



IDS Establishes Research links with German and Ghanaian Universities

University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof George Magoha travelled to Bonn to sign MoU with Bonn Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences and Cape Coast University.

The University of Nairobi, through IDS, Bonn Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and University of Cape Coast University in Ghana signed a memorandum of understanding that will forge collaboration in research topics in clean energy development, entrepreneurship, social security systems and health, and responsible management for sustainable foods production.

The MoU that established the trilateral partnership was signed by the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof George Magoha, Bonn Rhein-Sieg University



University of Nairobi VC Prof George Magoha (right), Sieg University President Prof Hartmut Ihne (centre) and Cape Coast University VC Prof Domwini Kuupole during the MoU signing ceremony on 12th March 2014.

President Prof Hartmut Ihne, and Cape Coast University VC Prof Domwini Dabrire Kuupole on 12th March 2014 in Bonn. The occasion was witnessed by the IDS Director Prof Winnie Mitullah, Centre for International Programmes and Links Director Prof William

Ogara and IDS Coordinator of the collaborative Project Dr Joseph Onjala.

The partnership, whose broad thematic focus is on Sustainable Development, has forged collaboration between the University of Nairobi's Institute for

Development Studies (IDS), the Institute of Development Studies in Ghana and the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE).

The cooperation plans to run at

>Continued on Pages 3

New Study Examines Poverty Reduction Policies and Outcomes

The Institute for Development Studies-based Chronic Poverty Research Centre – Kenya has embarked on a new study aimed at examining poverty reduction policies and outcomes with an emphasis on Kenya and the

African continent. Launched in the second quarter of 2013, this project draws largely from a critical analysis of policy documents and scholarly works on poverty reduction policy, globally, in Africa and in Kenya.

The research initiative is led by Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe assisted by Prof Mohamud Jama. The other team members are Dr Obadiah Okinda, Dr George Michuki and Mr Samuel Kiiru. Successful completion of this

research initiative is in furtherance of CPRC-Kenya's overall objective of contributing to the elimination of chronic poverty in Kenya through systematic and policy-oriented research, capacity building, and dissemination.

Message from the Director

The year 2014 is moving on and I take this opportunity to once more, on behalf of the Institute for Development Studies fraternity, to welcome all our readers and collaborators to this edition of the *IDS Newsletter*.

In this issue, we capture some of the Institute's activities since the beginning of the year. As our lead story indicates, one of our milestones was the signing of South-South-North (S-S-N) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bonn Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) and the University of Nairobi to establish collaboration for education and scientific cooperation.

IDS is proud to be the University of Nairobi contact unit in this trilateral collaboration, whose thematic focus is sustainable development. I wish to sincerely thank the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof George Magoha for his tireless support to both our local, regional and internal initiatives and networks. This was fully demonstrated when the VC spared time to travel to Germany to sign the MoU jointly with Bonn Rhein-Sieg University President Prof Hartmut Ihne, and Cape Coast University Vice Chancellor Prof Domwini Dabrire Kuupole on 12th March 2014, in

Bonn.

The IDS continues to forge and enhance collaborations with various partners. Early in the year, the International Development Research Centre President Dr Jean Lebel was hosted by the Institute and was briefed by lead researchers on some of our projects funded by IDRC at the University of Nairobi. The projects include "Innovative Approaches to Incorporating the Youth into East Africa's Labour Markets," and "Adjusting to Chinese Ascendancy in the Global Clothing Industry: Dimensions, Variations, Sources and Limits of Post-MFA Stabilisation in African Clothing Exports."

Currently, the institute is in the process of signing an MoU with UNEP aimed at addressing empirical gaps in understanding of institutional functions within urban non motorized transport in Kenya. This work will complement the on-going transport research which the institute has been undertaking with the support of VOLVO Research and Educational Foundations (VREF). We continue to nurture a number of collaborations as we expand our networks in line with the UoN strategic plan and mission of being a Centre of Excellence for knowledge generation.



As we have always done in our previous newsletters, in this issue update you on some of our new projects. The Institute for Development Studies based Chronic Poverty Research Centre – Kenya has established a study aimed at examining poverty reduction policies and outcomes with an emphasis on Kenya and the African continent. This will, indeed, contribute to the fulfillment of CPRC-Kenya's overall objective of contributing to the elimination of chronic poverty through systematic and policy-oriented research, capacity

building, and dissemination and communication.

