

UoN receives Kshs. 4.2M from WIPO for intellectual property audit

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has received Kshs. 4.2 million from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for an intellectual property audit.

This is the first intellectual property audit to be done by a university in Africa.

“Following a proposal drawn by UoN’s Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO) to WIPO through Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), WIPO has agreed to fund UoN’s intellectual property audit,” said Mr. Sylvance Sange, Managing Director, KIPI when he presented the cheque to UoN on July, 18, 2017. “Academia has a lot of potential in creating and preserving knowledge. Creating knowledge has no boundaries and I urge all students to take their student projects seriously as it could open immense opportunities for them upon completion of their studies.”

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, thanked KIPI for the support accorded to the university.

“This being the very first intellectual property audit to be done by a university in Africa is indeed a great achievement,” he said. “The University of Nairobi has in place an intellectual property policy that has seen to the establishment of the IPMO office.”

Prof. Mutoro was representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

On her part, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, said that the audit of UoN’s intellectual property, will enable the university to tap from the vast wealth from the copyrights.

“The University of Nairobi has many innovations and technologies that are yet to be commercialized,” she said. “The findings from the audit will help us identify the projects in all the colleges.”

The Director, IPMO, Prof. Julius Mwangi, also thanked KIPI for the support it has accorded the university to date. He said that the audit will be a case study and a point of reference to other universities.

The Director, Research, Prof. Madara Ogot, said that the audit is good for the university.