

UoN donates 14,400 books to primary schools

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities, the University of Nairobi has donated over 14,400 books to primary schools in Nairobi under the cross-age peer tutoring in the teaching of reading in Kenya project.

This has been possible through a joint programme with the University of York, United Kingdom and the University of Concordia, Canada and the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) funded by the by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The programme aims at helping pupils in lower primary schools enhance their reading skills.

Ten schools from Nairobi and two from Machakos will benefit from the book donations. At the ceremony held in Kenya Science Campus, Jamhuri and Kilimani Primary Schools received books.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, encouraged the pupils to work hard in their studies and secure a place at the University. He said that a country with no youth has no future. He challenged the young minds to set goals and have a vision of joining the university in their adult life. Prof. Mutoro was speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

According to the co-Investigator and Deputy Director, CEPA, Dr. Justus Inyega, there are 24 book titles and each school will receive 50 copies of each title making a total of 1,200 story books per school. With 12 schools in the pilot phase of the programme, 14,400 books have been donated. Dr. Inyega noted that books have a way of challenging the mind and stimulating the imagination and hence young children should read. Pilot schools provided with reading materials will use the books for class 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils during the research project duration. The project is being implemented as collaboration between the three universities with Prof. Frank Hardman, University of York as the Principal investigator.

In attendance were Dr. Isaac Kipchirchir, Associate Dean, Dr. Ursullah Okoth, Ag. Associate Dean, School of Education, Timothy Maonga, Teaching Practice Coordinator, Dr. Mari Nelson, Dr. Hellen Inyega, and Dr. Andrew R. Riechi all from UoN, the Principal, Jamhuri Primary School and the Deputy Principal, Kilimani Primary School.