



For Immediate Release

Kenya to Host 1st. Africa-China Population and Development Conference Hilton Hotel, Nairobi: 18-19 April 2017

Nairobi, 05 April 2017:

Kenya will host the first ever Africa – China conference on population and development from **18 to 19 April 2017**. The Governments of Kenya and China in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have organized a forum to discuss the benefits of population management in Africa and China.

Need for a Conference for Africa and China on Population

During discussions between China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), and the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), a State Corporation in Kenyan Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the need for an Africa-China Conference on population and development was considered. A high level Africa-China Experts Forum to share lessons in the field of population and development was proposed. Kenya was chosen to host the conference now scheduled 18 to 19th. April, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi. The theme of the conference, “*Harnessing a Demographic Dividend in Africa*” is emphatic on the benefits to be derived if African Countries invest in population priorities; but the rationale of the conference make it even more interesting.

Rationale

Fertility and population growth rates in African countries have been decreasing, but the decline has not reached a level that can accelerate growth of the countries' economies, hence the need to influence fertility through programmes such as family planning. Africa can learn a thing or two from China on how to manage population - in terms of expected outcomes and pitfalls to avoid. The relationship between declines in fertility (number of children per woman) and population growth rates has contributed to improvement in economic growth and poverty alleviation in China. However drastic fertility decline in China has also resulted in a series of population and development challenges including accelerated population, ageing and abnormal sex ratio at birth among the most prominent ones. The question begs: How can a suitable balance be achieved? This will be the gist of two-day discussions

Organization

In Kenya, the National Council for Population and Deveopment (NCPD) is coordinating the organization of the conference on behalf of the Government through the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. From the China side the China Population and Development Research Center, CPDRC is organizing the participation of more than 30 China Officials and Population experts in the conference which is receiving facilitative support from UNFPA offices in China, South Africa and Kenya. The conference is a meeting of experts drawn from China, Kenya and other African Countries to discuss pertinent population and development issues in Africa and China.

Media Participation in the Forum

The mass media can participate by contacting the Communication Team that includes the following: (1) David Kinyua: dkinyua@ncpd-ke.org, @NCPD_Kenya, 0722 275 035 (2) Douglas Waudu: waudu@unfpa.org (3) Alex Muigai: muigaialex11@gmail.com (4) Beatrice Kung'u: bkungu7374@gmail.com Ends.

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