

University of Nairobi and French Agency for Development discuss Collaboration

A delegation from the French Embassy led by the Consul, H. E. Tutiu Jean Pierre visited the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi and discussed several areas of possible partnership and where they could support the University to ensure quality education. The meeting took place at the Vice-Chancellors Committee Room, today March, 4, 2015.

The Consul noted that together with the University of Nairobi, they have 3 research centers which assist students with their Masters and Doctorate Studies. He said that the French Embassy through French Agency for Development has been keen on collaborating with the University of Nairobi. Some of the areas of collaboration include training students on petroleum geosciences which is supported by Total, a French petroleum company, studies in geothermal energy, among others. For Kenya to achieve Vision 2030, the country needs close to 30,000 engineers.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mbithi noted that the offer by the French Embassy to seek to partner with the university to improve quality education by financing key programs and the development of infrastructure is 'God sent'.

Among other areas of collaboration between the University and the French Embassy include student exchange programs and staff exchange programs.

The French Agency for Development is based in 70 countries and has the mandate to support poverty reduction, sustainable development, and infrastructure development with priority being given to the energy sector and transport, water and sanitation. Environment conservation and biodiversity are also some areas supported by AFD. To ensure the financing of all these sectors, the Agency works closely with the local banks and in some cases directly with the end users.

Supporting quality education is key in the agenda of AFD and in that respect they support student education by encouraging student exchange programs, staff exchange and more investment in the ICT

The courtesy call was also attended by Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) and Prof. Isaac Mbeche (Student Affairs).

Also in attendance were Prof. William Ogara, Director, Centre for International Program and Links.

The University is working on a concept paper, which will include priority areas that can be financed by the Agency. This will go a long way in improving quality education and achieving Vision 2030.