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VarsityFocus

Magazine of the University of Nairobi



UoN hosts first Innovation Week



Our Vision

A world-Class University committed to scholarly excellence

Our Mission

To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through the creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge

Our Core Values

- Freedom of thought and expression;
- innovativeness and creativity;
- good governance and integrity;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible citizenship;
- national cohesion and inclusiveness.





VarsityFocus

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University of Nairobi American football team seeks sponsorship

Cover picture: The University of Nairobi breaks ground for the construction of the Innovation Hub in Chiromo Campus

University rises as the hub of symposia and innovations

The period between April and August 2015, has seen upscaled activities touching on many facets of the University. The strategic direction of the University has been reviewed, with the Management revisiting the current 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and issuing a more focused Short Term Implementation Plan and Priorities for 2015-2016.

The short term plan includes a reviewed implementation matrix and will be the one to guide the budgetary and performance contracting processes in 2015/2016.

Management also approved the operationalization of the Centre for Self-Sponsored Programmes (CESSP) to manage such programmes, and shifted this function from the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES) Ltd., leaving UNES to pursue its core mandate of income generation.

Approval has also been granted to open a Centre for Pedagogy and Andragogy, while arrangements to convert the Board of Postgraduate Studies to a Graduate School are at an advanced stage.

The period also saw the University hold a series of symposia addressing the topic of violent extremism and counter-terrorism. The climax of this series was the public lecture given by H.E. Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy, on July 15, 2015 on the topic "Challenges of Development: Building Bridges to Combat Extremism".

The University also hosted the renowned Kenyan writer, Ngugi wa Thiong'o who was in the country to spearhead celebrations of 50 years since he wrote his first novel, *Weep Not, Child*. The University, through the Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs has also issued a comprehensive and integrated work plan for students' security and safety. This followed reported cases of insecurity and hooliganism especially around the students' hostels. The work plan contains strategies and action plans to manage students discipline in the University.

Meanwhile, the Senate proceeded on a three-day retreat in Naivasha where members were trained on corporate governance and updated on the University's financial health. The retreat also served as a bonding session for the team.

Finally, the university hosted the hugely successful Innovation Week on August 3 – 7, 2015, where internal and external innovators had an opportunity to showcase their products. The University has indicated that the Nairobi Innovation Week, which is the cover story for this edition, will be held annually.

There are other stories covering various activities within the period. We welcome feedback from readers and stakeholders.

Enjoy.

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Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor

One of the greatest achievements in life is to actualize a planned goal within a desirable framework. January 14, 2015 is still fresh in our minds and if you recall, I dared to say during my installation as Vice-Chancellor: "Together I have no doubt we shall conquer the barriers that limit our innovation and creativity....."

Indeed, together we conquered and between 3rd and 7th August, 2015, the University of Nairobi took the lead in organizing and hosting the first ever innovation expo, dubbed "**The Nairobi Innovation Week.**" It was an event that attracted scholars and renowned icons of innovations from within and a far, including the iconic Mr. Saul Singer, an American-Israeli journalist and author who co-authored the bestselling book "*Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's economic miracle*", which discusses various elements of Israel's Innovation Ecosystem and Mr. Langdon Morris, a recognized world's leading thinker and consultant on innovation.

His original and groundbreaking work has been adopted by corporations and universities on every continent to help them improve their innovation processes and the results they achieve.

Yes, let's innovate and prosper

The Innovation Week is a signature annual event of the University of Nairobi. It brings together partners from government, private sector, development agencies and research centres to provide a platform for policy development, capacity building, and showcasing and recognising innovation. The University of Nairobi (UoN) has steadily maintained its position in the country, and remained among the top in Africa and the most prestigious university in East and Central Africa.

Over the years, the university has established itself as a world-class university committed to scholarly excellence, offering programmes in diverse fields of specialization.

University of Nairobi has well established research Institutes and centres of excellence focusing on specific areas of expertise. They are inter and trans-disciplinary research and development (R&D) centres. The university is engaged in cutting edge research in several fields.

Many innovations across the world originate from universities. For Kenya, the University of Nairobi has been the pioneer university of research and development. The university has very strong intellectual capacity and knowhow to lead the way in research and innovation that will transform Kenya.

To further this noble cause, the university has in the recent past refocused and enhanced resources for research and development with a revitalized agenda for innovation and technology transfer. Indeed, the University of Nairobi has made significant strides in these fields.

In this regard, the University set up and operationalized a Science and Technology centre comprising, *inter alia*, the C4D Laboratory in the School of Computing and Informatics, the Business Incubation Centre, and the Fabrications Laboratory (FabLab) as classical examples.

The University is upping its research ante by reaching out to more international collaborators. It is worthy to note that the university has partnered with renowned international organizations and universities to conduct cutting edge research on major challenges facing the society.

To present a world view, the University of Nairobi has hosted a number of international dignitaries and eminent personalities to interact with the University community and the public, the most recent being the visit by the Prime Minister of Italy.

Prof. Peter Mbithi
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The University is upping its research ante by reaching out to more international collaborators.

UoN hosts first Nairobi Innovation Week



Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Cabinet Secretary, ICT, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Israeli Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Yahel Vilan and Managing Director, Barclays Bank, Mr. Jeremy Awori, follow proceedings at the launch of the Nairobi Innovation Week. At the podium is Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbiti.

The University of Nairobi hosted the first ever Nairobi Innovation Week from August 3rd to 7th, 2015. The historic event was packed with a series of events, which included two days of pre-event workshops and three days of panel discussions, exhibitions and paper and poster presentations. The climax of the Nairobi Innovation Week was the groundbreaking of the University of Nairobi Innovation Hub at Chiromo Campus.

The historic event brought together a mix of industry players- government, academia, private sector, techpreneurs, innovators, entrepreneurs, youth and students from various secondary schools, technical schools and universities in Kenya. The two-day pre-event workshop targeted major industry players and policy makers. True to the theme, "Innovate and Prosper: Strengthening Academia, Industry and Government Linkages for Economic Growth," the discussion revolved around how idea generation can

support linkages for economic growth through partnerships with government, academia and private sector. Several speakers emphasized the need for different organizations and government to forge new connections that will build an innovation ecosystem that will be the driving force of development.

Workshops

The main event was preceded by workshops held on August 3rd and 4th, 2015 at the Nairobi Serena Hotel. Langdon Morris, the Co-Founder, InnovationLabs LLC, was the keynote speaker during the first workshop. Morris challenged universities to champion innovations in Kenya and urged innovators to take their products to the market and innovate and prosper. He noted that technology is changing operations in the health sector, agricultural sector, energy sector and even cultural systems. He urged the business community to be innovative in order to remain competitive and relevant, adding that only the most

innovative companies will survive. Morris is recognized as one of the world's leading thinkers and consultants on innovation. His original and groundbreaking work has been adopted by corporations and universities on every continent to help them improve their innovation processes and the results they achieve.

Saul Singer, American-Israeli journalist and co-author of the bestselling book *Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*, was the keynote speaker during the second workshop. Singer urged Kenyan innovators to work together with other countries even as they work to put Kenya on the global map of innovation. He cited the case between Israel and the United States of America, which have worked together on many innovations. He advised the government to create a culture that encourages innovation in order to prevent the best innovators from leaving the country for greater opportunities.

While recognizing the technological developments that Kenya has made, such as the globally recognized M-pesa and Ushahidi, Singer urged entrepreneurs to be persistent. He said entrepreneurial success is not a quick fix to riches; it takes time and requires a lot of perseverance and teamwork. "Entrepreneurship is not taught in the classroom, you just do it. People learn best through practice," Singer advised. He urged the academia to teach students the much needed skills in the entrepreneurship, such as emotional intelligence, persistence and leadership.



Aircraft innovator, Gabriel Nderitu explains to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, how the aircraft operates.

Official launch

The Nairobi Innovation Week officially kicked off at the Chancellor's Court, Main Campus on August 5th 2015. The chief guest at the opening ceremony was Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i. The CS observed that the government is the biggest consumer of innovation products.

He, however, noted that the management of innovation has not been streamlined to allow commercialization of research and innovation. Dr Matiang'i commended the University of Nairobi for organizing the Innovation Week, stating that the University is rightfully taking its place as the leading academic giant in Kenya.

The University of Nairobi Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, gave a moving anecdote on the process of incubating start-ups and innovations in a hub. Dr. Rattansi commended the team behind the Innovation Week initiative, saying that they are part of the development of the nation. She called on various stakeholders to join in the journey towards becoming an innovation hub for the region. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said Nairobi Innovation Week portends a potential paradigm shift in higher education. "We hope to spawn more innovations within the higher education realm, a way of not only rendering solutions but innovative solutions that will change the way we conceive multifaceted problems and potential solutions. The advent of knowledge based economies requires that centres of knowledge be at the forefront in creating and nurturing a swiftly responsive culture of creativity and innovation," said Prof. Mbithi.

Sponsors

The event was also graced by the Managing Director, Barclays Bank of Kenya, Mr. Jeremy Awori. The MD revealed that the bank has set up incubation hubs in different parts of the world and that it is keen on supporting start-ups, growing them into viable businesses. Barclays Bank of Kenya was the Nairobi Innovation Week title sponsor. Other sponsors included Equity Bank, Craft Silicon, Safaricom, Microsoft, Intel, Thompson Reuters, Konza Technopolis, University of Nairobi Alumni Association, Israeli Embassy, National Commission of Science and Technology (NACOSTI), Serena Hotels, Radio Africa, Jambo Pay, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and IBM Research.

Several key activities were marked during the official opening ceremony. Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi officially launched the Africa Technology and Innovation Accelerator (AFTIA), which is an incubation programme at the University of Nairobi. Dr. Rattansi announced that AFTIA is receiving applications from interested innovators. The most promising innovation will receive a seed capital of \$100,000. The launch comes at a time when the government and academia are teaming up to seek ways of coordinating and streamlining methods of identifying and investing in the talent within the nation for a better economic growth. Dr. Matiang'i, commended the University on the launch of the programme. He said the government would support and implement innovation within the country.

During the occasion, the University of Nairobi also celebrated a successful startup at the C4D Lab - Chura Limited. Established in 2012 by five UoN students, Chura Limited has recorded significant achievements. The idea came up when the students identified a gap in the mobile service in Kenya.



An innovator explains to curious onlookers at the Nairobi Innovation Week how a drone works.

They realized users could not easily access airtime and data services across the different mobile service providers' platforms and designed an App-Chura and a company-Chura Limited that allows users to transfer airtime from one SIM card to another regardless of the operator.