While we greatly value our research team which has taken us this far, and those that we continue to nurture, our quest to tap from various experiences worldwide is relentless. As acknowledged in a story in this issue by one of our students, the IDS supported by the UoN management has provided platforms for interactive and practical understanding of concepts, theories and methodologies in research as well as space for public debate on development issues.

The newsletter keeps our trend and trademark of capturing several joint and individual scholarly activities of our staff locally, regionally and globally. Indeed, it is not possible to document all the activities of IDS in a single Newsletter. This issue, therefore, only offers snippets of our institutional and individual staff endeavours. I, therefore, encourage our readers to link up with us through our website, public forums, publications and to provide feedback for improvement.

Prof Winnie Mitullah
Director, IDS

IDS Newsletter is Published semi-annually by the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi. Correspondence with full address, telephone, fax and e-mail should be sent to:
The Editor, IDS Newsletter
P.O. Box 30197-00100 Nairobi,
Kenya Tel: 254-020-2314306
director-ids@uonbi.ac.ke
www.uonbi.ac.ke

Editorial Committee

Prof. Winnie Mitullah-Director
Dr Godwin Shiundu - Chair
Mr. Otuma Ongalo - Editor
Prof. Dorothy McCormick- Member
Dr. Mary Kinyanjui - Member
Prof. Rosemary Atieno- Member
Mr. William Abungu - Member
Typesetter- Judith M. Ndirangu
Proofreader- Josephine Mongare
Distribution- James Muoria

IDS Establishes Research links with



From left: IDS researchers Dr Joseph Onjala, Dr Rachel Musyoki and Mr Geoffrey Njeru pose for group photo with the German and Ghanaian delegates in Nairobi.

IDS Showcases Excellence During the 5th Open Day



IDS Director Prof Winnie Mitullah (left) and Senior Research Fellow Dr Paul Kamau (right) welcome University of Nairobi Chancellor Dr Vijoo Rattansi and other top University officials to IDS stand during the 5th Open Day held from May 8 to 10, 2014.

Hundreds of students, scholars and the general public jammed the IDS stand during the recent 5th Open Day at the Great Court, Main Campus, to inquire about the courses offered and savour some of the latest publications.

Among the latest titles displayed were occasional paper, Road Safety Policies in Kenya: In Search of Explanations for Non-Compliance by Prof Winnie Mitullah and Dr Patrick Asingo, and a

report entitled: *Kenya: Democracy and Political Participation*, authored by Prof Karuti Kanyinga.

Copies of *IDS Newsletter* were also displayed and earned accolades for eye-catching design and in-depth coverage of the Institute's activities. IDS Director Prof Winnie Mitullah and Exhibitions Coordinator Dr George Michuki led the entire staff in showcasing the Institute during the three-day fete from May 8 to 10, 2014. The Chancellor of the University

of Nairobi, Dr Vijoo Rattansi, was among those who visited the IDS stand. The Chancellor challenged prospective students to choose a university that will help them to not only meet their needs but also develop interest into their careers.

During the Open Day, prospective students, parents and guardians interact with various University units and receive information on holistic education provided by the University of Nairobi.

German and Ghanaian Universities

>>Continued on Page 1

the university level and also between the three respective institutes. It aims to establish an interdisciplinary collaboration and a Centre for Excellence for practical research and teaching for sustainable development.

The Centre of Excellence to be hosted by the Institute for Development Studies (UoN), joint research proposals and conference papers are planned for the first half of 2014. Special attention will be paid to the personal interaction between students, researchers and teaching staff of the three partner countries.

The Bonn agreement was preceded by a visit of Delegates

from Bonn Rhein-Sieg University and the University of Cape Coast Ghana to IDS, University of Nairobi, in a workshop to explore and develop academic collaboration in various thematic areas. The workshop was held on 18th and 19th November 2013 at the Confucius Institute, University of Nairobi.

The workshop, whose focus was on sustainable development, had presentations and discussions on four thematic areas namely: Sustainable technologies: Focus on renewable energy and energy efficient uses; Entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development; Responsible business: sustainable food; and

social protection systems and health.

The German delegation to Nairobi was led by IZNE Director Prof Wiltrud Terleau. It comprised of Prof Stefanie Meilinger, Prof Katja Bender, Mr Henry Ajathi and Dr Darya Hirsch (South-South-North Coordinator). The Ghanaian delegation was led by Prof John Mensah (the IDS Director). Other delegates were Dr Rosemond Bohhene and Dr Joseph Agyenim (South-South-North Coordinator).

