

The first ever International Triple Helix summit in Africa and 15th of its kind in the world has entered its 3rd and last day at the Manu Chandaria Auditorium, University of Nairobi Towers. Experts from government, academia and industry have been gathering to explore how ICT and data can be used to accelerate the attainment of SDG goals.

During the official launch of the summit, University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said: “As a University, we recognize the importance of the concept of the Triple Helix of University-industry-government relationships that interprets the shift from a dominating industry-government dyad in the Industrial Society to a growing triadic relationship between university-industry-government in the Knowledge Society. We also recognize the role that civil society plays as a critical linkage with the Academia.”

He urged the event participants to develop an acceleration roadmap and implementation plan to help in the attainment of the SDG goals. Prof. Mbithi pledged to support the implementation and realization of the SDGs.

Dr. Richard Belio Kipsang , Principal Secretary Education, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, enumerated the various efforts being made by the government to attain universal access to quality education in Kenya. The government has, among others, established feeding programs for pupils from arid and semi-arid areas, construction of infrastructure, electricity connection to schools and training of quality teachers among others.

Speaking during the summit, Mr. Irungu Nyakera, Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development, quoted the mantra “What gets measured, gets done.” He challenged participants to actively perform monitoring and evaluation of the attainment of the SDGs. He also challenged technologically savvy young people to rise up and build ICT solutions that can help the country deal with effects of drought, climate change and improve the education system.

The summit has been organized by *I Choose Life* and is addressing 7 SDG goals like end poverty in all forms everywhere, end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, take urgent action to combat climate change and strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize global partnership for sustainable development.

The event has been attended by delegates from Vodacom, Erikson, Uber, Microsoft, among other technology companies. All were in agreement that technology can be used to accelerate the attainment of SDG goals.