

December 2014

# Varsity **FOCUS**

*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*

REFLECTING ON PROF.  
MAGOHA'S **10**-year  
*Achievements*





## 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**

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# Inside



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We set out to find what green buildings are all about. **Architect Musau Kimeu**, the brains behind the Concept and Brief of the University of Nairobi Towers currently under construction and also the Chairman of the Steering Committee that managed the International design competition behind the UoN Towers demystifies the issue of green architecture to our readers.



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# Editorial

In this edition we reflect on what Prof. George Magoha has achieved in the last 10 years as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. Since assuming office in January 2005, Prof. Magoha has made his mark as the corporate leader of the University. In a nutshell students' numbers have more than doubled, infrastructure upgraded and new ones developed. While the number of graduates in the past 10 years surpass 95,000 out of the 173,000 who have graduated from the University since 1970. The icing of the cake is the confirmation of the University of Nairobi, twice this year, by Webometric Ranking, as the best university in the region and ninth in Africa.

We have also highlighted the official laying of the foundation stone of the University towers by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta in August this year. The building is now on the 19th Floor and is scheduled for completion sometime next year. On completion, the towers will house increasing academic and administrative services in the University and also will transform the skyline of Nairobi. The tower is expected to be an inspiring and attractive showcase of green buildings.

In supporting national initiatives, the University contributed KES 5 million towards the Beyond Zero campaign spearheaded by H.E. the First lady, Margaret

*Graduates in the past 10 years surpass 95,000 out of the 173,000 who have graduated from the University since 1970.*

Kenyatta, to support the health of mothers and children in the country. Our students also partnered with the Commission for Human Development (COHUD) and the Nairobi County government in a cleanup exercise of Muthurwa Market. These activities were in addition to the regular legal, medical and dental camps and environmental conservation efforts, affirming the University as a responsible corporate citizen. Still on corporate governance, departments signed new performance contracts with top management. The 2014/2015 contracts lay emphasis on Medium Plan 11 and the Kenya Vision 2030.

On academic excellence, students from the School of Law won the Moot Court competition held at the University in which 47 law schools from the continent participated. The competition involved 94 students from universities across Africa.

We also bring you news on interaction and collaborations with our partners including, embassies the World Bank and universities. The US Ambassador, Robert Godec discussed the US–Kenya Partnership with students from various universities who congregated at Taifa Hall. The University also continued to increase its collaborations locally and internationally. We have new links with Technical University of Mombasa and companies looking for our students for internships among them the China Bridge and Construction Company. Internationally we have new allies including the Rockefeller Foundation, Markandwashwar University among others.

Finally our writer interviewed Architect Kimeu Musau, a lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Building Science, and a leading brain behind green architecture to demystify the concept to our readers.

Please enjoy reading and remember that we value your feedback.

**Charles E. Sikulu**  
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# Reflecting on our achievements

**O**n January 5th, 2015, I mark 10 years as Vice Chancellor of this premiere university. Lest anybody forget, 10 years is a long-time as one is meeting the challenges of rebuilding an institution in all aspects especially when the institution is operating at low ebb in the perception of the public.

As a competitively hired CEO, my task was complicated further when the Chancellor, then Dr. Joseph Wanjui and a captain of industry stated that the status quo is not an option under his governance and therefore we must introduce change to the way that we do things. This was a clarion call for introducing some fundamental change in the spirit and administration of the University.

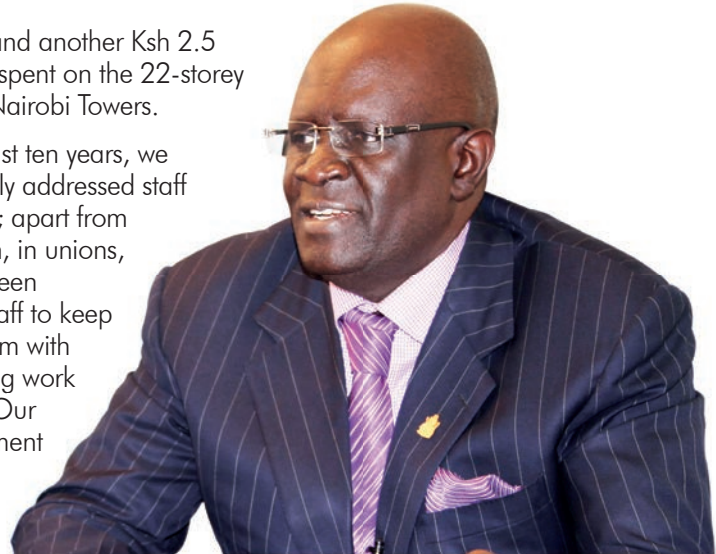
My starting point, with my team was to draft a Strategic Plan for the University. In implementing the strategic plan, we have recorded successes on many fronts. I am happy to note that deficits have been reduced immensely, and the University has adhered to cross cutting measures that have meant that our resources increase.

Finance is a key resource; its improved management therefore has spurred positive results in our core objectives. One area that has benefited is the acquisition of assets and the completion of stalled capital projects of the 1980's which were an eyesore campus wide. We have spent over 3.5 billion shillings on capital projects including the acquisition of property in Kisumu

, Mombasa, and another Ksh 2.5 billion will be spent on the 22-storey University of Nairobi Towers.

Over the last ten years, we have constantly addressed staff welfare issues; apart from representation, in unions, training has been provided to staff to keep them in tandem with the challenging work environment. Our student enrolment figures have gone up to 79,000 with an increased postgraduate enrolment of over 10,000. The University has used the increase as an opportunity to open learning centres outside Nairobi with the introduction of a third module of learning that taps into the benefit of IT.

Another area in which we have experienced changes in the last ten years is ICT. All our campuses are networked, we have increased the number of PC's available ,while wireless internet connection is



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

available in designated spots within the University. Our goal is clear, to increase connectivity so that students can learn anywhere in our campuses, free of charge.

The University of Nairobi remains the best regional public university as per international web. The University has developed new and exciting programs at all levels and repackaged others. This is in line with market demands and our aspirations. As I leave the reigns of top management, I do so confident that the desire to hire top management through a competitive process is an indication of the unshakeable decision to achieve excellence. Our great achievements could not have been realised without the supports of the Council, and the Chancellor. In that respect therefore, I wish to pay tribute to Dr John Simba, Dr. Idle Farah, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, Dr Vijoo Rattansi, staff and students.

*Our student enrolment figures have gone up to 79,000 with an increased postgraduate enrolment of over 10,000*



**President Uhuru Kenyatta lays foundation stone for the University of Nairobi Towers. Looking on is Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.**

## President Uhuru lays foundation stone for UoN Towers

The University of Nairobi was honoured to host the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Hon Uhuru Kenyatta when he laid the Foundation stone for the University of Nairobi Towers and planted a commemorative tree.

The function was also graced by Deputy President, Hon. William Ruto, Her Excellency, the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi and Cabinet Secretary, Internal Security, Joseph Ole Lenku.

During his address, President Kenyatta described the University of Nairobi as an institution known as an esteemed alma mater to many, noting that the University

is known for her excellent tradition of scholarship and integrity, a beacon and point of reference in the academic arena, and providing manpower that has been crucial in meeting the needs of the nation.

President Kenyatta commended the University management and the Council for their effort and their resilience in raising funds from internal sources towards the construction of the Towers. He noted that the Towers are an amazing reflection of the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader in architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision of environmentally friendly solutions.

While reflecting on his days as a first year student, Deputy President Hon. Ruto, said that the momentum created for the empowerment of citizens through education is powerful and that UoN is contributing to the economic development of the nation. He noted that capacity building is key in addressing the gaps in skills and technical competence in various fields.

Speaking during the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha thanked the President and his team for honouring the University by gracing the ceremony. Prof. Magoha thanked the team led by Former Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui and Dr. John Simba for working relentlessly and conceptualizing the idea of the Towers. In addition, Prof. Magoha challenged other Kenyans to come forward and support the University in its endeavour to build capacity and increase access to higher education and training.

Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, University of Nairobi Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah also made their speeches.

*President Kenyatta described the University of Nairobi as an institution known as an esteemed alma mater to many, noting that the University is known for her excellent tradition of scholarship and integrity*

# Adieu George Albert Omoro Magoha

....Let the waters flow....

