



CEDAT

Newsletter

May-June 2019

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES IN THE INNOVATION SECTOR



Participants in the workshop listening to a presentation

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in collaboration with the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology has today 19th June 2019 organized a Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics (STEM) Advancement symposium at Makerere University. It aimed at addressing the challenges in the innovation sector by calling upon new ways of scientific training to achieve a scientifically proficient and technologically advanced society in the next twenty years (2040). The theme was **'strengthening national STI system: innovative solutions for scaling up scientific training, research and technology diffusion for national transformation.'**

The Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) was established in 2016 to affirm government commitment to

achieve a scientifically proficient and technologically advanced society, a necessity to build a first world country by 2040. In line with the National Development Plan (NDPII) level objectives and vision 2040, the ministry is mandated to enhance the integration of science, technology and innovation into the national development processes; increase technology adoption and enhance scientific training, research and development.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advancement symposium was organized to strengthen the STI system as a necessary catalyst for accelerated economic growth. To create and share innovative solutions towards strengthening public scientific literacy, scientific and technical training, technology adoption, coordination and collaboration

among STI system stakeholders. The stakeholders include experts in scientific and technical education, science, technology and innovation enterprise, incubation, academia, researchers, private sector, policy makers and development partners.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. David O Obong, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation stressed that CEDAT is an impeccable player in the field of innovation and the symposium is meant to provide a way forward to the different challenges. It is also to show value for research and innovation, and commercialization of innovation.

Professor Charles Kwesiga, who represented the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye applauded Makerere university for the



Group photo taken after the symposium was officially opened at CEDAT

increase in the number of students admitted. The funding that is in place is also limited for example the Presidential Initiative targets particular research projects, the African Development Bank (AfDB) equipped mechanical and civil engineering laboratories only. In addition, the government

conducive environment in which the dialogue was held as a way of bringing more stakeholders on board which is in tandem with the symposium theme. In his speech, he pointed out the significance of women and the youth in promoting science and innovation. "This symposium is meant to address the challenges in the innovation field. We need more ladies who are scientists. Science innovative events are going to be organized to inspire more youth who are scientists." The professor explained. He also pointed out the areas which need support such as National Research and Innovation, indigenous knowledge, space science program, and material science institutes and also support to upgrade and improve science technologies in Uganda.

The challenges that are limiting the development of science and innovation include inadequate funds, inadequate space, gender stereotypes, lack of holistic engagement, high tax rates on scientific equipment, licensing intellectual property

which affects; the knowledge and skills gap between industry and academia, intellectual

"there is need for review of the affirmative action policy process to make sure more women are included in science and innovation"

property protection issues and weak implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy, science education and the complexity of science communication.

The Faculty of Engineering which started in 1970 according to Prof. Alinaitwe the Principal CEDAT has had no serious refurbishment of provision of laboratory equipment, inadequate space despite the

suspension of recruitment has led to closure of laboratories at the College because there are no technicians to manage them; even the technicians available need to be re-equipped to be conversant with the current technologies such as I-labs.

Mrs. Susan Opok Tumusiime of Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) said there is need for review of the Affirmative action policy process to make sure more women are included in science and innovation. ".....there should be continuous sensitization because girls are told they are not good enough." She believes role models would cause a drastic change in reinventing the wheels of gender pedagogy especially with gender stereotypes.

"The attitude and mindset change must begin with the professors championing the innovations by for example encouraging the girl child to take up sciences." Said Mr. Robert Kisalama from Enable Uganda.

Story by: Elizabeth Namara

Makerere University CEDAT

Fundraising Dinner



- ▶ **GOLD CATEGORY TABLE:** 10,000,000 UGX (for 7 people)
- ▶ **SILVER CATEGORY TABLE:** 4,000,000 UGX (for 7 people)
- ▶ **INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:** 200,000 UGX

*Celebrating **50 years** at Hotel Africana - 26th July 2019.*

Funds mobilised will be used for:

- **Innovations**
- **Endowment fund setup for the College**
- **Rehabilitation of facilities &**
- **Expansion of infrastructure.**

*Pay in advance to **Standard Chatered Bank. A/C No. 8705612273400***

*Account Name: **Makerere University College of Engineering,
Design, Art and Technology.** Or send via Mobile Money to
Mr. Stephen Kayima (College Bursar) 0776801700*

RSVP: To have your CARD Delivered

Eng. Dr. Dorothy Okello
0772 697500

Dr. George Kyeyune
0772 325320

Ms Betty Kyakuwa
0772 697500

From Grass to Grace: The Exhibition that raised an Interesting Debate



Group photo taken in front of the Gallery at the close of the exhibition

Mathias Tusiime, the man who used to fix our white canvases onto frames, assisted female Art students to suspend their murals on high studio walls in the late nineties is now a soaring Ugandan Artist. The popular story about Tusiime receiving no formal educational training in art, or cleaning the studios at the school of Industrial and Fine Arts is slowly but surely becoming insignificant. That story may soon find a good place in books of contemporary African artists and museum archives.

