

UoN to strengthen collaboration with IGAD

The University of Nairobi will strengthen its collaboration with IGAD by offering more courses in Somaliland. Currently, the University offers a degree program in dry-land economics and agro-ecosystem management through the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (ISTVS) based in Somaliland.

Following the success of this program, the IGAD Executive Secretary, Amb (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim requested the University to consider offering post-graduate degree courses and establishing a distance learning facility for the under-graduates and civil servants in the war-torn country.

“The courses will build capacities of the lecturers at the school and the civil servants emerging from conflict situations,” stated Amb Mahboub. He also pointed out that the school was receiving similar support from Makerere and Mekelle Universities in Uganda and Ethiopia respectively.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi recalled being part of the team that conceived the partnership and assured IGAD of continued commitment from the University.

“It is part of our mandate to tackle the many challenges that Africa and the region faces including poverty and food insecurity”, reiterated Prof. Mbithi. He added that the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies provides courses relevant to Somalia and other countries in the region emerging from conflict situations. The University has seconded Prof Laban Ogallo and Dr. Munyua Muchina to serve as directors of the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre and the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development respectively.

Amb Mahboub also congratulated Prof Mbithi on his appointment as the 7th Vice-Chancellor and the University of Nairobi for emerging position 7 in Africa in the latest webometric ranking. It was agreed that work plans would immediately be drawn and set out clear objectives of the partnership and fast tracking the establishment of the distance learning facility.

Present during the meeting was Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Prof. Seth Kisia, Associate Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Steven Muindi, Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses and Acting Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links.