



# ANIE Annual Report

## 2023

## Message from the Chairperson of the Board



It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for 2023. It is delightful to see ANIE bounce back with more gusto and in-person activities after the COVID 19 pandemic. The year 2023 has been of several achievements on the various areas in which we work. We have commenced interesting research projects, initiated more capacity building activities, worked with several African institutions to develop their institutional strategies for internationalization and engaged in several activities with our partners.

Our membership further grew as we also engaged new partners. As we close 2023, we wish to thank all who contributed towards the gains we made. I sincerely thank OBREAL Global for our fruitful partnership especially in the DigiGrad project. We managed to reconnect again with colleagues in IEASA, EAIE, DAAD, AAU, Nuffic, EduCulture and several of our other partners. I sincerely thank my colleagues in the Board, ANIE staff, members and our partners for all the support. We hope that in 2024 we would keep on holding together for even more achievements.

*Prof. Goski Alabi, Chairperson, ANIE Board*

## Message from the Executive Director



As the year 2023 has quickly come to a close, I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for the various ways of involvement. It has been a momentous year for ANIE. Our collaboration with OBREAL Global led to the commencement of the implementation of the DigiGrad Project which is already proving quite impactful. We also secured the British Council Grant for the study on Gender Analysis in Sub Sahara Africa and continued with the implementation of the Writing International Students Mobility in Africa (WISMA) project. In 2023, we further engaged in the development of new frameworks for

North-South collaborations i.e., the ACE (Awareness; Connect and Empowerment) model. Our 13th Conference bounced back in the in-person mode after nearly four years of virtual conferencing due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We also had an exciting conference in the beautiful island of Zanzibar. We also once again begun in-person participation in partner events. We witnessed some of our members grow in the professional ladders and take up new positions. It has been a year of quite some achievements but with still much more to be done. In this report, we present a summary of some of the activities we accomplished in 2023. I wish to sincerely thank my colleague staff of ANIE, our supportive Board, members and partners. We wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to doing even much more together in 2024.

*Prof. Kafa Simwa, Executive Director, ANIE*



## DigiGrad Project Kicks Off

In 2023 ANIE recorded some good progress in developing new projects. We commenced the implementation of the **Internationalization and Digitalization of Graduate Training and Research for the Attainment of Africa's Regional and Global Development Goals (DigiGrad Project)**. The project aims at enhancing the quality and relevance of postgraduate training and research in African universities through harnessing the opportunities of internationalization and digitalization. The Kick Off Meeting of the DigiGrad project was held from 10th -12th May 2023 in Eldoret, Kenya. It was co-hosted by Moi University, Kenya and the African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) and was aimed at bringing the project partners together to familiarize themselves with each other, have a common understanding of the project, work packages, roles and responsibilities, project management requirements and kick off the implementation of the project activities. The DigiGrad Project is funded by the European Union to a budget of **EUR 624,863.00**. The project commenced on 1st April 2023 and is to run for a period of thirty-six months (three years).



*Prof. Goski Alabi, Chairperson ANIE making welcome remarks at the Kick Off Meeting*

## DigiGrad Project Kicks Off

While opening the Kick Off meeting, ANIE Chairperson Professor Goski Alabi appreciated the collaboration between ANIE, OBREAL Global and all project partners which led to the success of the grant application. She noted that the project comes at a time when African universities are facing serious challenges in research, postgraduate training and supervision. On behalf of OBREAL Global, Elizabeth Colucci congratulated all the partners and underscored the essence of the project in strengthening capacities for research and postgraduate training and in promoting North-South and South-South engagements in higher education. She emphasized the relevance of this project and the diversity of the project partners. The objectives of the project are to:

- Refine, contextualize and articulate HEI strategies for digitalization and internationalization- (especially relating to graduate training);
- Build HEI staff capacity in African universities to manage internationalization- (especially of graduate studies);
- Build HEI staff capacity in African Universities to utilize digital tools - (to strengthen graduate training & internationalize it) and
- Build the capacity of young African researchers to exploit digitalization

The project brings together both African and European partners. The African partners include: Bujumbura International University, University of Burundi (Burundi); Laweh Open University College, University of Cape Coast (Ghana); Moi University, African Nazarene University (Kenya); University of Juba, Upper Nile University (South Sudan). The European partners included University of Maastricht (Netherlands); Sapienza University (Italy); UC Leuven (Belgium) and University of Extremadura (Spain).



