

This strategic partnership between KeNIC and ICTA marks a significant step towards realizing Kenya's digital ambitions and ensuring a more connected and prosperous nation.

12. KeNIC Team Participates in the Nairobi City Marathon 2024

September 8th 2024: KeNIC was very ably represented at the Nairobi City Marathon by Doreen Khamala, Juliet Maina, Fiona Ongeso, Beth Njau, and Maureen Fedha.

Our team had the unique experience of running on the elevated Nairobi Expressway course, alongside some of the best marathon runners in the world, right here in Kenya—the cradle of award winning marathon feats

We are proud to announce that they earned their medals for completing the race!

Congratulations to our KENIC team for the remarkable achievement!

13. KeNIC Team Visits iXAfrica Data Centres

September 17th 2024: KeNIC team made an official visit to the iXAfrica Data Centres located along Mombasa Road.

We were given a comprehensive tour of their impressive facility and gained insight into why iXAfrica prides itself as East Africa's first and largest Hyperscale, Carrier-Neutral, AI-ready Data Centre. The facility features world-class infrastructure, offering redundancy, reliability, an impressive 99.999% uptime, and robust safety measures.

Following the tour, we had a productive meeting with iXAfrica's CEO, Snehar Shah CFA (Hiring), where discussions focused on KeNIC's Vision of "Bringing Back .KE Hosting" and exploring future collaborations.

14. KeNIC Engages State Department of Diaspora Affairs on Internationalizing .KE Domains

September 19th 2024: KeNIC, led by our CEO Andrew Mwanyota Lewela, held a productive meeting with the State Department of Diaspora Affairs, represented by Amb. Ann Wanjohi, Director of Liaison and Partnerships. The discussion focused on the internationalization of .KE domains and strategies to increase adoption among the Kenyan diaspora.

This collaboration is part of KeNIC's ongoing efforts to expand the reach of the .KE domain and strengthen connections with Kenyans living abroad.

KENIC INTERNAL REWARD AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

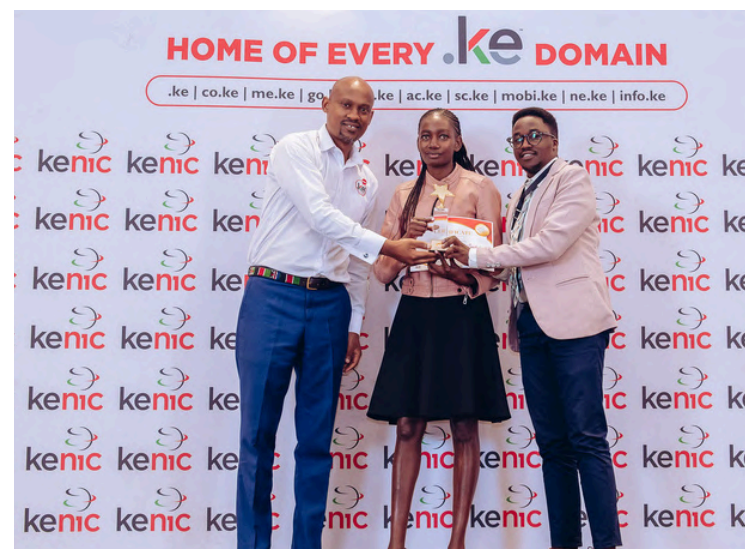25th July 2024: **Congratulations to the outstanding KeNIC team members who won the awards for practicing the company's core value of Q2: Excellence-First**
Top Image: (L-R) - Fiona Ongeso - People & Administration Manager, Robert Mwanzia - System Administrator and Graca Auma - Former Marketing and Communications Intern.
Bottom Image (L-R): Hildah Maina - Finance & Strategy Manager, Brian Mochangera - Assistant Accountant and June Ogana - Business Development Intern. **They received their Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation from the KeNIC CEO, Andrew Mwanyota Lewela.**

KENIC CEO'S PICTORIAL AT KENYA INTERNET SUMMIT

PROUDLY

Kenya Network Information Centre (KeNIC)
CAK Centre along Waiyaki Way, Opposite Kianda School

ADMIN SUPPORT: **admin@kenic.or.ke / Info@kenic.or.ke**
MARKETING SUPPORT: **marketing@kenic.or.ke**
CUSTOMER CARE SUPPORT: **customer@kenic.or.ke**
FINANCE SUPPORT: **billing@kenic.or.ke**
TECHNICAL SUPPORT: **support@kenic.or.ke**

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