



July 2014

Varsity **FOCUS**

A magazine of the University of Nairobi



Site visit of the Varsity Towers

 **New Chancellor**  **Ranking**  **Outreach**  **Funding**



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 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.



Varsity**Focus**

Published By

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Public Relations Department
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197 - 00100 Nairobi
Tel: 020 - 020-3318262 Ext 28263
Telefax: 020 2246369
Email: pr@uonbi.ac.ke
www.uonbi.ac.ke

Copyright

University of Nairobi, 2014
All rights reserved

Editor

Charles E. Sikulu

Sub-Editor

Njeri Muhoro

Contributors

Mariam Maina
Winnie Codawa
Dr. Sam Owour

Photography

David M. Syuki
Charles Muriuki

Creative Design

outbox communications
+254-020-2317477
+254 721 866 856
info@outbox.co.ke

5 The Government appointed Dr. Vijoo Rattansi (Mrs) as the Chancellor, University of Nairobi. Dr. Rattansi is the Chairperson of Rattansi Educational Trust, Daisy Eye Cancer Fund, Trustee to Michael Blundell Trust among other organizations.



6 Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, launched the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) Alumni Chapter and the Computing for Development (C4D) Lab.



14 The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the World Bank will collaborate on a youth partnership programme, to address challenges facing the country

19 The University of Nairobi launched a Korean Studies Programme to be offered by the University as a degree and certificate course.



24 The University of Nairobi is the best ranked local and regional University according to the latest Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics). It is ranked 9th in Africa out of 1,326 and 1,167 out of over 22,000 Universities in the world.

Editorial

Welcome you to the first edition of the Varsity Focus 2014 which focuses on our activities in the first half of the year. The University has performed well in the latest Webometric Rankings emerging top in East African region, 9 in Africa and 1,167 in the world. This top ranking corroborates previous rankings and government performance rankings which have consistently placed the University at the top including being named a centre of excellence by the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA).

In this issue we cover the appointment of the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, the newly appointed Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. We catch up with Asha Bakari Mohammed, the 2013 Valedictorian, capturing her life as a student and interest in microbiology and biotechnology.

*The University
has been busy
internationalizing its
brand*

The University has been busy internationalizing its brand. The efforts have brought in discussions of collaborations and partnerships with organizations such as the World Bank and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) and universities in Brazil, Venezuela and America.

The strategic importance of the UoN in providing quality human resources in driving the country towards the attainment of Kenya Vision 2030 was manifest in Ford Foundation's increase of funding under the Elimika Initiative which seeks to construct knowledge societies and increase public understanding of the Constitution 2010.

We have also highlighted the University's commitment to outreach activities that included hosting the fifth University Open Day and participation in the Commission for University Education's exhibition held in Eldoret early in the year.

The Alumni Association launched the School of Computing and Informatics Alumni Chapter in a colourful ceremony. The Association also participated in the American Fundraising Model study visit in New York.

On transition, the University also paid tribute to an eminent scholar and former Chairman of Council, Prof. David Peter Simon Wasawo who passed away in February, 2014. These are among the stories that we have featured in this edition of Varsity Focus. Enjoy reading and feel free to give us feedback.

Charles E. Sikulu

pr@uonbi.ac.ke

Solidifying gains on the road map of excellence

2014 is an exciting year for the University. The University has remained committed to its core agenda of teaching, research and corporate social responsibility. An indication of the excellence is the University's continued improvement of performance in the Ranking Web of Universities, 2014 by being ranked the best in Kenya and position nine in Africa. At world level the University is now in position 1167.

The University is keen in maintaining scientific standards, providing skills manpower as required by industry, the government and other sectors of our economy. Most fundamentally, the University has accumulated knowledge and understanding that it is now transferring to the local communities.

In late December 2013, the University graduated 14,313 graduands and a record 94 PhDs and 2 Doctors of Science; these graduated joined the rank of 156,000 alumni in the public and private sector.

Our fact file at the moment boasts over 300 active links and collaborations with Institutions of Higher learning and industry all over the world. Staff have made immense contribution to teaching and research by being speakers, and consultants who apart from thinking global, transfer knowledge at the local level.

The challenges that we have



Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor

"I WOULD LIKE TO
COMMEND THE
GOVERNMENT MOST
SINCERELY FOR
CONTINUING TO SUPPORT
OUR SEED FOR QUALITY
AMIDST DEMANDING
RESOURCES"

experienced in the recent past and the way in which the University handled them are testament that the University has embedded the concept of good corporate governance, responsiveness, team work and professionalism.

I would like to commend the government for continuing to support our seed for quality amidst demanding resources. Their commitment has made what could be a daunting task pleasant. I am grateful for our benefactors and well wishers, who have supported us wholeheartedly.

I thank members of staff and the student community for their dedication to the objective functions of the university.

I wish to reassure our stakeholders, that the University will forge ahead in the task of teaching, training and mentorship of our students and the contribution directly to capacity building, education and development.

Profile

Asha Bakari Mohammed is scholar with a unique personality. With two scholarships and expecting a third, one could be forgiven for assuming that lady luck has always smiled at Asha. This is not true, Asha has had her share of disappointment, and indeed her first scholarship to pursue her childhood dream of medicine was cut short, but her spirit to succeed in education was not thwarted.

Asha Bakari Mohammed had always wanted to become a doctor and after her O-levels, she got a scholarship to study medicine in Russia. However, her excitement would not last long because one year into the programme, her scholarship was terminated due to inadequate funds. Asha was among the students sent back to their home country after only one year of study. Luckily, she found that she still had a position at the University of Nairobi. This heartened her and after counseling from an academic mentor, Asha was convinced to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Despite the unfamiliar field, Asha was exposed to other relevant areas in her course from agriculture, medicine and industry, and gained knowledge on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as a means to enhance food security. It is in the course of study that she also discovered the use of micro-organisms in pharmaceutical drugs and in the manufacture of consumables and she began to emphasize and study the effectiveness of yoghurt to the society, including its medicinal value in the prevention of gum disease, management of cholesterol levels as well as its proven scientific benefit to women. Four years of determination fostered by a daily reading habit, saw Asha perform exceedingly well in her undergraduate studies. She

Asha Bakari Mohammed



Asha Bakari Mohammed, 2013 Valedictorian.

"IF YOU ARE DISCIPLINED AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, YOU CAN REACH WHERE YOU WANT TO BE. YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BE DISCIPLINED AND PUT GOD FIRST."

emerged the best student at the School of Biological Sciences, with a First Class Honors (mean of 80.8), during the 49th University of Nairobi graduation ceremony.

Asha attributes her educational success to God and to her father. Her father always offered her support even as she moved from a familiar setting in Mombasa to Nairobi, in pursuit of education. He would call her every morning to motivate and encourage her. She nostalgically remembers how she would cry in her first year due to the unfamiliar environment. However, she drew strength from her religious background. She says that God really helped her in her studies.

Much as she excelled in her education, Asha went through a breaking point just before her final semester. "This last undergraduate year was the hardest for me, my father succumbed to a heart attack". Despite the loss of her beloved father, she took her exams and managed to score good grades. "I had already cultivated a daily reading habit, "If I had been waiting for exams to read, I would not have passed my exams." UoN later honored Asha for her astounding performance with a scholarship to pursue Master of Science in Microbiology and Biotechnology, which attest to her belief that the relevance of microbiology should not be underestimated

Asha currently works as the personal assistant to the chief executive officer at the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), where she also did her industrial attachment. The first born, in a family of seven, always dreamt of becoming a professor from a very early age, and she will be proud to get her PhD through her hardwork. Although a bit reserved, Asha is full of words of counsel for her peers, "If you are disciplined and you know what you want, you can reach where you want to be. You have to know what you want, be disciplined and put God first."

Dr Vijoo Rattansi is the new Chancellor

She replaces Dr. Joseph W. Wanjui after 10 years of service



Dr. Vijoo Rattansi (Mrs) as the Chancellor, University of Nairobi.

The Government appointed Dr. Vijoo Rattansi (Mrs) as the Chancellor, University of Nairobi. Dr. Rattansi is the Chairperson of Rattansi Educational Trust, Daisy Eye Cancer Fund, Trustee to Michael Blundell Trust among other organizations.

Dr. Vijoo has wide experience in institutional development and conflict mediation in institutions; and experience in fundraising and networking. She also has skills and competencies in corporate governance, strategic planning, gender and development. She is fluent in English, Kiswahili and Italian languages.

Vijoo Rattansi was awarded an honorary doctorate (D.Litt.) by Moi University in recognition of her efforts in promoting higher education in the country. Her family, has been involved in supporting education in the country since 1956. Over the last 10 years, it has supported higher education to the tune of KES 120 million. The state recognized her efforts in supporting higher education in the country by awarding her the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) in 2006.

Varsity Focus congratulates Vijoo Rattansi on her new appointment and wishes her success.

Launch



Cabinet Secretary for information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i launch the CD4 lab at the School of Computing and Informatics.

THE C4D LAB IS FOCUSING ON TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION AND PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT

10th Alumni Chapter launched as C4D Lab is activated

ICT is one of the key enablers of development in Kenya and the Government has invested heavily in ICT infrastructure, says Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i. He was launching the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) Alumni Chapter and activation of the Computing for Development (C4D) Lab.

The C4D Lab is focusing on technology incubation and prototype development. Already, the innovation lab is incubating 12 technology start-ups which are undergoing mentorship and training with the aim of nurturing them into sustainable companies in the near future. The steering committee of the Lab is exploring ways to raise funds to realize its goals.

According to, Matiang'i, the C4D Lab. will not only nurture creativity and innovation but also address some of the problems and challenges present in

creating employment opportunities in society. Matiang'i challenged the alumni association to create and strengthen relationships between the University and the private sector players.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, said that the University is strategically positioned and endowed with a huge pool of talent and resources to continue providing leadership in technological innovation. He reiterated that the University management is committed to seeing the initiative grow and challenged the drivers of the process to ensure that the objectives are realized.

The event which was held at the Chiromo Campus Court attracted many University of Nairobi (UoN) alumni mainly drawn for the SCI, students, members of staff and industry partners.



Discourse on Tana River County

Tana River County is set to benefit from the outcomes of research findings which will inform its policy planning processes in eco-tourism management, conflict resolution, education, agriculture, fisheries, livestock management, strategic environmental assessment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, among others. This emerged during a national scientific conference organized by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the University of Nairobi, Department of

Geography and Environmental Studies with support from Wetlands International.

The theme of the conference was 'The impacts of human activities and climate change in Tana River County, Kenya.'

Speaking at the function, the Cabinet Secretary for

Environment, Water and Natural Resources, represented by Amb. Julius Kandie, Senior Director of Administration at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (MEWNR) noted that information, knowledge and scientific findings play a critical role in the development of policies, plans and strategies of all counties in Kenya. He said that in relation to climate change, measures aimed at building resilience of people, improving their coping strategies amidst a changing climate while at the same time improving their livelihoods, are vital and this conference serves as a building block towards this goal.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, University of Nairobi, noted that "there is need to link research to policy formulation in order to transform the livelihoods of people, in line with Kenya Vision 2030". In her opening remarks presented by Prof. William Ogara, Director, Center for International Programmes and Links, University of Nairobi, Prof. Irungu stressed that there is underutilization of research for development, which is hampering progress towards promoting development. Prof. Irungu expressed commitment of the University of Nairobi towards working with Tana River County and other development agencies in addressing

STRESSED THAT THERE IS UNDERUTILIZATION OF RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT, WHICH IS HAMPERING PROGRESS TOWARDS PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT.

Discourse

Tana River County

various societal needs and challenges experienced in the county.

According to Amb. Hussein Dado, Governor, Tana River County had in the past few years come face to face with unprecedented challenge of climate change impacts and corresponding socio-economic losses to communities. Climate change is a threat to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction goals and priorities.

Tana River County has a rich biodiversity which includes wildlife, birds and mangroves, among others. The county has a population of over 240,000 people with 76.9 per cent of the people living in poverty. The main socio-economic activities undertaken in the county include

farming, livestock rearing, mining of sand in Bura, tourism at Kora National reserve, Arawale National Reserve and Tana Primate National reserve. The county has three major fishing landing sites. Tana River is the largest river in the country and supports communities in the area. Some of the challenges that the county faces include land degradation, destruction of forests, human and wildlife conflict, overgrazing, uncoordinated development and overexploitation of resources.

The conference brought together stakeholders from academia, NEMA led by the Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu, public and private sector and civil society, actively engaged in research, innovation, production, packaging and application of environmental and climate change management.

Alumni Association participates in American fundraising model



The University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) recently participated in the American Fundraising Model study visit in May 2014. The visit was organized by the King Baudouin Foundation of the United States (KBFUS) and the Advancement Academy of the Stellenbosch University of South Africa in New York.

The study visit brought together 25 African Universities leaders and advancement/alumni officers from seven African countries namely: Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda,

Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania and Liberia.

According to the Director, UONAA, Mr. Johnson Kinyua, the forum provided an opportunity to learn more about fundraising for the Association's projects and for networking with other universities and stakeholders. "I have gained new insight on the role of universities as solution providers to the government and community at large, the power of endowment as a key strategy to financial sustainability, and the role of chancellors and vice-chancellors in fundraising and ways of engaging corporations".

One of the most exciting outcomes of the forum was IBM's interest in working with Computing for Development (C4D) Innovation Lab, Carnegie Corporation New York is working to make the University of Nairobi a hub university for East Africa. In a separate development, CASE is interested in hosting the CASE Africa Conference 2014 in East Africa. The study visit was held between May 2 and 7, 2014.

Initiative started to sensitize Kenyans on the Constitution

Universities have been challenged to take up a special role in creating and disseminating knowledge to society in a bid to ensure that the Constitution is implemented.

This message was echoed by different speakers recently during the launch of 'Construction of Knowledge Societies Initiative,' dubbed 'Elimika' hosted at the University of Nairobi (UoN) and funded by Ford Foundation.

During the launch of the initiative, the chief guest, Chief Justice, Dr. Willy Mutunga underscored the voice of the citizenry during the implementation of the constitution. He noted that there is no neutrality in the implementation process and that civic education is not about reviving old debates but rather forging ahead and working on moving the nation forward. He advised the University of Nairobi not to limit the initiative to reaching people in the rural areas but rather, to target the elite who equally require sensitization on the Constitution.

Maurice Makoloo, Ford Foundation Regional Representative, East Africa, commended the University of Nairobi on the launch of the initiative noting that the conversation is indeed an academic institution's input into the journey to constitutionalism.

The Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya, Prof. Githu Muigai said that the political commitment to implement the Constitution exists and has been kept alive by the political will of Kenyans. In response to the launch of the initiative, he said that the knowledge economy has come and it is an economy that will reward those who invest in knowledge. He challenged Kenyans to engage in constructive discussions that will move the processes realizing a holistic growth in the country.

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, UoN, said that the knowledge generation approach through the inter-university, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral caucus is a very noble idea which the University is proud to participate



Dr. Willy Mutunga, Chief Justice.

in. She noted that given that the youth comprise 60 per cent of Kenya's population, stakeholders have a huge challenge in terms of knowledge dissemination in a form easily understood by the youth. She called on different actors to equip the younger generations with the requisite knowledge needed for making responsible decisions on their own governance.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro said that it is critical for all to appreciate that today's knowledge society is a fusion of new technologies, innovations and the emerging internet based technologies which is providing fresh opportunities for the promotion and widening of public knowledge. Therefore, the Constitution needs to be simplified and presented to the communities in a manner that is understandable and which can be appreciated by all.

The Initiative created an opportunity to look at education afresh and build knowledge blocks that will help Kenyans articulate their rights and responsibilities. The initiative aims at empowering Kenyans for prosperity by equipping them with broad based knowledge on their citizenship, human rights, good governance, sustainability livelihoods and development. The launch of the 'Construction of Knowledge Societies Initiative' is the bridge between the University of Nairobi and the wider community. Through the initiative, members of the University fraternity can reach out to counties and spread knowledge on the understanding, appreciating and owning the constitution. The first phase will comprise counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Makeni, Homabay and Turkana and later on the project will be rolled to the rest of the country within the next 2-3 years.

Collaboration



Ambassador Marcela Nicodemos, Brazilian Ambassador to Kenya receives a gift from Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro.

UoN and Brazil discuss collaboration

acquiring skills and building capacity.

Amb. Nicodemos said that building diplomatic relationship is important and requires the establishment of links with academic and research institutions in the country, in this case, the Brazilian embassy is keen on promoting diplomatic, political, educational, social and economic issues through various initiatives. A case in point of engagement in Kenya is evident

in the way that the Embassy organized various events in Kenya during the World Cup 2014. Such activities include photo exhibitions, presentations and cultural displays as part of promoting the relationship between Kenya and Brazil.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Isaac Jumba, Principal, College of Education and External Studies, Prof. W. Ogara, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages and Mr. M. Mureithi, Director, Sports and Games.

The Republic of Brazil will collaborate with the University of Nairobi (UoN) in areas of mutual benefit that include language courses, promoting sports, arts and enhancing cultural and knowledge exchange between the University and Brazilian academic and research institutions

This was revealed in a meeting between the University and Ambassador Marcela Nicodemos, Brazilian Ambassador to Kenya, in May 2014. While presiding over the meeting on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, welcomed the initiative noting that the University was keen on establishing and implementing partnerships that will benefit students and staff in

COLLABORATION IN AREAS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT THAT INCLUDES LANGUAGE COURSES, PROMOTING SPORTS, ARTS AND ENHANCING CULTURAL AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND BRAZILIAN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



(Left) Mr. Uchenna Emelonye, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs during the meeting.

OHCHR is keen on seeing human rights shift from activism to governance. He noted that African nations do not view development and human rights on the same page. Adding that it was high time that graduates engaged in development from a human rights perspective and that

UoN needed to develop capacity for HRE in Kenya. Already through CHRP, UoN is offering a Masters of Arts degree programme in Human Rights.

On his part, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, representing the VCice-chancellor said that the discussions had come at an appropriate time, when there is need for UoN to play a leading role in the provision of HRE in Kenya.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Peter Wasamba, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr. Stephen Akaranga, Chairman of Department, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Dr. J.B. Ndohvu, Programme Coordinator, CHRP and Prof. Jacob Midiwo, Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses.

Varsity to develop human rights education in partnership with OHCHR

The University of Nairobi (UoN), in partnership with the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) has entered into discussions on the possibility of offering a common undergraduate course on Human Rights Education (HRE). This was revealed in April 2014, when representatives from OHCHR paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor.

According to the discussions, the UoN's Centre for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) and OHCHR will develop curricular in human rights education with special focus on the establishment of the common undergraduate course in HRE. In addition, CHRP will integrate and sensitize all stakeholders in the University on HRE.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Uchenna Emelonye, Senior Human Rights Adviser, OHCHR, said that

Development of new sign language curriculum

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has entered into talks with the Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) and the Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD) through Japan Co-operation Agency (JICA) on incorporating the Kenyan Sign Language into the academic curricula. Kenyan Sign Language is the third official language in Kenya and is enshrined in the Constitution.

In a meeting held in January 2014, it was agreed that an institutionalized Kenyan Sign Language programme will be developed and taught in the University. The main objective of the programme will be to increase the number of professional interpreters in the country as well as conduct research on sign language recognition and the challenges facing the deaf in the society.

ALREADY, THE UNIVERSITY HAS INTERPRETING FACILITIES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS AND TRAININGS ON SIGN LANGUAGE FOR STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED.

Presiding over the meeting on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, welcomed the initiative saying that it touched on an area of importance in terms of equity concerns, policy development and implementation in the communication process between the hearing and the deaf. Already, the University has interpreting facilities for hearing impaired students and trainings on sign language for staff members have been conducted. In addition, the University has a team led by Prof. Okoth Okombo working with partners on research and training on sign language.

On his part, Mr. Nickson Kakiri, Chairman, KNAD, said that with a sign language curriculum in place, interested Kenyans will have an opportunity to pursue courses in sign language and train others thus building a sign language profession in the country.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Rayya Timammy, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Peter Wasamba, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Okoth Okombo, Department of Linguistics, Prof. Michael Ndurumo, Department of Psychology and Ms. Yamamoto Minako, JICA representative.



Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) and the Japanese Federation of the Deaf (JFD) through Japan Co-operation Agency (JICA).

Youth to benefit from collaboration with World Bank



(Left) World Bank's Lead Economist, Mr. Apurva Sanghi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha hold discussions during the meeting. (Left) World Bank's Lead Economist, Mr. Apurva Sanghi and Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs during the meeting.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the World Bank will collaborate on a youth partnership programme, to address challenges facing the country such as unemployment, food security, health issues, water and energy stress. This was revealed when the World Bank's Lead Economist, Mr. Apurva Sanghi paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

According to Sanghi, the youth partnership initiative will pursue complementary approaches of engaging with the youth in Kenyan universities, the priority being fresh graduates entering the market. Through the initiative, the World Bank will tap into the youth's fresh insights and together work for research and development in Kenya and Africa.