*A session in progress during the Kick off meeting*



*Participants pose for a group photo during the KOM*



## African Universities begin steps to develop institutional strategies for Internationalization

The DigiGrad project includes a component on refining, contextualizing and articulating the strategies for digitalization and internationalization- (especially relating to research and graduate training). They were to undertake institutional reviews of these strategies through a self-assessment process that would enable them identify necessary actions to be undertaken. Some of the institutions did not have strategies for internationalization and took this opportunity to commence the process of developing their strategies and policies for internationalization. This, in several cases involved several engagements and dialogues within the institutions.



*Participants of Bujumbura International University reviewing their strategy*

## Benchmarking Visit to Maastricht University

African universities participating in the DigiGrad project participated in a knowledge sharing/exchange visit to Maastricht University, Netherlands from 24th -28th October 2023. They were joined by the European partners in the project i.e. University of Maastricht, UC Leuven and University of Extremadura and Sapienza which joined virtually. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the steps that the African universities were making in developing their institutional strategies for internationalization. It was also to enable them share experiences with their European counterparts on their strategies for internationalization. They were also to gain insights into how the European partners organized their internationalization activities, developed and implemented the internationalization strategies especially focusing on research and postgraduate training. The seminar included presentations and inputs on how to develop new action plans for the next steps of developing their strategies. It opened up several opportunities for collaborations amongst the institutions. ANIE was represented by Dr. James Jowi (Project Coordinator) and Prof. Kefa Simwa (Project Manager). OBREAL Global was represented by Jaume

## Benchmarking Visit to Maastricht University



*DigiGrad Project Participants during the Seminar at University of Maastricht*



*Knowledge exchanges during the seminar*



*Prof. Juma Shabani,  
University of Burundi,  
making a point during the  
seminar*

## Tribute to Prof. Marial Awou Yul, former Vice Chancellor, Upper Nile University, South Sudan



*Prof. Marial Awou Yul, Former Vice Chancellor, Upper Nile University, South Sudan*

On the evening of 14th September 2023, Prof. Marial Awou Yul, former Vice Chancellor of Upper Nile University, South Sudan passed on. Prof. Marial had been key in the implementation of the EU funded DigiGrad project where he was the lead for Upper Nile University. The African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE)-Kenya, OBREAL Global and all DigiGrad Project partners have committed to achieve the project goals towards Upper Nile University in his honour. Through this project, Prof. Marial looked forward to transforming postgraduate training and research at Upper Nile University which has faced several challenges due to the conflict in South Sudan



