

F&N

The title 'F&N' is rendered in large, bold, blue-outlined letters. The background of the letters is a vibrant green palm leaf pattern. A black graduation cap with a red tassel is positioned over the ampersand (&).

Fanning the World of Academia

Issue 1- 2013

A New Beginning



Editorial

This is the premier edition of the Faculty of Arts Newsletter (FaN). It highlights some recent activities in the Faculty. The articles highlight strides made by staff in terms of intellectual discourse, outreach, exchange visits and conferences attended. In this Issue, we have reports from faculty staff who attended various regional and international conferences. The fact that there are several articles on conferences is an indication of the vibrancy of faculty members who are attending international fora, thus putting the Faculty and the University on the world map.

We spend a great deal of our time at work; hence, our well-being within the working environment is of great importance. Within the Faculty of Arts structure, there is a committee that deals with the wellbeing of staff members in line with ensuring that welfare, health and safety concerns within the workplace are well taken care of. In this edition of the newsletter, we report on some of the activities undertaken by this important committee of the Faculty.

It is a well-known fact that the Faculty of Arts is the leading faculty in terms of scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences in East

Africa. It is within this ambit that it has played host to a number of academic conferences as part of efforts in contributing to academic excellence within the region. Some of these conferences are highlighted in this Issue. We welcome your contributions in this important aspect of academia, for publication in future issues of the newsletter.

The Faculty of Arts continues to grow in terms of teaching and research capacity. It now houses the latest research centres in the University of Nairobi. We reveal the identity of these research units in various articles that profile the units.

The University has since 1985 hosted a Peace Pillar that symbolises the constant endeavour for peace in Kenya. Recent developments have necessitated the relocation of this Pillar. This came especially at a time when the national mood was yearning for peace. While relocating the Peace Pillar, to its new site in front of the Education Building, the Department of Literature and the African Women's Study Centre, spear headed activities to sensitise the University community on the importance of peace. The Editorial



team of FaN encourages staff and students of the Faculty of Arts to embrace the symbolism of this important artefact within our grounds and maintain peace.

The Faculty continues to grow in response to demands for curriculum development and the need to encompass new modes of learning. In this Issue of FaN, we illustrate various developments made by different departments in that direction.

It has been a pleasant struggle to come up with this first issue. Continued publication will only be sustained through the active involvement of Faculty members. We encourage you to contribute articles for publication through the following email address:

fan@uonbi.ac.ke

Enjoy your reading. *Karibuni!*

Dr. Iribe Mwangi
Editor-in-Chief

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Word from the Dean



I was first elected as the Dean, Faculty of Arts in January 2011. Since then, there have been quite a number of activities that we have been engaged in as a Faculty, some which may go unnoticed. It has been noted that whereas much takes place within our Faculty, we still suffer from a lack of visibility in the University and our immediate social milieu. It is with this in mind that the idea of coming up with The Faculty of Arts Newsletter (FAN) was borne.

This newsletter reports on activities in the Faculty, the University and beyond. It provides a platform from which the Departments and Centres of the Faculty exchange information on activities undertaken by and on behalf of their staff and students. This is done with the view of bringing the Faculty and the University of Nairobi community closer together. Most importantly, the newsletter will enhance the visibility of the Faculty; an urgent concern that is in line with our current strategic plan.

Contributions to this newsletter should incorporate short articles and commentaries which would spur exchanges in different fora. It would also provide insights and showcase



the value of lectures, research and outreach initiatives, especially if they include contemporary global, regional, national and local community concerns.

This newsletter is a product of long hours put in by the editorial team. It is also a testimony not only of the vast human resources the Faculty has but also of a volunteer spirit reigning within the Faculty that entails a lot of sacrifice from colleagues.

Allow me to briefly highlight developments in the Faculty since I took over as Dean in January 2011. The Faculty, which has a student population of 9,000 and academic staff of 250 full-time and part-time lecturers, is the largest in the University of Nairobi. In 2011, the Faculty had 1,600 graduands at Diploma, Bachelors, and Masters Level. It also graduated 7 PhDs. Our numbers have grown exponentially. In 2012, we graduated 1,800 students at Diploma, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Arts degree level. We also had 11 PhD graduands.

Members of staff in my Faculty have also been variously promoted during my tenure. 5 faculty members have been promoted to the level of Associate Professor, 10 members to the grade of Senior lecturer and a number to Lecturer positions. There have also been a few new appointments to positions such as Tutorial Fellow and Part-Time Lecturer. In addition, all members of staff who sought the renewal of their contracts had their requests approved.

A major development shortly after my election to the position of Dean was the revival of the Faculty committees. These committees went ahead to develop new Terms of Reference which have

been approved by the Faculty Management Committee. Following the approval of the TOR's, the Faculty Post Graduate Studies Committee (PSC) held a retreat at Jumua Resort, Mombasa to re-examine its activities. The Welfare committee in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross held several workshops on First Aid for both staff and students. The Task Force (now, Planning Committee) examined the situation of the Faculty and prepared a report which formed the basis of the Faculty's deliberations at Manzooni Lodge in July, 2012. The Publicity Committee has also been working and this newsletter is its first product. The Research, Timetabling and examinations committees, Curriculum and Data committees have also been active in their areas.

Our Faculty staff is usually well represented in workshops and conferences taking place in Kenya, the East Africa region and beyond. Faculty members have also taken the initiative to hold workshops, conferences and public lectures within and outside the University precincts. They are also involved in teaching, research and other related assignments in Kenya and in other countries. A few have succeeded in securing funds for research projects in their fields of expertise. I am also happy to report that some of our Departments have entered into MOU's with other educational institutions and even embassies on behalf of their countries. This has entailed staff and student exchanges and other forms of support.

As a Faculty we are in the process of engaging the market forces in the development of our programmes. A number of new market and demand-driven academic

programmes have been approved by the University of Nairobi Senate while some more are still in the pipeline. Some others have been revised. These programmes include Masters of Public Administration, which was collaboratively prepared by the Department of Political Science and Public Administration and the Kenya Institute of Administration, M.A. in Library Studies, M.A. in Human Rights, B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Studies; and B.A. Counseling Psychology.

The Faculty recently procured more than 150 computers which have been distributed to departments and staff. A few laptops, printers and LCDs were also procured and are available for use by staff. We are now in the process of procuring office chairs for members of staff in the Faculty. Refurbishment of washrooms and lecture venues has been going on and will continue. In its 2012-2013 procurement plan, the Faculty requested funding in support of staff attending academic conferences and other assignments. So far 6 members of staff have benefited from this kitty.

Finally, I would like to thank you for re-electing me unopposed in January 2013 to serve you for a further period of two years. The numbers present at the Faculty Board meeting that was called for elections is indicative of the overwhelming support that I continue to receive from the members of the Faculty. I promise to continue serving you with dedication.

Enjoy reading this premier edition of FaN.

Prof. P. O. Chitere
Dean, Faculty of Arts
March 2013

The African Women Studies Centre



The Acting Director of AWSC, Prof Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira

The African Women Studies Centre is the latest research centre of the University of Nairobi and is based at the Faculty of Arts. The Centre's main objective is to promote intellectual inquiry by and on experiences of women. The realization of this objective is sought through teaching, publication and engagement with policy makers with a view to highlighting women's perspectives into development and scholarship nationally and internationally. The Centre is informed by the recognition that the experiences, especially of the African woman, in almost all spheres of life have been invisible. These experiences have not been part of mainstream knowledge of development and often have not been a source of public interrogation. The African woman has not spoken for herself nor have her experiences been utilized to shape, order and name the world in which she lives in. This is the

main research thrust of this centre.

Apart from creating a conducive environment for study and research on issues affecting the African woman, the Centre also provides a platform to conduct seminars, short-courses and workshops. Further, the Centre has engaged various line ministries in government, seeking to make policies affecting Kenyans. For instance, the Centre has held discussions with the Ministry of Education on the proposed Basic Education Bill with recommendations to be incorporated into the Bill. Consequently modalities on sharing on areas of interest between AWSC and the Ministry of Education are currently being worked on. This will see the Centre become one of the resource centres for the Ministry of Education on matters to do with policy and programmes affecting education in Kenya. Additionally, AWSC is also currently working in partnership with the Parliament

to enhance the capacity of the graduate trainees attached to the various parliamentary committees.

AWSC is also lending its research efforts towards the question of food security, an issue that is central in the achievement of human dignity. Over the last few years, the Centre has consolidated studies, research findings and policy issues from Kenya and the region in relation to food security. In a bid to see the Government apply a Rights based approach to article 43 (1) (c) of the Constitution of Kenya, the Centre presented proposals to the inter-ministerial sectoral hearings that took place in 2012. The proposals were made after extensive research and consultations with the budgetary committee. The proposals include: the allocation of a budget line on food security of about 0.1 per cent of the national budget; increase of the budget allocation



The AWSC technical committee during the sharing of the Agricultural Audit with the Parliamentary Research Department and the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperative Societies

Eastern Africa Comes Together in Discourse

The first ever annual Eastern African Cultural Forum under the theme of “Borderless Communities: Shifting and Convergence of Cultures across Borders, Boundaries and Spaces”, was recently hosted in Kenya by the Kenya Oral Literature Association. The forum, which ran from November 7th to 9th 2012, attracted researchers and artists from the Eastern and Southern African regions.

Speaking to FaN, Mr. Kimingichi Wabende, the Secretary of the Kenya Oral Literature Association, outlined the main objective of the forum as creating a platform for discussing and recommending how to strengthen language and cultural policies that ensure the protection, preservation and revitalisation of endangered systems. The forum also aimed at exploring and suggesting

practical ways of promoting cultural integration between Eastern African Asians and the majority African population. It was also an attempt to promote the sharing of research findings on how indigenous and endangered languages, identities and cultures could be revitalised, preserved and disseminated through contemporary art forms.

The forum explored ways in which modern media such as the cyberspace could be exploited to re-image old and emerging cultural and linguistic identities. Ultimately, the forum provided an opportunity to share ideas on what lessons can be learned and harnessed from contested, transgressive and conflicted postcolonial languages, cultures and identities

Presentations during the forum which included a film and a documentary, captured salient issues including the undeniable role of oral literature in ensuring

the survival and growth of language. In an exciting paper titled “Virtual Communities as Spaces for Safeguarding Oral Literatures, Mumia Osaaji called for re-examining the possibilities available in cyberspace for revitalizing oral literature. He noted that instead of the threatening spectre of a single global village, there could possibly emerge a multiplicity of revitalized global villages each struggling to retain their own individuality.

In a paper titled “Tweeting it as I see/feel it”: The Disconnection Between the Youth and the Intentions of Mother Tongue Instruction, Maduna Mvuyo focused on the debates that argue for a reconsideration of the move towards the enforcement of indigenous languages in educational institutions in South Africa. The article highlighted socio-cultural constraints to an effective implementation of mother



for the agricultural sector from 2.9 to 10 per cent and increasing cash transfer budget to about 6 per cent for an expanded coverage of all the vulnerable in all the counties. The government responded positively to the proposals and commissioned the Centre to come up with policy and programme recommendations to ensure food security in Kenya.

The Constitution of Kenya places women, the marginalized, the disabled and the youth in a

more active position as far as the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes is concerned. It is through the recognition of the same that AWSC

organized a national workshop comprising of the aforementioned persons, to get their views as input on policy issues on health, social security, education, water and food.



AWSC Technical Committee at the Dandora dumpsite

◀◀tongue instruction in South Africa.

Tom Odhiambo presented a paper titled "Mediatizing and Mediating the Nation: Imagining the Kalenjin Nation in Kass Magazine", in which he argued that the different ethnic groups in Kenya continue to proclaim their differences and identities in competition with the nation-state identity; and that these proclamations are today highly mediated and mediated by various media forms and forums. The paper examined how "Kass" magazine appears to be involved in a project to produce, reproduce, disseminate and sustain the idea of the 'Kalenjin' nation.

In their paper, titled "Cultural Integration? - the Samosa Festival", the editors of "AwaaZ," a magazine that focuses on the culture and literature of the Asians in East Africa, talked about the annual Samosa Festival held to celebrate the Asian culture in East Africa. They also discussed some of the hurdles to cultural integration in Kenya and the progress made so far. The presenters demonstrated how cultural integration has been the core focus of the Samosa Festivals.

During the forum, 12 papers addressed the theme of Eastern Africa's Cultural Revolution. Tobias Otieno and Basil Okong'o, reflected on the collection, analysis and interpretation of data in oral literary research. They described the relationship and significance of what the oral text 'says' and 'what it does not say'; and how this affects the kind of data that is collected and how it is read. They sought to explain why in the course of research, researchers need to take into account not only the aspects and issues that are explicitly expressed but also

those elements that are merely implied/glossed over or denied. In a presentation titled "The De-tribalised Generation: The East African Hip Hop Artist", Kimingichi Wabende and Marciana Nafula Were argued that the hip hop generation in the region is a generation which is not defined by ethnic or national boundaries but a generation that is bound together through hip hop. Mary Theru's "Africa: Re-presenting War, Violence and Conflict in the Socially-Conscious Hip-Hop of Sudanese" focused on hip hop music and its role in integration. Maduna Mvuyo from North Western University, South Africa, presented a paper on indigenous languages in South African Rap Music and the role of oral literature in influencing modern music and cultural integration especially among the youth in Africa.

In terms of creating a borderless community especially through the youth, Dr. Alex Wanjala in his presentation titled "Sheng: Verbalising the Paroles of Kenya's Transnation", argued that the role of hybrid languages, usually spoken in urban settings, can promote unity and integration. The paper "Song as a Medium of Gender Solidarity for Women: A Case Study of Embu and Mbeere Women's Song" presented by Prof. Ciarunji Chesaina focused on the role of song in creating a form of togetherness among women and especially the oppressed women in the community. Murimi Gaita from Kenyatta University discussed the importance of dismantling gender stereotypes in oral narratives. His paper interrogated the context of performance of contemporary storytelling by relying on samples of oral narratives and interviews with performers.

