

## UoN and Tsinghua University to enhance collaboration

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tsinghua University and the University of Nairobi on September 1, 2017, Tsinghua University sent a team of nine high level delegates to enhance communication and cooperation with the University of Nairobi on June 29, 2018.

Led by Prof. Guo Yong the Vice Chairperson, Tsinghua University Council, the team aimed to follow up on issues in the signed MoU with the University of Nairobi. The team from UoN was led by Prof. Peter K'Obonyo, the Deputy Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS).

Tsinghua University is the top Science and Engineering University in China with a student population of about 50,000 with 15,000 being Undergraduate Students, 31,000 Graduate Students and 3,500 International students.

Prof. Yong outlined some of the key potential areas that the University can partner with Tsinghua University including Collaborative Research, Co-supervision of Students' Research, Students Exchange and Exchange of Visiting Lecturers among others.

Tsinghua University and UoN are already engaging in the following collaborative activities;

1. Experiencing China Summer School Program 2018 – two UoN students have received scholarships for this program from July 15-28, 2018. This is an experiential learning program designed to help sharpen ones global vision and leadership skills.
2. Global South Culture Immersion Program – 2 Faculty and 20 Students from Tsinghua will be visiting the University of Nairobi from August 26 - September 8, 2018

With Global Competency Education being a mandatory requirement for Universities now, the team from Tsinghua University expressed their willingness to assist UoN with necessary knowledge in setting up a Global Competence Development Centre to equip students with competency in handling Development, Global, Cross Culture and Sustainable Development Goals issues. Some of the skills the Global Competency Centre would offer include Work Culture, Languages, Communication, Self-awareness, Self-competence, Ethics, Integrity and Responsibility among other soft skills. This would also open up both Universities to Internship programs and opportunities within international organizations.

Going forward, the team from Tsinghua University and UoN agreed to form a technical team to develop a program of activities based on the MoU and survey on possible collaborations between the University of Nairobi and Tsinghua Universities in overseas social engagement and practice, students and faculty exchange through the International Office and co-development of workshops to engage students more in the global arena.

Of key importance to UoN is the setting up of a Career Development Centre in charge of educating undergraduate and postgraduate students in Career Development and Employment, connecting students with potential employers, helping students to establish good career views and encourage students to work in International Organizations.