

Chinese to help build Centre for Seismological Training and Research

Plans are underway for the establishment of a Centre for Seismological Training and Research in East Africa, to be based at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS), and supported by the Chinese Earthquake Administration.

This was first revealed during a courtesy call by a delegation from the Chinese Earthquake Administration on the Vice Chancellor, represented by Prof Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, in September, 2012. During the courtesy call, a memorandum of understanding was signed and equipment, books and USD 10,000 donated to the Department of Geology.

According to Prof Barongo, of the Eastern African Working Group, the Centre will have a powerful laboratory, equipped with hard ware and other tools including a broad band seismic unit. The Centre will be the base for expanding the four seismic stations running in Kenya and will also serve to train



The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Chen Jianmin, Dr. Gladys Kianji and Prof. Isaac Mbeche.

international and local postgraduate students in order to increase the human resource base in earthquake mitigation technology and research.

During the courtesy call, it was revealed that exchange of staff and joint research to enhance knowledge and research uptake will be critical. The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Chen Jianmin, noted that

the development of a comprehensive proposal will be critical for broadening the area of research, training and student sponsorship under the present MOU. Further, he noted that the Chinese Earth quake Administration attaches great interest to links with the department of geology in order to share expertise, professionalism and common experiences and solutions to problems.

This link will also create greater understanding between the peoples of both countries and broaden and deepen cooperation in other fields. The University, on its part, will adhere to the commitments outlined in the MOU and their implementation.

Those present during the courtesy call included Prof Bernard Aduda, Principal CBPS, Dr Gladys Kianji of the East and South African Seismological Working Group, Deputy Director CIPL, Prof Seth Mdigeyo and other academic staff from CBPS.

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Dr. Pankaj Patel, Chairman, PFA Kenya, Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi and Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor UoN.

Prof. Kaimenyi awarded Honorary Fellowship

Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Academic Affairs, was recently awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Pierre Fauchard Award (PFA) in a colourful ceremony held in the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room.

The award, which was formally presented by Dr. Pankaj Patel, Chairman, PFA Kenya, is given to individuals who have made a valuable contribution to the advancement of the art and science of dentistry. Prof. Everlyne Wagaiyu, Dean, School of Dental Sciences and a PFA Fellow, read the pledge and administered the oath to Prof. Kaimenyi.

Speaking during the function, Prof. George Magoha, the Vice-Chancellor, congratulated Prof. Kaimenyi for the achievement and described his deputy as an outstanding and committed

dentist. Prof. Kaimenyi has served in different leadership roles in various professional bodies including the Kenya Dental Association, the East and Southern Africa Section of the International Association for Dental Research and the Commonwealth Dental Association.

Prof. Kaimenyi thanked PFA for the honour and his family and friends for supporting him. He said that he was committed to be in the category of people who have prepared to live to the letter and spirit of the Award and the Academy. He called on professional colleagues to work towards the greater good of the community.

Among those who witnessed the auspicious moment was Prof. Kaimenyi's wife, Stella and their daughter, Ann, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, DVC, Student Affairs, Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, College of Health Sciences and Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Representatives from the Kenya Dental Association, Ministry of Medical Services and the Association of Professional Societies in East Africa were also present.

PFA has also awarded scholarships to three UoN dental students to assist the young Kenyans to access university education in dental sciences.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Kaimenyi and wishes him success as he strives to maintain and sustain his contributions to dentistry.