In his remarks, Prof. Magoha said that the University already has in place research

ACCORDING TO SANGHI, THE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE WILL PURSUE COMPLEMENTARY APPROACHES OF ENGAGING WITH THE YOUTH IN KENYAN UNIVERSITIES, THE PRIORITY BEING FRESH GRADUATES ENTERING THE MARKET

projects and academic programmes seeking to address these issues and is looking to actively engage the World Bank in a mutual partnership. Already, some members of the University staff are involved in various programmes ran by the World Bank.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Henry Mutoro, DVC, Academic Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, DVC, Student Affairs, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Prof. W.O. Ogara, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, Dr. Josiah Aduda Dean, School of Business and Prof. Jane Mariara, Director, School of Economics.

Students to benefit from partnership with Venezuela



(Left) Venezuelan Ambassador, Jhony Balza presents the books to Prof. Isaac Mbeche Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs.

The University of Nairobi today May 23, 2014, received a book donation from the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The 150 books in Spanish language presented to the University by the Venezuelan Ambassador to Kenya, Jhony Balza were received by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche.

The move is geared towards supporting and promoting the teaching and learning of the Spanish language in the University.

Already, the University of Nairobi is in talks with the Venezuelan Embassy

UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI IS IN
TALKS WITH THE
VENEZUELAN
EMBASSY IN KENYA
ON POSSIBLE
COLLABORATIONS
WITH INSTITUTIONS IN
VENEZUELA

in Kenya on possible collaborations with institutions in Venezuela. It was agreed that the two will look at different

areas of collaboration that will be of mutual benefit. The partnerships will focus on enhancing cultural and knowledge exchange between the University and Venezuelan academic and research institutions.

Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Isaac Jumba, Acting Principal, College of Education and External Studies, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Dr. Sophia Kaane, Director, Library and Information Services are among those who attended the book donation ceremony.

Strengthening links with American institutions



United States Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Robert Godec with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the United States Embassy to Kenya will grow existing partnerships and establish new ones. The United States Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Robert Godec, said during a courtesy call to the Vice-chancellor, Prof. George Magoha. He noted that already, the University is in collaboration with various American Universities, carrying out projects and research in different areas including sustainable development, environmental development, agricultural technologies, food security, health and renewable energy.

According to Godec, the US Embassy

THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIKEMINDED INSTITUTIONS, THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENGAGE IN CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH WITH FOCUS ON BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION.

in Kenya is keen on working with institutions that seek to address the challenges the nation is facing, and is committed to working with the University to support relevant programmes and training of professionals trained who in turn will contribute to national development in different areas.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha noted that UoN has been at the forefront in research and contribution of solutions that are geared towards addressing some of the challenges facing Kenya. Through collaborative partnerships with likeminded institutions, the University has been able to engage in cutting edge research with focus on being part of the solution. Present during the meeting were members of the University management board and staff from the US Embassy.

UoN and Ford Foundation partnership

The University of Nairobi (UoN) recognizes the importance of establishing and enhancing collaborative linkages based on mutual understanding, equal partnership and reciprocity with institutions.

This was said by Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, when receiving a team from the Ford Foundation led by Ms. Hilary Pennington, Vice President, Education, Free Expression and creativity, and Mr. Maurice Makoloo, Ford Foundation's regional representative.

According to Mutoro, the University is pleased with the long relationship it has had with the Foundation and is looking forward to further collaboration.

In her remarks, Ms. Pennington said that Ford Foundation values its relationship with UoN that dates back to 1962, when the first grant was given. She noted the University's management commitment to demonstrating profound respect for partnerships.

The foundation has to date given 83 grants to the University; the last grant of US\$ 60,450 was given in 2013 to the School of Law in support of a conference



Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Dean, School of Law, Mr. Maurice Makoloo, Ford Foundation's regional representative and Ms. Hilary Pennington, Ford Foundation Vice President, Education, Free Expression and creativity, in a meeting between the Foundation and the School of Law.

on the Kenyan Supreme Court decision on the March 2013 presidential election. In 2012, UoN was awarded a grant of US\$ 500,000 to renovate and modernize the Taifa Hall. In 2011, the School of Journalism was given a grant of US\$270,000 to conduct research on and write popular biographies of six prominent Kenyan women, to provide training and mentoring on autobiography and biography writing and produce a short documentary on selected women. The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) was given a grant of US\$350,000 to enable a team to study the history and nature of social movements in East Africa and work with civil society to strengthen and sustain them.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Dean, School of Law, Prof. W.O. Ogara, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages, Dr. Sylvester Masu, Manager, Construction and Maintenance, among others were present during the meeting.

Launch of Korean Studies Programme

The University of Nairobi launched a Korean Studies Programme to be offered by the University as a degree and certificate course.

While presiding over the ceremony H.E. Chan-Woo Kim, the Korean Ambassador to Kenya, said that the launch of the Korean Studies Programme was a clear demonstration of the good relationship between Kenya and South Korea. He thanked the University management for their

passionate support in making sure that the Korean programme is officially launched. The Ambassador said that as the two countries celebrate 50 years of mutual cooperation, their citizens have been able to share their experiences and willingness to learn each other's cultures.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, Prof. Peter K'Obonyo, Deputy, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), noted that such initiatives are geared towards empowering

young Kenyans and making them part of the journey towards realizing Vision 2030. Already, 15 students have been admitted to the Bachelor of Arts in Korean Studies and Certificate in Korean Studies. According to K'Obonyo, the University of Nairobi has in place mutual relationships with various Korean Institutions. In 2013, the University of Nairobi signed MoUs with three Korean Institutions, namely: Korea University, Sookmyung Women's University and Korea Foundation. Talks are underway to expand our network with premier universities in Korea.



Funding

Elimika initiative receives more funding from Ford Foundation



Ford's Regional Representative Mr. Maurice Makoloo, with UNITWIN chair, Prof. Judith Bahemuka.

Ford Foundation has injected a further USD250,000 towards the Elimika 'Construction of Knowledge Societies' initiative.

This was announced by the Foundation's Regional Representative, Mr. Maurice Makoloo during the project's mid-term review on May 13, 2014 at the University of Nairobi (UoN). Makoloo commended UoN and specifically the project team on the great strides thus far, noting that Ford Foundation has seen foresight, commitment and tenacity in the project team in the implementation of the initiative.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha noted that through the production of critical thinkers, 'Construction of Knowledge Societies' gave a glimpse of

what universities can do, given the right environment. Through research, innovative engagement and guided curiosity, universities prepare students to become change agents in their communities.

It emerged that indeed the implementation had seen the team reach out to five counties and spread knowledge on the understanding, appreciating and owning the Constitution 2010.

The team has contacted the five counties identified for the first phase which are Nairobi, Kwale, Makueni, Homabay and Turkana. In addition, the team has had meetings with Governors, Senators, Members of County Assemblies and other stakeholders on their role in the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Already, research instruments have been pretested and a framework for the project has been developed. The team will now embark on baseline survey, initiate internships and conduct training for selected groups from the counties. A vibrant communication strategy that reflects the diversity of the counties has also been developed and Nation Media Group has offered to reach the masses through its various media platforms.

In addition, several stakeholders have come onboard. They include Rattansi Educational Trust, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Nation Media Group, Commission for Revenue Allocation (CRA), Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Devolution and Planning and Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

Under the leadership of the project leader, Prof. Judith Bahemuka, 'Elimika,' the initiative, has created an opportunity to relook at education and build knowledge blocks that will help Kenyans articulate their rights and responsibilities.

