JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

OPENING REMARKS OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

DURING THE TRAINING OF WEBSITE REPRESENTATIVES

ON WEBSITE MANAGEMENT

8:30 AM SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 AT AICAD – JKUAT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning in opening this very important one day training on Website Management. As you may be aware, websites have become a major and important media through which universities provide information to both internal and external consumers/users.

It is through websites that information about universities is said to be a click of the button away. Universities globally are therefore putting more efforts to ensure that their websites are competitive and reflect correct status of their activities on all aspects.

Our university is no exception. We have to make our presence felt in the global web arena, through the university website. This can be done by addressing the following areas:

(i)   By increasing the number of web pages on our website. The size of our website is still small. All of us must therefore participate in creating individual departmental pages to increase the size.

(ii)   We need to create enough reasons for people to be visiting our website. Well managed websites and pages with accurate, useful and timely information that reflect complete activities on all aspects will entice external users to have links with our website. This will increase the number of unique external links and therefore enhance our visibility in the global web.

(iii)   We have to make sure that all content relevant to academic and publication activities is posted on our website in different formats, for example pdfs, Microsoft word, HTML etc. This will increase the richness in files and therefore facilitate students; staff and other external users achieve their online academic and research goals easily.

(iv)   Lastly, but equally important, we must ensure that published papers, reports, working papers and other academic items are posted on the website. Making these documents available or procedurally accessible will facilitate their citations in other research works.

In July 2011 Webometrics ranking of universities, JKUAT occupied position 6831 out of 12000 ranked institutions globally. It is my hope that if efforts are put in addressing these areas, the position of the university in the ranking will also significantly improve. Our target for this year is

to be in the top 5000 universities globally. In the near future, Departmental websites/pages may have to be evaluated and ranked by the Website Management Committee to bring about internal completion. This will in no doubt have positive effect in the entire university ranking.

In view of this, the Website Management Committee should come up with appropriate policies that promote and enhances the management of the JKUAT website. I also would like to urge all of you to take this training seriously as future ranks of this university will depend on how you apply the skills gained to your departmental web pages.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Web Management Committee for their commitment to their work and for organizing this very important training. In future, such trainings should be held regularly to ensure continuity in the management of JKUAT website.

I now declare this training officially opened.

Thank you all once again and have a successful training