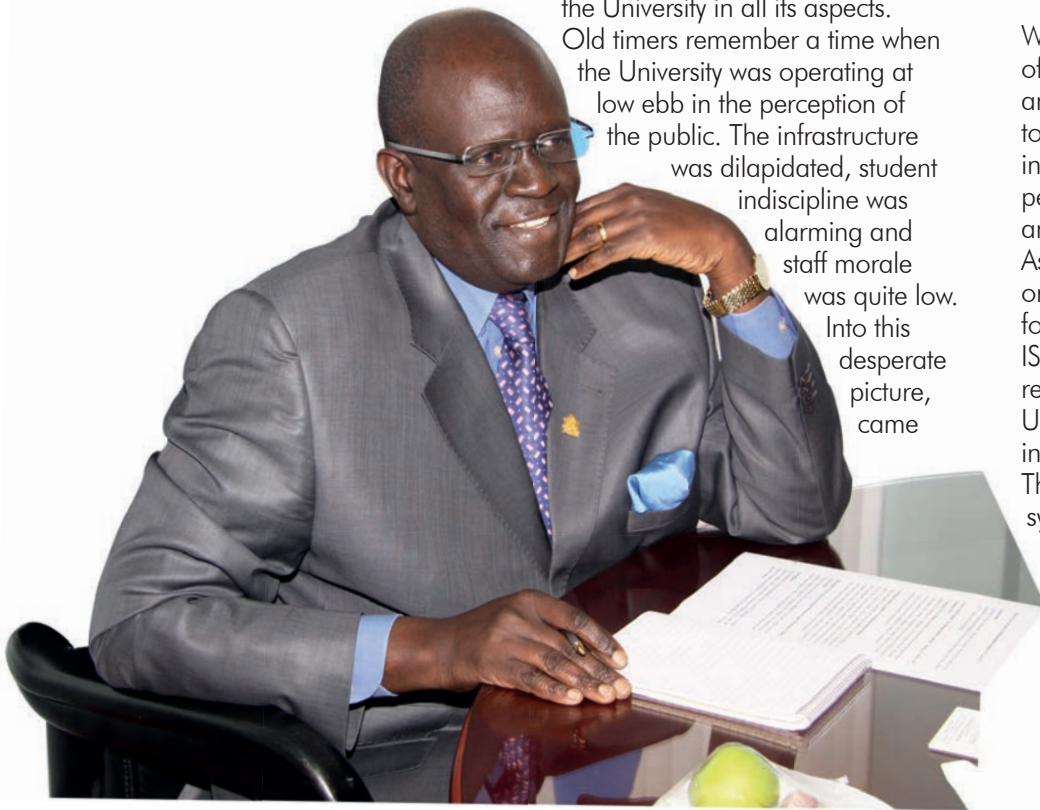
It seems like a short time, but Prof. George A. O. Magoha or GAO, CEO of Kenya's Premier University, will be leaving his post soon, having served ten years at the helm of the University. Magoha was appointed to the

post in 2005, after a competitive process, and after acting for a few months.

Magoha's appointment ten years ago, was an important step in transforming the leadership of the University: when he was first appointed, he was mandated to put up a team that would rebuild the University in all its aspects. Old timers remember a time when the University was operating at low ebb in the perception of the public. The infrastructure was dilapidated, student indiscipline was alarming and staff morale was quite low. Into this desperate picture, came

George Albert Omoro Magoha, who hit the ground running and over the next ten years has brought the University to the place it is, an Institution that is much admired world-wide, and which has important lessons that can be learnt by so many other public service institutions.

Magoha served under Dr. Joseph Wanjui, who was Chancellor of the University between 2003 and 2013, and was challenged to restructure the University, introduce performance contracting, performance appraisal systems and launch a service charter. As a start, Magoha oversaw the organization of intense training for change management, pursued ISO certification, among other reforms-all these were guided by the University's Strategic Plan which was introduced for the first time in 2005. This due diligence to operating systems did not turn management away from other important issues such as infrastructure development and indeed, it is perhaps due to Magoha's influence, that the University is busy with the construction of the University Towers, a 22-floor complex nearing





**Prof. George Magoha with the Performance contracting trophy for Excellence won in 2012.**

completion will house the increased academic and administrative activities.

Today, the University community has appreciated the need to work together, embedding the concept of good corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, team work and professionalism, which has no doubt made UoN, a strong, robust and excellent Institution. Prof. George Magoha embraced the Wanjui edict that an institution is only as good as its reputation is maintained. Indeed, Wanjui challenged the University community constantly to appreciate their brand, and to emulate a world class that society admires and emulates.

Buoyed by this belief, UoN became a point of reference for world leaders and scholars who wished to hold discussion, interaction and debate in its sacred halls and seminar rooms.

George Albert Magoha is a visionary leader: he has forged ahead with a commitment to take the University to the next level of development and if this calls for

revitalizing and engineering the University daily, being audacious in our plans, goals and objectives, then so be it. In 2007, while addressing the University Management, the then Chairman of Council, Dr. John Simba, noted that the University must continue to forge ahead in the task of teaching, research, development and consultancy, thus collaborating directly to capacity building, solving the counties health, education, economic, cultural and development problems. This, to Magoha meant creating a new spirit in the University, which recognized and used the diverse resources available to keep the lead. Magoha is certainly proud that the University is not an Ivory Tower, put on a pedestal, but rather, is engaging in programs that accelerate the economic development of Kenya.

George Albert, Magoha has served no fewer than seven education ministers, which is no mean feat, to have survived and thrived is perhaps testament of his tenacity, and perhaps a focused approach. This may be assumed to be dictatorial but, "that is how I was trained at Starehe Boy's Centre, to be firm but with a goal. I



was told that a cup is never half empty; it is always close to being full. This no-nonsense approach has won me friends and foes, but it has also been part of the battle to place UoN on the world map and to change the mindset of staff and students.”

“Everybody has always assumed that when money belongs to the government, it is there for grabs. For example, when you are building a house for the government, it is like a bull being slaughtered and each person wants a piece of it. Yet our training has been that we perform our tasks the way we would do if it belongs to us (private property)”, he said of the mindset he found when he assumed office as CEO. It took the support of the University Council Chairman, and the Chancellor at the time, Dr. John Simba and Dr. Joseph Wanjui , respectively, to change attitudes held.

According to Magoha, in the last ten years, the thinking that the University is a quasi-government

project where one can take time, lobby and do funny things has gradually changed. It has been a challenge running the old place, he says affectionately, but it requires a very strong minded person, to move forward with it. No doubt, Magoha has been that strong minded person and he has certainly cultivated a thick skin, so that slowly, but firmly, there has been growing support in numbers, for takeoff. His efforts, which some view as iron fist management, have realized the value of the University’s fixed assets from about KES20 billion to approximately KES100 billion.

As George Albert Omoro Magoha takes his bow, we salute him for standing firm in the knowledge and firm conviction that the government must approach the expansion of higher education cautiously, let the educated run educational programmes in the country, let the best qualified people lead our institutions of higher learning. They are better placed to find solutions to the problems

which make it impossible for more Kenyans to live above the poverty line.

As we bid Adieu to Prof. George Albert Magoha we do so, sure that what he helped to build will be maintained. We can learn from his last parting shot that “running the University of Nairobi is not easy; one must have Solomonic wisdom to succeed. You cannot come here and chest thump, it is my considered opinion that if one humbles themselves, listens to advice and submits themselves to God for guidance, then they will make it”.

Prof. Magoha’s finger prints will forever remain etched on our minds as we look forward to the completion and occupation of the landmark University of Nairobi Towers, as we enjoy our increased pension fund value, as we expand to Kisumu, Mombasa and other counties, and as we enjoin with the alumni to reinvest back into the University. The list of what he has achieved in the last ten years is endless and the University of Nairobi community will forever be grateful to his visionary and selfless service.

When he leaves office, Prof. Magoha will have time to be with his family and to work on his memoirs, which no doubt will be very rich and should be very interesting. “I need to think of my memoirs, which I should put on paper when my memory is still fresh”.

Adieu to you Prof. George Albert Omoro Magoha. “From your memoirs the waters of knowledge and good corporate practice will flow”.

*Magoha oversaw the organization of intense training for change management, pursued ISO certification, among other reforms-all these were guided by the University’s Strategic Plan which was introduced for the first time in 2005*

## SOME OF PROF. GEORGE MAGOHA'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS

<b>2005</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Vice-Chancellor to be hired competitively</li> <li>• Strategic Planning of the University commences</li> <li>• Launch of Alumni Association</li> <li>• Two graduation ceremonies per year initiated</li> <li>• Restructuring the University into more viable academic units</li> <li>• Revitalizing public lectures with eminent personalities</li> </ul>
<b>2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Sector reforms adopted in the University</li> <li>• Performance Contracting adopted in the University</li> <li>• Acquisition of Kisumu Campus KES 37.5 million</li> <li>• University Website and Calendar win the Commonwealth Universities Website, and Public Relations and Marketing Competition.</li> </ul>
<b>2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of several stalled buildings among them Examination Centre, Library Hill and School of Education building at Kikuyu, Millennium Hall in Chiromo, 8-4-4 Lecture Theatre in Upper Kabete, and the School of Nursing Complex</li> <li>• State of the art level 3 laboratories to handle highly contagious pathogens</li> <li>• Former Kenya Polytechnic becomes a University of Nairobi constituent College, while Former Kenya Science College becomes a campus of the University of Nairobi</li> </ul>
<b>2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO Certification of the University</li> <li>• Purchase of Uniplaza in Mombasa at the cost of KES 198 million</li> <li>• University of Nairobi adopts a Computerized Financial Management System</li> </ul>
<b>2009</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. George Magoha is trained in Executive Management</li> <li>• University of Nairobi constructs modern Chemistry, Biology and Physics laboratories at Kenya Science Campus</li> <li>• Prof. George Magoha appointed Chairman, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board</li> </ul>
<b>2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of the positions of two Deputy Vice-Chancellor's to handle research and student affairs</li> <li>• University of Nairobi becomes first public University to be issued with financial accounts audit certificate</li> <li>• University of Nairobi calendar and website win the Association of Commonwealth Universities Award</li> </ul>
<b>2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Nairobi receives US\$12.5 million grant from the US National Institutes of Health targeting Medical Education in Africa</li> <li>• Appointment of two Deputy Vice-Chancellor's in-charge of Student Affairs and Research</li> <li>• University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof George Magoha becomes President of the Association of African Universities.</li> </ul>
<b>2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Nairobi becomes first public entity to be ranked Excellent in the public sector performance</li> </ul>
<b>2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University breaks ground for the construction of 22 storey University Towers</li> <li>• University graduates a record 95 PhDs</li> <li>• University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof George Magoha becomes President of the Association of Medical Councils of Africa</li> <li>• College of Health Sciences declared a Centre of Excellence in East Africa</li> </ul>
<b>2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Nairobi tops the region and emerges nine in Africa in web-ranking</li> <li>• University of Nairobi hosts All African Universities Games</li> <li>• Pension Scheme Fund value up from KES. 2.8 billion to KES 12.6 billion</li> <li>• The 22-storey shell of the University towers nears completion</li> <li>• University of Nairobi School of Law wins the Africa Moot Court Competition.</li> </ul>