Librarian receives EPT Open Access Award 2013

The EPT Open Access Awards 2013 in recognition of the effort made by individuals working in the developing and emerging countries in the furtherance of Open Access (OA) to scholarly publications. UoN's Rosemary Otando was among those recognized.

The University of Nairobi Library System, recently received accolades and honor when Rosemary Otando, a librarian, was announced one of the winners of the EPT Open Access Awards 2013, organised by the Electronic Publishing Trust for Development (EPT). Otando, who is a systems librarian in the University of Nairobi



Rosemary Otando receives her EPT Open Access Awards 2013.

Library and Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) Country and Open Access Coordinator was recognised for her advocacy of Open Access.

Otando, has led the Open Access activities in Kenya by raising awareness among different academic groups and was instrumental in establishing the University of Nairobi Open Access Policy and OA repository. In addition, she has been active in training and facilitating the establishment of 20 institutional OA repositories in the country.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, an excited but pleased Otando said that "she was really humbled to receive such great recognition and

do appreciate my selection for this noble award. Otando noted that the University of Nairobi staff, specifically the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, had committed to support Open Access initiatives in the University of Nairobi.

The EPT Open Access Awards 2013 is in recognition of the effort made by individuals working in the developing and emerging countries in the furtherance of Open Access (OA) to scholarly publications.

The University congratulates Otando on her achievement.

FROM OUR GALLERY

1



4



2



5



3



- 1. Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi tours ongoing construction of the University towers at the Main Campus.**
- 2. Celebrating a good year: University of Nairobi Engineering students take a group photo during their end of year party.**
- 3. Igembe Boys High School tours the School of Engineering.**
- 4. Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi signs the visitors book to officially open the 2014 Open Day. Looking on is Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi.**



6

5. Mitsubishi Corporation, General Manager, Masatoshi hands over certificates of 15 student scholarships worth KES 975,000.00 to the University of Nairobi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro. The scholarships are part of Mitsubishi's four year corporate support for social and educational programmes concerned with the environment. Looking on is the Chairman, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr. Sam Owour – the scholarships benefitted students from his department. The ceremony was held in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room.

6. Nairobi Governer Evans Kidero at the School of Pharmacy fundraising.

7. (3rd from left) Chief Security Officer, University of Nairobi, Mr. Wilfred M. Wahome leads members of staff from the Security Department in planting trees during the Department's annual tree planting exercise at Kanyariri Farm.

8. SONU 2013/2014 officials take a group photo with the Dean of Students Dr. Fr. Dominic Wamugunda during the SONU executive training.



7



8

Awards

Best performing colleges and units honoured

The University of Nairobi recently released the performance results of various Colleges and Central Administration Departments in a ceremony held at the Taifa Hall. In the results released by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi, for the 2012/2013 year, the College of Health Sciences emerged first, followed by the College of Education and External Studies and College of Humanities and Social Sciences in position two and three respectively. The most improved College was Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. Among the Central Administration Departments, ICT Centre took first position followed by Finance Department in position two and Administration Department in position three. The most improved Unit was the Legal Office.



Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, hands over the certificate to Prof. Charles Omwandho for the College of Health Sciences, after it emerged the best overall.

In the previous year, 2011/2012, the College of Education and External Studies was ranked position one, College of Health Sciences position two and Biological and Physical Sciences position three. The most improved was the College of Architecture and Engineering. In the same performance year, among the Central Administration Departments ICT Centre was still ranked position one, Finance Department attained position two and Estates, position three. The most improved unit was the University of Nairobi Press. The Colleges and Units are evaluated on academic improvement, infrastructure and best human resource practices.

The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, congratulated the management for being pacesetters in performance contracting among public agencies. In the last performance contracting results released by the Government in March 2012, the University of Nairobi was the only public agency that was ranked 'Excellent' - the only institution to score the excellent mark since the inception of performance contracting over ten years ago. While congratulating the best Colleges and Units, the Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, challenged the management to raise the level of performance and maintain a leadership position locally and regionally. In order to continue to

be the best the University must embrace quality control, retain the best people and mobilize additional resources.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, said that the University's improvement in the PC is reflected in many areas among them student

enrolment, which currently stands at 70,000 and graduations which have increased to about 14,000 graduands per academic year with over 100 PhDs. On infrastructure, over the last 10 years, the University has completed several stalled projects acquired others in Kisumu and Mombasa which led to the establishment of fully fledged campuses in those regions. At the moment, there are ongoing constructions in: Kisumu, School of Pharmacy and at the Main Campus, flagged by the state-of-the-art University Towers that will house the increasing academic activities.

UoN's ranking has also improved greatly courtesy of performance contracting. For the last 10 years, since the web ranking began, the UoN was for the first time in January 2014, ranked the best University in the region and the ninth in Africa.

THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES EMERGED FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES AND COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN POSITION TWO AND THREE RESPECTIVELY.

EALA identifies UoN as a center of excellence

The Speaker of the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Rt. Hon. Margaret N. Zziwa, recently revealed that UoN had been identified as one of the East African Community's Centres of Excellence.

Hon. Zziwa, was speaking at the College of Health Sciences (CHS) when she led members of the EALA on a visit of the College. She commended the University for addressing the different emerging challenges in the health sector, noting that the College has set up Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes that have taken health care services to those who

cannot access or afford it. While noting that the region has the brains and the capacity to tackle problems, she revealed that as part of the integration process, EALA was committed to spreading the word that the EAC has and is developing homegrown solutions to health issues.

During the meeting, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, CHS, made a detailed presentation of the College with focus on the programmes and projects in place, the use of technology in teaching and research, research partnerships and collaborations with various regional

and international institutions as well as development of infrastructure.

The EALA members were on a ten-day tour targeted towards enabling members appreciate the diversity of the people and the development initiatives that Kenya can offer to the region. The legislators interacted directly with citizens and discussed their views, aspirations and fears on the integration process. The EALA Members also got first-hand experience on the workings of a devolved government following the promulgation of the Constitution in Kenya in 2010.



Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, College of Health Sciences receives the East African Community (EAC) flag presented to the University by the Speaker of East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Rt. Hon. Margaret N. Zziwa when they visited the University.

Inset: University of Nairobi members of staff and EALA Members at the College of Health Sciences.



UoN is the best

Confirmed best university in the region

The University of Nairobi is the best ranked local and regional University according to the latest Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics). It is ranked 9th in Africa out of 1,326 and 1,167 out of over 22,000 Universities in the world.

In Africa, the University of Nairobi led local universities followed by Kenyatta University at position 34 and Strathmore University in 36. Overall in Africa, Cairo University leads in the rankings followed by the University of Cape Town. The University of KwaZulu-Natal which led in the last ranking has now dropped to position 5. The first position worldwide went to the renowned Harvard University. Makerere University which led regional universities in July 2013 rankings is now in position 2 in the region and position 10 in Africa.

The University of Nairobi's performance is the best result posted by any local university since the advent of web ranking in 2004. In the July 2013 ranking the University of Nairobi was first in Kenya, second in East Africa and 14th in Africa.

The web rankings complement the government Performance Contracting ranking in which UoN has consistently maintained position one ahead of other public universities and institutions. In the last results, UoN posted an "Excellent" rank a position that has never been achieved by any public entity in the Performance Contracting exercise. The University is also in position 1 as per the latest 4ICU web rankings.

