

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies

President Uhuru Kenyatta lays Foundation Stone at Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI)



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2016: A Year in Review



"One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature – and in particular, the wild – feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither." - Professor Wangari Maathai, Replenishing the Earth

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) was on August 23, 2016 greatly honoured to have His Excellency, the President of Republic of Kenya, H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta to preside over the laying of its foundation stone. The WMI campus is a constituent of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences located along Kapenguria road off Waiyaki Way on a 50 acre land. WMI is a GOK/ADB project entitled “**Support to Enhancement of Quality and Relevance in Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST)**” that is jointly funded by the African Development Bank and the Government of Kenya.

His Excellency, the President, paid a glowing tribute to the late Prof. Wangari Maathai for her relentless work and passion to care for the environment. The late Prof. Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement to help educate people at the grass-root level on environmental issues. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta also quoted the Pope Francis and urged the University staff and students to ‘Love their environment and

by doing so, they will be showing love to their neighbour.’

His Excellency, the President indicated that he was encouraged to learn that the Institute was already playing a critical role in reducing conflicts in communities by involving women in green energy technology, and in environmental conservation.

The Institute’s design and construction which is well in line with the following principles, Green Campus, Sustainable and Conducive Environmental for creativity and willingness to think “outside the box,” with Pan African Theme started on 29th February 2016 and is expected to be completed by mid 2017. It will present an expression of the vision of Wangari Maathai for democratic space, sustainable and accountable management and cultures of peace. WMI is a global centre of excellence and aims to create culture of peace through transformational leadership in environmental governance. It was conceptualized by the University and the Founding Chair the Late Professor Wangari Maathai to immortalize her name and ethos on environment.



President Uhuru Kenyatta lays Foundation Stone at Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI)



Dr. Jane Mutune, WMI gives a brief about the ceremonial tree, Mugumo “Ficus Natalensis,” to be planted by the President

The president reaffirmed the government’s commitment to support the project to its completion. The project’s entire cost is expected to cost Kshs 1.4 Billion and AfDB granted Kshs 0.6 Billion for phase I and now fundraising for Kshs 0.8 billion to complete the phase II.

On the other hand, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, said, “To us this campus will reincarnate and immortalize the spirit of Prof. Wangari Maathai, the global icon, our own Professor and faculty.” He also urged the government to construct and privatize the main road joining Upper and Lower Kabete and serving the CAVS grounds citing the need to ease communication in the three campuses. The VC extended his appreciation to the President and the government of Kenya for its continued support that has enabled the University to discharge its objectives and functions adequately.

The historical event was also graced by other delegates including the Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang’i, the Minister for Environment, Prof. Judy Wakhungu, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Collete Suda, Members of Diplomatic Corps, Chancellor, Chairman of Council, University Management Board, Senate, Staff, Students, STAKE holders and the general public.

“It is therefore my most fervent hope that the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi will become an international model campus for the transfer of knowledge through informative, practical, and inherently democratizing connections between the university students and faculty and the communities they serve.” Prof. Wangari Maathai, 2010

President Uhuru Kenyatta lays Foundation Stone at Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI)



His Excellence, the President, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, laying the foundation stone for the WMI



Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director of WMI (Right) and Prof. Stephen Kiama, Principal CAVS (2nd Right) taking the president through the architectural concept of the Wangari Maathai Institute.

The US Ambassador, H.E. Robert Godec Visits the Wangari Maathai Institute at the University of Nairobi



Prof. Mutembei Director WMI, Prof. S.G. Kiama Principal CAVS, H.E. Robert Godec US Ambassador, Prof. P.F. Mbithi Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, Ms. Wanjira Mathai and Dr. Linda Davis Partnerships Director, wPOWER

The U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Robert F. Godec, visited the wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Nairobi and was received by the hosts, the Vice Chancellor UoN, Prof Peter Mbithi, the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), Prof Kiama Gitahi and the wPOWER Hub Director Wanjira Mathai.

The visit started with an interactive presentation, by Wanjira Mathai, the wPOWER Hub Director, who described the global energy scenario and emphasised the role of the wPOWER Hub in promoting the critical role of women in clean energy solutions to climate change. ‘ Only 30% of Kenyans have access to electricity and 70 % of the population uses kerosene and candles to light their nights’ said Wanjira Mathai .

Ambassador Godec praised the efforts of the wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute in addressing environmental, health and economic challenges facing grassroots women in rural Kenya. “ It is great that the wPOWER initiative is bringing clean energy technologies to the communities” said the Ambassador.

Following a wide-ranging discussion on partnership working and innovation, Ambassador Godec visited the clean energy exhibition at the Institute which provides information on the costs associated with various clean energy technologies, their availability, the fuels they use, and the distributors who supply them. The exhibit has been displayed at trade fairs, exhibitions, and public meetings to raise awareness and create public visibility of clean energy alternatives.

Ambassador Godec visited the green campus site, that will soon be home for the Wangari Maathai Institute. He planted a tree at the Green Belt initiated peace park to honour victims and survivors of the Garissa University terrorist attack in Kenya.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts the Global Environmental Education Partnership Launch



From the left, Mahesh Pradhan, Jane Nishida, Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Judy Braus, Ginger Potter, and Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS during the launch of Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP) at Vetlab Golf Club, Wangari Maathai Institute, the University of Nairobi

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies hosted the launch of Global Environmental Education Partnership Africa (GEEP) event on 27th May 2016. The launch underscored the Institute’s credentials as a global front-runner in environmental education. This prestigious event was meant to create a vibrant learning network designed to build capacity in member countries and hence strengthening, sustaining, and institutionalizing environmental education. It brought together leaders from various countries around the world to leverage the power of environmental education for a healthier environment for all.

Initiated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration and the North American Association for Environmental Education, the partnership was praised by [University of Nairobi](#) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and the Principal, [College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences](#), Prof. Kiama Gitahi who were both on hand for the launch ceremony.

According to the Vice Chancellor, the program paves the way for expanded collaborations and the University's increased influence on the global community in this key area. The GEEP brings together leaders from countries around the world to leverage the power of environmental education to create a healthier environment for all. The initiative highlights the Wangari Maathai Institute’s commitment to sharing its successful experiences with the rest of the world and seeking an expanded global presence.

Other leaders present during the ceremony were, Jane Nishida, Acting Assistant Administrator United States Environmental Protection Agency, Mahesh Pradhan, United Nations Environmental Program, Ginger Potter, Senior Education Specialist, Judy Braus, Executive Director, North American Association for Environmental Education, Dr. Ayub Macharia Director at National Environment Management Authority in Kenya among other guests

Learning by Doing at the Institute (SLUSE 2016)

Wangari Maathai Institute in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen held a prolific 2016 experiential training which took place in Nyeri South Sub County from 3rd to 14th March 2016.

The course was attended by thirty (30) international students (from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University) and ten (10) students from the Wangari Maathai Institute.



3rd from right 1st row, Prof. S.G. Kiama, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, next to him is Dr. Martin Skrydstrup from University of Copenhagen, Faculty members, WMI and University of Copenhagen, students from both University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University and the University of Nairobi, Wangari Maathai Institute and Community members group photo after successful conclusion of SLUSE 2016.

The course theme was “Sustainable land use management”. The students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period and were clustered into six (6) thematic areas namely: Farm Forestry, Domestic Energy, Tea and sustainability, Emergent crops, Farmers and Weather and Gender and Agriculture.

The students were supervised by the Faculty from the Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University.

At the end of the training, the students gave feedback to the community on their findings and recommendations.

H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta visits the Wangari Maathai Institute stand during the 2016 Nairobi Innovation Week

The 2016 Nairobi Innovation Week held at the University of Nairobi's main campus from August 2-4, 2016 was presided and officially opened by H. E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. The President was drawn to the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences' (CAVS) stand which hosted the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies and the wPOWER Hub where he was taken through the eco-friendly architectural design of the Institute which is currently under construction and also clean cooking and lighting innovation technologies from the wPOWER Hub.

The President familiarized himself with the different technologies and observed as they were presented at the exhibition, learned about existing global energy problems and wPOWER Hub's intervention.

The President's visit came at a critical time when approximately 70% of Kenyans neither have electricity nor access to alternative sources of energy. About the same number rely on traditional fuels, such as fuel wood, charcoal, dung and agricultural residues for cooking and heating. Speaking during the presidential visit, wPOWER Hub Project Officer Simon Kiragu explained how the wPOWER Hub initiative was participating in the socio economic empowerment of grassroots women in clean energy solutions and expressed hope that as a result of the exhibition and forum, which has drawn a huge volume of clean energy stakeholders and practitioners, an innovative and sustainable energy action plan will be drawn



On the right, Simon Kiragu, Project Officer at wPOWER HUB at Wangari Maathai Institute explains the clean energy technologies to the H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta (middle) during the University of Nairobi's innovation week. On the left is Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS and former Director, WMI



Left, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, CAVS and former Director, WMI, Prof. Peter Mbithi (Center) UoN Vice-Chancellor, taking President Uhuru Kenyatta through the architectural design of Wangari Maathai Institute which is under construction

Wangari Maathai Institute plants a tree with the Prime Minister of India



The Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi planting a tree at the University of Nairobi. On looking, to the right is Prof. P. F. Mbithi, the Vice Chancellor, UoN and left, Prof. H. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, Mr. Wakori, KEFRI, the Principal Secretary of Higher Education, Prof. Colleta Suda, the Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education, Hon. Fred Matiang'i and Dr. Idle Farah and other dignitaries

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies in conjunction with the Kenya Forest Research Institute donated and planted a tree with the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi on Monday July 11, 2016 at the University of Nairobi's Gandhi Wing. H.E. Narendra Modi proceeded to deliver a public lecture at the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall.

In his speech, the India PM, H. E. Narendra Modi urged students to protect the environment in their pursuit of development endeavour. He congratulated the University on its good rankings globally and paid fulsome tribute to the late Nobel laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai, alumni of the University and a champion of environmental protection and sustainability. Prof. Wangari Maathai was also the Founder and Distinguished Chair of the Wangari Maathai Institute.

The Principal CAVS, Prof. S.G. Kiama congratulates Prof. Henry Mutembei, on his appointment as the new Director, Wangari Maathai Institute with effect from April 11, 2016



Prof. S.G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Prof. Henry Mutembei M'Ikiugu, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute

Prof. Mutembei, the newly appointed Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Masters in Clinical Studies from University of Nairobi and a PhD from Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany.

Prof. Mutembei in conjunction with Prof.S.G. Kiama, Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, were part of the conceptualization of the Wangari Maathai Institute together with Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Prof. Mutembei, has published widely in the field of Veterinary Medicine, Animal welfare and Disaster Management. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Faculty Coordinator of Research projects and field attachment. He is also the Coordinator of the University of Nairobi- World Animal Protection Project on Disaster Management.

Prof. S. G. Kiama, the former director has since been appointed as the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. We wish them the best in their new appointments.

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



Dr. Mwangi Githiru delivered a seminar on **“Implementing Redd+: Policy and Practical Issues from the Local to National Levels”** on Tuesday October 11, 2016 at the Wangari Maathai Institute.

Dr. Mwangi Githiru is currently the Director of Biodiversity and Social Monitoring at Wildlife Works Sanctuary Ltd. He is primarily responsible for evaluating environmental and sociological impacts of REDD+ projects undertaken by Wildlife Works in Africa. His immediate previous post was a Deputy Director of Research position at the Directorate of Research Management and Development, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in Kenya. He is Wildlife Works' link with national policy processes, and retains keen interest in public policy – both formulation and implementation.

Mwangi received his BSc. (Wildlife Management) from Moi University, his MSc. (Animal Ecology) from Kenyatta University both in Kenya before proceeding to get his DPhil. (Conservation Biology) from the University of Oxford, UK, as a Rhodes Scholar. He then completed a three-year post-doctorate from the University of Antwerp, Belgium, under the Marie Curie Fellowship programme.

Dr. Leah Oyake-Ombis delivered a seminar on **“Innovations in plastic waste management in Kenya and the role of Universities,”** on Wednesday March 30, 2016 at the Wangari Maathai Institute.



Dr. Oyake-Ombis was until last month-February, 2016 the Chief Officer for Environment & Forestry in Nairobi City County where she was providing leadership and direction in solid waste management, urban greenery and aesthetics, steering the City agenda for environmental monitoring, compliance and enforcement. Dr. Oyake-Ombis has slightly over 20 years of experience in environmental governance, waste water management, solid waste management, urban greenery and climate change. She is working, consulting and guiding to create a difference in environmental governance and climate change especially on waste management through research and policy-making process in order to attain productivity and sustainability of world resources.

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts the tree planting

The Wangari Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to host a tree planting ceremony on 19th May 2016 which was commemorated in conjunction with the students and staff members from College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice Chancellor, graced the ceremony whose purpose was to respect and conserve the environment as enshrined in the University of Nairobi's core values.

The Vice Chancellor, considered the activity as a blessing and an affirmation that the University of Nairobi strives to respect and protect the environment in all its activities. He also took that opportunity to congratulate Prof. Kiama Gitahi, the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences for his efforts towards ensuring solid growth and development in providing quality education and training at College level. He called for support, understanding and cooperation among all University members and stakeholders to ensure unrelenting growth in research and academic excellence emphasizing that the University embodies the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community.

The other delegates in attendance were; Prof. Mariaira-(Ag) Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension (RPE), Prof. Ngau- Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) and other University of Nairobi Management Board members, stakeholders including representatives from the Green Belt Movement, Kenya Professional Association for Women in Agriculture and Environment, Kenya Research Forest Institute among others and the pupils from Loresho Primary school. At least 2,300 indigenous tree seedlings were planted during the ceremony.



One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature and in particular, the wild-feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither".

From Replenishing the Earth, by Wangari Maathai



1. Ms. Rotich, MSc. student at Wangari Maathai Institute plants a tree alongside the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, 1st from the left, 2nd from left is Mr. Kahi, PhD student and 1st from right is Aisha Karanja, GBM's ED

2. Loresho Primary School children planting seeds of hope, just as Prof. Wangari Maathai hoped

3. Principal, CAVS, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, students after the tree planting ceremony

4. Prof. Henry Mutembei, Director, WMI & Ms. Aisha Karanja, Executive Director, GBM planting a tree

Wangari Maathai Institute successfully co-hosts the 2016 Nairobi Conference on Earth System Governance, “Confronting Complexity and Inequality”



Prof. Winnie V. Mitullah delivering her key note speech on Leveraging Governance for Sustainable Development

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies was honoured to co-host the 2016 Nairobi Conference on Earth System Governance from December 7-9, 2016. The conference was held at the University of Nairobi, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Upper Kabete Campus. Addressing the theme dubbed, ‘Confronting Complexity and Inequality,’ the conference was the 7th in series and being held in Africa for the first time. The conference was organized by **the Earth System Governance Project** and was also co-hosted by German Development Institute, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Keio University, Lund University, Stockholm Environment Institute – Africa Centre, Utrecht University, and Yale University with support by the Earth System Governance Foundation and the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS). It was endorsed by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and Future Earth.

Prof. Judy Wakhungu, the Chief Guest and the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Regional Development Authorities graced the conference where she gave an overview of environmental sustainability initiatives by her Ministry. Other delegates included Prof. Bernard Aduda, the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences who represented the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Daniel Gakuya, acting Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute and Prof. David N. Mungai, Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute the Co-chair of the conference among others. Wangari Maathai Institute was recognized for the relevance of its mandate and research profile. Consequently, the Institute was invited to initiate the process of becoming the newest Earth System Governance Research Centre and the first in Africa. Prof. David Mungai, who acted as Co-Chair of the Conference was invited to become a member of the select Lead Faculty of the Earth System Governance Project.



parallel session on conceptualizing planetary justice held at the Small Pathology Lecture theatre

National STAKE Conference held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill Nairobi on Tuesday July 12, 2016



STAKE team at the Wangari Maathai Institute in conjunction with the University of Copenhagen, GBM, KEFRI and stakeholders holds National STAKE Conference

STAKE project at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a national conference on Tuesday July 12, 2016 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi. The project is funded by DANIDA and is a collaborative project between University of Nairobi - Wangari Maathai Institute and University of Copenhagen in Denmark. With two partners namely Greenbelt movement and Kenya Forestry Research Institute that was carried out in Eastern Mau 2012-2014.

The aim of the national conference was to present and discuss two policy documents, that is one on forest governance and the other on benefit sharing development based on the data generated from the project. Other presentations were on two courses developed based on the data generated namely Conflict management and participatory forest management course. The two course will be offered as short courses at the Wangari Maathai Institute in consultation with partners. Other presentations were from two phd study, Dr. Mutune on livelihood and Dr. Kweyu on conflicts, graduate students Range and P. Thiongo on forest legislations.

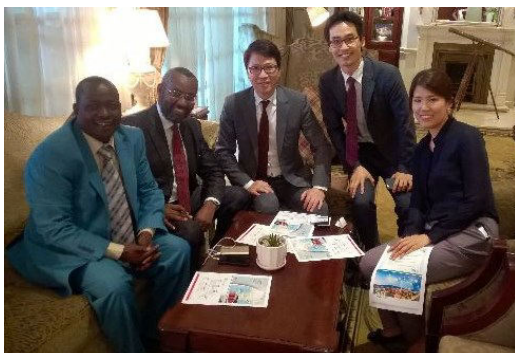
The national conference had a great representation of key stakeholders including the Cabinet Secretary's office, Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources, the Permanent Secretary, State Department of Forestry, the Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forest Research Institute, Green Belt Movement, African Wildlife Foundation, National Environmental Management Authority, Kenya Forests Working Group, Community Forest Associations, State Policy Group among others

News In Brief

The Wangari Maathai Institute - University of Nairobi and Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology signs an MoU



The Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter F. Mbithi signs a memorandum of understanding between the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies-University of Nairobi and Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea represented by the President, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Prof. Seung Hyeon Moon. The signing ceremony was held on May 31, 2016 at the Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.



