

Triple Helix Summit – Adoption of ICT and Data Encouraged.

The International Triple Helix Summit is underway at the Manu Chandaria Auditorium, University of Nairobi Towers, where experts from government, academia and industry have gathered to explore how ICT and data can be used to accelerate the attainment of SDG goals. The Summit is taking place from April 5-6, 2017.

Dr. Richard Belio Kipsang , Principal Secretary Education, Ministry of Education, enumerated the various efforts being made by the government to attain universal access to quality education in Kenya. The government has, among others established feeding programs for pupils from arid and semi-arid areas, construction of infrastructure, connection of electricity to schools and training of quality teachers among others.

Speaking during the summit, Mr. Irungu Nyakera, Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development, noted that “What gets measured, gets done”. He challenged participants to actively perform monitoring and evaluation of the attainment of the SDGs. He also challenged technologically savvy young people to rise up and build ICT solutions that can help the country deal with effects of drought, climate change and improve the education system.

On his part, University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, urged the event participants to develop an acceleration roadmap and implementation plan to help in the attainment of the 8 SDG goals. Prof. Mbithi pledged to support the implementation and realization of the SDGs.

The 2 days summit has been organized by ‘*I Choose Life*’ and is addressing SDG goals like education, environment and healthcare.

I choose Life CEO, Mr. Mike Mutungi, noted that building solutions based on data analytics can go a long way in predicting events like weather patterns, famine and therefore help in emergency response cases. Mr. Mutungi stressed the importance of investing in young people as it can bring a lot of transformation. The event was attended by delegates from Vodacom, Erikson, Uber, Microsoft, among other technology oriented companies. All were in agreement that technology can be used to accelerate the attainment of SDG goals.