

## A REPORT ON THE VISITING SOKA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

(August 19<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014)



**Photo with the DVC Academic Affairs, Soka University Students and University of Nairobi student leaders.**

Soka University is located in Tokyo, Hachioji in Japan. It has been in partnership with the University of Nairobi for more than 24 years. This partnership has seen students from both universities take part in exchange programs annually. This year, the University of Nairobi was privileged to host seven students (Kanata Suzuki, Yuki Tamate, Masae Hiratsuka, Atsuko Tanaka, Akemi Sunago, Rina Uemura, and Masa Tanizaki.) from Soka University accompanied by their patron –Mr. Akahane. They came for a study tour for a period of 16 days during which they experienced Kenyan culture in first hand and in an interesting way.

These students were hosted by the department of literature in the faculty of arts. Student leaders were involved in facilitating the visitation. SONU, NUARSA and LSA partnered in

ensuring that the guests were taken care of. The visiting students were involved in the following activities:

- Orientation from student leaders and university administration
- Masai Mara tour ( 3 days)
- Lectures (Kenyan geography, oral literature, student and leadership, stress management, and Swahili language)
- A visit to children’s home (Raha Kids)
- Nature walk in Karura forest
- United Nations Headquarters visitations.

**MESSAGES:**

Message from Chairperson- Department of Literature-



**DR. MASUMI ODARI.**

The study tour by the students of Soka University was a great success. I was especially happy to see the intercultural exchange that took place among the students from Japan and the University of Nairobi. ~~Programmes~~Programs, such as these not only promote understanding among different people, but it also has shown our students the value of being responsible of others and not only themselves.

I am very proud of our students and the staff involved in making the Soka students stay as memorable, educative and unforgettable as it was for them. I do hope we will continue this relationship with not only Soka but with many more universities from all over the world.

~~PATRON – Literature Students Association.~~

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**Chairperson- Nairobi University Arts Students Association (NUARSA)**



**Jude Thaddeus.**

It was both a great experience and honorable venture ~~to be~~ to be mandated with the responsibility of hosting students from Soka University.

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Harmonizing our cultural diversity and learning from each other acted as a stepping stone for us to sharpen our leadership skills. Personally, I have learned a lot. With this knowledge I accumulated, I intend to plough it back in improving the faculty of arts of the University of Nairobi. It is my sincere hope that this partnership will extend beyond the two universities and even go a long way in improving individual lives.

Thank you.

### Chairperson- Literature Students Association. (LSA)



I express my sincere gratitude to both Soka University and The University of Nairobi for being alive to the needs of students to create relevant links both locally and internationally that are helpful in exposing students to skills needed for academic life and competition in the job market.

Through this exposure, we have been privileged to interact socially, culturally engage each other and share something fresh from each other's culture.

During this program, we have been trained on responsible student leadership with values of

**Steve Antony.**

~~punctuality~~Punctuality, humility and team spirit being instilled ~~in~~ us. Our thinking has been made aware of the importance of culture, education and social values in molding youths into responsible global citizens. ~~Steve Antony.~~

Therefore, such well-meaning partnerships drawn along academic and social lines has been lauded by students of literature who look forward to the department to continue availing similar opportunities in abundance.

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## **Messages from Soka University Fraternity.**

**Message from the founder: Soka University.**



**Dr. Daisaku Ikeda**

I wholeheartedly respect the unyielding and indomitable spirit of the African people. They have experienced unimaginable hardship but have overcome all obstacles. They live with an inexhaustible life-force. I believe those who have endured the greatest suffering have the right to enjoy the greatest happiness. I am praying that such a day will come to Africa. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the time when the world should learn from Africa. I believe it is also the time when the world will be saved by Africa.

## Message from student representative Soka University.



**RINA UEMURA: Student-Soka University.**

Dear student leaders of University of Nairobi thank you for welcoming and accepting us. One of the study tour theme for me was 'learn from Africa' I learnt humanity, kindness and leadership from you. Now I Love Kenya and would love to stay here longer. Given an opportunity, I would come back some day. I am looking forward to meeting you people in Japan this October. I will be more than happy to introduce Tokyo, my home town, to you. These two weeks have been special to me. I am deeply grateful for your kindness.

Thank you.



**Dr. Masumi Odari (far right) with children at Raha Kids in company of UoN/Soka Uni. Students.**

#### **SUMMARY.**

We accord much respect and hold with high esteem the partnership between Soka University and the University of Nairobi over the years. This has exposed students from both universities to cultural diversities in their pursuit for knowledge. To this extend, we appreciate the unyielding spirit of the Japanese people towards Africa.

We managed to accomplish Corporate Social Responsibilities with success as seen during the visitation to Raha Kids Center where university students mentored and interacted with the kids in fun and games. Moreover, the department, visiting Japanese students, and University of Nairobi students from the Faculty of Arts made donations to Raha Kids. This played an integral role in showing how education can not only be used for personal development but also for giving back to the society at large.

Training on responsible student leadership which was the core goal of the program played a pivotal role in echoing calls for student leaders to be morally engaged by articulating issues for policy development.

We therefore, recommend the Faculty of Arts to concretize such relationships and appeal to the university administration for support and consent in championing these initiatives.

## **PICTURE ILLUSTRATION.**

*RAHA KIDS CENTRE.*



**#photo: Acrobatic and dance performance by Raha Kids Boys.**





**#PHOTO: Traditional dance performance by Raha Kids boys.**



**#PHOTO: staff, students and Raha kids watching performances.**



**#photo: Soka University and UoN students giving gifts to Raha Kids.**



**#photo: Dr. Kitata (left) sister Demiana-Director Raha Kids Center (middle) and Dr. Masumi consulting.**

**LECTURES.**



**#PHOTO: Japanese students together with the chair-NUARSA; attending a lecture at Education Building, University of Nairobi**



**#photo: Dr. Jennifer Muchiri, Steve and the Japanese students after a lecture on Kenyan Oral Literature.**



**#photo: Mr. Akahane issuing a gift voucher to Dr. Muchiri.**



**#photo: Prof. H. Indangasi with the soka university students and staff after a lecture on students and leadership.**





**#PHOTO: prof. H. Indangasi (left) receiving a gift voucher from Mr. Akahane (right)**



**#photo: prof. Chesaina with soka university students after a lecture on oral literature.**



**#photo: Ms. Lilian Owiti, Steve, George and Soka University students after a Lecture on women and leadership in Kenya.**



**#photo: Ms. Jean Wachira, Steve and Soka University students and staff after a lecture on stress management.**



**#photo: Dr. Tom Odhiambo in company of both UoN and Soka Uni. Students after a Swahili lecture.**



#photo: a section of Soka University students holding their certificates during the principle dinner at Fogo Gaucho in ~~westlands~~Westland, Nairobi.



**#photo: Student leaders (UoN) and Soka Uni. Students after a meeting with student leaders of University of Nairobi.**



**#photo: UoN and Soka Uni. Students after a birthday party dinner.**





**#photo: Dr. Alina Rinkanya (far left) Dr. Jennifer Muchiri and Soka University students at Masai Mara.**



#photo: UoN and Soka university students after a sporting event [at](#) Uhuru Park.