One of the keynote speakers, Prof. Taban Lo Liyong lauded researchers and oral literature artists in the region for their continued efforts to promote the oral literature of the region. Lo Liyong argued that the region is experiencing a rebirth in the literary field. In a separate paper on "V.S. Naipaul as an East African Oral Literature Eye Opener", he focused on the idea of identity arguing that there is need for different groups to tolerate and accept the 'other'.

During the closing ceremony, Prof. Chris Wanjala, the doyen of African literature, called for more research in oral literature and its role in breaking borders and barriers within the different communities in the region. He encouraged researchers and students of oral literature to publish more and document the different oral literatures from the region.

Presentations during the forum which included a film and a documentary, captured salient issues including the undeniable role of oral literature in ensuring the survival and growth of language.

Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi

By Prof. Dequan Sa and J. Lukaka

The first Confucius Institute in Africa was launched at University of Nairobi in 2005 by His Excellency The President of People's Republic of China, Mr. Hu Jintao. The mission of the institute is to promote educational and cultural exchange between China and Kenya, to further the bilateral academic relationships and to advance multicultural communication for development. The Institute is founded on the vision of "Friendship, Cooperation, Development, and Mutual Benefits". Currently, the Institute is housed at the Department of Linguistics and Languages.

Among the first initiatives of the Institute was to establish collaborative links with other Universities in China. Such a link is one with Tianjin Normal University which runs a students and lecturers exchange programme. From this exchange, the Institute has been awarding scholarships for study programmes in China. Over 200 students have benefitted from these scholarships since 2005. Several lecturers have also chosen to do their sabbatical in Tianjin Normal University.

The Confucius institute is currently offering Bachelors Degree, Diploma and a Certificate in Chinese language and culture. Plans are underway to launch a Masters programme.



Students from Confucius Institute performing the Chinese Dragon Dance



The University of Nairobi choir belts out a tune in Chinese



High School students participating in a festival organised by Confucius Institute

Centre for Human Rights and Peace

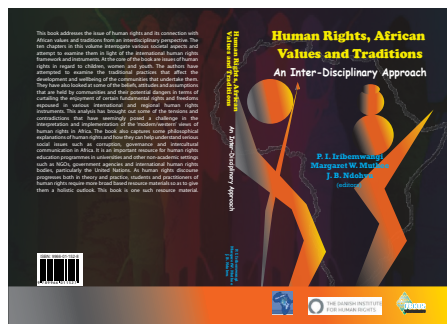
By Dr. Maloba Wekesa and Dr. J. B. Ndohvu, CHRP

The Centre for Human Rights & Peace (CHRP) is a research and training centre based in the Faculty of Arts. Boasting an interdisciplinary network across the departments of the Faculty, this Centre was founded with a vision of being an educational Centre of excellence for the creation of an inclusive society that values and respects Human Rights and Peace. The brainchild behind the idea of such a Centre was borne out of an initial organization called HAKI Afrika. This was a professional association that brought together university lecturers from across East and Central Africa with research interest in Human Rights. The local chapter of HAKI Afrika allowed lecturers drawn largely from the Faculty of Arts to cascade their input from HAKI Afrika, and come up with CHRP. CHRP's mission is to advance multidisciplinary research, education and community outreach programmes for Human Rights and Peace.

Since its inception barely four years ago, CHRP's robust presence has been felt across the University. For instance, the Centre has organized seminars and symposia to re-orient its teaching portfolio on matters of Human Rights and Peace. Among the notable symposia it organized was one held in Naivasha in 2012 in collaboration with the Norwegian



Prof. Bård Andreassen (NHCR) a renowned Human Rights scholar during a courtesy call on Prof. Enos Njeru (R), the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi



A Publication of CHRP

Centre for Human Rights of the University of Oslo and the Institute of International Education, New York, where the guest of honor was the Chief Justice, Dr. Willy Mutunga. A similar initiative was organized in Karen Conference Centre in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Sweden.

CHRP has an active International Collaboration portfolio including the Raul Wallenberg Institute, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria,

Scottish Institute of Human Rights among others. Locally the Centre has partnered with the Kenya Human Rights Commission, SOPA International etc. The Centre developed an MA programme in Human Rights culminating in the admission of the first batch of Graduate Students in the September intake of 2012. The Centre is in the process of developing undergraduate degree programmes in Human Rights and Peace.

The collaborating units of CHRP are the: Faculty of Arts, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, School of Law, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Economics and Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies. The Centre is currently housed in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and its coordinator is Dr. J. B. Ndohvu.

Our Guardian Angels

The Welfare Committee of the Faculty of Arts is concerned with the well-being of Faculty members. It has been instrumental in ensuring the health, safety and security of the

members of Faculty by undertaking various measures. These measures include enforcing the acquisition of new fire extinguishers in the Education Building, First-Aid kits, and the renovation of toilets starting with Gandhi Wing; a building that houses most members of the

Faculty. The Committee recently arranged First Aid training for staff. It is reassuring to know that in case of an emergency at work, there is a trained staff member at hand, ready to help. Kudos to the committee.



Para-transit

Transport in the City of Nairobi:

will discipline be achieved through heavy fines and imprisonment of non-compliant drivers?

By Preston O. Chitere and D. McCormick

Kenya has an estimated vehicle population of less than 2 million and yet her road safety record is worse than that of developed countries such as Britain which have vast numbers of vehicles. Kenya loses 3,000 persons in road accidents while nearly 30,000 are injured each year. The loss extends to damages to vehicles, insurance cover and limited bed space in hospitals. In 2002, matatus accounted for 19.15 per cent of the road accidents, followed by buses (8.8%) and taxis (3.5%) (RoK, MoT, INTP, 2003).

In 2003, the Kenya Government through the Ministry of Transport (MoT) realized the problem of worsening road safety and came up with the Integrated National Transport Policy which, among other things, emphasized the complementarity of various modes-road, air, water. For roads, emphasis was placed on safer, affordable and efficient transport (RoK, MoT Report, 2003).

The then Minister, the late John Michuki, in what became popularly known as "Michuki rules", enforced the provisions of the Traffic Act by requiring each public service vehicle (PSV) to be fitted with seat belts, reducing the seating capacity of the

then dominant Nissan vans from 18 to 14, installation of speed governors restricting the speed of PSVs to 80 kph. Additionally, the drivers and conductors were required to wear uniform and the vehicles to be painted with a yellow band for purposes of identification. (RoK, Legal Notices Nos 161 and 83 of 2004 and 92 of 2005). The implementation of these reforms which started in February, 2004 removed a large number of non-compliant vehicles from the roads and leading to a considerable reduction in road accidents, fatalities and injuries.

Whereas the reforms were supported by the public, they were made without sufficient consultation with key players in the industry such as the members of the Matatu Owners Association who went on strike and also filed a case in the



High court challenging the reforms. It is unfortunate that the enforcement of the reforms was gradually relaxed and almost abandoned by the Traffic Police following the transfer of the Minister to another ministry.

