



Monday, February 12, 2024



The 2024 International Philosophy Day Symposium

Is there a connection between AI and Philosophy, one may be tempted to ask, and if so, how do they relate? Well, the International Philosophy Day Symposium of the Tangaza Institute of Philosophy looked at this question, from different facets of human life.

This annual event that is held in honor of the institutes Patron Saint - St. Thomas Aquinas, sought to delve into the myriad ways in which AI has penetrated human interactions in a theme titled “Issues in Artificial Intelligence (AI): A Philosophical Interrogation.”



Graced by the presence of the Tangaza University College Vice Chancellor Designate, Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp, this year's symposium was anticipated a day before because the actual St. Thomas Feast day fell on a Sunday, the 28th of January.

Speaking when he opened the symposium, the VC noted that debates persist on the impact of AI on businesses, the education sector, and future job opportunities worldwide and indeed in our own country, Kenya too. He encouraged the participants to engage in a meaningful and constructive debate on this crucial theme that has entered all spheres of human life. Professor Mwanja extolled the apt choice of the symposium theme this year.

Other TUC administrators who accompanied the VC designate were Rev. Dr. Simon Itabari Mwenda; the DVC Administration and Finance Designate and Rev. Dr. Jude Chisanga, the Acting Dean at the School of Theology and Rev. Dr. Denis Etriga, the Director of the Tangaza Institute of Philosophy.

Besides speeches by the keynote speakers, other papers on the symposium theme came from dons from Kisii University, Technical University of Kenya, Tangaza University College, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, and the Apostles of Jesus Institute of Philosophy, to mention but a few. A total of 16 papers were presented.



Among those who presented their papers, were the keynote speakers at the symposium, philosophy giants; Prof. Kahiga J. Kariuki and Dr. Owino Stephen from Eldoret and Pwani University respectively. The two acknowledged the fact that AI has penetrated every facet of human interactions.

Both speakers admitted that it is an existential challenge that confronts everyone in the 21st century. Their underlining message was that human thinking is irreplaceable by machine thinking. They argued that whatever the advancement of AI technology, the dignity of the human person as a rational and free agent cannot be compromised whatsoever.

As a pertinent feature in the contemporary global patterns, the theme attracted participants from many walks of life. Together with seasoned academicians, others who attended included students, politicians, entrepreneurs and individuals in education. Other universities in attendance were Africa Nazarene University, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya Open University, the University of Nairobi, Pwani University, The Technical University of Kenya, Apostles of Jesus Institute of Philosophy, Contemplative Evangelizers Institute of Philosophy and Tangaza University College. There were over 350 participants registered for the symposium.



Some of the topics presented were: “An Evaluation of the Philosophy of AI through the Lens of Kantian Notion of Freewill”, “AI: An Ethical Interrogation, AI and the question of the Artificial Person: Possibility or Hot Air”, “A Critical Evaluation of Lonergan’s Concept of Human Understanding and AI”, and “An Abyss between Human Intelligence and AI”. The Institute of Philosophy publishes all the symposium papers every year.

TUC Students Celebrate New Year and Christmas in Unity and Joy

The student’s New Year and Christmas party at Tangaza University is a testament to the vibrant spirit and close-knit community that defines the institution.

In festive cheer and the promise of a new year, the university recently hosted a delightful party for its effervescent student community. The event, held on the last Friday of January, was a celebration of unity, joy, and academic achievement.

The evening commenced with inspiring speeches from invited guests; among them, the then Acting Dean of Students, Rev. Fr. Daniel Karau, who graced the fete with his warmth and wisdom. In his address, he spoke about the importance of unity among students, and emphasized the value of harmony as a community to support and lift one another up. He highlighted the significance of maintaining a spirit of joy and gratitude, especially in the pursuit of academic excellence.



The Chairperson of the Tangaza Students Association (TUSA); Levy Obame, outlined a series of coming exciting events, including the Social Evening and the ceremony to award winners of the essay competition. The highlight was traditional cake-cutting, to symbolize the joyous spirit of the festive season.

Obame encouraged members of the Tangaza fraternity to actively contribute to the Sema magazine by submitting articles and sharing their insights and experiences.

Amidst laughter and lively conversations, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement and camaraderie. The students frolicked in a fun filled evening, for example in a game of musical chairs, that was such fun. They returned home, carrying cherished memories of an evening filled with laughter, friendship, and shared experiences.



As they embark on their academic journey in the new year, may the lessons of unity, joy, and camaraderie learned at the party continue to inspire and uplift them in their endeavors.

Here's to a year filled with academic success, personal growth, and cherished moments of togetherness. Happy New Year to the entire Tangaza University family!

Tangaza University College goes Green

At the cusp of a new dawn, the TUC has declared that her waste will be turned into something precious. The clarion call is "Waste to Worth", Transforming Tangaza University College through Sustainable Waste Management Practices.

The process, which started in October last year is to ensure that TUC has implemented waste separation practices. The initiative, is a collaboration between the Laudato SI movement and the Administration department. Its objective is to promote sustainable practices in the university in response to Pope Francis's call to "care for our common home"

The main objective of the initiative is to implement a sustainable waste management system that promotes waste reduction by reusing, recycling, and proper disposal. Speaking to the VC's Newsletter in her office, Mercy Kibe, who represents the Administration said that they aim to educate the university community about the value of waste by emphasizing waste segregation and recycling practices.

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She explains that they plan to establish partnerships with local stakeholders to optimize waste handling and promote the circular economy. She adds that through community engagement, there shall be an increased awareness and a sense of environmental responsibility within the University and the surrounding community.



The collaboration envisages waste reduction and efficiency through effective recycling and resource reintegration. At the same time, they foresee a major environmental impact, by the minimization of environmental harm through preventing waste from going to landfills and incineration.

Another vision is that of revenue generation; a steady income from plastic and composted manure sales for the project's sustainability. This in tandem with cost savings from the reduced expenses by managing the waste internally and also producing composted manure in-house. This, she added would reduce the university's environmental footprint by minimizing the waste sent to landfills and incineration.

It is expected that the project will offer educational opportunities and learning experiences for students and staff on sustainable waste management.

Mercy concluded by emphasizing that by implementing this circular economy model, we not only honor our commitment to Laudato Si but also cultivate future leaders who prioritize sustainability and responsible environmental practices. She invited the TUC community to join the initiative, which is a commitment to creating a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable university environment.