

Multi- disciplinary Problem based Learning Project

Nairobi Innovation week 2018 has taken off at the University of Nairobi with many side events in form of seminars, conferences, lectures and start-up pitches on different sub topics with the common theme of innovation.

Problem based learning in East Africa is one of the projects that kicked off Last year during the Nairobi Innovation week. The University of Nairobi in partnership with Aalto University, Finland, Makerere University and University of Dar-es-Salaam are in the pilot stage of the three year project.

The open lecture held on Monday, March 5, 2018 of Problem based learning (PBL) East Africa was to discuss the progress in the different institutions. Makerere University reported that there are different teams using this approach in learning. An example of the project is using recycled plastic to make low cost building material. The team is multidisciplinary and the students are going to the society to even learn more about the different plastics in the Ugandan market and how they can be recycled.

The University of Nairobi has a pilot course for undergraduate students under the C4DLab known as Sustainable design. The course brings together physics, arts and design disciplines.

A student who participates in the PBL courses gets to learn leadership skills, how to manage a problem, a different perspective on coming up with solutions. This concept provokes thinking and helps build connections. It improves employability while solving societal problems.

In conclusion, Innovation has always been there; however from 2018 and beyond innovation demands that different disciplines come together and solve the issues we have in our countries and continent.

