

Kenya Science and Innovation Week kicks off

The University of Nairobi is hosting the fourth edition of National Commission of Science and Technology (NACOSTI) Science and Technology Week. The event showcases the best use of science and technology for sustainable development.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Colleta Suda, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education Science and Technology who was speaking on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, noted that in order for Kenya to develop we need the collaborative effort of people from the media, the academia, the scientists, the development partners among others. She challenged the youth to embrace science subjects in school.

Prof. Suda reiterated the government's commitment to support research and to this end, the ministry has committed 397M this financial year and has supported close to 1500 projects, key among them sponsoring students to pursue Masters and Doctorate programs both locally and abroad.

The Science and Technology Week, whose theme is: The use of science and technology beyond 2015 comes at a time when the Millennium Development Goals expires in August, 2015.

Among the collaborations the Ministry has established include; DFID, JICA and partnerships with various countries like Japan, France, Germany and Britain among others.

Even as Kenya marches towards Vision 2030, key challenges like insecurity, environment sustainability, health and sanitation must be dealt with. Science and technology must play a key role in dealing with the challenges. Prof. Suda noted that all research activities are geared towards improving the quality of life of Kenyans.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche noted that science and technology week has given the university a chance to further science and technology and moreover, it is in line with the university's mandate of teaching, learning and research. The University of Nairobi and NACOSTI has been partners in many ways.

NACOSTI Chairperson, Prof. Njeri Wamae noted that the mandate of NACOSTI is to regulate the quality of research in the country and advise the government. She noted that their aim as an organization is to integrate science and research in national development.

The science and technology week is an annual event organized by NACOSTI to enable scientists, researchers, innovators to showcase Kenya's breakthroughs in science and technology. The best scientists' innovations gets celebrated and rewarded. It brings together secondary school that performed well at the Science Symposiums, technical colleges and universities both locally and regionally.