

INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR THE EAST AFRICAN SUMMER SCHOOL ON OPTICS & LASERS AND LAUNCH OF MAX PLANCK PARTNER RESEARCH GROUP

6TH MAY – 17TH MAY 2024

1. **Venue of the summer school & launch for the Max Planck partner group**
The summer school will take place at the conference hall of Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU).

2. **The venue contacts are:**

Physical Address: Off Magadi Road, Karen, Nairobi

Contacts & Related Links:

Postal Address: P.O. Box 15653 Nairobi, Kenya 00503

Mobile Number: 254 (0715967065)

Email: info@mmu.ac.ke

Website: <https://www.mmu.ac.ke>

3. **Contact Persons**

For assistance and further information on the venue of the meeting or hotels, please contact:

1. Dr. David Wekesa

Ag. Director National Institute of Optics and Lasers

Multimedia University of Kenya

+254 725037264

director_niol@mmu.ac.ke

2. Dr. Jared Ombiro

Chairman, Local Organizing Committee

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gwaomb@mmarau.ac.ke

3. Prof. Geoffrey Kihara Rurimo

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, AF&P

+254 723540680

grurimo@mmu.ac.ke

4. Registration

- 4.1. Registration of participants will take place on Monday 6th May 2024 from 08:00 am to 08:30 am at Multimedia University of Kenya conference hall.
- 4.2. The official opening of the Summer School will take place on Monday, 6th May 2024 at 09:00 am.

5. Language & Communication

- 5.1. The meeting will be conducted in English. The summer school material will be provided to participants upon registration. However, it is advisable for participants to bring their portable computers/laptops for ease of communication.
- 5.2. English and Swahili are well-spoken in Kenya among other languages.
- 5.3. Direct worldwide connections are available, using the international code or telephone operator as necessary. From outside Kenya, dial +254 which is the Kenya code followed by the telephone number.
- 5.4 The conference venue has WIFI access and the booked hotels for the summer school have WIFI internet access in their rooms and restaurants.

6. Electricity

Kenya uses the British system's standard three-pin sockets. The domestic power voltage is 240 volts. Participants are encouraged to ensure compatibility with their gadgets or to have international power adapters.

7. Programme

The Summer School programme have been shared with the participants. However, a copy will be issued to all the participants upon registration on 6th May 2024.

8. Documentation

The Summer School material will be issued upon registration on 6th May 2024. This will include the summer school program and name tag for each participant. All guest speakers will have specific name tags with their individual name.

9. Hotels

Participants have been booked at hotels conveniently located near the summer school venue. The hotel booking is for half board which includes breakfast and dinner.

10. Weather and clothing

10.1. While Nairobi is located 140 kilometers south of the Equator, it is located at a relatively high elevation of about 5889 feet (1795m) above sea level.

In the month of May the mean minimum/maximum temperatures are between 13°C (at night) and 25°C (Day).

10.2. The Nairobi GMT time zone is GMT+3.

11. Visa Requirements for Kenya

11.1. Participants are advised to ascertain at the respective Embassies whether they are exempt from the Kenyan entry visa requirement.

11.2. Kenya visas may be applied for online via <https://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>

11.3. In applying for the visa, it is advisable to produce a letter of invitation together with other documents which may be required.

11.4. It is important to apply for visas well in advance.

12. Airport Transfers

Taxis are available at airport to the accommodation venue and the fare is normally between Kshs. 2000 to 2500. However, agreeing on the fare before getting into the vehicle is advisable. Inquiries may be made at the airport information desks. Taxi helping Apps such as Uber are available. Arrangements have been made to pick guests from the airport. Kindly note that, a University staff, Mr. Elvis Kipkemoi phone number: +254 715967065 will be waiting to receive the guests at the airport. He will be waving a placard bearing the guest name.

13. Health

13.1. It is strongly recommended that participants should have travel insurance (including health) for the duration of their stay in Kenya. Participants should particularly ensure that their insurance is applicable in Kenya. Furthermore, they should carry evidence of current health/hospitalization

insurance such as cards that may be produced to health institutions should the need arise. Participants are also encouraged to provide information during registration, on their next of kin who may be contacted on behalf of the participant should the need arise.

- 13.2. Presentation of a valid yellow fever certificate at the point of entry is required for persons who originate from or have traveled to States where yellow fever is described by the World Health Organization (WHO), as endemic, including the following States: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.
- 13.3. Persons who fail to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to the airport health officials may be required to take the vaccination at the point of entry against payment of US\$15 (*subject to change by the appropriate authority*). The officials may take other actions following applicable regulations and procedures. For more information, participants may wish to visit the World Health Organization <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya> for information on Kenya.
- 13.4. The following measures shall apply to travelers departing and arriving in Kenya. All travelers arriving in the country through any point of entry shall no longer be required to show proof of either COVID-19 vaccination or a pre-departure COVID-19 test. Only travelers arriving at any port of entry into Kenya with flu-like symptoms will be required to fill out the passenger locator form on the 'jitenge' platform: https://ears.health.go.ke/airline_registration/ they will also be required to take a COVID-19 antigen test upon arrival at their own cost. Those who turn out positive for antigen tests will be required to take a further COVID-19 PCR test at their own cost. Those with severe symptoms shall thereafter be allowed to isolate as per the prevailing isolation requirements for mild, moderate, and severe disease. Passengers

traveling out of the country will be required to abide by the particular travel, health, and COVID-19-related requirements of the transit and destination country. Pre-departure RDT or PCR testing may be considered at the discretion of any of the airlines departing from or terminating in Kenya.

14. Banks

14.1. The basic unit of currency is the Kenyan shilling (KShs.), which is divided into 100 cents. There are silver and bronze coins of 1, 5, 10, 20, and 40 shillings denominations. Notes are issued in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000 shillings.

14.2. The Kenya shilling exchange rates are determined by the interbank trade which varies daily. Participants may wish to obtain current information from the internet.

14.3. Commercial banks and the forex bureau provide exchange facilities. Most banks are open between 9.00 am to 4.00 pm from Monday to Friday and between 9.00 am to 12.00 noon on Saturdays. Some forex bureaus may be open outside these hours. Hotels also offer exchange facilities but at an extra fee and/or less favorable rates. On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), forex services are available within the customs hall, from 7.00 am to midnight. It is advisable to have some money in Kenyan currency to cater for any needs you might need to spend money

15. Supermarkets/Shopping malls

Various shopping malls house several supermarkets where you can obtain several essentials needed. All shopping malls have food joints and eateries. ALL Supermarkets, food joints, and eateries accept Point of Sale (POS) for either VISA Card or MasterCard for both debit & Credit.

16. Excursions & Tourist Sites

Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU) is located next to various tourist attractions site such as [Nairobi National Park](#), [Animal Orphanage](#), [Giraffe Centre](#), and [Bomas of Kenya](#) among others. There is an entrance fee to all these sites. All these sites are less than 10 km from MMU. In case you may

need a planned safari to visit famous Kenyan tourist sites, kindly contact the summer school organizers for the required information.