**UNIVERSITY AS IT STANDS**

	2005	2014
<b>Student Population</b>	30,000	79,000
<b>Staff</b>	4,500	5,525
<b>Webometrics</b>	25 in Africa	No. 1 in East Africa and No. 9 in Africa
<b>Alumni</b>	74,429	165,335
<b>Research fund</b>	KES 350 million	Over KES 4 billion
<b>Asset portfolio</b>	KES 20 billion	KES 102 billion
<b>Professors</b>	95	154
<b>Associate Professors</b>	126	253
<b>PhD's per year</b>	28	110
<b>Links &amp; Collaborations</b>	125	260 active
<b>Pension Scheme fund value</b>	KES 2.8 billion	KES 12.6 billion
<b>Programmes</b>	300	584
<b>Graduands per year</b>	5117	14,300



# Prof. Mbithi appointed Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi is pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi as the new Vice-Chancellor with effect from January 6th 2015 for a five-year term renewable once. Prof. Mbithi will take over from Prof. George Magoha whose final term expires in January 2015. He becomes the seventh Vice-Chancellor, since the inception of the University of Nairobi in 1970.

The appointment follows a rigorous and competitive recruitment process conducted by the University Council in October 2014. The formal appointment was made by the Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi as per Section 39, of the Universities Act 2012.

Prof. Mbithi, a Professor of Veterinary Medicine, is the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and

Finance, having been appointed to the position in 2005. His landmark achievements at the University of Nairobi include: steering the institution to ISO certification, leading performance contracting, rapid results initiative, strategic planning and the service charter. Prof. Mbithi has been instrumental in tidying up the general physical appearance of the university and upgrading its infrastructure. As the Deputy the Vice-Chancellor, he was also in-charge staff welfare including industrial relations.

Prof. Mbithi holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Master of Science and Phd from the University of Nairobi and Master of Veterinary Science from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He is a prolific researcher, and has attended numerous international conferences, and published widely in his area of veterinary medicine.

# Staff trained to combat corruption



**Participants during the recent refresher training on corruption prevention.**

The University of Nairobi organized a two-day annual refresher training for corruption prevention committees and integrity officers as part of efforts to mainstream the fight against corruption.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration & Finance, Prof Peter Mbithi said that, the University is focused on zero tolerance to corruption by ensuring that all staff are vetted. The process which began with the Central Prevention Committee members will cascade to teaching members of staff and administrative staff.

Addressing the participants, the representative Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission, Rose Ego, emphasized the role of Prevention Committees and Integrity Officers in putting together a plan to

*The training focused on specific deliverables to combat corruption and unethical practices in the University.*

implement corruption prevention strategies in the public sector.

The training focused on specific deliverables to combat corruption and unethical practices in the University. Participants were sensitized on new developments in governance particularly the

embracement of e-procurement, now anchored in law. Facilitators were drawn from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Public Procurement Oversight Authority and the National Treasury.

In addition, the University is implementing the adopted Anti-Corruption Policy of 2010, which laid a framework of fighting corruption among others. The basis of the exercise is anchored in Chapter six of the Constitution, the Economic Crimes Act, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act No 22 of 2011 and the Leadership and Integrity Act of 2012, which the University is expected to abide with as a public entity in respect to the rule of law and in combating corruption and unethical practices.

Prof. Mbithi revealed that the University has been institutionalizing corruption prevention mainly through submission of quarterly progress monitoring reports to EACC, publishing of an annual evaluation report and preparing reports on training of staff on integrity, ethics and anti-corruption.

The National Treasury representative, Mr. Charles Kimwele, noted that e-procurement is meant to improve efficiency and procurement in the public centre. The system which was launched by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta in April 2014 has been rolled out in ministries, counties, parastatals and other public bodies. It is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2014.

# Launch of film on deaf role models

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the Royal Dutch Kentalis International recently launched the Deaf Role Models Africa film. The film portrays eight successful deaf role models who have struggled against great odds to be where they are today.

In the film, the role models are not only speaking for themselves, but also for other deaf persons too that given the opportunity and quality teaching and services, deaf persons can succeed in life. They also shared their aspirations and challenges.

While presiding over the ceremony, the Chief Guest, Ms. Stijin Jassen, from the Embassy of Netherlands, commended the producers for the timely launch

*The moving film portrays eight successful deaf role models who have gone against great odds to be where they are today.*

of the film that indicates the importance of investing in deaf education especially in developing countries.

Speaking on behalf of the

Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche said that the film is a challenge and source of encouragement to society impressing the importance of investing in education of the deaf. Prof. Mbeche revealed that the University of Nairobi will be partnering with JICA and Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD) to carry out research on sign language at higher level. He noted that qualified and professional interpreters are critical if deaf persons are to access educational, legal, health, social, religious, counseling and psychological services.

In 2010, UoN developed the Disability Mainstreaming Policy to ensure that it achieves specific targets of making its environment and programmes accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, plans are underway to offer diploma and degrees, in sign language interpretation in order to meet the demand for qualified interpreters.

Others who spoke during the event included: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru, representatives from KNAD and Kentalis International.



The successful deaf role models who have gone against odds to be where they are today.



## Alumni tick past 165,000 on 51<sup>st</sup> congregation

**5,090** graduands consisting of 19 PhDs, 651 Masters, 2,877 Bachelors, 35 Post Graduate Diplomas, and 1,508 Diplomas were conferred with Degrees and awarded Diplomas during the 51<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony presided over by Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, the Chancellor of the University. The graduation increased the number of alumni to 165,337.

The ceremony drew graduands from the Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences and Education and External Studies. While congratulating the graduands, Dr. Rattansi said she was happy with progress made in infrastructural development and expansion of academic and social space for students. Rattansi called upon the University to be self-sufficient in terms of developing and improving infrastructure and modernizing teaching and research facilities thereby creating a conducive environment for scholars.

The Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, noted that as the University adapts to the new legislation of the Universities Act 2012, that allows greater access to university and higher education for all citizens, there is need to be innovative in order to get more students and establish more programmes, maintaining and enhancing the high quality of education and training to enable the University produce wholesome graduates with a marketability edge. Dr. Farah challenged the university community to redouble its efforts of teaching, examining and providing a wholesome learning

experience and to attain self-sufficiency in terms of developing and improving infrastructure, modernizing teaching and research facilities, thereby creating a conducive environment for scholars.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said that new facilities need to be put up to cope with the rising demand for higher education. He revealed that to meet this demand the University has invested over KES 3 Billion in constructing new facilities and completed those that stalled in the 1990s. This investment is expected to increase by KES 2.5 Billion factoring in the completion of the ongoing construction of the University towers and a further over KES 800 for the ongoing projects at the College of Health Sciences and Kisumu Campus. However, for the University to have the capacity to absorb the increasing need for higher education in the country, more facilities are required to support academic and social welfare of students. Prof. Magoha disclosed that University intends to increase the number of the bed-space by engaging public-private-partnerships and to put up hostels to comfortably accommodate more students.

The graduation ceremony took place against a background of great expectations from society for universities to provide the much needed guidance in the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030. The pillars of the Vision hinge on the improvement of the socio-economic and political well-being of the citizens. The University of Nairobi has the capacity to help this country into realizing this vision.

**Mr. Yogeshwar Varma, High Commissioner of India to Kenya and Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi to discuss possible areas of partnership with his country. During the meeting it was agreed that the two will look at different areas of collaboration that will be of mutual benefit and draft a memorandum of understanding for signing.**



*(Left) Mr. Yang Peng, Mr. Li Guo, Personnel Manager, China Roads and Bridge Corporation and Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi (UoN) during a meeting in which the two organizations agreed to accord fresh UoN graduates employment opportunities with the Chinese engineering company. Through the partnership, graduates with an engineering background will have the opportunity to acquire practical skills especially in railway engineering.*





## Students clean up Muthurwa market

In a clean-up exercise organized by a student organization - Communication for Human Development (COHUD) in conjunction with the University of Nairobi and Nairobi County Council over 120 students recently came together to change the face of Muthurwa Market.

The initiative dubbed 'Market Safi Campaign' aimed at not only cleaning the market but also creating awareness on proper garbage disposal. The exercise is the first phase of the campaign.

