Trip to Belgorod State University

In an effort to grow the relationship cultivated between Makerere University and Belgorod State Technological University of Russia, a delegation of 10 people from Makerere University, on invitation, visited Belgorod State Technological University on October 2-8, 2012. The Makerere delegation, led by the Vice Chancellor F&A, Prof. Sandy Stevens Tickodri Togboa and Assoc. Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, was warmly welcomed with a Russian traditional ceremony of breaking bread. The team, which was received by the Rector of Belgorod State Technological University Prof. Sergey N. Glagolev, laid flowers at the monument of Shukhov, in whose memory the university was named. The Ugandan team also met with the Governor of Belgorod, Mr Yevgeny Savchenko to strategize on more areas of collaboration.

The hosts were impressed by Prof. Sandy Stevens Tickodri Tigboa and Dr. Barnabas Nawangwe who spoke Russian. The two studied in the former Soviet Union.

Several meetings were held between the Makerere Delegation and the academic board of Belgorod State Technological University during which information was shared between the two sides regarding major directions of scientific researches and way forward for the collaboration.

Prof. Otiti poses for a photo with the University Vice Rector, Prof. Tickodri and Dr. Nawangwe after receiving honorary PhD

The highlight of the visit was the award of an honorary degree to Prof. Tom Otiti of the Department of Physics. The Honorary Doctorate was in honour of his work in the field of climate change.

The Vice Rector of Belgorod State Technological University, Russia, Prof. Nikolay Afanasievich Shapovalov while awarding the degree thanked Prof. Otiti for his contribution to the protection of the environment. “We appreciate the work of great scientists like Prof. Otiti, and this is why we are here today to honour him,” Prof. Nikolay Afanasievich Shapovalov said.

Prof. Tom Otiti has conducted extensive research on Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the Transport Sector in Uganda. This research was motivated by the rising levels of pollution worldwide especially in oil

producing countries, and the need to promote the use of renewable energy such as solar and bio-gas. He thanked the university for recognising his work and promised to continue his research for the good of the world.

Prof. Otiti presented a paper from his research titled; **'Contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Transport Sector in Uganda**'. Prof. Sandy Stevens Tickodri Tigboa later gave a presentation on the KiiraEV (Kiira Electronic Vehicle), calling on the students at Belgorod State University to come to Uganda to collaborate in areas of transportation.

The Makerere Delegation toured the different university facilities such as the laboratories, state-of-the-art stadium, swimming pool and museum.

As part of the university tradition, the Makerere Delegation planted a tree at the university. This tree will be taken care of Ugandan students that will be joining the university.

The delegation also included; the Dean Engineering, Chair, Electrical and Computer Eng, chair Mechanical, Chair Civil Eng, CEDAT communication officer, Deputy Academic Registrar, Prof. Tom Otiti (Physics) and Dean School of Economics.

Makerere University early in the year signed a Memorandum of understanding with Belgorod State Technological University to collaborate in the areas of research and innovation, student exchange, staff exchange. Under this collaboration, the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) will teach students on behalf of Belgorod State Technological University. The students will take on their first year of study at Makerere before continuing with the rest of the years at Belgorod. Under the same agreement, CEDAT will teach Power and Electrical Engineering, Civil and Construction Engineering and Machine and Mechanical Engineering.

It is customary for every visitor to plant a tree. The Team from Makerere University here poses for a photo with the tree they had planted.