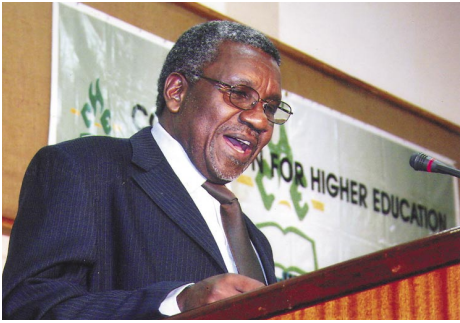


STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



“What is urgently required therefore is to undertake a thorough monitoring and evaluation of the higher education system in East Africa and prepare a Regional higher education master plan”.

It is my pleasure once again to take this opportunity to salute the readers of our Newsletter. As I do so, I wish to share with you some of the issues that are on the table in the higher education arena. This will allow some bit of engagement in a dialogue discourse so as to create common strategies to deal with the said issues.

Globalization continues to pose a myriad of challenges for higher education institutions. Universities in East Africa are exceedingly finding themselves caught up in the web of competition for excellence. To this end, we can not afford to rest as we will not wish to be in the second tier on matter of academic quality. On this subject, I am pleased to mention that the establishment of the East African Universities Quality Assurance Framework is progressing well. We have so far managed to assist all member universities of IUCEA to establish internal Quality Assurance Units. This, along with the establishment of the Quality Assurance Unit at the IUCEA Secretariat, has enabled the East African Region to move together as one Higher Education Area.

The expansion of Primary and Secondary school enrollments continue to pose a challenge to universities in East Africa. This development has seen a number of countries in the Region take serious measures to ensure that more qualifying students can access university education. More universities both private and public have been established. Yet the manner this increase of number of universities is taking place poses numerous challenges to higher education. In some cases we have seen a proliferation of take over of other tertiary institutions to transform them into universities or degree granting institutions. While in the short term this may be a solution to the demand

for university education, in the long term it creates a threat to the desire by our countries to create technical middle level work-force. We all know that without this category of workers it will be difficult for our economies to be turned around. Holders of specialized professionals certificates and diplomas are equally necessary for the economy.

When we internalize all these challenges, we find ourselves in a situation where we are trying to “have our cake and eat it” at the same time. What is urgently required therefore is to undertake a thorough monitoring and evaluation of the higher education system in East Africa and prepare a Regional Higher Education Master Plan. IUCEA will put this proposal before the East African Partner States and hope that through such an intervention, we will be able to create some viable road map on the growth and expansion of University education in East Africa.

Enjoy reading our Newsletter!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nyaigotti Chacha".

Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha
Executive Secretary
Kampala, March 2009

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE IUCEA GOVERNING BOARD



IUCEA Governing Board Meeting 26th September 2008, Kisumu Hotel, Kenya

The seventeenth Meeting of the IUCEA Governing Board was held on 26th September 2008, at Kisumu Hotel, Kenya. The meeting was attended by representatives from Ministries responsible for higher education in the five Partner States, Commissions/ Councils for Higher Education, Commissions for Science and Technology, Public and Private Universities, Private Sector and Senates.

The Board received and considered recommendations of the Executive Committee which took place on 23rd September 2008 on the admission of new ten member universities from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. National University of Rwanda, (NUR), Kigali Institute of Education (KIE), Rwanda, School of Finance and Banking (SFB) Rwanda were admitted to the full membership of the IUCEA. Mount Meru University, Tanzania, Stefano Moshi Memorial University College, Tanzania, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, Tanzania, University Martin Luther King, Burundi were admitted as Associate Members. Other universities also admitted as Associate members are Mount Kenya University, Kenya, Adventist University of Central Africa, (AUCA), Rwanda, Rwanda Tourism University College (RTUC), Rwanda .

The Board received and considered a draft proposal for positioning Information Communication and Technology within the IUCEA and directed that the document will be discussed in the March 2009 Governance Meetings in line with the Draft of ICT Policy.

The Board recommended that more efforts should be made to collect Partner State Debts given the upcoming projects of building the Secretariat Headquarters.

The Governing Board received and considered the IUCEA Audited Accounts for the Year 2007/2008.

Other documents which were received by the Board include;

- Report of the Standing Committee on Exchange of Students Programme
- Rules and Regulations governing the Exchange of students among member universities
- Summary Report and Recommendations from the Special Committee on the Exchange of Students Programme held on 22nd July 2008, which discussed the challenges to the success of the Students Exchange Programme where issues on policies, funding and universities' participation were discussed.
- Summary Report and recommendations from the Arts and Humanities Cluster Meeting held in September 2008.

The Board directed that the two documents (Rules and Regulations governing the exchange of students and Spe-

cial Committee on exchange of students' Programme) be merged and shared with all member universities for discussion by the respective university Senates, Councils and Ministries responsible for higher education in the Partner States.

On the same documents the Board emphasized the consideration of adjustment of universities' calendar especially in Rwanda and Burundi to align them with what is operational in the other East African Partner States.

The members observed the need to focus on the exchange of students both within private and public universities.

Loans to students in the Partner States.

On Higher Education Loans Board, the Partner States reported to the Governing Board that the access to Higher Education Loans was administered as follows:

- In Burundi students who have the minimum qualifications are sponsored by Government and are admitted to both Public and Private Universities
- Kenya-Students from public or private universities can apply for loans from Higher Education Loan's Board
- Uganda- Government sponsorship is currently limited to only students from Public Universities
- Rwanda- Students obtain finance soft loans based on the student's performance in Senior 6
- Tanzania- Loans are given to all qualified students regardless of whether they attend Public or Private Universities.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS' BOARDS AND COUNCILS MEET

To Develop Regional Guidelines for the Inspection and Accreditation of University Dental Scholars in East Africa.

The meeting of the East African Community Partner States' National Medical and Dental Practitioners' Boards and Councils on the Development of Regional Guidelines for the Inspection and Accreditation of University Dental Scholars in East Africa met on 28th and 29th January at Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa sponsored the meeting. It was convened to implement the process of harmonization of both technical and legal framework for the training of the medical and dental students within the East African Community Partner States.

The participants who attended the meeting include:

- Technical staff of the EAC Partner States
- Inter-University Council for East Africa
- Higher Education Regulatory bodies
- Ministries of East African Community

- National Health Research Institutions of East Africa
- Deans of Faculties and Schools of Medicine and Dentistry

At the end of the meeting, seven (7) recommendations were made which related on the importance of EAC and IUCEA working closely together to ensure that the necessary guidelines for the establishment of medical and dental schools are adhered to and that guidelines for the inspection and Accreditation of both medical and Dental Schools in EAC Member States are submitted to the Council of Ministers of Health for consideration and approval.

The meeting further recommended that the IUCEA, Medical Practitioners and Dentists Boards and Councils should harmonize the entry qualifications for medical and dental students at medical and dental schools of various Universities in member states of the East African Community.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON ICT AND LIBRARY EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA MEET.

- **To deliberate on how to develop an ICT Policy and establishment of the IUCEA Information Resource Centre.**
- **All geared to harness the potential of ICT for improving member universities' education in East Africa by promoting the application of ICT in teaching, learning and research and information sharing.**



ICT and Resource Center Task Force Members received at the IUCEA Secretariat, 24th Feb. 2009

Since the approval of the IUCEA Rolling Strategic Plan in 2006, the Council's key activities have been centered on 13 areas as identified by its members and elaborated in its Rolling Strategic Plan (RSP). Among these key areas is the Application of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and Networking of Member Universities. This key area aims at using ICT in improving co-operation and collaboration between/among member universities. The programme seeks also to enable member universities to harness and exploit ICT as a tool to strengthen and widen collaboration through sharing lectures, database and virtual libraries. Since the approval of the RSP the IUCEA

has coordinated a number of activities in the realization of this objective.

From 21st – 24th January in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the Council held a meeting of the Steering Committee on ICT and Library Education in East Africa to deliberate on how to develop an ICT policy which will guide the IUCEA activities in the development of an information resource centre with information that may assist the council in achieving its core mandate. The Policy is geared towards harnessing the potential of ICT for improving member university education in East Africa by promoting application of ICT in



ICT and Resource Center Task Force Members' Visit to IUCEA Secretariat on 24th February 2009

teaching, learning research and information sharing.

The Executive Secretary IUCEA, Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha, opened the meeting. He told the participants that the IUCEA intends to develop an ICT policy to guide its activities and an information resource centre with information that may assist in achieving the council's mandate.

A total number of 13 papers related to ICT and information resources management were presented. Among those papers include:

- **Positioning ICT within the IUCEA, by Phillip Ayoo, IUCEA:** The paper highlighted on the IUCEA strategic direction regarding ICT development by providing a background of ICT unit at the Council. It proposed the operational framework of the ICT unit taking aboard both internal functions (development of ICT operational policies and procedures, management information systems, and ICT infrastructure) and external functions (various ICT services to member universities, development of a regional ICT policy and its Regional implementation and monitoring framework.
- **Collaborative framework for the development of ICT Integrated University Management systems, Prof. Joseph Sevilla, Strathmore University:** The paper introduced various ICT Management Systems

and their implementation models. It mentioned two categories in which ICT University Management Systems are responsible for, which include:

- Integrated Library Systems (ILS),
- Learning Management Systems (LMS),

Academic Management Information Systems (MIS) which include;

- Quality Management (for academic processes)
- Research management systems

Administrative Management Systems which include;

- Administrative Management Systems (AMS),
- Financial Management Systems (FMS),
- Human Resource Management Systems (HRMS),
- Quality Management Systems,
- Hotels management Systems and
- Document & Records Management Systems.

- **ICT in Libraries, Dr. Sophia Kaane, United States International University.** The paper introduced Information Communication and Technology and their roles in libraries, trends of Integrated Library Systems (ILS) and their application in universities and public libraries. It highlighted the fact that because of the explosion of information as a result of advances in

information technology, libraries have not only moved from being print libraries to e-libraries but also to become providers of digital information and hybrids of information centres. The paper categorised roles of ICT in libraries as:

- Information technology
- Telecommunication technologies
- Networking technologies

- **Proposed ICT policy formulation process for the IUCEA, Dr. Jabiri Kuwe Bakari, Open University of Tanzania:** The paper outlines various stages involved in developing an ICT policy for an organization. It mentioned several steps to be followed which include, organizational analysis; the organizational strategic plan analysis; ICT development analysis; and development of ICT policy & master plan (or implementation strategies). It is pointed out that ICT policies can be categorized into several sub-groups but in any case they should address key results areas spelled in the strategic plan of the organization.

The paper recommended that for a Typical ICT Policy, the following issues need to be taken aboard:

- ICT governance
- ICT skills' training
- Data communication
- Infrastructure and Internet service
- Support systems

- Online information resources
- ICT hardware and software acquisition, maintenance and disposal
- ICT usage and security management

■ **The IUCEA Information Resources Centre**

Regarding the IUCEA Information Resource Center the following areas were considered necessary and, therefore, should be put into consideration when coming up with the type and nature of the information resource centre which the IUCEA is planning to create.

- Nature of the resource centre: virtual, physical or hybrid?
- Vision, mission and goals of the resource centre.
- Subjects scope and types of resources in the resource centre, determined by the nature agreed upon.
- Collection development strategy (requires a collection development policy) – what to select and how, period of retention, weeding and replacement period.
- Management of the resource centre (key decisions on human resources and structure, security of materials, type of building, users, accessibility policy, and source of funding for the centre). At the end of the meeting, the participants formed 2 Task Force Committees (for drafting an ICT Policy and a proposal document for an IUCEA Information Resource Center). The teams met from 24th – 27th February in Kampala, Uganda. The 1st Draft of ICT Policy will be presented to the Governing Board Meeting taking place on 10th March 2009 in Mombasa, Kenya.



Task Force Committee Meeting on ICT Policy and Resource Center on 25th February 2009

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA HOLDS A MEDIA SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP

■ To inform the Media and other Stakeholders of its Roles and Functions

The Inter-University Council for East Africa held a Media Sensitization Workshop on 19th January 2009 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop was attended by Editors, Programme Producers, Media Associations and other Media stakeholders.

Prof. Dunstan Shemwetta Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic from the Open University of Tanzania opened the workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson of the IUCEA Governing Board Prof. Tolly Mbwette.

- The Key Note Paper on the “**Role of the Media in the Development of Higher Education in the East African Region**” was presented by Prof. Haroub Othman from the University of Dar es Salaam. Dr. Charles Kitima from Saint Augustine University (IUCEA Quality Assurance Committee Member) presented the paper on the progress made regarding the Quality Assurance Programme in the East African universities coordinated by IUCEA and the Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The aim of the workshop was:

- To Familiarize participants with roles, functions and objectives the Council
- To equip participants with the knowledge of the IUCEA interventions in contributing to the development and management of higher education in the East African Region that will stimulate them to take action and the leading role in mass sensitization within their local, national and regional communities.
- To share with the participants the developed IUCEA Publicity Strategy

- To gather views from the participants on how the media can be better assisted to undertake its sensitization role in the Community.

The workshop participants made some recommendations including the following:

- The Council should continue to coordinate media sensitization workshops to inform them about the Strategic Plans in place, which will put the East African Region in the competitive position in the Region
- Work out strategies which will guide the member universities and other related higher education institutions in assisting the media to access and enterprate information related to higher education development.
- Universities should expose information related to innovations, research findings and new developments taking place in the Media.
- IUCEA should coordinate forum for media people and experts where they could share experience and exchange views on how better the media can assist the public and the students to understand the socio-economic challenges facing the higher education in the Region.

In 2006 the Governing Board of the IUCEA approved the IUCEA Rolling Strategic Plan, 2006/07-2010/11. Among the main goals in the Strategic Plan is the Publicity and Marketing which aims at improving partnerships with governments and various national, regional institutions and stakeholders, by charting out advocacy and public relations strategy.

IUCEA Mission

“IUCEA Shall Coordinate and Facilitate Stakeholders so as to Promote Strategic, Sustainable and Competitive Development of the Higher Education Sector in East Africa.”

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION

“Our universities and the whole higher education system are in crisis now. There are two advices that Mwalimu Nyerere gave to this nation which we do not seem to heed them. One was that ‘we must run while they walk’; and the second was ‘to plan was to choose’. To attain the Millennium Development Goals, let alone the goals set out in the Development Vision 2025, the nation must invest heavily in education. Education is not about the number of classrooms one builds or the levels of student’s intakes one attains, though that is very important. It is about the quality of that education, its relevance to the society and how those who acquire it are able to help the society move from one stage of development to a higher one; and that development to be of benefit to the whole society. Our universities take pride for having raised the students’ numbers, but what about the teaching facilities? Is a single class of 400 students a best way of conducting teaching? Are the researches being conducted of real relevance to the society? Are the seminar rooms meant for 20 to 30 people but now taking more than 60 people conducive for learning?” Prof. Haroub Othman, University of Dar es Salaam

The Inter-University Council for East Africa held a Media Sensitization Workshop on 19th January 2009 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop was attended by Editors, Programme Producers, Media Associations and other Media stakeholders. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with roles, functions and objectives of the Council and equip participants with the knowledge of the IUCEA interventions in contributing to the development and management of higher education in the East African Region. One of the Key Note papers presented was “**The Role of the Media in the Development of Higher Education in the East African Region**” by Prof. Haroub Othman from the University of Dar es Salaam.

The following is the presentation:

“In any case the study by Brian Cooksey Et Al cited above indicates that expanding student enrolments at our universities has not significantly improved the educational opportunities of the children of the poor and other disadvantaged groups. They point out that the relevant dimensions of inequality that one sees in our higher education institutions are gender, religion, ethnicity, culture and class.”

Western education in Africa is a recent phenomenon. Pre-colonial African societies, with few exceptions, had no formal educational systems. But if the purpose of any education, as Mwalimu Julius Nyerere puts it, “is to transmit from one generation to the next the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of the society, and to prepare the young people for their future membership of the society and their active

Continued on pg 9



Media Sensitization Workshop 19th January 2009, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

participation in its maintenance and development”, then these societies had appropriate educational systems. The aim of Western education, which came with colonialism, was to instill in the minds of its recipients an idolization for the superiority of the colonial master. First it was the sons of chiefs and other traditional leaders that received this education; and later, with the expansion of the colonial economy, more and more people acquired it. Budo, Kisubi, Fort Hare and Makerere were all created for that purpose. The aim was to produce clerks, teachers, agricultural extension workers, hospital assistants, and others, to help in the running of the colonial machinery.

University education was restricted to only few. It was only after independence that education became accessible to more people. Of the few that received Western education, not all acted according to the expectations of the colonial regime. Some turned out to be the most vehement opponents of the colonial system not only in the political and economic spheres, but also in the areas of education, culture, and others. The reasons were obvious.

Colonialism affected both the traditional chief and the ordinary peasant in a Nyarubanja system. It did not even allow the emergence of the native capitalist. While in the colonial possessions of Asia and the semi-colonial China, a local compradorial class was allowed to exist, in most of Africa this class did not emerge. It is no wonder then that in most of the African states the harbingers of the nationalist movement were people coming from the colonial bureaucracy.

The five countries of Eastern Africa, namely Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, are not a homogeneous group. There are differences in history, culture and experiences. Even those countries that were ruled by the same colonial power, like Burundi, Rwanda and Tanganyika before the First World War, or Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and Zanzibar after the First World War, have differences in their compositions and levels of economic development. Due to the specific conditions of the countries of the region, each one traversed the independence path in its own way. The post-colonial histories of these countries also differ.

One of the successes of the colonial system in the region was that it was able to produce an academia that was dependent on Western intellectual production. The intelligentsia understood what was taking place in other societies, but lacked adequate knowledge of its own societies. This was what prevailed for a very long time in the African universities. Admittedly, a few individuals were to be found in the universities who went against the general mould, but the pattern was for the universities to be replicas of their Western peers. When inaugurating the University of Dar es Salaam on 29th August 1970, Mwalimu Nyerere stated: “Our universities have aimed at understanding western so-

ciety, and being understood by western society, apparently assuming that by this means they were preparing their students to be – and themselves being – of service to African society”. The University of Dar es Salaam was the first in the region to break out of this mould. And it is this university that I am going to use as a case study.

Started in 1961 as a constituent college of the University of East Africa (itself enjoying a cooperative status with the University of London), the University of College of Dar es Salaam became a full university in 1970 when a decision was taken by the three East African states to each form its own national university. The University of Dar es Salaam in its curricula and research agenda tried to break away from the paradigms set up by others. It aimed at inculcating a sense of commitment to society, and tried to make all who came into contact with it accept the new values appropriate to the post-colonial society. There was a deliberate attempt to fight intellectual arrogance because it was felt that such arrogance had no place in a society of equals.

The University of Dar es Salaam also played its part in the intellectual development of the region. In the ten-year period from 1967 to 1977, the university was a major cooking pot of ideas, and provided a splendid platform for debate and discussion. No African scholar, leader or freedom fighter could ignore its environs. That kind of atmosphere existed partly due to the conditions created by the Arusha Declaration and partly due to the liberal-mindedness of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere who was the university college’s Visitor, and after the establishment of the University of Dar es Salaam, its first Chancellor. One also must not underestimate the impact that the presence of the liberation movements had on Tanzania’s intellectual development.

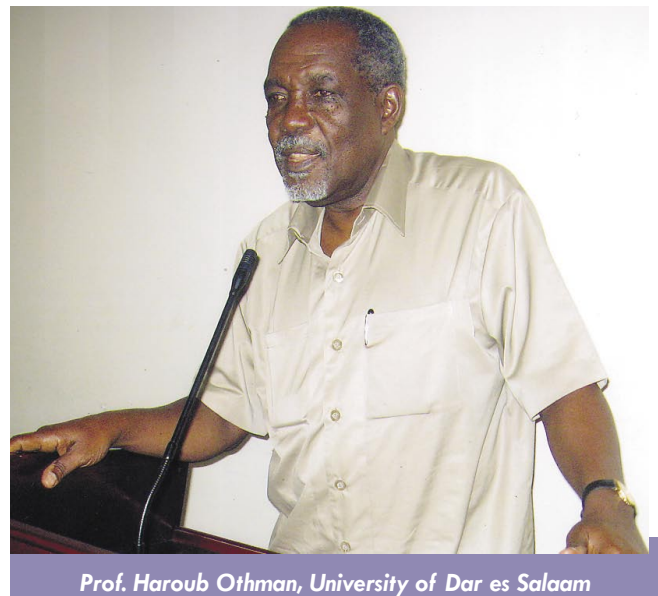
The Tanzanian press at the time provided a very useful platform for debate and discussion and the dissemination of university research findings to the public. The Nationalist, the ruling party’s paper, was under the editorship of Benjamin Mkapa who later on became the country’s President; and the government’s paper, The Standard, was under the headship of Dr Frene Ginwala, who later on became the first Speaker of the post-apartheid South African Parliament, as Managing Editor, and Mwalimu Nyerere was the Editor-in-Chief. Apart from providing the news, these newspapers also published articles of high quality, and opened their pages for serious debates on internal and international issues. My first articles appeared in The Nationalist in 1969 before I became a regular columnist for The Standard.

The deep economic crisis that faced Tanzania in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s had an impact on education sector in general and higher education in particular. The university’s triple functions of transmitting advanced knowl-

edge from one generation to the next; that of advancing frontiers of knowledge; and through its teaching, to provide for the high-level manpower needs of the society, did suffer. In the study conducted by Brian Cooksey, Lisbeth Levey and Daniel Mkude and published October 2001 in The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa, provided the following information: the University of Dar es Salaam enrollments tripled between 1967 and 1976, from 711 to 2145 students. Thereafter expansion virtually ceased. Between 1984 and 1993, UDSM enrollments rose only from 2913 to 2968, less than 2 per cent. By 1990, Tanzania had only 3146 students attending its two universities, less than one-tenth of the number in Kenya. Enrollments in the Sokoine University of Agriculture actually fell, from 465 in 1986 to 383 in 1990. This was far short of the trend in Sub-Saharan Africa where enrollments grew by over 60 per cent during the eighties.

The policy options that the country followed, at the diktat of the International Financial Institutions, to confront the crisis made things worse. In the field of higher education, it brought in not only stagnation in the area of student intake but also in the area of research. Teaching also suffered because the members of academic staff were busy trying to make ends meet that they had no time to concentrate in their profession. What was even more serious was that staff recruitment and staff development programmes were frozen. The university stopped publishing its journals and Research Notes and its libraries had no funds to either order for the books or the journals.

After many years of resistance by Julius Nyerere, in 1986 the new government, under President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, came to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund in which Tanzania was forced to liberalise its economy. One of the conditions was that of cost-sharing in the area of education. This affected, and continues to affect, the children of the poor. When opening the University College Campus at The Hill on 21 August 1964, President Julius Nyerere stated: "The annual per capita income in Tanganyika is £19 6s. The cost of keeping a student at this College will be about £1000 a year. That is to say that it takes the annual per capita income of more than 50 of our people to maintain a single student at this College for one year. It should not be necessary to say more. It is obvious that this disparity can only be justified, morally or politically, if it can be looked upon as an investment by the poor in their own future." This shows that from the time the university was being established it was realized that it was going to be a very expensive exercise and that the nation will bear the responsibility of running and maintaining it. It was on that basis that people of my generation and the generation that immediately followed had completely free education. None of the people that made a decision on cost-sharing in education, and that continue to vigorously insist on it now, paid for their education; and if it was required of them, none would have had seen the inside of



a university.