"The cleanup is only a starting point of greater things to come. We will involve the traders and other key stakeholders in the coming phases," said Kevin Maina, Project Manager. COHUD is a School of Journalism student organization with membership drawn from students majoring in development communication.

During the exercise, volunteers were divided into groups and each group charged with cleaning different sections of the market which had been mapped out as critical by market officials.

Martha Gatiba, a volunteer, urged the youth to be involved in such activities and for the government to support such projects. She noted that traders usually clean the market but the major challenge is waste management. "The government, youth and traders have to work together to ensure that Nairobi is clean for conducting business," she said.

Njoroge Ndung'u, a group leader, observed that the project was a remarkable idea with great impact on society. Njoroge however challenged the organizers to set in place systems that will ensure the sustainability of the programme.



First year students follow orientation speeches at Taifa Hall in September 2014.

## VC challenges new students to be exemplary achievers

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha has challenged first years, September cohort to be exemplary achievers, world champions, and trend setters.

In his speech, he 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 over 7000 first year students admitted in the last quarter of 2014, on their good performance in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), Prof. Magoha encouraged them “to enjoy their

***“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.”***

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, 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. The students who reported on September 15, 2014, are registered in the Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, Education and External Studies, Health Sciences. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences will admit its first year students in January 2015.

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, Chief Security Officer, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses, Director, Information Communication & Technology Centre, Director, Library and Information Sciences, Dean of Students, Special Students Advisor, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Legal Officer, Director, Students Welfare Authority, Managing Director, University of Nairobi Enterprises Services and SONU leaders.



Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi joins staff and students in celebrating their excellent performance at the 2014 Nairobi International Trade Fair.

## UoN maintains excellent performance at trade fair

The University of Nairobi (UoN) recorded excellent performance at the 2014 Nairobi International Trade Fair by winning top positions in the various categories.

UoN emerged first position in innovation and invention stand, second position in the best university stand category, best institution of higher learning in developing and advanced technology, best engineering based institution of higher learning and best stand that promotes national cohesion and integration development. The University has also won many prizes in the farm and animal produce categories.

The prizes were presented by the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta to UoN's Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi.

Among the innovations on display included a digital abattoir, a fruit ripening test device that grades fruits

according to how ripe they are, projects on automated farming using mobile phone technology, research on bio-fertilization farming as an alternative to chemical fertilization farming, research on the anti-cancer potential of medicinal plants from Kakamega as well as displays on youth activities, empowerment and capacity building, social responsibility and community initiatives.

The annual event accords the University a platform to share information with stakeholders among them potential students, parents and the general public on its programmes and services, and its role in national development.

On display at the University stands were research innovations, food crops and farm animals which were in line with this year's trade fair theme- 'Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.

## Biochemistry students interact with industry players

The Nairobi University Biochemistry Students Association (NUBSA) members recently had an opportunity to interact with alumni and professionals drawn from various fields such as forensic, bioinformatics, manufacturing and engineering during the students Career Fair Day.

The fair themed "Science, Technology and Innovation as an Opportunity for Sustainable Development," exposed students to the rigors of building curriculum vitae and networking in the field of science. It was noted that the professional world is competitive

and that it is important for the students to stand out among their peers by going the extra mile not only in their academic area but also to acquire certification in various fields.

The speakers challenged students to take part in volunteering opportunities, so as to build networks while seeking employment, attend conferences and seminars and take part in challenges. Students were encouraged to make use of networking opportunities to market themselves and to take advantage of the diverse career opportunities available in Bioinformatics such as

phylogeneticist, scientific curator, biostatistician among others.

Jabez Somo, a former UoN forensic student and business man, implored the students to convert the science they have learned into an enterprise and create employment.

Among the topics discussed included: diversifying and adapting different innovative opportunities, bioscience and entrepreneurship, research as a career, Bio-awareness and youth empowerment, opportunities in science and technology in Africa and CV writing, job search, networking and interviews.



Students participate during the Career Fair Day at Chiromo Campus.

*The fair themed 'Science, Technology and Innovation as an Opportunity for Sustainable Development' exposed students to the rigors of building curriculum vitae and networking in the field of science.*

# African countries challenged to work together



**Senior Director of the World Bank, Dr. Marcelo Giugale, address students in the Multipurpose Hall.**

**A**frican countries have been challenged to pull together and work as a single unit in international trade. This was said Senior Director of the World Bank, Dr. Marcelo Giugale, in a public lecture held at the University of Nairobi on September 24, 2014.

In his presentation, Dr. Marcelo noted that international organizations have over time changed their operations affecting many processes in the process. Dr. Marcelo said that as a frontier market, Africa will continue developing.

To realize development, a number of risks must be addressed. The risks include governance and social policy. Marcelo singled out democracy and technology as some of the major drivers of development in Africa. Of

*International organizations have over time changed their operations as a result many processes have been affected.*

importance to note, is collective action, where members of the public complain to their leaders to bring services to the people. Marcelo, emphasised that barriers to development such as corruption,

customs and poor transportation system must be removed in order to assure accelerated development in the continent.

The World Bank and the University of Nairobi through the School of Economics have fostered a mutual relationship that has culminated in shared intellectual resources among them lectures, researches and consultancies. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, noted that many of the schools in the University have at one point had a joint project with the World Bank. He said that the management is committed to nurturing the relationship.



**Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot, speaks during the public lecture marking UNESCO's 50 years in Kenya.**

## UNESCO marks 50 years in Kenya in style

*Kenyans need to take charge of developmental processes and be part of establishing the country's sustainable development. This was echoed by various speakers during a round-table event organized by the University of Nairobi (UoN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to commemorate of 50 years in Kenya by UNESCO.*

The guest speaker, Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot, noted that UNESCO

has continued to strive for a global renaissance, established on the principles of democracy and equality, respect for international law, safe guarding basic human rights to freedom, justice, dignity and the right of equal access to the benefits of education. Prof. Ogot laid emphasis on how education can be used to establish sustainable development, through access to knowledge, production of new knowledge and transfer of knowledge.

On his part, Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, noted that UNESCO has worked with both public and private universities. He

said that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology remains committed to the ideals of education for sustainable development. Prof. Kaimenyi challenged the participants to critically debate and share experiences among countries with respect to employed strategies to meet EFA Goals by 2015; in addition to giving a critical look at other areas of UNESCO's focus.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi, called on the participants to channel the discourse on perspectives on sustainable development for the 21st Century and provide solutions to the numerous challenges affecting Kenya. Prof. Mbithi said that the University of Nairobi has been part of the UNESCO family and that UoN has benefitted from an endowment Chair in the Department of Sociology and various outreach activities have been carried out by the UNESCO-Chair.

During the round-table event panelists representing UNESCO's fields of competence, namely education, natural, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information shared knowledge and their perspectives on sustainable development for the 21st Century.

**The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology remains committed to the ideals of education for sustainable development**

# Library holds 4th open day and open access week

*The theme of the open day was "Generation Open; Involving early career researchers in information advocacy."*



**Visitors interact with staff during the Library Open Day at the University of Nairobi.**

The University of Nairobi Library set up an exhibition, showcasing UoN's information resources including its e-resources and training on various issues such as open access, plagiarism, copyright, searching strategies and E-resources. This is the Library's 4th Annual Open Day and Open Access week that took place from October 22nd to 24th, 2014. The exercise was conducted simultaneously in

main campus, College of Architecture and Engineering and School of Business.

Open Access is a global event that advocates for free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research. The University of Nairobi has been at the forefront in advocating for open access initiatives.



1. Mohamed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional office for Eastern Africa and Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi and UoN UNESCO Chair, Prof. Judith Bahemuka during UNESCO 50 year celebrations.
2. Prof. Wang Guopig, Executive President, Shanghai Administration Institute (SAI), China, receives a gift from Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, University of Nairobi (UoN). Prof. Guopig was visiting UoN as part of the cooperation agreement between the two institutions.
3. Total career day held at UoN
4. Prof. Anastasia Guantai, Dean School of Pharmacy-University of Nairobi and Dr. Moses Mwangi, Ag. CEO, Karen Hospital and unveil the plaque for the launch of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter at Laico Regency Hotel.





5. First family with top UoN managers and student leaders. President Uhuru officially laid the foundation stone for the University of Nairobi Towers.
6. Some of the high profile guests during the 23rd African Moot Court Competition held at the University of Nairobi.
7. Panelist at C4DLab Digital Registry Event
8. School of Physical Science African Journal Launch
9. MOU signing with Hindu Council

# Universities challenged to implement gender parity in education

***Universities have been challenged to incorporate various strategies and policies to ensure equal gender representation in all circles of operation and management. This was echoed by various speakers at the opening ceremony of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference and Gender Training of Trainers Workshop at the University of Nairobi.***

During the conference it was noted that gender awareness in leadership and management is being realized in many universities and colleges. Indeed quite a good number have started to mainstream gender programs and even gender studies departments. However there is a challenge for stakeholders to integrate mainstreaming strategies and policies in the daily activities at higher institutions of learning to achieve gender equality.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro noted that institutions of higher learning should be committed to achieving gender parity in education which is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Prof. Mutoro said that the University of Nairobi, for instance, has realized a lot in gender mainstreaming, as many positions in management are almost gender balanced, and the student population is almost half-half, with some courses realizing more female enrolment than males.

