**OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE 5TH NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK KICC- NAIROBI,**

**FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2016**

The 5th National Science Week was officially closed on Friday, 20th May,2016 at KICC Nairobi, by the Principal Secretary for State Department of Higher Education Prof. Collete Suda. During the closure, a number of participating institutions scooped several awards in various categories as highlighted in the story below:

The Kenya Technical Trainers College (KTTC) scooped this Years best robotics project at the just concluded fifth (5th) National Science Week held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology (RVIST) won the most innovative TVET fair exhibit while the Technical University of Mombasa emerged the top in the best constructed robot award.

The week long forum also saw other institutions such as Kisumu National Polytechnic, Eldoret Polytechnic, Nairobi Technical Training Institute, Ramogi Institute of Science and Technology (RIAT), Mawego Technical Training Institute, Nkabune Technical Training Institute and Kisii National Polytechnic scoop various awards in different categories displayed at the TVET fair exhibition. Paper and poster presenters at the event were also awarded with certificates.

Addressing participants at the official closing ceremony, the Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education, Prof. Collette Suda reiterated the Government’s commitment to focus on research, innovation and technology with an aim to raise the profile of the science week by involving all relevant ministries in the next national event.  “The Ministry in its policies and programs aims at bringing together all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that all the ST&I activities are sector inclusive,” said the PS.

Prof. Suda encouraged the youth, private sector, industries, academia and research institutions to participate fully in elevating the profile of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I).  She encouraged the youth to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics courses (STEM) so as to increase student enrolment in STEM. “The benefits of ST&I cannot be achieved in silo operations. Consultations, collaborations, partnerships and linkages among all stakeholders remain important because they enhance a systematic way of operation and also create a national culture of mutual accountability on our investments in science and technology” said the PS. Her remarks were contained in a speech read on her behalf by the Director General Technical, Vocational, Education and Training Authority Dr. Kipkirui Langat.

The weeklong event which took place at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) attracted over 100 exhibitors, 20 poster and paper presenters.

The TVET fair registered 40 entries among them 2 universities. The National Science week is an annual event for players in the science, technology and innovation sector.

Ends.