

Chinese Corner launch at the Kenya National Library Service



The Kenya National Library Service (knls) Nairobi Area Branch at Community area was on Tuesday 28th April 2015 hosted the launch of the Chinese Hanban Corner at a colourful event held at the Maktaba Hall. The event; the launch of the Chinese corner at the Kenya National library's Nairobi area was done in conjunction with Confucius institutes in Kenya and Hanban (Confucius institute headquarters in China). The corner, a section of the library devoted to Chinese language and culture material will help Kenyans interested in the Chinese language find the necessary reading material.

The event was largely a success as various stake holders including Kenyan institutions teaching the Chinese language were present to grace the occasion. To get us all to appreciate the Chinese language, students from Air Travel and Tours Training College in Nairobi taught the eager audience a rendition of "Jambo Kenya" in Chinese. The event's Master of Ceremony who is also a Librarian Mr Pancras Kimaru, in passing mentioned renowned philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as having said that libraries can be a source of international peace and propagation of education.

During the speeches, Dr. Milcah Chokah the Director of the Confucius Institute at Kenyatta University spoke in part on the need for Kenyans to learn the Chinese language, a reason she cited made her and others lobby the government to introduce the study of Chinese Language in the secondary education curriculum. Guo Hong, her counterpart from the University of Nairobi's Confucius institute which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, also gave emphasis to the same.



ABOVE & LEFT: Kenya national library services director Dr. Richard Atuti addresses guests during the launch of the Chinese Corner at Nairobi Area library on 28th April 2015.##

(PHOTOS: TIMOTHY MAHEA/knls)

The Kenya National Library Service (knls) has set up corners before, in order to provide unique resource materials to the Library Patrons said the knls Director Mr Richard Atuti. , the Kenya national library services director said was a global trend to promote language and cultural relationships. During his speech, he also spoke on the importance of Kenyans knowing their dialects as much as they wanted to learn a foreign one. In relation to this, Dr. Atuti announced that he will in future dedicate a whole floor to foreign and indigenous languages in the new library building that is presently under construction

Kenyans who had been to China were also present during the launch and spoke of its beautiful sceneries like the Great Wall of China and a relatively cheaper cost of living in most Chinese towns compared to Nairobi, except in cities like Beijing. The Chinese language which is taught in Kenya in different proficiency levels in accordance with the Chinese HSK system would be ideal for those wishing to teach or study in China among others. Locally, opportunities are in translation, travel and tours and also in the construction industry.

Thanks to the establishment of the Chinese corner, Kenyans can now visit the Kenya National Library and learn more about China and the Chinese language in response to Dr. Atuti to not only launch the corner but to also utilize the resources provided

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