The press coverage in recent years on the universities has been of students boycotting classes, holding demonstrations or students' 'baraza'. But the same had happened in the 1960's and the 1970's. Have we forgotten of the 1966 students' crisis when people like Samuel Sitta, the present Speaker of the National Assembly; Agostino Ramadhani, the present Chief Justice of Tanzania; Justice Hamisi Msumo, our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and Mohamed Ismail, a prominent Advocate in Dar es Salaam, were among those expelled from the then university college? Or the students' class boycott in the Law Faculty in 1969 when Prof Issa Shivji, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Jenerali Ulimwengu, Prof Mgongo Fimbo and the late Ambassador Charles Kileo took part? What about the 1971 Akivaga Crisis, when Pius Msekwa was the Vice-Chancellor, and a police force under the command of Said El-Maamry, came to the university and confronted the students not with batons but with rifles? Or in 1978, during the time of Ibrahim Kaduma's Vice-Chancellorship, when the students were confronted and beaten up by the police at Manzese?

But the issues were different then. In 1966, they did not want the National Service scheme. In 1969, they did not want an American lecturer to teach them Military Law, saying that that was an attempt by the American to penetrate into our Security Forces. In 1971, in the aftermath of Mwongozo wa TANU, they were demanding to be involved in the decisions that affected them. In 1978, the students were enraged with the Members of Parliament for increasing salaries and benefits to themselves and forgetting the lower-income groups.

Our universities and the whole higher education system are in crisis now. There are two advices that Mwalimu Nyerere gave to this nation which we do not seem to heed

them. One was that 'we must run while they walk'; and the second was 'to plan was to choose'. To attain the Millennium Development Goals, let alone the goals set out in the Development Vision 2025, the nation must invest heavily in education. Education is not about the number of classrooms one builds or the levels of student's intakes one attains, though that is very important. It is about the quality of that education, its relevance to the society and how those who acquire it are able to help the society move from one stage of development to a higher one; and that development to be of benefit to the whole society. Our universities take pride for having raised the students' numbers, but what about the teaching facilities? Is a single class of 400 students a best way of conducting teaching? Are the researches being conducted of real relevance to the society? Are the seminar rooms meant for 20 to 30 people but now taking more than 60 people conducive for learning? In any case the study by Brian Cooksey et al cited above indicates that expanding student enrolments at our universities has not significantly improved the educational opportunities of the children of the poor and other disadvantaged groups. They point out that the relevant dimensions of inequality that one sees in our higher education institutions are gender, religion, ethnicity, culture and class.

One of the major functions of a university is to conduct research. But this requires research facilities including funding. The money that comes from government to public universities is meant only for staff salaries, teaching programmes and other charges. No money that is given is specifically meant for research. It is the universities themselves then that have to juggle around the figures and allocate some money for research. In the University of Dar es Salaam for this current financial year only shs.200 millions were earmarked for research. With 1200 academic staff and about 3000 postgraduate students all vying for the same funds, it comes to less than shs.50, 000/- per person per year. Research at the University of Dar es Salaam depends very much on foreign funding as also does training of postgraduate students. SAREC/SIDA provides US \$ 8 millions, and other agencies, such as NORAD, DANIDA, Carnegie, JICA, USAID and Irish Aid, provide US \$4 millions together.

It seems that now most of us have abandoned conducting basic research and resort to doing consultancy work. If we do research then we go to the same areas (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and Tanga) that have been over-researched. Places like Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara, Rukwa and the islands of Zanzibar are considered as not 'researchable' areas. We leave to foreign researchers to conduct basic research and have their findings pub-

lished, and then we rely on those findings and use them as sources of information and as reading materials for our students.

I have tried to trace the development of higher education in the region but particularly in Tanzania. In the last few years we have seen the mushrooming of both public and private universities in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. What we did in fact was just to give university status to institutions like Dar es Salaam Technical College, IDM, Moshi Cooperative College, and we have not replaced them with anything similar. Still the number of the universities is not that high and the enrolment rate is not that big enough. I think in terms of ratio of students to population we have the lowest rate of university enrolment in the continent. But as I stated before, the quality of education is of utmost importance. The question, though, is what is or should be the role of the media in the development of higher education in Tanzania?

In the past even though there were very few media outlets but they were in the forefront in encouraging debates and discussions in the country. Media personnel did not come to the university seminars only to observe and report but they themselves took active part in those debates. I remember the debate that took place in the media between Dr Walter Rodney and The Nationalist newspaper on the question of leadership crisis in FRELIMO after the assassination of FRELIMO President, Dr Eduardo Mondlane. I remember also a number of times when Dr Frene Ginwala, Philip Ochieng, Ian Christie or Richard Gott (all with The Standard then) used to come and take part in the discussions on the Main Campus. The media used to report extensively on what was happening in the university not only in times of crises, like students' boycott or demonstration, but also in times of 'peace'. Mwalimu Nyerere used to be a frequent visitor, sometimes uninvited, to the University for Discussions with the university community on domestic or international issues, or for Question and Answer sessions. These occasions provided the media with good opportunity of gauging the thinking on campus.

From outside one sees the university main campus, situated on a Mount Olympus-like area, as a tourist attraction. But in here there is a concentration of highly educated manpower in the country. Before one asks whether they deliver according to public expectations, the question should be whether they are provided with the necessary tools to do the work. In terms of material gains the university is not an attractive place. No wonder then we see a number of professors and Ph.D. holders running to Parliament. In terms of work load, it is very big to a conscientious person."

NEWS IN BRIEF

VicRes



VicRes to receive a Total of of Sek 100m (USD 12.5Million) for the Period 2009 – 2012

The Lake Victoria Research Initiative (VicRes) will receive a total of Sek 100 Million equivalent to 12.5 Million US Dollars for Phase III (2009- 2012). The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) signed the agreement in January, 2009. VicRes Phase three Proposal emphasizes the scaling up of the impact of VicRes in the Lake

Victoria region and the funding of projects that have generated results with potential for products development. To enhance the implementation and management of the VicRes Programme, the Secretariat will employ 3 more additional staff (Deputy Regional Coordinator, Information and Communication Officer and a Driver/Clerk).

VicRes Recruits a New Regional Coordinator

In November 2008, Interviews for a new Coordinator of the Project were held in Nairobi. Prof. Joseph Obua was selected and appointed as the new Regional Coordinator of VicRes.

Prof. Joseph Obua has assumed his duties as the new Regional Coordinator of the Lake Victoria Research Initiative (VicRes) with effect from January 2009. Prof. Joseph Obua holds a B.Sc. Forestry (Hons) from Makerere University and both M.Sc. (Environmental Forestry) and PhD from the University of Wales, UK. He has been Head of Department of Forest Biology & Ecosystems Management in the Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation at Makerere University since 1999. Up to the time of his appointment, he was a member of the VicRes Scientific Advisory Committee (VicSac). He is a distinguished researcher, research supervisor and administrator.

Prof. Obua takes over the position after the end of the contract of the former Co-ordinator Prof. Zadoc Ogotu.



*Newly Recruited ViCres Regional
Coordinator Prof. Joseph Obua*

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Training of 2nd Cohort (Course B) Quality Assurance Coordinators

A second cohort of quality assurance coordinators from 25 universities in the 5 Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda), underwent the Quality Assurance Training in Germany in September 2008 and in East Africa,

through the same cycle of activities as for the Course A. The universities in Course B are 8 each from Tanzania and Uganda, 7 from Kenya, and one each from Rwanda and Burundi as indicated below:

Uganda

Kyambogo University
Uganda Martyrs University
Kampala University
Kampala International University
Uganda Christian University
Ndejje University
Lugazi University
Busitema University

Kenya

Catholic University of East Africa
St. Paul's University
University of Eastern Africa, Baraton
University of Nairobi
Moi University
African Nazarene University
Kabarak University

One officer from the Ugandan Ministry of Education and one staff from each of the regulatory agencies in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania also attended the training. The aim of the training of the QA Coordinators was to create a critical mass of quality assurance experts in East Africa, both at the universities and the regulatory agencies.

The following programs were selected for pilot self-assessment for the Quality Assurance Coordinators Course B:

- Medicine
- Business Studies
- Computer Science/Informatics
- Education with English Language

Tanzania

Dar es Salaam University College
St. John's University of Tanzania
University of Dodoma
Muslim University of Morogoro
Hubert Kairuki Memorial University
Mkwawa University College
State University of Zanzibar
Muhimbili Univ. Health Allied Sciences

Burundi

University of Burundi

Rwanda

National University of Rwanda

Training of Peers for Pilot Programme Evaluation

About 20 East African Peers were trained in Nairobi from 16th – 23rd November 2008. The training was followed by a pilot peer review of 10 programmes: 5 in Kenya; 3 in Tanzania and 2 in Uganda, involving 6 German experts.

QA Regional Workshop

The Quality assurance Regional workshop to implement the IUCEA/DAAD Master Plan 2010 was held from 26-31 January, 2009 Nairobi Kenya at Laico Regency Hotel. It brought together the first 1st and second Cohorts, together with the Deputy Vice-Chancellors responsible for academic affairs.

The specific objectives of each cluster of participants included:

QA Coordinators' Course, Group A (1st Cohort)

- To receive feedback on Peer Visits
- Reflection/Share experiences from the 1st round of peer visits on External Programme Evaluation

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The specific objectives of each cluster of participants included:

QA Coordinators' Course, Group A (1st Cohort)

- To receive feedback on Peer Visits
- Reflection/Share experiences from the 1st round of peer visits on External Programme Evaluation
- Preparation of the 2nd Round of peer visits
- Develop improvement plans
- Identify learning outcomes per country

QA Coordinators' Course, Group B (2nd Cohort)

- Progress report on Self Assessment Reports(SRAs)
- Reflection and progress report of SARs

- Discussing and sharing experiences on resistance and communication
- Discussing how to deal with qualitative methods

Meeting of the DVCs Academics

- Information on QA Initiative and the QA coordinators' Course
- How do Universities Benefit from (regional) QA
- How to institutionalize QA within a University
- How to use the pilot for introducing QA within a University
- Support needed for the pilots?

Visit by IUCEA/DAAD to Rwanda on a Sensitization Workshop

A delegation of six Quality Assurance experts from IUCEA and DAAD visited Rwanda from 1st - 4th February 2009. The Team was designated to sensitize the top Higher Education Management of the two countries on quality assurance matters as part of the initiative to bring in Rwanda and Burundi into the IUCEA QA initiative. On 3rd February a national workshop was held in Kigali at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). It was attended by 110 participants from both public and private institutions. A similar workshop is being organized for Burundi.

QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR RECRUITED



Dr. Cosam Joseph, Quality Assurance Coordinator

With the establishment of the Quality Assurance Office at the IUCEA Secretariat, the Officer responsible has also been recruited. Dr. Cosam Joseph holds a B.Sc. (Physics and Chemistry) with Education and M.Sc. (Chemistry from the University of Dar es Salaam and PhD (Chemistry from the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. His previous experience in academic leadership includes Associate Deanship, faculty of Science, Main Campus University of Dar es Salaam (2003-2006), Head of Chemistry Department, University of Dar es Salaam (2006-2007), Dean Faculty of Science, Dar es Salaam University College of Education since December 2007 to November 2008, when he was appointed to join the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) as Quality Assurance Officer. His academic experience at UDSM includes supervision of 16 M.Sc and 10 PhD theses in the last 10 years. He has published over 25 scientific papers in international peer reviewed journals. Dr. Cosam is married with 4 children.