Today, over speeding, overloading, especially in up-country matatus, and reckless driving are common. Seat belts in most PSVs are in poor state and are not used while some of the PSVs are un-roadworthy and often with doubtful insurance cover. Whereas most drivers have had considerable hands-on, experience driving the PSVs, their lack of training leads to their non-compliance with traffic regulations and rules.

This situation is worsened by the widespread corruption practiced by the Traffic Police, vehicle inspection and registration units, the Nairobi City Council and other local authorities. The overall picture is that of a para-transit industry that increasingly has become chaotic with the associated worsening of the road safety conditions, as is evident from the frequent road accidents, fatalities and injuries. This chaotic situation has provided room for a cartel of vehicle owners and their staff, traffic police, government and quasi-government officials.

Currently, the MoT is making efforts to respond to this worsening road safety situation. In a Bill, pending enactment by Parliament, the Ministry has amended the Traffic Act Cap 403 by substantially raising fines for various traffic offenses (RoK, Traffic Amendment Bill, 2012). The amendments raise fines for major traffic offenses by more than 1000 per cent. For example, section 30 has been amended raising the



finer from Ksh.2, 000 to Ksh.5, 000 and from Ksh.20, 000 to Ksh.30, 000 respectively. Section 36 is amended to raise the fines from Ksh.100 to Ksh.10, 000 while section 43 amends the words not exceeding Ksh.2, 000 to not exceeding Ksh.100, 000. Further, any drivers found driving on the pavement will be liable to a fine not exceeding Ksh.30, 000 or to imprisonment not exceeding three months. Those found driving recklessly will, on first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Ksh.100, 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years while a second conviction will carry a fine not exceeding Ksh.300,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

It is instructive to note that the fines suggested and the prison sentences are punitive and unaffordable for a majority Kenyan PSV and other drivers. Most drivers, especially those driving PSV's are young and serving imprisonment for longer periods of up to 10 years will only ruin their lives.

A second Bill proposes the establishment of the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) which will assume responsibilities of vehicle testing, registration, standard curriculum for driver training and other related responsibilities (Draft NTSA Bill, 2012). Unfortunately, enforcement of the Traffic Act as well as testing of drivers will remain in the hands of traffic police who will perceive higher fines in terms of higher bribes from non-compliant drivers. In effect the hefty fines and long prison sentences will not increase government revenue but merely entrench corruption. In these circumstances, a main question is: How can this problem of worsening road safety be reduced? In our view,

the Ministry should not expect to solve the mess through initiating punitive measures, but rather should institute preventive measures. The National Road Safety Action Plan (NRSAP) (RoK, NRSAP, 2004) whose preparation was facilitated by the Ministry and which was completed in 2006, provides a large number of preventive measures such as standardized training of drivers, electronic licensing systems, instant ticketing for minor

the Ministry should not expect to solve the mess through initiating punitive measures, but rather should institute preventive measures.

offences and effective policing of traffic by better remunerated and equipped police, seconded to the National Road Safety Council.

In 2009, the Matatu Owners Association (MOA) came up with a proposal for Instant Ticketing for a large number of offences – meaning that if a driver was, for example, arrested for over speeding, the traffic police officer would charge him/her for the offence by issuing a ticket with the fine specified on its back. The non-complying driver would be given one to two weeks to pay the fine to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) through M-pesa, bankers' check or by crediting the Authority's account at any bank. It is supposed that if a fine is reasonable, it will be readily paid and consequently, will accrue more revenue to the

government. The system would also readily work if an electronic licensing system were introduced.

Another option is the current move by the Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads to introduce Mass Rapid Transport, ;more specifically, Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) (Chitere, et al, 2012). This new system requires re-construction and up-grading of highways. BRT uses large buses and trams with designated lanes, stops and operates on a clear time schedule. The BRT for example, would if introduced on Thika corridor, off-load the highway of the currently large number of matatus and even private vehicles since it is more economical for a private car owner to commute to the Central Business District (CBD) using BRT rather than driving their cars.

BRT would above all remove corruption by police since there would be no matatus on the main corridor and sub-corridors to extract cash from. BRT operations would be contracted to some better managed bus companies and small operators would presumably buy shares in such companies.

Pilot work on Thika corridor could be extended to other corridors and sub-corridors when their construction and up-grading is completed and gradually to long distance routes. It would also call for additional investments in rail transport. Indeed, the introduction of BRT on corridors and sub-corridors would leave para-transit matatus to operate on feeder roads connecting some estates. It also calls for the establishment of parking bays on the outskirts for long distance matatus destined for the city.

The 2013 Modern Language Association Convention in Boston, Massachusetts



Dr. Alex Wanjala of the Department of Literature makes his presentation in Boston.

In January 2013, I had the privilege of attending the annual conference hosted by the Modern Language Association of America in Boston, USA. Founded in 1883, the MLA is one of the oldest associations in the fields of Literature and Language. It brings together practitioners in these fields in an effort to have them share their scholarly experiences in their fields. Locally, we are more conversant with the association through the use of *The MLA Handbook*, the authority on MLA documentation style applied in the writing of research papers in the Humanities. It also publishes

the *MLA International Bibliography*, an important resource tool that provides scholars with a subject index for books and periodicals published on modern languages, literature, folklore and linguistics.

I presented a paper entitled "Re-routing the postcolonial: on Whose Terms?" My panel session had been organised by Prof. Phyllis Taoua of Arizona University in collaboration with Prof. F. Abiola Irele of Harvard University. It was an interesting panel bringing together practitioners in Francophone and Anglophone literature under the theme "Global Africa". In my paper, I challenge the globalisation tangent being undertaken by practitioners in an area of literary criticism known as postcolonial studies. My

argument in the paper is that these developments in the field are led by literary critics who are based in the West; commonly known in today's parlance as "Africans in the Diaspora". I posit the argument that such scholars are guided by theoretical paradigms which though applicable to the West, may not be useful in the African context, given the rapid cultural and social transformations being experienced in the region. One of the recommendations I make in the paper is that research in postcolonial studies should move from the traditional areas that are comfortable with scholars in literature and focus more on what is 'out there' in the domain of the popular and the masses. Such an ethical approach, understood as an effort in cosmopolitanism by literary scholars should be guided by scholars based in the African continent and due to their deeper understanding of the local context. It would re-route postcolonialism in terms that reflect the local realities.

My paper was well received by participants at the conference and the discussions we engaged in during my panel presentation were quite helpful to me. I would like to thank the Faculty of Arts, through the Dean, Prof. Chitere who partially funded my travel to the conference.

The Faculty of Arts holds a Rejuvenating Retreat



The Faculty of Arts recently held a three day retreat at Maanzoni Lodge in Machakos County.

The objective of the Retreat was to reflect on the Faculty's past, present and future, with a view to streamlining and strengthening its academic programs in the face of growing national, regional and global competition and changing consumer demands.

