British Institute in Eastern Africa

Nairobi IFRA

UPCOMING SEMINAR;

Language, Cultural Symbolism, and Values: The Case for an AfroScript

SAVE THE DATE!

Time & Date: Friday, 28 October 2011, 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Venue: BIEA Seminar Room – Laikipia Rd, Kileleshwa

Presenter: Phillip Keane - International Educator and Linguist, Australia

Chair: Prof. Humphrey Ojwang' – Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi

Abstract

Language and culture are inextricably linked and their underlying symbolism communicates powerful messages about our self-image, our value system, and our world view. Since colonial times, most sub-Saharan African languages have used the Roman (European) script. The underlying symbolic message is that African languages and cultures are simply not as important as the dominant European language and culture. For many, the disappearance of minority African languages and cultures is seen as inevitable which at best is looked upon with pity, and at worst it is celebrated as the "end of tribalism." Little effort, therefore, is given to ensuring the survival of local African languages and cultures. One approach is to redressing this situation is to use an African writing system such as *AfroScript* to "preserve, maintain, and develop" African languages and cultures.

This seminar is FREE and open to all those interested in the topic. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by emailing kerry.kyaa@biea.ac.uk