The conference and training is important for higher institutions as it enables them to realize the participation and involvement of both gender in institutional affairs and management. UoN was hosting the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) conference and gender training for the second year running after successfully hosting ACU's Centenary celebrations in 2013. This year's theme was "Beyond 2015 Gender Milestones in Education in Developing Countries."

**Students entertain guests during the conference. Inset: Participants follow proceedings at the Conference.**





A performance by students to mark 10 years since the introduction of the teaching of Chinese language and culture in Africa.

## UoN hosts commemoration of Confucius day

*The colourful celebrations brought together various Confucius Institutes in the region to commemorate the milestones in teaching Chinese Language and culture in the last decade.*

The University of Nairobi (UoN), Confucius Institute hosted the Confucius Institute's day to commemorate the introduction of the teaching of Chinese Language and culture in Africa 10 years ago. Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Liu Xianfa was the chief guest.

In his brief remarks, Amb. Xianfa congratulated the Confucius Institute's for achievements realized since the setting up of Confucius Institutes in Africa. He revealed that the University of Nairobi was the first institution to establish a Confucius Institute in Africa and the second in the world. To date, there are over 440 Confucius Institutes and 680 classrooms in 122 countries in

the world, out of which 38 Confucius Institutes and 10 classrooms are in Africa. Kenya has 3 Confucius Institutes and 1 classroom.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha noted that the Confucius Institute has created an educational link between Kenya and China. He challenged stakeholders to put in place measures to the academic side of Confucius Institute to the next level. At the University of Nairobi, the Institute has over 400 students pursuing certificate and degree courses in Chinese language and culture. The Institute also offers specialized courses to interested groups and organizations such as hotels.

# UoN and Argentina discuss collaboration



**Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, H.E. Bibiana Jones and the UoN team led by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi shortly after holding collaboration talks.**

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has entered into talks on collaboration with Argentina. In a meeting between the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, H.E. Bibiana Jones and the UoN team whose membership included UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and Director General for International Cooperation of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lusila Rosso, it was discussed and agreed a strategic international cooperation and understanding, befitting both parties will be developed. Among the key areas identified include agriculture, health, nuclear energy, postgraduate training, research scholarships and collaborative research funding, staff, student and cultural exchanges.

Lusila noted that the cooperation

can take two approaches - University of Nairobi collaborating with Argentine Universities or the University collaborating with the Argentine government.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that, the University of Nairobi to aligning its activities and partnerships towards the realization of the nation's

*Key areas identified include agriculture, health, nuclear energy, postgraduate training, research scholarships and collaborative research funding, staff, student and cultural exchanges*

vision. Welcoming the initiative, Prof. Mbithi, highlighted the importance of actualizing the terms of agreement of the understanding and transforming the cooperation to encompass different projects.

Dr. Rattansi welcomed the move saying that she is looking forward to a long and fruitful collaboration of mutual benefit between the University and the Argentine government.

Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Omu Anzala, Director, KAVI and Prof. Jane Mariara, Director, School of Economics are among those who were present during the meeting.



Technical University of Mombasa, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephat Mwatelah and Vice-Chancellor, George Magoha sign the MoU on research and innovation. Looking on is Chief Legal Officer, Ms. Rebecca Ngondo.

## UoN and TUM enter into partnership

***The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) have entered a memorandum of understanding that will enable the two institutions partner in research, innovation as well as capacity building.***

During the signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha welcomed the relationship and stressed the importance of having local linkages with other institutions of higher learning. He noted that the University of Nairobi has benefitted a lot from the over 260 active local and international links.

The TUM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephat Mwatelah said that the partnership will lead to sharing of resources and capacity building. Prof. Mwatelah highlighted the importance of the new universities tapping into the experiences and strengths of older universities.

Among those who witnessed the signing ceremony included Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), Research Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, DVC, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Principal, College of Health Sciences, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, Prof. William Ogara, and Chief Legal Officer, Ms. Rebecca Ngondo.

*The on going construction of the University of Nairobi Towers now on 20th floor.*



## School of Law wins the 23rd African Human Rights Moot Court Competition

*The University of Nairobi and Gaston Berger University, Senegal have been crowned the winners of the 23rd African Human Rights Moot Court competition.*

During the competition featuring 94 students, 47 law professors drawn from 47 universities across Africa, teams from the participating institutions were tasked with preparing case submissions and to make arguments before a simulated international court. The best two teams in each language English,

French and Portuguese, then proceeded to the finals. The judging team was made of high profile professionals and judges from different African nations.

During the finals, the University of Nairobi and Gaston Berger University who argued for the applicant beat the combined team of University of Pretoria and Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire.

The competition, hosted by the University of Nairobi's School of Law, is an annual gathering that brings together lecturers and students of law from Africa

to participate in simulated court proceedings and oral arguments. This was the first time that a Kenyan university was hosting the event following the establishment of the competition in 1992.

While presiding over the launch, the Chairman, Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, Mr. Charles Nyachae, said that young people were the hope of Africa. Mr. Nyachae challenged university students and the youth to embrace a culture of constitutionalism and to champion for the rights of the oppressed.

On his part, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro noted that it was a great honor for the University of Nairobi to host the event. Prof. Mutoro urged young people to help Africa achieve social, economic and political development by participating in meaningful activities. Prof. Mutoro challenged the students participating in the competition, to reciprocate the support by engaging fully and while acknowledging what it means to ensure justice for all, reflect on the challenges that Africa faces today and be the solution rather than the problem.

The competition received support from the University of Pretoria, Ford Foundation, IDRC, ICJ, Konrad Adenauer, Save the Children Fund, UNHCR and the Canadian Embassy. The five-day event was organized by the University of Nairobi's School of Law and the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.



**Students from different parts of Africa in a bonding session after the moot court competition.**



**Student beneficiaries from the Elimika Scholarship award with the Elimika Team leader and Chair UNESCO/UNITWIN, Prof. Judith Bahemuka and Ford Foundation's Hannah Ahere.**

## Youth benefit from Elimika scholarships and internships

The Elimika initiative has awarded two young people with scholarships and with two other internships. During the ceremony, it was noted that the recipients, who were identified on a competitive basis, have a great responsibility, to help in capacity building and in the implementation of the Elimika initiative, as the project's ambassadors.

In her brief, Elimika Team leader and Chair UNESCO/UNITWIN, Prof. Judith Bahemuka said that capacity building is key and that for the initiative to be successful, committed ambassadors are

needed. Bahemuka noted that acquiring knowledge cannot be enough; there is need to practice this knowledge.

While congratulating the recipients and presenting the scholarships and internships, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru, challenged recipients to reach out to youth in the counties, enlighten them on matters of development and constitutionalism.

Present during the meeting were Elimika team members and Ms. Hannah Ahere, Ford Foundation Programme Officer.



## VLIR-UOS holds strategy meeting with the University of Nairobi



**Prof. Alan Penny, Team Leader of the VLIR-UOS with Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs.**

***The University of Nairobi and the VLIR-UOS will strengthen their collaboration to improve Institutional capacity for research and teaching. VLIR-UOS manages a government funded programme directed at partnerships on behalf of the Flemish Higher Education Institutes.***

Speaking during a courtesy call, Prof. Alan Penny, Team Leader of the VLIR-UOS delegation said that they are formulating strategies, in order to help the country in establishing capacity that can

support quality especially in the wake of increased access to higher education. The team will also hold one-day consultative meetings to obtain views on the role of higher education in national and regional development. It will also explore interest in possible avenues of academic collaboration with Flemish academics.

UoN presented 12 project ideas in different fields that will help VLIR in shaping their strategy in the country. Among the project ideas include ICT, Education, Medicine, and Endocrinology. Welcoming the initiative to work with VLIR-UOS, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-

Chancellor, Student Affairs who represented the Vice-Chancellor, assured VLIR of the University of Nairobi's support including helping in building capacity in upcoming universities.

The University of Nairobi has a long standing relationship with VLIR-UoS that resulted in joint research projects, postgraduate scholarships and exchange programmes, among other outputs of the collaboration.

Those in attendance included Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Prof. Timothy Waema and Prof. Kenneth Mavuti among others.



**Grace Njambi Macharia.**

## My **O** negative Experience

Ever heard about the effects of blood group O negative Rhesus negative state to pregnancy? Maybe not. Well, I did not either apart from scanty high school memory on genetics in biology. It eventually dawned on me that I am Group O Rhesus factor negative while pregnant and in my final year at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Doctor Anzese Aswani Kenyatta National Hospital explained to me that in this condition, the body does not recognize the fetus as a baby but rather as a foreign substance in the body. To defend itself, the body will produce anti bodies against it and this causes agglutination. After the baby is born, the liver is not able to cope with the volume of blood cells that need breaking down

Anzese terms the baby foreign to the mother; as it has antigens derived from the father, and if a mother is Rhesus negative and the father Rhesus positive, the likelihood is high that the baby's red blood cells carry the protein for Rhesus factor positivity. When these cells cross into the mothers' blood, they are recognized as foreign and the mothers' immune system produces antibodies against the fetal red cells. The antibodies may then cross back into the fetus' circulation and cause the breakdown of fetal red blood cells with releasing chemical (bilirubin) that causes jaundice in addition to anemia in the fetus. She may then become jaundiced.

