Conference reflects on peace on anniversary of human rights declaration

By Taigu Muchiri

The 2018 International Day of Peace was commemorated during a conference held from October 8–9 at the auditorium. The event was organized by the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with USIU-Africa, and attracted a total of 320 delegates from the private sector, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and development partners.

This year’s theme centered around multi-sectoral reflections on the right to peace; 70 years of the universal declaration on human rights.

The conference was organized to share experiences on peace as a right in Kenya; share experiences and knowledge on challenges faced in the scope of the right to peace; explore pertinent issues affecting the right to peace in Kenya and propose possible collaborative solutions to the issues and challenges shared.

Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor - Student Affairs Prof. Wangari Mwai, presided over the opening of the two-day conference. She urged the delegates and the entire USIU-Africa fraternity to set aside this day to strengthen the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples of the General Assembly.

She lauded Kenya in particular for taking the leading in promoting peace and cohesion in the region recognizing the fact that the Bill of Rights provides for recognition and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and promote social justice. This is important to enhance socio-economic development within Kenya and our neighboring countries.

Kenya is central to peace as it is surrounded by countries that have been engaged in war and others that are currently still at war. It was noted the key role played by Kenya in fostering peace within neighboring countries such as Sudan. The stability and peace in Kenya can only be maintained by equally stable and peaceful countries. Richard Kakunga from the Young Diplomats of
School announces innovative short-course programs to tackle modern industry challenges

By Ernest Anguru

Three short courses will be offered by the School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension to alleviate challenges facing organizations and their senior managers in a rapidly-evolving competitive workplace.

The Cyber Security Leadership and Innovation Program has been developed to assist senior managers in technology, finance, legal, business development/strategy and risk management roles to understand the need for an effective cyber security risk management framework, and learn how to develop and implement a cyber security strategy. The three-day course will run from November 14-16, 2018.

The Rapid Growth Ignition course provides an understanding of how to innovate in the context of emerging technologies, using the systematic and proven science of innovation. The course takes a deep dive into platform business models and the science of their growth in emerging markets such as Sub-Saharan Africa, and how to tackle the new wave of disruption they have brought to all sectors of our economy. The three-day course will run from November 7-9, 2018.

LaunchPad is an immersive and revolutionary one-year evidence-based program that incubate great ideas and provides an indispensable guide and answers to business challenges. The course is targeted at business development executives.

All classes will be at Incubation and Innovation Center (Third floor, Freida Brown Student Center). Further information - including application procedures and course costs - are available on our website at www.usiu.ac.ke/sgsre.

Summit to gather youth from across Africa to discuss issues affecting continent

By Lubna Elmahdy

The Hoja Youth Summit will be hosting its first annual summit from October 24-27, 2018 at the auditorium to discuss various topics affecting the youth in Africa under the theme “Youth: the engineers of the Africa we want”.

The summit, which is expected to attract 300 delegates from all over the continent, was founded 2017 by a group of USIU-Africa students, as a platform for youth in Africa, to come together to share their experiences and perspectives about various issues affecting the continent, and develop practical solutions that can be implemented in their respective home countries.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza is expected to deliver a principal address, to be followed by Dr. Richard Munang United Nations Environmental Programme Africa Regional Coordinator for Climate Change, who will deliver a keynote address and subsequently lead the discussion on “Climate Change and Global Warming”.

Other speakers expected include Kisumu County Governor Prof. Anyang Nyon’go; Retired Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya Dr. Willy Mutunga; Ms. Claudine Tsongo (Country Director Women Jurists Dynamic of the Democratic Republic of Congo), among others.

