Vice-Chancellor’s welcoming Remarks during the Talk on Innovation Management in a Company/Institution

Langdon Morris, Co-Founder, Innovation Labs LLC, CEOs and Heads of Institutions present, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to welcome you to the University of Nairobi and to the Nairobi Innovation Week. Innovation is one of the strategic themes of my new Administration. As part of implementing this theme, we have organised the Nairobi Innovation Week. It is the first of its type in the life of the University and I am committed to making it an annual flagship event as long as I am the Vice-Chancellor.

I am sure ladies and gentlemen you are aware of the objectives of the Nairobi Innovation Week, which are:

a) to foster discussions on innovation ecosystem and innovation management at national and institutional levels;
b) to showcase and recognize the innovations taking place in the University, and complement with innovations from partners and other external organizations;
c) to create a platform for presentation of academic papers and innovation illustrations (posters); and
d) to foster partnerships with others in co-creating innovations and commercialising them to solve problems in the various sectors of our economy.

One of the areas of focus in the first objective is how to make innovation work in our organizations. We looked far and wide to find an appropriate person to facilitate discussions on this important topic and we settled on the best you can find anywhere in the world, Mr. Langdon Morris, who is here with us. Since 2001, Langdon Morris has led the innovation consulting practice of InnovationLabs LLC, where he is a senior partner and co-founder. His work focuses on developing and applying advanced methods in innovation and strategy to solve complex problems with very high levels of creativity. He is recognized as one the world’s leading thinkers and consultants on innovation, and his original and ground-breaking work has been adopted by corporations and universities on every continent to help them improve their innovation processes and the results they achieve.

His breakthrough white paper, Business Model Warfare is a landmark in the field, and is used as a standard reference at universities and corporations worldwide. His book Fourth Generation R&D, coauthored with William L. Miller, is considered a classic in the field of R&D management, and his more recent works Agile Innovation, The Innovation Master Plan and Permanent Innovation are recognized as three of the leading innovation books of the last 5 years.

I want to deeply thank Mr. Morris for accepting our invitation to be a facilitator in his area of specialization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will note from the program that after this breakfast talk, Mr. Morris has graciously accepted to conduct a day-long seminar on Innovation Management at institutional level targetted at line management. Tomorrow we will be
having another breakfast talk on Developing a National Innovation Ecosystem followed by a day long seminar on the same topic by another global icon on this area. Then from Wednesday to Friday, we will have a rich menu of exhibitions, paper and poster presentations and panel discussions on different aspects of innovation in various sectors. I am sure people in your organization can benefit from talks, seminars, papers and posters, exhibitions and panel discussions. I therefore urge you to send some people to participate in this week-long rich menu of innovation activities so that we can improve the innovation ecosystem in our country.

Finally, I want to profusely thank our sponsors. These are our Platinum sponsor, Barclays Bank; our Gold sponsors, Equity Bank and Craft Silicon; our Silver sponsors Safaricom and Microsoft; our Bronze sponsors Intel, Thompson Reuters, Konza Technopolis and The University of Nairobi Alumni Association; and our other sponsors Israeli Embassy, NACOSTI and JamboPay.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now want to welcome Mr. Langdon Morris to deliver his talk. May you enjoy the talk and may God bless you all.

Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi