

UoN's Nairobi Innovation Week 2017 Breakfast Meeting

UoN's Nairobi Innovation Week organizing committee held a breakfast meeting at Intercontinental hotel in Nairobi.

Vice Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Peter Mbithi announced that the 2017 Innovation Week will be held in the first week of March. "We feel it is a more appropriate time for partners and look forward to maintaining the date of subsequent events in years to come to be in the first week of March," he said.

Prof. Mbithi also revealed that the University is seeking support from more partners for the Innovation Week. He said, "We are inviting you to be our partners not only in executing, but also in planning the Nairobi Innovation Week 2017, as the University of Nairobi, we can provide the environment and coordinate the thought leadership, but we need as many of you as possible to support with resources, ideas and side-events."

Speaking at the event, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Industry and Enterprise Development, Mr. Julius Korir, noted that the Nairobi Innovation Week is a good platform that brings together innovators, private sector and the academia. He urged innovators to be focused and versatile. He pledged to support the innovators and business start-ups find markets, create linkages with established companies, provide networking opportunities and more importantly to provide funding.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, UNICEF and Barclays Bank have been key partners in the 2015 and 2016 Innovation Weeks. Others include Safaricom, Konza Technopolis, IBM, Intel, UoN Alumni Office, Israeli Embassy, National Bank of Kenya, Uber, among others.

Dr. Tony Omwansa, Chairman, Nairobi Innovation Week Organizing Committee, urged more partners to join the innovation ecosystem that has gained momentum since its inaugural launch in 2015 and was given a boost when the President attended in 2016. The 2017 event, themed 'Innovating to Solve Pressing Local and Global Challenges, targets inventors using technology to address concerns such as food scarcity and climate change.