Earlier this year Hoja Youth Summit held two caucuses: the first around the topic, The Kigali Declaration and Free Trade Area, the Future of Africa; and the second, Youth Participation in Leadership, Accountability and Governance: Towards a Youth-Led Africa, both of which drew in professionals, academia, members of parliament and entrepreneurs. The two caucuses also provided university students from across the country opportunities to share ways they are making an impact in their own societies.
Norwegian students make annual visit to USIU-Africa

By Dan Muchai

USIU-Africa had the pleasure of hosting 31 students and 3 faculty members from Gimlekollen NLA College – a member institution of NLA University College – on October 11, 2018, where they were received by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension Prof. Amos Njuguna. Thereafter, Ms. Gjertrud Fosdal from the Norwegian Embassy in Kenya gave a talk on “Kenya-Norway Relations”. Later on the students interacted with USIU-Africa students during class sessions facilitated by Associate Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department of Psychology Dr. Josephine Arasa, who spoke on “Adolescent sexuality in a cross-cultural context”.

NLA University College is a private Norwegian Christian college of about 2000 students accredited by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, distributed across three institutions: Bergen NLA College, Gimlekollen NLA College in Kristiansand, and Staffeldtsgate NLA College in the Norwegian capital of Oslo.

Founded in 1981, Gimlekollen NLA College offers degree and one-year programs in Journalism; Intercultural Communication; Communication and Life Orientation; and Information and Communication work. Its Master of Global Journalism allows students an option to study for entire semester at a foreign university.

The same group will return for a second visit on Tuesday, October 30, 2018.

Welcome to USIU-Africa

TAIGU MUCHIRI
Principal Marketing & Communications Officer - External Communications
DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Holds an M.A. in Corporate Communications from Daystar University.

JENNIFER NYAKINYA
Project Manager - Network for Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA)
School of Graduate Studies Research & Extension
Currently pursuing an M.A. in Gender and Development Studies at Kenyatta University.
IBA, Class of 2010

BRIAN NYAMWE
Promoted from an ICT Officer to a Teaching Laboratory Technologist
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Computer Science
Currently pursuing an M.Sc. in Information System Technology.

YVONNE KIGOROA
Clinical Officer
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Holds a B.Sc. Public Health from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology

HILLARY KAVAGI
Teaching Laboratory Technologist
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
B.Sc. Computer Science from Maseno University.

FREDRICK MUIRU
Promoted from a Restaurant Supervisor to Food and Beverage Controller
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALITY
Higher Diploma in Food and Beverage Management, Diploma in Hotel and Catering and a Certificate in Customer Service
Conference reflects on peace on anniversary of human rights declaration

(Continued on page 1)

Kenya noted that Kenya has a strong foreign policy that promotes peace. He also appreciated the process of negotiation and arbitration as important processes in peace building. However, he pointed out that there is no resolution in the United Nations for the youth to talk about peace and urged the UN to take on this challenge.

UNESCO representative Dr. Evangaline Njoka stated that all UN member states must promote peace and that peace should be considered a human right. He also noted that there cannot be development as long as we continue to allow war to thrive in our neighboring countries. Dr. Abdula from UNESCO reminded the gathering of the three key pillars introduced by the late United Nations Secretary - General Dr. Koffi Annan, of freedom from fear, freedom from war and freedom to live in dignity. He noted that these are human rights that must be respected by everyone. He highlighted that conflicts have been on the rise pointing out specific cases in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo among others, that been at war for a very long time. He pointed out the participants and the UN member states to find solutions that will eliminate war in the near future.

The conference discussed several ways that can be used to promote peace, with the most notable tool being education. When people understand and see the benefits of peace, then they are in a better position to promote peace and cohesion. Ms. Jane Nyagah from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development noted that education is the best means to promote human rights.

**Homegrown solutions to build peace**

The National Police Service has been instrumental in promoting peace initiatives in Kenya. Dr. Mark Leleruk noted that many cases of conflict are reported during election period. He informed the gathering that they are incorporating the youth to help solve these problems. Other measures that have been put in place include entering into partnerships for peace, establishing response mechanisms using SMS platforms, forming partnerships in informal settlement areas, working with universities as peace instruments, using alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and commissioning the peace survey index.

**Challenges**

Peace-building continues to face numerous challenges. Most peace building initiatives do not involve all aggrieved parties. There is the assumption that peace can only be achieved only if certain leaders are involved in the process which continues to hamper peace initiatives.

Another key challenge is duplication of initiatives by state agencies. It was noted that most conflicts in Kenya arise from border disputes, human-wildlife conflicts, political domination, and violent extremisms among others. These issues have to be approached differently and find a lasting solution.

