

DS Hosts Second Forum in Celebration of 50 Years

The Institute for Development Studies, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) will host a panel discussion entitled: "Overly Optimistic? The Pulse on Africa's Changing Economies and Demography."

The event shall be held at the University of Nairobi (ED 213) on 10th November 2015 as part of a series of activities to Celebrate IDS's 50th Anniversary. The discussions will be chaired by Kwame Owino from IEA.

The discussions are informed by the fact that Kenya and many sub-Saharan African countries are in the situation where there is young population whose ability to capture the moment and drive its growth will determine the growth trajectory of individual countries. There are solid advantages in having a growing population comprised entirely of young people. At the same time, this demographic reality comes with peculiar stresses to the present economy and bears policy challenges that are not always easy to solve.

The Panel session will concentrate on answering some questions using the experience and ideas of a variety of youth in Kenya who are at the forefront of new ideas for making their societies much better. Among the questions that will be explored are:

1. How can Kenya prepare itself to make the best of the demographic advantage of a youthful population?
2. What are the new ideas that could inform youth and development policy?
3. In what ways can Kenya improve the labour productivity of youth to raise their incomes?
4. What are the business opportunities that arise from Africa's development challenges?
5. Besides their labour contribution, what are the ways in which the youth could play a greater role in Kenya's and the regional economy?

The two hour session will involve four panelists who will explore the questions in addition to giving remarks on their experiences.