

THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL INNOVATIONS POLICY STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP



workshop on Innovations in collaboration with Tilburg University in the Netherlands. The aim of the workshop was to articulate research questions and hypotheses for research that can contribute to the identification of factors, institutions and policies that can increase innovation and productivity in low income countries.

Additional subsidiary objectives were as follows (a) To get a clear overview and understanding of the current research and innovation system in Kenya, including its main strategies,

actors and policy mix (b) To investigate the main drivers and barriers in the NIS in Kenya, gaps in support to innovation for SMEs and larger firms, and barriers for building closer relations between HEI and firms (c) To link the current policy mix with the existing barriers and define - based on identified best practices and gaps - research questions and hypothesis with a focus on improving the policy mix for innovation and productivity. The workshop was attended by 25 participants representing at least 20 organizations. The Director School of Economics graced the occasion. Apart from making an excellent speech, she was involved in the opening and closing of the workshop. The support staff from the School of Economics also played an important role in organizing the workshop and making it a success.

Prior to the Workshop, the Team from Tilburg accompanied by one of the staff (Dr Bethuel Kinyanjui) held successful meetings with various stakeholders including the World Bank, British DFID, Kenya Association of Manufacturers and Ministry of Industrialization among others. On the Wednesday (9th), the Director School of Economics, met with the team and discussed various issues concerning the collaboration between The University of Nairobi and Tilburg University. These deliberations have resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. During their visit, the Tilburg Team was also able to train three of our students on data collection. In addition, one of the researchers trained Ms Laura Lalalumpa was identified as a potential candidate for PhD under this project. Finally, the team was also able to meet with a group of senior researchers both from the School of Economics led by Professor Peter Kimuyu and Professor Karuti Kanyinga from the Institute of Development Studies, where potential areas of collaboration were identified.

