

IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecture Series in Kenya

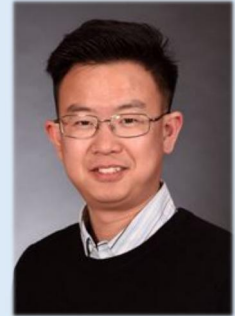
Date: October 3-8, 2026

Venue: Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya), Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Nyeri County, Kenya), and South Eastern University of Kenya (Kitui, Kenya)

Prof. Bing ZHANG

Professor, Sichuan University, Chengdu, P. R. China

Email: bing.zhang@scu.edu.cn



Prof. Bing ZHANG, IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) Distinguished Lecturer (DL), visited the Kenyatta University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and South Eastern University of Kenya, which is supported by the IEEE AP-S DL program.

This October, the IEEE AP-S DL Workshop program provided a unique platform for engaging the vibrant electromagnetic research community at Kenyatta University, the University of Nairobi, and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Organized and coordinated by Dr. Jack Bruno Siso (IEEE AP-S Kenyatta University Student Branch Chapter Chair; Kenyatta University; on October 5, 2026), Dr. Josephine Wangari (IEEE AP-S Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Student Branch Chapter Chair; on October 6, 2026), and Dr. Bradley (IEEE AP-S South Eastern University of Kenya Chair; on August 7, 2026), the invited IEEE AP-S DL, Prof. Bing Zhang from Sichuan University, visited the abovementioned universities and delivered a series of IEEE AP-S DL talks. Before these events, announcements were widely disseminated through the official IEEE Kenya Section communication channels, social media (e.g., LinkedIn), and international research networks, ensuring a broad reach across Kenya's electromagnetics community. Given the collaborative nature of these research hubs, the lectures were organized in a hybrid format, allowing for both on-site attendance and virtual participation among regional and international IEEE members.

Prof. Zhang's DL talk was entitled "Exploring the Potential of 3D Printing Technologies for Antenna Design and Fabrication - Challenges and Opportunities." In the first part of his talk, he shared thoughts on "novelty" from the aspects of theories, applications, materials, and processes. Then he introduced the chronicle of 3D printing technology, which was invented in 1980. In terms of materials, the 3D printing technology can be categorized as dielectric and metallic 3D printing. Prof. Zhang briefed on the advantages and disadvantages of dielectric and metallic 3D printing technologies, especially for microwave device fabrication. He introduced examples of dielectric and metallic 3D printed microwave devices, showing that both categories are facing problems of surface roughness (SR) and dimensional tolerance (DT). The consequence of not well-controlled SR gives rise to increased surface impedance, and hence, the insertion loss of the microwave device increases. The deteriorated DT leads to a shifted functional frequency of the microwave device. Methods to solve the two problems are introduced, which manage to put SR and DT under desirable control. Then Prof. Zhang introduces a series of 3D printed microwave devices carried out in his group, including an ME dipole array for airborne application which has the self-cooling function taking the advantage of 3D printing technology to fabrication complex

structures, a dielectric and metallic hybrid 3D printed lens antenna with tapered feeder aperture for water body monitoring, a hybrid PCB and 3D printing fabricated OAM metalems which features an extra degree of freedom of phase modulation by 3D printing, a 3D printed vehicle's headlight with scanning beam for C-V2X application which ingeniously integrated two antennas in the vehicle's headlight, a metallic 3D printed broadband antenna designed by the dimension-expanded superformula which covers the 800 MHz – 18 GHz spectrum with only a 9.5-gram antenna weight, and a metallic 3D printed coaxial filter designed by PCMT with gradient profile. The lectures concluded with an active Q&A and discussion with students and researchers.

In summary, Professor Zhang's DL visit to Keya was highly fruitful, fostering a high-level scientific dialogue between the IEEE AP-S and the broader electromagnetic research community.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Picture : A collection of photos from IEEE AP-S DL Workshop Series in Kenya: (a) Dr. Zhang's visit at Keyatta University, (b) Dr. Zhang's visit at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and (c) Dr. Zhang's visit at South Eastern Kenya University.