Over time, the company has grown to provide services such as airtime across networks, the exchange of airtime for cash, internet data and Chura Money. Chura Money allows users to send and withdraw money from a paypal account to any mobile money platform in the country.



Samuel Njuguna, Programmer/Sales and marketing, Chura Limited

Chura won the DEMO Africa award for innovators in Africa in 2013 and visited the Silicon Valley, in the United States of America. They were top three finalists in the Royal Academy Africa prize of engineering and were named "most promising businesses start-up" in Africa by HumanIPO. The Chura team members include Jack Kinga, Programmer, Byron Sitawa, System Analyst, Samuel Njogu, Visual Designer, Stephanie Gaku, Funds Manager and Samuel Njuguna, Programmer/Sales and Marketing.

UoN innovation hub

After the official opening ceremony, the key guests assembled at Chiromo Campus for the official groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the University of Nairobi Innovation Hub. The historic event was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Information Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i.

The Innovation Hub will be the landmark computing facility for the University to further research in the computing field and incubate hundreds of business start-ups as the University leads in the formation of 'Silicon Savannah'.



A section of participants follow proceedings at the launch of the Nairobi Innovation Week.

Estimated to cost Ksh. 1 billion, the Innovation Hub will house innovators and entrepreneurs for two years as they build their business concepts into viable businesses.

The Nairobi Innovation Week convened several panels. The key topic on building a national innovation ecosystem was discussed by the keynote panelists. The panelists were Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Saul Singer, Langdon Morris, Jeremy Awori, Eng. John Tanui, Chief Executive Officer, Konza Technopolis Authority.

There were other nine panels, with panelists drawn from government, academia and industry leading the discussion on topical issues on innovation for economic development. The first panel was hosted by the title sponsor, Barclays Bank of Kenya. It explored the

successes and challenges of financial technology innovations in Africa. The panelists also discussed the future of finance technology and what other sectors can learn from its successes.

Other topics discussed by various panelists over the three-day period included:

- The startup ecosystem in Kenya
- Technology transfer
- Developing an ecosystem that attracts innovators
- Commercialization of innovations
- Strengthening the IP remark
- Strengthening linkages, between private sector, government and academia to enhance innovativeness
- Innovation in education delivery
- Kenya's innovation policy and strategy



Students from Kigumo Girls High School were also present at the Nairobi Innovation week.

Paper presentations

Besides the panels, there were also paper and poster presentations at the Nairobi Innovation Week. The presentations made by academia drawn from the University focused on innovation issues in different sectors such as engineering, health, ICT, natural and applied sciences, agriculture and food sciences and the social sciences.

Innovations by organizations and individuals were key attractions during the historic occasion. The event provided a platform for over 50

exhibitors, including university students, start-ups and commercial sectors to showcase different innovations.

One of the most notable innovation was presented by University of Nairobi Electrical Engineering student, George Ouma, who invented a mobile phone auto charger. The device uses energy generated by a mobile phone's activities to charge it. The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences showcased eight bean varieties bred by scientists at the University.

The project seeks to address the challenge of accessing breeders or foundation seed for certified seed production, which is one of the greatest challenges faced by seed companies in Kenya and Africa.

The Nairobi Innovation Week came to a close on August 7th, 2015 with the launch of the innovation journal titled: Transforming Africa through Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The journal is a book of abstracts on matters innovation for economic growth.

Quotes from the innovation week



"We need to have a systematic, well-coordinated way to market Kenyan innovations. Broader collaborations are the best approach. Be as inclusive as possible. Once all the key players like government, academia, private sector, international funders and individuals are involved, there are limitless possibilities as to what can be achieved"- Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology.



"The Africa Technology and Innovation Accelerator (AFTIA) programme will create a space to influence, support and grow innovators. We welcome all who wish to partner with the University in this noble cause" - Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, UoN.



"The Nairobi Innovation Week aims at creating and fostering partnerships with others in co-creating innovations and commercializing them to solve problems in the various sectors of our economy." - Dr. Idle Farah, Chairman of Council, UoN.



"Innovations should address priority areas in our society like agriculture, health, education, ICT. Innovations should improve and change lives. Events such as this allow the subculture of innovations to come up"- Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, UoN.



"Mechanisms of implementing the 'third mission' of universities; utilization of knowledge, requires that we interface with the community and stakeholders in relevance to societal needs and the demands of a vibrant national economy" - **Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension.**



"To entrepreneurs - celebrate failure, it is an opportunity to learn. The best lessons do not come from success but from failure; you learn from your failures. Great innovators are not necessarily great entrepreneurs" - **Dr. James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank.**



"What we are focusing on is building an ecosystem-getting people with experience, funders to participate. This is not just about the University of Nairobi, Barclays Bank or Ministry of ICT but it's a confluence of all of them" - **Jeremy Awori, CEO, Barclays Bank of Kenya.**



"Innovation can simply be the process of importing a great idea and domesticating it. Innovation is a team sport. We need to start connecting our ecosystem. That is the only way we can learn from each other" - **Saul Singer, American-Israeli journalist and author.**



"Universities must take the lead in innovation. You need to find a "NEED" Ethnographic researchers do this. Ethnographic research is key in understanding clients" - **Langdon Morris, Co-founder InnovationsLabs LLC.**



"Working closely with partners from private sector, research organizations, government and development partners, we aspire to grow the Nairobi Innovation Week into a defining annual global event that genuinely shapes and grows the innovation ecosystem in our country" - **Dr. Tonny Omwansa-Chairman, Nairobi innovation Week.**

UoN embarks on realizing its transformative agenda

The University's transformative agenda is pegged on ten strategic issues. The University of Nairobi has ushered in a new era in governance and leadership following the vision unveiled by the seventh Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi, when he was formally installed.

In his inaugural speech, Prof. Mbithi shared ten major strategic issues that his transformative agenda will revolve around. He revealed that his immediate priorities would be to shape the alignment with a view to achieving the strategic objectives.

To realize the transformative agenda, the University is engaging the government, private sector partners, donors and alumni. The University has also hosted forums for eminent persons, alumni and partners to discuss the institution's transformative agenda.

On March 25, 2015, the University of Nairobi engaged a panel of distinguished eminent persons to share ideas on the transformative agenda of the institution. The University management invited a delegation drawn from academia and industry to share their views on key areas that will influence the process of rebranding the University.

In addition, the forum provided the University's leadership an opportunity to share its vision, nurture partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders, receive feedback and align UoN vision with national, regional and global expectations.

Speakers drawn from different professions made presentations on various discussion themes that will found the transformative agenda. The key areas of discussion include fundraising, resource mobilization and sustainability strategy, infrastructure

development, setting up a graduate skills enhancement programme, improving student experience on campus, enhancing research and innovation, development of visionary, innovative and creative leadership, enhancing the image and competitiveness of the University, alumni relations and community service.

Prof. Mbithi noted that the forum is the beginning of a journey that will enhance the brand of the University and provide positive visibility. It will also provide an avenue to sensitise the stakeholders on strategic matters pertaining to the University.

Following the deliberations during the eminent persons' forum, the University shared the transformative agenda with partners and alumni. During the forum held on June 25, 2015, it was established that by setting up the University of Nairobi Foundation

and an endowment fund, UON will be able to expand its philanthropic support.

In addition, the operationalization of the Advancement Office will enable the University raise funds for research and innovation, scholarships and development of infrastructure. The University invites partners and alumni to support the realization of the various aspects of the transformative agenda.

The key areas of discussion include:-

- fundraising, resource mobilization and sustainability strategy,
- infrastructure development,
- setting up a graduate skills enhancement programme,
- improving student experience on campus,
- enhancing research and innovation,
- development of visionary,
- innovative and creative leadership,
- enhancing the image and competitiveness of the University,
- alumni relations and community service



A section of the participants who attended the forum held on June 25, 2015.

UoN and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote international relations



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Amb. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, during a signing ceremony for Memorandum of Understanding that will promote international relations and diplomacy in Africa and the world.

The University of Nairobi and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote international relations and diplomacy in Africa and the world.

The two will establish relations in training, research, consultancy and fellowships in the areas of diplomacy, international relations, peace, national cohesion and integration. The partnership will also see to the establishment of the Center for Diaspora Studies and Engagement

that will research and analyze emerging issues in the international economic, political, social and trade environment and their impact on Kenya's foreign policy.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Amb. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, noted that through the partnership, various projects aimed at empowering diplomats from African countries with knowledge and skills through training on short term and post graduate courses will be set up.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the University is committed to realizing the objectives of the partnership. He revealed that the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies will manage the collaboration on behalf of the University.

Prof. Judith Bahemuka welcomed the initiative, saying that there is need to engage members of staff who are former diplomats as resource persons in enhancing the University's relationship with the international community.

UoN hosts innovations seminar for schools

Kenya's uptake of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has evolved rapidly over the last decade and brought about many changes in all sectors, especially in education. The notion of modern teaching and learning is undergoing a complete metamorphosis to match developments in ICT.

To address challenges and new possibilities in this rapidly evolving sector, the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Teachers Service Commission and Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology organized a two-day seminar on ICT Innovations for Schools-themed "Embracing Technology and Innovation." The main objective of the seminar was to scale-up ICT Innovations right from schools.

The seminar, held on the June 25 and 26, 2015 at Kenya Science Campus, attracted over 100 participants. They included senior policymakers from Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT, and senior university management, Teacher Service Commission, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, heads of schools, teachers, students, and ICT champions.

The participants explored the future of technology for learning, innovation in ICT provision and curriculum development from across the education sector. Key speakers reiterated the need to align ICT in Education to Vision 2030 in order to ensure pupils learn better and are equipped with the technological skills to assist their development and future careers. The seminar was officially opened by Dr. Idle Farah, Chairman, University of Nairobi Council. Dr. Farah

urged participants to contribute to the national ICT master plan by actively writing papers and engaging in innovative projects that provide solutions to the current challenges in ICT. Mr Brown Otunga, representing the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, noted that ICT is the driving force for the country's national growth and a critical tool for expanding human skills. Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, represented the Vice-Chancellor.

The DVC highlighted the major contributions the University of Nairobi is making to develop innovations and digital content. Activities during the seminar included: policy discussions on ICT implementation, showcasing innovations, and sharing of strategies for transforming innovations into products that have impact on social and economic development.

Presentations covered a wide range of topics such as ICT Innovations: Case of Young Minds, Embracing Technology and Innovations in Curriculum Delivery: a case of KICD.



Participants take a group photo during the official opening ceremony of the seminar.



