

## Research Updates

## Kenyatta University Hosts Medical Librarians Meeting

**K**enyatta University hosted a meeting for medical librarians drawn from various countries of Africa between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The purpose of the meeting was to adopt a health information course designed by medical librarians for students pursuing health related courses at university. The meeting was facilitated by personnel from the US National Library of Medicine: Julia Royall, Chief International Programs and Becky Lyon, Deputy Associate Director, Library Operations.

The nineteen participants at the meeting included Deans of the Faculties of Health and Medical Librarians from various universities in Africa. Also in attendance was the Chairman of Council, Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi, who challenged the participants to enhance research

in the medical field in Africa.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, officially opened the meeting. In her remarks, she singled out the importance of the meeting in enhancing health related information. The VC said that the world was now replete with information in various formats which needs sound literacy skills for it to be meaningful.

Due to the practical nature of the course, it was generally felt that the course could even be made a common course in the participating universities. Both the facilitators and the participants expressed their satisfaction with the services provided by the Kenyatta University Conference Centre.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda (5<sup>th</sup> left), Julia Royall (6<sup>th</sup> left) and Chairman of Council, Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi (3<sup>rd</sup> right) with participants of the Medical Librarians meeting.

## (CAUSE) Presents Proposal for Food Security



The Director, Resource Mobilization and Consultancy Services, Prof. Wangari Mwai, speaking during a consultative meeting of the Consortium of African United States Educators Initiative (CAUSE)

**T**he Consortium of African-United States Educators (CAUSE) held its first meeting at Kenyatta University recently.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the final proposal out of 300 Original applicants that was

to be funded by HED/USAID. Kenyatta University through the Directorate of Grant Writing and Management is part of the CAUSE -Initiative which proposes to advance higher education not only regionally, but globally.

Other member institutions of the Consortium include Haramaya University, Hawassa University, and Mekelle University (all in Ethiopia); Moi University; Oklahoma State and Langston Universities (USA); International Maize and Wheat Improvement (IMWI), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The fundamental goal of CAUSE is to enhance development in Africa with focus on the key areas of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources with a view to transforming and improving higher education using the problem model of food and nutrition security in East Africa.

The CAUSE Initiative will, through joint research, offer Kenya and Ethiopia a platform for

addressing issues that contribute to food and nutritional insecurity. Kenya and Ethiopia share a common geographical problem in addressing food and nutritional security.

The participation of Oklahoma State University and Langston University and the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) centres will provide technical support and direction to this collaboration.

The Vice-Chancellor in her welcome remarks to the participants affirmed that Kenyatta University shared the vision with the Consortium of teaching, research and improved access to education and development of university resources for disadvantaged populations. Prof. Mugenda assured the participating institutions that Kenyatta University was fully committed to the success of the partnership, which will meaningfully transform the continent by providing workable solutions to challenges affecting African communities, food shortage being one of the main ones.

## KU Researchers to Explore Kenyan Quality of Life Indicators

**K**enya's Vision 2030 sees the nation as globally competitive with a populace enjoying a high quality of life. In order to have a clear perception of what a 'high quality of life' is to the citizens of the Republic, KU has embarked on a research study with the following objectives: establishing perceived indicators of quality of life by the Kenyan adult population; identifying which indicators are key to higher quality of life; investigating the relationship between level of satisfaction with quality of life and key social indicators such as age, gender, education, parenthood, occupation, economic and marital status; and

establishing preferred actions and suggestions that can enhance satisfaction with quality of life among categories of the Kenyan population.

The study was motivated by the fact that Kenya is missing in most universal rankings on quality of life, yet its blueprint for development, the Kenya Vision 2030, has as its over-arching vision the aim of making Kenya a globally competitive nation, where everyone enjoys a high quality of life.

The study utilizes a random sample comprised of 5,140 respondents and is jointly financed by Kenyatta University, the Retirement Benefits Authority and Equity Bank.

The project has as its principal investigator, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, and its main coordinator is Dr. Lucy W. Maina. Other researchers in the project include Dr. Alice Ondigi and Dr. Dinah W. Tumuti. The resultant data, it is expected, will indicate the main contributors and predictors of high quality of life among Kenyans from all walks of life.

In addition, the findings can be utilized by key stakeholders in the development process, including government, banks and other employers who aim to improve the standard of living for Kenyans.

## KU to partner with UNIDO Kenya Office in Investor Survey



The Country Team leader, UNIDO Kenya Office, Mr. Kihu M. Mutua, signing the visitors' book when he visited the University.

**T**he Country Team leader, UNIDO Kenya Office, Mr. Kihu M. Mutua, visited the University on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of a collaboration with the University in conducting Investor Survey, which is being carried out in selected twenty two (22) Sub-Saharan countries.

According to Mr. Mutua, the survey in Kenya will involve a number of universities with one of

the universities expected to coordinate the exercise. The UNIDO Kenya Office had selected Kenyatta University to coordinate the survey through the School of Business. Apart from providing leadership, KU will identify suitable students who will trained as enumerators.

The objective of the survey is to shed light on the diversity of foreign and local investors in terms of dynamism, impact on local economies with respect to

employment and value creation, perception of risks and location factors.

The data will be consolidated on a web-based interactive "Investment Monitoring Platform" to which all investment promotion stakeholders will have access.

The survey also hopes to create linkages between universities, government, industries and the donor community.