



(Varsity Links)

A newsletter of the Center for International Programmes and Linkages



January, 2012

VISION

A leading integrative centre that enhances the University's international visibility, research, academic and cultural interactions.

MISSION

To initiate, promote, facilitate and co-ordinate quality international programmes and links in collaboration with other University units and institutions with similar interests.

CORE VALUES

1. Freedom of thought and Expression
2. Innovativeness and creativity
3. Good corporate governance
4. Team spirit and teamwork
5. Professionalism
6. Quality customer service
7. Responsible corporate citizenship and strong responsibility
8. Respect for and conservation of the environment

Message from the Director



Prof. S. E. Mitema

I am happy to welcome all our readers and clients to the first newsletter for the centre for international programs and link. The Center for International Programmes and Links, as its core function, is constantly keen on strengthening existing partnerships and links and developing new ones. The strength and visibility of any university to be considered an international institution and world class is its research capacity, linkages and collaborations with other institutions/organizations and industry. The Center for International Programmes and Links complies with its mandate to make the University of Nairobi (UoN), “*A World-Class University Committed to Scholarly Excellence*” by facilitating all linkages and collaborations.

As a window for internationalization of the university, the Centre provides a focal point for international activities in the university. In this respect, the centre is charged with the responsibility of initiating, promoting, facilitating and coordinating international programmes and links, staff/students exchanges and mobility, collaborative research projects as well as world-wide networking.

The Center also has a vital role to play in assisting the university to achieve its strategic goals. This role has become more critical considering the fact that one of the key pillars of visibility and university ranking world wide is the number of links and collaborations the university has with other institutions in the world. In addition, the role of the centre has increased with the rolling out of the current University of Nairobi Strategic Plan, whose aspiration is to be a world class university. The

Centre for International Programmes and Links revised its Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 to realign it with the revised University of Nairobi Strategic Plan.

Remarkable growth of the Center for International Programmes and Linkages has been achieved since 2009, mainly due to marketing and fund raising activities. The greatest areas of growth are the increase of the number of signed MoUs from 200 to 300 and the number of international students increased from 700 to 827 from 2010/2011 to 2011/2012, respectively.

CIPL Services

Establishment of collaborations: Collaborations and Links are established through the signing of Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) and Memoranda of Agreements (MoAs). The number of signed MOUs for institutional and industry linkages facilitated by CIPL has increased from 200 to 300 in the year 2011. This growth in collaboration and links is evidence of the activities in the six Colleges of the University of Nairobi. Table 1 below shows the number of some active MoUs in the Colleges in the academic year 2011/2012.

CIPL improves in the 2010/2011 performance contract: In the current results based management, the maxim is “that which is measured gets done”. The performance contracting process has become a beacon of the transformation of the UON. It drives both the strategic plan and the ISO: 90001:2008. In the 2009/2011 annual evaluation of the central administration units the CIPL was ranked number 19 out of 23.

Determined to improve and persistent focused delivery of services by all staff at CIPL saw a tremendous improvement in the 2010/2011 ranking from number 19 to number 4.