First BIO-EARN/VicRes Scientific Conference held successfully

The East African Regional Programme and Research Network for Biotechnology, Bio-safety and Biotechnology Policy Development (BIOEARN) and its associated network, the VICRES Programme, in collaboration with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and the Inter-University Council for Eastern Africa (IUCEA), organized and hosted a Scientific Conference at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda between 24th–26th November, 2008. The Conference theme was “Harnessing Bio-Resources for Social Economic Transformation for Eastern Africa”.

The conference brought together a total of 153 scientists, researchers, policy makers, private entrepreneurs and development partners, from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, and USA.

The conference goal was to bring together research stakeholders to share and appreciate contribution of research findings to make change, while the objectives among others included:

- Sharing of new knowledge generated in bio-resource research with stakeholders to stimulate sustainable development
- Facilitating free exchange and dissemination of research findings to stakeholders and end-users
- New knowledge and actors in thematic fields identified
- To provide researchers with opportunity to chart for bio-resource agenda for the future
- To inform on the current developments in the bio-policy arena

The conference focused on five major sub-themes namely:

- Productivity of bio-resources,
- Value addition of bio-resource products,
- Management of bio-resource base,
- Bio-Policy issues and,
- Innovation systems.

During the three day conference, 39 oral papers were presented in seven sessions. They focused on production and bio-resource, value addition and bio-policy.

The presentations were crowned with a panel discussion during which topical issues some arising the presentations were discussed. In addition to oral papers, a poster and exhibition session was also organized. This had twelve 12 posters and six 6 exhibitions on on-going innovation/technology up-scaling projects.

Based on the scientific quality of the presentations made at the conference, the projects have made great strides towards achieving the set goals.

The participants visited two partner institutions namely Namulonge Crops Resources Research Institute and Kampala City Abattoir during the planned excursions. The visit enabled the conference participants visit Agricultural and Environmental biotechnology experimental sites respectively and interact with the concerned scientists. The visits also exposed the conference participants to technologies and facilities available and exchange of ideas and experiences.

Dr. Peter Ndemere, Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), welcoming the participants to the first ever BIO-EARN/VICRES Scientific Conference on behalf of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) said that the East African region was still struggling with the tripod of challenges namely: disease, ignorance, poverty and more recently, the effects of climate change arising from environmental degradation. He said that those challenges can be overcome if opportunities like regions natural resource endowment, committed and qualified human resources, Government of Uganda and development partners' current commitment to supporting research and development (R&D) are optimally utilized.

He specifically acknowledged the Swedish Government's commitment to supporting research in the region and pointed out that this scientific conference is timely because governments in this region are re-dedicating themselves to investing in Education, Research and Development and

scientific innovation through appropriate policies and legislations.

His Excellency, Mr. Anders Johnson, Ambassador of Sweden in Uganda addressing the participants, referred to the recently concluded scientific conference of the 2008 National Science Week in Uganda by advising the scientists in the region to pursue the resolutions that were agreed on namely; to develop a critical mass of scientists; providing incentives and infrastructure for scientists, inculcating a science culture among the youth as early in their life as possible; translation of research outputs into products; and focusing research priorities and knowledge management systems to enhance access. He emphasized the need to implement the above mentioned recommendations and to have in place the appropriate infrastructure and policies which will ensure retention of the human capacity the countries are building.

He observed that globalization was a reality whose exact impact was yet to be established but whose profound changes had been experienced and more were envisaged. His Excellency therefore advised that given the competitiveness of global markets, developing countries such as those of the Eastern Africa region have to exploit their areas of competitive advantage - in this case, the natural resource endowment and opportunities for agricultural biotechnology. He further advised scientists to take advantage of development partners' present interest in supporting research in the region, and urged them to adopt the entire value chain approach to research, if they were to reap the full benefits of their efforts.

During the Conference Professor Ruth Khasaya Oniang'o presented the Key Note Address on **"Why Do Policy Makers Need to be Convinced that Research Matters"**. Being the a scientist as well as a former member of the Kenya parliament, Prof. Oniang'o said that countries need a critical mass of scientists in politics in order to influence decisions pertaining resource allocation and support to science, which are critical for socio-economic development in any country.

She decried the lack of interest by technocrats, in issues related to Science and Technology, citing from her experience in parliament, the tendency for politicians to absent themselves from parliament when critical issues of science were are discussed. She urged scientists to dialogue with the politicians and constantly inform them on what they are doing, and informed them that in Kenya fore example, a new initiative was in place where scientists are paired with parliamentarians for purposes of information sharing, adding that the initiative was progressing well and is helping to demystify science to politicians and policy makers.

She observed that in lieu of factors such as climate change, global population growth and animal/crop disease challenges among others, organic farming in itself was incapable of feeding the world, and therefore the need for adoption of novel technologies, such as biotechnology. She was confident that scientists had a history of solving world problems through research and therefore recommended that governments should rely on them for solving country-specific problems.

In conclusion, she emphasized the need for governments in the region to respond to farmers needs, given that their activities constitute the backbone for all the Eastern Africa economies. This can be achieved through subsidizing agricultural inputs and provision of effective extension services. "Governments should commit substantial funds to research in order to ensure sustainability and to guard against having their research agenda determined by development partners". Said Prof. Oniang'o.

Inviting the participants to the Conference, the Executive Secretary, the Inter-University Council for East Africa, Prof. Chacha Nyaigitti-Chacha told the participants that the BIO-EARN was initiated in 1998 to develop human capital and infrastructure to enable the region acquire its own capacity to conduct strategic biotechnology research in agriculture, environment and industrial sub-sectors of the economy which aims at strengthening national and institutional abilities to assess, develop and implement effective policies for technology development and dissemination as well as facilitate the establishment of biosafety regulatory structures.

He said that VicRes programme is a unique window for supporting inter- and multi-disciplinary research that would contribute towards poverty reduction and environmental restoration in the Lake Victoria Basin adding that both programmes are funded by the Swedish Government through Sida/SAREC.

He informed participants that they were part of a unique gathering for fostering research for socio-economic development of the Eastern Africa Region which would provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on utilization of bio-resources for regional development by bringing together all stakeholders through sharing of new knowledge that has been generated in the area of bio-resources, for purposes of sustainable development.

More Details: Bio-Earn Website

FROM OUR MEM



JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

P.O. Box 62000, NAIROBI, TEL.067-52711, FAX 52164

PRESS RELEASE:

Mombasa Polytechnic gets new Principal

The Government has appointed Prof. Josephat Kazungu Ziro Mwatelah as the new Principal of Mombasa Polytechnic University College with effect from February 1, 2009.

Prof. Mwatelah who until his appointment had been seconded by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology to the Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) as Deputy Executive Director of the Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) based at Juja in Nairobi takes over from Mr. Akumu Owuor. Mombasa Polytechnic is a Constituent College of JKUAT.

The 54 year old Civil Engineer is credited for steering the department of Civil Engineering for a record two years as Chairman. He was first appointed Chairman of the then department of Building and Civil Engineering during the then JKUCAT between 1988 and 1990, and from 1995 to 1999 when the department became known as Civil Engineering.

His major responsibilities at AICAD have been the coordination of all programmes under Research and Development, which also fund public universities research projects within the East Africa Region. Other responsibilities include the coordination of Training and extension services for small scale farmers

(SMEs), Information Network and Documentation for programmes, Administration and Finance.

While congratulating Prof. Mwatelah on his appointment, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga said the new principal's Civil Engineering background and his vast experience in administration both while at AICAD and JKUAT would help in adding value to the courses on offer and the introduction of future degrees course at the Polytechnic.

A holder of BSc Surveying and Photogramit (Geomatic Engineering) from the University of Nairobi in 1978, Prof. Mwatelah went further to acquire MSc Civil Engineering from Tottori University Japan in 1988 and later a PhD in Civil Engineering from Kyoto University, Japan in 1995.



BER UNIVERSITIES

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

By Michael Ngonyo

Safaricom and JKUAT Collaboration

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and mobile service provider Safaricom have entered into a partnership for the enhancement of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training in Kenya. The partnership aims to enhance development and industrialization through research, training, innovation and technological advancement in the area of ICT and related fields.

Speaking during the signing ceremony last January, JKUAT Council Vice Chairman David Mutiso said the partnership would assure the country of highly qualified professionals especially in the identified areas of Telecommunication, Information and Telecommunication engineering to commence early next year. The curriculum happens to be the most current in the country.

He said universities were living in a hyper-competitive global environment where businesses and organizations needed to constantly invent, evolve and refine their products, innovations and services if they were to remain competitive and profitable and avoid being outpaced by more innovative competitors. "This is why JKUAT as a policy reviews the syllabus after every two years in collaboration with the industry to ensure programmes remain relevant to the changing trends in the global market", said Mr. Mutiso.

He cautioned other collaborating institutions offering

JKUAT programmes that the university management would forthwith discontinue any academic agreement made without prior notice if ethical standards and quality were not maintained. Safaricom Chief executive Officer Mr. Michael Joseph said the partnership will make it possible for the two institutions to engage in various collaborative initiatives for their mutual benefit. "It will enhance professional skills of staff in both institutions through training, staff and student interactions and the exchange of experiences and information," he said.

The partnership is driven by the need to equip fresh graduates from local universities and colleges with the necessary knowledge and skills required in a modern telecommunications network such as the one that Safaricom has implemented. The two institutions will collaborate in the areas of project management and implementation, sharing of learning facilities, institutional capacity building and staff exchange. Other areas of co-operation include student training and attachment; exchange and dissemination of information; research, innovation and technology transfer and other related areas.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga hailed the cordial relationship existing between JKUAT and Safaricom for the support in academic development of the country. JKUAT's collaboration with Safaricom dates back to 2003.

Zain championship

By Michael Ngonyo

Four students from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology are to represent the University at the forthcoming International Zain Africa Challenge Champions Festival's final stretch slated for Kampala, Uganda from February 13 – 20, 2009. The university qualified after the representing students went through rigorous brain cracking tests and competitions that involved various

Kenya's private and public universities.

The students; Mike Mochama, James Nzioka, Dennis Barasa, and Eric Ochieng have vowed to go flat out and win the coveted prize of \$100,000. They are coached by Dr. Aloice Akumu, with the Dean of Students Dr. Marangi Mbogho as the Liaison Officer. Other universities from Kenya joining

JKUAT to the tournament will include Egerton, Moi, and Kenyatta Universities respectively. The competition which was initially Celtel Africa Challenge, covering East African countries, expanded its horizons in 2008/2009 Celtel re-branded to become Zain, thereby adopting the name Zain Africa Challenge.

The change opened the doors for Universities from Central and Western African countries such as those from Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zambia, besides more Universities from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda to join. JKUAT participated in the National Qualifying Tournament on January 15, 2009 and qualified to proceed to the International Champions Festival.

While presenting the enthusiastic students with medals and certificates, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga assured the students of the University Management's support in their well deserved extra-curricula activity. The competition, she said would help them in their personal development as it exposed their potential to the world and opened doors for their personal development. She wished them well during their challenge saying that the university was no doubt having great expectations. Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo hailed the students for their discipline, focus and

ambassadorial role they were playing in the region. He said it was through such involvements that institutions in the world got marketed.

