

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY-MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP ON NATIONAL WIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Preamble

Kenya is currently experiencing a very high demand for education where all professionals are advancing their education to Masters and Doctorate levels. Consequently, a lot of research is being conducted annually by the numerous candidates who are graduating at Masters and Doctorate levels at Kenyan Universities. In deed all these researchers generate recommendations from their studies which would inform and influence development in the region. Unfortunately, most of these recommendations never get implemented due to lack of appropriate policies, capacity and structures. A lot of effort and resources are thus wasted in the long run. Through partnerships amongst universities, research institutes and funding organizations, it is possible to establish an interface between the researchers and communities where research findings can be fully utilized and be of value to the communities

Background

According to Mukoma and Bosire-Ogecho (2005)¹ universities are traditionally charged with the responsibilities of among others creating, storing and disseminating knowledge. This information or knowledge which is annually generated by the universities is published in Theses and Journals which are achieved and used in libraries and resource rooms. Mukoma and Bosire-Ogechi (2005) decry the fact that, although universities successfully come up with abundant research recommendations, these recommendations never get to the public who are essentially the potential users of this information.

Given the above background, there is therefore a need for universities to come up with strategies of translating, localizing and ensuring that research recommendations are fed into the community in order to spur the required social-economic development and hence make the Kenya Vision 2030 a reality. Hence, the need to establish the Institute of Implementation of Universities Research Recommendations (IIURC).

Statement of the problem

As explained above, a lot of research is taking place at Kenyan Universities and thus generating numerous recommendations which if well implemented at community level, may lead to a total transformation of the society. Lack of appropriate structures for ensuring these recommendations get to the community for implementation negate the role of Kenya Universities as an agent for change. Considering the financial and human resource utilized in the many research projects going on at the universities, and that, the recommendations from these research projects never see the light of the day, it is clear that we do not strive to get full gains from the entire process. Much of what would have been beneficial to the country is left “locked up” in the thesis and journals on the shelves. This is what we need to turn to, pick them up and translate them into usable packages for community use. The project will enable

¹ Mukoma, C. and Bosire-Ogecho, E. (2005). Information: the missing link in poverty reduction. The role of African Universities in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. MDG conference held at Kenyatta University on November 14-18, 2005

implementation of innovative research recommendations of the partnering universities. This will be a major milestone towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Kenya Vision 2030.

Goal:

The goal of this project is to provide a realistic pragmatic and meaningful link between the universities research recommendations and the community for the benefit of all in the society

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to utilize research recommendations towards achievements of MDGs and Vision 2030

Objectives:

The objectives of this proposed project are to:

1. Implement university research recommendations/research outputs
2. Revitalize research undertakings in the country and East African region.

Activities:

The project shall be engaged in the following activities:-

1. Identify innovative ideas
2. Collect and correlate research findings from universities researchers
3. Take intermediary role between donors, researchers and industry (Triple helix)
4. Solicit funding for implementation of research findings
5. Undertake joint research projects at the universities
6. Create data base of information on viable research recommendations
7. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the research recommendations
8. Facilitate researchers in the implementation of the research recommendations

Implementation plan:

The project shall be implemented through:-

1. Development of criteria for call on proposals on viable universities research recommendations/research outputs based on MDGs and Kenya Vision 2030 generated within the last five (5) years
2. Establishment of marketing strategies for the project
3. Sensitization of the stakeholders on the Vision and Mission of the project

Management of the project:

The project will be managed under an Institute to be referred to as Institute for Implementation of Universities Research recommendations (IIURC) aimed at attracting research recommendations for implementation. The Institute shall source funds for this

purpose from both private and public organizations. The two partnering universities shall provide resources required to run the institute for the first three (3) years

Vision: To be a regional model for implementation of research recommendations on Public-Private Partnerships basis.

Mission: To spur regional development through implementation of research recommendations.

Role of the institute:

1. Call for proposals on innovative ideas
2. Soliciting funding of the project
3. Mediate between donors and researchers
4. Storage of information (create data base information of the viable research)
5. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the project
6. Publicizing on the activities of the Institute
7. Facilitate researchers in the implementation of the recommendations
8. Publicizing outputs from the collaboration
9. Manage movable and immovable and IPR of the institute
10. Implementation of research recommendations
11. Provide a link between the universities research undertakings and the community
12. Create employment opportunities through university research programmes
13. Revitalize academic research undertakings in Kenya/East Africa and serve as a model in Africa and elsewhere

Administrative structure of the institute:

1. A Board of 7 members one of whom will be the Director of the institute and the secretary to the board with each university being represented by 3 members in the board
2. The Director will be appointed from one university on a two (2) years term renewable once. Each university shall provide a Director for four (4) continuous years
3. The Institute will be run directly by the offices of the Vice Chancellors in very close consultation with their respective university councils.
4. The Board shall serve for a total period of 5 years where every member can serve for a total of 2 consecutive terms.
5. The Director shall be responsible for the day to day running of the project while the Board will play an advisory role on behalf of the 2 partnering universities.
6. The Board will be responsible for fundraising to achieve the institute's Vision and Mission.
7. The Board shall decide and advice on the annual targets or the performance contracting agreements for the institute.
8. The location of the office of the Director will be at the hosting university which will be decided by the Vice-chancellors of the two universities

