

# Jarida la KNATCOM

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Kenya National  
Commission for UNESCO  
(KNATCOM)

*Promoting peace, sustainable development  
and intellectual collaboration*



## Let's celebrate Kenya's rich and diverse cultures

Inside this Issue:

Promoting  
Blue economy

Putting journalists'  
safety first

Stepping up youth  
opportunities

Aspiring with  
ASPnet

# From the Secretary General's Desk

On behalf of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) I take pride in welcoming you to the Commission's debut quarterly magazine.



As the intellectual agency and laboratory of ideas, UNESCO community produces a lot of information geared to the world's transformation and in order to fully contribute in the transformation of the world and sustainable development, the knowledge churned out in UNESCO and KNATCOM programmes ought to be shared with relevant stakeholders. This magazine is one of the most profound ways of sharing the knowledge as it captures effectively the activities accomplished by KNATCOM in pursuit of its mandate.

For last few years since KNATCOM was transformed into a state corporation, its achievements have grown phenomenally in leaps and bounds. We owe our robust and steady growth to sound partnerships in our programmes and activities with our various partners and stakeholders nationally, regionally and globally.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa has also rendered the Commission unwavering support throughout and this has helped KNATCOM to execute our mandate smoothly.

Special gratitude goes to Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO for ensuring that Kenya had a successful Kenya Week in Paris, last year. The Commission and the Permanent Delegation continue working closely to ensure the country effectively and efficiently participates in UNESCO's programmes and activities by marshalling the intellectual community and tapping into their expertise.

Without doubt KNATCOM has fulfilled the spirit of UNESCO as echoed in the preamble to its Constitution that "since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed".

The Commission will continue working towards a society guided by the principles of sustainable development that ensures social, political and economic advancements for the current generation while mindful of the environment and the need of the future generations.

Therefore, it is a moral imperative on our part to promote peace and harmony and strive for a just and a progressive society that accords everyone a sense of purpose and belonging that will uphold a nation and transform the world.

*Enjoy the read.*

**Dr Evangeline Njoka, MBS**  
*Secretary General / Chief Executive Officer*  
**Kenya National Commission for UNESCO**  
**(KNATCOM)**

## What's Inside

Creating awareness on IFCD opportunities	3
KNATCOM's role in blue economy	5
Let's use radio to change the world	7
Putting journalists safety first	9
Stepping up youth opportunities	11
Let's embrace our cultures	14
Why drugs reign in Lamu	17

You too can join a UNESCO Club	22
Walking the talk through sports	20
Staying connected with ASPnet	24
Travails of Girl education in Bungoma	26
Promoting use of mother language	28
Kenya week lights up Paris	30
Supporting Commission's Programmes to deliver	34

*Jarida is a Swahili word for Newsletter*

# Stakeholders sensitized on IFCD

By Emily Njeru

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO through the Culture Programme, recently conducted a one day capacity building workshop for stakeholders on International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).

The capacity building workshop was part of KNATCOM's strategy towards strengthening of national capacities for promotion of cultural and creative industries. The National Commissions for UNESCO plays a very important role in the implementation of the IFCD, by widely disseminating the call and by ensuring the pre-selection of up to four applications at the national level before submitting them to the UNESCO Secretariat for technical assessment, as well as keeping applicants informed during the whole application process.

The stakeholder workshop was attended by key state and non-state stakeholder organizations that are eligible to apply for IFCD. Among the participants of the workshop were; public institutions such as; Department of Culture, Department of Film Services, Kenya Copyright Board, Department of Music and University of Nairobi. Non-state participants included; culture and art NGO'S and civil society organizations, media, and representatives of minority communities.

The main objective of the workshop was to sensitize stakeholders and empower them submit quality proposals to IFCD. The IFCD supports projects that aim to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector,

primarily by facilitating the introduction of new cultural policies and cultural industries, or strengthening existing ones. The purpose of the IFCD is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing and least-developed countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Having ratified the convention in 2007 Kenyan organizations are eligible to apply.

The Programme of the workshop included paper presentations that focussed on priority areas of the 2005 convention, application procedures and requirements, challenges arising from some of the previously funded projects i.e. Issues of sustainability and impact, quality of



proposals submitted in 2016 and evaluation criteria. The Nairobi UNESCO Regional Office for East Africa also shared with participants videos on best practices from various successful projects across the world that have been supported by IFCD previously. Stakeholders were asked to borrow leaf from such projects to ensure that future Kenyan projects that are funded by IFCD have impact and can be sighted future best practices

On the applications for this year, stakeholders were urged to stick to the IFCD guidelines when writing their proposals to ensure that their projects are within the purview of 2005 Convention. Further, participants were encouraged to come up with projects that are sustainable and impact based. On implementation of projects stakeholders were encouraged to consider collaborative projects that engage relevant professionals to avoid duplication and for better impact. Workshop resource persons included Emily Njeru of KNATCOM, Vitalice Ochieng Nairobi UNESCO Regional Office and Prof Kimani Njogu Chair, Creative Economy Working Group.

Regarding the fate of proposals submitted in 2016, participants were informed none

of the Kenyan proposals met the funding criteria. Also it was observed that impact of previously funded projects had yet to be felt. Regarding the new guidelines on implementation of the 2005 convention that were adopted during the 10th UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions held from 12 – 15 December 2016 stakeholders were asked to familiarize themselves with the new guidelines that provide important principles for stakeholders such as; policy, trade, regulatory and business developments in the digital environment.

On timelines for IFCD application, UNESCO officially launched the eighth call for funding requests to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) on 3rd March 2017. applicants to submit applications and supporting documents using the IFCD online Application platform. For details about requirements and deadline visit (<http://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd/apply>).

*The writer is Deputy Director at KNATCOM in charge of Arts*



# KNATCOM's Role in Promotion of Blue Economy

By Jaro Arero

Oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and a crucial component of the Earth's ecosystem and also form the corner stone of sustainable development.

They cover more than 70 per cent of the earth's surface and contain 97 per cent of the planet's water. A significant percentage of the global population relies on ocean for food and livelihood. Oceans are also our main bulwark against global climate change and variability as a greenhouse sink.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental

States with respect to ocean resources and climate variability and to promote sustainable development of the marine environment, with particular emphasis on developing countries.

On 4-8th March, 2017, KNATCOM took part in an expert and general meeting of IOC/AFRICA and adjacent Island States meeting IV held in Alexandria, Egypt. The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa with its secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya has the Mission to "Promote regional



*A session of Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) / Africa IV General meeting in Alexandria, Egypt. [PHOTO: JARO ARERO / KNATCOM]*

Oceanographic Commission (IOC) promotes international cooperation and coordinates programmes in marine research, services, observation systems, hazard mitigation, and capacity development in order to understand and effectively manage the resources of the marine and coastal areas. By applying this knowledge, the aims of the commission is to improve the governance, management, institutional capacity, and decision-making processes of its Member

and International cooperation for the understanding and management of the African oceans and coastal ecosystems, in order to ensure sustainable development and safety of the coastal populations, taking into account the priorities of Member States from Africa"

Like most oceans, African Oceans are vulnerable to pollutions and over exploitations. There is immense increase

in fish output demand so as to feed an ever increasing population. In recent years offshore oil and gas exploration has intensified, with significant fossil fuel reserves discoveries. Mangrove areas are also over harvested, due to increased timber and fuel demand, construction of hotels and pollution from oil and industrial effluent.

