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Plot M833 Kigobe Road, Kyambogo
P.O. Box 7110, Kampala, Uganda
Phone: +256-414254251/2

Editor:
Gai P. Manyon

East African Community Scholarship Programme Secures €9 Million Grant



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary IUCEA, Ms. Veronica M. Nduva, the Secretary General EAC and the Representative of KfW at the launch of Phase 2 of the EAC Scholarship Programme in Nairobi, Kenya on December 10, 2024

On December 10, 2024, in Nairobi, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat formalized the launch of Phase 2 of the EAC Scholarship Programme. This milestone was marked by the signing of a €9 million grant agreement, provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the

German Development Bank (KfW). The agreement underpinning this initiative was formally signed by three notable figures: Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA); Ms. Veronica M. Nduva, the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC); and the Deputy Representative for Kenya from KfW, a German development bank. This collaboration is a clear

testament to the EAC's persistent dedication to fostering regional integration, explicitly through the enhancement of education and leadership development initiatives.

The East African Community (EAC) Scholarship Programme specifically targets postgraduate students hailing from the member states within the region. This program offers them a remarkable opportunity to pursue master's

degrees across a variety of critical fields, including but not limited to mathematics, engineering, informatics, science, technology, and business sciences. Set to launch Phase 2 in January 2025, this next phase aims to bolster support for a new

group of scholars who are dedicated to driving regional development and fostering deeper integration in East Africa.

The inaugural Phase 1 of the EAC Scholarship Programme commenced in 2019, backed by an initial funding allocation of €5 million from the Federal Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This first phase has successfully empowered 180 students, who have participated across

three different cohorts and represented all EAC partner states. These scholarships have enabled the selected students to further their education at various esteemed institutions across the region without incurring additional fees, thereby promoting student mobility. This has not only facilitated collaboration and knowledge sharing among students but has also strengthened academic ties between the member states.

The overarching goal of the EAC Scholarship Programme is to cultivate a highly skilled workforce capable of propelling regional development forward. Additionally, it aims to enhance the networks and connections among academics and professionals spanning East African nations. By supporting education and leadership initiatives, the program actively promotes regional integration.

The increased funding allocation for Phase 2 is indicative of a renewed commitment to achieving these objectives, while also opening more opportunities for East African nationals to pursue advanced educational endeavors and contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of the region.

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EAC Regional Project Team Tours IUCEA Headquarters: A Step Towards Empowering Education



The EAC Regional Project Implementation Committee at the IUCEA Phase II construction site on January 13, 2025

On January 13, 2025, the EAC Regional Project Implementation Committee Team visited the IUCEA Headquarters to conduct a detailed assessment of the ongoing Phase II construction site. Their thorough evaluation focused on the building's preparation, structural integrity, and overall construction quality, providing essential insights into the progress of the project.

During the visit, the team recognized and commended the exceptional efforts put forth by

the IUCEA Secretariat and Senyani Brothers Limited. Their dedication and hard work on the project have been instrumental in reaching the current stage of development.

Accompanying the delegation was the IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, who emphasized the importance of this initiative in strengthening regional cooperation. Key management personnel were also present, contributing valuable insights to the assessment process.

In addition to the IUCEA representatives, delegates from our EAC Partner States—including Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya—were in attendance. Their presence underscored the collaborative spirit that defines our regional initiatives, highlighting our shared commitment to promoting development and enhancing infrastructure across the East African Community.

IUCEA Executive Members Hold First Meeting in Bujumbura



Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona the IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Robert Deng, IUCEA Chairperson of Executive Committee, Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai and VC-KCA University at the 40th Executive Committee Meeting, January 15, 2025, in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The 40th Executive Committee Meeting of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) took place on January 15, 2025, in Bujumbura, Burundi, under the leadership of Prof. Robert Mayom, Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba. This important gathering brought together representatives from various member universities within the IUCEA network, as well as key officials, including Permanent and Principal Secretaries from the East African Community (EAC)

partner states.

During the meeting, members engaged with a robust agenda that included comprehensive reports from various committees focusing on critical areas such as Quality Assurance in higher education, Staff and Student Mobility initiatives, Human Resources Development, and Scholarship opportunities available across the region. These discussions were pivotal in addressing key

challenges and opportunities within East African higher education.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the IUCEA Executive Secretary, played a significant role in the meeting by presenting a detailed report that outlined the Council's activities and initiatives planned for the financial year 2024/2025. His presentation emphasized the commitment of the IUCEA to enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education in the region.



IUCEA Executive Committee members pose for a group photo during the meeting on January 15, 2025, in Bujumbura.

Furthermore, Prof. Banyankimbona highlighted several noteworthy upcoming events intended to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders. Among these is a sensitization forum scheduled for February in Kenya, aimed at raising awareness and promoting conversations on pertinent educational issues. In addition, the Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum (APPPF) is set to take place in March in Kigali, Rwanda, serving as a platform for collaboration between academic institutions and the private sector to drive innovations in education.

Overall, the meeting was a significant milestone for the IUCEA, fostering cooperation and strategic planning among member institutions to strengthen higher education in East Africa.



Professor Banyankimbona Hosts World Bank Partnership Specialist at IUCEA Headquarters



IUCEA Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and Mr. Singh, the Africa Regional Representative for the World Bank, at the IUCEA Headquarters, January 27, 2025.

On January 27, 2025, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), had the distinct honor of hosting Mr. Prashant Singh at the IUCEA Headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. Mr. Singh is a Senior Partnership Specialist within the Africa Regional Integration Division of the World Bank.

During this significant visit, which was part of a broader strategic support mission, the two engaged in in-depth discussions focused on the role of IUCEA as a Fiduciary Institution in facilitating the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), coordinated by the World Bank to support the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI). This initiative is pivotal for fostering regional cooperation through

four pillars: improving regional infrastructure connectivity (aiming for an "Interconnected Horn" by promoting transport, energy, and digital sector connectivity); promoting trade and economic integration to boost trade, growth, and jobs; building resilience to climate change and other shocks, including in the region's borderland areas; and strengthening human capital development to address



IUCEA Staff, Executive Secretary Prof. Banyankimbona and Mr. Singh, the Africa Regional Representative for the World Bank, at the IUCEA Headquarters, January 27, 2025.

pandemics, boost skills, and improve access to social services for the people of the Horn of Africa.

The Horn of Africa sub-region includes three East African Community Partner States: Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan. Prof. Banyankimbona expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, emphasizing the importance of such partnerships in advancing human capital development goals within the Eastern African region. The discussions also focused on innovative strategies for enhancing resource mobilization and fostering sustainable development practices in collaboration with regional universities and institutions. Mr. Singh's insights and expertise were

invaluable in identifying potential areas for growth and investment, which are essential for the long-term success of the initiative. The meeting marked a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to strengthen regional integration and development objectives in East Africa.

Prof. Banyankimbona and Mr. Singh's discussions were thorough and constructive. They delved into critical topics surrounding partnership development and collaborative opportunities including the potential of IUCEA to contribute more to the Horn of Africa Initiative beyond its current role as a Fiduciary Institution. This collaborative spirit, rooted in mutual understanding and shared

objectives, is a vital foundation for advancing regional integration efforts. Note that IUCEA is a Regional Facilitation Unit for two regional initiatives funded by the World Bank: the East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project (ACE II) and the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). By pooling resources and knowledge, IUCEA and the World Bank have great potential to address key issues such as institutional and human capacity building, educational enhancement, resilience, and sustainable development within the East African Community Region and beyond.

Prof. Banyankimbona Attends the EAC Secretary General's Forum



■ The Executive Secretary, IUCEA, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona at the 7th Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, December 10, 2024.

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), participated at the 7th Annual East African Community (EAC) Secretary General's Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya on December 10, 2024. This forum gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, academic leaders, and representatives from various EAC institutions and organs, all committed to fostering regional cooperation and development.

The overarching theme for the year's forum, "Towards a Resilient and Fully Integrated East Africa: Harnessing Opportunities in the Borderless Community," reflects the urgent need to strengthen collaboration among EAC member states. The discussions focused on

key challenges and opportunities pertinent to sustainable development and integration in East Africa, emphasizing the need for a unified approach to governance within the expanding community.

