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Visit by the Chinese Ambassador

On Friday, 10 September 2021, the Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Hua Ning, visited the University of Juba and met with the senior management committee. During the meeting, Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Robert Deng received a financial donation to the University of Juba. The grant, called "Chinese Ambassador Award," will support disadvantaged students and enable the University to provide awards to excellent performing staff and students.

Ambassador Hua Ning commended the academic staff of the University for their dedicated service, and emphasized that human resource is the most valuable asset of a country. He pointed out that China had been implementing the "strategy of invigorating China through science and education" since 1995, and thus cultivating millions of young talents, and hoped that the youth of South Sudan would integrate lofty ideals with practical work through diligence in their academic studies.

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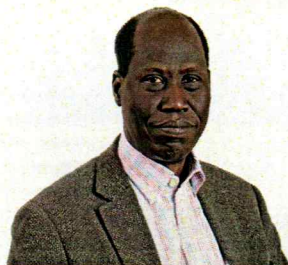
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The Focus: Supporting Economic Growth through Innovation and Entrepreneurship



by Prof John A. Akec

Institutions are established in order to carry out specific mandates. At the University of Juba, for example, our mandate has been captured by our mission statement as commitment to: "national economic empowerment and social transformation through provision of quality education, pursuit of relevant research, promotion of innovation, facilitation of technology transfer, revival of national cultural heritage, protection of environment, and service to community."

In our Vision 2030, we aim "... to become a dynamic regional and world-class centre of excellence in teaching, research, innovation, and service to community..." Our driving motto is "Inventing the Future, Transforming Society." Our strategic goals include serving communities, assisting in the nation's integration into global knowledge-based economy, and facilitation of transfer of technology and know-how to key economic sectors.

Every single word in our mission, vision, motto, and strategic goals is for a reason – it underpins our actions and guides every project we undertake. To be brutally truthful, our world is replete with institutions whose missions and visions lie dormant on their walls, hanged at their gates and buildings entrances to inspire visitors, while bearing no measurable relevance to the kind of projects and programmes these institutions embark on. It is a bit like telling family and friends that you are travelling to Yambio, when in fact you are onboard a Nairobi-bound flight. It is absurd! Certainly, we at the University of Juba strive, within our means, to implement strategies and pursue goals that are closely aligned to our stated mission and guiding vision.

It is worth noting that "innovation" appears in our mission statement and Vision 2030. Although not explicitly mentioned in any of our strategic goals, innovation is the vehicle through which our university aims to serve communities, help the country to compete in the global marketplace, and facilitate transfer of technology to key economic sectors such as energy, communication, agriculture, and manufacturing. Innovation, according to Clayton Christensen (2019), is "...the change in process by which an organisation transforms labour, capital, materials, and information into products and services of greater value."

In prosperous societies, economic agents called entrepreneurs, employ innovation to introduce new products and services. These innovations create new startup companies (as most small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are), open up markets, create jobs, and boost incomes for thousands of people and thereby enhance prosperity across the board. An example of innovation that created markets is automobiles. Another markets-creating-innovation is the penetration of mobile phones globally, which not only allowed us to communicate and transfer money, but also have put computers and TV sets in our pockets. These innovations have created millions of jobs locally and globally in research and development, design, manufacturing, distribution, training, advertising, sales, insurance, maintenance, and service. Nevertheless, there are millions of smaller, albeit less known, innovations that have served local communities. Here, the entrepreneurs were able to solve particular problems facing their immediate communities. Many innovations have grown into global brands such as Apple, Amazon, Alibaba, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and the like. They all started small.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are essential tools in spurring economic growth and lifting millions out of poverty globally, as they provide the means for exploiting available local or national resources to their full potential in such a way as to improve livelihoods and raise the quality of life for millions. Far from being job seekers, entrepreneurs are job creators.

While many individuals have natural entrepreneurial gift, entrepreneurship can be cultivated. Through training, individuals can acquire new lenses through which to view old problems and spot new opportunities, understand financial and people management, know how to build great teams, able to raise finances, and equipped to take calculated risks.

In August 2021, the University of Juba launched a new master's programme- a multidisciplinary Master of Science in Entrepreneurship. About 60 students have enrolled. All of them have a bachelor degree. They come from different educational backgrounds; some from social sciences (mainly business and economics) and others from science-based specializations (agricultural science and natural resources and veterinary medicine). Our goal is to produce postgraduates with knowledge and skills that enable them to conceive business ideas in areas of their interest and start their own micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

This, for us, is a giant step forward in living up to our stated mission and Vision 2030.