UNESCO and IOC have undertaken many initiatives to promote the sustainable use of oceans. In collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNESCO and its IOC undertook the first comprehensive study on the “Development of marine Science and Technology in Africa” in 1980-1981. In 1998, UNESCO/IOC organized The Pan African Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management. As part of the developers and implementers of the “Development and Protection of the African Coastal and Marine Environment in Sub Saharan-Africa” Project. They were able to produce integrated problem analysis of issues impacting on the coastal and marine environment and development of a portfolio of 19 projects addressing the priority areas of coastal erosion, pollution, sustainable use of living resources, management of key habitats and ecosystems, and tourism.

Following up on the earlier meetings, the UNESCO/IOC Meeting in Egypt addressed the current issues facing our oceans and coastal areas. Anthropogenic release of chemical and biological wastes is a threat to marine biodiversity and cause of harmful

algae bloom. Ocean sea level rise is a threat to coastal lands. Challenges in the capacity development in marine science and technology were noted. These included lack of implementation of knowledge acquired from IOC trainings and workshops. Though many African Universities offer tertiary education in marine science and Technology, they are constrained by lack of budget and infrastructural shortage. High mobility of experts within or outside the region was also identified as a challenge.

The meeting also observed the absent or weak ocean policy of many African member states. Embracing the concept of blue economy will be instrumental in the realization of the SDG goals and the African Union agenda 2063, it's in the appreciation of centrality of oceans to sustainable development that has prompted the UN to name the 2021-2030 decade to be the “Decade of Marine Science”.

The meeting came up with several recommendations. It was agreed there was a need to develop tools in support of food security and sustainable economic, identification of vulnerable areas to ocean hazards, and mapping region-specific ecosystem services, supporting marine spatial planning and identification of areas vulnerable to climate change while at the same time develop climate change scenarios.

Regarding the lack of public awareness towards importance of oceans, members agreed that there is need to include ocean sciences into the school curriculum and sensitization and awareness creation should to begin with young children as this builds their interest in ocean sciences. This could be done through different platforms such as celebrations of World Oceans days, submit abstracts to international conferences and presenting matters or issues under the IOCAFRICA areas of focus.

*Dr Arero is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM in charge of Basic Sciences and Engineering*

*Tidal gauge at the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria Egypt. The equipment monitors sea level rise.*

[PHOTO: JARO ARERO / KNATCOM]

# Let's use **Radio** to Transform the World

**Kenya joins the global community in marking the World Radio Day 2017.**

By Dr Evangeline Njoka

The day was unanimously proclaimed by all Member States of UNESCO in 2011 during 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference. In 2012, The General Assembly of the UN endorsed the proclamation of World Radio Day, thereby becoming a Day to be celebrated on 13 February as proposed by the UNESCO Director General, to coincide with the day United Nations Radio was established in 1946.

The World Radio Day accords us all an opportunity to celebrate radio broadcast, improve international cooperation among radio broadcasters and encourage decision-makers to create and provide access to information through radio, including community radios.

In Kenya, the commemorations of the World Radio Day are spearheaded by Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, which is focal point and the principal link between the national priorities of Kenya and the multilateral agenda of UNESCO.

Kenya established her radio in 1927, as the second radio broadcast in Africa after the Egyptian radio. This year, the Kenyan radio is 90 years old and the country can be regarded as a global pioneer in radio broadcasting. It is a time to commemorate



such a historic milestone while reflecting on this extraordinary mass medium and its potential in national building and sustainable development as espoused by the sustainable development goals.

Radio remains one of most popular mass media reaching the widest audience in the world. It is also recognized as a powerful communication tool and a low cost medium. Radio is specifically suited to reach remote communities and vulnerable people irrespective of developmental or geographical divide.

World Radio Day is therefore a day to celebrate radio as a medium of communication, to improve international cooperation between broadcasters and to encourage major networks and community radio alike to promote access to information, freedom of expression and gender equality over the airwaves.

Each year, the day is celebrated under different themes such as Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Youth, and Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster. This year UNESCO and its partners have agreed to bring all these themes together under the theme of public participation with the tagline **"Radio is You!"**

This is meant encourage radio stations around the world, whether community,

private, or public radio station, to have the tools to be the best radio stations they can be by ensuring they have continued dialogue with the industry, its audience and the public in general. The aim is to have the conditions that create great programming – in addition to entertainment and information, find creative ways to promote freedom of expression and address the key issues of today in local communities and across the globe.

In the rural areas radio is 'King' as it sets the agenda and plays a significant role at the grass roots level for rural development.

For instance, issues of poverty, agriculture, health, gender inequality, education, good governance and social problems among others could be the focus for programming. It has been established through research that rural radio is effective in improving the sharing of information by rural communities. Radio in this regard provides a set of participatory communication opportunities that support community needs by using local languages to communicate directly among the locals.

**Kenya established her radio in 1927, as the second radio broadcast in Africa after the Egyptian radio.**

Radio remains the most dynamic, reactive and engaging medium, adapting to 21st century changes and offering new ways to interact and participate. Where social media and audience fragmentation can put us in media bubbles of like-minded people, radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and foster positive dialogue for change. By listening to its audiences and responding to their needs, radio provides the diversity of views and voices needed to address the challenges societies face.

Radio is a key tool for sustainable development.

Singularly, radio is a potential

catalyst towards realization of a number of sustainable development goals by sensitizing the public on the SDGs.

In addition, Radio is a powerful vehicle which we can use to enhance peace in our nation, especially during this critical period as prepare for the forthcoming general elections. We can use radio to dispel mistrust and suspicion among people who share different political persuasions, which often leads to conflict. Radio has the power

to drive the conversations with listeners to peace building and nationhood.

Radio informs us and transforms us, through entertainment, information and audience participation. Having a radio means you are never alone – you always have a friend in radio.

*Dr Evangeline Njoka, MBS, is the Secretary General of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO*



*KNATCOM's Dr Jaro Arero joins Baliti FM's Adan Jarso to discuss peaceful coexistence of communities during the World Radio Day 2017 in Isiolo.*

*[PHOTO: WANJIRU KANG'ARA / KNATCOM]*



*Journalists proudly display their certificates after undergoing training on UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in Nyeri County. [PHOTO: COURTESY / KNATCOM]*



## Putting Journalists' Safety First

By Anthony Ngare

The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was endorsed by the UN Chief Executive Board on 12 April 2012. The Plan was prepared during the 1st UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the issue, convened by the Director General of UNESCO.

The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity is the result of a process that began in 2010 upon request of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The Plan of Action aims at creating a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide. Its measures include, among other undertakings, the establishment of a coordinated inter-

agency mechanism to handle issues related to the safety of journalists as well as assisting countries to develop legislation and mechanisms favourable to freedom of expression and information, and supporting their efforts to implement existing international rules and principles.

To further reinforce prevention, the Plan recommends working in cooperation with governments, media houses, professional associations and NGOs to conduct awareness raising campaigns on a wide range of issues such as existing international instruments and conventions, the growing dangers posed by emerging threats to media professionals, including non-state actors, as well as various existing practical guides on the safety of journalists.

It is worth noting that KNATCOM in its five year Strategic Plan 2014-2018 has planned for national campaigns to create awareness on the safety journalists. As an

organization we will therefore be meeting training members of the Fourth Estate in various counties as we continue promoting the safety of journalists through our various activities.

