

## **Launch: Nairobi Innovation Week Roadmap.**

The University of Nairobi has launched the Nairobi Innovation Week Road map at a colorful event held at the Vice Chancellor's parlor on April 15, 2016. The event was attended by University of Nairobi officials led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. Also present were; Mr. Christopher Fabian who serves as the Senior Advisor on innovation to the Executive Director at UNICEF, Ms. Cynthia McCafferey, University of Nairobi staff and members of the press.

The University of Nairobi will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Innovation Week between the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The main focus of this Innovation week will be ***"partnerships for innovations that truly impact people and societies."*** The University will implement this Innovation week with different partners from private sector, Development partners, government and academia with UNICEF as the lead partner. This approach is meant to strengthen linkages and foster discussions that address challenges faced by the society.

While making his key note remarks, the Vice Chancellor; Prof. Peter Mbithi noted: "The Nairobi Innovation week will have a regional outlook and will attract over 1500 delegates. The format will include pre-events, workshops, boot camps, keynote presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions, pitching platforms, graduation of startups as well as dissemination of research publications. There will be international and local key guests..."

Mr. Christopher Fabian spoke on the significant role an all-inclusive partnership plays in working together to find solutions to major challenges affecting people across the globe like broken education system, climate change and food security. He stressed; "Solutions come from places where challenges are greatest and highest." He concluded his speech by stressing the need for different sectors to form an ecosystem that works together to solve global problems.

Mr. Tony Omwansa of C4D lab, University of Nairobi; also echoed the VC's sentiments on the series of events that will take place in the course of the Nairobi Innovation week. According to Mr. Tony; each activity will create a platform that will majorly measure the impact of innovations in everyday life. The focus will be more so to measure the timeliness of innovations and find out which particular efforts are directly impacting people's lives.

The last speaker of the day was Ms. Cynthia McCafferey, Director of Innovation, UNICEF. She noted the efforts that key sectors like government, academia, civil society and technocrats have put in to collaborate and work toward finding solutions to common problems. These multi-sectoral collaborations have made innovation a centre piece- a creation that responds directly to real needs.

The VC declared the Nairobi Innovation Week Officially launched.

For more info on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Innovation Week, please visit <http://innovationweek.co.ke/>