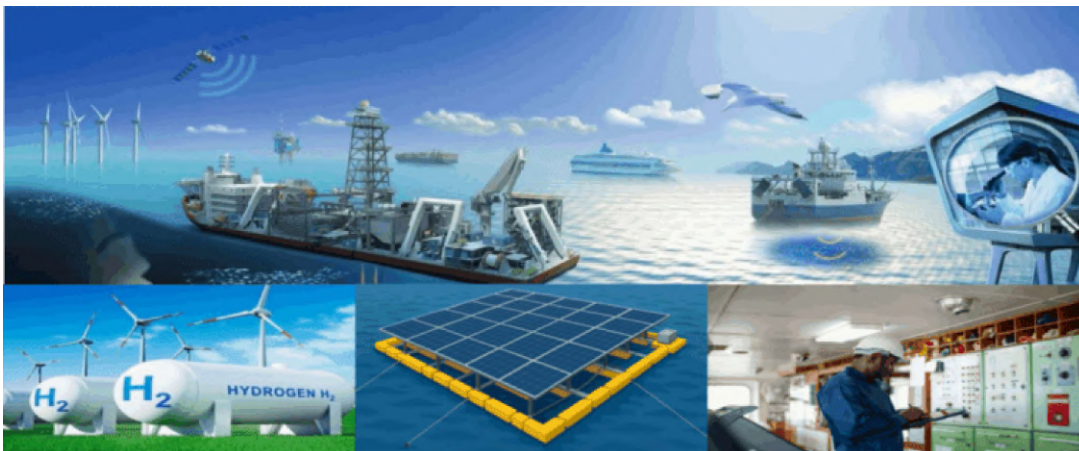




About the PLEASE Project

Partnership for Learning & Skills to Advance Safer Engineering in East Africa (PLEASE) project is network of academia, industry, regulatory bodies and policymakers. It serves as a regional hub to drive capacity building programs for knowledge and skills empowerment to tackle emerging and existing engineering challenges in energy and maritime systems. The project is funded by [Lloyd's Register Foundation](#) under engineering a Safer World (EaSW) program. The project will be implemented over a period of five (5) years, starting August 2025. The goal of this project is to drive capacity-building programs that equip local engineers and engineering students with the critical skills and knowledge needed to support the safe adoption, deployment and integration of digital and green technologies within the maritime and energy sectors in East Africa, while addressing emerging safety challenges. The project is being implemented in four (4) work packages.



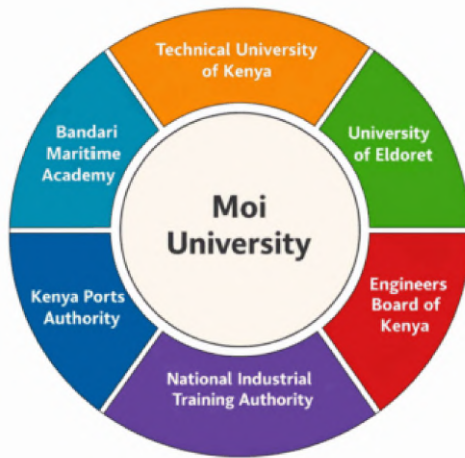
The first work package focuses on capacity building for engineering students to provide them with relevant knowledge and skills on safely manage and integrate emerging technologies in the maritime and related industries. The second work package supports safety up-skilling of engineering professionals already working in energy, maritime and associated sectors. In the third work package, a bespoke graduate apprenticeship program will be implemented for early-career graduates in marine engineering to boost their marine safety skills. The fourth work package focuses on dissemination, engagement and communication. This project is expected to increase the number and diversity of engineering graduates and practising professionals who are skilled, knowledgeable,

innovative and adaptable with capability to safely drive decarbonization and digital transitions in the energy and maritime sectors.

The project targets to train a minimum of 2000 engineering and technology students. In addition, a minimum of 120 engineering professionals will be upskilled on safety leadership green ports technologies and cyber security in maritime automation. Also, at least 20 marine engineering apprentices will be trained on emerging marine renewable energy systems and safety.

Visit the project website to find out more about the project and the partnership opportunities

[Check It Now!](#)



Project Partners

The PLEASE project is led by Moi University in collaboration with seven (7) partner institutions, including Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science & Technology in Tanzania. Other institutions that have expressed intent to join the partnership include Taita Taveta University, Murang'a University of Technology and Multimedia University of Kenya.