The competition, initially an academic quiz programme for universities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda was later expanded to include the other African countries. It is the third year of the programme. Enrolled universities compete at National Qualifying Tournaments. Those not advancing to the International Championship Festival receive a \$1000 grant from Zain. The student players, coach and liaison from such institutions each receive a minimum of \$100 per person in grants.

The top teams from each National Qualifying Tournament advance to the Zain Africa Challenge International Championship Festival, this time being held in Kampala, Uganda. The 32 teams play a knockout tournament, with 31 programmes recorded for broadcast. Each university at the Championship will receive a grant from Zain, based on each university team's final standing in the knockout tournament. In addition, the student players, coaches and liaisons also receive grants.

JKUAT UASU dons get back their jobs

By Michael Ngonyo

Some members of JKUAT's academic staff who had been shown the door following the 2006 University Academic Staff Union (UASU) strike have been re-instated. The move was taken following the wave of last year's national peace and reconciliation mood which the University Council and the JKUAT UASU Chapter negotiated and resolved amicably to start on a clean slate. The staff members; Dr. Cecilia Mwathi, Dr. Moses Muchina and Dr. Maina Maringa have been given a clean bill of health and have been free to re-join the University since October last year. Dr. Mwathi and Dr. Muchina are already back and are busy imparting knowledge with gusto.

However, Dr. Maringa is currently in Rwanda where he is helping to set up five (5) model institutions of technology in the town of Kichukyro. While six of the eight suspended staff had been re-instated and resumed their assignments,

Dr. Fredrick Otieno and Dr. Teresia Akenga also teaching in Rwanda are yet to make up their minds as their slots remain open.

Those who have since resumed duty include; Dr Anam Onditi, Dr. Jared Ndeda, Dr. Augustus Wali, Mr. Mathew Winja, Mr. Joseph Mberia, and Dr. James Ngaruiya. Expressing her gratitude to the new University administration for the move, Dr. Mwathi who is UASU's Secretary General -JKUAT Chapter said her members would uphold the reconciliation package to work with the management faithfully and with total commitment and consultation with the motive of building the University. Dr. Mwathi said the move to re-instate the sacked and suspended members of the staff union had helped increase the entire academic staff moral.

Press Release

JKUAT introduces new Marine programmes

Kenyan students who have had to travel abroad for training in Marine Science can now have a sigh of relief following the introduction into the country of two courses to be started in May this year.

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and the Kenya Marine Authority (KMA) will jointly run the two degree courses, namely; Bachelor in Nautical Science, and BSc in Maritime Engineering. The degree programmes are two of their kind to be offered on the Eastern Africa Coast between Cairo and Cape Town.

Nautical science is a course concerned with training navigators of ships and offers a quicker route to becoming a ships master or captain.

While signing the Memorandum of Understanding at the Juja Main Campus, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga said there was a lot to be exploited in the underground resources since only a small percentage of marine resources had been exploited.

When two institutions come together to collaborate so as to ensure there is adequate manpower to exploit natural resources, she said, the country and its citizens could only be the beneficiaries, especially through creation of employment, especially in building capacity for the efficient

resolution of technical problems in modern ships, in oil and gas exploration platforms, and in undersea laying of cables among others.

Other areas, she further noted would be in building capacity for the accurate navigation and piloting of sea-going vessels to avoid collisions, in the management of ports and other maritime facilities and in the formulation, administration and enforcement of maritime laws and regulations.

Prof. Imbuga pointed out that the Faculty of Engineering at the University had completed the marine engineering degree course syllabus and was now a subject of review to ensure the teaching, instructions and facilities provide the required cadre of students.

In her remarks, the KMA Director General Ms. Nancy Kariithu said the shortage of professionals in Marine Science operations was quite a hindrance in its development. While there were about 19,000 vessels locally, those left in charge had neither formal training nor any form of certification.

Going by the growth of the fleet, there would be a shortage of 45,000 officers, and 400,000 Seafarers by 2012.

New Principals for JKAUT Campuses Appointed. JKUAT Juja

By Ogeke Araka

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Council yesterday announced the appointment of three principals through a competitive recruitment process to head the institution's three campuses that were established recently. In a statement to a full Senate meeting yesterday the vice chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga announced that Prof Hamadi Iddi Boga will be the principal of JKUAT Taita Taveta campus situated in Voi, Taita district while Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi will head the JKUAT Karen campus in Karen, Nairobi. The JKUAT Nairobi campus will have Prof. Joseph Keriko at the helm. The principals will serve for a period of three years.



*Prof. Hamadi Boga, Principal, JKUAT
Taita Tavet Campus*

Prof Boga, 42 and 2000 PhD microbiology holder from the University of Konstanz Germany has been the acting principal of the Taita Taveta campus since its inception in July last year. The associate Professor in the JKUAT's Department of Botany had also served as Dean, Faculty of Science and Director Institute for Biotechnology Research both of JKUAT.

Likewise Professor Ngumi has been acting principal JKUAT Karen campus since its inception in 2006 and also founding director JKUAT's Alternative Degree Programme. The 49 year old associate professor of botany holds a PhD and MSc degrees from the Universities of Clemson (USA) and Hiroshima (Japan) obtained in 1997 and 1989.



*Prof. Joseph Keriko, Principal, JKUAT
Nairobi Campus*

Prof. Keriko 52 an associate Professor in JKUAT's Department of Chemistry is the immediate director of the Institute of Energy and Environmental Studies since 2004 until his new appointment.



*Prof. Victoria Ngumi, Principal,
JKUAT Karen campus*

The three campuses were established as part of JKUAT's policy of expanding and making higher education readily accessible to as many Kenyans as possible. JKUAT Taita Taveta campus holds up to 500 students while the Karen and Nairobi campuses are home to 1200 and 600 students pursuing the various undergraduate programs.

JKUAT and Nissin Food Holdings Company Ltd partnership on instant noodles

Responses to Kenya's devastating hunger situation have got a boost with a local University partnering with a Japanese food company to start a food processing plant in Juja.

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) with a world renown Nissin Food Holdings Company Ltd, popular for the processing of instant ready-to-eat pasta products – noodles are set to launch the plant next month at the University's main Campus, Juja.

This follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding which will cover a period of two years.

According to the Local Correspondence Officer, JKUAT-Nissin Noodles Project Prof. Simeon Muhoho Njoroge, the noodles will be processed at the University's Juja Campus and distributed as free lunch to selected primary schools with poor students. The project, he says, will play a significant role in boosting the quality of education, and therefore enhance their performance as they will not have to worry about where their next meal would come from.

Prof. Njoroge says the idea of introducing noodles in Kenya is not to replace ugali but instead give alternatives of other nutritious meals. Noodles are cheap and affordable.

The partnership aims at feeding children twice a week for a start but would later be accelerated to include weekly.

Noodles were not a staple food in Japan until after the Second World War when hunger struck and had to get alternative food.

The Juja based processing plant scheduled to be commissioned on March 5, 2009 aims to make about 1000 noodles per day with already four experts already employed.

The project is making its first entrance ever, not only in Kenya, but also in Africa as a whole.

JKUAT has continued to be in the forefront in trying to find solutions to the many economic problems affecting the

country. Other than introducing the now popular Tissue Culture Banana Seedlings which have boosted the incomes of many farmers countrywide, the University successfully came up with a ready to drink porridge, Uji Bora, which the university philanthropically distributed to those affected during the drought seasons some two years ago.

The introduction of the processing plant into the Kenyan market will coincide with the commemoration of 50th Anniversary of the company since it was started. The anniversary was marked last year.

Nissin Foods Holdings Co., Ltd (Koki Ando: President, Representative Director and Chief Executive Officer) commenced the 'Hyakufukushi Project', which was designed to fulfill the Corporate Social Responsibility activities by performing one hundred social action programmes over the coming half century.

As the initial project activity, 'OISHII Project', a grand project aiming to support efforts to foster the African food industry to be self-reliant as well as satisfying the stomachs of African people with instant noodles got underway.

Promoting such an activity, the project strives to achieve self-sustaining efforts to foster a food industry of Africa in terms of procuring raw materials of instant noodles in Kenya, developing a flavour suitable for their own taste and in future, producing, distributing and marketing such products by themselves, with the support of JKUAT.

Dr Momofuku Ando, Nissin's founder, invented instant Ramen in Japan in 1958 (Ramen stands for noodles in Japanese).

Dr. Ando came up with the idea after World War II when he saw the plight of people suffering from lack of food.

Today, the invention has evolved into a favourite meal of millions across the globe.

Kenyatta University Honours Eminent Leaders

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Kenyatta University is to be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive Centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Kenyatta University is to provide quality education and training, promote scholarship, service, innovation and creativity and inculcate moral values for sustainable individual and societal development.

Kenyatta University awarded honorary degrees to The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Kenya's Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, His Excellency Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, and a renowned Educationist, Dr. Eddah Gachukia, during its 25th Graduation Ceremony held on December 19th, 2008.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania was honoured with a Doctorate in Humane Letters (honoris causa) in recognition of his great effort in leadership excellence, peace initiative and support for education.



President Of The United Republic Of Tanzania, His Excellency Hon. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

The Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya and Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, was also honoured with a Doctorate in Humane Letters (honoris causa) in recognition of his achievements in peace-making, conflict resolution efforts, sustainable community development and humanistic ideals.



The Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya and Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka

In his acceptance speech President Kikwete urged Kenyans to maintain peace and harmony.

The award of the honorary degrees to The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Hon. Jakaya Kikwete, Kenya's Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, His Excellency, Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, and a leading Educationist, Dr. Eddah Gachukia, was approved by the Kenyatta University Senate and Council.



Academic Director, Riana Group of Schools, Dr. Eddah

Kenyatta University Launches an Endowment Fund for Orphans and Vulnerable Students (OVS)



Vice-President & Minister for Home Affairs, Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, with Kenyatta University Council Chairman, Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi, Council Member Prof. Peter Kinyanjui, Kasarani MP, Hon. Elizabeth Ongoro and the VC, Kenyatta University, Prof. Olive Mugenda, during the official launch of the Kenyatta University Endowment Fund to avail scholarships to Orphans and Vulnerable students at Safari Park Hotel.

In its endeavor to avail education to needy students, Kenyatta University has launched a fund for orphans and vulnerable students.

The fund was officially launched by Kenya's Vice President Honorable Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka in December 2008. The Vice-President urged able Kenyans to give hope to the young generation in the midst of the prevailing high poverty levels.

Noting that Kenyatta University was the first public university to launch such a fund in Kenya, the Vice-President challenged other universities to emulate Kenyatta University in assisting bright financially needy students to access higher education.

The Vice President stressed the need to develop a whole person in the country's youth through imparting knowledge and life skills that would empower them to face future challenges. Hon. Musyoka said the greatest investment of any nation is in education that builds strong human resource base for its development agenda.

"We need to equip our people, not only with sound education but with proper life skills to enable them to cope with an ever changing competitive global market", he noted. Hon. Musyoka noted that some students were well-endowed with knowledge and good talents that if nurtured in time would change their lives and the nation. He underscored the importance of pulling together resources towards a worthy cause by people in the society, noting that not everybody is lucky enough to meet every need in life.

The Chairman of the Kenyatta University Council, Prof. Onesmo ole MoiYoi, said the move was in the right direction as many universities in the world have similar funds. Prof. Ole MoiYoi said investing in the youth ensures a bright future for the country as they would form part of an informed society and educated manpower.

Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, said the Institution has over time provided facilities and other infrastructure to cater for students with special needs.

Prof. Mugenda added that to cushion students against dropping out of college, the University had set aside Kshs. 2 million as internal bursary. However she said, the money was not enough to cater for the increased cases of monetary need.