The IDS-UoN team consisted Prof Patrick Alila, Prof Rosemary Atieno, Dr Rachel Musyoki, Dr Radha Upadhyaya, Mr Geoffrey Njeru and Dr Joseph Onjala (South-South-North

Research on Youth and Labour Market Enters Phase Two

The second phase of the IDS research project on "Innovative Approaches to Incorporating the Youth into East Africa's Labour Markets" was launched during the second week of April with surveys in Nairobi, Siaya and Makueni counties.

This follows the successful conclusion of phase one of the project. The first phase involved an analysis of the economic growth-employment nexus in the Kenyan context using secondary data, and interrogation of various policies and initiatives on youth unemployment by both government and non-state actors.

The results from the first phase show that the employment intensity of growth varies across the sectors, with growth in some sectors being associated with more increase in employment compared to others. The results further show that employment has grown more in flexible forms, such as casual, temporary and part time employment.

In the second phase of the project, the focus is on detailed diagnosis of the sectors where the youth are employed, with the view to identifying innovative ways of reversing the youth unemployment problem in the country. This involves collection and analysis of primary data through administering of structured questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

Prof Rosemary Atieno, an Associate Research Professor at IDS, is the country team leader in the project managed by IPAR-Rwanda and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Prof Winnie Mitullah is Co-Principal Researcher in the project.

The International Development Research Centre President Tours Institute for Development Studies

The International Development Research Centre President Dr Jean Lebel visited IDS during his tour of the IDRC funded projects at the University of Nairobi.

The meeting was attended by Dr Simon Carter, the IDRC Regional Director Sub-Saharan Africa; Dr Paul Okwi, Senior Programme Officer, IDRC Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa; Prof Dorothy McCormick, and Prof Rosemary Atieno of IDS; and Prof Jane Mariara and Prof Tabitha Kiriti from the School of Economics, University of Nairobi.

One of the IDS projects funded by IDRC is "Innovative approaches to incorporating the youth into East Africa's labour markets," which is led by Prof Atieno. The other project was "Adjusting to Chinese Ascendancy in the Global Clothing Industry: Dimensions, Variations, Sources and Limits of Post-MFA Stabilisation in African Clothing Exports." The project was led by Prof McCormick and ran from 20 March 2010 to 30 September 2012. It was a seven-country study of the export clothing industry in Africa.

During the meeting with the IDRC President, the University of Nairobi researchers presented work on their respective projects and the key results.

IDRC is a Canadian Crown corporation that helps developing countries find solutions to their problems. It supports researchers and innovators to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems their societies face and find ways to reduce poverty, improve health, support innovation, and safeguard the environment.



IDS Completes the 2014 Global Competitiveness Report

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), in conjunction with World Economic Forum, has finalised the Executive Opinion Survey in Kenya for the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2014–2015. The survey spearheaded by Dr. Paul Kamau (Senior Research Fellow at IDS) was undertaken between February and April 2014. It was aimed at collecting views from private sector executives in all economic sectors. The survey was conducted in Nairobi,

Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri and Thika from 124 large and small scale businesses.

GCR provides detailed assessments of the productive potential of nations worldwide and is widely recognised as the world's leading cross-country comparison on issues relating to economic competitiveness and growth. The report contributes to an understanding of key factors that determine economic growth, helps to explain why some countries are more

successful than others in raising income levels and providing opportunities for their respective populations, and offers policy makers and business leaders an important tool for formulating improved economic policies and institutional reforms. As the Partner Institute for Kenya since 2004, the University of Nairobi, through IDS, undertakes the Executive Opinion Survey that provides the foundation data for GCR. The GCR score for each country included in the survey

is determined by aggregation of 12 pillars namely: Institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, business sophistication and R&D Innovation. The results of the survey will be released in early September 2014.

According to the immediate past GCR (2013-2014), Kenya was ranked 96th position out of

Research Centre Development Studies



From left to right: Dr Simon Carter, IDRC, Prof Tabitha Kiriti, School of Economics, Prof Rosemary Atieno IDS, Prof Dorothy McCormick, IDS, Prof Jane Mariara, School of Economics, Dr Paul Okwi IDRC and Dr Jean Lebel, the IDRC president.

