

Varsity Concludes Link with Soka University

The University of Nairobi has signed an educational exchange agreement with Soka University of Japan, making it the first such exchange agreement between a Kenyan University and a Japanese University. The agreement was signed on May 13th 1988 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Philip Mbithi at a function witnessed by Mr. Kazuichi Namura, then a Visiting Lecturer at the School of Journalism, Principals and Deans from the University of Nairobi.

The agreement provides for exchange of staff and students in addition to teaching and research materials. It will initially run for 3 years and may be renewed on mutual agreement.

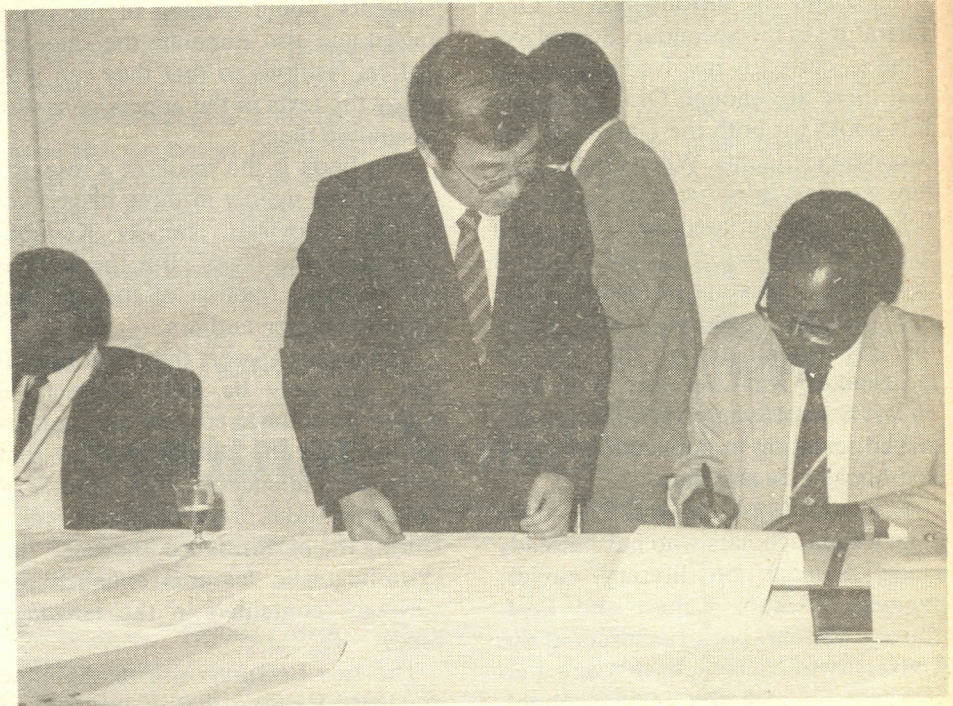
The agreement comes at a time when all the public universities in the country have been requested by the Government to admit most of those students who qualify for admission. The University of Nairobi has over 40 such links with other universities. The links are used to train university staff who are earmarked for substantive academic positions.

During the function, Prof. Mbithi said that the University values these exchange programmes as they ensure that the academic standards of the University are comparable with other international institutions of higher learning. He said that the University would identify suitable staff to be trained under the programme.

Prof. Mbithi emphasized that admission of the additional 1987 'A' level students as requested by the Government would not lead to the lowering of academic standards. He said that the standard would not be compromised.

During the function Mr. Namura presented Education and Culture Awards of Soka Gakkai Foundation to Prof. Shem Wandiga, Prof. Festo Mutere, Prof. Nimrod Bwibo and Dr. Joseph Mbindyo. Soka Gakkai Foundation has its headquarters in Japan and is dedicated to promotion of international peace and culture through education. They were awarded because of their contributions in the field of education.

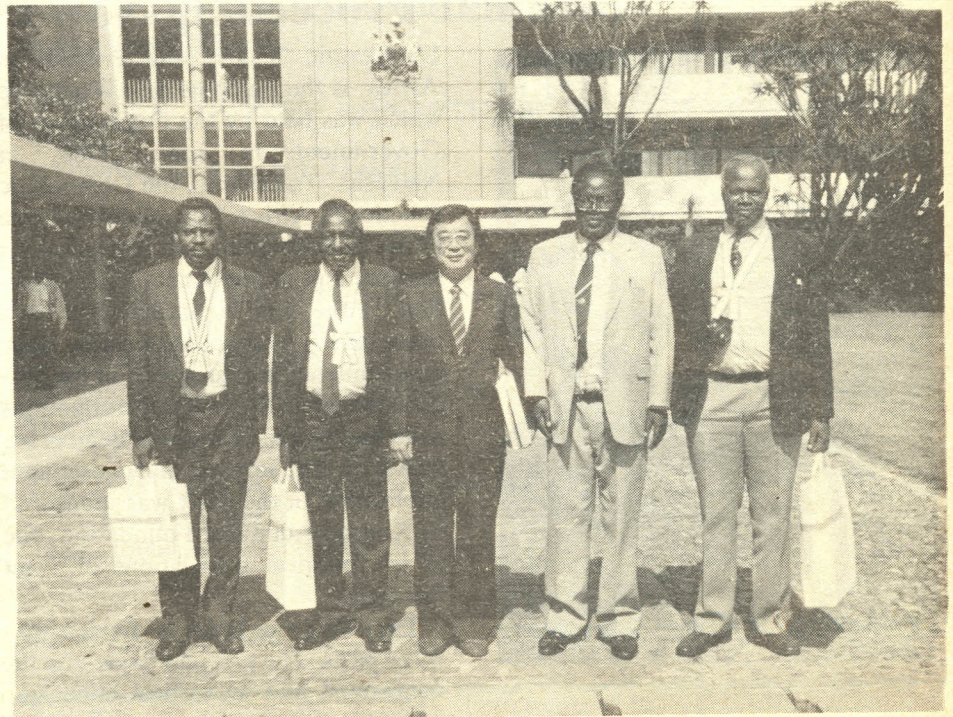
Mr. Namura, who is also a Managing



The Vice-Chancellor Signs agreement linking Soka University and University of Nairobi. Looking on is Mr. K. Namura of Seikyo Press.

Editor of Seikyo Press which publishes a daily newspaper with a circulation of 4.7 million, said that the exchange

agreement would enhance the educational and cultural ties between the people of Japan and Kenya.



The recipients of the Soka Awards.