The retreat was attended by forty participants drawn from all Faculty Committees. These are planning, research and publication, welfare, timetabling and examinations, publicity and curriculum development.

In his introductory remarks at the opening of the retreat, the Dean Faculty of Arts, Prof. Preston O. Chitere noted the support

the Faculty is receiving from the University Management and stated the purpose of the retreat as being to serve and strengthen





service provision within the Faculty.

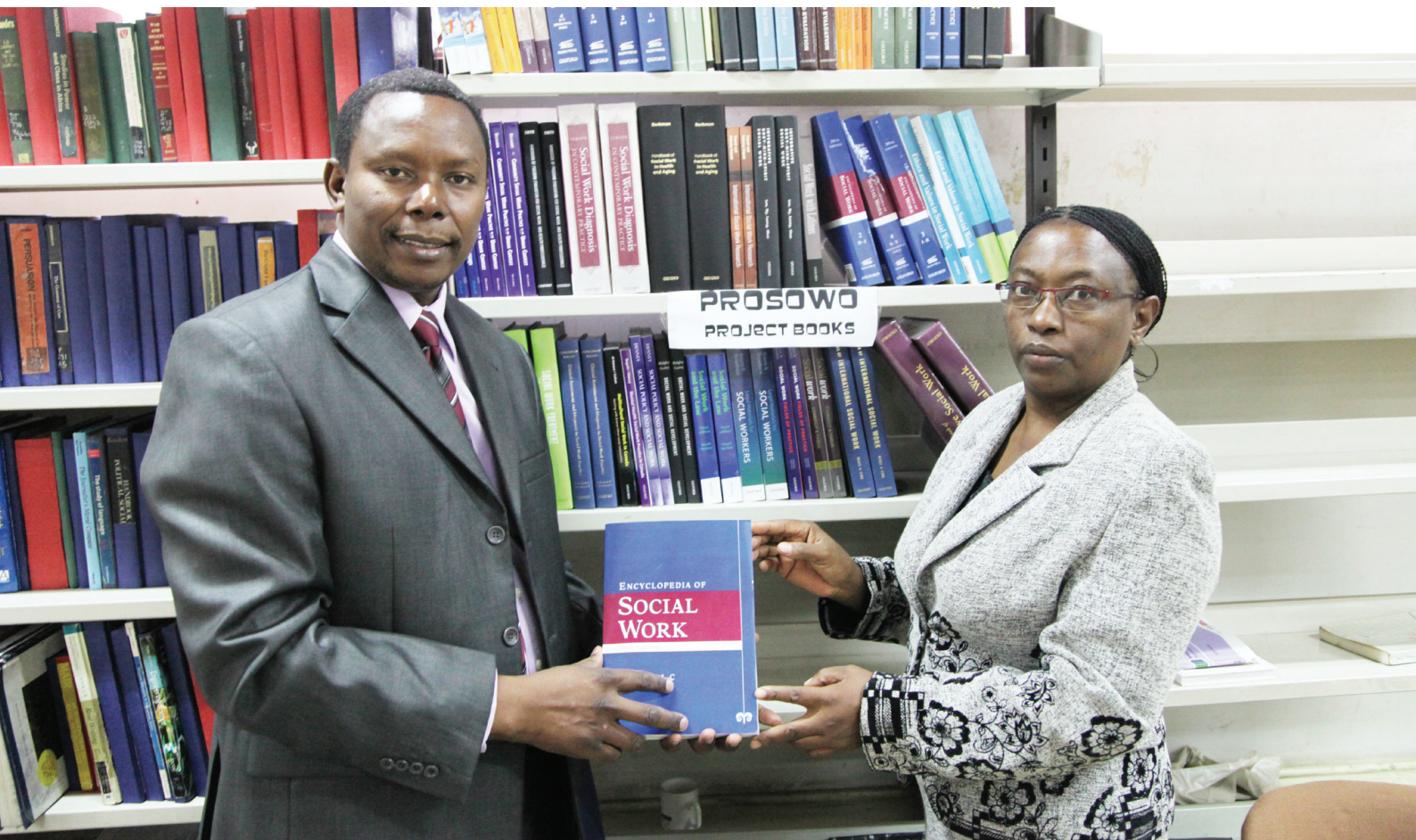
In his remarks, the Deputy Principal Prof. P. O. K'Obonyo, stated that the outcome of the retreat would be reflected in improved services.

One of the outcomes of

the deliberations was the development of a roadmap for the Faculty to achieve the set goals.

In her remarks during the closing ceremony, the Associate Dean, Dr. Rayya Timmany, appreciated

the vast efforts made by the various committees in coming up with recommendations, which she hoped would get the nod of the Faculty, the College, and the University Management.



PROSOWO

Promotion of Professional Social Work towards Social Development and Poverty Reduction in East Africa

By Dr. Gidraph G. Wairire, Senior Lecturer and Kenya Country Coordinator, PROSOWO Project

PROSOWO involves five partner universities in different countries: Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, University of Nairobi, Makerere University, National University of Rwanda and Institute of Social Work. This project has been implemented at the University of Nairobi through the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

Speaking to FaN, the Project coordinator, Dr. Gidraph Wairire

who also serves as the East African Regional Coordinator of the project, outlined the overall objective of PROSOWO as the promotion of professional social work education and practice to effectively contribute to social development and poverty reduction in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in East Africa.

According to Wairire, the specific objectives include strengthening the capacity of social work education in higher institutions of learning in the region through research,

curriculum development and joint publications. Further objectives include the development of sustainable academic partnerships and networks in social work training and research in Africa and Austria. Through engagement with relevant government authorities, it is envisaged that there will be the development of a more relevant social work curriculum in tandem with national poverty reduction plans. Such curriculum should be in line with social development strategies, with policy and discussion >>

Education and National Cohesion

By Dr. Bilha Mwenesi, Sub-department of French

The statutory mandate of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) is to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful coexistence between persons of different ethnic and racial backgrounds in Kenya. Education is among the key areas of focus in the execution of this mandate. The Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) organized a workshop jointly with NCIC in 2012 which brought together experts from public and private universities.

The objective of the workshop was to collect proposals on how to integrate values of national cohesion and integration in primary and secondary schools curricula. Participants in the workshop were drawn from areas of study as agriculture, religious studies, English, French, geography among others. They presented proposals on how to develop curriculum that would serve as a vehicle for imparting the values of national cohesion and integration in learners. My detail was to indicate ways in which learners of the French language in secondary schools could learn selected values of national cohesion and integration. Moreover, it was an opportunity to showcase

the contribution the Faculty of Arts and other units of the University make towards the whole enterprise of national cohesion and integration.

The workshop demonstrated the value of learning language which is not only for social integration but also for pedagogical purposes. At the close of the workshop, questions were raised which in our view should be seen as challenges to universities. Of particular focus were questions directly related to those units charged with the responsibility of teaching and researching into Humanities and Social Sciences. Many papers presented recommended a comprehensive cultural coverage of Kenya.

papers regulating the social work profession. Wairire added that from the onset, it was intended that there would be a strong research focus on social work in the East African region.

