



# HELBnews

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Higher Education Loans Board Bulletin

4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Welcome to this edition of *Helbnews*. This is the Board monthly bulletin that is meant to bring you the Board's events as they take place in our various departments. In this issue, we have captured the Ghanaian SLTF visit to HELB, the AAHEFA meeting, the leadership training among other interesting stories. We appreciate your contribution on topics and subjects that you believe will benefit other readers by the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month through [newsletter@helb.co.ke](mailto:newsletter@helb.co.ke). Enjoy the read!

## Learning: Leadership Process

“We must start mentoring others as we begin to exit the organization,” this was said by Mr Benjamin Cheboi, the Chief Executive Officer HELB at the KICC Taifa hall, during the opening session of the Leadership and Development skills workshop on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009. He said HELB was achieving its objective through training its staff on leadership skill. “A few weeks ago,” he said, “the Board of directors and the senior management held a meeting in Naivasha to spearhead changes through the development and adoption of a new strategic plan.”

Speaking to members drawn from all HELB departments, Mr. Cheboi, told the participants that learning was a leadership process. He said leaders become more powerful role models when they teach. He said, “Leadership starts from grassroots and hence it is not a myth; it is simply showing the way to others for the benefit of the institution.”

Addressing the participants, Mrs. Anne Gitau the Human Resources Manager welcomed the participants. She said the training had been tailored to suit HELB staff. She said, “Prior the training a mini survey was carried among HELB staff and it was from there that the objectives of the training were drawn

from.” The facilitators of the training were staff from Kenya Institute Administration.

## Naivasha: Strategic Plan Meeting

HELB Board of Directors and Management recently held a two day workshop at Naivasha to discuss a draft of the Board's 5- year Strategic Plan [2009-2015].

The Workshop chaired by the Board Chairman Prof. Joseph H. Kimura was facilitated by Mr. Onkunya of the Federation of Kenya Employers.

Board of Directors present included: Mr. Ken Waitiru, Mrs. Rose Waruinge, Wanyela, Mr. Kipng'etich arap Bett, and Prof. Everret Standa, among others.

## AAHEFA Team meets

A two - day committee meeting of the Association of African Higher Education Financing Agencies [AAHEFA] was held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The meeting held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies was aimed at working out the modalities of operationalising the Association.

The membership of AAHEFA comprises the Kenyan Higher Education Loans Board [HELB], the Tanzanian Higher Education Students Loans Board {HESLB} and the Students Financing Agency for Rwanda [SFAR].

The AAHEFA Information Communication Technology, Legal, General Purposes, Administrative Audit and Finance Committees whose mandate is to work out modalities of setting up the operations of the association drew participants from HELB and HESLB. SFAR representatives were unable to attend for unforeseen reasons but sent apologies.

HELB was represented by the HoF Mr. S. Gichimu, HOO, Dr. R. B.Kipsang, the Legal Services Manager

Mrs. B. Masinde and the Audit Manager Mr. V. Lomaria. The Tanzanian team comprised Mr. F. Tarimo, Mr. A. Dallo, Mr. A Bangu, and Mr. Lubambula



*Participants of the AAHEFA meeting pose for a group photo during the regional meeting that was held on 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies.*

The meeting was officiated Mr. Benjamin C. Cheboi, CEO HELB who is also the current President of AAHEFA. Speaking at the opening ceremony Mr. Cheboi told the committee that the success of the AAHEFA will depend on how effectively they lay the ground work for the association

## SLTF Visit HELB Kenya

“The cost of training a doctoral student in most of the Kenyan Universities is on average of 1 million in tuition and research.” This was said by Mr. Benjamin Cheboi, CEO HELB during the visit of Ghanaian team SLTF on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the HELB main boardroom. He disclosed that the Kenyan cost could be classified as affordable as compared to the cost of PhD education in Europe and USA which on average is Kshs 2.5 million. Consequently, HELB has widened its lending of funds from undergraduate to the postgraduate students pursuing higher education in Kenyan institution.

Giving an example of the Kenyan institution that offers PhD programmes, Mr. Cheboi said successful applicants receive loans with an interest of 12% for postgraduate loans per annum.

Present during the meeting were all HELB senior management as well as the SLTF CEO and head of departments, Mr. Richard Darko, Mr. Francis Mezhiah and Mr. Samuel Awuku.

Later in the afternoon, the visitors met the Head of Operations and the Human Resources Manager at the BS's waiting room where they handed over some gifts

they had carried all the way from Ghana. Speaking to the Mr. Darko said, HELB Kenya is their second office and whenever they want to initiate a project concerning financing higher education they would always refer to the HELB.”

Ms Anne Gitau thanked the guest for their gifts and said that Ghana is a country that is home to many professionals citing Mr. Koffi Annan and the former president John Koffuor.

On the same note Dr Kipsang said that the Ghanaian saved the country Kenya at the most critical time and had it not been the sacrifice of leaders like Koffi Annan things would be different in Kenya.



*Mrs. Anne Gitau the Human Resources Manager receives a gift from Mr. Richard Darko as Angeline Rutto and Mr. Francis Mezhiah looks on. The two members of HELB staff are wearing the Ghana traditional scarf.*

## New Members on Board:

The following members of staff have joined the board under the Ford foundation programme

- Mr. Solomon Wanyama,
- Mr. Ronald Chogii,
- Ms. Amina Jarso,
- Ms. Grace Miano
- Ms. Judith Chepkorir

Meanwhile the following have also joined HELB Asst. System Analysts/Programmers

- Mr. Paschal O. Onyango
- Mr. Elijah M. Macharia

We welcome them and wish them well in their new assignments as we work together to finance higher education now and in the future.

*Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish John Quincy Adams (by Mrs. Alice Ayonga- Recovery department.)*