Another key challenge faced in the pursuit of peace is accountability. A large number of conflicting parties are not ready to take responsibility for starting the conflict in the first place and they are not willing to come to the table to resolve conflicts.

This means that the situation is not resolved and is postponed with the likelihood of it occurring again in the future. For example, Northern Kenyan communities have been engaged in border disputes for a very long time and no solution has been established to end this recurrent problem.

**Charting the way forward**

The conference proposed several solutions to deal with this global problem. It was noted that peace should be treated as a process and not an event. This will ensure that all parties are interested in ending the conflict. It is important to continue engaging all parties involved to find lasting solutions.

Other solutions include using the youth and women as agents of peace, involving marginalized communities, introducing human rights in the school curriculum and establish the role of non-state actors in the peace process.
Basketball
In the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League, the ladies team lost 34 – 38 against Strathmore University on Saturday, October 13 on campus, but on Sunday, October 14 the team reversed their fortunes when they defeated Western Delight 42 – 38.

Both the men’s and women’s teams will participate in a KBF tournament in Kisumu this coming weekend October 20 and 21.

Rugby
The men’s team defeated Daystar University 15 – 13 against in a game of the Kenya Rugby Football Union Championship League.

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Media Mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

October 19: USIU-Africa was mentioned by KNN News in an article titled “USIU-Africa University partners with AfDB to launch Innovation and ICT Center of Excellence: Kenya.”

October 18: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA teams return to local basketball action.”

October 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Basketball play-offs back at Nyayo.”

October 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled “KPA eyeing strong league finish despite injury setbacks.”

October 18: USIU-Africa mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Big shots set to clash in Kisumu.”

October 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article title “USIU-Africa partners with AfDB to launch Innovation and ICT Center of Excellence.”

October 17: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU Africa to provide agribusiness training to over 300 African youth.”

October 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Warriors, USIU set for Biro Lich tournament title assault.”

October 17: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Equity Bank take pole position ahead of KBF league play-offs.”

October 15: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Storms demolish KU Oryx: Wanyama anchors side to victory with sterling 22 points.”

October 15: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Strathmore succumb to Thunder in league duel.”

October 15: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Thunder strike to dim Blades’ play-off hopes.”

October 14: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Thunder strike Strathmore to secure third place.”

Sports Updates

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Handball and Volleyball
The men’s handball team emerged second runners-up during the invitational Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) tournament on October 13 and 14, while the ladies’ volleyball team narrowly lost 2 – 3 against JKUAT in the semifinal on the tournament’s final day on Sunday, October 14.

Upcoming Games
The men’s soccer team will play against Technical University of Kenya on Saturday, October 21 at NYS NHU in the Universities and Colleges Football League.

USIU-Africa’s swimming team – the dolphins - will participate in the Kenya Swimming Federation National Gala from Saturday October 20 to Sunday, October 21 in Mombasa.

The hockey men’s and ladies’ teams will participate in the invitational Kenya Hockey Union Sanaa tournament in Mombasa on October 20 and 21, while the ladies’ volleyball team will participate in the invitational Kenya Volleyball Federation Nakuru County tournament on the same dates.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
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<td>Hoja Youth Summit</td>
<td>October 24-27, 2018</td>
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<td>Library Open Access Week</td>
<td>October 27 - November 2, 2018</td>
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<td>Mr &amp; Miss USIU-Africa Pre-Judging Event</td>
<td>November 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean Food &amp; Cultural Festival</td>
<td>November 6-7, 2018</td>
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<td>Innovative Knowledge Management Practices for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition in Kenya Symposium</td>
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<td>13th Annual GBSN Conference</td>
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<td>ASEONTI Summit</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees &amp; University Council Annual Retreat</td>
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<td>For Loop Conference</td>
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<td>Cyber Security Leadership and Innovation Program</td>
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<td>Mr &amp; Miss USIU-Africa Beauty Pageant Finals</td>
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University to remain closed. Offices re-open and classes resume on Monday, October 22, 2018.