Competitiveness Report

148 countries with a GCR score of 3.85 out of a maximum of 7. In SSA, Mauritius maintained the lead at 45th position followed by South Africa (53rd), Rwanda (66th), Botswana (74th), Namibia (90th) and Zambia (93rd). Tanzania and Uganda were ranked 125th and 129th positions with scores of 3.50 and 3.45, respectively. While Kenya performed well in innovation and sophistication factors where it was ranked number 53; she performed poorly in basic requirements at

position 121. This is somewhat contradictory given that Kenya is a developing country and therefore would be expected to be competing on factors of production and not business sophistication and innovation. In Kenya, the most problematic factors for doing business included corruption, terrorism, crime and theft, policy instability and inadequate infrastructure (see www.weforum.org/gcr for the full report).

Afrobarometer News Update

Afrobarometer Appoints Communications Coordinator for E Africa

Afrobarometer has appointed Mr Anthony Wafula the Regional Communications Coordinator for East Africa. Wafula, an alumnus of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is an award-winning journalist with extensive experience in communication and media development in East Africa. He has previously served as Radio Programmes Manager at the national broadcaster - Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Lead Media Development Consultant at Wes & Abbot Consults Limited, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator at Internews Network and Senior Radio Programmes Producer at Radio Waumini.

"I am excited to join this great team at Afrobarometer. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to increase Afrobarometer's visibility in the region", says Wafula.

Wafula brings to Afrobarometer a wealth of experience from the civil society and the media. He is an accomplished producer, editor and communication strategist. He has consulted for a number of organisations, including the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), Transparency International (TI), International Livestock Development Institute (ILDI), and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), among others.

"We have a lot of hope in Anthony and will give him all the necessary support for fulfilling Afrobarometer's tasks and responsibilities," says Prof Winnie Mitullah, Afrobarometer Project Director for East Africa and also the Director, Institute for Development Studies (IDS).

Balongo Wins Afrobarometer Fellowship

Mr Samuel Balongo, Afrobarometer Core Partner Assistant Project Manager for East Africa, has won an Afrobarometer Professional Development Fellowship for



Anthony Wafula

the 2014 Summer School at Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

The IDS based data analyst will attend a 5-day course in 'Survey Research Design Implementation and Data Processing' and another 5-day course in 'Survey Research, Statistical Analysis and Estimation'. The course programmes are scheduled for 11th to 15th and 18th to 22nd August 2014 respectively.

Network Begins Surveys for Round 6

After successfully completing the Round 5 set of surveys that ran from November 2011 to October 2013, Afrobarometer has begun implementing surveys for Round 6. The Round 5 surveys covered 35 African countries with over 51, 605 face to face interviews with adult Africans, representing slightly over three quarters (76%) of the continent's population. The first survey for Round 6 has since been completed in Malawi and a number of countries are currently undertaking fieldwork. Previous Rounds of the survey were conducted in 1999-2001 (Round 1, 12 countries), 2002-2003 (Round 2, 16 countries), 2005-2006 (Round 3, 18 countries), and 2008-2009 (Round 4, 20 countries). The Kenya survey for Round 6 will be conducted during August/

External Speakers Enhance Our Research Knowledge

By Varyanne Sika

Since starting the MA Development Studies programme in September 2013, during our classes on Research Methods, we have had the opportunity to listen to several guest lecturers discuss their own researches. These lectures have provided us with a forum for interactive and practical understanding of concepts, theories and methodologies in research and more generally to inform us of different areas of research taking place.

I now discuss each of the four speakers in turn and highlight what I enjoyed most from each of them.

Njoki Wamai, who is a Gates Scholar pursuing her PhD at the University of Cambridge, offered insights on the tensions between theory and practice in research methodology. To illustrate these tensions, she used examples from her PhD topic, 'Local perceptions of the International Criminal Court in select Kenyan counties.'

Ms. Wamai's methodology for her study is the interpretive method which allows her to thoroughly examine the perceptions of the International Criminal Court in Kenya through immersion, interviews, passive and active participant observation among other qualitative methods. The lecture highlighted some of the practical aspects we need to consider when designing our research projects and the tensions that can arise when researching a topic that is highly controversial.