PLEASE Project Launch

The Partnership for Learning & Skills to Advance Safer Engineering in East Africa (PLEASE) Project was launched on October 23, 2025 at a workshop in Nairobi. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from academia, industry, regulatory bodies and Government. The event was officially opened by Moi University's Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut. In his remarks, he underscored the commitment by the university to support the project. Several other distinguished guests graced the workshop including the Secretary for Higher Education in the Ministry of Education, and Candace Bentil, Program Manager at Lloyd's Register Foundation who participated via an online link. Their presence highlighted the strategic importance of the project and reinforced the shared commitment among institutions and government agencies. The primary objective of the inception workshop was to formally launch the project, align stakeholders on its goals and expected outcomes, and provide a platform for discussing implementation strategies and partnerships. Participants emphasized on strengthening linkages between academia and industry, enhancing capacity in emerging areas of technology, and ensuring that regulatory and policy considerations are well integrated.

Engagement with NITA to Advance Marine Engineering Apprenticeships

On Monday, 16th February 2026, the PLEASE Project team from Moi University, led by Prof. Augustine Makokha, held a strategic engagement meeting with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) to advance implementation of the Marine Engineering Apprenticeship Programme. Marine engineers are central to delivering the green and digital transformation of the maritime sector. Their role ensures the technologies are deployed safely, efficiently, and in compliance with standards and environmental regulations.

The team by NITA was led by Ms. Theresa Wasike, Acting Director General, and Ms. Jane Kamau, Director for Industrial Training & Skills Development. The discussions focused on strengthening delivery frameworks, assessment pathways, and certification mechanisms to ensure apprentices attain nationally recognized skills credentials. The initiative responds to an emerging gap in green skills capacity to support maritime decarbonization actions in Kenya. Through this collaboration, marine engineering apprentices will undergo structured training and formal assessment by NITA, leading to a national skills certificate. The collaboration reinforces efforts to build capacity and promote safer marine engineering systems across East Africa.



PLEASE Project Features at the Engineering Partnership Convention (EPC-2026) in Mombasa Kenya

The 7th Engineering Partnership Convention (EPC 2026), organized by the [Engineers Board of Kenya](#), was held at the PrideInn Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa from 21st to 24th April 2026, bringing together

engineers, policymakers, academics, and industry leaders from across sub-Saharan Africa. The convention was anchored on the theme “*Engineering a Sustainable Blue Economy.*” The forum attracted strong participation by industry and academia. The discussions centered on harnessing engineering solutions to unlock the potential of the blue economy while ensuring environmental sustainability and safety. Notably, the convention featured three ongoing projects in Kenya aligned to engineering and ocean economy and funded by Lloyd’s Register Foundation. The project on construction safety led by the Engineers Board of Kenya, Ocean focused initiatives under the Ocean Centers Kenya and the project led by Moi University on partnership for learning and skills to advance safer engineering in East Africa (Please).

The convention was officially opened by Eng. Joseph Mbugua, Permanent Secretary in the State Department of Roads. In his address, he reaffirmed the government’s commitment to advancing Kenya’s national blue economy strategy and strengthening the integrated transport and marine infrastructure so that ports, industrial parks, and regional corridors can function cohesively to drive economic growth. Eng. Mbugua also highlighted Kenya’s commitment to maritime decarbonization, aligning national efforts with global standards set by the International Maritime Organization. This reflects a broader policy direction aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable maritime operations.

The Registrar of the Engineers Board of Kenya, Eng. Margaret Ogai, underscored the central role of maritime ports in achieving a sustainable blue economy. She noted that ports sit at the intersection of ocean resources, trade, industry, and environmental stewardship, making them critical nodes for sustainable economic transformation. Eng. Ogai further emphasized that Kenya is actively building the engineering capacity required to unlock the blue economy, positioning the sector as a key driver of national development.

Delivering the keynote address, Amb. Nancy Karigithu, Chief Adviser on Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs in the Office of the President, highlighted the urgent need for engineering-driven solutions across all sectors of the blue economy. She pointed out critical capacity gaps within Kenya’s maritime sector, particularly the shortage of locally certified trainers. Amb. Karigithu identified several specialized engineering fields essential for the sector’s growth, including naval architecture, marine and offshore engineering, subsea systems, autonomous systems, marine cybersecurity, alternative fuels, and green port retrofit engineering.

