



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS DURING THE OPENING OF
THE IDS ROUNDTABLE BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE OF
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND
INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF
SUSSEX ON 14TH JUNE 2006 AT JACARANDA HOTEL -
WESTLANDS, NAIROBI**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Director, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex

Director, Institute of Development Studies, Nairobi

Members of Staff, University of Sussex

Members of Staff, University of Nairobi

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to welcome you all, and in particular, our guests from Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, to the University of Nairobi. Today is an important point in the history of the two institutions that are celebrating over 40 years of existence.

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi was founded in 1965. It is a multipurpose and multi-disciplinary institute within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences with a focus on social as well as economic issues of development in the country, the continent and the world.

As one of the oldest research institutes in Kenya, IDS has over time expanded in size and programmes. Currently, IDS provides research services to the Government of Kenya, Non Governmental Organizations, private sector organizations and international development agencies. IDS undertakes various activities which have enabled an impressive expansion for the last 41 years. Some of these activities include capacity building, collaborative research as well as exchange programmes.

I take note that both institutions – IDS-Sussex and IDS-Nairobi – have teaching programmes that offer students solid

theoretical knowledge as well as opportunities to apply it practically. Particularly IDS, Nairobi builds capacity for the analysis of development issues through both the Masters and Ph.D programmes in Development Studies.

IDS has spearheaded the teaching of Fundamentals of Development, a course undertaken by all undergraduate students in the University of Nairobi. This course has been appreciated by many graduates who find the practical aspects of this course relevant when they join the labour market.

The MA in Development Studies was commissioned in the year 2000 and has attracted many applicants. So far more than 30 students have graduated from IDS.

The Institute for Development Studies began a PhD programme in the year 2003. Although the first lot is yet to graduate, this course has witnessed overwhelming applications. Most of these applicants are experienced practitioners in the civil society and public sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, both Institutes have over 40 years experience of development research in different parts of the world. This roundtable discussion is meant to look forward on

key issues and challenges for development research in the world for the next 20 years.

The sharing of knowledge and research findings is encouraged through collaborative research between researchers from our Institute and those from other research institutes. Such collaborative research enables comparative analysis among different countries and regions. Our Institute has had many collaborative research activities with IDS Sussex which include, work on Enterprise Clusters, the Global Value Chain Analysis, Donor Proliferation, and the 'Asian Drivers'.

Among the regional on-going collaborative research are the African Clothing and Footwear Research Network (ACFRN) which covers Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and South Africa; and the Trade and Justice in developing countries which covers Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi.

IDS encourages intellectual exchange between its researchers and those from other institutions and IDS Sussex has been a key player in these research programmes. I note that scholars from IDS Sussex have spent time in IDS Nairobi while undertaking their research in the region. Equally, IDS Nairobi staff have spent valuable time at IDS Sussex. The Research Associate programme run by IDS enables scholars from

different countries or research institutions to spend at least six month in the Institute in order to undertake research related activities. Through this programme, IDS Nairobi offers assistance to these scholars by facilitating their research activities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been informed that some 40 roundtables have been organized worldwide to celebrate existence of development research. A common feature of these roundtables is the special priority given to alumni of IDS. The celebrations aim at exploring the role that alumni play in development activities.

I note that our Institute's alumni is well represented in key sectors of the Kenyan economy and I am proud that you have been good ambassadors for the IDS and the University of Nairobi at large. To our colleagues from Sussex, your collaboration has enabled us to maintain a distinguished international appeal that puts us in a good position among our peers.

The University of Nairobi has developed a Strategic Plan to guide it in achieving its mission of being a centre for learning and scholarship. Locally, Universities have been challenged to rethink, revisit and change their management styles to contribute to the government's agenda for development.

The alumni have been identified as key players in enhancing partnerships and collaboration, and the University would like to see it play a critical role in fundraising, establishing endowed chairs, contributing to research funds and contributing to the development and rehabilitation of the institution's infrastructure.

Our main challenge as an institution like others remains inadequate finances to meet the necessary operational needs. The Alumni as key stakeholders in the development of their institutions are called upon to assist their alma mater to meet their financial and other obligations.

This being your University, my challenge to you today is to seek your involvement in the development of the institution. Today's meeting is a step in this direction and I call upon you to reach out to your fellow alumni;

The input of the Alumni will enable the University to utilize its networks in developing the institution and also, produce graduates who can deliver the promise of taking this country towards its goal of economic, social and political development.

The deliberations you are going to have will go a long way in cementing our relationship with IDS Sussex. It will also provide

opportunities for sharing experiences leading to the growth and advancement of the two institutions. I wish you a fruitful discussion.

To our guests, please enjoy our hospitality and find time to visit our campus.

**With those few remarks it is my pleasure to declare this IDS @
40 Roundtable officially open.**

Thank you.