



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

MARCH 2014



# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 No. 1



## NEWS

### School Launches Master of Science in Health Economics and Policy (MSc. HEP) at Kisumu Campus

The School admitted its first class of MSc. HEP in satellite campuses in Kisumu Campus in January 2014. The orientation for the pioneer group was held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January. The event was attended by the School Management and Kisumu Campus officials led by the Campus coordinator represented by Mr. Charles Deya. The School Director, Prof. Jane Mariara graced the occasion.

## Message from the Director

Welcome to yet another issue of the School of Economics newsletter. The January to March 2014 quarter was a rather exciting period for the School. A number of members of staff climbed the academic ladder on promotion, while two new project staff were hired early in the year.

Two very interactive workshops were held in January. The first one, '*Contract Teachers Research Dissemination Workshop*' brought together a number of institutions to discuss the project research findings. The second workshop saw members of staff discuss research conducted under the WTO Chairs Programme. It was with great joy that we launched the Master of Science in Health Economics and Policy in Kisumu Campus in January, while we were honored to receive the IDRC President, Jean Hebel in March.

Individual members of staff also participated in various workshops/conferences, and also continued to make significant contributions to the corporate world. Read more below and also to visit our website for more information.



*Msc. Students during their orientation in Kisumu Campus*

## School Welcomes New Students

The School welcomed the 2012 KCSE students to embark on their undergraduate studies on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. During the orientation, the students were sensitized on the expectations concerning their responsibilities including class attendance, observation of examination rules, avoidance of drug and substance abuse, as well as irresponsible sexual behavior among others. The occasion was graced by the School Director, Prof. Jane Mariara.



*KCSE 2012 students during their orientation*

## Staff Promotion and Recruitment

### Promotion to Senior Lecturer – January-March 2014

1. Dr. Daniel Abala
2. Dr. Moses Muriithi
3. Dr. Urbanus Kioko
4. Dr. Kamau Gathiaka
5. Dr. Thomas Ongoro
6. Dr. Mercy Mugo

### Promotion to Lecturer – January-March 2014

1. Dr. Bethuel Kinuthia
2. Dr. Kennedy Osoro

### Recruitment of Project Staff – Environment for Development

1. Mr. John Wainaina Njoroge  
Research/Dissemination Officer
2. Ms. Maimuna Nyanhoka Kabatesi -  
Programme Assistant

## RECENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Contract Teachers Research Dissemination Workshop - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

On 10th January 2014, the School co-organized a dissemination workshop, in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST).

The event, entitled “Contract Teachers Research Dissemination Workshop”, was held at the Nairobi Safari Club. The Contract Teachers Project evaluated several

interventions including the impact of a contract teacher on performance in randomly selected public primary schools in Kenya. The project, partially funded by PEP employed a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design. It was successfully implemented by MoEST through KNEC and a Non-Governmental Organization (World Vision). The results varied between the two implementing agents implying the challenges of scaling up learning in Kenya.

The workshop involved panelists/participants from the Kenya National Examination Council, the MOEST, Brookings Institution, World Vision and UWEZO among others. The objective was to bring together key stakeholders to discuss the research project's findings/outcomes and their implications for education policy in Kenya, and especially in relation to (and to inform) the implementation of contract teacher schemes. Mr. Paul Wasanga, CEO, KNEC delivered the keynote address.



*Contract Teachers Research Dissemination Workshop - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014*

### WTO Chairs Programme Research Dissemination Workshop - 13th January 2014

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) at the School of Economics held a research dissemination workshop at the Chiromo Conference Centre on 13th January 2014. The workshop discussed findings from ongoing research under the programme ranging from issues in Trade, Economic Integration, Implications of mineral and oil discoveries in Kenya and Foreign Direct Investments. Related to this, Prof. Tabitha Kiriti Ng'ang'a represented the WCP at the School in the launch of a book “Connecting to Global Markets: Case Studies Presented by WTO Chair-Holders Held in Geneva on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014”. The book contains research undertaken by WCP members.



*Contract Teachers Research Dissemination Workshop  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2014*

### **SoE Participates in Teams of Experts Meeting to Set Comprehensive Examinations for Collaborative PhD Programme**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Collaborative PhD Academic Board and the meeting of experts to set PhD Comprehensive examinations in core and elective fields was held from 1st to 6th February 2014 at the Kunduchi Beach Hotel and Resort in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The School was represented in the meetings by: Prof. Jane Mariara, Prof. Germano Mwabu, Prof. Kulundu Manda, Dr. Wilfred Nyangena and Dr. Yong Yoon. The members contributed in the fields of Econometrics, Health Economics, Environmental Economics and Curriculum review for Microeconomics and Econometrics for both Masters and PhD.



### **IDRC President Visits University of Nairobi**

Jean Lebel, IDRC President visited the University of Nairobi on 6th March 2014. The purpose of the visit was to review ongoing IDRC funded projects at the University of Nairobi. The president was accompanied by Dr. Simon Carter, Regional Director, Sub-Saharan Africa and Dr. Paul Okwi, Senior Program Officer, Supporting Inclusive

Growth, Think Tank Initiative.

Among the projects funded by IDRC is “The Impact of Social Protection on The Welfare of Vulnerable Communities in East Africa: A Case Study from Kenya”. The project was part of a larger project covering Kenya, Uganda and Burundi. The Kenyan team comprised Prof. Jane Mariara and Tabitha Kiriti-Ng'ang'a. Prof. Dorothy McCormick has been leading a project on China-Africa relations related to footwear and clothing, while Prof. Rosemary Atieno is leading a project on youth employment, growth and productivity in Kenya.



*IDRC President, Jean Lebel, far right, next to Dr. Okwi., Dr. Carter is on the far left.*

### **Top Performers from Kangaru Girls High School visit the School of Economics**

Top performers of Kangaru Girls High School Embu, accompanied by four teachers visited the School of Economics on 20th March to seek guidance on careers in Economics.

The Director, School of Economics, accompanied by Dr. George Ruigu, Head, Applied Economics had a lively discussion with the fifty seven bright girls, who were very enthusiastic about taking Economics upon joining the University.



*Kangaru Girls High School during the event*

## SoE Participates In Commission for University Education (CUE) Exhibition in Eldoret



*Members of the public at the School of Economics stand*

The School participated at the Commission for University Education (CUE) exhibition held in Eldoret from 27th to 29th March, 2014. The exhibition attracted a lot of potential students, parents and other stakeholders who wanted to know what the School has to offer and the career prospects for graduates of Economics.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1). Situational Analysis and Feasibility Study on Options for Harmonization of Social Health Protection Systems towards Universal Coverage in the East African Community Partner States. Panafric Hotel, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014
- 2). Fifth University of Nairobi (UoN) open day: The fifth UoN open day will take place at the great court on UoN Main Campus from 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Visit the School of Economics stall and dialogue with us.
- 3). Guest lecture on “Competition, Regional Integration and Inclusive Growth: Key Insights from Cross Country Studies of Cement and Sugar” ED 1, Main Campus, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The SOE newsletter is published quarterly by the School of Economics, University of Nairobi.

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