

## **Stakeholders Validation Workshop: Skills Needs Assessment for Safer Digital and Green Transitions in the Energy & Maritime Sectors**

Energy and maritime sectors hold the key to resilient and sustainable economic development in East Africa. These sectors are undergoing transitions driven by technological change, increasing digitalization and climate actions. While these transitions present significant opportunities for sustainable development, they also introduce complex operational and safety challenges that demand highly skilled and adaptable engineering workforce. Again, these changes are occurring alongside expanding infrastructure investments further amplifying the need for robust technical capacity.

A stakeholders' workshop was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), under the Partnership for Learning and Skills to Advance Safer Engineering in East Africa (PLEASE) project, focused on validating the findings of the Skills Needs Assessment and informing the development of bespoke trainings for the engineering workforce. PLEASE project serves as a regional network to drive capacity building programs that foster safer engineering practice. The project is funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF) under Engineering a Safer World (EaSW) program.

The workshop brought together representatives from academia, industry, regulatory bodies, and development organizations to review key findings, share sector insights, and collectively identify priority skills required to support safe, sustainable, and digitally enabled transitions. This engagement forms part of a broader regional initiative under the Partnership for Learning & Skills to Advance Safer Engineering in East Africa.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. To validate findings from the Skills Needs Assessment
2. To identify critical digital and green skills required in energy and maritime sectors
3. To strengthen collaboration between academia and industry
4. To explore partnerships that support safer engineering practices and workforce development



The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Kiplagat Kotut (Ag. Vice chancellor, Moi University), who emphasized the critical role played by industry stakeholders in aligning training programs to real world needs. He pointed out the need to invest in engineers, technicians and innovators who possess not only technical expertise, but also the ethical responsibility to design and manage systems that are safe, resilient and sustainable.



Prof. Meoli Kashorda, the CEO, Kenya Education Network (KENET) delivered a keynote talk that emphasized the growing role of digital infrastructure and emerging technologies. He pointed out the need for research and change leadership competencies in order to align with the emerging technologies.



**Participants:**

The participating institutions included Ocean Centres-Kenya, Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Bandari Maritime Academy (BMA), Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK), KPLC, KICD, Technical University of Kenya, Murang'a University of Technology, Multimedia University of Kenya, and University of Eldoret. The Lloyd's Register Foundation was represented virtually by Candace Bentil. In her remarks, she highlighted the various initiatives that the Foundation is supporting globally in line with its mission to engineer a safer world.

The workshop provided invaluable insights into the key gaps and emerging competencies required for engineers and technical professionals in the energy and maritime sectors for safer engineering practice.



## Key Takeaways

- Skilling of engineers is essential for enabling safe, sustainable, and inclusive growth in the energy and maritime sectors, and for engineering a safer future for all.
- Digital transformation is rapidly reshaping the energy and maritime sectors, requiring new technical competencies

- There is a growing demand for green skills aligned with sustainability and climate resilience
- Skills gaps exist in areas such as digital systems, automation, and energy transition technologies
- Collaboration between universities and industry is essential to ensure curriculum relevance
- Safety must remain central in the transition to digital and green systems