



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Kaimenyi Challenges universities to address the gender equation

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Kenyan universities have been urged to address the issue of gender balance in enrollment and staffing, said the Secretary for education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi at the University of Nairobi. He made the remarks while opening the four-day Conference which has been organized by ACU in conjunction with the University of Nairobi as part of the Associations' centenary celebrations 2013 and a follow up from last year's gender conference in the University of Kelaniya, Srilanka.

Prof Kaimenyi said the conference theme 'Enhancing Gender Equity in the Leadership and Management of Higher Education' was timely and relevant to Kenya as the country seeks to address issues of gender balance. He called on the delegates to share information and experiences and deliver appropriate strategies in dealing with the issue. He commended the Association for choosing Kenya as the ideal venue for their 100 years celebrations.

Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN, said the Conference was relevant as local higher education institutions in Kenya and the region grapple with transformational changes, among them mainstreaming gender and diversity in access to education. He likened ACU's mission as a clarion call to higher education institutions to ensure that programmes offered are relevant and in line with international standards.

Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University and ACU council member, gave the key note address challenging institutions of higher learning to embrace gender equity by empowering women and giving them an opportunity to grow academically and in their careers. Prof. Mugenda took the participants through the challenges faced in enhancing gender equity in the leadership and management of higher education.

ACU's, Dorothy Garland said that through the ACU's centenary theme *future forward: design, develop, deliver* the Association will address the important debates on the future of international higher education. She said that the initiative is member-led and seeks to engage stakeholders in the key challenges facing higher education today.