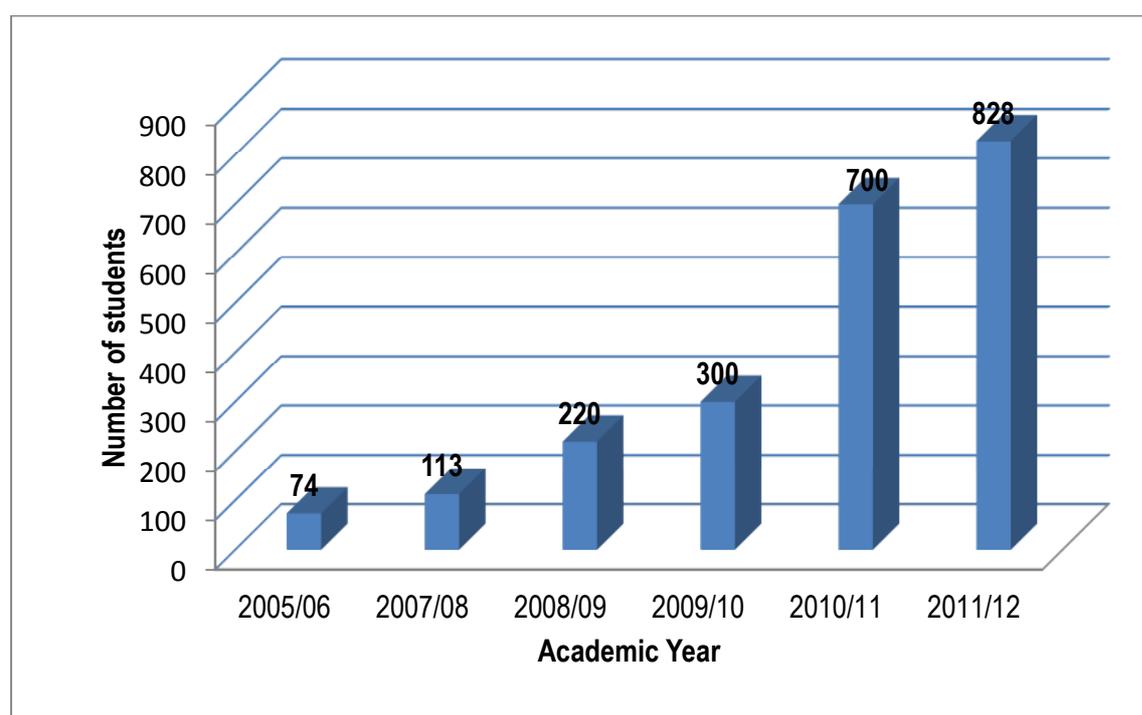
Table 1: Number of active MoUs in Colleges in 2011/2012 academic year

College	Active MoUs		No. of universities involved		No. of organizations involved		No. of countries involved	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
CHS	25	36	13	23	12	13	14	14
CHSS	24	32	7	17	17	15	12	12
CBPS	23	26	5	8	18	18	14	14
CAE	7	6	4	4	3	2	6	6
CAVS	4	27	7	13	7	14	6	6
CEES	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3
GENERAL		25		13		12		14

Number of international students increase: The Center for International Programmes and Links facilitates admission of various categories of international students. The three main categories of international students admitted in the UoN are: exchange students, occasional students and regular full time students. The CIPL also facilitates research associates from time to time. An increase in all these categories has been recorded with about 128 international students joining the University of Nairobi in the 2011/2012 academic year (figure 1). This increase is due to the CIPL's compliance to its number one quality objective; **“To promote internationalization and visibility of UoN by increasing the number of international students' intake each academic year.”**

The number of international students continue to grow by country and region. A group of thirty-four (34) students from Liberia joined the MBA programme in January 2011. By recommending other students from their country to make the University of Nairobi their university of choice the total number of students from Liberia has grown to sixty-seven (67) during 2011/2012 academic year.

Figure 1: Growth of international students



MoU's results in capacity building and publications: The CIPL continues to monitor the impact and growth in the number of MoU's and achievements in areas of collaboration from the six colleges. The analysis of some few collaborations shows increased research, student and staff exchange. In June 2011 there were 8 staff trained for Ph.D degrees, 26 Masters degrees and 8 publications including 5 books were some of tangible achievements from some collaborations.

Visitors to the CIPL

Total Kenya offers student internship opportunities: In January 2011, a fact finding mission from France the headquarters of Total group of companies paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor to explore potential for collaboration. Total Kenya has now agreed to partner with the UoN commencing January 2012. Through this initiative Total Kenya will offer internship to UoN, students. The offer of internship was conveyed relayed to the Director CIPL on hursday 5th, January 2012 during a courtesy call meeting at the Director's office by total Kenya headed by the head of human resources Mr. Adele Tura.

