



# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IDIS- THE LEADING REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) of the University of Nairobi (UoN), which has become a regional & International Institute of Choice, has come a long way. IDIS journey started back in 1973, as a Diplomacy Training Program, charged with the all important and strategic role of training future diplomats for the entire Africa region. IDIS leading Alumni of that time- Amb. Francis Muthaura- enrolled in the second class of the diplomatic training program in 1974/75, alongside many other Kenyan Foreign Service Officers and Ambassadors from other participating African countries.

Through funding from various development partners, including the Swiss government, UNDP, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Ford & Sasakawa Foundations, the Diploma program metamorphosed into a full fledged Institute which was officially launched in 1990, to offer post graduate programs in Diplomacy & International studies.

From its humble beginnings with only 18 diploma level students and only three founder members of academic staff- including the current Director- Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo, the Institute now has a student body of over 1300 students. It has grown to become the leading trilingual research and training Institute of its kind in Africa, with a pan African and global outreach; a broad based curriculum that attracts students not only from the various social sciences but also from other disciplines- including the military service, health services, and many in the business sector. Today, the Institute awards Doctorate Degrees in International Studies, Masters Degrees in: International Studies, Diplomacy, International Conflict Management, and Strategic Studies. It also offers a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies; Post-graduate diploma and ordinary Diploma Programs in International Relations and Strategic Studies. The Institute has further diversified its training programs to include area studies and emerging issues such as public health and diplomacy, in order to respond and manage the emerging concerns of International Relations & Diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. IDIS also boasts a modern language laboratory, under which it teaches two international languages- French and Spanish.

The Institute has maintained a regional leadership position in the training of diplomats and conflict managers who perform negotiations, mediation and other diplomatic functions in different parts of the world. Due to the strategic nature of the training programs offered at IDIS as well as the Pan-African and multinational culture, the Institute has continued to attract students from different parts of Africa including Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Zambia just to mention a few. Among IDIS Alumni include some of the highest ranking public officers from various African countries. These include for example, top Service Commanders of the three branches of the Kenya Armed Forces -the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the Commandants of both Defence Staff College and National Defence College, the Director of the Kenya National Intelligence Academy, Ambassadors and other senior diplomats, the Army Commander of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces, the General in charge of the military intelligence in Tanzania, the Chief of General Staff of Malawi, former Ugandan Army commander, the Police Commissioner of Rwanda and Minister of State for Defence of Uganda and Chief of General Staff of Malawi- This is the result of IDIS collaboration with the National Defence College and the Defence Staff College where it offers various diploma and degree programs in International Studies and Strategic studies respectively, to senior government officers drawn from the entire African Continent and who play very key roles in Africa's international relations and security architecture. Over the years the

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IDIS has also developed numerous national, regional and international collaborative partnerships with like-minded teaching, research and training institutions that include: United Nations University of Peace, the Spanish government, the National University of Public Service in Budapest, the HZV School of International Relations and Diplomacy in the Philippines, the African Studies Association Of India, The Kenya Foreign Service Institute, the Kenya Centre for Parliamentary Studies, the Ministry of East African Co-operation of Kenya, the East African Legislature and international NGOs, such as the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), UNHCR and Oxfam.

IDIS is also one of the few academic units at the UoN that has a well functioning Alumni Association, which provides the Institute with a mechanism for reaching out and tap into its huge potential and broad network of Alumni spread within the country, the African continent and the world at large.

Undoubtedly, the strategic role of in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, globalizing world is indisputable. With its rich, skilled, experienced and diversified Alumni' IDIS is poised to play a key catalytic role towards meeting the challenge of Africa, which is not only to claim the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but also play a leadership role. It has held on to its vision of becoming a leading regional and international centre of excellence in diplomacy and international studies teaching and research.

**IDIS MILESTONES**

- 1973: Establishment of the Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP) of the UoN
- 1990: Official launch of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies.
- 1993: The MA degree in International Studies
- 2000: Launch of the PhD degree in International Studies
- 2003: IDIS hosts two international conferences on "Responding to International Terrorism & Africa in a Globalizing World"
- 2004: Launch of Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Studies
- 2006: Launch of Diploma in International Studies
- 2007: Launch of the MA in International Conflict Management
- 2009: Launch of MA in Diplomacy
- 2010: Launch of BA in International Studies
- 2013: IDIS hosts international conference on "Reflections on the AU at 50 to 2050" and launched IDIS Alumni Association
- 2014: IDIS graduates the largest annual number of PhDs (3) and MAs (130)

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