

UoN Hosts the 2nd CARTA Conference

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The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) 2nd Vice-Chancellors' meeting on promoting research in Africa kicked off at the University of Nairobi on July 10, 2017.

The two-day meeting which will end on July 11, 2017, has brought together Vice-Chancellors from CARTA's African partner universities, heads of CARTA's partner research institutions as well as representatives from CARTA's Northern partner institutions. In addition, selected funders, representatives from Ministry of Higher Education and the Commission for University Education (CUE) are also present.

The meeting adopted an interactive approach coupled with targeted presentations from CARTA Co-directors and invited experts in higher education and research capacity building. The meeting is advocating for the creation of post-doctoral positions at African universities and seeking to raise the profile of research in higher education to secure a research track for university staff. There were also deliberations on how to institutionalize improvements in doctoral training at African universities and more specifically on the role of universities, African governments, and donors, in improving the funding landscape for research and doctoral training in Africa.

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi, lauded the decision by CARTA to allow the university to host the high powered meeting and reiterated his commitment to continue to work with CARTA.

"Without research the great African dream of prosperity by all for all will never be realized," he said. "To make Africa's aspirations attainable, it is incumbent upon us to solidly deliberate and render tangible resolutions to engender quality research for both knowledge advancement and development in our respective economies."

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UON has 23 fellows in CARTA and hosts fellows from other universities. In addition, faculty from UON have facilitated at CARTA joint advanced seminars, faculty and administrators staff training.

Since 2008, CARTA has been pursuing the goal of re-launching African universities as central actors in the production of rigorous high-quality research for Africa's development. The African-led nature of CARTA and its focus on sustainable, measurable changes in research capacity and output are in tandem with the current emphasis on home grown and intellectually sound solutions to the problem of sustainable capacity for research for health and development in Africa.

The meeting is co-hosted by the University of Nairobi and African Population and Health Research Center.

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