A section of participants at Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, held on April 5-12, 2015 in Washington DC.

UoN tops Africa in International Law Moot Court Competition

The University of Nairobi was ranked first in Africa and 10th worldwide out of 116 universities in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held from April 5-12, 2015 in Washington DC. The University of Nairobi's 4th year student, Ms Eva Kimani, was ranked 69th in the category of top 100 oralists.

The 116 teams participating in the competition were drawn from 95 countries. The UoN team comprised Smith Otieno (4th Year), Eva Kimani, Cecilia Isohi (2nd Year) and Leon Ndekei (2nd Year). Mr. Samson Alosa and Mrs. Joy Asiema were the team coaches.

In the preliminary rounds, the University of Nairobi competed against Belarus (International University MITSO), Brazil (Faculdade Baiana de Direito e Gestao), Vietnam (Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam) and Hong Kong China (University of Hong Kong). The University emerged top after winning all matches and qualified for knock out Rounds of 32. The University of Nairobi team was the only team from Africa to qualify to the advanced stage. In this category, the University lost against Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, from

Chile. Chile made it all the way to the final of the competition and was runner-up to Australia (University of Sydney). The final was judged by Sir Kenneth Keith, a former judge of the International Court of Justice, Joan Donoghue, a judge of the International Court of Justice and Harold Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School.

Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition with participants from over 550 law schools in more than 80 countries. 2015 was the 56th year of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One team is allowed to participate from every eligible school. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case. Thousands of law students from around the world will work all year long on the season's Jessup problem that will focus on the procedural and substantive issues arising from the secession of one province of a nation and its annexation into another.

Four teams participated in the Kenya preliminary selection rounds held in February. The teams were Kabarak University, Strathmore University, Kenya School of Law and University of Nairobi. The top two teams - Kabarak University and The University of Nairobi - proceeded to the final. In the final rounds, the University of Nairobi emerged victorious, becoming the National Jessup champions in Kenya 2015 and thus qualifying for the International Law rounds.

In a separate development, a ranking conducted by Journals Consortium placed UoN at position four in Africa. The ranking was based on research publications and citations from the last five years as well as visibility on the internet.

The University of Nairobi garnered an impact score of 38.8 on research publications and citations, 4.01 on Internet/Web presence and a total influence factor of 42.81. The top position was taken by the University of Cape Town while the second and third positions were taken by Cairo University and the University of Pretoria, respectively.

Prof. Njoroge appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance



Prof. Bernard Njoroge

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, appointed Prof. Bernard N.K. Njoroge as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance. The five year appointment made on April 30, 2015, is in accordance with section 35 (I) (V) of the Universities Act, 2012.

The appointment follows a rigorous search and interviews conducted by the University of Nairobi Council, which made a recommendation to the Government. Before this appointment, Prof. Njoroge was the Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, a position he had held since January 2009.

A professor of Civil Engineering, Prof. Njoroge previously served as Dean, School of Engineering and Chairman, Department of Civil and

Construction Engineering. Prof. Njoroge was awarded a PhD in Civil Engineering at Duke University, USA. He is also a holder of a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (First Class Honours) from the University of Nairobi.

Prof. Njoroge has extensive experience in teaching and supervision of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has also attended numerous local and international academic seminars and conferences. He is a member of several professional societies.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Njoroge on his new appointment and wishes him well.

Prof. Ngau is acting Principal, CAE



Prof. Peter Ngau

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. Mbiti in consultation with the University Council, appointed Prof. Peter M. Ngau as the acting Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE).

Prof Ngau was appointed on May 5, 2015 to replace Prof. Bernard N.K. Njoroge following his appointment as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance. Prof Ngau is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

A Registered Physical Planner, Prof. Ngau was employed in the University in 1989 as a Lecturer. He was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer in 1995 and rose to the position of Associate Professor in 2000.

He holds a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California. He served as Chairman, Department of Urban and Regional Planning between 2000 and 2009.

He was the acting Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development between 2002 and 2003. He has been the Director, Centre for Urban Research and Innovation at the University of Nairobi since 2009.

He is an accomplished scholar having published 16 journal articles, 4 book chapters and 11 books, plans and monographs.

University of Nairobi Alumni Association launches Education Alumni Chapter

It was pomp and colour as the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UoNAA) launched the Education Alumni Chapter on April 30, 2015. The chapter by the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) is the 13th one established by UoNAA.

The event held at the Nairobi Safari Club was presided over by Mrs. Elymaryta M. Khaoya, Senior Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Also present were the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, CEES Principal, Prof. Isaac Jumba, Deputy Principal, Prof. Horace Ochanda, UoNAA Vice-Chairman, Prof. R.A. Obudho, among other distinguished guests.

Mrs. Khaoya delivered the message from the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang. In her remarks, Mrs. Khaoya stated that the quality of an institution is powered by the

alma mater, which builds and supports institutions by enhancing resources. She called on the alumni to volunteer manpower through research, innovation and quality training and to support students through mentorship. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mbithi, himself an alumni of the University of Nairobi (Class of 1983), assured guests and Alumni of the University's continued support in the implementation of projects. The VC reiterated the important role the alumni play in the development of the University. He praised the organizers of the event for putting together a well-organized and well attended event.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Jumba narrated the history of the college. He highlighted major milestones the University has achieved over the years, noting key collaborations with international universities, the satellite colleges and great programmes implemented. Mrs. Leah Mumbua of Kenya School of Government shared memorable experiences she had while

she was a student at the University. She stressed the need for the alumni to give back to the University for shaping the professional lives of the alumni. Mrs. Mumbua urged the alumni to remain dedicated to improving the institution. "It is my prayer that you remain focused in what you are destined to be. This occasion is a great event for networking and reconnecting with old friends," Mrs. Mumbua said.

Representing the European Union, Mrs. Apiyo Okwiri reiterated the important role alumni play as good ambassadors of the University. She also stressed the need for the alumni to give back to the university by supporting programmes and projects and challenged them to give the University constructive feedback so that the institution can continue maintaining high quality.

Speaking on behalf of the UoNAA Chair Dr. Betty Gikonyo, Prof. Obudho noted the pivotal role the different chapters that make up the University Alumni play in identifying the needs and projects of their respective chapters. He highlighted the need for the alumni to work together to mobilise resources to meet the strategic objectives of the UoNAA. The *Varsity Focus* wishes the Education Alumni Chapter the very best in their future endeavours.



The launch of a new Alumni Chapter.

Italian Premier challenges varsities to adopt new solutions to social ills



H.E. Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy, gives a public lecture at the University of Nairobi.

The Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi, has challenged universities to be frontiers in building different strategies for a better future. The premier made the appeal during a public lecture at the University of Nairobi. He called on students and academia to create new approaches and ideas on the issues affecting the society.

The Prime Minister said students are the future stakeholders of the vision of the world and expressed hope that they could be leaders with the ability to create this vision.

During the interaction on 'Challenges of Development: Building Bridges to Combat Extremism,' Renzi noted that terrorism is one of the greatest

challenges in the world. The Prime Minister condemned the terrorist attacks on Garissa University College. He said everyone has a role to play in the war against terrorism, since it is an attack on identity and freedom. The Premier noted that his government has set up a scholarship fund to support the students who survived the Garissa University attack.

Renzi said Africa is rising to become a world leader economically, and called for investment in technology, stating that technology is a great asset for any nation. The premier pointed out that technological innovations such as M-Pesa by Safaricom has empowered Kenyans to conduct different transactions.

"We need to choose courage, not fear. Education is the key for the future. Invest in education, invest in the future. We must respond to our challenges with the right knowledge," said the PM.

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, the University Chancellor, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Education Science and Technology, Ms Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Dr. Idle Farah, Chairman of UoN Council and Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, spoke during the event.

University of Nairobi hosts UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs Consultative Forum



Education Science and Technology, Mrs. Fenny Mwakisha, Director, Higher Education, urged universities to work with UNESCO and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in maximizing on the opportunities available for the benefit of the country. Mrs. Mwakisha said there is need for creation of more UNESCO Chairs in the universities which are sustainable and that support UNESCO programme objectives and priorities.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi lauded UNESCO for building peace in the minds of men and women, noting that this has been implemented through addressing freedom from want of basic needs, individual liberty and human rights in their broadest sense, and equal access to information and education for all. Prof. Mbithi said the University of Nairobi is committed to fully support the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair at the University.

The forum panelists included Prof. Shem Wandiga, Department of Chemistry, UoN, Dr. Evangeline Njoka, Secretary General, KNATCOM, Dr. Abdul Lamin, Social and Human Sciences Specialist, UNESCO and Dr. Mildred Nawiri, Kenyatta University.

The University of Nairobi was the host of the first UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs consultative forum. The forum sought to review past achievements and challenges faced by UNESCO chairs and establish why Africa has failed to establish more UNESCO university chairs and UNITWIN networks. The forum's theme was: UNESCO Chairs for Knowledge Creation, Innovation and Sustainable Development in Kenya.

The event, which was held on April 22, 2015, brought together various stakeholders in the higher education sector, universities, donors, local and international scholars, students and individuals interested in the work of UNESCO. It addressed the serious problems occasioned by global climate change, international terrorism, corruption, drug abuse, and rapid unplanned urbanization. During the keynote presentation, Prof. Michael Chege noted that one of the important innovations by UNESCO is the inauguration of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs and Associated Networks.

The overarching goal of the initiative is to promote international inter-university cooperation worldwide, using two institutional approaches. The approaches include the establishment of UNESCO chairs in established universities and creation of University Twinning Networks (UNITWIN) to facilitate synergy and cooperation

between university programmes that share common objectives. Prof. Chege noted that both the UNESCO Chairs and UNITWINS were expected to act as "bridges linking universities to states, policy-makers, civil society" and ordinary citizens. "They were to be vehicles to scientifically tackle the challenges in a manner consistent with UNESCO's mandate, thereby creating vibrant and strategic way of breathing new life into the organization and its member states," he said. Speaking on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary,



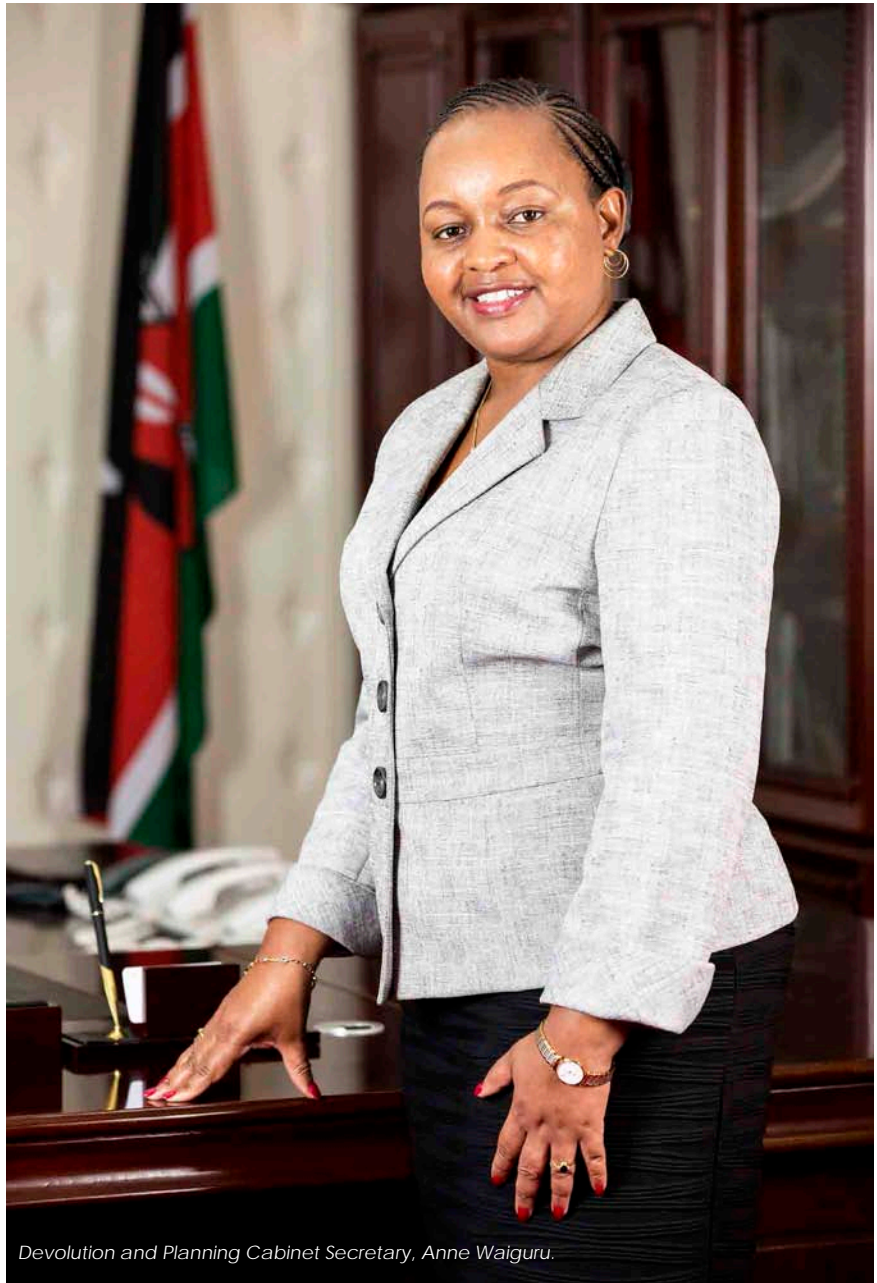
The UNESCO and UNITWINS event held on April 22, 2015. The forum involved the higher education sector, universities, donors, local and international scholars, students and other individuals.

CS Anne Waiguru urges students to pursue business

Devolution and Planning Cabinet Secretary, Anne Waiguru has challenged university students to explore entrepreneurship. In her keynote presentation to fourth year students at the University of Nairobi, Ms. Waiguru highlighted the various opportunities the Government has provided to young Kenyans.

She noted that through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Government designed and initiated the Uwezo Fund, a flagship programme aimed at providing credit to micro and small enterprises owned by women, youth and persons with disability.

Ms. Waiguru challenged young people to take advantage of some of the measures the Government has put in place to build youth enterprises. Key among them is the 30 percent public procurement preferential reservations for women, youth and persons with disabilities.



Devolution and Planning Cabinet Secretary, Anne Waiguru.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche welcomed the Cabinet Secretary. He said the University of Nairobi management is committed to improving student experience while on campus and setting up a vibrant graduate skills enhancement programme.

Prof. Mbeche said the University is seeking ways of engaging representatives of firms owned by youth, women and persons with disabilities.

He noted that the University is keen on developing a working relationship with the firms while managing the affirmative action on 30 percent procurement awards to firms owned by youth, women and persons with disabilities.

Panelists urge academia to shape discourse on violent extremism



Panelists on "Countering Violent Extremism: Shaping the Discourse on Legitimate Narratives", sing the National Anthem during the forum held in Taifa Hall.

A panel of eminent scholars has challenged the academia to engage in research to advise the nation on how to deal with violent extremism and develop legitimate narrative.

During the discourse, it was established that it is important for the Kenya to think through and shape the discourse on legitimate narratives in countering violent extremism, thereby creating a deeper understanding of the issue. The knowledge created will advise policy and guide the country as it combats terrorism. The forum dubbed 'Countering Violent Extremism: Shaping the Discourse on Legitimate Narratives,' hosted by the University of Nairobi and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, brought together faculty and students who sought to understand the phenomena on extremism.

While moderating the session observed that Dr. Monica Juma, said that extremism envisions and propagates a single narrow viewpoint and readily perpetrates violence on those deemed opponents.

Dr. Juma noted that extremists continue to viciously propagate disinformation, over time creating erroneous narratives exploited for recruitment and actual violence. Therefore, it is important to understand the phenomena and create new narratives that will defeat extremists' views. Dr. Juma is the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that universities have a role to play in confronting the challenge that is facing the country and the region.

Prof. Mbithi said the government is intent on optimizing on talents of leading experts and scholars to further deeper awareness and propagate the right kind of message on the important topic of countering violent extremism. The University is keen to play its rightful role and contribute towards this noble idea of countering extremism and terrorism.

Among the panelists was Prof. Karima Bennouna, a professor of law at the University of California, who made a presentation based on her book *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim*

Fundamentalism. The book details local struggles against extremism and terror, based on 300 interviews with people of Muslim heritage from 30 countries. Prof. Michael Chege, UoN, said in order to understand violent extremism, intelligence driven research is important. He said that academia is not doing enough research to deal with the issue.

Prof. Rohan Gunaratna, a specialist of the Global Threat Environment, challenged UoN to build a specialist centre that will produce strategic thinkers and researchers who understand the art of fighting terrorism.

UoN through the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) recently held a symposium on "Countering Terrorism: in search of a Grand African Strategy", on May 7, 2015.

On June 17, 2015 UoN through IDIS in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) held another symposium on the topic "Get to know refugees, their roles in the host country."

Advancement Office established to bolster University's leadership and competitiveness

The University of Nairobi occupies a preeminent position as the pioneer university and the largest institution of higher learning in Kenya. It is the single largest contributor of manpower in the region. Its staff and alumni have made distinguished and remarkable contribution in the advancement of knowledge, innovation and development.

To bolster this position of leadership and competitiveness, the University recently established the Advancement Office, a directorate that was envisioned in its current strategic plan. The office was established by the University Council in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and will also tap from the networks of the Chancellor in its outreach.

The Advancement Office is the pivot of integration and coordination of key stakeholders such as the government, private sector, development sector, media, alumni relations, among others. This outreach effort will enable these stakeholders to participate and contribute to the university's agenda.

In its 3-year Advancement Action Plan, the directorate will seek to mobilize resources and fundraise to improve the learning interests of students, elevate faculty and the academic enterprise, create modern learning environments, embolden the UON's research agenda and drive high impact innovation. In this

regard, the office will leverage on the University's Endowment Fund and the University of Nairobi Foundation as the University's fundraising vehicles.

Under its marketing and communications role, the office, in collaboration with relevant institutional departments will develop a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy that will enhance the University of Nairobi's brand and bolster its positioning as the premier learning institution in the region. The office also targets to increase awareness on the university research, teaching and learning and service excellence. This enhanced profile will in the long run support fundraising and resources mobilization.

The university has tapped two experienced professionals – Mr. Johnson Kinyua and Mr. Brian Ouma – as the Director and Deputy Director of University Advancement respectively to spearhead the directorate.

Mr. Kinyua is a partnership and collaborations expert and is the immediate former Executive Director of University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA). Kinyua was previously working with KCA University as Ethics and Governance Manager before joining UONAA. He also worked with VSO Jitolee, world's leading volunteering NGO in Malawi as a Management Advisor. Kinyua is a

strategic and transformative leader and a respected authority in Kenya in the area of volunteer management, alumni relations, fundraising and events planning for the last 10 years.

Mr. Ouma, on the other hand, is the quintessential strategist and a critical thinker with extensive experience in the development sector. He has been the Chief Executive Officer of Daisy Eye Cancer Fund.

He has contributed widely in infrastructure development at the University of Nairobi especially in the field of research through the partnership to set up Retinoblastoma Collaborative Pathology Lab at the School of Dental Sciences in University of Nairobi.

He also has extensive experience in Governance having served as a trustee at the Centre for African Families Studies (CAFs) African Regional Office, Allavida and as a Founder Trustee of Kenya Childhood Cancer Trust and the International Centre for Research and Innovation, amongst others. He also sits on several NGO boards.

In an increasingly competitive world and interconnected world, competitiveness must transcend local and regional boundaries. The university sees this bigger picture and will leverage on the Advancement Office to realize its vision of a world-class university.



Mr. Johnson Ireri Kinyua
Director University Advancement Office

To bolster this position of leadership and competitiveness, the University recently established the Advancement Office, a directorate that was envisioned in its current strategic plan. The office was established by the University Council in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and will also tap from the networks of the Chancellor in its outreach.



Mr. Brian Ouma
Deputy Director University Advancement Office



Dr. Monica Juma makes her presentation during the symposium.

University engages security stakeholders to enhance the war against terrorism

The University of Nairobi has collaborated with several key stakeholders to enhance strategies in the war against terrorism in order to keep Kenya and the entire region safe. One of the recent initiatives was a symposium hosted by the University, in collaboration with the Africa Policy Institute on May 7th 2015.

The symposium, "Counterterrorism: In search of a Grand African Strategy," was attended by participants from several sectors involved in counter-terrorism, including senior government officials; members of the diplomatic Corps, African regional organizations; UN and other international agencies, scholars, civil society, think-tanks and the media.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Monica Juma, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior. Other speakers were University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi, Defence Cabinet Secretary Dr. Raychelle Omamo, Attorney General

Prof. Githu Muigai and CID Director, Mr Ndegwa Muhoro. The participants identified and critically examined the existing strategies for combating terrorism, their efficacy and areas that require improvement, as well as the governance environments that may influence the terrorist trends in Africa.

