



KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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H. E. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

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To

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

The past two years (2022-2023) have been challenging for the world. The return to natural rhythm after the pandemic and the restoration of the economic, social and ecological balance have presented a whole range of challenges. A wave of unrest swept across the world, wars escalated and serious threats to society emerged. These global phenomena will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the lives of many people and will shape future trends. Living amid such events makes it all the more important to focus on meaningful activities and take into account the importance of sustainability, which requires particular focus in the long term.

In recent years, a number of sectors have faced quite serious challenges and the education sector is no exception; however, the lessons learned from the pandemic have allowed us to have a more composed approach to situations and make timely and appropriate decisions.

One of the priorities of Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) is to further increase the energy independence of the university by using sustainable solutions to improve environmental performance indicators. By consistently implementing infrastructure projects, the university is becoming more modern and innovative, while at the same time, it is reducing the negative impact on the environment by adopting technological solutions based on renewable energy sources.

Better conditions are created for improving the sustainability of the research infrastructure and the energy efficiency of the university's buildings and dormitory infrastructure, thus reducing the university's energy consumption. The university's rooftop and remote solar power plants generate approximately 30% of the electricity needed for the university's buildings each year, but the aim is to increase this indicator to 50%.

Six months ago, the university suffered the worst cyber-attack in its history, disrupting access to many information systems. Immediate actions had to be taken to protect sensitive data and prevent possible threats in the future. The university community successfully pulled together even under these adverse circumstances, continued the ongoing activities and implemented plenty of new ideas. This has contributed to the organisation becoming even stronger and better prepared for possible challenges in the future.

Our university aims to further strengthen international cooperation, provide the highest quality studies, develop the organisational community and promote progress in research and innovation. We will develop relationships with international institutions, improve the quality of our study programmes and involve students in an active research process. We will foster creativity and innovation, enabling us to remain leaders in science and technology.

The community of Kaunas University of Technology is working diligently to achieve our goals. I am delighted that the university supports the principles of the Global Compact and joins this important United Nations initiative.

I am writing to confirm that Kaunas University of Technology supports the ten principles of the Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour rights, the protection of the environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support and advance those principles and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our faculty, students, partners, alumni and the general public.

KTU aims to conduct activities based on sustainable development principles everywhere and all the time: while studying, teaching, and developing knowledge and innovations, in relationships with our partners, in development of infrastructure and environment.

We recognise that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organisation's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency and commit to reporting on our progress within two years of joining Global Compact and every two years thereafter.

Rector



Eugenijus Valatka