Establishment of the Center of Excellence on Forced Displacement and Peacebuilding

On 18 August 2021, the University of Juba and the UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding, the implementation of which will culminate in the setting up of a Center of Excellence on Forced Displacement and Peacebuilding at the University of Juba. It is envisaged that, among other things, the Center will support capacity building for governmental and non-governmental institutions, and promote research and teaching on refugee protection. The ceremony, on the main campus of the University, was graced by the presence of Hon Gabriel Changson Chang, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Robert Deng, observed: "Considering the challenges our country is facing, government funding has been inadequate and therefore we have to look elsewhere for additional donor's support and that's why the signing of memorandum of understanding with UNHCR is very important."

The UNHCR Representative, Mr Jamal Arafat, pointed out that, he was delighted to witness the growth of the partnership between University of Juba and UNHCR and also commended the leaderships of the Ministry of Higher Education and University of Juba for availing learning opportunities to South Sudanese nationals and refugees.

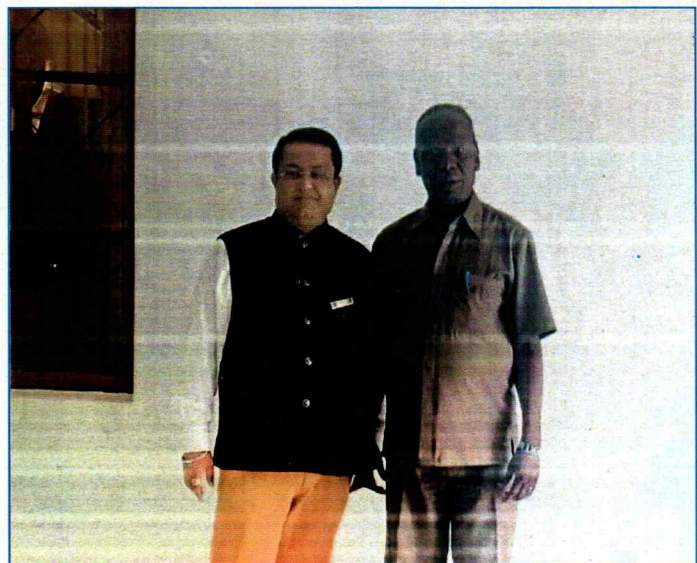
Hon Gabriel Changson Chang reiterated the government's commitment to cater for the wellbeing of refugees, including giving them access to education.



Acting Vice Chancellor met a member of staff of India's Marwadi University

On Monday, 6 September 2021, Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Robert Deng met with Assistant Professor Nilesh Advani of the Faculty of Computer Application, Marwadi University of India. The meeting explored possibilities of signing a memorandum of understanding covering areas of education, research and cultural exchange programmes particularly the provision of scholarships, and academic exchanges among staff and students.

The talks were held in the context of a keen interest on the part of University of Juba to enhance teaching, research and outreach activities through collaborating with universities and other institutions within or outside our country.





Launch of MSc in Entrepreneurship

University of Juba has started a two-year multi-disciplinary MSc programme in Entrepreneurship. The MSc programme seeks to produce competent professionals who are equipped with both academic and practical knowledge and skills in starting and managing business in South Sudan.

The first batch of students, nearly 60, came from Schools of Natural Resources and Environment Studies, Management and Business Sciences, and Social and Economic Studies. They began classes on 23 August 2021 and will take a number of courses including Enterprise and Entrepreneur, Organizational Behaviour, Managerial Finance, Business Research Methods, Accounting for Decision Making, Environmental Innovation, Agribusiness, Social Innovation, and Logistics and Procurement. Those interested in enrolling should hold a minimum of BA or BSc degree in social sciences or natural sciences.



Call for Applicants

The University of Juba invites applicants for enrolment into MSc in Disaster Risk Management and Food Systems Resilience, which is a programme developed by institutions in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somaliland and The Netherlands. The one and a half year programme aims to improve Disaster Risk Management through building disaster resilient communities.

The applicants are required to hold a minimum of BA or BSc in Social Sciences or Natural Sciences. For more information or to collect application forms contact: Dr Salah K Jubarah, Joint Regional MSc Project Coordinator, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, University of Juba- Email: sjubarah@yahoo.co.uk or tel.: +211 910706637

Update on Academic Programmes

Students have successfully completed their semester exams and gone on break. However, students in evening classes as well as postgraduate students are busy. The Academic Registry will update students on commencement date for the next semester.

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