Growing a community of SIESTA users in Kenya.

Hands on activities at the Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi.

The first SIESTA *school in Kenya, took place in Kakamega on 12^{th} and 13^{th} June 2019 under the patronage of Dr. George Manyali. It attracted close to 20 participants from 7 universities across Kenya. Most recently, on 14^{th} January 2020, a similar event took place at the Technical university of Kenya in Nairobi under the patronage of Prof. George Amolo attracting 16 participants from 4 universities in Nairobi city. Materials physicists in the Kenya have embraced* SIESTA *with some students already doing their undergraduate, masters and Ph.D work with the help of the code. There are a number of laid down activities in the country aimed at growing a community of* SIESTA *users. In March 2020, there will be a 2 days* SIESTA *event at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa under the patronage of Dr. Carolyne Songa while in October 2020, Prof. George Amolo will lead other scholars in hosting the first Eastern Africa* SIESTA *school for 5 days at The Technical University of Kenya.*

A study on $SrTiO_3$

by J. SIFUNA & V.ODARI

Participants from The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, The University of Nairobi, Masinde Muliro University and the host The Technical University of Kenya, converged in Nairobi for a SIESTA meeting on 14^{th} January 2020. This meeting came after a prior meeting in Kakamega under the patronage of Dr. George Manyali. The meeting in Kakamega, saw participants from; Kabarak, Rongo, Kisii, Kenyatta, Kaimosi and Masinde Muliro Universities attending to learn the SIESTA basics . The meeting at the Technical University on January 14^{th} 2020, presided over by Prof. George Amolo, saw the participants learn numerous techniques about the code and play around with $SrTiO_3$. James Sifuna, from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, was able to take the participants through code installation and successive calculations on $SrTiO_3$ using SIESTA. The meeting was able to attract other 4 members of staff who also learnt the basics of the code. Since most of the users had a background in working with *ab initio* codes, it was very easy for them to employ and analyze the output from SIESTA. SIESTA, an open source code making its roots in Kenya, has received immense attraction among scholars due to its linear scaling capability. This is a major advantage on users with large systems. There has been an upward trend in the number of SIESTA users in Kenya and this has been attributed to the current Kenyan-Spanish scientific collaboration. Thanks to Dr. George Manyali, Prof. George Amolo, Prof. Javier Junquera and Prof. Richard Martin (Chair ASESMA)!

The year 2020 seems to be a busy year for the scientific community in Kenya. In March 2020, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi will open its doors to 30 selected participants to attend a 2 day SIESTA intensive activities. As a fol-

low up on the same, there will be a 5 days SIESTA school in October 2020 at The Technical university of Kenya. In the October school, participants in Eastern Africa will be invited. Among the confirmed speakers for the October meeting are Prof. Junquera from Spain, Prof. Seriani from ICTP, Prof. Omololu from ICTP-EIFR, Rwanda and Dr. Pablo Aguado-Punte from the United Kingdom.

Happy computing with SIESTA! Better days ahead!