The improved rankings comes against a backdrop of increased enrolment currently standing at over 68,000 students in different courses, improved academic infrastructure and highly qualified academic staff comprising of 126 Professors, and 246 Associate Professors. Last year, the University of Nairobi graduated a record 14,207 students among them 3,373 Masters, 92 PhDs and 2 DSc's. It also has a research portfolio of KES 3.5 billion and over 1,350 International linkages .

The University management congratulates staff and students for the good performance and challenges them to improve on the standards.

THE WEB RANKINGS
COMPLEMENT THE
GOVERNMENT
PERFORMANCE
CONTRACTING
RANKING IN WHICH
UON HAS CONSISTENTLY
MAINTAINED POSITION
ONE AHEAD OF OTHER
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND
INSTITUTIONS.

Celebration of 50th Graduation as Kenya turns 50

In 2013, Kenya celebrated 50 years of independence. Similarly, the University of Nairobi marked its 50th graduation ceremony with a list of over 9,000 graduands being conferred with degrees and awarded diplomas.

During the ceremony, the third Doctor of Science (DSc.) in the University's history was awarded to Prof. David M. Ndetei. The ceremony held on December 6, 2013, drew graduands mainly from the Colleges of Health Sciences and that of Humanities and Social Sciences.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the installation of a new Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. In her inauguration speech as Chancellor, Dr. Rattansi

thanked the government for the appointment and challenged the graduands to contribute, in any way, to the socio-economic development of the country, taking the road seldom travelled, and be runaway successes. Dr. Rattansi called on the alumni association to contribute in cash and kind to make this institution a sterling example saying "it is your personal challenge to make the University a better place for the future generation".

The Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah said that the Council is committed to maintaining good industrial relations with the unions for the mutual benefit of the University and all staff members as well as creating and ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment within the university premises for the student community.

On his part, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, noted that as part of moving into the future, the University is enhancing infrastructural capacity by constructing the 22-storey University tower at the main campus to house the increasing academic activities. Other infrastructural activities include the School of Pharmacy complex and the expansion of the Kisumu

campus whose works are on schedule. He said that the projects clearly demonstrate that UoN's strong brand equally has strong supporting systems that make higher education environment not only conducive but interesting for learning.

Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi awards a DSc Degree to Prof. David Ndetei. Looking on is the Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.



Excellence



First year students register at the Main Campus.

University of Nairobi admits 8,000 first years

In January, the University admitted 8000 freshers for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The freshers who were admitted to courses at Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, Education and External Studies, Health Sciences and the College of Humanities. Addressing the students, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha urged them to maintain the University of Nairobi gold standard in the region by being exemplary achievers, world champions, and trendsetters as they undertake their studies.

Prof. Magoha asked the students to participate actively in club activities and professional associations in order to acquire leadership and personal skills, which are not

attained through formal class or lessons but are drawn from interaction and acculturation of best practice.

“The time you will spend in the University will be important for each one of you in specific and personal ways, but overall, each one of you should experience growth in intellectual knowledge, personality, cultural enrichment, building personal friendships and career planning.”

While congratulating the freshers on their good performance in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), he encouraged them to enjoy their time and experience in campus, by interacting with people from different parts of the world,

instead of being cocooned in their respective disciplines because university education is a holistic experience.

During the orientation week, the freshers were sensitized on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, drug abuse, and other aspects that are part of students' lifestyle. The students were urged by the administrators to concentrate on their studies and engage in positive extra-curricular activities. and Social Sciences.

The orientation week assists the students to settle down and adjust to the new life with ease. Some of the officials who addressed the students included the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Registrars from Central Administration Divisions, University Librarian, Chief Security Officer, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses, Director, Information Communication & Technology Centre, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Legal Officer, Director, Students Welfare Authority and Managing Director, University of Nairobi Enterprises Services.

Students challenged to engage in research

Students have been challenged to engage in meaningful research activities geared towards addressing some of the challenges facing the continent in this century.

The Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, H.E. Yoichiro Yamada, challenged students of political science who had paid him a courtesy call.

Yamada noted that the younger generation lacked interest in research studies, terming it as a reserve for their predecessors; a dangerous trend that needed to be addressed through established researchers mentoring the students.

During the interactive visit, the political science students learnt about the ongoing Japan-Kenya development projects. Further, the students engaged the consulate on issues of global peace, security and cooperation. The embassy staff shared with the students, the different scholarship and career

opportunities in various fields that Japan has to offer.

In a further development, students of political science were recently trained how to access online library resources. The training was organized by the United States Embassy in Kenya for the University of Nairobi Political Science Students' Association (NUPOSA) during the training, the students were introduced to the American Reference Center resources.

American Reference Center is a library with numerous resources for researchers. Through a live demo on online library resources, the students were inducted on how to access over 30 authoritative and up-to-date databases on different subjects, accessible from anywhere in the world.

The students also got information on internships, grants, leadership trainings and scholarship programmes. In preparation for the job market, students also received placement details in line with their academic programme.

New student leadership ushered in

The student organization, SONU, held elections in April 2014 during which a new leadership was voted in. Babu Owino was once again voted Chairman while Jim Akach was elected Secretary General. Other leaders voted in included: Irene Kendi as Vice-Chairman, Linda Guantai as Secretary, Finance, Ken Mulu as Organizing Secretary, Lynete Kioko as Secretary, Academic, Calphord Odhiamb

Oluoch as Secretary, Catering And Accommodation, Abigail Njoki as Secretary, Health and Environment, Captain Denno (Nyash) Njeru as Secretary, Sports and Entertainment, Robert Tom Mboya as Secretary, Legal Affairs, Jenn Masawa as Secretary, Gender Affairs and Davis Mtai Chepkwony as Secretary, Special Needs. They replaced the outgoing team led by Zack Kinuthia

UoN challenged to maintain leadership in the region

The Government has challenged the University of Nairobi (UoN) to take up a leadership role in higher education in the region and improve on its current good ranking among its peers. This challenge was issued by the Cabinet Secretary of Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, during the official closure of the 11th Exhibition of Universities and Colleges organized by the Commission for Universities Education (CUE) in March 2014.

During the fete held in Eldoret Town, the University of Nairobi showcased courses and services offered in all

Colleges and the Central Administration Departments. The exhibitors were drawn from all the units including the student community. While touring UoN stands, visitors from the North Rift Region requested the University to consider establishing a campus in the fast growing Eldoret town so that they can benefit from high quality services offered by the University.

The three-day event which attracted over 40 private and public institutions of higher learning, was officially opened by Dr. Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary for Education.



Grace Mbunde of Academic Division attends to high school students who visited UoN stands at the CUE Exhibition held in Eldoret.

Thousands sample programmes at the fifth Open Day



Some students who attended the UoN Open Day in May 2014. Below: Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi signs the visitors book during the opening day.

The University of Nairobi hosted its 5th Open Day, a fete that attracted thousands of prospective students, parents, private sector players and the general public. The three-day event held in May 2014 at the Great Court, Main Campus, provided an opportunity for the University to share information with its stakeholders on its programmes and services.

