Kenya and UNESCO at 50 Years Celebration

Event Programme
UNESCO Open Lecture Series vol.2
Roundtable: Perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21st century

Date: Tuesday, 21 October, 2014
Time: 8:00 - 11:30
Location: University of Nairobi, Taifa Hall

8:00 - 9:00  Registration

9:00 - 9:30  Welcoming Remarks

Prof. George A.O. Magoha Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi
Mr. Mohamed Djelid Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
Dr. Evangeline Njoka Secretary General, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO

Guest of Honour
Hon. Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

9:30 - 09:50  Keynote Speech by Prof. Bethwell Allan Ogot
Professor of History and former President of the International Scientific Committee for the preparation of UNESCO’s General History of Africa. Also recipient of the International Socrates Award for personal contribution to the Intellectual development of the modern society and Included in the International Register as an Outstanding Personality of the Modern World. Former Chancellor of Moi University.

09:50 – 11:10  Interactive Panel Discussions
Panellists representing UNESCO’s fields of competence, namely: Education, Natural and Social and Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information will share knowledge and their perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21st century:

Education
Dr. Kilemi Mwiria Education Advisor to the Presidency, Government of Kenya

Social & Human Sciences
Prof. Winnie Mitullah Director of IDS, University of Nairobi

Natural Sciences
Prof. Shem Wandiga, Managing Trustee, Centre for Science and Technology Innovation

Culture
Dr. Joyce Nyairo, Managing Director, Santuri Media Limited (Africa Stories)

Communication and Information
Mr. Alex Gakuru, Regional Coordinator for Africa, Creative Commons

11:10 – 11:20  Q&A

11:20 – 11:30  Closing Remarks
Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi
Concept Note
UNESCO Open Lecture Series vol.2
Roundtable: Perspectives on Sustainable Development for the 21st century

Introduction

1.1 World population is currently at 7.2 billion, and every inhabitant on this planet deserves a share in the economy for a better quality of life. The aspirations are diverse: while the poor strive for food, safe water, health care and shelter for mere survival, those above the poverty line seek a better standard of living through quality education; and those in a higher income bracket are looking for improved technologies to sustain their higher standard of living and well-being. While the world economy may be vast and advancing at an intentionally accelerated pace each year, it is paradoxically also unequal, and has proven to be a threat to the planet. Today, humanity is putting an unprecedented pressure on natural resources, which generates environmental threats on numerous fronts (availability of fresh water, disturbance of ecosystems and destruction of habitats, imbalance in the ocean chemistry...), in such a way that life, water, nitrogen and carbon cycles may be irremediably altered.

1.2 Kenyan youth under 30 account for over 40 percent of the total population. The Global Monitoring Report, 2012 and the Kenyan Education for All (EFA) National Review for example, both call for greater emphasis on the acquisition of skills and competences for its youth, be it basic skills, life-skills or specialized skills through Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which would contribute to societal well-being, with the opportunity for all to benefit from the investment.

1.3 On September 10, 2014, 117 countries gathered at the United Nations along with over 2,000 people from 902 organizations to witness the adoption of a Resolution to pave the way for the incorporation of Sustainable Development goals for an action agenda in the next set of UN development goals post-2015, to be known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Future We Want.

1.4 Kenya Ambassador Macharia Kamau to the UN is among the 3 ambassador’s appointed on the Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs, and Kenya has committed to a leadership role in Sustainable Development.

Purpose

2.1 A half-day Roundtable event is being organized by UNESCO and co-hosted by the University of Nairobi (UoN), to commemorate 50 years of UNESCO in Kenya, and to encourage critical thinking about “sustainable development in the 21st Century” as it pertains to Kenya.

2.2 The purpose of this debate is to understand how informed and participatory the Kenyan approach is for sustainable development as it promotes Vision 2030, the blue-print for the country to become a middle-income nation, which is not only defined by economic well-being, but also through an integrated and peaceful society where each and every Kenyan has equal rights and opportunity for success.

Is this happening? If so, where and what is the focus?

Objectives

3.1 The objectives of the Roundtable are to: Provide an interactive forum to share lessons learnt, and provide the opportunity to exchange views and stimulate debate about the compelling issues of our time and about best practice through sustainable development thinking from both within and outside Kenya, which may enhance potential support and recognition for positive experiences; and which include the need for 21st century skills for sustainable development in all 5 sectors of UNESCO through a holistic approach for policy and practice.

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1 Education for All is a global commitment to provide quality basic education for all children, youth and adults.
2 TVET particularly contributes to EFA goals 3 and 6 as they relate to life skills: ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programs (goal 3) and improving all aspects of quality of education, and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy, and essential life skills (goal 6).
3.2 The following experts have been invited to serve as panelists for this forum, and they would have 10-15 minutes to present their position on the following topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PANELISTS</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Kilemi Mwiria</td>
<td>Enhancing work skills and youth employability for Vision 2030: A National Agenda for Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Advisor (Education), The Presidency, Government of Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Shem Wandiga</td>
<td>Harnessing Science for the Benefit of Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Alex Gakuru</td>
<td>Open Solutions for Knowledge Societies in Building Sustainable Development.</td>
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<td>Africa Creative Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Joyce Nyairo</td>
<td>Culture as a Vector for Economic &amp; Sustainable Development and Human Well-Being</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanuri Media Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHS</td>
<td>Managing Demographic Transformations for Sustainable Development and Social Cohesion</td>
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3.3. The Moderator will encourage panelists to link their expertise to any of the 17 SDGs listed below, be it by way of quality education, ICTs, social transformations, water, or culture.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS Proposed for Post-2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms</td>
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<td>Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</td>
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<td>Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</td>
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<td>Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</td>
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<td>Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
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<td>Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all</td>
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<td>Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</td>
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<td>Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</td>
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Contact

**Coordination:**
Alice Ochanda, Programme Officer, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi
a.ochanda@unesco.org | +254 (0)20-7622086

**Media:**
Masakazu Shibata, Public Information, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi
m.shibata@unesco.org | +254 (0)20 762 2347