

STUDENTS' CONVERSATIONS WITH STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

One of Karatina University's Strategic Objectives is to produce quality graduates as well as to enhance and develop partnerships with industries and other institutions. These Objectives became a reality on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022, as the University hosted the Standard Chartered Bank CEO, Kariuki Ngari, Board Chairperson, Kellen Kariuki, Board Members and the Executive Committee. The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for the top leadership of the Bank to engage and mentor students and to also deepen the relationship between the two institutions.

In his welcoming remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, said the forum was important as it focused on re-invigorating the minds of the students to learn, re-learn and adjust themselves to be future-ready for the changing face of work.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, giving his remarks

'This forum has provided an opportunity to introspect on the future of work. What employability skills, for example, are essential for the new world of work? How do we develop these skills in our employees and, in this particular instance, our students?' he posed.

Prof. Muchiri invited the Bank to pursue a partnership with Karatina University in areas of offering attachment places to students, coaching and mentorship especially during the University's Annual Careers Week, awarding best students who excel in business-related courses and scholarship provision.



Panel discussions going on

In an interactive panel discussion, four students engaged the Board Chairperson and the CEO on a number of cross-cutting issues guided by the Theme *'The Future is Now: Preparing and Being Relevant in the Changing Face of Work'*.

After the panel discussions, the over two hundred (200) students drawn from across the six Schools of the University were divided into five breakaway groups where the mentorship continued. The students were taken through various topics including re-inventing learning, reskilling and adapting skills for the future, the good, the bad and the ugly of Gen-Z, mental health and its impact on young people, entrepreneurship and how to be job creators instead of job seekers, impacting the world as a leader and a change maker among others.



Animated audience following the conversations

The event was crowned with the planting of commemorative trees by the Board Chairperson and the CEO at the University grounds.

THE A-Z OF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



In pursuit of realizing Financial Sustainability as one of its Key Result Areas as embedded in the 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan, the University, through the Directorate of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes, held a virtual Resource Mobilization training for academic staff on Friday, 28th October 2022. The training was facilitated by Prof. Charles Korede Ayo, the Vice Chancellor, Trinity University, Nigeria. Prof. Ayo is a celebrated scholar who was ranked in 2018 by Scopus (Scival) as the No. 1 researcher in the world in the area of Governance, Electronic Governance and Democratic Governance. In 2015, he was awarded as the African Vice Chancellor of the Year in the Private Universities category. In 2016, the International Business Star Quality hailed him as the Most Outstanding Professional in Africa.

Dwindling Universities Funding

In a speech read by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Students Affairs), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, noted that the Resource Mobilization training was very timely in view of the dwindling financial allocation to universities.

‘Resource mobilization is critical to organizations to ensure the continuation of service provision and sustainability. Successful resource mobilization requires rigorous work and time. I believe that the facilitator will have an opportunity to share with you what it takes to successfully mobilize resources’ he said.

Prof. Muchiri stated that utilizing institutional niche areas to drive resource mobilization is another conversation the University should be having. The Vice Chancellor opened up Karatina University to collaborations especially in grant writing and exchange programme for faculty and students.

Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, in her capacity as the Division head, said that Karatina University is cognizant of the reducing finance allocations from

the Government. She called upon members of the academia to strengthen their resource mobilization skills as a result of the training.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning, Finance and Administration), Prof. Linus Gitonga, stated that the training was important since it was an opportunity to learn from those who have already done it successfully.

Strategies for Resource Mobilization

Prof. Charles Ayo took the academic staff through a presentation citing that Resource Mobilization refers to all activities undertaken by organizations, including Higher Education institutions (HEIs), to secure new and additional financial, human and material resources to advance its mission and for organisational sustainability. This also includes all activities for additional revenue (human, intellectual, financial), additional infrastructure (physical), additional grants and Income Generating Services.

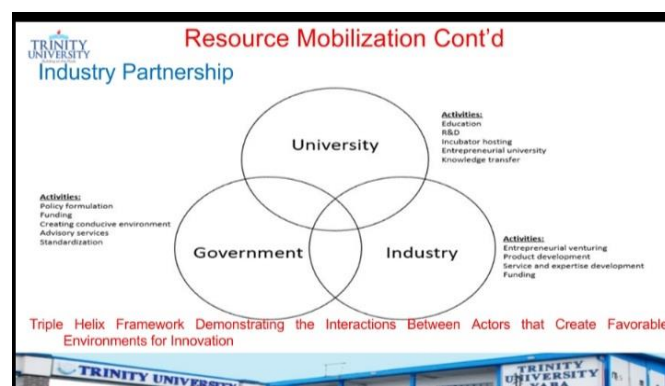
‘The environment in which resources are mobilized is increasingly more competitive because there are several tasks and projects competing for the available scarce resources. There is also a global economic meltdown. These are the key questions confronting organizations when they consider how to maintain their work and strengthen organizational sustainability, said Prof. Ayo while challenging the trainees to think of ways organizations can raise the income needed to carry out their mission, the resources required and how that can be sustained.



According to the expert, the goal of Resource Mobilization is for organizational self-sufficiency, financial self-sufficiency and organizational sustainability. Of note, Prof. Ayo dwelt on properly managing the Alumni because they have great potential in contributing to the development of the University. He said that establishing an Alumni Endowment could be done in terms of structures, financial donations, partnerships or creation of start-ups.