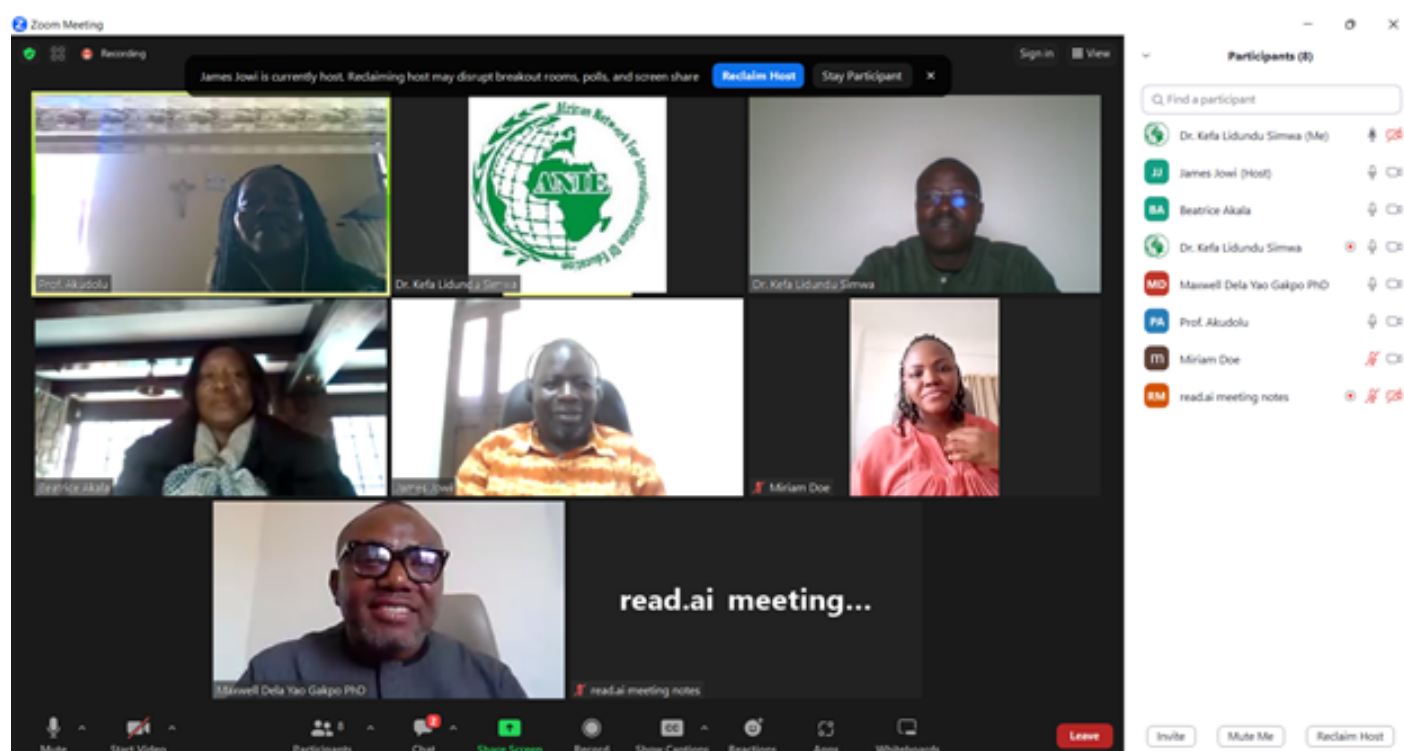
*Prof. Marial Awou Yul, Former Vice Chancellor, Upper Nile University, South Sudan with fellow participants of the DigiGrad Africa Project.*



## Gender Analysis in Sub-Sahara Africa Project

ANIE is undertaking a British Council funded study on Gender Analysis in Sub-Sahara Africa aimed at analyzing the gender inequalities and challenges facing female students in African universities with specific reference to participation and opportunities in employability and entrepreneurship. It focuses on four African countries i.e., Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The study will adopt an intersectional approach, with the analysis focusing on issues and best practices that are of relevance to the higher education sector and which supports improved youth employability and entrepreneurship development. It explores ways of creating an enabling environment for young women and men in higher education Institutions in SSA, reducing or addressing gender inequality and enhancing outcomes for female students and graduates. It would further propose steps that could be taken to ensure that higher education interventions and approaches are gender sensitive and gender transformative where possible. The project commenced in November 2023 and would end in June 2024.

The outputs would include a Synthesis Report, four country reports, three policy briefs and recommendations to British Council and other actors on how these challenges can be addressed. The Ghana component of the study is being led by Prof. Goski Alabi- ANIE Chairperson; South Africa by Prof. Beatrice Akala- Wits University; Nigeria by Prof. Rita Akudolu- Nnamdi Azikiwe University while the Kenyan component is headed by Prof. Kefa Simwa -Executive Director ANIE. Dr. James Jowi- Head of ANIE Research Committee coordinates the project.



## The 13th ANIE Conference held in Zanzibar

The 13th ANIE annual Conference was held successfully from 4th to 5th October 2023 in Zanzibar. It brought together over eighty participants from...countries. The theme of the conference was “Reframing knowledge partnerships for mutual benefits and Africa’s needs. The conference was opened by Dr. Khamis Said, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar on behalf of the Minister for Education Zanzibar. In his keynote address Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai, Former Secretary General of Association of African Universities (AAU), urged African universities to be responsive to the challenges facing Africa. He challenged the universities to emphasize on strengthening their research, quality of programs, doctoral training and the impacts of emerging issues such as rankings, digitalization and Artificial Intelligence on African Universities.