Dr. Juma noted that the economic development of Kenya is threatened by the threats of terrorism. She said radicalization of the youthful populace not only demoralizes the state agencies but also enhances terrorism, which is on the verge of splitting Kenya along religious lines. The principal secretary called for joining forces with the international community to fight terrorism together and urged state agencies to be pre-emptive rather than respond to attacks in order to place Kenya in the right direction towards winning the war on terror.

"We must be ahead of communication by terrorists," she said. She challenged the academia to carry out research on

terrorism, especially on the new Kenya and the new constitution, the position of Kenya in the global security landscape, emerging threats such as radicalization of the youth, migration of Somali refugees and institutional reforms.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mbithi said countering terrorism requires the collective effort of key stakeholders - including the media, religious leaders, think tanks, the academia, the civil society, government and the international community - to eradicate the menace.

Prof. Mbithi noted that a lot of resources being channelled towards security operations could be channelled in the development agenda in order to achieve faster economic growth. Dr. Omamo postulated that the war on terror will be won if Kenyans preserve their values. "We as a people need to put value on Kenya. Our value system is weak and hence the struggle to win the war on terror," she said.

UoN and KCB Foundation to address challenges in the livestock sector



Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi and Mr. Samuel Makome, Managing Director, KCB, sign the MoU. Looking on are top management from the two Institutions.

The University of Nairobi and Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation have entered into a partnership that will incorporate best farming practices in livestock farming. In the programme dubbed *Mifugo ni Mali*, the two will promote scholarly intervention to address challenges facing the livestock sector in Kenya.

Speaking during the MoU signing ceremony at the University, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi said there is need to translate research into solutions that will address problems affecting the society.

Prof. Mbithi said the University is keen on working with industry and community and that the programme with KCB is a noble initiative. He noted that through the programme, students studying veterinary science will get exposure in practical learning environments while helping livestock farmers create wealth through eradication of persistent livestock

challenges. Mr. Samuel Makome, Chief Business Officer and Managing Director, KCB, said the partnership will provide a sustainable framework in breaking down livestock research for consumption by farmers in order to boost their produce.

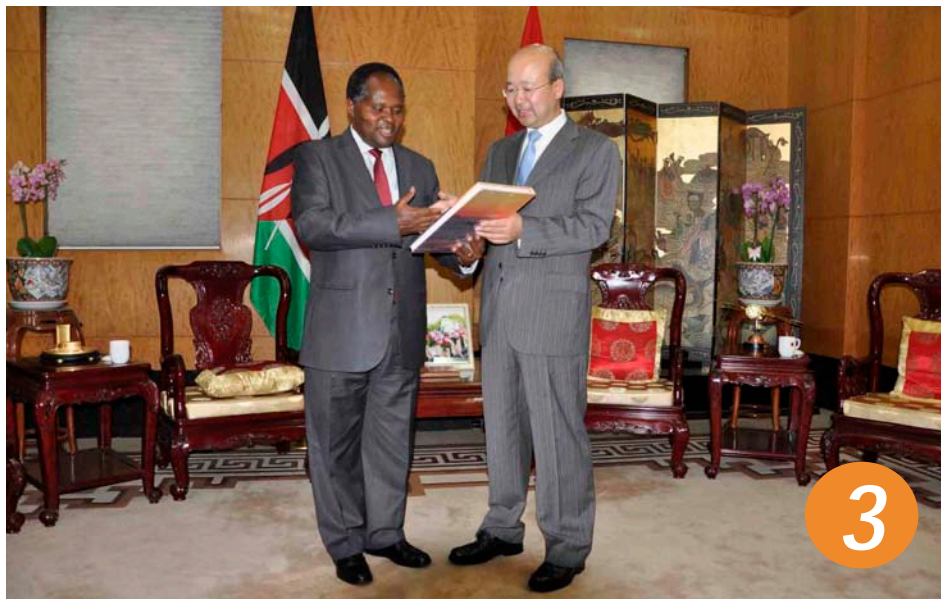
Makome noted that the programme had recorded positive impact in the livestock sector in arid and semi-arid areas. Farmers in Baringo and Kwale counties have benefited from training and accessing loans and extensions services through *Mifugo ni Mali*.

Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Charles Mulei, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Prof. Daniel Gakuya, Chairman, Department of Clinical Studies, witnessed the signing ceremony.

Pictorial



1. The Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi, signs the visitor's book at the University of Nairobi. Looking on is Italian Ambassador to Kenya, Mauro Massoni, Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.
2. Muslim students at the University of Nairobi invited Muslim leaders from Parliament to join them in breaking the fast – The Grand Iftar. Hon. Aden Duale, Majority Leader of the National Assembly and Hon. Hassan Omar, Mombasa County Senator, and Prof. Isaac Mbeche, University of Nairobi's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Affairs, were present.
3. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi receives a gift from the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Dr. Liu Xianfa when he paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador.



4. Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, and Prof. Frank Hardman, Institute for Effective Education, University of York, sign a memorandum of understanding. The two universities are collaborating in the ESRC-DFID Research project to implement cross-age peer tutoring in the teaching and reading in Kenya.
5. The University of Nairobi Alumni Association and University Advancement Office staff plant trees at the College of Education and External Studies. The trees, worth Kshs 50,000, were donated by Dr. Kuria Kamanu, UON Alumnus (BSc, 2000), who is also a Lecturer in the School of Mathematics.
6. Taita Ng'etich (centre) a 5th year, Mechanical Engineering student, receives an award after his innovation dubbed 'Mkulima Hodari' emerged the second best start up in the world at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit. Ng'etich and his counterpart Brian Bett, a 4th year Economics and Statistics student, won a cash award of USD15000.

Premier institution and Nyandarua County to establish university



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Nyandarua County Governor Mr. Daniel Waithaka during the courtesy call.

The University of Nairobi and Nyandarua County Government will set up a university in Nyandarua. The collaboration between the University and the county was revealed when the Nyandarua Governor, Mr. Daniel Waithaka paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, on June 17, 2015.

Prof. Mbithi welcomed the initiative, noting that UoN will mentor the institution until it

is a fully fledged university in accordance with the Universities Act 2012. Already, the University of Nairobi is mentoring Embu University College and Koitaleel Samoei University College towards becoming fully-fledged universities.

Mr. Waithaka thanked the University for accepting to partner with the county in setting up a university. He said the proposed name for the university is Nyandarua

University. According to Mr. Waithaka, the establishment of the institution is part of the county government's plan.

During the meeting, it was discussed and agreed that a committee comprising Nyandarua County Government officials and the University of Nairobi management will be established to look into the matter, after which a memorandum of understanding will be drawn for signing.



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi and Nandi Governor, Dr. Cleophas Lagat sign the Memorandum of Understanding that will see the University of Nairobi mentor a University in Nandi county.

UoN proposes Koitaleel Samoei University College in Nandi

The University of Nairobi will mentor Koitaleel Samoei University College as its constituent college. The new constituent college will be located in Nandi County. The University of Nairobi will offer advice on academic and administrative staff exchanges, academic programmes and technical expertise to enable the University College acquire fully fledged and world class university status.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter M.F Mbithi and Nandi County Governor Dr Cleophas Lagat signed the MoU in the presence of Koitaleel Samoei. The courses that will be offered by Koitaleel include Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (LLB). The university college will be headed by a Principal assisted by two Deputy Principals.

According to the Universities Act, a mentoring institution must agree to mentor a new institution as a requirement for approval of the new institution by the Commission for University Education, (CUE). The University of Nairobi will mentor the new constituent college to a fully-fledged university when it

will eventually get a charter. The Commission for University Education carried out a technical inspection of the proposed Koitaleel Samoei University College with a view to assess the adequacy and appropriateness of the academic resources. The inspection also involved assessment of the physical facilities, human resources, financial resources, library resources, academic programmes and student enrolment, the University College Master Plan, and the Strategic Plan.

The establishment of Koitaleel Samoei University College is in line with the government requirement that there shall be a public university in every county. Secondly, the university will be a stimulus for the achievement of Vision 2030 goals and also preserve the cultural history of the Nandi people in memory of the legendary leader, Koitaleel arap Samoei. President Uhuru Kenyatta laid a foundation stone at Koitaleel Samoei University College last April. The University of Nairobi is currently mentoring Embu University College (EUC), which has recorded significant improvement since its establishment in 2011. EUC was awarded ISO 9000: 2008 Certification in December 2014 and launched its Strategic Plan for the Period 2014-2019.

Varsity enhances ties with National Defence College

The University is ready and willing to support government agencies to achieve their mandate in research and extension programmes



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and the National Defence College, Commandant Lieutenant General Jackson Waweru.

Discussions are underway between the University of Nairobi (UoN) and National Defence College (NDC) to revise the academic collaboration and increase areas of research on security issues affecting the country.

In a meeting between the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi and the NDC Commandant, Lieutenant General Jackson Waweru, it was noted that the collaboration has seen NDC offer diploma and degree programmes to personnel in the Defence Force.

Prof. Mbithi said the University is ready and willing to support government agencies to achieve their mandate in research and extension programmes. The University will help the National Defence College seek new knowledge in the area of security. Areas of

collaboration between the University and the college include joint research, publications, training and study tours. Lieutenant General Waweru urged the University to offer more programmes, especially degree courses. He revealed that NDC personnel will be travelling to India to benchmark.

The practice the world over – more so in the United Kingdom, United States and India – is to educate senior officers in the military. They are encouraged to get bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees with the possibility of credit transfers. This is what the National Defence College seeks to achieve in collaborating with the University.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, noted that there are many

emerging issues on security and piracy. She observed that in collaboration with the National Defence College, the University can carry out research and create new knowledge.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Maria Nzomo, Director, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies and Prof. William Ogara, Director, Centre for International Programme and Links attended the meeting.

UoN launches Policy on drug abuse

The University of Nairobi Drug Policy on Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse was officially launched during the ceremony to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The policy was launched jointly by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and National Authority for Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) Chairman Mr. John Mututho, on June 26, 2015.

According to Mr. Mututho, 2.5 million Kenyans are addicts with 82.5% of the youth smoking 'shisha.' 11.7% of the youth between the ages of 15-24 years consume alcohol and only 13% of this number is known to their parents. Mr. Mututho appealed to the youth drug addicts to come out and ask for help that is available for them. The international theme for this year's celebrations was dubbed "Drug Use Disorders Are Treatable."

The NACADA chairman assured the University of the Government's involvement in fighting Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA), especially within the institution. He said NACADA will ensure no one succeeds in either sending to or selling drugs in the University. Prof. Mbithi noted that the commemorative event was an appropriate recognition of the extraordinary progress made and an important reminder that the most profound challenge that still remains is to end the devastating vice in the society. The VC revealed that to strengthen these

preventive activities, the University has developed a Student Assistance Programme (SAP) and an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), whose specific activities include sensitization campaigns to create awareness, health education sessions, training (Peer Counsellors/Educators), guidance and counselling, orientation of students, appropriate referrals when specialized service is necessary and active participation in ADA prevention activities organized by the ADA sub-units and ADA clubs.

Prof. Bernard Njoroge, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, noted that ADA is a development barrier because the youth, who are meant to be the most active economically, are the ones that are most affected by it. He called on all to be aware of the risks of alcohol and drug abuse and the illicit trafficking of these substances. The Chief Medical Officer, University Health Services, Dr. M.R.B. Otieno, pointed out the efforts towards fighting ADA; peer counselors and Trainers of trainers (ToT) on call and sensitization programmes available.

During the celebrations, there was a processional march by the Kenya Police Band from Taifa Hall to the Chancellor's Court flagged off by Prof. Mbithi. Local artists such as Ruth Matete, Mr. Seed, Hypeman Guddah and various student dance crews entertained the crowd.



University of Nairobi students and staff during the International Day against Drug Abuse.



Prof. Ngugi challenges Kenyans to embrace home products

Kenya's most celebrated literary icon, Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, delivered a public lecture at the University of Nairobi as part of the activities in celebrating the 50th anniversary of his book, *Weep Not Child*. During the lecture delivered at Taifa Hall on June 11, 2015, Prof. Ngugi spoke on widening of democratic space, post-colonial theory, cognitive process of knowledge, mentorship, and appreciation of local talent and language.

The renowned don challenged the University community and the general public to embrace Kenyan products, companies, and more so Kenyan culture and heritage. He specifically appreciated the bottled mineral water, Royal Satima, and the Varsity yoghurt; products of the University of Nairobi, among other products, as examples of

nurturing local talent and being proud of our very own. He urged the Government of Kenya to go a notch higher and take a practical approach to Universities' Education curriculum, such as making cars and planes, instead of relying on imported goods from Europe or the East. Comparing Kenya to South Korea, he noted that the two countries gained their independence almost at the same time, but one has made more significant economic growth than the other. He challenged Kenyans to compete with the Asian giants.

Speaking to full house consisting of intellectuals from different backgrounds and the general public, Prof. Ngugi took them down the memory lane of *Weep Not Child*, a book that was published in 1964 by East African Educational Publishers.

Prof. Ngugi, who is currently a distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and English at the University of California, Irvine, has roots at the University of Nairobi. He was the Chair of Department of Literature before he went into exile in late 1970s.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that the 50 years celebration of the literary works by Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o was an honour for the University. Prof. Mbithi noted that art defines our identity. Using the major claim of Ubuntu 'I am because you are', he noted that he is a product of Kenyan society. Quoting from one of Prof. Ngugi's books, *Decolonizing the mind*, Prof. Mbithi noted that after decolonizing the mind, human progress becomes possible.

NACOSTI holds Science and Technology Week at the University

The University of Nairobi hosted the fourth edition of National Commission of Science and Technology (NACOSTI) Science and Technology Week to showcase the best use of science and technology for sustainable development. Speaking during the event, Prof. Collete Suda, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, noted that in order for Kenya to develop there is need for collaborative effort of the media, the academia and development partners, among others. She challenged the youth to embrace science subjects in school.

Prof. Suda, who represented Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, reiterated the government's commitment to support research. She said the Ministry has committed Ksh397m this financial year and supported close to 1,500s projects, key among them, sponsoring students to pursue masters and doctorate programmes both

locally and abroad. The collaborations the Ministry has established include; DFID, JICA and partnerships with various countries like Japan, France, Germany and Britain. Prof. Suda noted that even as Kenya marches towards Vision 2030, key challenges like insecurity, environmental sustainability, health and sanitation must be dealt with. "Science and technology must play a key role in dealing with the challenges," she said. Prof. Suda added that all research activities are geared towards improving Kenyans' quality of life.

Prof. Peter Mbithi, the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, said Science and Technology Week gave the University a chance to further its positioning in science and technology in line with its mandate of teaching, learning and research. He said the University and NACOSTI have been partners in many ways. Prof. Mbithi was represented by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs.

NACOSTI Chair, Prof. Njeri Wamae, noted that the mandate of NACOSTI is to regulate the quality of research in the country and advise the government. She noted that the organization's aim is to integrate science and research in national development.

The Science and Technology Week is an annual event organized by NACOSTI to enable scientists, researchers, and innovators to showcase Kenya's breakthroughs in science and technology. The best scientists' innovations are celebrated and rewarded. It brings together secondary schools that performed well at the Science symposia, technical colleges and universities both locally and regionally.

"Science and technology must play a key role in dealing with the challenges,"



Prof. Collete Suda, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology is shown the University's Superior Beans Variety by Prof. Paul Kimani when she toured the University of Nairobi stand during the NACOSTI Science Week. Looking on is Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs.

University of Nairobi hosts first International Yoga Day

The University of Nairobi hosted the first United Nations International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, 2015. The ceremony held at the Chancellor's Court brought together over 5,000 individuals, including the Cabinet Secretary for Sports and Culture, Dr. Hassan Wario, UoN Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Nairobi Governor Dr. Evans Kidero.

Also present were the Chairman, Chandaria Group of Companies, Dr. Manu Chandaria and Chief Executive Officer, Bidco Company, Vimal Shah. During the event, participants were taken through group posture practice,

warm-up exercises, stretching, sun salutation, rhythmic control of breathing and meditation. There were also presentations and lectures, free health check-ups, nutrition advice, and various exhibitions. Though the practice is new in Kenya, yoga has been around for hundreds of years in the Western and Eastern countries.

In his welcoming remarks, Prof. Mbithi highlighted the importance of yoga, including healing of diseases, relaxation of the body, mind and soul and keeping the bodily operations at peak performance.

The VC noted that beneficial things to mankind have been adopted by the United Nations, including yoga, which has gained international recognition. He called on the Kenyan youth to adopt the practice and spread it throughout the country.

The Government of Kenya, University of Nairobi, United Nations, Bidco Oil Company, The Art of Living, Kenya Vegetarian Club, Lamu Yoga Festival, Theosophical Society, Hindu Council of Kenya, Brahma Kumaris, Africa Yoga Project, Hindu Religious and Service Centre and Chinmaya Mission were the main sponsors of the event.

Yoga...a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation.





Chiromo Environmental Awareness Club members celebrate World Environmental Day 2015.

Students root for environmental safety

Chiromo Environmental Awareness Club (CEAC) is dedicated to creating awareness and sustainable solutions to environmental challenges in partnership with other organisations that support this cause. CEAC, which is a professional body in the School of Biological Sciences, engages in the advocacy for wildlife by actively participating in campaigns such as the "Ivory Belongs to the Elephants", which sought to have government institutions destroy piles of illegal wildlife products.

The club also participated in the World Environment Day on June 5, 2015. The theme of the event was, "7 billion dreams, one planet; consume with care." CEAC advocated for a cleaner world with sustainable practices that protect the environment. CEAC takes part in clean up exercises within Nairobi. The crusade for a clean environment also involves physical activities to ensure its maintenance. The students have been involved in clean-up exercises in Kibera, Muthurwa market and Globe Roundabout, in collaboration with other organisations. They have also planted trees at City Park in Parklands. The club's community social responsibility activities include visiting primary schools

to educate pupils on the importance of conserving the environment. This year, the club represented the University in The Mazingira Challenge: an Inter-University Environmental-theme contest and powered its way to the semi-finals.

The club also visited the Ondiri Swamp to study the effects of human development on natural wetlands and come up with sustainable measures to reduce damage to the environment. The water from the swamp had been blocked by construction of a road. CEAC has established a tree nursery.

In partnership with organisations such as the National Museums of Kenya, The Friends of Arboretum, Kenya Forest Service and the Friends of Karura, the club has acquired a variety of seeds and gained skills on the management of the nursery. The members have eight different indigenous and exotic tree species in the greenhouse. In addition to the rehabilitation of the nursery and making of the seed beds, CEAC conducted research on indigenous tree species in Kenya to understand how to manage resources in a sustainable manner.

The club also has an Environmental Communications project that seeks to find ways to tell environmental issues in a compelling manner. Enrolment is free to all University of Nairobi students who are interested in conservation. Under this project, the club has documented various environmental issues, such as the fluoride menace in Karinde village.

CEAC has been training members and interested students on videography, photography, scripting, video editing, blogging and using social media. CEAC has also been active in documenting waste management in the campus, carrying out research and coming up with feasible solutions. The platforms have improved the club's outreach strategy enabling them to engage with members and professionals.

In order to galvanise efforts, environmental clubs from different universities formed the Kenya Interuniversity Environmental Students Association. This platform enables different clubs to increase awareness on environmental issues. Membership is open to University of Nairobi students from all campuses.

IFOA President urges Actuarial Science students to diversify their careers



University of Nairobi students follow the presentation by IFOA President, Mr. Nick Salter.

Actuarial Science students at the University of Nairobi have been challenged to diversify their careers. Addressing a public forum organised by the School of Mathematics in conjunction with the Actuarial Society of Kenya, the President, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFOA), Mr. Nick Salter, advised the students to consider joining industries that deal with risk, such as the banking and manufacturing sectors.

Mr. Salter noted that the main advantage of diversity is the efficiency it creates at the work place. Salter observed that companies with employees from different professional backgrounds work better and achieve more compared with employees from the same background.

Mr. Salter said actuarial skills help companies to make better decisions. He noted that students in Actuarial Science get better training in the management of

risks. He further challenged the students to pursue professional certifications to gain advantage in job placement.

The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries has students from over 100 countries around the world and offers professional certifications in Actuarial Science. Public lectures by industry practitioners are used to enable students to interact with the industry players. It is part of the mentorship programmes that the University has prioritised.



Capturing the moment: A section of the Actuarial Science students take a group photo with the team from IFOA and University management.

Institute for Development Studies to celebrate

50th Anniversary

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, will mark 50th anniversary since its establishment in 1965 as part of the then University of East Africa.

