

Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) Alumni Chapter was officially launched on Friday 7th June at the Safari Club Hotel. The main guest of Honour was Amb. Dr. Francis K. Muthaura. EGH, MBS. The event was graced by a number of dignitaries including: Prof. Margaret Kobia (Chairperson, PSC), Lily Sambu (Rep, Amb. Amina Mohammed), Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo (Director-IDIS), Prof. Henry Mutoro (Rep. Prof. George Magoga-VC,UON), Prof. Enos Njeru (Principal, CHSS),

IDIS Alumni Chapter Officially Launched by Amb. Dr. Francis K. Muthaura. EGH, MBS.

Hon. Mohammed Affey (MP, Lagdera), Dr. Betty Gikonyo (Chairperson, UON Alumni), Mr. Bernard Malenya (Rep. Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi), Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kenya, Amb. H.E. Peter Ogego (former Kenyan Amb to USA).

IDIS background/History

The Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) is a regional training institution based at the University of Nairobi. Its core service areas include undergraduate and postgraduate training, research, publication and conferences, a modern language laboratory, a library and documentation service and hostel facilities for students and visiting scholars and researchers. IDIS caters for the needs of African countries and international organizations, and maintains close links with similar institutions all over the world. The Institute offers Diploma, BA, Post Graduate Diploma, MA and PhD programmes in International and Strategic Studies. It has also set up Latin American and South East Asia regional study areas.

The Institute maintains close links with the resident diplomatic community. The latter participate in the Institute's programmes either as guest lecturers, seminar resource persons/participants or advisers in practical aspects of diplomacy such as diplomatic negotiations. The location of the Institute allows it to benefit from the large diplomatic presence and international organizations and media personnel in Nairobi.

The institute has well developed links with institutions that have related programmes; it has established links with the National Defence College of Kenya and also with the Defence Staff College in Nairobi. It runs an MA programme in International Studies at the same institution. The Institute has enjoyed and continues to develop its historical links with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. It has also developed links with the United Nations University of Peace.

The Institute's academic staffs include leading academicians in their areas of research. It attracts high calibre students from all over the continent and currently has about three hundred students enrolled in its diverse programmes. IDIS provides its students with rich multi-cultural experience and it counts among its alumni ambassadors, diplomats and international and regional civil servants. We at the institute like to think of IDIS as the "small institute with an attitude." This reaffirms our belief in constantly maintaining the high quality and relevance of our programmes. It also enables us to provide a friendly environment that is sensitive to the needs of our students.

The Institute is constantly seeking to expand its network of collaborators. In 2006 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN University of Peace and another one with the Spanish Government in 2010. The Institute also maintains an active collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, the Ministry of East African Co-operation of Kenya, the National Defence College, the Defence Staff College, the East African Legislature and Non-Governmental institutions such as the Heinrich Boll Foundation and the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC).