

UNIVERSITIES CHALLENGED TO TAILOR-MAKE COURSES RELEVANT OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

A public lecture entitled 'Oil and Gas sector in the East African region: Challenges and development' was held today 1st July 2016 at the University of Nairobi. The lecture was held in collaboration with Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC).

The Guest Speaker was Cabinet Secretary - Energy and Petroleum Hon. Charles Keter who encouraged the youth to take up studies related to oil and gas in the universities. He noted that most people employed in the oil industry in Kenya are foreigners. He also challenged the universities to tailor make courses that are relevant to the oil and gas sector.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Mbithi, on his part noted that the partnership between UON and Kenya Pipeline is a collaboration that is aimed at providing research information and data in this profitable sector of oil and gas.

The Oil and Gas Industry in East Africa faces a number of obstacles that has made operation hard. These include: Lack of adequate infrastructure, lack of skills required, high cost of capital, unavailable technology, volatility in the oil and gas sector and unfair trade practices.

Some of the recommendations to curb this challenges that were proposed by the panel include: Understanding of the Oil and gas sector in depth, Capacity Building, Skills Development and Competence based training and Sustainability.

The Panel Members present at the lecture were: Mr. Andrew Kamau, Principal Secretary, State Department of Petroleum, Engineer James Mwangi, Chairman, Energy and Extractives Sector Board, KEPSA, Mr. Joe Sang - Managing Director, Kenya Pipeline Company, Mr. Powell Maimba, Chairman, Petroleum Institute of East Africa, Mr. Daniel Kiptoo, Petroleum Legal Advisor, MoEP and Dr. Daniel Ichang'i, Chairman, Geology Department, University of Nairobi.

The Lecture was held at Taifa Hall and it was attended by staff, students and members of the public.