

Partnership with ESDA for Sustainable Development in Africa

Date and time: Thu, 2017-07-06 15:30

Location / Venue:

VC's Boardroom, UoN

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The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi (Right) sharing a moment with Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) coordinator Prof. Masafumi Nagao (Left) after consultation meeting on the progress of ESDA-Africa Development Bank Funded research projects at the University.

In the next 50 to 100 years, approximately seventy percent of the world population will be situated in urban areas and according to the United Nations Environment Programme reports, there is need for all countries and stakeholders to act in collaborative partnership and start the implementation of a plan of action for people, planet, peace and prosperity. It is this position that resulted in the development of Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) and ultimately its partnership with the University of Nairobi as a strategic research partner. Today, ESDA Chair and the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi had a consultation meeting with Prof. Masafumi Nagao, the ESDA Coordinator and research professor at the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education-Hiroshima University (Japan). Together, they discussed broadly the progress of the first year of ESDA activities that were funded by Africa Development Bank (AfDB). Key among activities discussed was the success of commencing the admission process of masters students both under scholarship at the program and self-sponsored. This is one of the pillars aligned to the program's mandate of offering graduate-level education programs for professionals to be engaged in sustainable development in Africa. ESDA had also succeeded in starting up an African Youth Entrepreneurship project that is meant to widen the platform for researchers to interact with young entrepreneurs and offer alternatives for University research funding sustainability and development. Speaking during the meeting, Prof. Masafumi added that the project would promote university-based agribusiness incubation centres.

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On his part, Prof. Mbithi applauded the ESDA team for their efforts and assured that he would support in putting mechanisms of recovery to hasten the full realisation of the projects' targets in good time. He also informed them that the University would work towards integration of the projects within the frameworks of achieving global visibility since it is aligned towards its objectives of attaining first-class research culture, leadership and mentorship.

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