Several activities have been lined up to mark the 50th anniversary, whose climax will be an international conference from November 18th to 21st on *"Rethinking Development and Development Studies in the Post 2015 Era"*. The aim of the conference, which will be held at the

University of Nairobi, is to investigate the relationship of development thought to development practice but with an eye to how that relationship facilitates a people-centred development agenda.

In preparation for the conference, IDS has called for conference papers and essays on five thematic areas:

- Development thinking and practice: a retrospective and prospective look;
- Democracy and development dilemmas;

- Mobility, access and urbanisation processes in Africa;
- Security and peace building in Africa: towards a new architecture
- Africa's changing economies and demography

Three best essays will be selected for presentation at the Conference and subsequent publication alongside other selected academic papers presented at the conference.



The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) students during a past graduation ceremony. The Institute will celebrate its 50th anniversary in November 2015.



UoN releases findings on devolution and corruption in Kenya

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From left to right: Afrobarometer team members Dr Paul Kamau (IDS), Mr Daniel Armah-Attah, Anglophone West Africa Manager, Prof Winnie Mitullah (IDS) and Ms Sharon Parku (M&E Officer) during Round 6 Planning Meeting in Cape Town.

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, released the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey findings on devolution and corruption in Kenya. The Afrobarometer is an independent, nonpartisan research project that measures the social, political, and economic atmosphere in Africa. The project is managed by a network comprising Centre for Democratic Development, Ghana; Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, Benin; Institute for Democracy in South Africa and IDS, which coordinates the Eastern African and Horn of Africa regions.

According to the findings released at the Nairobi Safari Club on 14th April 2015, a majority of Kenyans say corruption has increased over the past year and the government has performed poorly in fighting it. The police, government officials, members of Parliament, and business executive are most widely perceived as corrupt.

Although most citizens believe they can make a difference in fighting corruption by refusing to pay bribes and by reporting bribery, a majority of those who said they paid bribes did not report the incidents. The main reasons for non-reporting are fear of consequences and perceived inaction by authorities.

Among the findings, two-thirds (64%) of Kenyans say that the level of corruption in the country has increased somewhat or a lot in the past year. Three-fourths (75%) of respondents say "most" or "all" of the police are corrupt, followed by government officials (46%) and members of Parliament (45%).

Among non-state actors, business executives are viewed as the most corrupt (38%). While seven out of 10 Kenyans (70%) perceive the government as having handled the fight against corruption "fairly badly" or "very badly", a majority (69%) believe that the same government is better able to fight corruption than the opposition.

More than half (58%) of Kenyans say that ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption while 76 % believe in the effectiveness of the media in revealing government mistakes and corruption.

According to the findings on devolution released earlier, on 11 March 2015, a majority of Kenyans are finding it difficult to participate in key county activities. The survey established that most Kenyans (80%) find it difficult to participate in key county activities and access information on county budgets, legislation and project plans.

Half of Kenyans support a referendum to change constitutional provisions for revenue sharing between county and national government while a majority (58%) have confidence in their county leadership and approve their performance. Trust and approval ratings are higher in rural than urban areas.

Prof Winnie Mitullah is the Core Partner Project Director for the region while Mr Abel Oyuke is the Core Partner Programme Manager. They are assisted in handling National Partner (NP) tasks by Dr Paul Kamau (IDS) and Dr Adams Oloo and Dr Joshua Kivuva, both form the Political Science Department, University of Nairobi.

Mr Sam Balongo is the Afrobarometer Data Manager for East Africa while Anthony Wafula is the Communications Manager.

IDS has become the most preferred institute to collaborate with in conducting surveys and most scholars and agencies consider the Institute as one of the first options.



Some of the participants during the regional workshop at the UN Headquarters in Gigiri

IDS in new initiatives on mobility and access in African cities

The University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies (IDS) collaborated with Volvo Research Education Foundations (VREF) in setting a new agenda for African cities on mobility and access. The latest activity in this collaboration was a joint exploratory workshop at the UN headquarters in Gigiri. The regional workshop, which took place on 15th and 16th June 2015, was aimed at enabling VREF consult experts on Mobility and Access on its next agenda for African cities.

A week earlier, on 11th and 12th June 2015, VREF had organized a similar event in Cape Town in collaboration with the University of Cape Town. The University of Nairobi and the University of Cape Town are partners to VREF in organizing exploratory workshops. The Nairobi workshop was organized by Prof Winnie Mitullah (IDS Director), Prof Henrik Nolmark (VREF Director), and Jane Summerton (Hydropolis Consulting and Research AB). Participants at the workshop exchanged ideas about how knowledge can make a difference in improving accessibility and mobility in Africa's rapidly growing urban centres to make African cities good places to live.

The mode of VREF engagement in the new initiative is to invest in developing a critical mass of knowledge and

communication environment in Africa that can become drivers of research, education, training and communication, to influence policy-making and encourage demonstration and pilot projects in strategically important cities.

The collaboration stemmed from VREF's desktop study of the state of the art concerning research on urban mobility (non-motorised transport, paratransit, public transport, governance, environment and health) in Africa, south of the Sahara. The purpose of the study carried out by the University of Cape Town was to find out producers of research-based knowledge on access and mobility in Africa south of the Sahara, the kind of knowledge produced and quantity. The study established that the University of Nairobi, through IDS, is among the few universities in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa that scored well in bibliometrical analysis. The University of Nairobi was ranked second among the top 15 research environments in Sub-Saharan Africa by total number of publications.

The research environments selected for profiling included Stellenbosch University (South Africa), University of Cape Town (South Africa), University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), University of Ibadan (Nigeria), University of Johannesburg

(South Africa), University of Pretoria (South Africa) and Durban University of Technology (South Africa).

IDS research capacity in urban mobility has been recognized nationally, regionally and globally. At the national level, IDS sits in the Kenya Roads Board Research Committee and has recently been invited to a National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) committee.

At the global level the IDS has been working with both UNEP and UNHABITAT in Sustainable Low Emission Transport and Catalyzing Low Carbon Transport in Kenya studies, respectively. Both IDS and University of Cape Town have been part of VREF's African Centre of Excellence for Public and Non Motorised Transport (ACET), which brings together a number of universities to produce and disseminate knowledge on the development and governance of public and non-motorised transport in African cities, and to serve as a hub of research and capacity building.

VREF are a group of independent foundations based in Sweden. Its core activity is focused on future urban transport with a vision to contribute to equitable access and sustainable transport in urban areas.

Students to benefit from Africa Digna Foundation scholarships

Needy but bright female students from the University of Nairobi will benefit from scholarships offered by Africa Digna Foundation. This deal was announced when the President of the Foundation, Dr. Mercedes Barcelo and Vice-President, Ms. Ines Cuatrecasas, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the two institutions will develop and sign a memorandum of understanding stating the method to identify needy and

bright female students for support, the number of scholarships to be awarded and the programmes the students should pursue.

Prof. Mbithi thanked Africa Digna Foundation for supporting UoN students. He said the University is keen on empowering and supporting its students and that scholarships and mentorship is key. He noted that the number of students in need of scholarships and support is growing and that there is need to secure funding for them.

The VC proposed the use of the endowment fund model to raise funds for scholarships. Dr. Barcelo said the Foundation has supported high school students in Northern Kenya and is now focusing on reaching university students. She noted that the Foundation seeks to support students who will, in turn have an impact in their communities.

Dr. Barcelo said Digna is Spanish for dignity and that the Foundation is keen on supporting African students.



The President of the Digna Foundation, Dr. Mercedes Barcelo (centre) and Vice-President, Ms. Ines Cuatrecasas, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi

College delegation visits Soka University in Japan

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) delegation toured Soka University in Japan to participate in the institution's annual events and ceremonies. The delegation was led by Prof. Peter Wasamba, Dean, Faculty of Arts and comprised Dr. Masumi Odari, Chair Literature department, Mrs. Anne Mwangi, Lecturer, Literature Department, Prof. Winston Akala, Chair, School of Education and Mrs. Susan Thuo, Assistant Dean of Students, Kikuyu campus.

Others included student leaders from Nairobi university arts students association (Nuarsa), Ecological Survey & Assessment Ltd (ECOSA), Nairobi University Journalism Student Association (NUJOSA) and Students Organisation of Nairobi University (SONU).

The delegation attended various Soka University's campus events, including the "Cherry Blossom Festival" and the

Japanese School's entrance ceremony. The team also took part in several exchange meetings with Soka University community. Leadership, Peace and management were some of the issues discussed during the visit.

The visit provided a forum for the student leaders to interact with student leaders worldwide, including from Brazil, China and India. Student leaders were exposed to a multiplicity of cultural aspects and experienced new ideas likely to mould them into better leaders and more independent individuals.

The tour reiterated the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' commitment to not only providing holistic education but also churning out well informed and independent leaders able to coexist peacefully in the ever changing global environment.



A section of the delegation that attended various campus events at Soka University.



Kenya Red Cross Society, UoN chapter, during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Varsity to support UoN Red Cross Chapter

The University of Nairobi Management will support some of the activities of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), University of Nairobi Chapter. The pledge was made when officials from the KRCS UoN chapter, led by the Chairlady Trizah Njeri paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Key among the issues proposed by the officials is securing sponsorship for training of KRCS, UoN Chapter members on first aid and disaster response. In addition, the officials requested the University to consider branding the

team, allocate office space for use as the KRCS UoN chapter headquarters, assist the members secure student exchange opportunities with other Red Cross Chapters and set up an official club website and email address.

While commending the team on its achievements, Prof. Mbithi challenged them to influence the mindset of other students to engage in productive activities and contribute to community service and development.

The University will soon engage the team in developing an awareness

programme on disaster management and security. He called on KRCS, UoN Chapter to identify University activities they can take part in.

The KRCS, UoN Chapter Patron, Mr. B.M. Waweru, noted that the Chapter had recorded tremendous achievements since its establishment in the early 90s. He revealed that in 2013, the Chapter clinched the University Chapters Volunteer Programme Award after being ranked top by the National Society for its exemplary service to humanity.

Speaking on behalf of the team, Trizah thanked the Vice-Chancellor for according the team an opportunity to interact with the university. She noted that the KRCS UoN Chapter had been at the forefront in responding to national crisis, conducting first aid training and running blood donation drives.

UoN and Nairobi County to participate in the 100 RESILIENT CITIES CHALLENGE



The Managing Director, Africa Programme Team, Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Mamadou Biteye centre paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi

The University of Nairobi (UoN) will work with the Nairobi County Government in submitting an application for the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. The University, through the Department of Urban Research Innovations signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nairobi County Government in 2014 to develop the City Master Plan. The Rockefeller Foundation is working with 100 cities around the world to help them become more resilient to social, economic and physical challenges that are growing part of the 21st Century.

