

Minister Tours PI Projects, Pledges Support



inadequate financing, which affects the implementation various academic and administrative programmes. He was however happy to note that the University has established an Endowment Fund as a strategic avenue to attract funding from her alumni and the general public. This, he said would help Makerere University to reduce her overdependence on Government subvention.

Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye in his response commended Makerere for continuing to play a key role in the country's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem. He thanked the President for creating a separate ministry that supports STI at the national level.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, on 4th April 2017 paid his first courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu. Accompanied by his Permanent Secretary Mr. David O. O. Obong and other Ministry staff, the Minister thanked the Vice Chancellor and his leadership for making the advance preparations to facilitate his visit. Hon. Tumwesigye's visit is aimed at establishing the status of various projects under the Presidential Initiative on Science and Technology, with a view of determining the resources required to implement commercialisation of the innovation.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor congratulated Hon. Dr. Tumwesigye upon making history as the first Minister of

Science, Technology and Innovation and thanked him for choosing to make Makerere University one of his first stops. Prof. Ddumba-Ssentamu reported that Makerere has been allocated approximately UGX 70 billion since the Presidential Initiative was started, which has greatly facilitated research and innovation.

"The support that we have received from the Presidential Initiative has boosted our research and innovations, which have consequently improved our institutional visibility. Makerere currently ranks third in Africa in terms of research, with the other two institutions coming from South Africa," he said. The Vice Chancellor nevertheless noted that Makerere continues to face a lot of challenges; the biggest being

The Minister visited the College of Engineering, Design, Art and technology to get acquainted with the innovations at CEDAT. He was received by the Principal, Prof. Henry Alinaitwe, the Deputy Principal and several members of staff, including researchers on the projects. The Principal welcomed and Minister and congratulated him on being the First Minister for Science and Technology Innovation. He informed him that CEDAT has been benefiting from Presidential Initiative fund for the last 6 years, and that the fund had greatly boosted innovations in the college.

The Minister stressed the importance of technology

innovations as a driver for industrialisation. He said the country was facing about six challenges 1. Nutrition, 2. Disease, 3. Agriculture, 4. Climate change and its effects, 5. Clean, low cost, sustainable energy, 6. Inadequate skills 7. Lack of affordable shelter/ housing, 8. Water and sanitation.

Hon Dr Tumwesigye assured the researchers that his Ministry was committed to ensuring these challenges are addressed. He said the government had committed Shs50 billion to an innovations fund. This money will facilitate commercialisation of the innovations. He said Shs15 billion would go to ICT Applications.

The minister emphasised the President's call for consumption of home grown products. The slogan for this promotion is Buy Uganda, Build Uganda. This promotion is aimed at increasing compunction of Ugandan products and reducing importation.

Hon. Dr. Tumwesigye visited the irrigation projects and had a demonstration of the solar pumps. He was impressed by the technology and pledged support towards commercialisation of the pumps. He said, the President is eager to find a solution to food insecurity, owing to climate change. The long droughts have affected agriculture and there is a need to irrigate if we are to keep producing farm crops.



Hon. Tumwesigye inquiring about the solar water pumps

The Minister also visited the MakaPads project, where he was shown the process of making the sanitary pads. He was informed that the pads are made in a small factory in Kawempe and employs mostly women. The Minister learnt that the project has since 2006 been distributing pads to under privileged school going children in rural areas and the urban poor.

At the Centre for Energy and Energy Efficiency (CREEC) the Minister toured the solar testing laboratory, saw some of the energy saving stoves, biogas and fruit dyers. He was also told of a pico-grid producing 1.62 KW that was installed in Kiboga.

The centre for Technology Design and Development showcased various agricultural equipment which included fruit dyers, maize shredder, solar water heaters, steam engine, wind turbine, groundnut Sheller and a planter among others.

Other research projects included; Innovation Systems and Clusters Programme –Uganda, Grey Water Project, Academic Records Management System and ILabs@Mak.



Minister inspects the CTDD students' projects



CEDAT signs MoU with UEGCL

Makerere University's College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) on April 4, 2017 signed a memorandum of Understanding to develop joint programs aimed at creating knowledge and skills in several education and training programs.

