

# AEP-Kenya Hosts Successful Career Day

September 2005

AEP-Kenya launched its youth development program with a Youth Career Day on September 9, 2005. Over 150 eager students packed the auditorium of Ojafa Jericho Secondary School to learn more about career opportunities.

There were three speakers at the event. Mr. Nicacius Kamani began the program by discussing the keys to making a good career decision. Mr. Kamani is one of the directors of HOPE Worldwide, an active nongovernmental organization in Kenya. He also holds a degree in architecture from the University of Nairobi. Second on stage was Mr. Dan Shiyuka who spoke at length about entrepreneurship. He encouraged students to think beyond the traditional ideas of employment. Mr. Shiyuka holds a degree in engineering. He worked with the University of Nairobi before going solo as a dealer in Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) services. The last speaker was Mr. Francis Abongo who spoke about career opportunities in the financial world. He is a certified public accountant (CPA) in Kenya.

The response from the students was very positive. They asked many questions. At the end of the program, they were already inquiring about the next career day.

Mr. Owuor, Principal, spoke highly about the career day and the impact AEP-Kenya has had on the lives of the sponsored students at his school. He noted that the performance of the students has improved remarkably since they became AEP-Kenya scholars. Mr. Owuor is confident that some of them will be admitted into one of Kenya's public universities. He is also very pleased

with AEP-Kenya's effort to develop larger youth development projects like the career day that impacts more young people.

Dan Shiyuka shared, "I was so excited to share about career opportunities! I had a wonderful time. Please make sure I am invited when AEP organizes another career day."

"This was definitely a very fulfilling day! I hope all these bright young minds have been inspired about their future careers," William Siwa, AEP-Kenya Program Coordinator, shared.

AEP staff presented AEP t-shirts to the career teacher, Mrs. Munguti, and Principal Owuor. They expressed their deep gratitude to AEP-Kenya staff and all the speakers. The event served to strengthen the relationship between the school and AEP-Kenya.

This was the first event of its kind sponsored by AEP-Kenya. "This effort demonstrates that the Africa Education Project is committed not only to our scholars but to youth in general," begins Kat Simon-Agolory, Executive Director of AEP. "This is the first event of many that will involve youth from the larger community."

Later in the week, AEP-Kenya staff met with the scholars and career day speakers. The speakers gave the scholars one-on-one attention to talk about the opportunities that exist in various fields. The scholars talked about their dreams to become doctors, accountants and nurses. The future looks bright for the AEP scholars.