

Awards for Top Innovators in Africa.

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During a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Walter Fust, Chairman of the Foundation Board, Innovation Prize for Africa, revealed that their foundation, has been at the forefront of rewarding innovators across the continent.

“We are firm believers that we need more innovation in Africa. We have been engaging the African Union on how best to reach the continent to catalyze the spirit of innovation. We have the biggest database of 8,000 innovators. Out of that number, 10 top innovators get rewarded every year. They receive funding and support,” he said.

Innovation Prize for Africa are also working with African Academy of Sciences and Kenya Academy of Sciences to get as many innovators as possible.

On his part, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi noted that the University has embraced innovation and hence the academic programs have inbuilt experiential learning.

Prof. Timothy Waema, from the School of Computing and Informatics and Lead Advisor for Nairobi Innovation Week, explained in details how the University of Nairobi has catalyzed innovation through the Nairobi Innovation Week. During the past three years, the University has embraced those with innovations and has given companies the opportunity to exhibit their innovations, launch products and give presentations. Scholars are allowed as well to give paper presentations of their latest findings. Embassies and the corporate sector have been very instrumental in conducting training on

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innovation and supporting start-ups to pitch of their various innovations. Several business start-ups have been able to get funding to help them scale up their businesses.

The Vice-Chancellor, invited Innovation Prize for Africa to be one of the partners at the forth-coming Nairobi Innovation Week 2018 and beyond where top innovators will most likely be awarded.

Present during the meeting were : Prof. Chrispus Kiamba, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Pauline Mujawamariya Koelbl, Director, Innovation Prize for Africa, Robinson Esialimba, Process Manager, Innovation Prize for Africa , John Orindi, Director , Corporate Affairs and Johnson Kinyua, Director, University Advancement.

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