



Kenyatta University

Transforming Higher Education...Enhancing Lives

Kenyatta University Hosts 1st Global Conference on Patient-Centred Care

Nairobi 30th September 2015... Kenyatta University officially opened the ‘**First Global Conference on Patient Centred Care.**’ themed; ‘*Training and Delivery of Universal Healthcare*’ with the goal of ‘*Realigning Healthcare to People’s Needs*’. The 3-day international conference was officially opened today at Kenyatta University, Amphitheatre, Main Campus at 9.30 a.m.

The Chief Guest was the Chairperson, Council of Governors and Meru County Governor, Hon. Peter Munya. The event brings together participants from countries across the globe including Kenya, United States, Nigeria, Canada, Switzerland among others.

In his keynote address during the opening Ceremony, the Chief Guest, Hon. Peter Munya noted that the Conference was not only timely but has a theme that resonates with key constitutional provisions guiding delivery of healthcare in Kenya. He pointed out that quality of service in healthcare delivery is often judged from a provider’s perspective in many countries. With providers being third parties in delivery of patient care, real patient needs are often left unaddressed in delivery of healthcare. With the Kenyan constitution enshrining right to highest standards of health to all citizens, the Chief Guest observed that this is a human rights approach that is meant to guide a patient-centred approach in rolling out health services to all citizenry. From his observations, this scenario often requires trade-offs with patient centred needs.

With regards to resource allocations to the health sector, Hon. Munya noted that there have been significant investments in the six pillars of the healthcare sector. As part of ongoing initiatives, county governments in Kenya are remodelling health facilities to ease access as well as meet patient expectations. This includes orientation of staff and care-givers towards patient service as well as attitudinal change to meet patient needs. In cognizance of ongoing initiatives by Kenyatta University in the health sector, he noted that ongoing efforts are not only timely but also key in providing research capacity to improving healthcare service delivery while informing planning for better healthcare delivery. He lauded Kenyatta University’s initiatives in creating a healthcare hub to reduce cases of medical tourism. As he pledged further partnerships between Kenyatta University and the County governments in the healthcare sector, he encouraged the University to continue providing more forums for various stakeholders to share their experiences.

In her remarks during the Ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda welcomed participants to the University as they deliberate on various challenges as well as map out solutions to the global healthcare industry. She disclosed that Kenyatta University has a strong healthcare vision for Kenya and the region. From her observation, this is aimed at creating a medical hub for the nation and the region with completion of upcoming state-of-the-art medical facilities at Kenyatta University. The Vice-Chancellor further noted that Kenyatta University continues to contribute highly to the nation’s healthcare sector. Part of these efforts include

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provision of highly qualified practitioners in various medical fields as well as networking efforts through the Kenyatta University Foundation to equip various hospitals in surrounding counties. In her remarks, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the ongoing conference reinforces the university's determination to ensure that quality healthcare centred on patient needs is availed. Further efforts include pursuit of strategic collaborations with leading health institutions and service providers in the healthcare industry for benchmarking. She further reiterated the need for health systems to put people at the centre of healthcare delivery and not diseases. In her closing remarks, she urged participants to provide a way forward from the conference that is realistic and achievable for short-term, medium-term as well as long-term implementation.

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*For more information, please contact: Paul Waitbaka, Public Relations and Marketing Manager;
Tel +020 8713121; Email: pro@ku.ac.ke*

About Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University is the one of the largest universities in Eastern Africa whose vision is to be a dynamic, an inclusive and a competitive centre for excellence in teaching learning and research and service to humanity.

Founded in 1965, K.U has taken significant steps towards becoming a world-class university over the years.

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Kenyatta
University
P. O. Box 43844
00100 Nairobi
Tel: 8710901-19
Fax: 8711575
Email:
pro@ku.ac.ke