The MoU was signed by the vice Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Prof. Henry Alinaitwe, the Principal CEDAT and Eng. Goddy Muhanguzi Muhumuza, The Acting Director Legal Affairs on behalf of Makerere University.

On behalf of UEGCL, the agreement was signed by Dr. Eng. Harrison E. Mutikanga, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Isingoma, the Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer and Mr Mark Martin Obia, the Company Secretary.

The VC thanked UEGCL for partnering with Makerere University CEDAT saying Makerere University takes pride in her role as the region's leading teaching and research institution, and as such, is always on the lookout for mutually beneficial collaborations.

"We are privileged to attract leading partners, who have generously supported our core functions of teaching and learning, research and knowledge transfer partnerships. It therefore gives me great pleasure to note that UEGCL is today officially joining hands with Makerere University to broaden our aspirations of producing graduates that are not only academically unmatched but are also equipped with the relevant practical

skills," Prof. Ddumba-Ssentamu said.

Eng. Dr. Mutikanga called on researchers to embrace this opportunity for research created by the company's building of the Karuma and Isimba dams. He said the two dams were a gold mine' for research. He added that the MoU gives the company an opportunity to interest the young generation into the energy sector.

The partnership will also promote close cooperation between the parties with regard to research & development.

This will be achieved through the delivery of joint short, medium and long term projects in appropriate skills development and training programs relevant to the identified needs of both parties. Operationalization of the partnership will take the form of promotion of students' field attachment, support and promotion of studies in specialised fields in the energy sector, synergy in policy formulation and corroboration in corporate social responsibility activities among others.

"We are confident this partnership will buttress one of our major aspirations to capacity development in the energy sector which is the establishment of the Hydropower Training and Vocational Centre (HTVC)," said Dr. Eng. Mutikanga, "Through the exchange of trainers, trainees, design of curriculum, and related activities, this shall be realised sooner rather than later."

ART & EXHIBITIONS



COFFEE CAMERAS

Documenting climate change in Uganda

This exhibition opened on 27th through 30th March featured photographs on climatic change by a group of 12 coffee farmers as well as Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellow Tim McDonnell.

There was a discussion about the images and their implications that featured among others, Tim McDonnell, IITA scientist Onno Giller, farmer-photographer Sam Massa on the day of opening. The event, held at the Makerere Art Gallery started at 4:00pm and run till 6:00pm.

In February, twelve coffee farmers on Mount Elgon spent a week using disposable cameras to document how climate change is impacting their lives. Their images offer a beautiful, creative, and intimate insight into coffee farmers' daily lives and the struggles they face from drought. Coffee is Uganda's most important industry, and it faces an existential threat from climate change. Already, farmers across the country are suffering from rising temperatures and unpredictable seasonal rainfall. Smallholder farmers are among the people who are most victimised by climate change, yet they rarely have a chance to tell their own story to the public. This project aims to change that.

This event, a collaboration between the US Fulbright program, National Geographic, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, will be the first gallery exhibition of these photos.

Different But One: 21



Curator Rivka Uziel (extreme left) having a chat with guests

Different But One is an annual exhibition featuring the most recent bodies of work by the teaching staff at Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Art (MTSIFA). For the past 21 years, the show has been taking place at Makerere Art Gallery/ Institute of Heritage Conservation and restoration. The exhibition opened on the 18th of February 2017 and it will end on 15th March 2017.

In her opening remarks, the Curator Rivka Uziel expressed gratitude towards all the members of staff who participated in this exhibition, as well as thanked them for their trust and cooperation.

The dean of MTSIFA, Dr. Maria Kizito Kasule mentioned that the work exhibited must not be mere artworks but rather visual presentations and papers demonstrating content and methods of the design process as expected in the field of visual arts.