He further notes that in severe cases it can cause permanent brain damage and neurological problems to the baby, such as cerebral palsy and physical or speech problems or even death.

Doctor Victor Ouma of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, expounds further by saying that in case of pregnancy complications,

such as high blood pressure, this condition can be a great risk to both the mother and child. It can cause death even though most first born children do not survive. Bleeding may mix the blood of the fetus and that of the mother and cause agglutination, like it did in my case.

Having gone through such a pregnancy, I realized and experienced a great gap in awareness since most women and the public are not aware of this condition.

I therefore use my acquired skills in development communication to create awareness about this rare blood type in order to not only ensure a child is born healthy but to also attain the millennium development goal of reducing both maternal and child mortality rates.

I create awareness to students, women in my community, hospitals, individuals and women groups and encourage them to know their blood group and those of their spouses and to realize the importance of visiting the clinic early in pregnancy.

Finally there is hope since with great support from my family I got the Anti D injection that ensured my baby was safe and sound and thus I have the mandate of spreading this hope for indeed we are the universal donors. The writer is a final year student School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

**The writer is a final year student at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.**



**Elias Ndaru, a Bachelor of Science Industrial Chemistry student, emerged the best student at the University of Nairobi 51st graduation ceremony.**

# Collaboration with Maharishi Markandeshwar University



**The University of Nairobi (UoN) has entered into talks on possible collaboration with Maharishi Markandeshwar University (MMU), India in health sciences with special focus on dental health and medical sciences. This was revealed when the Vice-Chancellor, MMU, Prof. S.G. Damle visited UoN.**

# 298 students graduate at first EGRIC graduation ceremony

**The University of Nairobi School of Education held its inaugural graduation ceremony for the first cohort of the Early Grade Reading Instruction Curriculum (EGRIC) teachers.**

During the ceremony, 298 graduands comprising 210 pre-service teachers undertaking the regular Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education course, 46 in-service teachers from evening and outreach programs and 42 in-service teachers from Kisii County and Mathare slums who were identified through the University of Nairobi's Corporate Social Responsibility approach.

EGRIC is an innovative USAID-funded fully approved University of Nairobi service delivery pilot course developed to bolster the reading of instructional skills and strategies of teachers working in preschool and lower primary.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, during the ceremony, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro revealed that the University will open

the certificate course in Early Grade Reading Instruction Curriculum to the public in October 2014. In his brief remarks, Prof. Mutoro said that plans are underway to roll out two unique Master of Education Programs – one in Literacy Education and the other in Indigenous Languages Pedagogies. The programs will ensure that the benefits accrued from the USAID-funded program are sustained and the capacity of reading specialists and coaches developed for the foreseeable future.

Through the programme, the teachers were equipped with requisite knowledge, skills, values and strategies on learning to read and reading to learn from different information sources, making and improving reading instructional materials and resources and matching them to children's reading abilities developing reading and inventories for regular classroom use.

Prof. Isaac Jumba, Principal, College of Education and External Studies (CEES), Prof. Horace Ochanda, Deputy Principal, CEES, Prof. Samson Gunga, Dean, School of Education were among those who addressed graduands.



Early Grade Reading Instruction Curriculum (EGRIC) after the inaugural graduation ceremony at the Kenya Science Campus.



University top managers with unit heads after signing performance contracts for the year 2014/2015.

## Management challenges staff and students on performance

The University of Nairobi (UoN) management has challenged staff and students to work as a team and contribute to the continuous improvement in performance.

Speaking during the signing ceremony of performance contracts between the University Management and Colleges and Central Administration Units, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha charged the UoN community to improve and sustain the

positive changes that have taken place in the University. Prof. Magoha highlighted the importance of efficiency in service delivery in different operations within the University noting that the University is keen on meeting its objectives.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the terms in the performance contracts being signed by the Colleges and Central Administration Units, have been negotiated and advised by the corporate performance contract signed between the University and the Government. Since the inception of performance contracts, UoN has signed ten contracts with the Government.

In the 2014/ 2015 performance contracts the Government has laid emphasis on the medium term plan II and Kenya Vision 2030.

***The Colleges and Central Administration Units contract terms have been negotiated and advised by the corporate performance contract signed between the University and the Government***

# Rockefeller Foundation in partnership to create digital jobs in Africa

*The University of Nairobi (UoN) recently held talks with the Rockefeller Foundation on the possibility of a partnership to facilitate a digital job creation project in Africa.*

During his recent visit to the University, Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Rockefeller Managing Director-Africa, expressed his interest in the partnership and noted that the initiative will exploit use of ICT tools, such as computers, databases, smart phones and the internet, to manipulate and manage information since digital jobs generally include performing information-based tasks that build the individual's capacity for future work. He expounded that, digital jobs are created through the application of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to a new or existing activity or process.

Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi noted that digital jobs exist in almost every sector of the economy, including healthcare, agriculture, education, finance,

media, manufacturing, retail, telecommunications, manufacturing, and public services provided through the government. Dr. Rattansi said that the project will open up more job opportunities and thus provide solutions to unemployment in Africa. She honored the engagement of ICT Center in this noble venture that is in line with the University's vision and mission.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Okello Odongo, representing the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Ibrahim Otieno, Director, ICT Center, Paul Kariuki, Deputy Director-Management Information Systems (MIS), J.K. Muchina - Deputy Director, User Support Services &

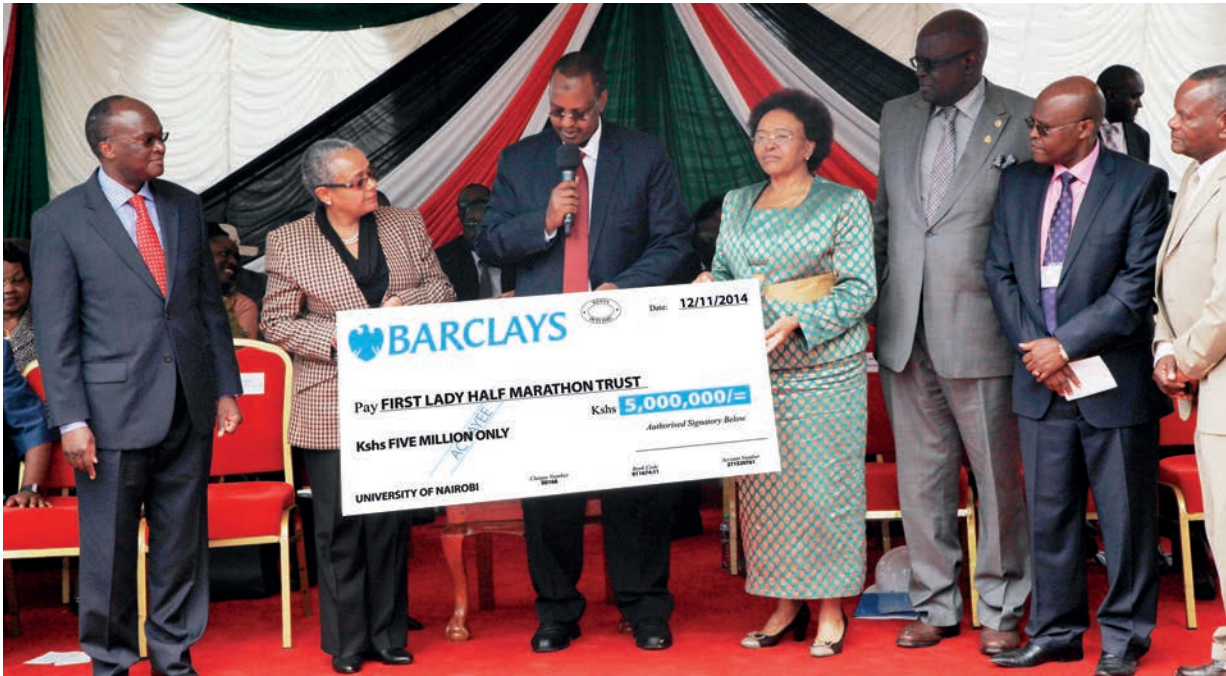
*The initiative will exploit use of ICT tools, such as computers, databases, smart phones and the internet, to manipulate and manage information*

Maintenance and David Kiplagat-Project Leader (MIS).

The team toured the University's Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab) in Chiromo Campus.



**University of Nairobi's Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi (Right), and Rockefeller Managing Director-Africa, Mr. Mamadou Biteye (Center), being taken through the concept of Software Development by Mr. Nandaa Anthony, CD4 Software Architect and Mentor in the CD4 Lab.**



**H.E First Lady receives a cheque worth KShs 5 million from Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah and Vice-Chairperson Dr. Betty Gikonyo to support the Beyond Zero Campaign.**

## UoN boosts Beyond Zero Campaign Kitty with Kshs 5 million

**The University of Nairobi has donated Kshs. 5 million towards the Beyond Zero Campaign. The donation was presented to Her Excellency the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta by the UoN Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah and Vice-Chairman, Dr. Betty Gikonyo, during the laying of the Foundation Stone for the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board (MPDB) Office Complex at Woodlands Avenue, Nairobi. The immediate goal of the Campaign is to equip the 47 counties in the country with mobile clinics, so that mothers and children can survive and thrive.**

While laying the Foundation Stone for the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board (MPDB) Office Complex, the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta thanked the University for supporting the Beyond Zero Campaign noting that

UoN plays a critical role in training medical practitioners in the country. The First Lady recognized the MPDB's role of training and regulating the practice of medicine and dentistry in the country and challenged medical practitioners to uphold professionalism while in service.

