

World Students Summit for Sustainability 2012 kicks off at UoN

The Taifa Hall was once again the preferred choice of venue for the official opening ceremony of the World Students Summit for Sustainability 2012. The five-day Summit which had been organized by the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD) in partnership with the University of Nairobi (UoN) and UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) was the first annual WSCSD summit to be held in Africa. The theme of the summit was "Student's leadership and innovation towards a green economy."

Opening the forum on behalf of the Prime Minister, Hon. James Orengo, Minister for Lands congratulated students for hosting the forum and noted that "the transition to a Green Economy



requires governments to promote the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies and programs for the advancement of inclusive and sustained economic development through human resource development and technological innovation. In this sense, education, training and research are key drivers of a Green Economy."

The summit focussed on developing a common understanding of a green economy and how youth energy, action and innovation could be harnessed for an enhanced impact in sustainable development. The summit topics were energy, waste, water, food and transport. Apart from keynote speeches, poster presentations and group discussions, practical activities were incorporated into the summit to ultimately, foster the formation of partnerships for collaborative efforts towards a green



Hon. James Orengo, Minister for Lands and Hon. Chirau Mwakwere, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources arrive for the opening session of the World Youth Forum for Sustainability.

economy and sustainable development.

According to Nickson Otieno, President, WSCSD, the aim of the summit was to build the students' understanding and enhance their actions towards achieving a green economy and to enhance understanding of the green economy concept and increase action towards green entrepreneurship by providing a platform for student-student and student-professional interactions.

The students also got an opportunity to share and document their sustainability initiatives in their various countries while laying a foundation for a green economy. A special workshop on green

entrepreneurship was held on the last day of the summit.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor- Academic Affairs congratulated the students for dedicating their time and energy on looking for solutions directed towards environmental sustainability.

In attendance was Hon. Amb. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs and Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP are among those who were present.

Nickson Otieno, President, WSCSD, delivers his speech