In view of this, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO [KNATCOM] carried out two capacity building workshops for media professionals, government agencies/ officials and other stakeholders on the UN plan of action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

The capacity building workshop on the UN Plan of Action for the Safety of Journalists falls under the KNATCOM's Communication and Information Programme. The Programme specifically focuses on freedom of expression, access to information and knowledge and media development.

The workshops held in Uasin Gishu and Nyeri counties drew media participants from the surrounding counties. The content of these workshops was customised and contextualised to reflect the prevailing needs on the grounds for the journalists in attendance.

As the fourth pillar of democracy along with Judiciary, Executive and Legislature, media today has a key role in society to act against the injustice, oppression and partiality of our society. Media also plays a role in creating and shaping of public opinion and strengthening of society. As you carry out your work, we urge you to remember to do so responsibly.

Some of the journalists

in Kenya are operating in areas considered violence prone due to border disputes, cattle rustling or political tensions. The safety of journalists as they work anywhere in Kenya and indeed in the world, is therefore crucial. The society must resist the temptation to shoot or demonise the messenger.

The trainings were carried out in partnership with Media Council of Kenya, an independent national institution established for purposes of setting of media standards and ensuring compliance with those standards and for connected purposes.

We also had Article 19 on board during the workshops. ARTICLE 19 is a not for profit organization that envisages a world where people are free to speak their opinions, to participate in decision-making and to make informed choices about their lives.

For this to be possible, people everywhere must be able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of information. Without these rights, democracy, good governance and development cannot happen.

The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM in Charge of Freedom of Expressions and Media Development.



*Journalists in a training session during the UN Plan of Action course in Nyeri County. [PHOTO: JAMES GITAHU/KNATCOM]*

# STEPPING UP Youth OPPORTUNITIES

By Jacqueline Njeru

In Kenya just as in many other developing nations youth unemployment is a major concern. The limited number of blue colour jobs means that our youth have to consider other sources of income in this swim or sink.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) in partnership with Kenya's Kenyatta University (KU) and the Germany's University of Leuphana initiated the Student Training on Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) at county level. STEP is an innovative idea whose main objective is to provide an answer to adverse labour market conditions and limited employment opportunities facing the youth.

This is in support of Kenya's national objectives for technical, industrial, vocational and entrepreneurial training (TIVET) among others, to provide opportunities that make school leavers self-reliant, assist them in acquisition of practical skills, and appropriate attitudes to undertake income generating activities. The STEP training is unique in that it is action-oriented, evidence-based and is constantly evaluated according to the highest scientific standards. In its expansion, the program has already been successfully implemented in Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda and seeks for more partners. STEP partners are dedicated to ensure that the programme has been implemented in all the 47 counties in Kenya



*KNATCOM's Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka delivers her remarks during the graduation of STEP in Kisumu County. [PHOTO: COURTESY/ KNATCOM]*

Since its inception in 2011 at Kenyatta University, STEP continues to provide trainees with knowledge and skills for an alternative career option for self-employment. With the successful implementation of the programme in KU, Kiambu, Mombasa and Nakuru Counties, over 1000 new businesses have been started and successfully run by the youth.

The scope and duration of the training is dependent entirely on the content and the particular needs of the trainees. However, the training has a standardized curriculum of 12 topics that cover a wide range of areas relevant to the needs of the youths including Business Administration, Entrepreneurship and Psychology.

On Selection of the youths / trainees, the respective county governments are given the opportunity to select youths within

their county for the training. The selection process is inclusive ensuring two thirds gender rule is maintained and persons with disability are represented.

To ensure quality training, STEP has an approved training manual covering 12 topical areas prepared by University of Leuphana in collaboration with Kenyatta University and the trainers are trained and certified by the University of Leuphana as STEP instructors.

KNATCOM, Kenyatta University and the respective county government provide financial support for the training programme and these partners exercise oversight over the trainees to ensure their consistency in attendance and participation and delivery of the training by the trainers.

Upon completion of the training, the trainees shall be given a certificate issued by KNACOM and co-signed by Kenyatta University and the respective county government.

## BENEFITS OF STEP

### 1. Creation of jobs/empowered and skilled youths

Since its inception in 2012 STEP through various partners, particularly county governments, has enabled its trainees to start small business successfully

### 2. Reduce incidences of youth related crime and violence

Statistics show that most petty and serious crimes committed by young people are majorly due to unemployment and lack of a source of income. STEP – 4Y intends to empower the youths to be able to think “outside the box” and start innovative enterprises that will generate income for them and keep them occupied. This will greatly address security-related concerns thereby creating a sense of internal harmony and peace in the regions.



*Jubilant graduands after completion of STEP in Kisumu County are joined by KNATCOM's Social & Human Sciences Programme Director Mr Joel Ongoto. [PHOTO: COURTESY / KNATCOM]*



*STEP graduands follow the proceedings keenly during the graduation ceremony held in Kisumu County and officiated by Kisumu Gov. Hon Jack Ranguma.[PHOTO: COURTESY /KNATCOM]*

### **3. Complementing the Sustainable Development Goals and Kenya's Vision 2030**

The program intends to contribute towards addressing SDGs specifically, SDG1— No poverty; SDG 4 – quality education and SDG 8—Good Jobs and Economic Growth and Kenya's Vision 2030 that's founded on Enhanced equity and wealth creation opportunities for the youth (among others) by agitating for self-employment through youth empowerment initiatives that aim to activities for the youths in Kenya.

### **4. Less dependability on government by youth**

An economically disempowered community or group of persons is a liability to those in positions of authority. STEP-4Y provides

a hands-on skill training initiative to make the youths in Kenya less dependant on the Government by raising the youth entrepreneurs' capacity to absorb the available Government loans such as Uwezo Fund and Youth Fund in order to be self-sufficient economically.

### **5. Others**

Introducing an experiential training to help youth entrepreneurs mitigate challenges in the business place, improve the trained entrepreneurs' skills and capacity in running business start-ups, reduce business failure for the trained youth start-ups and increase business growth and profitability.

*The writer is KNATCOM's Deputy Director at Social and Human Sciences Programme*

# Let's embrace our diverse cultures

By John Omare

Kenya is endowed with a rich cultural heritage which constitutes the solid foundation of its nationhood. The Kenya Constitution 2010 recognizes culture as the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people and nation. Culture plays a pivotal role in peace building, eradication of poverty and sustainable development.


The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, in conjunction with the County Government of Machakos and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, organized the a National Cultural Celebrations which was held at the Machakos People's Park in Machakos County from 1st to 3rd September, 2016. The theme of the celebrations "Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and a Culture of Peace for Sustainable Development", sought to further advance UNESCO's mission of building peace in the minds of men and women while advancing the Government's goal of building national cohesion.

The celebrations featured exhibitions and performances by communities from varied Counties and provided a platform for communities to interact and appreciate our diverse cultural expressions. It was a perfect forum for promoting the understanding amongst communities as a means of fostering national cohesion and integration.

The National Cultural Celebrations sought to create a platform for counties to showcase various aspects of their culture; as well as create visibility for UNESCO in Kenya by showcasing the work being done in the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage and diversity and other activities in education, sciences and communication and information.

The cultural celebrations also were meant to highlight UNESCO's role in contributing to Peace and Sustainable Development in Kenya and enhance collaboration and partnership with Counties and stakeholders towards development of community cultural expressions and spaces.

