

CS Wakhungu challenges universities on SGD Goals

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Prof. Judi Wakhungu has challenged universities to leverage on their strengths to provide solutions to the global problems of food, water and environment dubbed '*the Nexus*' through a multi-disciplinary approach.

"Individuals, businesses and governments need to work together since at the heart of Nexus is understanding of interdependencies", she said. "The government has set in place various measures to address the challenges of water, food and environment. Key among them is developing and implementing policies on water to control irrigation, encouraging the use of solar and renewable energy such as wind, geothermal and solar, national forest policy to grow and sustain a tree cover of 10%, use of biofuels and biomass to supplement energy usage among others."

With the population of Kenya growing rapidly and currently stands at approximately 45 million people, competition for natural resources will put a strain on water, food and the environmental resources. "There is hence a need for conflict resolution mechanism and design of good Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR programs to resolve conflicts as communities fight for the scarce resources and to ensure good water utilization," added Prof. Wakhungu.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi on his part pledged to support Nexus partnership that will focus on; joint research, capacity development, and community engagement. He observed that no one university has the resources to solve the global challenges of climate change, water and environmental degradation and thus the need for collaboration. Prof. Mbithi was represented by Prof. Madara Ogot, Director of Research at the University of Nairobi.

Present also was Prof. Michael Adewumi, Vice-Provost Penn State University and Prof. Esther Obonyo, Prof. of Engineering, Design and Architectural Engineering, Penn State University.