The Managing Director, Africa Programme Team, Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Mamadou Biteye, noted urban resilience is the capacity

of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow despite the challenges faced. He said that by working with the University in the 100 Resilient Cities challenge, Nairobi City will benefit from the University's expertise.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said the University and Rockefeller Foundation share a long history of partnership in research, grants and scholarships. Prof. Mbithi observed that by working with the county government on the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge, UoN will be part of the city's development. He said the institutions of higher learning need to reinvent themselves through innovations. Prof. Peter Ngau, Ag. Principal, College

of Architecture and Engineering and Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, Institute for Development Studies, will lead the University in the project.

Urban Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience i.e. a city's ability to maintain essential functions as threatened by both acute shocks (earthquakes, floods, wildfires, riot, civil unrest, heat wave) and chronic stresses (water scarcity, lack of affordable housing, high unemployment, aging infrastructure, crime, violence).



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi launches the Management Information Systems. Looking on is Registrar, Administration, Dr. Dismus Bulinda and Director, ICT, Mr. Ibrahim Otieno.

UoN enhances automation of management processes

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi has launched several systems to help in automating University processes. Some of the systems launched include; Post-Graduate students tracking system, Staff Movement Advice and Staff Clearance Information Systems.

Post-graduate tracking system will help track the postgraduate students and enable them finish their studies in record time. The Staff Movement Management System will enable the University to maintain accurate and easily retrievable staff movement advice records, keep track of staff movement advice process, provide staff history and improve the efficiency of movement advice.

On the other hand, through the Staff Clearance System, the University will maintain accurate and easily retrievable staff clearance records and keep track of staff clearance process, lost items and University debtors. The two systems were developed by ICT team in collaboration with the Administration and Finance departments.

While presiding over the systems launch, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the systems will come in handy and give clarity and focus to the movement and clearance of staff as the case may be. The systems will help the university address some of the challenges faced in managing staff issues. Prof. Mbithi congratulated the teams involved in the development of the systems.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Bernard Njoroge, said the automation of the existing manual system will improve the efficiency of clearance process by reducing service turnaround time. In addition, information generated by the system will assist the University make key decisions in matters concerning staff.

Prof. Lydia Njenga, Director, Graduate School, noted that the Postgraduate tracking system will go a long way in establishing the academic progress of postgraduate students and how well they are fairing with their academic theses and projects. The ICT team led by the Director, Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, made a presentation on how the systems work.

Students participate in Africa Liberation Day celebrations



A section of University of Nairobi students who participated in 52nd African Liberation Day celebrations to mark the liberation movement in African countries event held on May 25th 2015

The University of Nairobi students took part in the 52nd African Liberation Day celebrations to mark the liberation movement in African countries. Dubbed 'All African Lives Matter', the event was organized by the University's Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), Fahamu Network for Social Justice and State of the Union.

During the event held on May 25, 2015, Ms Irene Mukumu, a 3rd year law student, emerged first in "My African Union Campaign" essay writing competition.

The victory earned her a place in the AU Summit under the sponsorship of Fahamu Network for Social Justice in Johannesburg South Africa in July. Mr Fred Gucu, 4th year and Margaret

Kamau, 3rd year, both Bachelor of Arts students, took position two and three respectively. Students were required to write essays on any of the key 14 AU instruments. Speakers at the event emphasized the importance of liberation for Africa. They paid tribute to the great leaders who made a difference, such as Nelson Mandela, Thomas Sankara, Jomo Kenyatta and Julius Nyerere.

University of Nairobi American football team seeks sponsorship

The University of Nairobi American Football Team is in dire need of sponsorship. Captain, George Olwanga made the passionate plea when Redbull Marketing officials donated chilled Redbull energy drinks to his team on May 21, 2015.

Olwanga hailed the Redbull officials for the support, noting that their initiatives motivated the players and indicated that the University of Nairobi American Football Team was getting recognition from the corporate world. He challenged the Redbull team to enhance sponsorship.

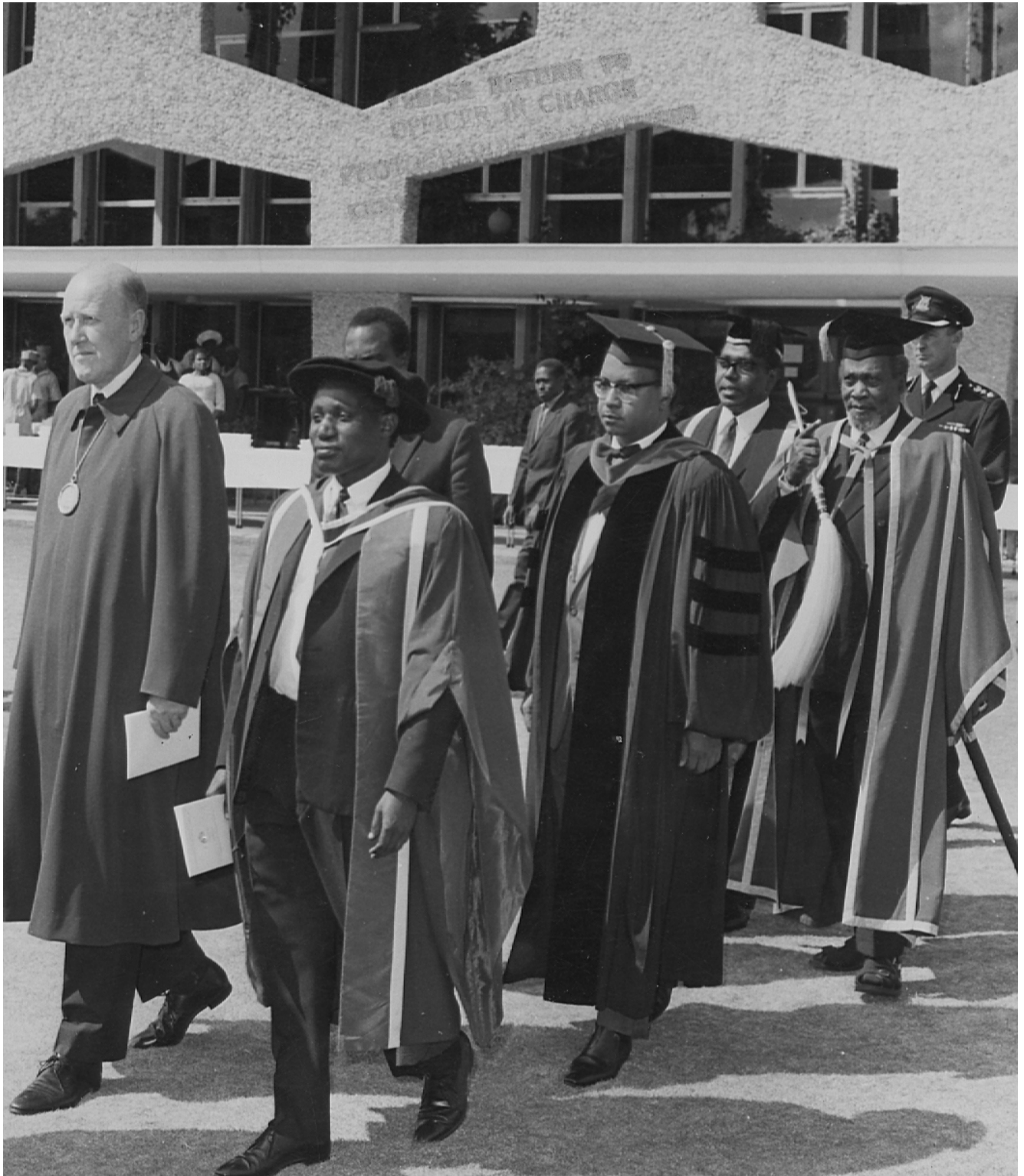
Speaking on behalf of the Redbull Wings Team, Ms. Tabby Kimani said the visit to the American Football players was exploratory, as the company seeks to establish partnership with the Department of Sports to support sports in the University. Redbull is a popular Austrian energy drink, whose slogan is "Redbull gives you Wings." The brand is renowned for supporting sports in Kenya and other countries.

The University of Nairobi American Football team has over 100 active players. The team uses a specialized kit and equipment consisting of a helmet, shoulder/ chest pads, padded shorts referred to as pants, long socks, boots

and a jersey that bears the player's number. Due to the high cost of the kit and the complex and demanding structure of the sport (about five coaches are needed to oversee different parts of the team), the game is not widespread in the country.

The University of Nairobi is the only institution with an active American Football team in the country. The University has assisted the Buruburu Institute of Tertiary Studies to train players. It supports the team through the Department of Sports and Games.





His Excellency, the First President of the Republic of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta (right) in an academic procession at the University College, Nairobi graduation ceremony on 10th November, 1966.

Jokes aside!

Many years ago, a Law lecturer came across a student who was willing to learn but was unable to pay the fees. The student struck a deal with the Lecturer saying, "I will pay your fee the day I win my first case in court". The Lecturer agreed and proceeded with the Law course. When the course was finished and the Lecturer started pestering the student to pay up the fee, the student reminded him of the deal and pushed days. Fed up with this, the Lecturer decided to sue the student in the court of law and both of them decided to argue for themselves.

The Lecturer put forward his argument saying: "If I win this case, as per the court of law, the student has to pay me as the case is about non-payment of dues. And if I lose the case, the student will still pay me because he would have won his first case... So either way, I will get the money." Equally brilliant, the student argued back saying: "If I win the case, as per the court of law, I don't have to pay anything to the Lecturer as the case is about my non-payment of dues. And if I lose the case, I don't have to pay him because I haven't won my first case yet... So either way, I am not going to pay the Lecture anything."

One of the greatest Greek Law paradoxes ever recorded in history. WHO IS RIGHT AND WHO IS THE WINNER? The Law Lecturer was Protagoras (c. 485-415 BCE) and the student was Euthalos. This is known as Protagoras' Paradox. This case was not solved. The most interesting part- this debate is still debated (even today) in Law schools as a logic problem! ANY LAW GENIUS OUT THERE?



QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS COMMITTED TO QUALITY AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN ITS DECISION MAKING AND LEADERSHIP IN THE PROVISION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

TO REALISE THIS, THE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SHALL REGULARLY MONITOR AND REVIEW ITS PERFORMANCE FOR CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT AND SUITABILITY BY IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BASED ON ISO 9001 STANDARD.



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