It is envisaged that research outcomes will revise social work curriculum incorporating respective countries' poverty reduction strategies with professionals appreciating the social development approach as a theoretical framework. Such appreciation will cultivate respect for local culturally relevant knowledge and gender equality. These activities will contribute to the capacity of the concerned higher education institutions, promote the social work profession, support gender equality, and significantly assist poverty reduction strategies through well-

trained and qualified Social Work staff. The most significant outcome of the project will be a "Handbook on Social Work in East Africa".

So far different activities for the project have been realised for Kenya. Key among them is the One Day International Social Work Symposium held at the University of Nairobi in 2011. This Symposium served as the platform through which the overall PROSOWO project was disseminated to the local and international community of social work educators from USA, UK, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Ethiopia, South Africa, China and Hong Kong. About 20 international delegates attended the symposium together with social work academic staff and students from the University of Nairobi, Daystar University, and Catholic University of East Africa.

Several social work books have been acquired and are now readily available at the JKML. Several conference papers in line with the project objectives have been presented in International conferences. The PROSOWO research team comprises of Dr. Gidraph Wairire, Dr. Agnes Zani, Dr. Mumbi Machera and Dr. Pius Mutie. They hosted a very successful PROSOWO Research Dissemination Workshop in January 2013 at the Boulevard Hotel where they disseminated some of the key findings of the research 'The Role of Professional Social Work in Poverty Reduction and Realization of the Millennium Development Goals in East Africa'. The workshop was attended by delegates from different agencies that employ social workers in Kenya.

The Chinese Connection



Dr. Iribe Mwangi (4th from left) and Dr. Lilian Kaviti (2nd from right) pose for a photo together with other participants

By Dr. Iribe Mwangi

Two Faculty of Arts members; Dr. Iribe Mwangi and Dr. Lilian Kaviti, were competitively selected by the Chinese Embassy's Department of

Commerce and Trade to represent Kenya in China. The two, who were drawn from the Department of Linguistics and Languages, were hosted by Jilin University in Changchun Province in a seminar bringing together Modern Distant Education Officials from Developing Countries. Participants

at the seminar were drawn from 30 developing countries and they gave perspectives on distance education based on their own experiences.

The seminar which was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of People's Republic of China, mainly targeted participants from Asian and African Countries, although



The Great Wall of China

◀◀ there were participants from Latin America. The working language of the Seminar was English and experts giving lectures were chosen from the College of Distance Learning, College of Computing, Network Center, College of Liberal Arts and School of Foreign Language Education of Jilin University. The seminar was designed to familiarize the participants with modern distance education development, advanced technology and teaching philosophy about distance education. Instruction, discussion and learning activities focused on overview of distance education both at home and abroad, distance education networks and digital implementation, network security, network multimedia and other aspect of technology in modern education.

Participants attended a series of lectures on Distance Education as well as on Chinese history and Culture in the Universities of Jilin and

Wuhan. The seminars were meant to brief them on the profundity of Chinese culture and the great changes over the years since the reform and opening-up policy was initiated. In addition, they visited Wuhan, Beijing and other Cities and also had time to visit some historical sites in China such as The Great Wall

of China and the Forbidden City. Speaking to FaN, Dr. Iribe stated that some of the countries that participated are at a very advanced level of Distance Education. Notable among them were The Kyrgyz Republic, Uruguay and the People's Republic of China itself. Whereas in Kenya students still rely



A group photo of participants at the seminar

Master of Arts Degree Outreach Programme



By Prof. John Habwe, Chairman,
Department of Linguistics and
Languages

The Department of Linguistics and Languages offers an M.A. Outreach Programme in Kiswahili Studies, Linguistics and Arabic Studies. The programme targets teachers at all levels since it is timed to concur with school holidays in the months of April, August and

December. The programme uses the Senate approved syllabi which is used in all programmes.

The rationale to launch the program was based on the fact that every year the University of Nairobi awards degrees to about 1,500 B.Ed (Arts) graduates. Most of the graduands end up in the teaching profession whilst a good number are already in the profession, but with a keen interest to advance in their studies. Incidentally, most of them work in far flung areas and are therefore unable to enroll in either the full time or the evening programmes. This is the major source group for the Outreach programme.

Previously, such students ended up doing one of two things: Taking a course in M.Ed or relocating to other Universities. The programme

has now become a popular option for students. Since its inception in December 2009, eighty students have graduated. Another 140 students are undertaking their studies in the programme.

The programme is run by the office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts through the Chairman, Department of Linguistics and Languages. However, the day to day affairs are managed by a Departmental Coordinator who has an Assistant. Both are academic members of staff at the Department. When the programme is in session, the residential office is manned by a Clerk who attends to students on any arising issues about the program. The Departmental Secretaries offer assistance to students and potential students. The current group is hosted at Catholic Parochial School.



on print material, China moved to video and then satellite distance education decades ago. Distance Education in China thus takes place in real time whereby a student can turn his/her office, bedroom or business premises into a classroom whenever they have a lesson so long as they have a computer. They are also able to interact with each other, ask and respond to questions as well as exchange ideas. The experience exposed the Kenyan participants to the fact that Distance Education in Kenya has a long way to go to be level with some of the developing countries.



The forbidden city

Messages of Peace Prevail during Relocation of the Peace Pillar

‘Peace will not prevail because Kenya has a new constitution. Peace is a perception of the heart and of the mind. It is your perception of each other.’

The above words were said by Dr. Eddah Gachukia, one of Kenya’s longest serving and respected educationists, during the relocation ceremony of the White Peace Pillar from Kongi’s square to the Great Court, outside Education Building, Main Campus. The Peace Pillar was planted in 1985 by



The University of Nairobi Free Travelling Theatre lead the relocation of the Peace Pillar with with song and dance



Dr. Eddah Gachukia plants the pillar in its new location at the Great Court, outside Education Building, Main Campus.

delegates attending the 3rd United Nations Decade Conference for Women held in Nairobi as a symbolic reminder of the need for peace.

The ceremony was organized by the African Women’s Studies Centre and the Department of Literature, and the guests were taken through the journey that culminated into the Forum 85 in Kenya that hosted over 4,000 women from all over the world. The Conference, which was held at the University of Nairobi, was given the mandate to seek new ways to overcome the obstacles to achieving the decade’s goals which

were equality, development and peace. At that time, Dr. Gachukia was the Head of the Department of Literature and the Chairperson of the Women’s forum in Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi’s Free Travelling Theatre entertained guests with song and dance as the Pillar was being relocated and planted at the Great Court.

Kongi Square has been set aside as the site for the proposed University Towers.

May Peace prevail on Earth!

Book Launch



(From Left) Prof. E.H.N. Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Ambassador, Republic of Korea, H.E. Chan-Woo K and Dr. Jennifer Muchiri, one of the book editors untie a ribbon to signify the launch of the book *The Essay as a Handshake*.

The University of Nairobi and the Academy of Korean Studies have launched a book titled *The Essay as a Handshake: Impressions on the Kenyan-Korean Interface*.

