HEALTHIT PROJECT INCEPTION LUNCHEON

The HealthIT project is a three year (2016-2019) USAID funded project implemented by School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) through University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES). The award is a follow up of previous engagements with the Ministry of Health under AfyaInfo project (2011-2016) in systems assessment, systems enhancement and technical support of health information systems in Kenya. The project aims to contribute to evidence-based decision making by health stakeholders in Kenya by sustaining use of DHIS2. During the project life capacity, in-county universities will be built to provide technical support to county departments of health in managing the information systems and enhancing use of data in decision making by program/facility managers as a sustainability model.

The project which is at its quarter three of year one implementation hosted the Principal of the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS), the Director and the faculty of School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), for an inception luncheon on 12th May 2017. The HealthIT Project team was led by Prof. Peter Waiganjo (Chief of Party), Dr. Dan Orwa (Deputy Chief of Party, Admin) and Raphael Pundo (Deputy Chief of Party, Technical). The objectives of the meeting were to formally introduce the project to the university and highlight opportunities for partnership for successful project implementation.

During the meeting collaboration between the GoK and universities was noted as important in linking academic research and in-country technical skills with industry to solve real-world problems. The HealthIT project provides an opportunity to create areas of synergy so as to contribute to the University's agenda on research, development and consultancy. The project envisions a Centre for Health Informatics to propel research and development in the health informatics space both nationally and regionally. Research opportunities for the masters and doctorate students were also mentioned as important benefits of the collaboration. The University restated its commitment to creating an enabling environment for the project to perform its mandate effectively.