

Staying in Touch ... AFICS Kenya Newsletter

No.1 October 2017

Karibuni!

Dear AFICS Kenya Members and friends,

I send you warm greetings wherever you are, in Kenya or elsewhere. I hope this newsletter finds you well. This is our first newsletter and we hope to have three issues each year. As you may know, AFICS-Kenya was established in 2009 and became operational in 2013. It is based at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Gigiri, and is an affiliate member of the worldwide Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) of the United Nations, located in Geneva. FAFICS represents all its affiliates in relevant boards of the United Nations system, including the pension fund, and ensures that our interests are taken into account.

AFICS-Kenya is affiliated to the UN system in Kenya and its main purpose is to serve the needs of all former international civil servants of the UN and its agencies, now retired and living in Kenya.

The objective of our newsletter is to reach out to you, the members, to keep you updated on matters that may be of interest to us all as former UN employees, now retired in Kenya. We also hope that the newsletter will act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as updates on what individual members are up to. So if you have recently been doing something exciting – say, growing a new type of maize substitute, doing volunteer work, climbing Mt. Kenya, receiving a presidential or other award, whatever – AFICS colleagues would love to read about it in our newsletter.

Happy reading!

President

Amb. John O. Kakonge

Introducing our new Executive Committee

A new committee was elected on 16 February 2017. The committee hit the ground running, with the first two major initiatives being the relaunch of AFICS-Kenya and fundraising for the relaunch, and other AFICS work. The new Executive Committee includes:

Amb. John O. Kakonge	-	President
Ms. Rebecca Katumba	-	Deputy President
Ms. Phyllis M. Gicharu	-	Secretary
Mr. Jason Onsembe	-	Deputy Secretary
Mr. James M. Mutiso	-	Treasurer
Ms. Brigitte Hillen	-	Deputy Treasurer
Ms. Teddy Gianopulos	-	Honorary Secretary

Fund-raising

Thanks to the generosity of UNFCU, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Standard Bank, Monarch Insurance, Mohammed & Muigai Advocates, and UNON, a total of USD 2,000 and KES 850,000 in cash and KES 180,000 in kind was contributed. The funds were used for the reregistration with the NGO Board, the relaunch event and lunch, printing the programmes and brochures and similar expenses. The balance will greatly assist in covering AFICS-Kenya's operational costs.

Your membership fees: Despite these generous contributions, membership fees still constitute the main regular income of our association. We are running an office that provides many useful services, including helping you with pension-related mailing. Please make an effort to pay your dues if you have not already done so, and to continue renewing your membership every year.

AFICS-Kenya relaunch and launch of AFICS-Kenya Consultancy Services

The Executive Committee's first step was to have AFICS-Kenya reinstated as an NGO under Kenyan law. We are pleased to report that we are now in possession of a brand new AFICS-Kenya certificate from the Kenya NGOs Board.

The official AFICS-Kenya relaunch took place at a fun-filled ceremony at the United Nations Complex in Gigiri on 13 July 2017. An inspiring keynote address on "The Role of the UN in the 21st Century" was delivered by Ambassador Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of UNON. Other well-wishers who spoke included representatives of KCB, UNFCU, UNIC, UN-Habitat, and UNON.

The relaunch was attended by 104 members and ended with a sumptuous lunch and an opportunity for members to get together and exchange news. It was wonderful to see so many members, including founder members like Donald Kaniaru and Teddy Gianopulos. Very positive feedback was received from the participants and thirteen new members joined AFICS-K on that day.

AFICS (Kenya) Consultancy Services

The AFICS consultancy section, which is part of AFICS-Kenya, will start to provide consultancy services to Kenyan governmental and nongovernmental entities, as well as to the private sector. The main objective is to maintain a multidisciplinary pool of experts for the provision of development-oriented services and skills-based voluntary assistance. Apart from keeping retired – but not tired – members busy, the consultancy service is one way of giving back to our host country, which for many of us is also our country of birth. Part of the proceeds from paid work will also be used for AFICS operational activities.

If you would like to offer your services, please send your CV to afics.kenya@un.org

Pension Fund – UNJSPF

Very important and welcome news: the UNJSPF now has a representative in Nairobi based in UNON and will give periodic briefings to which members will be invited. Individual members can also make appointments to talk to the representative. Did you know that UNJSPF has a Welfare Fund to which members can apply in case of a personal emergency? Find out more about this.

Directory of AFICS-Kenya members

This is up and running. We now cover more than 200 retirees out of 1,000. Those who would like to be included in the directory, please let the AFICS office know. Also, for those whose names are already in the directory, kindly check whether your names are clearly reflected? If not, please advise the AFICS office.

Subcommittees

The Executive Committee needs assistance. There are many activities we would like to run, based on members' needs and requests. Subcommittees will be the vehicles for these activities; if you have any issues, kindly contact the following subcommittees and their members:

- Subcommittee on Pensions and After-Service Health Insurance: Mr. James M. Mutiso, (Chair); Ms. Sheila Cardovillis, Ms. Jasmin Kanza, Ms. Joyce Meme and Mr. Charles Oloo
- Subcommittee on Information and Publicity: Mr. Jason O. Onsembe (Chair); Ms. Phyllis Gicharu, Ms. Rebeca Katumba, Ms. Nasreen Mir and Ms. Cecilia Omole
- Subcommittee on Social Events: Ms. Anastasia Gianopulos (Chair): Ms. Brigitte Hillen, Ms. Alice Litunya, Ms. Elizabeth Ochieng and Ms. Ana Siongok
- Subcommittee on Advocacy Activities in support of the United Nations and development activities: Amb. John O. Kakonge, (Chair), Mr. David Kithakye, Dr. Hezron Masinjila, Mr. Jesse Ngari, Dr. Sheila Wamahiu, Dr. Phyllis Wangoi, Dr. G. Kathurima and Dr. J. Kirigia.

Uncollected mail

Friends, there is still a lot of uncollected mail at the UNON Mail and Pouch Unit (next to the Commissary). This includes important letters from the Pension Fund and CIGNA International, among others. Kindly check your mail periodically, or ask a friend or colleague to do so. If you are now living far from Nairobi, please take steps to notify CIGNA, UNJSPF, friends, etc., of your new mailing address. Also, if you notice mail piling up for an AFICS member with whom you are in contact, be a Good Samaritan and alert them so they may collect their mail.

We are on line!

Check out our website: www.afics-kenya.org/ and find out more about our association and our activities.

Upcoming events

Keep an eye on the website for news on the UNSJPF briefing, the 2017 Christmas party and more! Presidential Elections 26 October 2017 and UN Day 24 October 2017

Members' news

- Our colleague, Mr. Naigzy Gebremedhin climbed Mt. Kenya in August 2017: what an achievement, especially considering his age!
- The first President of AFICS-Kenya, Mr. Donald Kaniaru, received an award from the New Executive Committee in recognition of his tireless efforts to spearhead the establishment of AFICS-Kenya. The award was presented to Mr. D. Kaniaru by our guest of honour, the UNON Director-General.
- Did you know that one of our members, Hon. Cecilia Mbutia, is now the Deputy Governor of Nyandarua County? AFICS-Kenya sends her our hearty congratulations and wishes her much success in her new post!
- We want to thank Ms. Brigitte Hillen for taking time from holidays in her home country to represent AFICS-Kenya during this year's FAFICS meeting held in Vienna from 13 to 17 July 2017.

Contact us with questions, suggestions, news at:

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C/O UNON 47074-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 16.30
Friday: 09:00 am to 14:00

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