

The Government of Canada to Support Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST)

Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training (KBEST) is a 7-year, \$25 million project funded by Global Affairs Canada to support the Government of Kenya in achieving its goals for an enhanced Blue Economy. It is implemented by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICAN) in partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Education, through the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training and the State Department for Post-Training and Skills Development, in collaboration with other key Ministries and government agencies, the private sector and civil society. The state Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries is among the collaborating MDAs.

The project focus will be on building skills in Kenya's youth workforce in fields and subsectors of the blue economy, employment creation, environmental sustainability and poverty reduction using the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) approach currently being rolled out in Kenyan Technical and Vocational Training Institutions (TVETs).

The program will work with three national institutions as cluster leads/hubs with 20 county level vocational training centers (VTCs). It will engage the private sector to identify skills gaps, develop occupational standards and curricula, improve training facilities and provide internships and attachments. The program will be implemented in 8 counties; four counties in Coast region (Mombasa, Kwale, Lamu and Kilifi) and four counties at Lake Victoria region (Kisumu, Siaya, Busia and Homabay).

The project was launched during the Blue Economy roundtable on 24th November, 2022 at Sarova Panafric hotel, Nairobi. In attendance was the High Commissioner for Canada in Kenya, CEO-Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, officers from the Directorate of Blue Economy Development, State Department for Maritime and Shipping, Kenya shipyards Ltd, State Department for TVET amongst others.



The High Commissioner for Canada in Kenya addressing the participants



The Representative of the PS, State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries giving the opening Remarks



Cutting of the cake to mark the launch of the project