

Visit to School of Hospitality and Tourism, Kenyatta University by Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in Middle East & Africa

Key Directors of the Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa, Mr. Sayed Haggag (Director, Talent Management) and Mr. Gary Dodds (Vice President, Human Resources) visited the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Kenyatta University on Friday, 25th November 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

The main purpose of the visit was to meet the staff and students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism to explore the possibility of establishing a long term partnership for recruiting our graduates in the School for the Marriott Hotels in the Arabian Gulf and elsewhere. Kenyatta University was identified as one of the three universities the team was visiting in Kenya.

The visiting team paid a courtesy call to Kenyatta University administration and were received by the DVC Academic Prof. John Okumu, the Dean, School of Hospitality and Tourism Dr. Alice Ondigi and Director Linkages and International Programmes Dr. Vicent Onywera.

The team then met the staff and students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism.



Mr. Gary Dodds (Vice President, Human Resources) –(Left) and Mr. Sayed Haggag (Director, Talent Management) (right) of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa during a recent visit to The School of Hospitality and Tourism, Kenyatta University



The Dean-School of Hospitality and Tourism, Dr Alice Ondigi, presented a brief history of the School as well as key projections and future potential. The Dean highlighted that the School of Hospitality and Tourism had made great strides towards achieving National development goals as well as ensuring that Kenya would achieve key national projections of the Vision 2030. The School is driven by the need to provide appropriate manpower to the industry through training.

The Dean, further provided key current and future prospects for the School which included the School building that was coming up as well as the need to have our School to be a Centre of Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism. As the School develops towards inculcating a culture of excellence, it also seeks to partner with the best to ensure long-term growth and fulfilment of our mission and vision.

The DVC Academic Prof. John Okumu further noted that the School of Hospitality and Tourism was part and parcel of a rapidly developing and vibrant University that is centred on providing excellence and quality training for Kenyans and East Africa in general. He mentioned that the Kenyatta University Management supported such endeavours and welcomed future partnerships.

The Dean, Dr. Alice Ondigi giving a presentation on the School of Hospitality and Tourism,

Kenyatta University to participants and representatives of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa



A cross section of students in the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Kenyatta University keenly following the presentation by representatives of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa



A section of The School of Hospitality and Tourism staff and students following the presentation by representatives of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa

Mr. Sayed Haggag gave a brief history of Marriott Hotels. Marriott was founded by J. Willard Marriott and his wife in 1927 when he and his wife opened a beer stand in Washington D.C. They later expanded their enterprises into a chain of restaurants and hotels. Their son and current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, J.W. (Bill) Marriott, Jr. has led the company to spectacular worldwide growth. Today, Marriott International has about 3,400 lodging properties located in the United States and 67 other countries and territories. Edwin D. Fuller is the current President and Managing Director of International Lodging for Marriott International.

Mr. Sayed Haggag emphasized on the fact that Human Resource Development was a key pillar for competitiveness of the Marriott Brands. It is with this in mind, which Marriott International seeks to develop various properties in Africa in countries such as Kenya,



Mr. Sayed Haggag (Director, Talent Management) of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa giving a presentation during a visit to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Kenyatta University.

Rwanda, Benin, Nigeria, Ghana etc.

Further, Mr. Gary Dodds noted that Marriott is an equal opportunity employer committed to hiring a workforce as diverse and high-performing as the customers Marriott serves. In this spirit, Marriott is focussed on identifying employees who are passionate about what they do, about working in the hospitality industry, and who have the spirit to serve for which Marriott is known around the world. The Marriott Hotels are centred on a unique range of differentiated brands that offer unique guest experiences as well as also extending an equally unique employment experience. This means Marriott jobs offer every employee the opportunity to grow their career while delivering a guest experience that is unique and evolving.

A series of video presentations went a long way towards explaining the history and core values of the Marriott Hotels. Mr. Gary Dodds, the Vice President, Human Resources continued on this discussion highlighting key areas of focus. He mentioned that Marriott was keen towards developing a Two year student work induction programme for the best students in the institutions identified. In Africa, Kenya was one of the key strategic areas of focus in East Africa for this programme. He further noted that the Marriott website (<http://www.marriott.com>) provided avenues for online applications. Marriott International provides services to the Marriott Vacations Worldwide for the recruitment of university students for internships and management entry level positions.



Mr. Gary Dodds (Vice President, Human Resources) of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa giving his presentation to staff and students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Kenyatta University



A section of staff and students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Kenyatta University after a visit by representatives of Marriott International Inc. & Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in the Middle East & Africa

Finally, the Director of University Linkages gave a vote of thanks acknowledging that avenues of partnership between Kenyatta University and the Marriott International Group of Hotels was highly welcomed and would be a great step towards inculcating excellence that the School of Hospitality and Tourism sought to provide. A photo session with students and staff of the School of Hospitality and Tourism followed as the guests left. Their visit to Kenyatta University affirmed that Kenyatta University is recognized Internationally as a Centre of Excellence in Hospitality training within and beyond.