*Participants pose for a group photo at the 13th ANIE Conference in Zanzibar*

## The 13th ANIE Conference held in Zanzibar

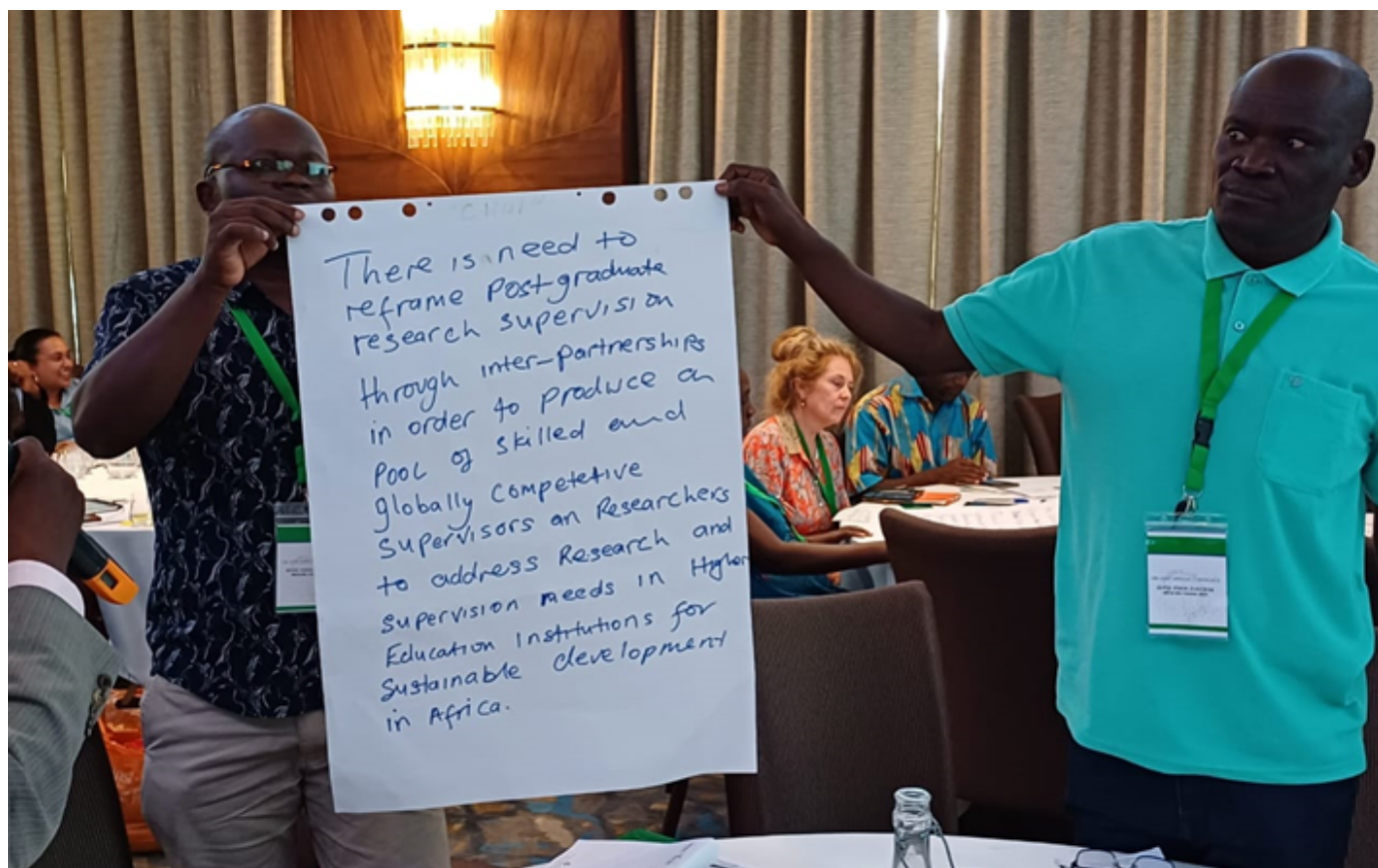
Prof. Goski Alabi, Chairperson of ANIE Board noted the growing role and importance of internationalization and how it was shaping African higher education. She urged African universities to take advantage of the new opportunities of internationalization and at the same time mitigate some of the risks and downsides of internationalization. Other ANIE Board members who participated at the conference included Prof. Chika Sehoole (University of Pretoria); Dr. Christoff Pauw (Stellenbosch University) and Dr. James Otieno Jowi (East African Community). Prof. Simwa, Executive Director ANIE noted that this was the first in-person ANIE conference since the advent of the COVID 19. He noted that despite the challenges of that period, ANIE had continued to record several developments especially in research and capacity building. The conference also brought together several ANIE members, most of whom had not met in-person since the onset of the COVID 19.