Participating members include: Rivka Uziel, Maria Kizito Kasule (PhD), Lilian Nabulime (PhD), Prof Philip Kwesiga (PhD), Stephen Gwoktcho, Bruno Sserunkuuma, Ronald Mpindi (PhD), Assoc Prof George Kyeyune, Fred Kizito Kakinda, Donald Nantagya, Annette Sebba N, Rose Kirumira (PhD), Edward Balaba, Paul Lubowa, Abbey Kato, Assoc Prof Francis Ifee, Rina N Edopu, Godfrey Banada, Jacob Odama, Andrew P Yiga (PhD), Joseph Sematimba, Angelo Kakande (PhD), Amanda Tumusiime (PhD).

Irish Ambassador launches netLabs!UG



Cutting Cake to Launch netLabs!UG (L-R): Dr. Dorothy Okello, Dr. Venny Nakazibwe, H.E. Donal Cronin, Dr. Jonathan Serugunda.

The Ambassador of Ireland, H.E. Donal Cronin, has called for increased investment in research. The ambassador was speaking during the launch of netLabs!UG project space at CEDAT on March 9, 2017. The office space unveiled is located on the second floor of the new building. The space will be used by students for training and research purposes. The Ambassador was accompanied by Ms Aine Doody, the Deputy Head of Co-operation at the Irish Embassy.

The Ambassador said that failure to invest in research will leave the country behind and under developed. He gave reference to Ireland, a small country with a small population but has invested in research. He emphasised that investment in technology had been key in the development of Ireland. "Ireland is ranked first in the world in the field of Nanotechnology, 2nd in Dairy and Agricultural production, 3rd in material science and 4th in the Mathematics," he said. This he attributed to funding of research.

He pledged more collaboration opportunities with the

netLabs!UG project. The project previously worked with the Irish Embassy and the Marconi Society in training primary, secondary and university students in coding and programming.

The Deputy Principal, who received the guests, thanked the Ambassador for the continued support to the netLabs!UG and for making the time to come to the college once again. She pledged continued research in the area of Telecommunication for the development of the country.

She thanked the Principal Investigator, Dr Dorothy Okello, her team members Diarmuid O'Brian, Dr Jonathan Serugunda and Gerald Budigiri for the dedication exhibited in equipping the space and undertaking research as well as training students. The project last year took on 30 students for industrial training.

netLabs!UG will help identify and close innovation gaps in regional telecommunications and networking technology sectors.



Department of Geomatics receives equipment from FAO



The Food and Agricultural Organisation has donated equipment comprising tablets, a camera and projector to the School of the Built Environment

The equipment will be used to aid students who are training Area Land Committee members in Kasese and other districts about land matters. The project, funded by FAO is aimed at facilitating the process of adjudication and demarcation of customary land hence providing tenure security for the majority of land owners.

FAO is working with the Ministry of Lands and Makerere University to secure land for citizens in a project called "Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure Governance in Uganda".

The project is also aimed at enabling government to clearly assess the cost and time involved in the issuance of Customary Certificates of Ownership (CCOs) to plan for future replication

and up scaling. FAO has been supporting the CCO process in Kasese since January 2015. In this 3rd phase of their support, 2400 new CCOs are to be issued during which careful monitoring the resources and identifying the time required for the process of issuance of CCOs will also be conducted.

Specific activities in this period will involve: Analysing existing CCO applications, developing selection criteria for new applications, development of implementation plan for the new CCOs, capacity development for district land office staff and ALCs, and running awareness raising events

Ms Maria Guglielma Da Passano, the FAO representative, said that the organisation and the government are interested in making sure that customary land owners have land security. "It is important to secure land for agriculture and sustainability. People cannot invest on land if they don't feel secure," she added.

Technology Consults donates to Loving Hearts Orphanage



As Technology consults Ltd, a consultancy firm based in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, celebrates 25 years this year, the company thought it right to give back to the community by undertaking various activities. On Friday March 10, 2017 the company visited Loving Hearts Orphanage in Munyonyo and donated various items such as food, pampers, wipes, soap, sugar and clothing among others. The orphanage has children from 1-day old to 3 years old. After 3 years, the children are moved to another home in Ggaba where they receive an education.

Company staff and shareholders also on Sunday March 19, 2017 painted the Zebra Crossing at Kitante (near the Museum). This was done to ensure safety of students of Kitante Primary School as well as other road users.