We also had the opportunity to hear from Dr Susan Johnson, a senior lecturer in the Department of Social and Policy Science at the University of Bath. Dr Johnson had conducted a study on M-pesa uptake in specific parts of Kenya as part of Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSD) research programme.

Dr Johnson, who has been doing research for many years, demonstrated to us the importance of comprehensive literature review and coherent presentation of the same in any study even beyond university courses. She



showed us how she organised her literature review thematically which helped in understanding the flow of thoughts and propositions she was making in her study. We also found it very interesting to learn how she combined different theoretical concepts to help understand the social factors that influence uptake of M-pesa.

One of the most interesting presentations we had was from the Kenya Financial Diaries Team. The research goal of Kenya Financial Diaries' project is to fill a gap in current data on how low-income families are making ends meet. The implementing partners for this project are Bankable Frontiers Associates (BFA), which is a consulting firm based in Boston, USA, and Digital Divide Data (DDD) which is a social enterprise doing research and business process outsourcing in Kenya.

Julie Zollman of BFA and Michelle Hassan of DDD came to IDS to discuss this unique project with us. The Kenya Financial Diaries study took place over two years in five different regions selected through purposive sampling. The study tried to capture elements of both a large cross country survey combined with elements of qualitative in-depth anthropological study. This rigorous study involved 650 households for 14 months of fortnightly interviews to get data on how low-income families were getting and spending income.

This study used questionnaires administered by the

research team and journals which the respondents filled. The questionnaires and the journal captured data on the living standards of the respondents, the income sources for all household members, details of financial instruments for all household members. The volume of data that the study collected went through reviews each week for quality control. They shared with us some early research results. It was interesting to note that on average a low-income Kenyan has over 8 different sources of income and these households spend 43% of their income on food. BFA and DDD will disseminate the final report for the Kenya Financial Diaries upon its completion in a few months.

Finally, Dr Takahiro Fukunishi of the Institute of Developing Economies in Japan shared with us his findings on his study titled, 'Kenya's garment industry after the trade liberalization: Competition in the Local Market.' Dr. Fukunishi's study sought to answer the question: 'Why are Kenyan Firms not competitive in Local as well as Export Markets?'. The scholar had carried out a survey in Kenya and also done a comparison with garment exporters in Bangladesh. Firm productivity reduced significantly over the years between the years 2002 and 2008 in Kenya's garment industry, according to Dr Fukunishi's findings. One of the most interesting conclusions from the study was to show how Kenyan firms responded to market competition by narrowing their product lines and focusing on making uniforms where the external competition is minimal.

The external speakers gave us the opportunity to learn first-hand from experienced researchers what actually doing research is like. We also learned from the speakers that what we learn in our research classes is relevant and important for establishing a good foundation to enable us to do research later on in our careers as development practitioners.

Varyanne Sika is 1st Year MA Student at IDS

I'm Getting More Than I Bargained For



By Janet Kiguru

It's exactly 9 months since I joined IDS. I am an alumna of the University of Nairobi, where I graduated from with a bachelor's degree in communication and sociology. When applying for the IDS programme, I expected to specialise in one of the key five areas that were highlighted in the IDS website.

On joining, this was not the case, but I admit it's more than what I had bargained for. I was impressed that the IDS programme is all encompassing, touching on every developmental issue you can think of. The courses are academic oriented, intense and thorough with challenging exercises all through. Classes are interactive, with well thought out content and taught by the very best. I look forward to completing my project on time, given that we have been warned it's the hardest part of the process... and when I leave IDS, I hope to add to its legacy out there.

My Insight Has Been Improved

By Benjamin Atika

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from the Catholic University of East Africa. I specialise in Urbanisation, Energy and Environmental issues.

IDS has improved insight on my specialty and also enabled me to understand a wide range of issues beyond my interest areas. The seminar approach for conducting classes has benefitted me immensely in presentation and debating key issues. The availability of lecturers for consultation beyond lecture hours has also been integral in my development.

SAFIC Researchers Present Findings at Denmark Workshop

The Successful African Firms and Institutional Change (SAFIC) Kenya team members Prof Dorothy McCormick, Dr Radha Upadhyaya, Dr Jackson Maalu, Dr Paul Kamau and Mr Herbert Wamalwa joined their counterparts from Zambia, Tanzania, and Denmark in the Third Joint Workshop at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark between 25 and 27 February 2014.

