



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**Remarks by**







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**AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR, KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**On the occasion to mark**

**THE 2016 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**  
**DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

-  Distinguished Guests
-  Deans present
-  Chairpersons of Departments present
-  Members of staff
-  Students
-  Ladies and gentlemen

## **Good Morning**

Let me start by welcoming you all to Kenyatta University as we mark this year's GIS Day and also recognize the following Institutions represented here today:

- Esri Eastern Africa
- The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- The Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS)
- Conscious Global
- Central Bank of Kenya (CBK )

- UNOSAT - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Programme
- Centre for Research in Insect physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Earth Observation Unit
- Taita Taveta University
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
- UNICEF Somalia
- Muranga County Meteorological Services
- Kipeto Wind Farm
- Kenya Wildlife Services
- Optron Trimble
- Ramani Geosystems
- Oakar Services
- National Disaster Operations Center
- Coretec
- And any other institutions present whom I may not have mentioned

We are glad to have you at Kenyatta University. Allow me to note that Kenyatta University signed up for the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) Education Site License in June 2012. The University was awarded the license in May 2013 and since then we have seen our students embrace the use of the Geospatial tools in their studies and research, as you will see later today during some of their presentations. This has enhanced their search for knowledge and I hope your deliberations today will sharpen their skills and knowledge even further.

Since GIS Day last year, the University has witnessed greater involvement and competition amongst the students both within and with other Universities. This enthusiasm is driving development of better infrastructure in the University to meet the demand and to help the students conduct research better and address the many global problems facing us. It will also help them to leverage the GIS knowledge to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Institutional use of the ESRI GIS Platform has spread the scope of the students' research in many areas in which they are seeing GIS as a suitable tool for:

- Resources assessment
- Environmental monitoring
- spatial planning for infrastructure
- Solutions for transportation infrastructure
- Water supply and sewerage l
- Waste management
- Disaster Risk management
- Agriculture and food production
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Engineering works and safety
- Population and settlement studies
- Security management, among many others

The scope of application of GIS for research and development is wide. I note that students are using web mapping applications and online tools in conducting their research and helping to cut down on resource consumption.

We will continue to support these activities by providing the infrastructure and hope many of you can partner with us in the implementation of research projects supporting the 3 pillars of Kenya Vision 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other Global agenda including Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

I wish to particularly recognize the support and networking that has helped us grow our competitive edge by thanking the following Institutions:

- ESRI East Africa
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) whose training programmes have benefitted a number of staff and students
- Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS) through the MESA Project
- Oaker Services – through their Geo-Media solution

- ICIPE Earth Observation Unit for Development Science support

Many of you have also supported us in the GIS Agenda in one way or another and we look forward to greater engagement and collaborative work with all of you. While you are here, please find time to visit the GIS and other laboratories that we have established to support students' research work.

As I conclude, allow me to sincerely thank the Committee that has organized this event led by Professor Chris Shisanya (*Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences*), Professor Simon Onywere (*Director Research Dissemination and Uptake*), and Partners from ESRI Eastern Africa led by Mr. Clifford Okembo, for their commitment and good work.

It is now my pleasure and humble duty to declare the 2016 GIS Day open. Have fruitful deliberations and an enjoyable time at Kenyatta University.

**Thank you.**