

IDS@50 anniversary conference kicks off



Chief Justice of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga makes a presentation at the conference.

As part of the activities for the 50th anniversary celebrations, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) held an anniversary conference.

At the conference, a panel led by the Chief Justice of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga discussed the relationship between law and development. Dr. Mutunga looked at the place of law in development noting that the debate on how the law serves development is an ongoing one. He noted that the challenges around law and development sketch some of the challenges IDS will face beyond 50 years. He challenged IDS to continue being a think-tank on matters development and research in the country.

The [Vice-Chancellor](#), Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that the link between law and development was a part of the big debates on development in the 1970s and 1980s.

“The verdict of this debate was clear. But it is in the nature of such debates that doubts persist even when the general consensus seems clear,” said Prof. Mbithi. “It is therefore significant that we revisit this debate with particular reference to how the law serves development.”

Founded in 1965, the Institute has been home to many development researchers and policy practitioners. According to Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, [IDS](#), a series of activities including public lectures, exhibitions and book launches have been planned for as part of the IDS@50 celebrations.