At the workshop, the researchers presented preliminary findings of the surveys the project conducted in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia from mid 2013 to early 2014. Led by Prof McCormick, the Kenyan team studied food processing firms as well as those manufacturing equipment for the food processing industry.

The survey, which covered the Nairobi Metropolitan Area, commenced on 4 November 2013 and ran until the end of



From left to right: SAFIC Kenya team members Mr Herbert Wamalwa, Prof Dorothy McCormick, Dr Radha Upadhyaya, Dr Paul Kamau and Dr Jackson Maalu at Third Joint Workshop held at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark between 25th and 27th February 2014.

>>Continued on Page 8

Prof Ng'ethe in Johannesburg



Prof Njuguna Ng'ethe participated in two national fora. The first was on the 18th and 19th March at the invitation of the Centre for Development and Entrepreneurship (CDE) in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the workshop on "The middle class in Africa", Prof Ng'ethe presented a paper on "The middle class and democratic transition in Kenya".

The second forum was the governors' workshop on devolution, organised by the Governors' Council from 2nd to 5th April, 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to take stock of the implementation of devolution in the country, paying special attention to governance at the county level. Prof Ng'ethe led panel discussion on "Participatory policy-making at the county level"

Prof Atieno Participates in the Youth Empowerment Conference in Senegal

Dakar, Youth employment meet

Prof Rosemary Atieno participated at the International Conference on Youth Employment in Sub Saharan Africa (YESSA) in Dakar, Senegal between 28-30 January 2014.

The conference was organised by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), and the African Development Bank, among others.

The conference provided a platform for reflection, exchange and experience sharing. It brought together national, regional and multilateral policy actors, African researchers and think tanks, as well as key relevant stakeholders.

The conference also served as a prelude to the special session of the African Union's Conference of Labour ministers - which was held in Windhoek in April 2014 and adopted a new declaration and plan of action for job promotion in Africa. This will in turn feed into the extraordinary



summit of AU's Head of States to be held in September 2014 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Ouagadougou Declaration.

At the conference, Prof Atieno presented a paper on addressing the challenges of youth unemployment in Kenya. The paper discusses the necessary policy initiatives for addressing youth unemployment in the phase of the country's growth and employment generation patterns.

Addis Ababa, ERA 2014 meeting

Prof Atieno was among a selected team of peer reviewers for the Economic Report for Af-

rica (ERA 2014). The publication has subsequently been published and can be downloaded from www.uneca.org/publications/economic-report-africa-2014.

The IDS Associate Research Professor participated in the External Peer Review meeting for Economic Report for Africa 2014, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 17-18 December 2013. ERA is a flagship annual publication of the Economic Commission for Africa, produced jointly with the African Union Commission.

ERA 2014 addresses the question of why industrial policies have or have not been effective in spurring industrialisation or structural transformation in Africa as a prerequisite for the African countries to reduce unemployment, inequality and poverty. The overall objective of the meeting was to review all draft chapters and sections focusing on the thematic sections and give suggestions for their improvement, comment on other pertinent issues and finalise policy messages and recommendations.

Book on Democracy and Political Participation Lunched by the CJ

The Institute for Development Studies, the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), and the Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP) launched a book on Democracy and Political Participation in Kenya.