In the 2nd keynote presentation, Prof. Hamid Rashid Hakimany of Zanzibar urged African universities to enhance collaborations amongst themselves to enable them have better engagements with development partners and universities in other world regions. The conference had several paper presentation sessions, dialogue sessions and workshops. The conference was organized in collaboration with Milele Zanzibar Foundation and the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI). The conference was attended by several partners in international education including the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA), the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD); OBREAL Global; Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies, and several universities from various countries. The conference was reported in University World News [‘Diversify and decolonise Africa’s higher education systems’ \(universityworldnews.com\)](https://www.universityworldnews.com).



## The 13th ANIE Conference held in Zanzibar



*Participants making recommendations at the end of the conference*

After the conference, participants took time off to unwind and appreciate the rich history and culture of Zanzibar.



*Participants visit some of the historic sites of Zanzibar*

## International Students Migration in Africa (WISMA) Project

During the ANIE Conference, ANIE held a workshop on its ongoing Writing International Students Migration in Africa (WISMA) project. The project aims at building capacity towards sustainable development of an enriching research environment in Africa. It thus mentors and trains young researchers in Africa for publishing in top ranking journals by enhancing their writing skills and abilities. During the workshop, the participating early career researchers shared their experiences in the project. This included some of the achievements they had made and the challenges facing them. It was noted that early career researchers in Africa experience more challenges compared to their counterparts in other world regions and thus needed much support. Dr. Simon Ngalomba of University of Dar es Salaam shared the useful experiences and support he had attained through the project. Within the DigiGrad project, a stonger network of early career researchers is envisaged and is expected to be coordinated by ANIE. This provides an avenue for further collaborations with Open University, UK and other partners in strengthening capacities of early career researchers in Africa. ANIE has already engaged with the African Early Career Researchers in Education (AECRE) Network for further work in this area.

## ANIE ACEs it at the 2023 EAIE Conference

ANIE was represented at the 2023 European Association for International Education (EAIE) conference that took place in Rotterdam, Netherlands from 26th-29th September 2023. ANIEs presentation We have to ACE It: Making North South Collaborations Work for African Universities was presented by Prof. Chika Sehoole and Dr. James Otieno Jowi. The session which was chaired by Mr. Han Aart of Maastricht University drew many participants and elicited illuminating debates on how to make collaborations between African Universities and those from other world regions better. There were reflections on how Ubuntu as an African philosophy could be applied to enhance these collaborations. The presentation was part of the ACE (Aware, Connect, Empower) model that ANIE is developing as away of reframing these collaborations. The research on this model also involves Karen Strang and Melanie McVeety from EduCulture, Canada. The session noted that while there were some developments towards developing better partnerships, some aspects had remained static with no much change being witnessed. ANIE will continue developing and framing this model in 2024.



*Prof. Chika Sehoole and Dr. James Otieno Jowi representing ANIE at the EAIE 2023 Conference*

## ANIE at 25th IEASA Conference

ANIE participated in the 25th conference of the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) that was held in Durban, South Africa from 22nd to 25th August 2023. ANIE was represented by Prof. Kefa Simwa (ANIE Executive Director) and Board Members Prof. Chika Sehoole (University of Pretoria) and Dr. James Otieno Jowi (East African Community). Prof. Chika and Dr. Jowi presented on Reframing Global North-South Collaborations through the lenses of the ACE Model. Prof. Simwa participated in the Global Leaders Forum and in the closing plenary session. Prof. Chika further participated in the Global Leaders' Summit that was hosted by IEASA in partnership with the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA). It was a great opportunity for ANIE not only to reconnect in-person with the IEASA colleagues but also for the revitalization of the collaboration with IEASA. It also gave ANIE the opportunity to meet new partners and share information on ANIE activities especially the 13th ANIE conference that was coming up later in October. It was a wonderful and nostalgic opportunity to meet with ANIE Founding Chairperson Dr. Roshen Kishun after several years. Also present was Mr. David Farirai who served in the inaugural Board of ANIE.