The celebrations attracted exhibitors



*Loiyangalani Fashion Show Group from Marsabit County during the National Cultural Celebrations held last year in September in Machakos County. [PHOTO: COURTESY/KNATCOM]*

and performing artistes from counties, educational institutions and other agencies involved in the preservation of Kenya's cultural heritage. The setting was a platform to showcase the many aspects of culture and creative works of art. The roles of UNESCO in safeguarding of Kenya's diverse and natural heritage as well as its contribution to peace and sustainable development were highlighted during the events.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, The President of the Republic of Kenya who was represented by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Dr. Hassan Wario. The official opening ceremony gave way to captivating presentations by the many performing groups at the celebrations. They did this with precision, combining all authentic aesthetics which have been carried on through the ages in the communities. On many occasions, the crowds could not resist the temptation to shake along to the beats and rhythms from the stage.

Many of the performing groups aptly interpreted the theme of the celebrations in their presentations, for example a group from Loiyangalani in Marsabit County comprising a mixture of members from Rendille, Samburu, Turkana and Elmolo communities who came together to preach peaceful coexistence through cultural performances. These communities have otherwise been identified with long running conflicts over livestock and the scarce resources in their arid and semi-arid land. Therefore, it was also an opportunity to cultivate the seed of peace among them.

Several county governments were invited to exhibit together with Ministries, Agencies and Departments involved in UNESCO areas of competence. While at the People's Park, Dr. Wario, accompanied by Machakos Governor Dr. Alfred Mutua as well as diplomats accredited to Kenya, toured the all exhibition stands to experience the diversity of Kenya.



*Machakos Governor Dr Alfred Mutua (L), Cabinet Secretary Sports, Culture & Sports Dr Hassan Wario and a top diplomat enjoy porridge during the cultural celebrations as KNATCOM's Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka looks on. [PHOTO: COURTESY / PPMC]*

This diversity was expressed in all ways of life including foods, crafts, costume, music and dance and much more. On show were efforts to enhance value addition on local resources such as foods and artistic works for a global market (Kitui honey & other products). Most of the documentation of Independent Kenya's early history and cultural heritage was done on magnetic film. The department of Film Services was at hand to demonstrate what it took to collect and preserve this heritage. Dr. Wario, whose Ministry hosts the Department of Culture and Dr. Mutua, himself a renowned filmmaker took time to appreciate the role of film in preserving our story.

Exhibitors conducted visitors into the meanings and uses of what was on show

as well as the roles of members of society in the preservation and promotion of their cultural heritage in the present times. Amongst the exhibitors were educational institutions, which are in the forefront of recreation and sustaining the practice of our cultural heritage. Creative works of art came in all forms, with attractive products made from locally available as well as waste materials were displayed. Despite being furthest from Machakos in terms of distance, Marsabit County was well represented

The participation of people of varied ages was a plus for the festival organizers since it served as an avenue of transfer of cultural knowledge to the upcoming generations. After three days of a captivating music and dances, magnificent displays of unique community artefacts, culinary and costumes as well as works of art, an adjudication team, comprising of seasoned personalities in various fields of creative arts rated the best performances and exhibitors. The various winners received awards. Gonda ya Bara



*A Cultural performance group from Marsabit County celebrate at the podium with KNATCOM's Board of Management Chairman Dr Rashid Aman on successful completion of the national cultural celebrations at Machakos County. [PHOTO: COURTESY/ KNATCOM]*

Isanga dancers of Taita Taveta County emerged winners in the cultural dances category. Kitui County scooped the trophy for best presentation in food culture while Machakos based herbal medicine man won the traditional medicine category.

The best overall exhibition stand was

with a massive display of artefacts from most of the more than fourteen different communities. Participants at the celebrations were all in agreement that this event and indeed other cultural festivals is vital in cementing cohesion amongst our communities.

The celebrations were officially closed by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, who was represented by the Director of Culture Dr. Kiprop Lagat. In his Speech, the Cabinet Secretary underscored the importance of maintaining authenticity of cultural products while participating at festivals, both locally and internationally.

won by Marsabit County. The elated delegation comprising members of diverse communities were excited especially when receiving the coveted trophy from the Chair of the board of management of the Kenya National Commission on UNESCO Dr. Rashid Aman. Outstanding presentations at the Machakos Cultural Celebrations were accorded an opportunity to showcase their works during the Kenya Week at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris, France, from 10th to 14th October, 2016.

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*The writer is KNATCOM's Director at Culture Programme*



# Why drugs reign in Lamu

By Dr Rueben Nthamburi

Drug abuse is a global problem and is one of the major problems affecting the youth both in school and out of school. This problem impacts negatively on the academic, social, psychological, economical and physiological development among the abusers. The drug menace has strangled the youthful population reducing their productivity when they are most needed to invest their energy in worthy nation building ventures.

Drug abuse is one of the top ranking problems confronting the nation today. The cases of drug abuse in the coastal region of Kenya are alarming. A local newspaper - Daily Nation

– in its Saturday edition on 19th December 2009, reported the arrest of a Ghanaian man while trying to traffic 5 kilograms of heroin worth ten million shillings in Mikindani area.

In Lamu, with the influx of such foreigners in the region due to its tourist attracting environment, the situation may be worse. In spite of this grave scenario, it appears that the youth lack a clear picture of the overall effects of drug abuse to their own bodies, families and the community in general. Incidences of drug abuse and related anti-social behaviour have tremendously increased in recent years. This has become a matter of concern to the government,

parents, teachers, Non-governmental organizations and all other relevant agencies.

The Kenya government recognized the seriousness of the drug problem and its negative impact in the society and initiated the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) in early 2001. This organization was and is charged with the responsibility of coordinating activities of individuals and organizations in the campaign against drug

and substance abuse. Its mandate is to initiate public education campaign and develop an action plan aimed at curbing drug abuse by the youth.

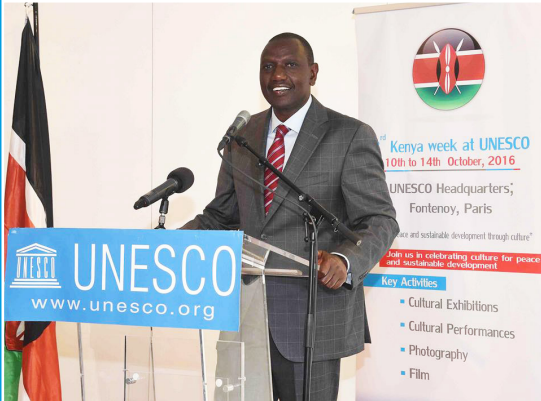
It is in this regard that the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) through its

Education Programme carried out a research to investigate factors contributing to drug and substance abuse among the youth in Lamu County along the Coastal region of Kenya. The study focused on youth in the age between 15 and 35 years in selected public institutions in Lamu East and West Sub- Counties as a representative of all youths in the County. The key informants included the local area chiefs, police officers, health officials, Education officials, Teachers, student's rehabilitation officers and religious leaders in the area.



*Lamu County Commissioner when he received KNATCOM Board Chairman Dr Rashid Aman and Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka during a courtesy call at his office to carry out research Drug and Substance abuse in Lamu.*

*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Education Programme*



Kenya's Deputy President His Excellency Hon William Ruto makes the key note address during the Kenya Week at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.



UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa H.E Mwai Kibaki when he received Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka during a courtesy call at his office in Nairobi.



Kenya's Deputy President H.E William Ruto admires a sculpture made of soap stone. Looking on is UNESCO Director General Mrs Irina Bokova (L) and renowned Kenyan sculptor Elkana Ong'esa.



The KNATCOM team members when they visited Vasco Da Gama pillar, a site of significant historical importance.



A cultural dancing group from Marsabit celebrate with KNATCOM Board Chair Dr Rashid Aman (R) when they scooped the top prize during the Kenya Cultural Celebrations held in Machakos County.



Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) when it joined Baliti FM, a UNESCO supported community radio station in Isiolo during the World Radio Day 2017 commemorations.



Morans engage in a captivating and electric dance moves during the Kenya Cultural Celebrations at Machakos County.



KNATCOM's Board of Management Chairman Dr Rashid Aman (L) when he received Egypt's ambassador to Kenya H. E Mahmoud Ali Talaat at the Commission's offices.



The President of the UNESCO General Conference Hon. Stanley Mutumba Simataa when he visited Kenya. He was received by CS Sports, Arts and Culture Dr Hassan Wario, KNATCOM Board Chair Dr Rashid Aman and Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka among other dignitaries.



Jubilant Student Training on Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) graduates after successfully finishing their entrepreneurship course in Kisumu County.

# Walking the talk through sports

By Orpha Nyakundi

Physical education and sports may not be in everyone's interest, but it is always someone's source of healthful living, means of prestige and a country's platform for pride.

Success through sports enables a poor man 'walk tall' and gain confidence to give a speech in a meeting of dignitaries. Traditional Africa had and enjoyed its own type of sports that has since been transformed by western influence. Africans practiced wrestling, swimming in local streams without swimming costumes but they enjoyed it anyway. Modern sports has formal set up with rules and regulations. Unlike traditional sports where the winners gained high prestige as the greatest award, winning in modern sports is attached to great financial gain. This financial gain has prompted some sports' men and women to use whatever is available to be the best in the competition.

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme uses sports as a means to attaining peace and social development. To social and human sciences, sports is a tool for supporting and attaining sustainable

development goals and promoting vision 2030 in Kenya.

In 2005, UNESCO developed the International Convention against Doping in Sports in order to provide an international legal framework for Member States to implement anti-doping programmes, legislation, and policies in their countries. Unanimously adopted by 191 governments at the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005, it entered into force in February 2007. UNESCO's global anti-doping convention represents the first time that Member States around the world harmonize anti-doping policies to ensure the effectiveness of the World Anti-Doping Code.

It is in recognition of the importance of sports to Kenya, in appreciation of the achievements of Kenyan athletes, and due to the need to mitigate doping in sports that the Kenyan Government ratified the UNESCO Convention on Anti-Doping in Sports in August 2009. Kenya's need to protect the sector and comply with WADA standards led to the passing of a new anti-doping legislation in May 2016 (Anti-Doping Act, 2016).



*Youths drawn from various schools prepare to practice in lawn tennis.  
[PHOTO: COURTESY/ KNATCOM]*



In accordance with Article 19 of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, which provides for general education and training principles, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) actively participates in the fight against doping and contributes towards the realization of the World Anti-Doping Code.

“No effort must be spared to highlight the harmful effects of doping, which is both injurious to health and contrary to the sporting ethic, or to protect the physical and mental health of athletes, the virtues of fair play and competition, the integrity of the sporting community and the rights of people participating in it at any level whatsoever” (UNESCO, 1978).

Last year in September, the African Physical Activity Network (AFPAN), together with the support of the Kenyan National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), amongst other sponsors, organized the 2nd International Conference on Physical Activity and Sports for Health and Development in Africa (IC-PASHDA). The event that took place at Kenyatta University (KU) in Nairobi and was hosted by its Department of Recreation Management and Exercise Science, the Department of Physical and Health Education, and the School of Applied Human Science. It accommodated highly reputed and outstanding professionals, scholars and practitioners in the broad fields of Exercise

and Sport Science, Health, Physical Education, Urban Planning, Nutrition, Sports for Peace and Development, Leisure and Recreation Studies. Its main objective was to share knowledge and research findings, as well as lessons from academic and professional experiences within the African Physical Activity Network. The main goal was to promote physical activity, sports and health for growth and development in African continent through healthy active living.

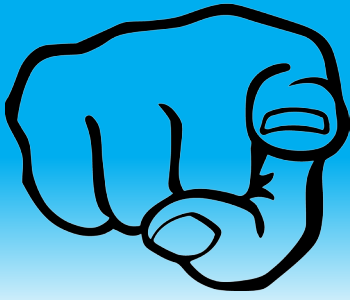
Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM-UNESCO) was able to carry out a capacity building on anti-doping in sports in 2015 on a regional capacity targeting sports officials. In conjunction to this, in March 2017, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO carried out capacity building on anti-doping to Secondary and Primary schools sports patrons and coaches in Eldoret. The training was carried out by experts from Anti-Doping Agency Kenya (ADAK). It is in line with UNESCO’s belief that education is central to any programme targeted at removing doping from sport.

The Commission engages in the development of anti-doping education and prevention programmes aimed at fostering the fundamental values that underpin sport and informing young people of the moral, legal and health consequences of doping.

Sport is a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks, and to promote ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice. Tackling problems in post conflict situations can be eased through sport which has the ability to bring people together. It also plays a significant role as a promoter of social integration and economic development in different geographical, cultural and political contexts. So let’s get sporty!

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*The writer is KNATCOM's Deputy Director in Social and Human Sciences Programme.*



# You too can join a UNESCO club

By Jacqueline Njeru

**U**NESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations are a global movement that fosters partnerships with all constituents of society.

In other words UNESCO clubs can be and are established in any sector, for instance, in schools, churches, social clubs, and manufacturers among others. The Clubs' main aim is promoting UNESCO's mandate of building peace in the minds of men and women and sharing UNESCO's ideals of peace, intercultural dialogue, eradication of poverty and sustainable development. The UNESCO Clubs movement demonstrates and provides a platform for citizens to influence decision and policy makers in promoting UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development in local contexts. The Clubs consist of groups of volunteers

of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-professional status who advocate UNESCO values and principles. UNESCO Clubs support UNESCO's priorities by using a community's experience, skills and outlook to foster peace.

The first UNESCO Club was set up in Japan in 1947 after the end of the 2nd World War. It was created as an initiative of the local people to build and foster peace and development. The popularity and the need for UNESCO Clubs globally led to an appeal by the then Director-General of UNESCO Jaime Torres Bodet for the establishment of the Clubs in schools and universities. This contributed immensely to the global massive growth and popularity of the UNESCO Clubs.

In Kenya, the Kenya National Commissions for UNESCO is responsible



*Patrons of UNESCO Clubs in Western Region come together during a training by KNATCOM in Kisumu County. [PHOTO: COURTESY / KNATCOM]*

for ensuring that the Clubs keep to UNESCO's ideals and that UNESCO's name is not used to promote activities not in line with the Organization such as profit-making or seeking personal or political interests. UNESCO Clubs are also expected to support KNATCOM's work in UNESCO's programs in their respective countries. UNESCO Clubs are essential in the promotion of international co-operation and the ideals of UNESCO in the fields of Education, Science (Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences), Culture and Communication.

It is against this background therefore that KNATCOM supported the establishment and subsequent launched the Kenyan Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (KEFUCA) on 13th - 14th October 2015 in Nairobi to popularize the ideal of UNESCO Clubs in order to promote peace and sustainable development.

There is need to continuously foster peace, tolerance, cohesion and sustainable development through the platform provided by UNESCO Clubs. KNATCOM and KEFUCA therefore work together to sensitize stakeholders on the importance of UNESCO Clubs.

In February, 2017 KNATCOM through the KEFUCA organized a capacity building workshop on UNESCO Clubs topics

focusing on the Western Region of Kenya in Kisumu. The KEFUCA Workshop was themed "UNESCO Clubs for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development". The target for this training consisted of UNESCO Clubs schools' patrons, UNESCO Club coordinators, UNESCO Clubs County leaders, County Directors of Education, and TSC Officials from the western region.

The purpose of the five-day training was to capacity build and sensitize UNESCO Club patrons and Officials from the Western Counties on the principles, aims and benefits of the established UNESCO Clubs and create visibility of this platform. It further aimed to assess how active clubs are in the institutions. The first day was targeted at training Education and TSC Officials while the second and third day of the workshop included a training of Primary Schools UNESCO Clubs Patrons. The fourth and fifth day of the workshop covered the training of Secondary Schools, Special Needs Institutions and Tertiary Institutions UNESCO Clubs Patrons.

The sampled population provided an update on currently existing and past executed UNESCO Club activities and the evolution of the UNESCO Clubs in the Western Region.



*Education officers drawn from Western Region and KNATCOM staff take a break during the UNESCO Clubs trainings in Kisumu. [PHOTO: COURTESY / KNATCOM]*

# Staying connected with ASPnet

By Dr Reuben Nthamburi

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project network (ASPnet) was founded in 1953 and is a global network with more than 10,000 educational institutions in 181 countries.

Member institutions range from pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, vocational training institutions and teacher training institutions. All these institutions work in support of the four UNESCO-

culture and languages. ASPnet activities also focus on local situations, advocating “unity in diversity”. The ASPnet is designed to have a multiplier effect in terms of promoting UNESCO mission.

The global network is in a unique position to promote UNESCO’s values and ideals. For education to provide a powerful response to the challenge of today and the future, a focus on the quality and relevance of education is needed. Knowledge, skills and competencies must be pertinent to the



ASPnet patrons during a capacity building training by KNATCOM held at Egerton University, Nakuru County. [PHOTO: COURTESY/ KNATCOM]

ASPnet themes: Intercultural understanding, peace and human rights, intercultural dialogue, education for sustainable development and United Nations priorities.

ASPnet institutions are expected to rise to the challenge of entering into contact with each other, transcending borders, continents,

21st century and make a contribution to forge attitudes and behaviours conducive for peace, sustainable development and to promote responsible citizenship. These skills and competencies encompass creative problem solving, critical thinking and learning to live together in an increasingly



multicultural world.

The ASPnet is coordinated by the KNATCOM for UNESCO which is a State Corporation, mandated to facilitate the implementation of UNESCO's activities in the country. National Commissions for UNESCO disseminate information on good practices so that other schools in the country can borrow a leaf and carry out similar activities. UNESCO associated schools serve as model schools to implement new policies in education, pilot-test new topics and innovative educational materials and approaches.

They serve as laboratories for developing, experimenting and validating innovative educational materials developed by UNESCO or its partner organizations. Tested materials can then be better adapted to the requirements of schools in different regions.


ASPnet schools also participate in research on innovative educational methods or topics of concern to UNESCO.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) through its Education Programme carried out an induction capacity building workshop for Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Patrons to share historical background of ASPnet, to equip ASPnet patrons with skills, knowledge and attitude empowering them to manage ASPnet institutions, to assist ASPnet Patrons identify appropriate activities and flagship projects for their schools and to create networking platform for ASPnet Patrons.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director at KNATCOM's Education Programme.*



*Basic Education PS in Ministry of Education Dr Belio Kipsang ( 2<sup>nd</sup> L) and KNATCOM Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka ( 2<sup>nd</sup> R) during a launch of an ASPnet publication in Nairobi.  
(PHOTO: COURTESY/ KNATCOM)*



# Travails of Girl Education in Bungoma

By Tabitha Kamau

In Kenya, primary education is provided in primary schools with children steadily advancing classes from standard 1, until they complete standard 8 and transition to secondary schooling (Farooq, 1993).

Despite the introduction of Free Primary Education in Kenya, girls continue to face inequalities in virtually all communities with regard to education access, retention and completion. Additionally, the girl child is discriminated against from the earliest stages of her life, from her conception to her birth and through her childhood and adolescence into her marriage, motherhood and old age (Bista, 2004). Her mere survival through her life cycle is often submerged as a result of harmful attitudes and practices, such as prenatal infanticide, son preference, even in breast feeding

and basic attention for the newly born, female genital mutilation, early marriage, including early marriage, and forced marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, discrimination against girls in education, health care and general well-being (Fawzy, 2006).

It is in this regard that the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) through its Education Programme carried out a research on investigation into factors affecting access and retention of girls in public primary schools in Mt. Elgon Region, Bungoma County, Kenya. The research was conducted in Mt. Elgon region, Bungoma County predominantly occupied by the Sabaot, Iteso, and Bukusu communities. Education of girl child among the communities in Mt. Elgon region

continues to face numerous challenges. The research sought to examine the factors hindering access and retention of girl child to education in the area, the interventions that have been put in place and persistent challenges there in.

The target population for this study constituted head teachers, class teachers, pupils and members of School Management Committee (SMC) in the 143 public primary schools in Mt Elgon and Cheptais Sub-counties drawn from the larger Mt Elgon region. In addition, the study covered local area Chiefs and Sub-County Directors of Education, as key informants, head teachers, education managers (School Management Committee Members) of the sampled schools and local area chiefs. The sampled populations provided adequate information on the factors affecting the girl child access and retention in schools.

The research revealed that the factors that affect access and retention in school included socio-cultural emanating from the family and community traditional beliefs and practices and economic factors particularly the high household poverty levels. The study also revealed factors related to the learning environment policies and institutional frameworks.

The recommendations of the research include; sensitization programme for parents and community on girls' education, provision of boarding facilities for girls, strengthening guidance and counselling programme in schools, school feeding programmes, provision of sanitary towels, enforcing laws to curb child labour & promote girls' right to education, increased capitation grants and abolition of school levies, provision of basic learning materials (basic school kit) and learning from other interventions.

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*The writer is a former director of Education Programme at KNATCOM.*



*Stakeholders from Mt Elgon Region during the Dissemination of the Research Findings on Girl Child Education in Mt Elgon Region (PHOTO: COURTESY/KNATCOM)*

# Promoting multilingualism through Mother Language

By Mary Kang'ethe

The importance and influence of mother language in one's life cannot be underestimated. Mother language plays a pivotal role in shaping our world view in the nascent stages of our lives and therefore it calls for celebrations.

International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21st February. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity across the world. It was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 17th November, 1999 and has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The date represents the day 21st February, 1952 when students demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as one of the two national languages of the then Pakistan, were shot and killed by police in Dhaka, the capital of what is now Bangladesh. By the same resolution, the General Assembly proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages, to promote unity in diversity and international understanding, through multilingualism and multiculturalism.

UNESCO reiterates its position on the importance of appropriate languages of instruction, usually mother tongue, in early years of schooling. Formal and non-formal education should therefore deliver quality education for all learners by taking a multilingual approach, which has great

potential for achieving development goal 4 of the Agenda 2030.

The global theme for International Mother Language Day 2017 under the theme: *"Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education"*. This supports Goal 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): *"Ensure that all youth and a*



*A cultural group sing a traditional song to mark a rite*

*substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy”.* To foster sustainable development, learners must have access to education in their mother tongue and in other languages. It is through the mastery of the first language or mother tongue that the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy are acquired. Local languages, especially minority and indigenous, transmit cultures, values and traditional knowledge, thus playing an important role in promoting sustainable futures.

Multilingual education facilitates access to education while promoting equity for populations speaking minority and/or

indigenous languages, especially girls and women; It emphasizes the quality of teaching and learning with a focus on understanding and creativity; reinforces the cognitive aspect of learning by ensuring the direct application of learning outcomes to the learner’s life through the mother tongue; enhances dialogue and interaction between learner and teacher by allowing genuine communication from the beginning and facilitates participation and action in society and gives access to new knowledge and cultural expressions, thus ensuring a harmonious interaction between the global and the local.

Mother tongue education is a force

for quality learning, it is also essential to bolster multilingualism and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity in societies that are transforming at a high rate. Kenya is a culturally diverse nation as reflected in the country’s linguistic diversity. We urge education institutions to embrace the fact that languages play a vital role in the process of integration into all aspects of life including in education and contributes immensely to attaining quality education for all, thus should be respected, protected, promoted, researched on and documented to avoid extinction.

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*The writer is a Deputy Director  
at KNATCOM’s Education  
Programme*



*passage in Samburu County. [PHOTO: COURTESY/KNATCOM]*

# Kenya Week lights up Paris

By John Omare

The 3rd edition of the Kenya week at UNESCO was held from 10th to 14th October, 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, under the theme, "Driving Peace and Sustainable Development through Culture."

The Kenya week coincided with the 200th session of the Executive Board, a main governing body of UNESCO of which Kenya is a member.

The purpose of Kenya Week at UNESCO in Paris was to showcase Kenya's rich and diverse cultures as well as highlight Kenya's achievements in the various areas of UNESCO's competence and in particular its role in contributing to Peace and Sustainable Development. The Kenya week also aimed at promoting Kenya as an ideal investment and top tourist destination and call for stronger collaboration and partnership with UNESCO and other stakeholders across UNESCO's five fields of competences.

During the opening ceremony officiated by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. William Ruto as the chief guest and graced by UNESCO Director General Mrs Irina Bokova, Hon Ruto appreciated the cordial relationship and collaboration between Kenya and UNESCO.

He especially highlighted the nomination of His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, Third President of the Republic of Kenya, as UNESCO's Special Envoy for Water in

Africa in April 2016, the signing of a Framework Agreement on cooperation in the implementation of the Digital Literacy Programme between the Kenya and UNESCO in the presence of His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and the participation by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Summit, the first TICAD Summit to be held in Africa.

The Deputy President underscored the role of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development and important factor for social inclusion in poverty eradication, providing sustainable economic growth and job creation, economic resilience and sustainable use of resources, as well as sustainable tourism. In that regard, he made reference to the Constitution of Kenya which recognized culture as the foundation of the nation adding that Cultural Diplomacy was one of the pillars of Kenya's Foreign policy. He





*Kenya's Deputy President H.E Hon William Ruto gets into a jig with a Kenyan cultural dancing troupe in Paris during the Kenya Week in Paris. Looking on is UNESCO Director General Mrs Irina Bokova and KNATCOM Secretary General Dr Evangeline Njoka (partially hidden). [PHOTO: GEORGE NJOROGE / KNATCOM]*

extremism through education. He reiterated the need to appreciate culture for better mutual understanding and long-term peaceful coexistence. While appreciating that Africa was a Global Priority for UNESCO, the Deputy President urged UNESCO to capitalize on the enormous potential of the youth to promote tolerance, mutual understanding and dialogue.

In her remarks, the Director-General, Mrs. Irina Bokova, spoke of the long-standing cooperation between Kenya and UNESCO which had been marked with the strengthening of quality education,

welcomed UNESCO's recognition of culture as a vector of sustainable development.

The Deputy President noted that Kenya had worked with UNESCO in promoting heritage for posterity and had six properties of Outstanding Universal Value inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage. He urged UNESCO to support Kenya in the inscription of more sites. With regard to the UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Deputy President pointed out that Kenya had translated the Convention into Kiswahili thereby raising awareness and ownership on the Convention.

The Deputy President appreciated UNESCO's efforts in promoting a culture of peace particularly with regard to raising awareness on preventing violent

mobilizing science, addressing emerging social challenges, fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and building inclusive knowledge societies. She drew attention to the importance of culture as an unparalleled force of belonging, identity and mutual understanding, a message that would be conveyed through the Kenya Week.

The Director-General mentioned that culture was a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which for the first time recognized cultural heritage and diversity as enablers of inclusive and sustainable development. She appreciated Kenya's efforts in promotion of a National Cultural Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development, including for the sustainable

preservation of the six natural and cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the two items inscribed on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

The Director-General applauded Kenya's efforts in strengthening sustainability through deepening innovation across communities as demonstrated in the signing of the Framework Agreement between Kenya and UNESCO on Digital Literacy and the pilot free primary schools' laptop project launched by Kenya with the aim of providing public primary schools with laptops and electronic devices. She stated that UNESCO was promoting the use of ICTs through the SIDA-funded project for empowering local radios, thus facilitating active participation of communities in public debates. She called for greater investment in people's capacities and skills which was vital for the success of the 2030 Agenda across Africa and across the world.

The exhibition was held from 10th to 14th October 2016 at Salle des Pas Perdus, UNESCO. The exhibition had exhibitors drawn from various government institutions, state agencies, counties, companies, organizations, individuals and the Kenyan diaspora in France. The key note artist was Mr. Elkana Ong'esa whose works comprising of sculptures made from Kisii soapstone and Kisii granite was exhibited during the Kenya Week. The Deputy President also visited the square at the entrance of UNESCO Miollis building where the famous Enyamuchera (bird of peace) sculpture is placed. The bird was sculptured by Mr. Elkana Ong'esa, the key note artist for Kenya Week and donated to UNESCO by the Government of Kenya in 1978. Enyamuchera, which is made from Kisii soapstone has been in the

collection of UNESCO since 1980. The bird is associated with good luck and is also a symbol of good music and peace.

The exhibitors included the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, the Centre for Mathematics, Science & Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEIA), the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), Kenya Airways, Kenya Tourist Board (KTB), Busia County, Kisumu County, Kiambu County, Marsabit County, UNESCO Regional Office Nairobi and Kenyans living in France.

The exhibition featured artwork, paintings, photographs, mosaic, artefacts, traditional costumes, accessories, footwear, beaded work, publications, pictorials, brochures and give-aways such as Kenyan tea, coffee and juices. A photographic exhibition entitled "Kenya: Land of Culture and diversity" by Trust for African Rock Art (TARA) foundation was also showcased during the Kenya Week courtesy of the UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi.

The event was planned and coordinated by the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO together with the Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO in collaboration with the Kenya Embassy in Paris, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa based in Nairobi, Office of the Deputy President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts and other relevant Government Ministries, Institutions and Agencies among others.

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*The writer is KNATCOM's Director at Culture Programme.*



# In support for the Programmes' deliverables

By Christine Maingi

Kenya joined UNESCO in 1964 as its 73rd Member and established the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO as a liaison office for UNESCO programmes and activities.

This was in fulfilment of Article VII of UNESCO's Constitution which calls for the establishment of national commissions by Member States. The Commission remained a Department under the Ministry of Education until January 2013 when it was converted into a State Corporation.

As a liaison office, the role of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO is to provide a platform for the participation of various Government ministries, departments, agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, the sciences, culture and information in UNESCO's activities. Besides, the Commission has a unique role to play in strengthening the foundations of lasting peace and sustainable development.

Over the years, KNATCOM has influenced critical policy decisions across various

sectors in the UNESCO areas  
of competencies  
through

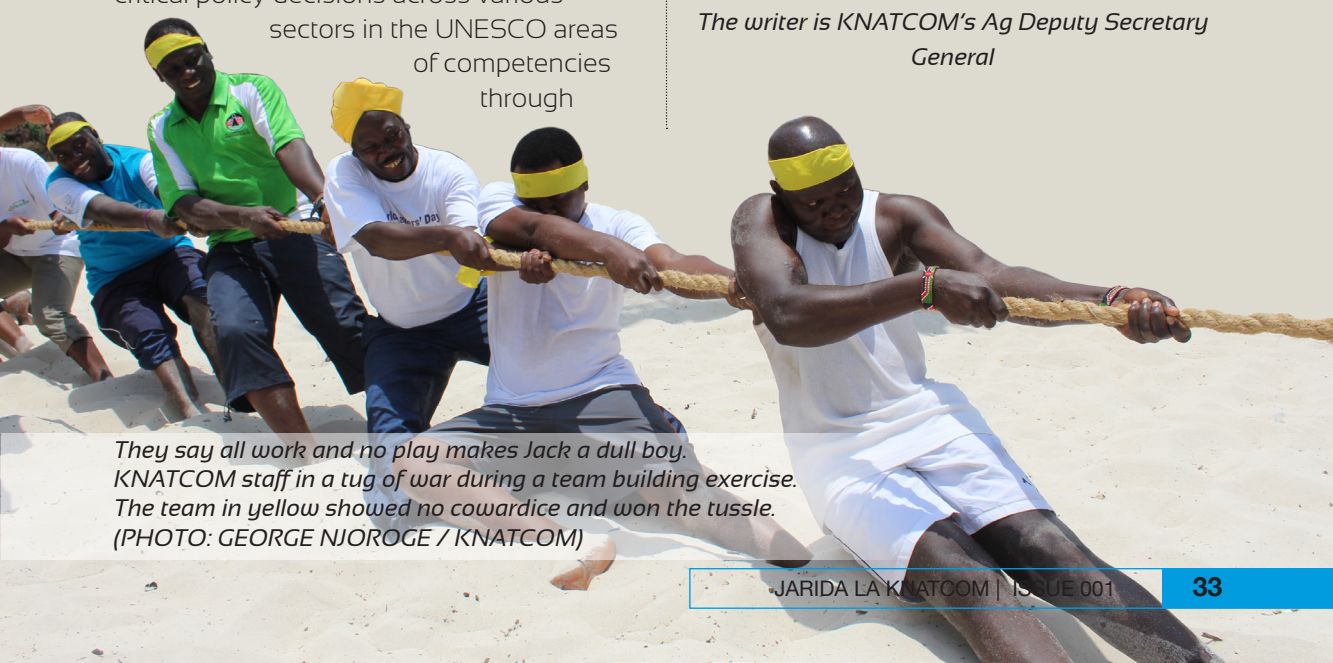
capacity building, quality research and information sharing. The Commission has facilitated mobilisation of funds in support of various projects across ministries, departments and agencies. Key among these is the OPEC Project (2002-2009) and the most recently, the Turkana Ground Water Project among others.

To assist the country leverage on the benefits and opportunities available within UNESCO, KNATCOM continues to coordinate participation of Kenyan Experts in UNESCO international meetings and other fora.

Since its transition from a Department into a State Corporation, following the enactment of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Act 2013, The Corporate Affairs Department of the Commission takes pride in the following achievements; an operational Board of Management, a Strategic Plan 2014-2018, a well-staffed secretariat, strengthened partnerships, impactful programmes and enhanced visibility both locally and internationally, among others.

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*The writer is KNATCOM's Ag Deputy Secretary  
General*



*They say all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.  
KNATCOM staff in a tug of war during a team building exercise.  
The team in yellow showed no cowardice and won the tussle.  
(PHOTO: GEORGE NJOROGI / KNATCOM)*



## Fancy joining UNESCO Creative Cities Network?

By Emily Njeru

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have identified creativity as a strategic enabler for sustainable urban regeneration and development. The 116 cities from 54 countries that currently form this fast-growing network work together towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans at the local level, and actively cooperating through inter-city partnerships at the international level. The UCCN is a flagship programme of UNESCO for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda, at the local level.

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing good practices, developing inter-city partnerships, reinforcing participation in cultural life, and integrating culture in sustainable development plans.

Recently Nairobi was ranked amongst three most attractive cities for investment destinations in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the survey by global consultancy firm Ernst & Young. According to that report, Africa's cities are now emerging as the hotspots of economic and investment activity on the continent. Systematically integrating cultural specificities in the conception, measurement, and practice of city development ensures greater social inclusiveness and resilience. Respecting and supporting cultural expressions contribute to strengthening the social capital of a community and fosters trust in public institutions. This not only ensures universal enjoyment of culture but also enhances the rights of citizens to freedom of expression and access to information.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO plans to partner with Kenyan cities and to conduct capacity building to empower with knowledge on the need to invest in culture and creativity and on the opportunities of the UNESCO creative cities network. To join the UNESCO creative cities network candidate cities must submit their applications to UNESCO by using the

official form available <http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/content/call-applications>. The call for 2017 Applications, including the revised Designation Procedure and the Application Form, is available U above UNESCO website:

The 2017 call has taken note that Africa region is under-represented within the Network and called upon African cities to join the network in order to leverage on the enormous opportunities for partnerships in the creative sector. The announcement of the Creative Cities designated in 2017 will be published on the UNESCO website on 31 October 2017.

## Creative Cities Network

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 116 cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

By joining the Network, cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society in order to:

- strengthen the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services;
- develop hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector;
- improve access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals;
- fully integrate culture and creativity into sustainable development plans.

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

The Creative Cities Network is a privileged partner of UNESCO, not only as a platform for reflection on the role of creativity as a lever for sustainable development but also as a breeding ground of action and innovation, notably for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Why cities? Why creativity?

It is first and foremost at the local level that culture and creativity are lived and practiced on a daily basis.

Urban areas are, by definition, the principal breeding grounds for the emergence and development of cultural and creative industries. By strengthening the value chain of local creative economies, the Network believes that cities can support, enrich, learn from each other and work together for the sustainable urban development of all.

Above all, the Creative Cities join forces to make creativity a driver and an enabler for sustainable urban development.

By increasing their cultural offerings and supporting job creation, the Network fosters vibrant cultural sectors based on social diversity and cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and citizens' well-being. As a laboratory, the Network reinforces cooperation with and among Creative Cities. It offers unparalleled opportunities for cities, through peer-learning processes and collaborative projects, to fully capitalize on their creative assets.

By working together, public authorities, the private sector and civil society support creation and creators, as well as civic and cultural participation. By working together, public spaces can always be seen with fresh eyes, and urban development can meet the practical needs of local populations. The city belongs to everyone, and sustainable development is the responsibility of all.

*The writer is KNATCOM's Deputy Director at Culture Programme.*

## Our Vision

To be a leading organization in the advancement of peace, sustainable development and intellectual collaboration

## Our Mission

To promote building of peace, eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intellectual dialogue through education, sciences, culture, communication and information



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



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