UoN and Nairobi County to participate in the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge

The University of Nairobi (UoN) will work with the Nairobi County Government in submitting an application for the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. The University through the Department of Urban Research Innovations, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nairobi County Government in 2014 to develop the City Master Plan.

The Rockefeller Foundation is working with 100 cities around the world to help them become more resilient to social, economic and physical challenges that are growing part of the 21st Century.

The Managing Director, Africa Programme Team, Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Mamadou Biteye noted urban resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow despite the challenges faced. He said that by working with the University in the 100 Resilient Cities challenge, Nairobi City will benefit from the University's expertise.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, revealed that the University and Rockefeller Foundation share a long history of partnership in research, grants and scholarships. Prof. Mbithi said that by working with the county government on the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge, UoN will be part of the city's development. He said that institutions of higher learning need to reinvent themselves through innovations. Prof. Peter Ngau, Ag. Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering and Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, Institute of Development Studies will lead the University in the project.

Urban Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience i.e. a city's ability to maintain essential functions as threatened by both acute shocks (earthquakes, floods, wildfires, riot, civil unrest, heat wave) and chronic stresses (water scarcity, lack of affordable housing, high unemployment, aging infrastructure, crime, violence).