Deliberations during plenary sessions emphasized the importance of regional and global collaboration and synergy in addressing shared challenges such as infrastructure deficits, and climate vulnerability. Therefore, the convention provided a platform for fostering regional engineering partnerships for knowledge exchange and joint innovation in engineering practice, as well as catalyzing dialogues on capacity building, and policy alignment.



Eng. Joseph Mbugua - PS, State Department of Roads & Public Works



Eng. Margaret Ogai - Registrar/CEO, Engineers Board of Kenya



Eng. Prof. Makokha making a presentation on PLEASE Project and how it will advance skills for safety in the blue economy

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The Transition: Digitalization & Decarbonization

Decarbonization

- Adoption of cleaner energy sources and alternative fuels -Liquefied natural gas (LNG), hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, and other emerging low-carbon fuels.
- Adoption of hybrid propulsion systems, renewable energy integration within port operations, shore-to-ship power systems

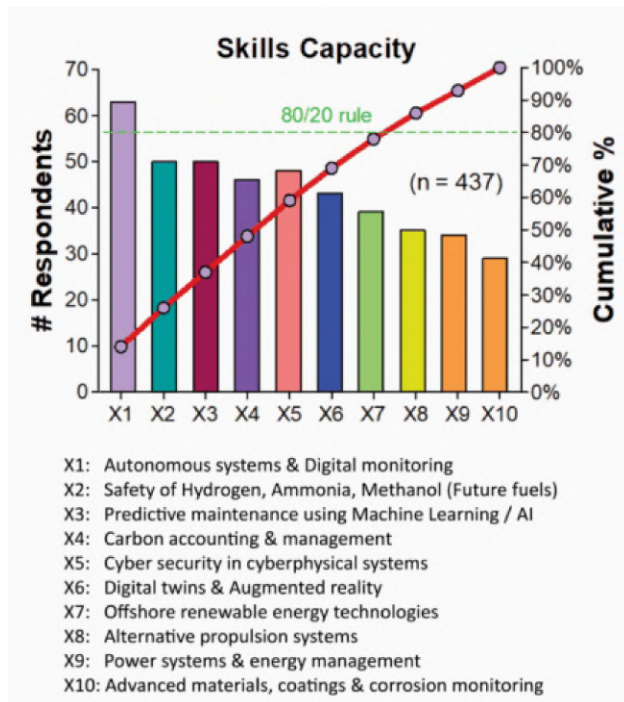
Digitalization

- Ports are going smart - deploying automated cargo handling systems, Machine learning in predictive maintenance, Internet of Things (IoTs) Autonomous systems, and digital twins for simulation
- Energy grids and energy management systems are getting smart and autonomous

Skills-Needs Assessment Reveals Limited Local Capacity in Digital & Green Skills

In January 2026, the PLEASE project conducted a survey on skills needs across the energy and maritime industries in East Africa, to provide evidence-based insights into the competencies required by industry and the existing gaps within the current workforce and engineering training institutions. Engineering curricula often evolve more slowly than technological developments within industry. Therefore, without assessment of industry skill requirements, training programs may fail to adequately prepare graduates for emerging roles within the maritime and energy sectors. The findings indicate a high level of awareness of key emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, smart energy systems, automation, and alternative fuels, but low competency levels, highlighting a significant skills gap. In addition, limited familiarity with advanced digital tools such as digital twins and virtual reality points to a substantial digital capability deficit

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Stakeholders' Validation Workshop on Digital & Green Skills

The stakeholder validation workshop, held on Thursday 19th March 2026 at the KICD Conference Centre, Nairobi, provided a platform for reviewing and strengthening the findings of the skills needs assessment on digital and green transitions in the energy and maritime sectors across East Africa. The workshop brought together representatives from academia, industry, government agencies and regulatory bodies. Prof. Meoli Kashorda, CEO of Kenya Education Network (KENET) delivered a keynote address on a topical subject of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitalization. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut emphasized the urgency to embed concepts of emerging digital and green technologies in engineering curricula across the country.

A key outcome of the workshop was the validation and identification of priority skills areas. Stakeholders helped to further contextualize these priorities by aligning them with



industry needs and global trends in decarbonization and digitalization. The workshop also generated valuable insights on strategies to strengthen collaboration and linkages

[More info...](#)

PLEASE Project Team

[Click here for more.....](#)



Ms Suzanne Kalume

PLEASE Project communications officer, Moi University, Kenya

Email: please@mu.ac.ke ; skalume@mu.ac.ke



Moi University- P.O Box 3900-30100 Eldoret - Kenya