

Israel supports first Nairobi Innovation Week

Israel will support the University of Nairobi in the first ever Nairobi Innovation Week to take place from August 3-7, 2015. This was revealed when Israel's Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Yahel Vilan and his deputy H.E. Nadav Peldman paid a courtesy call on the University's Chancellor, Dr. (Mrs.) Vijoo Rattansi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi.

"Israel is a country that believes in innovations. We have seen them transform our nation in various sectors like agriculture, water management, medical research and entrepreneurship," said the Ambassador. "The Embassy is proud to be associated with the University of Nairobi in this noble event."

Guest speakers invited by the University for the Nairobi Innovation Week, are renowned brains behind innovation. Mr. Saul Singer, a prolific American-Israeli journalist and co-author of the best-selling book, *Start-up Nation*, will make the key note presentation. US based Mr. Langdon Morris, the co-founder and senior partner, InnovationLabs and leading consultant on innovation will facilitate at the conference.

Prof. Mbithi said that through the Nairobi Innovation Week, the University seeks to engage with policy makers on the growth and support of innovation ecosystem in Kenya, showcase of spectacular innovations and inventions, creation of useful linkages, successful launch of important journals and increase of innovator, university and partner visibility.

Themed 'Innovate and Prosper: Strengthening Academia, Industry and Government Linkages for Economic Growth,' the Nairobi Innovation Week aims at providing a national platform for showcasing and recognizing the relevant outstanding innovations dotting the Kenyan landscape, while fanning policy discussions on disruptive and productive discoveries.

The first ever in the history of the University of Nairobi, the Innovation Week will be an annual event characterized by, among other activities, plenary sessions, paper and case study presentations, roundtable discussions as well as exhibitions of innovations and inventions by various players in the Kenyan economy.

August 3-4, 2015 will set the stage for the Innovation Week with two pre-event workshops dubbed "Innovation Ecosystem Development" and "Innovation Management." The sessions will be held at the Nairobi Serena Hotel.

The main event, slated for August 5 -7, 2015, will be held at the Chancellor's Court characterized by, among other activities, plenary sessions, paper and case study presentations, roundtable discussions as well as exhibitions of innovations and inventions by various players in the Kenyan economy.

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