Presenting the cheque, Dr. Farah said that the University is a strategic partner in the Beyond Zero Campaign initiative. The University also sponsored 120 students and staff to participate in Beyond Zero Campaign Marathon held in March 2014. In addition, the College of Health Sciences staff and students provided a free medical camp in support of the Campaign.

According to the Chairman of MPDB, Prof. George Magoha, the office complex will house increased activities of the Board and is estimated to cost Kshs. 258 million upon completion by December 2015.

The event was also addressed by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mr. James Macharia, Principal Secretary for Health, Dr. Khadijah Kassachoon, Director of Medical Services, Dr. Nicholas Muraguri and Chief Executive Officer, MPDB, Daniel Yumba



## School of Law presents Moot Court competition trophy to the University management

Having being crowned the winners during the 23rd African Human Rights Moot Court competition, the School of Law presented the Moot Court Trophy to the University management led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

During the presentation ceremony, Prof. Magoha congratulated the School of Law team for the excellent performance recorded during the competition. Prof. Magoha noted that the School of Law has played a key

***Plans are underway to improve on the infrastructure at the School by constructing the School of Law Towers that will house the many academic and administrative activities at the campus.***

role in moulding key players in the legal fraternity. He revealed that plans are underway to improve infrastructure at the School by constructing the School of Law Towers that will house the many academic and administrative activities at the campus.

On her part, the Dean, School of Law, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, thanked the University for supporting the School in its activities. She noted that the competition held from September 1 to 7, 2014 featured 94 students, 47 law professors drawn from 47 universities across Africa. Eva Kimani and Maureen Wanjiru are the students who represented the University of Nairobi during the competition.

Present during the presentation ceremony was the University Management Board, the School of Law, Moot Court Committee and the students.



**Dean, School of Law Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, staff and students from the School, present the Moot Court Winners trophy to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.**



# Green architecture explained

## *A day with architect musau kimeu*

It is 12.00 noon on this rainy day and I am running late. True, I have an appointment with Architect Musau Kimeu, from the Department of Architecture & Building Science and Chairman of the Environmental Design Consultants Chapter of the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), suppose he has left, I bite the bullet, seek a lift and arrive at ADD building late, wet and cold. I put on my best face and stride past security into the foyer, where I call the good architect to announce my arrival.

That is how I began my appointed meeting, apologizing and trying to be professional at the same time. But there is something about academics, seasoned academics, they are humble, gentle yet articulate and confident. Musau Kimeu is no exception to the true intellectual; he shares his dream with me, a dream of shaping the specialized profession of environmental design in architecture in Kenya and in the region, from teaching and research to practice.

I am eager to learn about green buildings and this is what I got from Architect Kimeu, the brains behind the concept and brief of the University of Nairobi Towers currently under construction and also the Chairman of the Steering Committee that managed the international design competition behind the UoN Towers.

The quest for good quality living environments, for a harmonious balance between man and his locale is not new. Thus, for centuries, mankind adopted this approach out of necessity, particularly in vernacular architecture. However, since the beginning of the industrial revolution around 1750 A.D., this has been increasingly abandoned in favour of universal architecture, which in many parts of the world, Kenya included has led to energy intensive buildings. These are buildings that use large amounts of electricity to achieve human thermal comfort conditions e.g. operating air-conditioning or electrical fans to achieve internal air movement, buildings that require artificial lighting during daytime etc,

leading to high electricity bills. On the other hand, green buildings must be habitable naturally, with no mechanical cooling! Buildings that do not fit this description include the fashionable glass clad buildings that are in vogue today.

These energy intensive glass buildings continue to be built indiscriminately in Kenya today, though originally developed for the temperate Northern hemisphere, in particular Europe and North America. However, why must Nairobi or any other city in East Africa look like a “wannabe” of new London or the Parisian quarter of La Defense? Is it the same reason why the Coca-cola kiosk owner is always smiling while the porridge seller has no customers, yet we all know the benefits of porridge?

In Africa and the Middle East with their extremes of hot climate and Africa’s scarcity of resources, the model is unthinkable replicated. Even old buildings that were originally suitably designed for the local climates, whenever they are being renovated, are subjected to this glass cladding menace without questioning its hot tropical climates suitability. Examples in Nairobi include Victor house next to Nation Centre along Kimathi Street and Family bank headquarters at the corner of Jeevanjee Gardens and Muindi Mbingu Street.

The glass clad building heats up quickly manifesting greenhouse effect thus making its interiors a hot glass furnace, which without air-conditioning is practically non-habitable in tropical climates. Yet we know that air-conditioning is not a viable option in the 21st Century and well-established fact that buildings account for over 50 percent of all CO<sub>2</sub> emission globally, majorly from air-conditioning and that CO<sub>2</sub> is the main cause of global warming and Climate Change.

The process of tactfully re-educating professionals, developers and building users not to expect sleek, glass sealed towers is an urgent necessity which architects and engineers have an important part to play. We must address the very concrete problem of why today’s cities are not comfortable to live in without use of artificial cooling systems. One of the essential factors is haste and of course lack of expertise. Today’s cities are built rapidly and in the process quality has disappeared. This is not only because technology permits it, but also because the boards of directors, architects and engineers, and the political systems are in a hurry!

At present, what we need is a new generation

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of buildings: Low in energy consumption and environmentally friendly, that will set new standards. Hence, we must stop copying the West and instead design buildings that are suitable to our tropical climates. Remember that despite the lack of training and technology, our ancestors instinctively knew how to engage on a symbiotic dialogue with the natural forces of the environment and subsequently we found the environment in good condition.

Below is a mandatory check-list of green building design strategies. Selective application of a few of the strategies will not result in a green building!

1. 1. Buildings orientation: Design your building with its long axis is along the East-West axis.
2. 2. Design buildings that are narrow in plan for maximum natural lighting penetration and good cross - ventilation.
3. 3. Sun-shade all glazed areas. Use vertical and horizontal sun-shading elements, deep roof overhangs, balconies, perforated timber screens etc.
4. 4. Use natural ventilation to provide cooling by use of operable windows, thermal chimneys, louvred fenestrations, perforated screens on openings etc.
5. 5. Use thick walls or high thermal mass. All external walls should be at least 200mm thick.
6. 6. Place window openings on the North and



The award winning Learning Resource Centre in Karen that embraces green architecture.

South facing walls.

7. 7. Locate building services like lifts, lobbies, toilets, stores, ducts etc on the East and West facing facades.
8. 8. Have minimal window openings. All buildings within the tropics should have minimal window openings. Fully glazed buildings are not recommended for tropical climates. However, if glass clad buildings are built, then all the glass must be fully sun-shaded against direct sunshine throughout the day.
9. 9. Use external finishes that are smooth and light coloured to reduce solar heat absorption.
- 10. Choice of materials:** Use locally available materials, with low embodied energy, with minimal maintenance, materials that are sustainably harvested, easy to re-cycle or to re-use, non-toxic, those with minimal internal pollution and damage to health.
- 11. Renewable energy:** Every building should use renewable energy to power its operations. Several strategies are applicable, namely;

i) Solar power harvesting using photovoltaic panels mounted on the roof or on ground and also use of hot water solar heating panels.

ii) Wind energy to generate electricity.

iii) Biogas production from biodegradable waste.

12. Rainwater harvesting from building roofs.

**13. Sanitation:** Use environmentally friendly toilets and sewerage system e.g. bio-digesters, oxidation ponds etc. Toilet waste can be used to produce biogas for cooking and manure.

14. Solid waste management: All solid waste generated within the project should be sorted out and the biodegradable waste used to produce biogas whereas non-biodegradable waste is recycled.

**15. Landscaping:** Your building compound/ surrounding should be landscaped with well-chosen native trees and shrubs etc.

Do we have buildings in Kenya today that meet this checklist? I ask Architect Kimeu. Yes, we have a few. One of the best examples is the award winning Learning

Resource Centre (LRC) at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Karen, Nairobi. Completed in 2012, this is one of Architect Musau Kimeu projects. The LRC which consists of a 3000 seater ultra modern library, 1200 seater state-of-the-art Conference facility and a 500 seater Cafeteria is a world class green project and is the 2014 Energy Management Awards (EMA) Winner of the Green Building Award.

EMA is a collaboration between the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Global Environmental Facility and the Government of Kenya. It is a forum where all stakeholders in the energy sector in Kenya converge to celebrate excellence in energy management.

The LRC at CUEA is an excellent example of green architecture and quality acoustics design. It's Library is naturally lit throughout daytime whereas its Conference hall is naturally cooled using rocks arranged beneath its stepped seating, one of it's kind in the world, instead of air-conditioning. It is from this Conference hall that President Uhuru Kenyatta gave his victory speech after winning the 2013 General elections. The Coca-Cola headquarters in Upper Hill is another example.

