MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY OF KENYA TO HOST 28TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

By Mutia Mwandikwa (Member of the MMU Steering Committee for IPRA 2021)

Multimedia University of Kenya (MMU) will be hosting the 28th Biennial International Peace Research Association IPRA Conference themed, *PEACE TECHNOLOGY; Positioning Fourth Industrial Revolution and Emerging Technologies in Fostering Global Peace*' in Nairobi -Kenya from the **11th to 15th January 2021**.

Since the establishment of IPRA in 1964, this shall be the first gathering of the Global Network of Peace Researchers in the East Africa region and the third (3^{rd}) of this kind in Africa as a continent (1998 – Durban, South Africa ; 2016 – Freetown, Sierra Leone).

The conference is expected to attract participants from the academic circles, practitioners from multi-disciplines - nationaly, regionaly and internationaly - to deliberate on issues affecting global security through the use of Technology. It offers an excellent platform for researchers, educators and policy-makers to examine past and current approaches to peace with a view of identifying viable options to addressing emerging global peace challenges especially in the field of Information, Communication and Technology.

The event holds great significance for Kenya, as it will be coming prior to the country's General Elections expected in August 2022. In the past, Kenya elections have been hotly contested with numerous threats of violence. On the other hand, the country has also played a key role in promoting peace in the region. Kenya continues to execute its duties under the Regional and International laws on peacekeeping, the United Nations and the African Union.



The 28th Biennial IPRA Conference will provide participants with an excellent platform to interact with distinguished national, regional and international scholars, practitioners, policymakers, opinion leaders and members of the public.

Why Multimedia University of Kenya?

Multimedia University is a fully pledged public University wholly owned by the Government of Kenya. The University was previously registered as a constituent College of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The principal activity of the University is to provide quality training in Engineering, Media, ICT and Business while inculcating a strong research and innovation culture amongst its staff and students.

As a public institution of higher learning and 21st-century digital technology, ICT, media and communication training university, MMU is priviledged to be hosting such a significant International Peace Research Conference since the University has previously and continues to play a key role in supporting peace initiatives in the country through academic programmes offered and participating in research work. In the past, MMU has been the host of peacekeeping conferences and meetings such as the Sudan and Somali Peace Processes.

Located in the suburbs of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, the University enjoys a quiet, convenient and accessible location that provides a variety of facilities away from the busy Nairobi City, thus offers an ideal venue for the premier Peace Research event in East Africa.

For wildlife lovers, a *nature walk* within the MMU campus will offer you an opportunity to meet various animals like the warthogs, baboons, and monkeys, coexisting peacefully with humans. The university neighbours the Nairobi National Park which gives visitors a good opportunity to see the 'Big Five'.

Multimedia University of Kenya welcomes you all to Kenya as a quest to have a peaceful continent and world !.



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