The event was officially opened by the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr Vijoo Rattansi who challenged

prospective students to sample the University of Nairobi's unique offers and choose a University that will help them not only meet their needs but also develop interests into a career. Rattansi noted that the University is crucial in molding young minds, "it is the place where many future leaders spend their formative years gaining intellectual exposure and leadership skills, where those first

crucial professional networks are made and where professionals turn to for seminars, debates and advanced studies."

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof George Magoha observed that "in the last 50 years, the University of Nairobi has produced thousands of graduates, many of whom have made significant contributions locally and internationally. The University takes pride in arming whoever walks in through her gates with the requisite knowledge, skills and the right attitude."

In his address, the Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah expressed the commitment of the University to providing holistic education that guarantees success, noting that the Open Day was a call to the public to take advantage to pursue knowledge wherever it may be found.

Since the inception of Open Day, the UoN has opened its doors to public scrutiny and accountability, given its mandate as a public service entity. Further, the University has been able to interact with stakeholders to discuss the changing face of higher education in Kenya. This Open Day therefore, brought together University of Nairobi staff and students in addition to key players in the education sector including the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (formerly JAB), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), and Commission for Universities Education (CUE). Also participating were Safaricom, Retirement Benefits Authority, Nation Media Group, Kenya Revenue Authority, Media School Africa, Bird Communications and Vita 500.



THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ABLE TO INTERACT WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS THE CHANGING FACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN KENYA.

Taste of disaster preparedness with a fire drill at ADD

The University Management Board recently commissioned the Security Department to carry out a fire drill to gauge and evaluate the level of preparedness of the University community in the event of fire or any other emergency. Following this, the security department in conjunction with the County Fire Brigade and University Health Services, planned for and carried out a fire drill at the ADD building.

It was exciting to see the community respond to the fire alarm and to quickly evacuate the building as though there was a real emergency. The security personnel and the University Health Services paramedics were swift in responding and there were few incidents of hysteria. Kudos to the community for obeying instructions.



Kibaki interacts with the University community

In what has come to be accepted tradition, the University of Nairobi was honoured to host retired President Mwai Kibaki in a town hall forum at the University. The forum, which was also part of Kenya at 50 celebrations was held at the Universities Taifa Hall. Addressing the congregation, the retired president described the five decades of Kenya's independence as those of hard work and lasting achievement. In his address titled 'Of Hindsight, Insight and Foresight,' he urged Kenyans to take count of the road travelled, celebrate and consolidate the country's achievements, take time to reflect and ponder on what lies ahead in the future in order to transform Kenya in realizing broad change.

During the lecture, Kibaki described the journey towards independence and the early years of the nation, when Kenyans wanted a new order and demanded political freedom. Back then, the country faced different hardships, racial discrimination, bitterness, ignorance, disease and poverty. Kibaki reflected on the hopes, dreams and aspirations of Kenya's founding fathers whose selfless sacrifice paid for the price of freedom and self-rule. He noted that whatever our generational experience, we must have an idea of where we have come from, why and where we are heading. He said that celebrating 50 years of independence should be a clarion call to all Kenyans to build this nation.

While welcoming the retired president to the University of Nairobi (UoN), the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha noted that Kenya had taken gigantic



KIBAKI DESCRIBED THE JOURNEY TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE AND THE EARLY YEARS OF THE NATION, WHEN KENYANS WANTED A NEW ORDER AND DEMANDED POLITICAL FREEDOM

steps in development and that this has been achieved through the courageous, committed, dedicated, visionary and inspiring leadership of some of the nation's leaders including Hon Mwai Kibaki. He said that such leaders had been truly committed to scholarship, democratic ideals and ensuring opportunity and fair treatment for all, including, the vulnerable members of the society.

The public lecture was part of the Kenya@50 celebrations at the University of Nairobi. The lecture was graced by Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Art, Hassan Wario, Former Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, Chairman of UoN Council, Dr. Idle Farah, Chancellors from sister universities, students, staff and members of the public.

Discourse

UoN engages senators in discourse on Constitution implementation

The University of Nairobi, in conjunction with Ford Foundation, hosted an interactive round table forum, for Senators and key stakeholders.

The forum which is part of the 'Elimika' activities – an initiative on Construction of Knowledge Societies – brought together Senators and academia, to discuss their role in the implementation of the Constitution 2010 and in demystifying the Constitution of Kenya to citizens and ensuring its implementation.

During the forum, stakeholders noted that Kenyans need to be empowered for prosperity by equipping them with broad based knowledge on their citizenship, human rights, good governance, sustainability livelihoods and development. The Senate Speaker, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro lauded the role played by Kenyan universities and senators in creating a culture of constitutionalism and the rule of law and urged them to create

more public participation.

In his keynote address, speaker, Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, of the Institute for Development Studies, remarked that the Constitution presented various challenges and opportunities to Kenyans. He said "Service delivery, job creation, infrastructural development and correction of injustices are some of the opportunities presented by the Constitution thereby creating an optimistic nation." He noted that, the process of the implementation of the Constitution has faced challenges due to lack of political commitment, ownership and leadership from the leaders. This has contributed to some of the implementation challenges facing the nation.

The Vice-Chancellor, represented

by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, said that today's knowledge society is a fusion of new technologies, innovations and the emerging internet based technologies that are providing fresh opportunities for needs to be signified and presented in a manner that is understandable and which can be appreciated by all.

'Elimika Initiative' has created an opportunity to relook at education and build knowledge blocks that will help Kenyans articulate their rights and responsibilities. The forum was also addressed by Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Chairman Mr. Mumo Matemo, and representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ford Foundation, and Commission for Revenue Allocation among others.



(Left) Prof. Judith Bahemuka, Elimika Initiative leader welcomes Senate Speaker, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro to the Senators Forum. Looking on is Ms. Josephine Misaro, of Vice-Chancellor's office.

Youth challenged to take Africa to the next level

Young people in Africa have been called upon to change their mindset about Africa's potential, in order to achieve the continent's set goals.

This was said by the Chief of Staff to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Jean Baptiste Natama, during a public dialogue in 'The Role of the Youth in the African Union Agenda 2063' held at the University of Nairobi.

In his key note presentation, the Ambassador said that it was time for the youth in Africa to adopt a broader mindset and strive to set achievable goals for the continent. He noted that the continent is fueled by bad attitudes and poor leadership styles which need to change. Noting that Africa is a youthful continent with the youth taking up 60 percent of its population, the Ambassador emphasized that the rise and empowerment of the youth, can result in a paradigm change at all levels, and it was the time for the youth to realize their potential to build Africa for tomorrow.

Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba, charged the youth to reflect on what the first crop of Africa's leaders envisioned for the continent. He pointed out that the younger generation has not fully realized its potential and is slowly imbibing negative foreign culture that affects their pride in promoting the values, goods and services of their motherland.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, said that the main aim of the forum was to enhance the voice of the youth and involve them in the African Union's processes. The outcome of the deliberations and the forum were presented at the African Union summit held in January 2014.

During the session moderated by Julie Gichuru, the students discussed pertinent issues affecting Africa, shared initiatives set up to voice the concerns of the youth and change society and proposed some tangible solutions.

The youth dialogue was organized by the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) particularly the IDIS Forum for International Affairs (IFIA) in partnership with State of the Union Africa and Oxfam.

