

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

In 2020, the university reeled from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. All educational programmes have been affected due to the closure of educational institutions at all levels. However, because we had invested in developing our technological and human resource capacity, we merely intensified the use of technology in order to continue with the programs and activities.

Education is a tool for empowerment and for promoting equality and at no time should it contribute to the marginalisation of some members of the community. So, the university continued to hold online lectures and examinations, and, further, held two virtual graduation ceremonies on 25 September 2020, and December 11 2020 culminating in celebrations of the University @ 50.. The University also conducted a virtual inauguration of the new Vice-Chancellor in addition to holding many corporate events and webinars online. These are commendable milestones.

The Corporate affairs team is proud of the exemplary leadership provided by the University of Nairobi in adopting the use of technology to overcome the bottlenecks brought about by the closure of on-campus learning. Keep it up UoN

A brief Introduction of the Unit

The Directorate of Corporate Affairs is a unit within the Vice-Chancellor's office. This office was established in 2016. The main arms of the office are public relations, international student affairs, and corporate relations.

Functions of the Directorate of Corporate Affairs

- Provide leadership in strategic communications
- Provide leadership and support to the University's corporate functions
- Provide leadership in editorial functions of the University
- Promote the image (reputation) of the University
- Promote and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with the Government (National and County governments) and corporate Organizations

- Promote change and innovation through timely response to the needs of university community
- Facilitate protocol at the Chancellor's and the Vice –Chancellor's office
- Advise on public policy and administrative matters.
- Manage the relationship between the University and media houses
- Monitor and analyze media and report
- Monitor the implementation of the communication strategy, branding policy, social media policy and marketing policy

Public Relations Office

The Public Relations Office is responsible for handling all aspects of planned publicity campaigns and PR activities.

Other tasks include:

- Planning publicity strategies and campaigns
- Writing and producing presentations, speeches and press releases
- Dealing with enquiries from the public, the press, and related organizations
- Organizing promotional events such as open days, exhibitions, tours and visits
- Coordinating media interviews, press conferences and presentations
- Providing clients with information about new promotional opportunities and current PR campaigns progress
- Analyzing media coverage
- Monitoring the implemented communication strategy
- Commissioning or undertaking relevant market research
- Liaising with clients, managerial and journalistic staff about budgets, timescales and objectives
- Providing in-house media support
- Designing, writing and/or producing presentations, speeches, press releases, articles, leaflets, 'in-house' journals, reports, publicity brochures, and posters information for websites and promotional videos and documentaries
- Implementing the university's social media strategy
- Monitoring and managing customer feedback through E-mail, website and social media platforms

Major achievements in the year 2020

The Corporate Office was a key partner in the development of panels to discuss issues in leadership, under the Nation Leadership Forum. In partnership with Nation Media Group, we positioned the University as a thought leader in national and regional policy through thematic Nation Leadership Forums. The forums sought to provoke discourse, encourage dialogue, shape opinions and policy directions, and create practical solutions on key issues critical to the development and growth of Kenya. In 2020, 19 forums were held as follows:

Date	Topic
December 2,2020	Violence against Children
May 14, 2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Technology
May 21, 2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Education
May 28,2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Health Care
June 4, 2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Creative Economy
June 11,2020	Kenya's Budget and Post Covid-19 Recovery
June 22, 2020	Life after retirement
June 18, 2020	Financing Africa through Sustainable Taxation
June 25,2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Digital Economy and SME's
June 9,2020	Impact of Covid-19 on Sports
July 23, 2020	Real estate Market outlook
August 6,2020	Breast Feeding for a Healthier Planet
July 30,2020	Advancing Quality and Sustainable Higher Education
August 20,2020	Sustainable Energy, Powering Kenya
September 10,2020	Women's' Property rights in Kenya
September 24,2020	Role of Sports in the Socio-Economic Development of Kenya
October 15,2020	Vaccines in a Pandemic Era
November 12,2020	Public Sector Wage Bill
November 19,2020	Oil and Gas Prospects for East Africa

Corporate and Community Outreach activities: Webinars

As part of outreach, the Corporate affairs office was involved in organizing webinars and seminars around the UoN at 50 celebrations. The following webinars were successfully live streamed:

- A Crisis of Climate or Choice? Risks and response to improving water security for the poor. Hosted by The Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, the lecture focused on the climate crisis from the perspective of social choices in rural Africa and Asia. The discussion was situated in terms of the risks and responses people face in their lives and livelihoods at home, work and school. Drawing upon inter-disciplinary research with practitioners in multiple countries, the forum reviewed multi-decadal data, providing insights into the structural inequalities which constrain the daily chores of rural people. It was evident that a legacy of well-meaning but poorly executed policy and investments demand new thinking in allocating water security risks and responsibilities between communities, markets and states. The forum further discussed emerging responses including the launch of performance-based funding for rural water services for over one million people in the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Uganda.
- The University of Nairobi Library in collaboration with eKitabu organized online training on the following area: Remote Access to Library E-Resources, and Access to eKitabu Core Textbooks. Objective of the training was Build Skills in Accessing Electronic Resources. Target Audience: All UoN Students, Researchers and Staff. Date: Thursday 3rd December 2020 (10AM – 11.30AM). Step by step presentation on the above topic is available on the Library website: Library Guides and Presentations
- IAGAS as part of university @50 Day celebrations, hosted a webinar titled From A Cultural Division to a Research and Teaching Institute. On December 4, 2020.
- As part of UoN@50 celebrations, the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology hosted this webinar whose objective was to bring on board multi-stakeholders to demystify the noble field of Nuclear Science and Technology.
- Implementation of the new competence-based curriculum (CBC): Lessons learned from Finland. Date: December 2, 2020 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am
- Kiswahili Ulimwenguni Webina - "Kiswahili in the Globe". Date: December 2, 2020. Time: 2.00 pm. Video Link
- The Global Political Economy and Africa's Development over the Last 60 Years: Sub-Saharan Africa remains so deprived today in which ethnic conflicts, civil wars or

factional leadership struggles have completely destroyed the economic and political institutions. Some countries have however maintained progressive economic development albeit sluggishly. The promise of independence has not been realized. What went wrong? What is the way forward in Africa's Development? Date: November 30, 2020. Time: 2:00 PM

- Capacity Development in Agriculture for attainment of Food security, SDGs and Vision 2030 for Kenya: Opportunities for Early Career Scientists and Industry: The linkage between the University and the alumni is critical in forging strong partnership and collaboration for quality capacity development. There has been a weak linkage between the learning institution and their alumni, which has impacted on efforts to strengthen partnership and development of initiatives that address the current needs. Most alumni are working out there in the industry and there are a lot of lessons, new developments in the job market that needs to inform the present training process of future workforce and scientists. Therefore, as the UoN celebrates 50 years, the Faculty of Agriculture looks forward to bringing the alumni and the present students together and share on the need to strengthen the alumni networks. This will provide opportunities for alumni participation in training, curriculum review and also strategic development initiative for the faculty. Date: Thursday 3rd December. Time: 3.00pm
- “UoN @50: Conversations on Kenyan Literature and our Being.” The Department of Literature at the University of Nairobi has been a key member of the larger family of literary scholarship locally, regionally and internationally. Date: 25th November 2020. Time: 2 –5 PM (EAT)
- Anthropology Today: (Re) positioning the discipline of Anthropology in the Global Discourse. Anthropology, because of its holistic perspective, is at the core of global discourses such as climate change, health/disease, science and technology, governance and development, among others. Unprecedented changes and great innovations (including the ever-evolving digital world and spaces) have created significant impacts on human experience and behavior globally. The need to understand and deal with these complexities makes anthropology extremely relevant. Over the years, anthropology has grown to become the “go to” discipline globally when dealing with all facets of human nature and experience. Date: November 23, 2020. Time: 2:00 PM

- The two third gender rule "mirage unlocking the stalemate". Friday, November 13, 2020 from 3.00 pm to 5 pm.
- My Reflections on Prof. Wangari Maathai. Webinar celebrates the life of Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai. Prof. Stephen Kiama, the Vice-Chancellor made the keynote presentation titled "My Reflections on Prof. Wangari Maathai: Wangari Maathai Institute." Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Time: 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
- UoN@50: Scholarship Trajectories a Half Century On. The webinar reflects on the history of scholarship in the University over in a number of disciplines. We argue that the historical trajectory of UoN's scholarship, in its different facets, phases and agency, went beyond the simple binary of Marxists and non-Marxist conceptions alluded to above. We have put together a multidisciplinary team of academics, as presenters and discussants, to reflect on the contradictions that have constituted the scholarship in UoN in the last half century as we look forward to the history of the future in the next half century. Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 from 2.00 PM
- A History of Development Research with Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot. The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) seminar on the History of Development Research celebrates the scholarship of Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot. IDS Nairobi is celebrating Prof. Ogot as a co-founding Director of the Institute in October 1965. Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm EAT
- Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe - Valedictory Ceremony: Prof. Njuguna Ng'ethe retired from the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi. We remember him as our great teacher, researcher, and mentor even in retirement. For this great service and contribution and as part of our tradition at IDS Nairobi, we invite you to join colleagues, students, and friends from all over the world to remember the good days as he reflects on his journey in the academy. Date: Friday, October 30, 2020, from 3:00 pm EAT to 5:00 pm.
- Sixty Years of Post Independence Governance in Africa: Trends and Lessons Learnt. The African state continues to attract academic interest of significant diversity. To some, the political happenings are not only unique but intriguing, others, the economic structure remains fragile, while to others, and the cultural fluidity remains a critical lens in understanding Africa.
- The post-independence period was to usher high expectations among African people whose alienation in the colonial political economy was to be put to rest. Political liberalization was to advance the material conditions of the people.

- The African state has evolved through colonial conquest and monopolization. This was characterized by discrimination, alienation and humiliation of the indigenous. Independence then was expected to bring to an end the abject poverty, backwardness and deprivation.
- The jury is out and academic discourse is intense on the performance of the African state. Therefore, the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi invites you to a lecture by Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Florida, USA. In addition, this lecture brings new insights to the debate with renowned academicians, namely: Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor of Kisumu County and Prof. Peter Wanyande, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Nairobi. Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020. Time: 2:00pm-5:00pm
- The Role of the Academy in the Development Processes. Prof. Sharon Fonn, Prof. Tade Aina and Prof. Fumni Olonisakin discussion on 'The Role of the Academy in the Development Processes: Dimensions and Perspectives at a critical juncture for Development.' Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM
- Establishing a Decentralized & Connected Society for Localizing SDGs in the Face of COVID-19: Webinar by the Distinguished Chair at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020
- Seminars on development debates: Seminars by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi - October 8, 2020
- A History of Development Research with Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot: A seminar on the History of Development Research to celebrate the scholarship of Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot will be held online on Thursday, October 29, 2020, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm EAT. IDS Nairobi is celebrating Prof. Ogot as a co-founding Director of IDS. He founded IDS on October 8, 1965

Achievements and activities of the International Office in 2020

- Consultative meeting between Graduate School and International Post graduate students held in February 2020.
- Prolongation of MOU between the University of Nairobi and the University of Hradec Kralove.

- Consultative meeting with International Students held in May 2020.
- Two of students from the University of Nairobi (Cynthia Achieng Apiyo and Hassan Lewa Juma) are currently on an Exchange Programme at the University of Hradec Kralove.
- Two students from the University of Nairobi are currently on an exchange programme at the University of Oldenburg.

Staff portfolio

In 2020, the office revamped its staff portfolio as part of mainstreaming communication specialist within the University. The following staff list delineates the profile of staff:

Serial	Name	Designation
1	John Orindi	Director, Corporate Affairs
2	Mariam Maina	Communications Officer
3	Teresia Mbugua	Web Communications Officer
4	Frankline Sewe	Web Communications Officer
5	Dennis Omido	Web Communications Officer
6	Eunah Njoroge	Web Communications Officer
7	Esther Nekesa	Web support Officer
8	Martin Waringa	Web support Officer
9	Eric Chesoni	Administrator, International Students Office
10	Pamella Asule	Editor
11	Immaculate Kaikiny	Secretary
12	Julius Thurania	Office Assistant
13	Kevin Wamola	Coopted Camera and publications designer

Projections

In the next two years, the Directorate will streamline communication within the University by deploying communication specialists. Inimical to such mainstreaming is to calcite a culture of reporting all research activities in the Colleges and profiling them in Annual Research Weeks.