Equity Bank Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Mwangi, challenged the guests to be mindful of the welfare of vulnerable members of society. Dr. Mwangi emphasized that the development of a society is defined by the quality of life of those who are most vulnerable in that society. Dr. Mwangi noted that 2,500 students dropping out of an institution of higher learning should be a great concern to Kenyan society.

Others present during the function included the Kasarani Member of Parliament, the Hon. Elizabeth Ongoro, who is also an alumna of KU, other alumni included a renowned poet, Caroline Nderitu, who was the master of ceremonies.

Kenyatta University and China sign MoU on Confucius Institute



The Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Zhang Ming, with the Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, sign the MoU on the setting up of the Confucius Institute. Looking on is Ag. DVC Academic, Prof. Mwakio Tole.

Kenyatta University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese Government to set up the second Confucius Institute, which is a Chinese language training institution in Kenya, at the University's Main Campus.

The Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Zhang Ming visited Kenyatta University on December 3, 2008 to sign the MoU.

The Ambassador said that the new institution will go a long way in promoting mutual understanding between China and Kenya in the future.

The aim of the institute is to strengthen cultural exchange. Kenyatta University will partner with China's Shandong Normal University in setting up the institute.

"I am very happy to sign the document which indicates the birth of the daughter of Confucius Institute in Kenya just after three years. And I have the full confidence that the second Confucius Institute will enjoy a bright future due to the joint efforts made by Kenyatta University and your

partner, Shandong Normal University."

Confucius Institute is a non-profit public institute which aims at promoting Chinese language and culture and supporting local Chinese teaching internationally through affiliated Confucius Institutes.

Currently, more than 300 Confucius Institutes have been established in 78 countries and regions.

Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olive Mungenda, promised that the University will work hard to make the Confucius Institute the best in Africa. "We have the capacity; we have the infrastructure; and with the partnership with our partners in China, I am sure we are going to make a big difference."

Culture Week 2008: Appreciating Cultural Diversity for Peace and National Unity



Hon. Hellen Sambili, (Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs), address Students and Staff of Kenyatta University during Culture Week 2008.

The renowned Kenyatta University Culture Week took place from 5th to 9th November 2008.

Distinguished dignitaries including Kenya's Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Prof. Hellen Sambili, Israeli Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Jacob Keidar, Columbian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Maria Victoria Diaz Juarez and the Nigerian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E Dr. Chijioke Wilcox Wigwe, graced the Culture Week.

Many performing artists including visiting troupes from China, Korea and Columbia also graced the festival which was marked with pomp and color by all within Kenyatta University fraternity.

The climax of the Culture Week 2008 was a Grande Finale at Kenyatta International Conference Centre which was attended by more than 4,000 people on November 9th, 2008.

The attendees' audience was enthralled by both national and international artists. The beauty pageants were a crowd puller. The beauty contest saw the crowning of Mr. KU, Caesar Wambua and Miss KU, Deborah Oyugi.

Sponsorship for the 2008 Culture Week was received with much gratitude from Orange Telkom, Nokia, Kenya Power & Lighting Company, Housing Finance and Text Book Center.

Kenyatta University Culture Week was initiated in 1992 after the realization that students were in dire need of an avenue to discover, develop and express their rich talent in creative and performing arts. The festivals have since been a major calendar event for the University.

Zain Africa Challenge, Season Three!

Zain proudly announces the third season of the Zain Africa Challenge (formerly Celtel Africa Challenge), the first ever televised academic competition among students at African universities.

Season Three Highlights

- Universities in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone join those in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, bringing the field to over 100 eligible universities in eight countries.
- Each country will hold National Qualifying Tournaments.
- The top 32 national teams will advance to the International Championship & Festival in Kampala, Uganda in February, 2009.
- 31 programmes from the International Championship will be broadcast throughout Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The programme is part of Zain's corporate social responsibility efforts targeting education and represents just an extension of Zain's corporate commitment to "A Wonderful World" for their customers.

The questions in this fast-paced quiz programme cover a wide range of topic areas including: history, science, African culture, geography, literature, music and current events. Additionally, Zain Africa Challenge highlights the excellent educational opportunities at African universities with videos and student profiles.

The Ministries of Education in each country along with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) are key educational partners in the programme.

Announcing the programme, Tito Alai, Chief Commercial Officer of Zain International said: "This programme highlights Zain's commitment to developing the youth. They are the future of Africa and we want to give them more opportunities to develop their talents".

Zain Africa Challenge is broadcast as a knockout tournament, resulting in a final champion. All participating universities and students receive grants based on their ranking in the tournament.

University Information

One of the most beneficial aspects of the program is the opportunity for the students to meet other smart, like-minded individuals. The Pan African nature of the programme emphasizes people to people connections. We find that the participants make life-long friendships and learn a great deal about those from other regions, cultures and countries.

Results of the championship will be announced in Issue No. 39

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA (CUEA) LAUNCHES 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (1984-2009)

Since its inception as a Graduate School of Theology in 1984, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa has successfully stepped into the mainstream of university education, not only in Kenya but also the Eastern Africa Region and beyond.

Catholic Higher Institute of Eastern Africa as it was known by then was founded by the regional ecclesiastical authority known as the Association of member Episcopal conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA), which comprises of the following countries, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia was granted a university charter on 3rd November 1992, this marked the birth of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) as a private university.

CUEA is proud to celebrate its 25th Anniversary (1984 – 2009) with great imbilation. For the last twenty five years much has been achieved in terms of infrastructure development and formation of church and societal staff. The anniversary whose theme has been tapped as “celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to church and society” was launched on 19th February 2009.

The Chancellor Most Rev. Tarcisio G. Ziyaye who is also the Chairman of AMECEA was the chief Guest at the colourful ceremony witnessed by several dignitaries members of the university council, university staff and students.

The 25th Anniversary celebrations will be spread over the year 2009 and end on 12th February 2010. We may need to question ourselves what are we celebrating? What has been achieved over the last 25 years of CUEA’s existence?

As the theme of the Jubilee suggests, “celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to church and society”, CUEA has over the years trained young men and women, both lay and religious in various disciplines. Over 6000 students have studied successfully at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).

They are serving in the Eastern Africa region as Bishops, priests, educators, Bankers, social scientists, accountants etc in both public and private sectors. Other have opened upon their own private business as entrepreneurs. The university therefore has all the reasons to appreciate and

celebrate the success of its fruits.

From a small population of 82 students in 1984, CUEA is now the largest private university in Kenya with an approximate population of 6000 students. Why this great growth in twenty five years? The university has developed programmes that empower students with life skills as well as programmes that are market driven. The dedication of CUEA staff to their word, and the attention given to students is highly commendable. This has made CUEA to be one of the preferred universities by both parents and students. A very unique factor in CUEA is the holistic formation that students receive.

It is not enough to be educated, rather CUEA insists on sound moral formation flavoured with the Catholic social teaching of the church physical, social and human values. The presence of students from all over Eastern Africa Region makes CUEA a hub for great cultural diversity. Students are able to learn from each other the good values that each ones society embraces.

Students at Catholic University have enjoyed harmonious existence that any other university in the region has ever had. In addition members of the teaching staff are drawn from all over the Eastern African Region. This gives the students an opportunity to benefit from diverse knowledge gained from different universities of the world by the staff.

As we celebrate 25 years of our existence, we look back to a humble beginning to where we are; great development has taken place. From a single faculty of Theology, CUEA has now developed five more fully fledged faculties, namely the Faculty of Arts and social sciences, the Faculty of commerce, the Faculty of science, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of law, and the centre for social justice and ethics.

In an effort to bring education chosen to the people, CUEA has now two campus: Eldoret Gaba Campus and Kisumu Campus. There are three Constituent Colleges and several Affiliated institutions.

To facilitate proper instruction and research for the last 25 years CUEA has greatly invested in Information Com-

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The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) Lauches 25th Anniversary Celebrations (1984-2009)

munication Technology (ICT), laboratories that are well equipped for science subjects and the latest publications in the library and online journals.

This has made CUEA to be one of the universities where research and publications are often carried out.

Currently a state of the Art Learning Resource Centre probably the highest in Eastern Africa is under construction. Not only will it serve CUEA but other neighboring institutions as well. In addition, the upper campus which was officially opened and blessed on the Launch of the 25th Anniversary (19th February 2009) will make students use the latest technology in learning.

The new Hall will make the lecturer student ratio in class more appropriate. No longer would you find a lecturer handling a class that is more than 35 students.

One may wonder, what has enabled the Catholic University to jump to such a higher standards in education in such a short period? The development of the Strategic Development Plan 2002- 2011 has been very instrumental in the growth and development of the university.

Baseline survey, research and planning on the way forward

of university education and its relevance to the society has been carried out. This led to prioritization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the university activities. The top management of the University holds two retreats in a year to re- evaluate and re-engineer the Strategic Plan. No doubt this has been the key to the success of CUEA.

It is important to note that 25 years have not come to pass with ease.

CUEA has had challenges that are not easy to find solutions. To implement its Strategic Plan, and to mobilise resources has been and still remains a great challenge to the University.

But all said and done, CUEA has done extremely wonderful for the last 25 years of its existence. As we thank the leaders who have guided the institution to such great heights, we call upon the entire Eastern African Region to join CUEA in celebrating the 25th Anniversary and to share in our Jubilation. Great thanks and appreciation got to others who have supported CUEA financially, moral, spiritually and intellectually so as to get this far. We shall ever remain indebted to you.

MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Mugenyi appointed Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

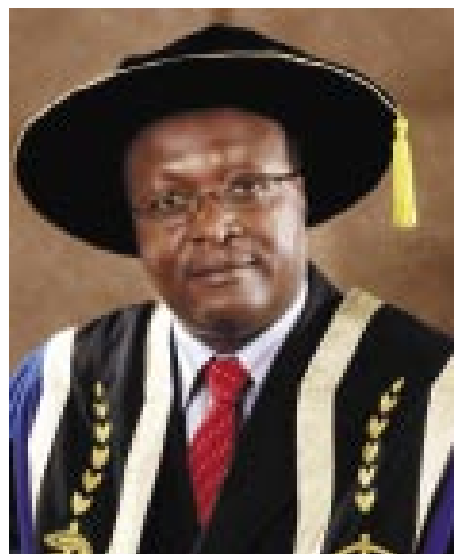
Mbarara University of Science and Technology got a new Chancellor, the second non head of state chancellor. We congratulate him on this appointment. Professor Mugenyi has served as the executive Director of the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) since 1992. Through his hard work and commitment, he has established a state of the art clinical and research laboratory well equipped to carry out a variety of tests and studies including HIV vaccine trial in Uganda.

In addition he has held important responsibilities in academic institutions as well as national and international organizations including Chair of Mbarara University Council and visiting professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Mbarara University.

In recognition of his international leadership in HIV/AIDS prevention treatment and advocacy , Professor Mugenyi

became the first non- American to be invited to sit in the US Congress Royal Box during the 2002 State of the Union address by the president of the United States of America.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the outgoing Chancellor, Professor Raphael



Professor Mugenyi, newly appointed Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Owor for his diligent service as Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology from 2004 to 2007. The university shall forever remain grateful for his contributions

Professor Fredrick I B Kayanja was re-appointed as the Vice Chancellor for the next five years. We appreciate the efforts of Professor Kayanja who has been at the helm of the University since its inception in 1989.

MUST held its 15th congregation of the university, on 31st January 2009 a total of 679 graduands were presented for the award of diplomas and conferment of degrees. Out of these, 2 were awarded PhDs (Female and Male).