Tribute

Transition – Prof David Peter Simon Wasawo



In February, 2014, the University paid a tribute to a distinguished scholar, researcher, administrator and former chairman of council, Prof. David Peter Simon Wasawo who died at the age of 91. In its tribute, the University noted that his death was merely a celebration of the life of an academic hero, and founding academic icon in the country. Prof. Wasawo's illustrious academic career began in his early schooling days of primary and secondary school all the way to University where he became the first East African to be awarded a degree in Science and an Oxford Masters degree in Zoology. He also became the first African teaching member of staff in the Faculty of Science, Makerere University.

In Makerere, he rose through the ranks between 1952 and 1965 to become a full Professor and Head of Zoology Department. He taught many scholars who pioneered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Nairobi. Prof. Wasawo was the first Vice-Principal of Makerere University between 1962 and 1965. In 1965, he transferred to the University College of Nairobi where he became the first Vice-Principal and held the position until 1969 when the University was inaugurated and the new Vice-Chancellor appointed. Professor Wasawo also held the positions of Chairman, Department of Zoology and Dean, Faculty of Science at the University of Nairobi.

After successful stints with other national and international bodies, Prof. Wasawo returned to the University of Nairobi, as the Chairman of the University Council between 1998 and 2005. During this period, he successfully oversaw the implementation of Module II Programmes and laid ground for competitive hiring of top managers in the University, a practice that has been emulated by other state bodies.

Prof. Wasawo researched widely and published on various biological species and will therefore be remembered for his contribution on the lungfish, the largest fish in the region, before introduction of Nile Perch in Lake Victoria.

In recognition of his contribution to research and teaching and his outstanding role in science and technology, the University of Nairobi awarded Prof. Wasawo the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in 1999.



“Peace and Solidarity in Africa through University Sports”

The Federation of African University Sports (FASU) in conjunction with the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) will host the 7th Edition of the FASU Games between 11th and 18th, July, 2014 at the University of Nairobi.

The games to be competed include Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Handball, Karate, Netball, Rugby, Soccer, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tae kwo Do, Tennis, Track and Field Athletes, and Volleyball. American football and sitting volleyball shall be demonstration Sports during the Games. The theme of the games is “Peace and solidarity in Africa through University Sports”.

FASU President, Dr. Ralethe Malumbete, Principal Secretary, Sports Culture and the Arts, Patrick Omutia, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha and the Local Organizing Committee formally unveiled the logo, the mascot, and the theme for the games during the publicity campaign and fundraising launch held yesterday at the Main Campus.

So far 16 countries have confirmed participation among them: South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda and the host country, Kenya. More confirmations from other countries are expected. The objectives of these games are to promote sports in higher institutions of learning, provide networking forums for students, encourage female student’s participation in sports, and promote cooperation

among African universities and nations.

To bridge the gap in financing the games, the Local Organizing Committee is partnering with sponsors at different levels. Sponsors shall have an opportunity to sponsor and partner in the following areas; official branding, branding of venues, trophies and medals, equipment, referees payments, cocktail- gala dinner night, snack/ lunches and water provision, Public Address System, health services, among others. At one point, sponsors can go behind the scene to meet the athletes, their coaches and managers and capitalize on the games. The sponsors can gain premium access to the opening ceremony, gala night events and international conferencing. This definitive moment of access and interaction will leave an indelible mark in the memory of local sponsors, and their stakeholders. The sponsors on board include Coca Cola, Prime Wood Sports, Manu Chandaria Foundation, and Super Sports among others and more are welcome.

The University of Nairobi was selected to host the games due to its facilities and proximity to other city venues, availability of human/ professional personnel, UON staff in National, Regional and World Federations, Legacy of successfully hosting the 2nd Edition in 1978 and location of the University.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI WAS SELECTED TO HOST THE GAMES DUE TO ITS FACILITIES AND PROXIMITY TO OTHER CITY VENUES

Sports

To successfully plan and organize these games, the University of Nairobi management in conjunction with FASU and KUSA put in place the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) headed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche. The LOC members are drawn from University of Nairobi, other Kenyan Universities, Eastern Africa University Sport Federation and Federation of African University Sports.

FASU is the continental Organization responsible for organizing and management of Inter – University Sports Competitions and events within the continent of Africa. The sports body is directly affiliated to the world body responsible for sports in Universities known as the Federation of

International University Sports (FISU).

Below FASU are five regional Organizations which organize and manage Sports within their own regions in conjunction with FASU. Within the Eastern region, the Eastern Africa University Sports Federation (EAUSF) coordinates and oversees the organization and management of sports within the Eastern Africa region. At national levels, there are also organizations that organize and manage National University Sports in each individual country. Thus, in Kenya we have the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA).

The venues for these Games are the Main Campus, Lower Kabete Campus, Kenya Science Campus and the Safaricom International Sports Centre, Kasarani, and the Nyayo National Stadium

The games objects

Logo

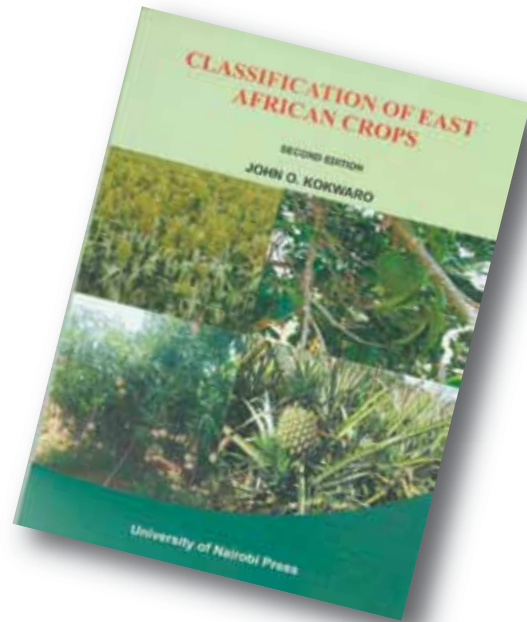


Mascot



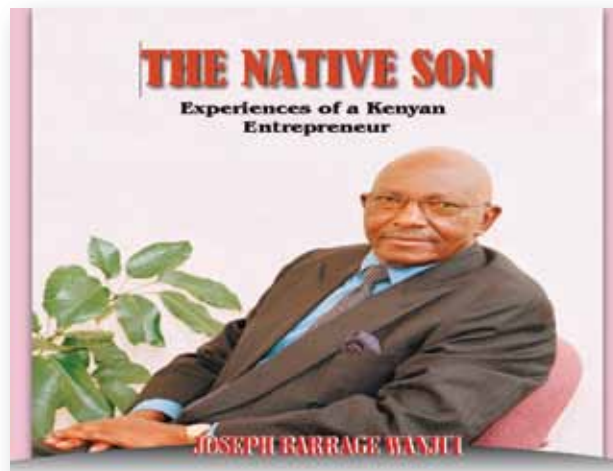
University of Nairobi Press

Academic and Scholarly Publishers Since 1990



Available from:

- * UNES Bookstore
- * African Books Collective
- * Google Books
- * Leading bookshops in Kenya



University of Nairobi Press
Email: nup@uonbi.ac.ke
www.uonbi.ac.ke/press

P.O. Box 30197-00100
Nairobi
Te.: 020 2314316
0726610570, 0733201010



Varsity**Focus**

www.uonbi.ac.ke