



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SEPTEMBER 2013



# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 No. 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to once again welcome you to read another issue of the School of Economics newsletter. The July to September 2013 quarter was a rather busy period. The faculty and students were involved in a number of exciting activities. The School organized two workshops, a training and research workshop. The training workshop saw members of staff and students participate in hands on training on trade issues. The research workshop saw staff, students and policy makers present papers and proposals on environmental issues. Towards the end of the quarter, staff participated in development of Open, Distance and E-Learning materials for MSC Health Economics and Policy programme. Individual members of staff also participated in other workshops/conferences, and also continued to make significant contributions to the corporate world. I welcome you to read more below and also to visit our website for more information.

## NEWS

### Visiting Professor at the School- Dr. Yong Yoon

We are proud to welcome Dr. Yoon to the School for the 2013/14 academic year. He joins the University of Nairobi as a Korea Foundation Visiting Professor under appointment by the Korean government. Dr. Yoon teaches in the economics faculty at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and also lectures regularly at Seoul National University. He is an applied econometrician with deep interests in developmental issues. Dr. Yoon has a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi and a PhD from Seoul National University. Welcome Dr. Yoon.



*Dr. Yong Yoon-  
Visiting Professor  
at the School of  
Economics*

### IMF donates books and journals to the School of Economics

The School of Economics has received a large consignment of books and journals from the IMF Library in Washington DC. The books and journals will go a long way in assisting Academic staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students in their studies, research and consultancies. We are very grateful to IMF for the continued support and selecting the School as the new home for the Book.



### Public lectures by Guest Professors Andrew Barlow and Howard Stein- 27th September 2013

Dr. Andrew Farrow of the University of Oxford delivered a lecture on the topic "Crash Crisis" while Prof. Stein of the University of Michigan delivered a lecture on the topic "Poverty in Tanzania". The insightful lectures generated lively discussion between the speakers, teaching staff and students. The University and the School was honored to host the professors. We look forward to hosting them again



*Prof. Stein makes his presentation while  
Dr. Farrow follows attentively*

## RECENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Induction seminar for new staff

On 31st July 2013, the School organized a one day induction seminar for the new staff, from both the teaching and non-teaching fraternity. The purpose of the induction was to facilitate a quick settling down of the staff. The Director (Ag.) thanked the staff for their active participation during the exercise.



*New staff and senior staff of the School during the induction workshop*

### Launch of RRI on the implementation of Constitution of Kenya 2010

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2013, the College of Humanities and Social Studies (CHSS) launched a Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) on the role of the University of Nairobi in the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The School of Economics actively participated on the still ongoing process.



*Launch of CHSS IRRI initiative*

### School welcomes first year undergraduate students

The School welcomed the second group of first year module II students for the 2013/14 academic year in September 2013. Flagged by the Director, Prof. Jane Mariara, the School held an orientation session for them on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013. In her welcome message, the director congratulated the students on their admission to the School and wished them good will as they embarked on their four year journey



*First year students during the orientation session*

### School Welcomes Masters Students

The School also organized orientation sessions for Masters' students for the September 2013 intake. The sessions took place on 29/8/2013 and 5/8/2013 module II and module I respectively. During the sessions, students were taken through the key issues that they needed to familiarize themselves with in order to settle quickly into their respective programmes. The orientation sessions were graced by the Director, Prof. Jane Mariara and other senior staff members of the School. We wish the student all the best as they embark on their two year academic journey.

### Workshop on Trade Empirics

On 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, the UNCTAD Virtual Institute (VI) based at the School of Economics organized a workshop on Trade Empirics at the Chiromo Conference Centre, University of Nairobi. The workshop aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills in trade analysis. The workshop brought together 25 researchers from the University of Nairobi, Moi University and Strathmore University. The Workshop was opened by Prof. Mutoro, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, University of Nairobi. The training was contacted by Christian Ugarte, an Economist from Virtual Institute, Geneva Economist



*Prof. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga, Mr. Jasper Okelo of the School of Economics and Mr. Cristian Ugarte, UNCTAD Virtual Institute, Geneva during the workshop*