The book is a result of the Kenya-Korea Essay Competition that was held last year through the Bridging the Divide: Networking African and Korean Researchers' Project. The competition attracted the participation of over 80 UoN students who submitted essays, 11 of which were selected for publishing.

The book was launched by the Ambassador, Republic of Korea, H.E. Chan-Woo Kim in a ceremony graced by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, UoN, who was representing the Vice-Chancellor. H.E. Chan-Woo Kim congratulated the team on developing a publication that will continue to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. He termed the book as

an avenue to not only learn from each other but also appreciate the diverse cultures of the people.

Prof. Mbeche said that the launch of the book is testament of the growing relations between the University and Korea. He commended the Project's Research Director, Prof. D.H. Kiiru and his co-researcher, Prof. Peter Wasamba for their due diligence in implementing the project. The spirit behind the endeavour of the University is to create international links and programmes that promote collaboration in research, student

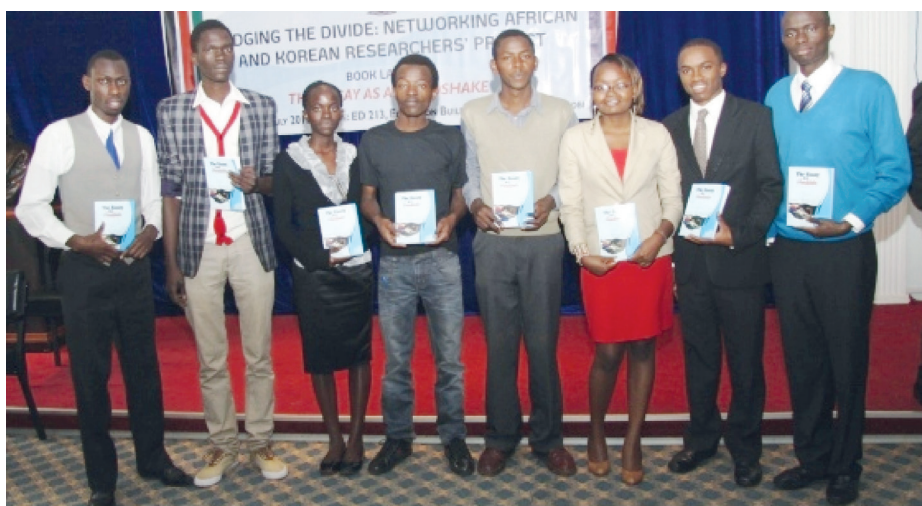
and staff exchange, sharing of research findings, dissemination of research through publications and participation in conferences.

Edited by Prof. Kiiru, Dr. Jennifer Mucheni and Prof. Wasamba, the essays have been drawn from the field of economics, education, literature, culture, history, sociology and international relations.

The book reflects on the relationship between Kenya and Korea over the past 40 years and is testament of the spirit of cooperation and mutual agreement in education and research signed in 2010 between the Academy of Korean Studies and the University.

The book launch follows the visit by South Korea's Prime Minister H.E. Kim Hwang-Sik who witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the University and the Korean Foundation.

In attendance was Prof. E.H.N. Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. P. Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. YongKyu Chang, Hankuk University, Korea, UoN staff and students.



Some of the young authors.

Linkages between Government, Industry and Academia

By Dr. Mary Mwiandi, Department of History and Archeology

The question of how government, industry and academia can collaborate in meaningful ways especially towards developing a nation formed the basis of a conference held at the KICC, with the theme: Linkage of Industry with Academia: Private Sector and Industry Capacity Development towards Vision 2030 and MDGs. Indeed, various fora have articulated the need for such linkages especially in the light of vision 2030 and the MDGs. Noting on the same Dr Mary Mwiandi who attended this conference shared with FaN that the society is not directly involved in many of the activities that the three (academia, government and the industry) are involved in, yet it is society that is the ultimate consumer of their products.

Participants at the conference were in agreement for the need of linkages between the academia, the industry, the government and the community. The private sector (the private industry) expressed their concerns that the caliber of graduate from our universities and tertiary colleges are ill prepared for the industry and as a consequence, they have been forced to re-train

them upon hiring them. It was noted that although the universities and colleges are doing their best, they faced challenges that need to be addressed. Among these challenges are financial, infrastructure, and internship opportunities for students.

It was suggested that industry could provide soft infrastructure, explore research opportunities for academicians and raise awareness on the opportunities by knowledge transfer partnerships. Industry was challenged to provide up-to-date technological advancement to government. The academia was challenged to start using the multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving and ensure that they produce talent equipped graduates with the requisite values of working with government and create talent based needs of industry. The government was challenged to provide strategic direction by reviving the dying industries and creating demands. It was emphasized that the linkage

of the industry, academia and the government must produce results that benefit the society more directly.

By the close of the conference, the general consensus was that academics must continue to find out what the needs of industry, government and society are so that they can be reflected in school curriculum. In so doing, the academia will become relevant insofar as industry is concerned. Thus, universities need to be flexible enough to address the problems and challenges facing not only the industry, but the government and the community at large.

As a matter of urgency, there is need to establish public/private partnership for more meaningful delivery of services to the community. Thus, there is need to initiate the process of engagement between the academia and industry and government if the vision 2030 and DMGs are to be achieved. Industry must take a more proactive role in supporting and financing

research in the universities, as well as providing grants to support talented students who would eventually become the workers in these industries. Universities were urged to embrace flexible curriculum to allow community, industry and government to have a direct say.

There is need to establish public/private partnership for more meaningful delivery of services to the community.

Symposium on Poverty as a Human Rights Violation



Chief Justice Dr. Willy Mutunga in a group photo with participants at the symposium

By Mumia Osaaji and Dr. Iribe Mwangi

The Center for Human Rights and Peace recently held a two-day symposium on “Poverty as a Human Rights Violation?” at the Lake Naivasha Country Club. The symposium brought together 45 participants drawn from the academia, research agencies and human rights practitioners, from Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Tanzania. The Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, Justice, Dr. Willy

Mutunga, was the chief guest.

In his speech, Mutunga explored various human rights and social justice paradigms warning against their hasty dismissal by reformers and revolutionaries. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha, the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Preston Chitere agreed that the CHRP has come of age, and that it should be mainstreamed into the University fabric, offering courses on human rights.

During the symposium, powerful

presentations were made by scholars, researchers and activists. Prof. Jack Odhiambo set the tone for the symposium with his exploration of the genesis of poverty and the subsequent identification of responsibilities that give rise to it. Prof. Andreassen and Tiberius Baraza explored the successes and challenges facing human rights organizations such as the Miss Koch Initiative, Kituo Cha Sheri and Kenya Land Alliance. Participants were treated to a critique of neo-liberal theory of development, land rights and poverty reduction in Tanzania by Mohammed Bakari, who >>

concluded that this approach had failed. Dr. Tom Ondicho, in a brief presentation, on poverty alleviation in Kenya observed that, many of the approaches adopted over the years, had failed. Patrick Maluki called for concrete steps to ensure trust in the post-conflict region of Mt. Elgon, in Kenya. Ulrika Waaranpera from Malmo University in Sweden examined the politics of land rights in the Molo /Kuresoi area of Kenya and concluded that, more efforts were required to ensure that communities resumed productive lives.

