

HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES: SOUTH SUDANESE YOUTHS IN KENYA SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZE A JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET

As their communities' power elites busy themselves with power-sharing tussles, South Sudanese youths representing their various communities on the 24/10/2019 united as one to hold the first Kenya South Sudan Students Science conference at the University of Eldoret.

The event that had an impressive attendance saw the best of South Sudanese Youthful brains at work, this one-day seminar had been in the planning for close to three months and was funded by the American Society for Microbiology(ASM) with its Implementations being done by the recently appointed South Sudan Chapter.



Themes focused on the creation of a peer to peer platform where youths in the sciences can share vital information and make life long networks and collaborations.

The event also saw the launch of the newly formed South Sudanese medical and allied sciences society, a body that is working on positioning itself to be the focal point of fraternizing and empowerment of South Sudan's medical and allied sciences professionals in East Africa.

This Coming right on the heels of a recent three-day crackdown on South Sudanese Youths in Australia that had captured the global media attention for all the wrong reasons, amid rising concerns that the out-of-control youth are terrorizing Victoria, and other suburbs of Australia will be a welcomed breath of fresh air for the badly tarnished South Sudanese image.

The event's main official speaker professor P.O.Raburu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor PRE University of Eldoret, emphasizes the need for positive youth to youth engagements in education matters as a way to strengthen and create stronger collaborations between the two countries, he also emphasized the positive sharing of ideas and experiences amongst the youths for quicker regional development.

The South Sudanese Youth leaders in attendance called on their Embassy in Nairobi and their student colleagues to set aside their differences and focus on the promotion and implementation of youth beneficial events in order to realize South Sudanese as well as regional developmental agendas.



Success in east African sciences hinges on its young scientists commitments to being professional, hardworking, patient and collaborative in all they do, the current fast paced mentality of the youths where most want to make it in the shortest time possible cannot be sustainable for the future generation without positive collaborations.

Prof.P.O.Raburu.

Although we cannot deny the facts that East African professional atmosphere still has a lot to do in effectively absorbing and employing its youths, It does not mean that all youths should be desperate and surrender to the current status as there is still room where hard work pays.

Prof.O.G.Dangasuk.

To navigate these slippery paths, there is need for us to elongate our flagella! Phew! That has to come very cautiously given that, "increase in length of the flagellum is likely to slow down motility". However, "hook optimization brings about efficient flagella motion." (Spöring et al., 2018) re-quoted by **Dr. Amendi Makumba 2019**

Following numerous calls from the presenters on the importance of frequently sensitising and informing youths actively engaged in the STEM areas to own and positively steer the directions of their professions through active participations in professional societies or the formation of them, the participants and organizers were left with the challenge of making this event an annual one.

The successful completion and general popular demands for a similar conference to be held by the majority of the attending membership informed the conference organizers of the urgency of extending this conference to South Sudan before the end of the year with the emphasis on creating better collaborative linkages that are professionally driven and involve the direct interaction between peers from both sides.

The East African community offers a wide choice of industry where microbiology graduates can exercise and practice their knowledge and skills as they earn an honest living. The problem however, is navigating the path to securing such an employment. Dr Amendi Makumba



Top: South Sudanese Youth representatives in Kenya, Bottom Right: Prof.O.G.Dangasuk stressing a point **far left** ASM South Sudan Young Ambassador **Mr Bior Garang** with **Prof .V.Sudoi** Director of Research and Innovation University of Eldoret.