



Welcoming Statement

by

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Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

during

official opening ceremony

Senate Strategic Planning Workshop

Thursday December 1, 2011

AICAD

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Our Partners from the University of Western Ontario

Campus Principals

Deans of Faculties

Chairmen of Departments

Directors of Institutes

Senators

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great privilege and honour for me to welcome you all to this special Senate training workshop aimed at imparting modern planning skills to accelerate the transformation of JKUAT into a research and development oriented university.

I am particularly pleased to pay tribute for our collaborating partners from the University of Western Ontario for agreeing to be with us during this workshop.

As you may be aware, we have just concluded a two days workshop aimed at strengthening research in African universities that opened in Nairobi on Tuesday. The workshop jointly organized by JKUAT, Association of African Universities(AAU), and Association of Canadian Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) brought together a total of 61 participants drawn from a total of 30 universities, 15 of them from Africa and 12 universities in Canada.

The workshop addressed a number of challenges that continue to plague efficient utilization of higher education in Africa and made recommendations aimed at strengthening outreach programmes, promote University –Industry partnership, and support the AAU member stakeholder in the continent; all key in showcasing the university’s central role in Africa’s development agenda. At the core of the Africa – Canada twinning programme is the planning process where an African university works closely with a Canadian University counterpart to develop a strategic plan.

For us at the JKUAT who are twinned to the University of Western Ontario, the project has come at an opportune time when our current Strategic Plan 2009 -2012 is coming to an end and when we are in the process of developing the 2013 -2017 plan. It is out of our twinning project with the University of Western Ontario that we are able to mount today’s workshop.

Clearly, therefore this workshop will serve to boost our capacity to develop our next Strategic Plan to transform JKUAT into a more research oriented university with strong industry linkages. Furthermore, we have also been working with the University of Western Ontario under the same programme to develop a case study on University-Industry linkage which will also be a key feature during this workshop.

During the next two days you will be taken through various topics that will include JKUAT path to transformation, internationalization of higher education and matching demand with quality. Other topics lined up for you are JKUAT-Industry case study project, and our 2012 -2017 Strategic Plan and its linkage to vision 2030 blueprint.

I trust that all of you will benefit from this important workshop. It is a workshop that has come at an appropriate time when we are shifting our attention from a teaching university to a fully fledged research university.

I wish all the participants fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.