Throughout the forum, several key topics were highlighted, including the importance of establishing good governance frameworks that can adapt to the evolving needs of the region. Additional discussions centered on initiatives aimed at promoting healthy borders, fostering trade, and enhancing mobility among citizens of the EAC member states.

Representatives from various EAC partner states shared best practices and ongoing projects, emphasizing successful strategies

that promote regional integration. The involvement of educational institutions, epitomized by Prof. Banyankimbona's contributions, underscored the critical role of research and higher education in informing policy decisions and capacity building across the region.

As the forum progressed, participants engaged in collaborative sessions aimed at developing actionable recommendations for policy reforms, resource mobilization, and partnerships that align with the EAC's vision for a more integrated and resilient community. The dialogues and outcomes from the forum are expected to influence the EAC's strategic initiatives moving forward, paving the way for a more cohesive and prosperous East African region.

Prof. Nanyonga Elected Vice Chairperson of the IUCEA Executive Committee



Prof. Clarke Rose Nanyonga, the Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of IUCEA, at the Executive Committee Meeting in Bujumbura on January 15, 2025.

Prof. Rose Clarke Nanyonga has been elected as the Vice Chairperson of the IUCEA (Inter-University Council for East Africa) executive committee. This decision came during a recent meeting held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on the 15th of January 2025 where the Board Committee, led by Prof. Robert Mayom, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba, unanimously voted in favor of her appointment. Prof. Nanyonga currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of Clarke International University (CIU), where she has played a pivotal role in advancing academic excellence and fostering a research-driven

environment. She boasts impressive academic credentials, including a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Policy from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Her expertise is further highlighted by her Graduate Certificate of Concentration in Global Health, which she earned in the same institution.

Additionally, Prof. Nanyonga holds a Master of Science in Nursing, specializing as a Family Nurse Practitioner, from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She completed her undergraduate studies with

a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas.

As a distinguished scholar, Prof. Nanyonga has made significant contributions to the field of nursing through her extensive research efforts. She has authored and published numerous articles in international journals, further establishing her reputation as a thought leader in the realm of global health and nursing policy. Her election as Vice Chairperson reflects her commitment to enhancing higher education and collaboration within the region.

The EADB Delegation Visits the IUCEA Headquarters



IUCEA Staff and the Delegation of EADB at IUCEA Headquarters on 29th of January 2025

The Acting Director General of the East African Development Bank (EADB), Mr. Benard Paul Mono, together with Andrew Asira, Head of Operations at EADB, had the honor of visiting Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), at the IUCEA Headquarters in Kyambogo on the 29th of January 2025.

This meeting served as an important platform for discussing vital issues

related to enhancing collaboration, fostering partnerships, and strengthening linkages within the East African Community (EAC). A significant focus was placed on the upcoming Academic-Public-Private Partnership Forum (APPPF), scheduled to be held from March 12 to March 14, 2025, in the vibrant city of Kigali, Rwanda.

In addition, the dialogue encompassed critical topics such as advancing research initiatives and promoting the mobility of staff and

students across the EAC region. The EADB team reaffirmed their strong commitment to actively participating in the (APPPF) event, viewing it as a valuable opportunity to exchange innovative ideas and explore potential partnerships that can contribute to the sustainable development of our region.

The collaborative spirit expressed during this meeting underscores the shared vision for a prosperous and interconnected East Africa.

Pictorials



IUCEA Executive Committee Members Meeting on 15/1/2025 in Bujumbura, Burundi.



Some of the Executive Committee Members



IUCEA Executive Committee Members in Bujumbura.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Bangankimboa, and Deputy Secretary General of EAC, Hon. Aguer Arrik in Nairobi during SG 7th forum.



IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Banyankimbona, and Deputy Executive Secretary, Prof. Rai on 15th January 2025 in Bujumbura.



Prof. Robert Deng, Chairperson of IUCEA Executive Committee Members on the 15th of January 2025 in Bujumbura.



Prof. Clarke Rose Nanyonga, Deputy Chairperson of IUCEA Executive Committee in Bujumbura on the 15th of January 2025



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