## First Environment for Development (EfD) -Kenya Annual Workshop

EfD-Kenya, a center at the School held its first annual workshop on August 7, 2013 at Fairview Hotel in Nairobi. The objective of the workshop was to discuss various research outputs generated from the studies being undertaken by the network associates. Areas covered within the research outputs include climate change, agriculture, water policy and reforms, and forestry. New research ideas on various topics were also discussed during the meeting. The workshop brought together researchers, policy makers, academia and other stakeholders in the environment sector including representatives from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA), Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Office of the Deputy President among others. Prof. Peter Kimuyu, chair of the EfD-Kenya Executive Committee opened the workshop while Dr. Wilfred Nyangena who was coordinator of EfD-Kenya at that time gave welcome remarks. Prof. Jane Mariara and Prof. Kimuyu presented papers on ongoing research projects while Dr. Kamau Gathiaka, Ms. Diana Kimani presented new proposals. Dr. Richard Mulwa of CASELAP and Ms. Grace Njeru, a PhD student also presented proposals. Two other proposals, one from KIPPRA and another from Kenyatta University were also presented. The workshop demonstrated very good potential for interaction between Policy makers and academicians and also revealed great potential for a vibrant EfD-Kenya.



*Participants at the first EfD-Kenya workshop*

## Economics Student Association (ECOSA) visits 'Watoto Wema' Children

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, Economics students through the Economics Students Association (ECOSA) visited Watoto Wema Children's Centre in Ruai. The Centre takes care of 88 children who are either orphaned,

abandoned or mistreated and maltreated by their parents or guardians. ECOSA members fundraised for the activity and collected goodies from fellow students. On the very day, 50 students represented the School of Economics at the Centre. The ECOSA students washed them, disinfected them and played with them. In addition one student volunteered to pay for the medical cover of the 88 children at the Centre. ECOSA thanks the School of Economics and Rotary Club for their support and hopes to be involved in more charity activities and positively impact more lives.



*ECOSA students at 'Watoto Wema' children's home*

## OTHER ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL

### Regional workshop on coherent policies in climate change, food security and Trade

On 24-26<sup>th</sup> September, a regional workshop on promoting linkages between climate change, food security and trade policies in the East African Community (EAC) was held in Kampala. The purpose of the workshop was to promote development of coherent policies in climate change, food and trade in the at the East African Community (EAC) level. The workshop was organized by Trade Policy Centre in Africa (TRAPCA) in partnership with CUTS international and other regional partners. It was attended by a total of 34 participants representing stakeholders in issues related to climate change, food security and trade policy, from EAC Secretariat; relevant government Ministries of EAC Partner State countries; private sector and the civil society. Key areas covered in the workshop included: contextualizing climate change, trade and food security policies and their linkages at the EAC regional level; regional and international frameworks on climate change, trade and food security and the role of EAC; and international agreements and instruments in climate change, food security and trade. Dr. Mary Mbithi was one of the facilitators of this workshop.



*Dr. Mary Mbithi facilitating a training session during the workshop*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Stakeholders meeting for innovation policy makers' workshop

The School of Economics in collaboration with Tilburg University (TiU) in the Netherlands is organizing a National Workshop on Innovation Policy. The workshop will be held 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013 at Nairobi Safari Club. The workshop will bring together policy makers, private sector and academics in deliberating possible policies that can increase innovation and enhance productivity in Kenya. The School views the workshop as an important engagement forum with the key stakeholders in support of Kenya's long term development strategy. The stakeholder meeting will address factors and conditions that influence the policy making process and how that process can materialize into innovation policy outcomes. The workshop will also mark the beginning of potentially long term cooperation between the University of Nairobi and Tilburg University, supported by DFID through a project on 'Co-ordinated Country Case Studies: Innovation and Growth, Raising Productivity in Developing Countries'. This project is being coordinated by Dr. Bethuel Kinjanui and Prof. Peter Kimuyu.

For more information on the project, please visit <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/research/economics-and-management/dfid-innovation-and-growth>.

## FROM ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

### Important Semester Dates - Sep-Dec 2013

#### Undergraduate

All programmes: 09-09-2013 to 21-12-2013

#### Postgraduate

Masters: 09-09-2013 to 21-12-2013

PhD: 14-10-2013 to 25-01-2014.

The SOE newsletter is published quarterly by the School of Economics,  
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University of Nairobi, September, 2013