Prof. David Mungai, Deputy Director WMI makes a presentation on Environmental Sustainability Targets at the Commission for University Education Offices



Prof. David Mungai, Deputy Director, Wangari Maathai Institute in partnership with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), made a presentation on the Environmental Sustainability Targets and Environmental Sustainability Compliance Auditing to staff at the Commission for University Education Offices on June 28th 2016.

He called on key players to team up in forging environmental initiatives to sustain the environment. "A multi-sectoral approach ought to be adopted in areas such as curricula development, policy development and/or review, setting of standards to better our environment, he said.

News In brief

Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Training: Machakos County by wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute

MACHAKOS COUNTY – Jackline Mwende had always wanted to be a successful business woman, now married with children her dream is still alive. The Kaiwa based house wife received an invitation to the “Sustainable Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Training” by the wPOWER Hub at the Wangari Maathai Institute and was offered a free, three day (March 30 to April 1, 2016) training course. Jackline signed up, and was one of 54 women to proudly graduate Friday, 1st April 2016, after gaining skills on clean energy entrepreneurship.

“I would like to use this as a stepping stone,” Jackline, 35, of Machakos County, said after earning her certificate. She developed an interest in briquette making and now dreams of working to make renewable energy more affordable and accessible to all. “I hope to have a long-term career in it.”

Jackline and 53 other women celebrated their accomplishment, cheered on by wPOWER Hub staff and facilitators, during the closing ceremony at the Africa Brotherhood Church (ABC) in Kathiani, Location, Machakos County.

The wPOWER Hub, at the Wangari Maathai Institute will now place these women at the wPOWER Hub Network, a group of women clean energy entrepreneurs trained by the wPOWER Hub. The goal, at the end, is for the women to develop the capacity to catalyze change, inspire, empower, transform and become champions of sustainable clean energy.

“This is such an important program for us,” Prof Kiama Gitahi, the Director, Wangari Maathai Institute, told the graduates. “We are so proud of all of you. We’re excited to see how your entrepreneurship journey will progress.”

Wangari Maathai Institute participates in the University of Nairobi Open Day held between 28- 30 April 2016

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies participated in the recently concluded University of Nairobi Open day which attracted not only the participation of all UoN teaching and non-teaching units but also stakeholders drawn from industry.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi who was presiding over the opening ceremony, the open days give the staff the opportunity to interact with prospective students and the public at large, sharing the University’s academic programmes, research outputs and services.

Wangari Maathai Institute's STAKE project holds a Synthesis Book Write Up Workshop

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies held a fruitful STAKE project Synthesis Book Write shop at the Luke Hotel in Nairobi between October 10-14, 2016.

The write shop was held in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen team, Green Belt Movement and Kenya Forest Research Institute.

The synthesis book aims to capture the STAKE project’s findings, reflections and implementation experiences

Message from the Director



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei
Director,
Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace &
Environmental Studies
Email: wmi@uonbi.ac.ke

I take the opportunity to appreciate and thank in a special way our students, stakeholders, staff and the governing board of the Institute.

The team work and spirit collectively ensured that the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies continued to observe and meet the aspirations for which it was conceived.

The Institute was conceived and established under the statutes of the University of Nairobi to promote good environmental practices and cultivate cultures of peace by shaping values, ethics and attitudes of its graduates through experiential learning, mentoring and transformational leadership.

These values are targeted to be achieved by a mission aiming to make the Institute the Africa's unique learning centre promoting best environmental stewardship and management of resources geared towards ultimate peace in communities through reduction in related conflicts.

The late Prof. Wangari Maathai foresaw WMI institutionalizing and making available this experience to students, stakeholders and practitioners through a created impact in the current and future generations. This was done through experiential learning and training by working directly with communities and creating a deliberate link between knowledge holders within WMI and knowledge users at community level.

In the academic year of 2015/2016 WMI held activities within the campus and the communities to create homely platforms that reflected the life, work and words of Nobel laureate Prof Wangari Muta Maathai. There are no doubts these activities inspired and built many more future "Wangari Maathai" in Kenya.

So what way forward?

The challenge is to continue sustaining the legacy of our founder and the opportunity exists to utilize the facilities of the newly built campus to expand our programs and projects that will defend this legacy. We hope to start a course on Environmental Education & Ethics, collaborate with more stakeholders and improve on our service delivery. In so doing we will address any of the challenges that were experienced due to the limited space.

VISION: Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace

MISSION: To cultivate positive ethics, values and practices towards the environment by training stewards who foster peace, holistic sustainable development and link theory with practice