The Institute of Computer Science participated in the first pilot project of self evaluation. The self evaluation programme as well as the external peer review is a project that is spear headed by the IUCEA, DAAD and three higher education regulatory agencies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in order to ensure quality higher education in East African region. The external peer review was of the opinion that the resources were adequate particularly the number of computers and the size of the laboratories. As a result of self evaluation of the computer Science programme plans are in high gear to carry out self evaluation in all programmes conducted at Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Norwegian Diplomat launches postgraduate programs.

By Ogeke Araka

Norway has pledged to support development programs aimed at attaining maximum wealth creation impact at the grassroots. Speaking at the JKUAT Thursday January 29 2009, where she was launching selected postgraduate programs in the allied built industry, Norwegian ambassador to Kenya Elisabeth Jacobsen singled out the rapid growth of slums in Kenya's urban centers as a major development obstacle and challenged researchers in the built industry to urgently intervene and provide solutions to arrest the rapid growth of slums.

Her government she told the 13 students drawn from five universities in the east and horn of Africa regions was keen to support higher training and research in the building sciences and urban planning in particular because it had the potential to address the vexed problem of slum acceleration. People who lived in slums she noted were exposed to highly deplorable and inhuman conditions that lacked almost all basic human amenities such as sanitation and noted that Norway was closely working with the United Nations system in an attempt to address the many challenges that faced human settlements.

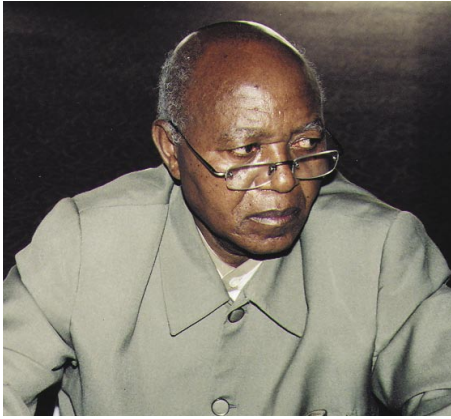
In her welcoming remarks, the vice chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga hailed the Norwegian government for its initiative to launch and sustain the training program that had already she said enhanced JKUAT capacity building particularly at the School of Architecture and Building Sciences which

had so far seen the successful postgraduate training of five staffers—four at Masters level and a PhD beneficiary. Prof. Imbuga added that the program was instrumental in mentoring and sensitizing staff in modern approach to architecture besides boosting cultural exchange and providing a strong reservoir for research, staff and students exchange for the participating universities. The vice-chancellor encouraged ambassador Jacobsen to assist JKUAT to forge further collaboration with institutions of higher learning in Norway.

Known by the acronym SIU-NOMA, the initiative funded by the Norwegian government through the Oslo School of Architecture and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, focuses on postgraduate training in building science arranged such that all students have to spend part of their time studying identified course modules in the respective universities a situation designed to foster cultural diversity. The participating universities are; Makerere- Uganda, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, University of Dar-es-salaam-Tanzania, University of Nairobi-Kenya and JKUAT-Kenya that had hosted the group.

AFRICA'S UNSUNG TREASURES: SOME REFLECTIONS

By Keto E. Mshigeni, Professor of Botany and Vice Chancellor,
Hubert Kairuki Memorial University



I recall, with indescribable nostalgia, my childhood days at Mamba, a village at an altitude of 1600 metres above sea level, on the south-eastern slopes of Pare mountains in Tanzania's

Kilimanjaro Region. Evergreen, with our natural forests then intact, with rivers and rivulets emanating from the montane forests, with many gorgeous interlocking spurs, the scenery was just spectacular. The elders in the village enthusiastically shared with us their vast knowledge on the rich treasure of biota found in the ecosystem, and about their traditional uses. These included uses as sources of strong fibres (e.g., from the ishari plant) for making ropes, for building houses, and for many other applications; wild guavas, wild bananas, many other types of edible wild fruits; and a wide range of tree types, shrubs, herbs, mushrooms and lichens, that were, since times immemorial, used for human or for livestock nutrition, for treating wounds and various types of ailments that afflicted society; or for use as indigenous pesticides (e.g., leaves of the leguminous plant, *Tephrosia vogelii*, locally known as mkala) that killed destructive crop worms and weevils. Little did we then know that the vitamin C content of our wild guavas is several times higher than that of oranges! These unsung treasures are fast disappearing with our vanishing tropical forests, woodlands, and indigenous cultures! Indeed, that is the pattern across Africa.

In the tropical Rain Forest belt of West Africa (in Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire), the indigenous people traditionally harvested leaves and fruit berries of a wild plant that grew in the under-canopy of natural forests, for various uses. Its broad leaves were used for wrapping food and other products, and were sold in local markets; and its berries, which were exceedingly sweet (and hence its nickname, "sweet prayers plant"), were traditionally used as a sweetener, or as a taste-modifier in various food preparations. Many of the indigenous people are not aware that

the sweetberry plant, *Thaumatococcus daniellii* (Benn.) Benth. is a unique gift of nature that they should treasure: the sweetness of its berries is due a rich content of a heat-stable protein, thaumatin, whose crystals are 2000 to 3000 times sweeter than those of sucrose!

Today, the traditional uses of sweetberry plant leaves and fruit berries, are rapidly declining. Imported polythene bags and synthetic sweeteners, are increasingly replacing the superior traditional uses of its leaves and fruits. There are justifiable fears that uncontrolled deforestation in the region, may wipe out the unique treasure (and other biota) from our biosphere! However, there have been new developments. *Thaumatococcus* has now been cloned by international gene hunters, and the extraction of thaumatin from its berries, has been patented by foreign multinationals (e.g., United States Patent 4011206).

There is a need for creating scenarios whereby Africa's treasures bring maximum benefits to her people. Africa's scientists should be more alert, more assertive, more intrusive, and more aggressive, towards securing research and development funds from our Governments, and also towards competing for global research funds. This will enable us to promote greater public awareness on the need for recovering Africa's disappearing and lost treasures. It will also pave the way, towards promoting sustainable livelihoods amongst our poverty-stricken millions in society. Additionally, it will catalyse a momentum towards speeding up policy legislation on the conservation of our numerous, unique, little known biota, e.g., through intensified agroforestry, and promoting more global (south-south and south-north) partnerships. Here I have in mind biota such as *Termitomyces titanicus*, a giant edible mushroom (Fig.1), whose fruiting cap spans a diameter of one metre, making it the largest termite mushroom in the world; *Conraua goliath*, a giant edible frog in the River Congo ecosystem, the largest frog in the world; and *Terfezia pfeillii*, the Kalahari truffle mushroom, whose taste is superlatively sublime, and whose potential for penetrating global trade is very promising.

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AFRICA'S UNSUNG TREASURES: SOME REFLECTIONS

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I recall also, my childhood days, when, during the night time, sitting by the fire-side, we would ask our elders many questions on the types of religious worships they practised before Christianity, Islam, and religions from other continents diffused into our African communities. And we came to learn that my ancestors on the Pare mountains of Tanzania, also believed in God, whom they referred to as Kilunge. Actually, they had a code of ethics of “do’s” and “don’ts” (e.g., don’t steal, don’t kill, don’t tell lies, don’t commit adultery, etc.), quite similar to the Ten Commandments preached by Christian Missionaries, and those advocated by other religions. They even had a day of rest (called Nguta by the Pare people), that was equivalent to the Jewish Sabbath.

We would ask them questions on what raw materials they used to make the traditional iron hoes, axes, spear heads, and arrow heads. From their answers, we established that our African ancestors were very innovative, and knew how to make steel from iron ore. That was long before the advent of colonial disturbances to the indigenous cultures.

We would also ask them questions on the ceremonies they performed when burying the dead in a family. But, when, one day, I requested my parents to show me graveyards where my grandparents had been laid to rest, when it was their turn to go the way of all flesh (I never had the good luck of seeing either my maternal or my paternal grandfather), I noticed expressions of sadness and agony when I read their body language! I came to learn, that both

grandparents had been forced go to war, to fight on the side of German colonial masters, during the 1914-1918 World War! Both never came back! Many times, when I dream about them, totally in the dark about what might have happened to them, I shudder and tremble! To me, the two are amongst my most precious, irreplaceable, lost treasures!

Africa’s treasures that were taken away by the powers that were prevailing during the colonial era are of two broad categories: those that are redeemable, recoverable, and returnable to their original owners; and those (like my lost grandparents) that are un-returnable. A colossal number of these are now housed in museums across Europe, where they attract thousands (sometimes millions) of tourists every year, generating substantial income to the museums housing them. These include numerous priceless terracotta sculptures plundered from Mali, Nigeria, and other countries in West Africa; and many others.

One of the most famous treasures taken away from Africa (from an Egyptian pyramid), is the bust of an ancient Egyptian queen, Queen Nefertiti, now housed in Berlin’s Altes Museum, in Germany. Another invaluable Egyptian treasure is the Rosetta Stone. The stone was first removed from Egyptian soils by soldiers of Emperor Napoleon’s army, in 1799, during the Napoleonic wars. When the British won the war, the Rosetta Stone was seized by the British, and taken to the British Museum, London, where it

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Fig. 1. *Termitomyces titanicus* mushroom on top of a pick-up truck: a giant edible mushroom growing in termite nests, forming a fruiting cap of about one metre in diameter [Photo by Dr. Cousins Gwanama].

AFRICA'S UNSUNG TREASURES: SOME REFLECTIONS

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is still housed, attracting millions of tourists every year.

The Rosetta Stone is so uniquely treasured, because from it, in 1822, ancient writings inscribed in hieroglyphics, were deciphered. Thus it provided the missing key towards reading and understanding ancient messages inscribed in hieroglyphics, inside the famous and mysterious Egyptian pyramids. This made it the world's most famous rock! The terra-cotta sculptures, the Queen Nefertiti bust, and the Rosetta Stone, are of the returnable category of Africa's treasures.

But perhaps the most intriguing of Africa's unsung treasures, now housed in museums of the industrialised world, is a uniquely rich collection of fossilised dinosaur skeleton excavated from Tendaguru hill, 70 km north-west of the township of Lindi, in South-east Tanzania. The treasure first came to light when, in 1907, a German mining engineer, Bernhard Sattler, while prospecting for minerals during the period of German colonial rule in Tanzania, was shown by the indigenous people, bones of immense size. Expeditions of German scientists soon thereafter returned to Tendaguru. Under the leadership of Werner Janensch and Edwin Hennig, and assisted by some 500 indigenous people, between 1909 and 1913, excavations of an unusually rich preservation of dinosaur skeleton, were made in Tendaguru. A total of 225,000 kg of fossilised bones were uncovered.

The largest and most arresting treasure in the Tendaguru dinosaur excavation, is the complete fossilised skeleton of what turned out to be a giant *Brachiosaurus brancai*, the most gigantic dinosaur collection ever made. Deserving a befitting page in the Guinness Book of Records, the stunning palaeontological wonder from Tendaguru is mounted in the Museum of Natural History in Berlin, where I first saw it in 1992 (Fig. 2). The unique treasure is the tallest mounted dinosaur skeleton ever found in the world, and represents the largest known beast that ever walked on planet Earth. Standing 12 m tall, and 23 m long, with a posture resembling that of a giraffe, the Tendaguru dinosaur is suspected by some authorities to belong to a new genus of dinosaur, *Giraffatitan*! Our mounted dinosaur skeleton in Berlin, is the most attractive collection in the museum, and is visited by thousands of tourists every year.