In his paper, Mumia Osaaji pitched for public interest litigation on the right to adequate food, citing successful cases from other jurisdictions. Approaching the question of poverty from an aesthetic angle, Dr Alex Wanjala and Dr Jennifer Muchiri based their arguments from literary texts, urging for a link between the aesthetic and policy engagement since, the aesthetic revealed a human face, in the question of poverty and Human Rights.

Kadara Swaleh proposed a

paradigm shift from the dominant perception of Muslim Women, noting that the narrow interpretation of the Holy texts had marginalized women and denied them their rights. Prof. Shirley Randel and Melissa Vogt explored the post-conflict experiences of poverty and human rights violations in Rwanda, from a gender perspective, while Dr Maloba Wekesa took issue with the engendering of poverty through the (mis)translation of Human Rights discourses from foreign, to local languages. Dr. Anne-Marie Hilsdon presented on the pedagogics of gender and poverty in post-genocide Rwanda.


A fresh dimension was introduced by Dr George Mweri, who rooted for new strategies to mainstream the rights of the deaf in the education system, media and other public social spaces. The poverty and land rights of the pastoralist communities in northern Kenya were exposed by Prof. Maurice Amutabi and Linnet Hamasi. Likewise, Sally Wangamati looked at women and property rights among the Sabaot of Mt. Elgon

district while, Prof Taban lo Liyong rooted for a return to Traditional African Religions in order to instill values and morality that ,could in turn, help to reduce poverty in Africa.

Dr Iribe Mwangi explored the challenges facing families and governments in their effort to enforce the rights of the child; Janet Ombwayo examined the effectiveness of poverty reduction in Laini Saba location in Kibera – Nairobi; Dr. Ndungi Mungai looked at the role of social workers in poverty reduction; while Simon Ndulu highlighted the plight of domestic workers, as a vulnerable category.

Prof. Douglas Waruta introduced a new twist to the definition of poverty, arguing that certain cultures could encourage or eradicate poverty. In his paper, Dr Ephraim Wahome called for action to safeguard the rich cultural properties in Kenya which are endangered by vandalism and theft. The question of community media was raised by Jacinta Mwendu who argued that denial of information and agency amounted to a violation of the right to information. Dr. Anne Assey and Prof. Julius Mwabora examined the role of poverty in determining education achievement in Nyanza and Coast regions of Kenya while, the challenges facing the neo-liberal education system in Tanzania were discussed by Audax Kweyamba of University of Dar es Salaam.

The outcomes of the symposium included: a rich harvest of well-researched, multi-disciplinary papers on poverty and human rights; an East African regional outlook on the question of poverty, and the possibility of wider dissemination of the papers in a referred journal or book.



THE SYMPOSIUM
Poverty is a key challenge facing the whole world, but its effects are acutely experienced in developing countries. The Eastern Africa region continues to grapple with poverty in its multi-facetedness. More recently, prolonged droughts have exacerbated the poverty situation, in a region already steeped in spiraling inflation, low levels of investments, corruption, high incidences of violent crime, high numbers of refugees from the civil strife in Somalia, poor infrastructure, poor health standards, overstretched informal settlements (slums) and alarming levels of youth unemployment.

It is against this background, that the Center for Human Rights and Peace at the University of Nairobi, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Institute of International Education organized this two-day symposium on the topic: "Poverty as a Human Rights Violation?" This symposium provided a forum for 30 scholars, researchers and human rights practitioners to share experiences, identify opportunities and constraints to human rights and rights-based approaches to poverty eradication in Kenya and the Eastern Africa region.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS
The Center for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) of the University of Nairobi was founded in 2008. It is a pioneer academic center for education, research and outreach activities on human rights and peace in Kenya, with a vision of becoming an educational center of excellence for the creation of an inclusive society that values and respects human rights and peace.

The need to establish the Centre was informed by the fact that education in human rights and peace constitutes an essential contribution to the long term prevention of conflicts and human rights abuses. It also represents an important investment in the attainment of a peaceful and just society. Human rights and peace education promotes values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage individuals to uphold respect for the dignity of the human person, harmony and justice.

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) of the University of Oslo was established in 1987, to promote the practice of internationally adopted human rights by means of academic research, teaching, assessment and consultancies, training, information and documentation. The Centre is multidisciplinary and is the National Institution on Human Rights in Norway.

POVERTY AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION?

Report of the Symposium Held at Lake Naivasha Country Club On September 28th - 30th, 2011

P. I. Iribemwangi, J. B. Ndohvu, Njeri Muhoro, Mumia G. Osaaji

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Conference on Biodiversity and Governance of Natural Resources

Parita Shah lectures in the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. She recently attended a Conference on 'Biodiversity and Governance' held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Ms. Shah was sponsored by the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme of France. Below, Parita shares her experiences with FaN.



By Parita Suresh Shah

I was privileged to present a paper on biodiversity in Kenya focusing on an area where governance is a real issue. My choice of research was the natural resource of Lake Naivasha due to the conflicting interests between the flower farms, fishermen, settlers and pastoralists. The lake is an ecosystem and an International Bird Area (IBA). Participants in the conference were drawn from all over the world and I was happy to represent the Faculty of Arts.

My presentation boded well with the theme of the conference given that

Lake Naivasha faces many challenges. The major challenge is that the lake has started to deteriorate in terms of quality as well as quantity. Different schools of thought blame different stakeholders and there is a general agreement that large scale flower farms in the area take the biggest blame for the condition of the lake. Whether it is the diminishing water level or clearing of habitat which contributes to the loss of wildlife, the flower farms seem to be at the centre of all these problems.

The role of institutions like the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) are addressed in the paper. The government's role in partnering with Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA) including various frameworks like the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) were examined. The paper also documented policies

relevant and relating to the lake highlighting how conservation and wise use of wetlands should be handled. It also mentioned the role of the constitution in conservation

Data for the paper was compiled from questionnaires administered to the local people. Variables used in getting the information were based on education, dominant institutions in the locale, awareness levels on the lake being a protected site and benefits of the lake trickling down to the community.

The paper concluded with a reflection on the different stakeholders with vast interests at the lake. The plans by government for the lake are commendable but more effort in implementation of policy coupled with political goodwill to protect the lake is needed. Moreover the government should utilize the extensive research conducted about the lake from academia. As the Faculty of Arts, we can only render our effort within frameworks of the University of Nairobi vision.

My choice of research was the natural resource of Lake Naivasha due to the conflicting interests between the flower farms, fishermen, settlers and pastoralists.



Students' Lounge

Comrades,
This VIP lounge section is exclusively reserved for us. Please send articles on any student activity that you have engaged in to:
fan@uonbi.ac.ke



NUARSA officials and SWA staff during a tree planting exercise



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