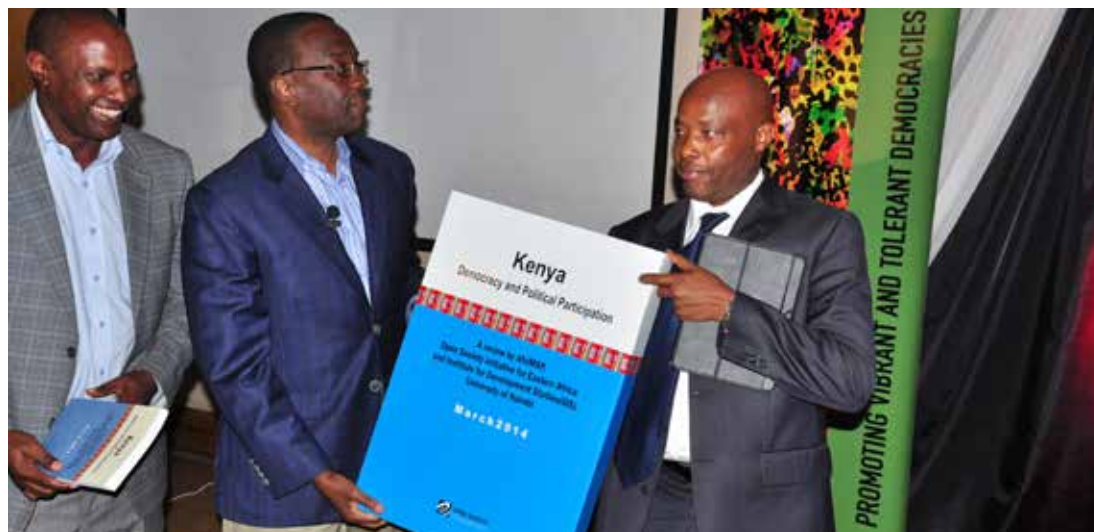
The book, *Kenya: Democracy and Political Participation*, is a culmination of a research initiative funded by OSIEA and hosted by IDS. The research team was headed by Prof Karuti Kanyinga, the IDS Associate Director, who also took the overall responsibility of updating, compiling and finalising the report. Other researchers who took part in the study were Dr Adams Oloo, Mr Geoffrey Njeru, Dr George Michuki, Ms Eunice Gichangi and Ms Wanza Kioko.

The book was launched at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi, on 16th April 2014 by the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Dr Willy Mutunga. It is part of the Open Society Initiative's Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project that was established to monitor compliance of African states with the new commitments undertaken by the African Union in the field of good governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The book examines AfriMAP's three thematic areas: Political Participation, the Justice Sector, and the Public Service. The report explores Kenya's respect for the standards adopted by the AU in relation to democratic principles and popular participation in government.

Specifically, it examines the Constitutional Framework and International Law; Citizenship and Inequalities; Participation in the Policy Process; Elections; Political Parties; The Legislature; Provincial and Local Governments; Traditional Authorities; and finally Development Assistance and Democratisation.

Kenya joins Mozambique (2009); Ghana (2007) and South Africa (2006) that have produced



Chief Justice Dr Willy Mutunga (centre) and Prof Karuti Kanyinga (right) during the launch of the book at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi, on 16th April 2014.

similar publications under AfriMAP on "Democracy and Political Participation".

Checks and balances

In his key address, Dr Mutunga warned against placing too much emphasis on elections and forgetting to nurture institutions that create checks and balances.

"Democracy is in peril when those in power become uncomfortable with the checks and balances institutions place on them. The pursuit and attainment of power must be counterbalanced by an appreciation of the restraints and limits to that power," he said.

The CJ urged Parliament to effectively exercise its legislative and oversight roles. He also called for the protection of the Judiciary against executive, legislature, civil society, and ethnicity, among other institutions and factors.

He said the book is an important starting point for a national conversation on the health of the country's democracy.

Prof Kanyinga observed that public participation requires that the people be at the centre of the decision making processes. "This is

an important element of democracy because rule by the people is its underlying and founding principle," he said.

The IDS Associate Research Professor said participation in public affairs builds abilities to hold authorities to account for the implementation of decisions and actions agreed upon. He added that giving people freedom to make political choices, especially in elections, plays an important role consolidating democracy.

"This freedom of choice enables them to put in place an accountable and responsive government whose mandate is renewed periodically, depending on the extent to which it is governed in line with aspirations of the people," he said.

Panelists during the book launch were Mr Johnson Sakaja, Chair, The Party of National Unity (TNA); Ms Sophia Abdi Noor (a Democracy Consultant) and Mr David Ohito, the Digital Editor (Standard Media Group). Others included: Mr. Mburu Gutu (Deputy Director, OSIEA) and Dr Ozias Tungwarara (Regional Manager, Africa Regional Office, Open Society Foundations).

Researchers Present Findings at Denmark Workshop

>>Continued from Page 7

April 2014. Wamalwa, a PhD candidate within the project, presented preliminary findings of his PhD study at the workshop.

The SAFIC project investigates how and why African firms are able to be successful in changing business and institutional environments. The project partners include Copenhagen Business School, Centre for Business and Development Studies (lead), Roskilde University, Department of Globalisation and Society, University of Dar es Salaam, Business School, University of Nairobi, Institute for Development Studies and University of Zambia, Department of Geography and Environmental Science.

The project will contribute to the capacity building of the involved African universities among senior researchers, and expects to graduate 5 PhD scholars and 21 Master students in the field.