When World War I was waged in 1914, German palaeontologists and geologists were unable to continue their treasure-hunting expeditions in Tanzania. When the Germans were defeated by the British, some of their Tendaguru dinosaur fossil finds were captured by the British, and are

now housed in the British Museum. When the British took over Tanzania from German colonial rule, teams of British treasure hunters also visited Tendaguru (1924-1931), and further enriched their dinosaur museum collection. The Tendaguru dinosaur excavations, indeed, unveiled a very rich diversity of dinosaurs, including a new species

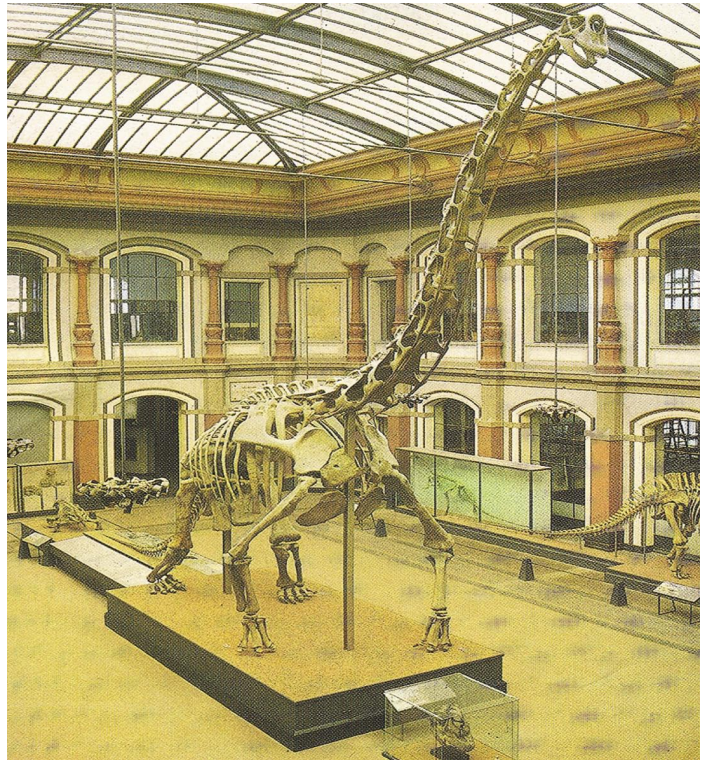


Fig. 2. Fossilised complete skeleton of a giant *Brachiosaurus brancai* dinosaur from Tendaguru hill, Tanzania, mounted in the Natural History Museum, Berlin, Germany [Source: Postcard presented to the author by the Berlin Museum staff in 1992: gratefully acknowledged].

of stegosaur (*Kentrosaurus aetheopicus* Hennig). Such a unique site, with such a rich preservation of stunning dinosaur treasures that lived so many (150 million) years ago, should surely be seen as a natural history museum of its own kind, which our entire world community should jealously guard, protect, and conserve; and which should be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

In the earlier paragraphs of this synthesis, a generalised taxonomic classification of the Earth's various unique treasures, was presented: Some of the treasures are returnable to their places of origin. Some are irredeemable. The Rosetta Stone in the British Museum was said to be returnable to Cairo. The Tendaguru *Brachiosaurus* in the Museum in Berlin is also returnable to Tanzania.

I realise that we are now treading on a path of an increas-

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AFRICA'S UNSUNG TREASURES: SOME REFLECTIONS

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ingly globalising world, where international symbiosis and mutual understanding among nations, is the new world order. We are moving on a new road where north-south and south-north traffic is increasingly being balanced. We live in an era, when the Earth's treasures are increasingly being conceived as a common world heritage. Yet, there are still gross inequalities in the reaping of the benefits emanating from the innumerable treasures extracted from the planet Earth. The people of Africa would immensely benefit from seeing the mounted fossilised bones of the transcendently enormous Tendaguru dinosaur (now housed in Berlin), to get a mental picture of the unimaginable, vegetarian, monstrous beast, that once roamed on our continent. But flying to the Museum in Berlin is beyond our people's dreams: absolutely unaffordable.

With relentless persistence, however, with the right spirit, with good-will, with visionary minds, and with the adoption of a give-and-take attitude, many conflicts can be resolved amicably; and solutions to insurmountable problems, can be precipitated. It was through the adoption of such strategies and progressive attitudes, that a life-size replica of the Rosetta Stone housed in the British Museum, London, was made and mounted in the Cairo Museum, in Egypt. It was through similar mutually agreed arrangements that the treasured skull of the extraordinarily brave Chief Mkwavinyika Munyigumba Mwamuyinga (commonly known as Chief Mkwawa) of the Wahehe people of Tanzania, which German colonial rulers took away and housed in Bremen, Germany, in 1898 (following the fierce war of colonial resistance which he had led), was returned in 1954, and mounted at the Mkwawa Memorial Museum, in Kalenga, Iringa, Tanzania! Indeed, I see also the merits of having the skeleton of the Tendaguru dinosaur returned, for mounting at the envisaged Tendaguru UNESCO World Heritage site in Tanzania.

It is encouraging and gratifying to note that many right-minded leaders in the industrialised world, also agree (and believe) that the many plundered African treasures should be returned to their places of origin. For example, the proposal on the return of Chief Mkwawa's skull from Germany to Tanzania, was first mooted by a British Administrator of the then German East Africa (H.A. Byatt) soon after World War I. The matter was indefatigably further pursued by another British Administrator after World War II (Sir Edward Twining, then Governor of Tanzania), who, himself, in 1953, visited the Bremen Museum, identified Chief Mkwawa's skull from amongst 84 skulls from Tanzania in the museum then (a skull with a bullet hole), and successfully exerted a push for its return to its country of

origin, the following year. Thus there is a good basis for my hope on the return of Tanzania's Tendaguru dinosaur treasures. And,...sometimes I ask myself, "... Could the skulls of my missing grandfathers be in that number of 84, reported by Sir Edward Twining?" The answer is blowing in the wind of my mind!

In concluding this synthesis, I would like to make the following recommendations on the way forward:

- African scientists, engineers, and technologists, through their national academies of science, and their various Universities, be more proactive, and establish symbiotic partnerships with their peers in the industrialising and industrialised countries, with a view to establishing joint research teams to unravel the many unknowns about Africa's neglected, untapped and under-utilized biotic and abiotic treasures, and to turn them into profitable, value-added sources of new foods, medicines, feeds, agrofertilizers, fuels, and other products, for the sustained socio-economic development of Africa's and the Earth's inhabitants, and especially the poverty-stricken masses where the treasures primarily originated.
- African Governments, through appropriate diplomatic channels, and through relevant organs of the United Nations, be supported towards mapping out appropriate strategies through which their unique, invaluable, rare, national treasures that are now housed in museums of industrialised nations, will be returned to their countries of origin, for the benefit of the original owners of the treasures, for public education, and for permanent preservation as our common world heritage.
- African Governments, in partnership with governments of other industrialising and industrialized nations, establish a special training and research fund for developing a critical mass of African human capital in the basic sciences, in engineering fields, and in technology disciplines, and facilitate the formation of more intensive collaborative research towards unravelling more hidden treasures from the Tendaguru palaeontological hotspot, and also from other promising sites in Africa. This is likely to lead to a better understanding of the Earth's dim and distant past.

Acknowledgements:

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UDSM HAS LAUNCHED A RESEARCH REPOSITORY (URERE)

On 7th January 2009, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala, launched the first university-wide repository for the storage and dissemination of research findings. In attendance at the launch were principals, all Deans and Directors, and all Associate Deans for Research.

Although URERE is intended mainly for research materials, it has the capacity to absorb all sorts of other documents, such as reports, university policies, University legal instruments, photographs and others, all of which will be appropriately classified under various folder names.

URERE can be accessed by any member of the public and is accessible on the university website under "Information About". Users will get differential access for different documents. They are also able to post documents on URERE, which will then have to be approved by the Administrator, who is in the Directorate of Research.

Welcome to URERE.

*Director of Research
University of Dar es Salaam*

ARDHI UNIVERSITY PREPARATIONS FOR THE 33RD DITF 2009 IN HIGH GEAR

By Alfred Mwenisongole, Public Relations Officer

Preparation for the 33rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) for 2009 were flagged off in January 2009 when the Ardhi University (ARU) Exhibition Committee began its preparatory meetings. ARU shall be participating at the DITF for the second time this year as an Independent University. In the previous years, being a constituent college then, the participation at DITF was within the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) pavilion.

ARU being one of the leading universities in land based

studies in the region, is therefore committed to undertake a brisk marketing and publicity blitz during this year's exhibition, organized by the Board of External Trade (BET) at the Mwalimu Nyerere Saba Saba Grounds.

Over the years, the Exhibition Committee identified an exhibition theme for each year. In general the themes have addressed major issues and concerns regarding urban planning, housing, environmental management, and public

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health. In the previous years common mistakes in urban management were identified and mitigation measures emanating from ARU research and practice were proposed and explained to various stakeholders and visitors at the pavilion.

In 2006 the concept of Ring Roads was presented at the DITF with a view to ease traffic congestion. During the DITF for 2007 this concept of ring roads was followed up with proposals to decongest the City by constructing flyovers and by passes at major road junctions. In 2008 the Exhibition Committee changed the theme by introducing the concept of public health. The use of contaminated underground water and its impact on users was explained to pavilion visitors.

At the 31ST DITF 2007 Exhibition, the Exhibition Committee initiated a holistic approach involving all the professions at ARU. Theme of 2007 addressed the traffic congestion for the City of Dar es Salaam, with estimated population of 4 million people. About 3 million people (75%) live in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam City, covering more than 70% of the area. Dar es Salaam and other fast growing Urban Centres in Tanzania, are experiencing social, economic, environmental and other development bottlenecks, related to traffic congestion.

If past performance is to go by, this year's exhibition is driven by an impressive past record. The urge to surpass this record is the challenge facing the Exhibition Committee chaired by Dr. Robert Kiunsi, Director of Postgraduate Studies, Research and Publication (DPRP). ARU exhibition hit the headlines for the last two consecutive years. The concept of flyovers, by-passes and ring roads introduced during the 31ST DITF 2007, together with that of Satellite Towns development, impressed His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, when he visited the ARU pavillion. After his visit at the ARU pavilion there are indications that the City

Fathers are adopting the ARU concepts in order to sustainably address the traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam. It has recently been noted that it is the position of the government to embark on the project to decongest the City, including building ring roads and flyovers, to enhance city efficiency in all its sectors.

The theme for this year among other things, will publicise ARU about the ARU outputs and what students from this University are capable of doing in the market. At the pavilion the visitors and stakeholders will be urged to use ARU services and products for the efficient management of the environment.

The desired outcome of this year's DITF exhibition is explained in the words of Professor Idrissa B. Mshoro, ARU Vice Chancellor, during ARU Ceremony to receive the DITF Award for second position in the Training, Research and Consultancy Category of the 32ND DITF Exhibitors. He directed that "preparations for the 33rd DITF should start as soon as possible to make the next year's exhibition even better".

This statement directed to the Exhibition Committee, is the biggest challenge to be overcome. It is the conviction of the Exhibition Committee however that this year will be a challenging one and an opportunity for ARU to show the stakeholders what best ARU is good at.

ARU welcomes you all to visit its 33rd DITF 2009 pavilion at the Mwalimu Nyerere Saba Saba Grounds in July 2009. But before that, ARU shall participate in the April 2009 Exhibition on Higher Education, Science and Technology to be held at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam. The April exhibition window, will be part of preparations for the 33RD DITF Exhibition.

As our stakeholders you are requested to grab this opportunity by visiting the ARU pavilions or contact us at
E-mail: aru@aru.ac.tz and Website:<http://www.aru.ac.tz>