His Auction and Exhibition of about forty or more paintings which opened on the 3rd of May 2019 was a well-attended function. Most of the social media invitations indicated 5:00 p.m as the opening time , but for the love

of Tusiime's art and cause, most of the art lovers waited patiently until the arrival of the guest of honor.

During the first half of the waiting period Tusiime looked a little bit nervous but was constantly comforted by his number one client, the former cultural attaché of the Italian Embassy, Pietro Auverono. The diplomat seemed to have a clue as to when the guest of honor would arrive. Finally the guest of honor arrived and Tusiime was now standing between Pietro and The Deputy head of Mission of The Italian Embassy, Lorenza Gambacorta. Tusiime was now balancing in between like the bald headed Jedi master Mace Windoo, confident and not confident but sure of

victory due to an invisible force locked within his soul.

After the speeches, Tusiime gained momentum. He was seen confidently gesturing in the air as he explained his works to the two Diplomats before an army of photographers. He was accompanied by the president of the Uganda Visual Artists and Designers Association Eddy Waddimba. Tusiime runs an organization, The Uganda Community Art and skill development Recycling (UCASDR) Project which seeks to improve the livelihood of communities through art.

I first wrote about Tusiime in 2013, the year in which he was invited by the University of Florida Center for Arts in medicine. He flew to the US

to conduct a workshop about his work in the University of Columbia, USA Mbali Institute, Merryland University and New Orleans University. My main task was to write a piece about Tusiime in the context of why he had won the hearts of Western Art collectors. Could it be that the Western Art Collectors found something unique in “Tusiimerism” Or “Katarikawerism” which is lacking among formally trained Artists? In General I analyzed the work of Tusiime and that of our departed Art Maharaja Jack Katarikawe. Like most scholars about contemporary African Art such as Kasfir, Kyeyune, Ifee, Sanyal, Kakande Kwesiga, Tumusiime, Ssempangi, Nnagenda Kizito, I was converted to their philosophy.



Deputy Ambassador Lorenza Gambacorta together with Mathias (on behalf of UCADSR), present a painting and certificate of appreciation to Mr Averono Pietro for his support to UCADSR

It is surprising that both Tusiime and Katarikawe benefit greatly from this school of thought yet most formally trained African Artists continue to stick to western principles and elements when

excellent African Artists as “self-taught” This notion about “self-taught” is challenged by some Artists. Their preamble is that since such artists like Tusiime and Katarikawe have been made and lived among Faculty members and the general Art students alumni in Makerere and other art institutions, they have received some form of formal education training in Arts either consciously or unconsciously. When I tried to bring up this debate during Katarikawes vigil, I was advised by the president of Ugandan Artists association and his Kenyan counterpart, Lady Annabelle (an extremely gifted “self-taught” artist from Kenya) to give credit to self-taught artists and not to mix them in the same bag with formally trained artists.



Mr. Pietro (Left) Deputy Ambassador Gambacorta (Centre) and Mathias take a selfie in front of the Gallery

This philosophy advocated for practicing and adopting a form of Art that is skewed towards African consciousness in terms so subject matter style and finish.

making paintings, sculptures ceramics, Fashion. Jewelers, etcetera.

However, much as we categorize Artists like Tusiime, Katarikawe and a large number of other

I therefore apologize If I have mixed Tusiimes art in the same bag with that of academically trained Artists.

Story by: Ibanda Joshua

CEDAT PARTNERS WITH MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Julie B. Jordan and her team meet with CEDAT staff in the boardroom

Mississippi state university has expressed interest in collaborating with Makerere University College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology in promoting research and graduate training.

A team from Mississippi State University (MSU) on 25th June 2019 met with the Administration of CEDAT with a goal of developing a memorandum of understanding that shall lead to further collaborations. Dr Julie B Jordan, the Associate Vice President International Programs MSU said that there is need for institutional support towards graduate students sponsorships. The collaboration would include the exchange of students from CEDAT and James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at MSU. It would also be a means of getting funding opportunities. The Mississippi state university also made an offer to

train a grants officer from CEDAT at their office in Mississippi for a period of one month. This was welcomed by the college leaders because it is in line with the Vice Chancellor's plans of having independent Grant offices at college level. This will lead to effectiveness especially when dealing with research proposals and budgets.

Professor Henry Alinaitwe, The principal CEDAT emphasised that the grants office should be self-sustaining. However, this is very difficult according to the nature of the University structure. "An independent grants office would be the best option since it removes the bureaucracy involved to get funds currently," he said.

CEDAT must also focus on the different ways of investing money upfront for it to become the best research institute in sub-Saharan

Africa in particular and Africa in general. Professor Margaret khaitisa an alumnus of Makerere University stressed the need for the college alumni to be involved in decision making. The involvement would be in form of advice, training internees in their companies and also support college activities that require fundraisings. These donations would act as the first seeds of income generation for a better CEDAT.

The College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology (CEDAT) is among the colleges at Makerere University that are participating in the collaboration. The other colleges are; College of Veterinary medicine, Animal resources and Biosecurity, College of Business and Management Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and College of Education and External Studies.

Story by: Elizabeth Namara