



## **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

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**REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE  
CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE  
LAUNCH OF THE NAIROBI INNOVATION WEEK ROAD MAP  
HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 AT THE VICE  
CHANCELLOR'S PARLOUR AT 2.30 P.M.**

**The Deputy Vice-Chancellors**

**The Innovation Week Planning Committee**

**Other invited guests**

**Reps of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Kenya's capacity to compete in the global market greatly depends on the ability of her people to innovate and apply the relevant technology for growth and development. Kenya is uniquely positioned and well endowed with a promising innovation ecosystem that if well guided and managed can have a transformative effect in organizations, country and even the continent.**

**In August, 2015, the University of Nairobi organized a very successful Inaugural Nairobi Innovation Week.**

**The event attracted over 700 delegates, 13 sponsors, over 20 VIPs, 50 exhibitors and 50 research papers. The event received attention and recognition globally.**

**The University intends to use the annual Innovation Week as one way of putting it at the cutting edge in the process of generation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge, especially where such knowledge emanates from research.**

**This is in line with the University's positioning as the leader in the field of Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) as provided in the Government's Sector Performance Standards, Kenya's Vision 2030 and the University's Strategic Plan (2013-2018).**

**The Innovation Week is also one of the programmes through which I am operationalizing my transformation agenda which was rolled out during my inauguration as Vice Chancellor on February 14, 2015.**

**The University now plans to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Innovation Week between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2016. By strengthening the linkages between Private Sector, Development Partners, Government and Academia the Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 will focus on *“Partnerships for Innovations that Truly Impact People and Societies”*.**

**Within this broad theme, there will be discussions and engagements on several topics, including but not limited to *Innovations for County Governments and National Government; Innovation and Vision 2030;***

***Innovations to facilitate the Sustainable Development Goals; Institutional Framework to facilitate Innovations; Role of Private Sector and Development Partners in developing National Innovation Ecosystem; Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Innovations; The Skills, Frameworks and Tools for Human Centric Innovations and Innovations for Children and Youth.***

**The Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 will have a regional outlook and will attract over 1500 delegates. The format will include pre-events, workshops, boot camps, keynote presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions, pitching platforms, Graduation of Startups as well as dissemination of research publications.**

**There will be international and local key guests who will facilitate workshops and give keynote presentations besides participating in panel discussions.**

**More details about Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 will be availed on the website are available at <http://innovationweek.co.ke/>.**

**The objectives of the 2016 Innovation Week are:**

- **To champion relevant policy discussions on innovation within institutions and the country;**
- **To showcase/exhibit and recognize innovations by researchers, incubatees and organizations;**

- **To promote practical skills necessary to create innovations that truly impact on people and societies, and**
- **To provide a support mechanism for innovations that has been developed to gain traction and scale.**

**The target audience for the Nairobi Innovation Week is fairly broad. Below is a highlight of the expected attendees:**

- a) Policy makers particularly from the Government of Kenya who focus on innovation, education, research, intellectual property and technology among others;**
- b) Organizations with innovative products who wish to showcase;**

- c) Academia ranging from University leadership to faculty from various Universities and disciplines;**
- d) Entrepreneurs who have developed ideas into products and businesses;**
- e) Organizations who appreciate the value of innovation in their organizations and society;**
- f) Innovators who are developing solutions to specific problems;**
- g) Students who desire to acquire innovation skills as well as learn about the innovations exhibited;**
- h) Investors who look for innovations and startups they can invest in;**

- i) Members of the public who want to listen to presentations, participate in the discussions or view products on exhibition; and**
- j) Media who wish to cover the event.**

**There are various sponsorship options that we encourage our partners to take up so that we can team up together to make the Nairobi Innovation Week 2016 have a true image of our Kenyan spirit.**

**We have a roadmap and a set of activities that will build up to the Nairobi Innovation Week. Below is a highlight of the buildup.**

**Training Innovators:**

- **We shall mount training programs to develop innovators and innovations. Being done with partners like Intel and UNICEF. (timeline, February).**

**Innovation Week 2016 Booklet:**

- **This will provide a clear description Innovation Week 2015 and 2016. It will be circulated to partners when seeking sponsorship. (by April)**

**Roadmap Launch:**

- **This is today's official launch of the Nairobi Innovation Week roadmap.**

**Innovation Lecture Series as follows:**

- **The Inaugural lectures building up to Innovation Week – Role of Universities in developing National Innovations Ecosystem (Konza Technopolis) (February).**

- **The Innovation Potential of the link between Kenya and Israel (Israeli Ambassador) (by May)**
- **Building strong Research and Innovation Commercialization programs in our institutions (IBM Research) (by July).**

**Call for papers:**

- **This entailed sending out a call for papers. Country wide and Global. (March).**

**Call for Exhibitors:**

- **This entailed sending out a call for papers. Country wide and Global. (March).**

**Startups Acceleration:**

- **This will involve incubating cohorts of startups who will graduate and exhibit during Innovation Week (3 Cohorts between Jan and August, 2016).**

**Young Innovators Summit:**

- **This was meant to be a one day forum to expose students to innovation. (Friday, 8th April).**

**Media Engagement Plan:**

- **We intend to have a comprehensive Media Engagement Plan (April, June, and July).**

**Stakeholder Engagement:**

- **This will entail meeting Local support/exhibitors to bring them up to speed (by May)**

**Publication:**

- **A book of Abstracts and Proceedings shall be prepared and printed ( by July)**

**Innovation Week:**

- **5 Day event in August, 2016.**

**I urge all our partners and stakeholders to support us in this noble project. I also thank the Innovation Week Planning Committee members for their commitment to the project.**

**With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially launch the Nairobi Innovation Week Roadmap for 2016.**

**PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**AND**

**PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY**