

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-JUNE 2013

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

College of Humanities and Social Sciences since 1989 has been receiving exchange students from Soka University of Japan and the host has been Department of Literature, although the students have been taking units in other courses. As from 2011, the Department of Literature has been sending students to Soka University of Japan under their *Makiguchi* scholarship. Three students namely Charlene Wanjiku, Rosebella Hashimoto and Wellington Waithaka, have benefited from the scholarship. Billy Ochieng' Onyango and Winnie Ochieng' are the beneficiaries for the year 2013/2014. The Department is as well glad to reveal that Wellington Waithaka has received a partial scholarship to study Japanese language for one year at Kanazawa University. He will commence his studies in September 2013. The Soka University exchange programme has been a success due to the efforts put into it by the Associate Dean; Prof. Peter Wasamba, and Dr. Masumi Odari who has been very influential and supportive.

When I think about global citizenship, things that come to mind are the notions among others of values of civic global responsibility, service to community, respect for the environment and a shared sense of belonging to a common human community across national borders. If there is an institution that has been put up to promote and give room to the aforementioned values is Soka University of Japan (SUJ).The founder is a man of vision so no surprises there. The whole quintessence of a common belongingness beyond borders is a subject that married both my heart and mind. Picture this, exchange students from over fifty nationalities around the world, around one hundred regular students from South Korea plus the tens of thousands Japanese students. It is hard for me to keep count of the number of friends I made. I can positively say I know someone in at least every corner of this globe except may be in Antarctica and Oceania. You can take my word for it.

In 1975,Soka University was the first Japanese institution of higher education to welcome exchange students from China following the resumption of official diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1974.SUJ is not only a place where things happen, but it is a land like Dr.Ikeda describes it where "all who learn here will be able to develop and polish the inner

strength needed to generate limitless value from all forms of knowledge, to forge, in your capacity as world citizens, the peace and happiness of humankind." These values are what make a Soka student different from any other in the world.



Dr. Daisaku Ikeda; SGI president and founder of Soka University of Japan



On the left is Soka University's Central Building under the glare of spring and on the right is last supper in Japan. From left: Wellington Waithaka, Patty Park and Rosebella Hashimoto

Article by Wellington Waithaka

OSAKA CULTURAL EXCHANGE TOUR

The University of Nairobi through the Free Travelling Theatre has been invited to Osaka Japan, to attend a cultural exchange programme beginning September 7th 2013. "Osaka in the World Committee" has sponsored the group of eighteen students who will be accompanied by Department of Literature's Mr. Kimingichi Wabende and Dr. Simon Peter Otieno, both whom have been training the students. Kenya is the 23rd Nation to be invited this year and the FTT group will be the country's representatives. The team which recently won a trophy at the National Drama festivals in Mombasa is fired up and looking forward to give their best in Japan.

The Osaka group has been holding this event in its belief that building a peaceful world when all the countries understand each other's culture.

NEW MASTERS OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAMME

Department of Literature is happy to announce that the Masters of Arts in Theatre and Film Studies and the revised Masters of Arts in Literature were passed by the University Senate on 17th June 2013 and will be fully functional as from September 2013. The teaching of courses in these areas is meant to produce artists who can come up with innovative plays, films, documentaries, songs, dances and so on, to satisfy an ever-changing market demand.

YALE ADMITS ONE OF OUR OWN!

Susan Kavaya is a student of Masters of Arts Degree in Literature, who shall from August 2013, be attending Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, in United States of America. The student will be traveling for cultural exchange on a full sponsorship from Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Programme. She will be there for a period of one year. While in America, Susan will be teaching Kiswahili as well as pursuing courses that will be availed to her.