

Moi University campuses inspected

Two campuses of Moi University were inspected by the Commission to determine their potential for upgrading to constituent college status. One of the campuses, Alupe in Busia district was inspected on Monday 6th April, while the Central Kenya campus, was inspected on 8th April. The Commission is in the process of preparing a comprehensive report for submission to Government for their consideration and necessary action.

CHE funded projects evaluated

A team of monitoring and evaluation experts was commissioned by the Commission to assess the 22 CHE funded research projects which are distributed throughout the country. The exercise was carried out between 14th April and 1st May 2009.

This mid-term evaluation was to culminate in a status report of the various projects, based on the CHE monitoring and evaluation checklist. The theme for the 2008/2009 research projects is *Water as a Venue for Security*.

The Commission has competitively disbursed over 23 research grants to researchers in Kenyan universities.

Somali Vice-Chancellors hold consultations with CHE

A 13-man delegation comprising Presidents (Vice-Chancellors) of various universities in Somalia and officials from the country's Ministry of Education held consultations with the Commission Secretariat on 15th April 2009 as part of their mission to network for higher education and capacity development for their country.

Deputy Commission Secretary, in charge of Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Prof. Florence Lenga outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Commission, the governance structure, equation and recognition of qualifications, how it operationalises its mandate, and challenges and opportunities.

Prof. Lenga explained that the Kenyan Commission, as one of the oldest higher education regulatory agencies in the region had offered direction and guidance to several countries intending to establish similar bodies. She cited Tanzania, Namibia, Sudan and Uganda as cases in point.

Prof. Suleiman Gulan commended the Commission for the progress they had made since the inception in 1985.

Commission Secretary attends AAU workshop

The Commission Secretary, Prof. Everett Standa attended a three-day workshop on *Capacity Building for National Quality Assurance/ Accreditation Agencies* organized by the Association of African Universities (AAU) and held in Accra, Ghana from 15th to 17th April 2009. He was accompanied by an Assistant Commission Secretary (Accreditation and Quality Assurance), Mrs. Joyce Mutinda.

The workshop was the first of its kind to bring African quality assurance agencies on one platform to share their experiences, re-inforce regional harmonization and facilitate networking and intra-continental cooperation.

One of the thematic areas that the workshop addressed was *Country Experiences on Quality Assurance and Accreditation Mechanisms from Four Different Regions of the Continent*.

The Commission Secretary's address was on **Quality Assurance and Accreditation Mechanisms in the Kenyan Higher Education System**.

During the meeting, it was resolved that a network for External Quality Assurance Agencies be established known as AfriQan. A broad mandate was drawn and an AfriQan committee constituted.

Workshop roots for quality assurance framework in higher education

The international quality assurance framework being developed in East Africa is among the surest means of providing quality higher education and high-level benchmarks that guarantee the marketability and employability of our graduates, Prof. Everett Standa, Commission Secretary has said.

Prof. Standa was speaking during the official opening of a National Workshop for Kenyan Deans, Chairs and Quality Assurance (QA) Officers held at the KCB Leadership Centre from 23rd to 24th April 2009. Workshop participants comprised of the second cohort of Deans and Chairs from local public and private universities.

The participants were drawn from Africa Nazarene University, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kabarak University, Moi University, St. Paul's University, University of Nairobi and University of Eastern Africa, Baraton.

The Commission Secretary commended them for striving “to ensure the smooth implementation of programme self-assessment and institutionalizing quality assurance framework at their universities despite the numerous challenges.”

The workshop was a sequel to a similar one held last year. Its main objectives were to:

- a) monitor progress made on self-assessment reports;
- b) share challenges being faced during the preparation of self-assessment reports;
- c) report on the quality assurance structures that have been put in place; and
- d) report on the progress made on the development of an Internal Quality Policy and approval by the respective senates.

The Commission Secretary noted that the increased number of institutions, growth in student numbers and diverse modes of delivery such as E-learning and distance education “have exerted pressure on the quality of university education being provided”.

He stressed that for African universities and other higher institutions to compete effectively in the mutating global environment, they must operate with appropriate academic standards and offer students learning opportunities of acceptable standards.

Prof. Ton Vroeijestijn, a Quality Assurance Consultant based in Netherlands guided participating institutions through a critical analysis of their self-assessment reports and the challenges that they had undergone.

The Deputy Commission Secretary (Accreditation and Quality Assurance), Prof. Florence Lenga explained that the successful implementation of the Internal Quality Assurance project will enable participating universities to embrace and operate credible QA mechanisms.

Commission represented in Commonwealth Conference preparatory meeting

The Head of Administration, Mrs. Elizabeth Wafula, represented the Commission in a retreat to prepare for the forthcoming 17th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers held at the Kenya School of Law Centre in Karen from 3rd to 12th May 2009.

The objective of the retreat was to compile the Kenya country paper for the forthcoming conference, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 18th June this year.

The conference will provide a platform for Commonwealth Education ministers to review the progress made in meeting set goals and targets on education policies among member states.

University re-inspected

The Commission carried out the second re-inspection of the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton between 11th and 12th May this year in fulfillment of its mandate as outlined in the Universities Act CAP 210B of 1985 and the Universities Rules, 1989. The University was first re-inspected in February 1998.

Four private universities have been re-inspected one time each. They are:

1. Catholic University of Eastern Africa;
2. Daystar University;
3. Scott Theological College; and
4. United States International University.

Accreditation is continuous process and each of the above institutions will be re-inspected again.

As part of the re-inspection exercise, the University submitted a comprehensive self-evaluation report on the status of the following aspects:

- Performance in relation to its objectives;
- Governance;
- Library Resources;
- Planning;
- Research;
- Staff and Staff Development; Financial Resources;
- Student Enrolment and Services.

The re-inspection of chartered universities is aimed at ascertaining that the institutions maintain the stipulated standards set by the Commission at the time of the award of Charter.

Site inspection conducted

The Curriculum Accreditation Committee on Wednesday 17th June undertook a site inspection of Tangaza College, a constituent college of Catholic University of Eastern Africa, to verify the academic resources to support a proposed programme of the College.

The Committee was accompanied by a resource person to ascertain the adequacy and appropriateness of the academic resources to mount the proposed Master of Arts in Social Ministry Programme.

Documentation committee meeting held

A meeting of the Documentation and Information Technology committee to *inter alia* consider reports on the inspection of library services and facilities of three university institutions, was held on Friday 19th June.

The institutions under review were:

1. the proposed Alupe University College; and
2. the proposed Central Kenya University College.

A report was received following the re-inspection of similar facilities and services at University of Eastern Africa, Baraton.

Other matters deliberated upon were a status report on the ISO Certification processes, Quarterly performance reports for January – March 2009, work plans for April to June 2009 and the annual work plan for July 2009 – June 2010.