Vice-Provost, Kalamazoo College visits CIPL: The CIPL was once again honoured to receive Professor Joseph Brockington the Vice-Provost of Kalamazoo College. The Kalamazoo student exchange programme is one of the most successful in the UoN. There are about 9 Kalamazoo College students who come to Kenya from the U.S.A every year. In a meeting held in the Director's office on 13th December 2011, the Vice-Provost reiterated that Kalamazoo is determined to continue supporting the exchange programme. The Vice- Provost was happy with the the UoN nomination process because it was based on merit and performance. One student was successful in obtaining the visa to join Kalamazoo for Study Abroad programme in 2011/12 academic year.

The British Council advisor for East Africa visits CIPL: Ms Grewal Madhir of the British Council and the African Knowledge Transfer Project (AKTP) advisor for Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda paid a visit to the Director, CIPL. On this occasion she was accompanied by Dr. Moses Rugutt from the National Council of Science and Technology. Ms Grewal promised to link the UoN to University of Salford in the United Kingdom. The visitors pointed out that the University of Salford in the UK has one of the best programmes for linkages between Universities and industry which can be customized by the Science Park of the UoN.

Student Matters:

International students attend Fresher's Orientation Day: CIPL participated in the orientation week for the new students in the 2011/2012 academic year. These included over 190 new international students from different parts of the world. The occasion was an opportunity for international students to be introduced to the top UON administration. Other activities during the orientation included services for all students, new life on campus and HIV/AIDS issues. It was really a fresher's rite of passage at the UoN for all new students.

Southern Sudanese Students celebrate Independence Day: The birth of youngest republic in the world, the Republic of Southern Sudan was an exciting event for the entire world. The Vice-Chancellor supported our Southern Sudanese students to hold a successful celebration at the Main Campus, which is their "home away from home" The occasion was graced by their education attaché and CIPL staff.



Students from Southern Sudan group during Independence Celebration Day

CIPL hosts International Students day: The international students day, celebrated once every academic year to showcase the diversity of international students and to fore store the

internationalization of the UON. It is a rare opportunity for cultural interaction, fostering of a strong sense of belonging and familiarization with one another. The **6th International Students' Day** was unique in a number of ways with attendance higher than previous years by over 100 students. A dance by a Rwandese troupe entertained guests. A question and answer session, and sharing by different students on their experiences, during their first months in a foreign country, the Kenyan culture and language was exciting.



Rwandese dancing group entertains International Students

Staff Matter

Who is new at CIPL



Ms. Carolyne Imbayi, joined CIPL on 21st November, 2011, to occupy the position of Senior Secretary Grade D, serving the Director, CIPL, after emerging top following interview. She brings 14 years of wealth of experience to CIPL after serving various departments at the College of Health Sciences (i.e. Dept. of Human Pathology, School of Medicine, and Dept. of Periodontology & Community Health, School

of Dental Sciences. Her professional qualifications include: Bachelor of Commerce, B.COM (Finance), (UoN) [2009], Diploma in Business Management (DBM), (UoN) [2004], Certificate in Secretarial Services (KNEC & Pitmans) [1993-2000] (NYS Secretarial College).

UoN benefits from Mundus ACPI: UON staff benefited Mundus ACPI scholarship and exchange mobility. One PhD staff (Dr. M. L. Kisipan) has registered on a sandwich programme in the University of Complutense of Madrid in Spain-, one Masters student (Mr. M. Osaotle) joined the Malmo University, Sweden. Two administrative staff, Monical Ngendo Ng'ang'a, (Dean of Student office) and Chepkoech Caroline Kiptoo (ICT) also benefited from the programme; one joined Malmo University, Sweden and the other went to University of Porto, Portugal for short term training to acquire specialized skills.

Besides our staff benefiting from the mobility, UoN received two professors from Europe, Prof. Thilo Becker from Technische Universitat Darmstadt, Germany in the School of Engineering and Prof. Miguel Ruit Martins from University of Porto, Portugal in the School of Dental Sciences who were involved in teaching and exchange of scholarly ideas for one month. The Mundus ACPII Scholarships will be advertised in January, 2012 and more staff are encouraged to apply.