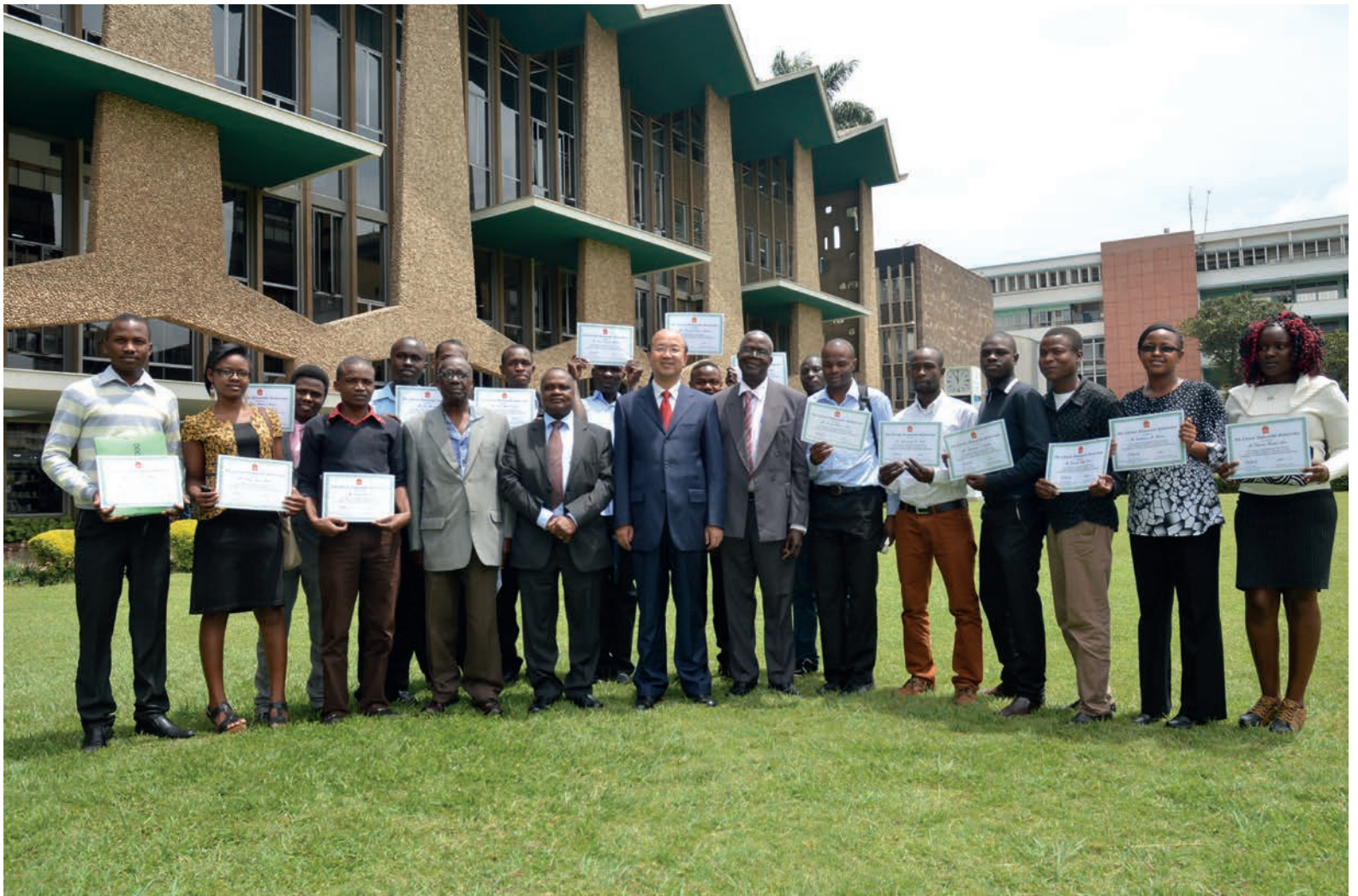
*The glass cladded building heats up quickly manifesting greenhouse effect thus making its interiors a hot glass furnace, which without air-conditioning is practically non-habitable in tropical climates.*

During the same awards ceremony, the department of Architecture and Building Science and the Environmental Design Consultants Chapter of AAK shared the Kenya Green Architect of the Year award for their contribution in the development of green architecture in Kenya, awards that are directly linked to Architect Kimeu. He was recently recognised by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia being part of the jury for the International architectural design competition of the Faisal Islamic bank headquarters and Cultural centre in Khartoum, Sudan.

According to Architect Kimeu, the future of green architecture is bright "I was amongst the first Kenyan architects to undertake postgraduate training in the specialized area of environmental design in architecture and upon my return to Kenya in 2000, I set in motion an initiative to train others. I am happy to report that today Kenya has the highest number of trained personnel in green architecture in Africa" thanks to that effort. This team can now turn the tables and get people to change their attitudes and the environments we live in. I give lectures all over Africa and I realise that many countries need professional help in their capacity building towards green architecture. Africa is looking up to us and as a country; we have a responsibility to offer leadership." Architect Kimeu has teamed up with UN-Habitat, to offer part of the much-needed training in several African countries. He has been a role model, practicing a three-pronged model of: teaching/training, research, and practice.

Architect Kimeu would like to see the University of Nairobi taking leadership position in steering the agenda for green architecture on the continent. This will entail putting up buildings of cutting-edge status hence leading by example. "We have no choice but to take up leadership, this is where we ought to be, this is where we belong, this is what the country is asking for. The team to design such buildings is actually under the nose of the administration, it is a team at ADD building, the best of the best".

We can appreciate the work done by architect Musau Kimeu. He concludes by saying, "One day I would like to say that I brought green architecture to a recognizable scale both in Kenya and at the global level and that there are buildings to attest to this. I do not want to be just a theoretician; I am an academic and practitioner."



# Chinese Embassy supports needy students

The Chinese Embassy has awarded 20 scholarships to needy University of Nairobi students. The scholarships were presented to the students by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Liu Xianfa in a ceremony at the University of Nairobi.

The Ambassador congratulated the recipients and challenged them to be the hope and future of Kenya, Africa and the China-Kenya relations. He called on

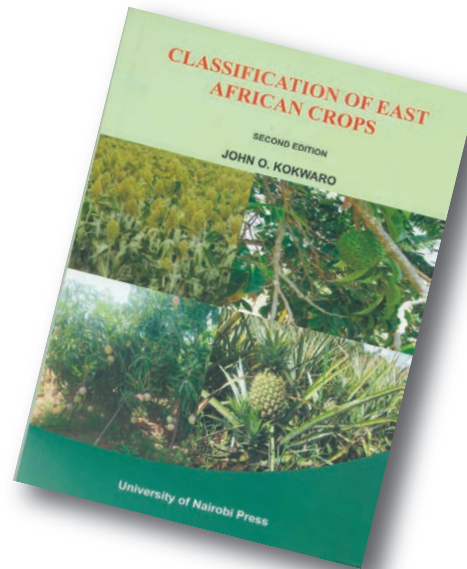
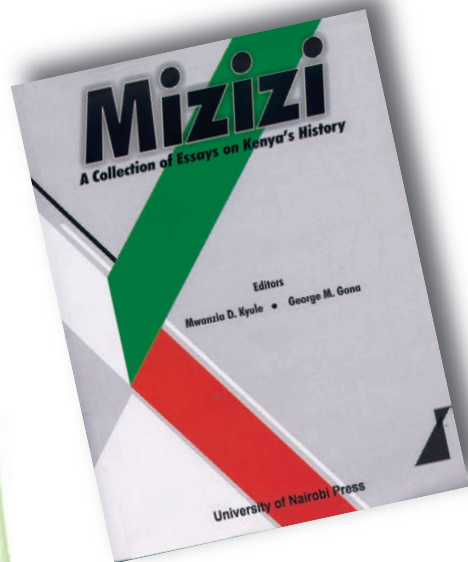
the students to stand out from the crowd and make a difference in society despite the challenges that they face while pursuing higher education. This is the second time that the Chinese Embassy is awarding student scholarships at the University.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro thanked the Chinese government for supporting the students and giving them an opportunity to complete their studies. Prof. Mutoro said that the award of the scholarships is a demonstration of the strong ties between the University of Nairobi and the Chinese government that spans over 10 years. The cooperation has resulted in the establishment of the Confucius Institute and an active staff and student exchange programme.

The students, drawn from various disciplines were identified as genuine needy students selected after due verification of family backgrounds to ascertain their neediness by the Special Students Advisor, Prof. Godfrey Muriuki.

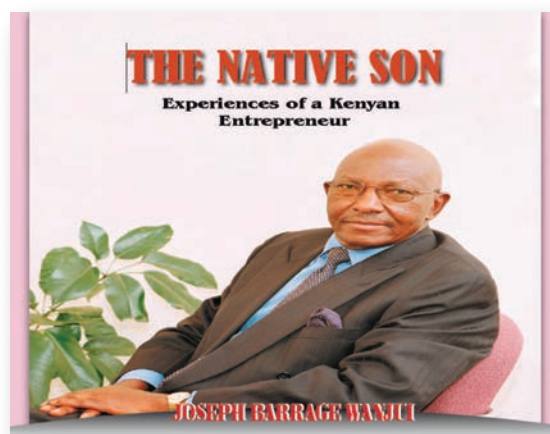
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