‘Many start-ups such as Google, Siri, Yahoo, Facebook, Microsoft, Snapchat, WordPress, and Coursera among others started in universities’ he stated.

Prof. Ayo outlined the ideal structure of the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Extension which should include Research Parks, Research Clusters, a Commercialization Unit, Publications and Conferences Support and an Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Unit. The whole essence of Research Cluster formation, according to the expert, is to promote academic mentorship in areas of research, publications, grants and administration. Research Clusters are also important since, he says, the era of individualistic approach to research is gone. Multi-disciplinary/Inter-disciplinary and Inter-institutional approach is the best as it fosters quality, speed and ranking of the University.



He further demonstrated the interactions between the Government, Industry and the University (Triple Helix Framework) and how these actors can create favorable environments for innovation. Resources

can also be mobilized through student support services by establishing cafeterias, bakeries, transportation services, financial services (Banks), and manufacturing and construction industries through Public Private Partnerships.

Recommendations

Among the raft of recommendations made to enhance resource mobilization is the diversification of sources of funding for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to include proprietors, school fees, endowments, research grants and patents, research parks, innovation, business and investments, Alumni, and Public and Private Partnerships among others.

The University can also leverage on the concept of Triple Helix and a well-structured Research Centre to evolve into an entrepreneurial University. Implementation of Open Distance Learning (ODL) and Massive Online Open Online Courses (MOOCs) would also go a long way for resource mobilization generation.

Establishing multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research clusters among the existing Schools can, eventually, evolve into national and international Centres of Excellence. These Research Clusters should make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 part of, if not, their main focus of research. These will impact the immediate environment through the concept of GLOCAL, impact ranking for national and international recognition and improve the quality and quantity of research publications.

Furthermore, Research Policy should be formulated and be made a requirement for academic promotion with emphasis on acceptable publication outlets such as Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar. All these, if properly harnessed, will enhance research outputs, research patents, national and global rankings as well as global visibility.

2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR VISITING SCHOLARS TO STRENGTHEN UNIVERSITY'S CAPACITY

The Directorate of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes, in collaboration with the School of Nursing, School of Business, and the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, have rolled out the 2022/2023 Visiting Scholars in a bid to boost capacity in various scholarly areas. These scholars are:



1. **Prof. Kerry Reld-Searl** from the University of Tasmania, Australia will be joining the School of Nursing. She is a Professor of Nursing, Deputy Dean, Simulation, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Sciences, Tertiary Education Division. She is also a Registered Nurse, Midwife. Prof. Reld-Searl will be involved in co-teaching to strengthen learning experiences.

2. **Dr. Michael Muchiri** from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University, Australia will be joining the Human Resource Department, School of Business. He is an expert in positive organizational behaviour specializing in positive leadership styles and behaviours and how these relate to an individual, team and organizational outcomes. He will be involved in writing joint grant proposals to strengthen resource mobilization.

3. **Dr. Doris Okenwa** from the University of Oxford, England will be joining the Human Resource Department and the Business and Economics Department, School of Business. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She will be involved in writing joint grant proposals to strengthen resource mobilization.

4. **Dr. Teresia Mutahi** from the University of Florida, USA will be joining the School of Pure and Applied Sciences. She is skilled in teaching, STEM educational research, skills assessment and education programs leadership. She is a strong professional with a PhD in Science/Mathematics Education and a Masters degree in Biology from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, USA. She will be involved in writing joint book chapters and journal papers to strengthen scholarship.

INITIATE DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY, NATURE CLUB RECOMMENDS

Karatina University Nature Club students visited the Cheerful Special Home in Karatina town for a charity event on Sunday, 30th October 2022. The primary reason for the visit was to study the actual situation of Persons Living with Disabilities and

promote awareness of the same. This visit aligns with the Club's purpose of exposing its members to various areas of ecological and social importance.



Eats and drinks during the visit

During the visit, the Club held a 'Chapati Forum' where they prepared chapatis for the children. This gesture fostered interactions with the children.

Cheerful Special Home is a charitable institution started in 2005 by two volunteer teachers who, by virtue of their profession, realized the problems children with mental handicaps from low-income families and orphans were undergoing. The Home cares for, supports and provides quality services to mentally disabled children to be productive and valuable members of society.



Nature Club members with some of the children

The Club made recommendations on the importance of disability awareness and how it can help reduce

the stereotypical mindset of society concerning PLWDs.

‘A growing number of innovative approaches for promoting access to higher education among students with disabilities are being implemented in colleges and universities. Such efforts should begin with ensuring that colleges and universities are accessible and support conducive learning environments. Providing these individuals with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create such environments is critically important. University faculty and staff are the primary conduits to realize such accessibility and support’, reads their Report in part.



The Club donated foodstuff and other items to the Home

The Club further recommends that the University, through the Dean of Students Office, should initiate disability awareness programs to educate staff and students regarding disabilities and give them the knowledge required to be responsible.

‘Disability awareness programs influence the overall environment of an institution since they educate staff and students on how to become better citizens’ the Report mentions.

The event was attended by sixty-two (62) Nature Club members and Ms. Jackline Kagu, a staff member in the Dean of Students Office.

The link below contains the photos taken during the event

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/V4C7mj3cpzY6QaP98>

Upcoming Events

- i. Wednesday, 9th November 2022

University-Wide Seminar Series

- ii. Friday, 25th November 2022

10th Graduation Ceremony