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# Eastlands College of Technology (ECT)

Eastlands College of Technology (ECT) started as Informal Sector Business Institute (ISBI) in August 2003 in a rental house in Uhuru Estate, Nairobi. It was started with the aim of uplifting the living standards of the youth in the Jua Kali sector and equip them with business skills.

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At its inception, ISBI was grappling with financial constraints before ICEP, an Austrian NGO, stepped in to

help the project gain ground. Thanks to this, training officially started in January 2004 with the first class held in Eastlands Centre (EC) in February.

EC was meant to accommodate pupils from classes 7 and 8 who due to various challenges they faced in their homes (ranging from lack of electricity to inadequate reading materials) get the golden chance to have an adequate and peaceful study environment. Apart from the resources offered to the pupils for study, EC also gave the pupils a chance to realize and better their talents in sports on Saturdays and during holidays.

The first ISBI class (held in February 2004) had students being taught by lecturers from Strathmore University. Later on in 2005, EC saw the need to incorporate secondary school students in order to give them

the same chance as their primary school counterparts.

In 2007, ISBI started training Form 4 leavers in basic computer training and IT skills by partnering with Microsoft Unlimited Potential, an event that preceded another partnership with International Youth Foundation (IYF) who offered life-skills training to the students.

Samsung later joined the list of partners to provide an all-important basic electronics training. From this point on, EC and ISBI forged on with the mission of empowering the youth and acting as a midwife to creativity and innovation.

As part of the celebrations to commemorate 10 years of existence, ISBI and EC did also hold a groundbreaking ceremony for Eastlands College of Technology. The ceremony was held on the new campus just off Jogoo Road on August 2013. The first

structure was projected to be complete by September 2014 but due to some challenges it was delayed to December the same year.

Currently ECT is fully operational and is offering ISBI related courses, Certificate for Electronics and Electrical Technology (CEET), Youth Empowerment Project and a Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) 10-day training program run in conjunction with Samaschool.

As we speak, ECT is on the verge of completing another building while others are to follow to shelter classrooms and workshops to ensure students get complete and wholistic type of education and equip them perfectly for the competitive and evolving market outside.

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