*Prof. Chika & Dr. Jowi, making a presentation at IEASA, 2023*



*1st Chair of ANIE Board, Dr. Roshen Kishun (Centre) in a light moment at the IEASA Conference*



## DAAD-EU Conference on Applied Sciences and Innovation Ecosystems in Africa

Dr. James Otieno Jowi, represented ANIE at the conference on Applied Sciences as Drivers for Regional Innovation Ecosystems in Africa that took place in Brussels, Belgium from 5th to 7th September 2023. The conference whose aim was to foster stronger Europe-Africa cooperation was organized by DAAD in partnership with the European Commission, OBREAL Global, EURASHE, EDUFI, Nuffic and network of German Universities of Applied Sciences. One of the key themes was on Digitalization and utilization of ICTs provides for new opportunities and approaches for training, accessing resources, collaborative teaching and supervision and internationalizing higher education in Africa. In this session Dr. Jowi presented some highlights from the EU funded Internationalization and Digitalization of Graduate Training and Research for the Attainment of African Regional and Global Development Goals (DigiGrad Project). The DigiGrad Project aims at enhancing the quality and relevance of graduate students and young researchers in Africa by harnessing the opportunities of digitalization and internationalization. It brings together eight African universities and four universities from Europe and is coordinated by the African Network for Internationalization of Education (ANIE) and OBREAL Global.

## ANIE at RELI Conference

ANIE was represented by Dr. James Jowi at the Values and Life Skills (VALI-A) conference held in Nairobi from 20th-23rd June 2023. The conference whose theme was Beyond written intentions: Unlocking the power of values and life skills in context was convened by the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI). The Values and Life Skills – Africa (VALI-A) Conference is conceptualized as a biennial platform for intellectual, policy- and practice-focused conversations to accelerate the understanding and integration of values and life skills in education across Sub-Saharan Africa. The conference brought together over 500 participants including development partners from various world regions. Dr. Jowi emphasized the essence of valued in education and its place in the harmonized education framework of the East African Community.

## New Members

S/N	Name	Institution	Title	Country
1.	Dr. George Kegode	Moi University	Lecturer	Kenya
2.	Anita Kahangi NShakira	Uganda Christian University	Campus Administrator	Uganda
3.	Dr.Barasa Omachar	Moi University	Lecturer	Kenya
4.	Apiyo Okwiri	OBREAL GLOBAL	Project Manager	Kenya
5.	Prof. Prisca J. Tanui	Moi University, School of Arts and Social Sciences	Professor	Kenya
6.	Prof. Romulus Abila	Maasai Mara University	Director Postgraduate Studies	Kenya
7.	Gerald Ahisibwe	Uganda Management Institute	Masters Student	Uganda
8.	Prof. Samuel Bert Boadi-Kusi	University of Cape Coast	Dean, Office of International Relations	Ghana
9.	Dr. Mshilla Maghanga	Gulu University	Senior Lecturer	Uganda
10.	Joyce Mongina	Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development	Principal Curriculum Development Officer	Kenya
11.	Ms Anita Delillah Owiti	Human Science Research Council (HSRC) South Africa;	Senior Researcher/ Young African Research Fellow	Kenya
12.	Emmanuel Ampomah	Human Science Research Council (HSRC) South Africa;	Senior Researcher, (Equitable Education and Economies Division), Cape Town	South Africa
13.	Prof. Eliza Siringi	Africa Nazarene University	Development Studies	Kenya

We wish to congratulate the following ANIE members who have been appointed to new positions



*Prof. Nathan Ogechi appointed Vice Chancellor Kisii University, Kenya*



*Prof. Kefa Simwa, Executive Director ANIE has been promoted to Associate Professor, School of Education, Moi University*



*Prof. Peter Barasa, former Board Member ANIE has been appointed Vice Chancellor, Alupe University, Kenya.*