**A Successful Ph.D. Defense by Vianney Andrew Yiga**

The CEDAT community is proud to share our congratulations to Vianney Andrew Yiga following his successful Ph.D. defense that happened yesterday Monday 3rd October 2022 at the College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology (CEDAT).

His Thesis was titled; Thermal Stability of Fiber- Reinforced Polylactic Acid Composites for Flame retarded Applications.

The candidate was supervised by Eng. Dr. Michael Lubwama and Eng. Dr. Peter W. Olupot both from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, at CEDAT.

Dr. John Wasswa, Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences (CONAS), Makerere University was the opponent that interrogated the candidate to enable a clear understanding of the study.

The blended public defense session was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Okello also the Dean School of Engineering and a member of the panel. Other panelists were Assoc. Prof Ahmad Zziwa, from the department of Biosystem Engineering, in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Dr. Catherine Wandera, the past dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Kyambogo University, Dr. Samuel M. Okodi from Luweero Industries Limited in Nakasongola, Dr. Betty Nabuuma from the Mechanical Engineering Department and Assoc. Prof. W. Musinguzi, Busitema University, Faculty of Engineering.

The defense was conducted in phases that included a presentation by the candidate, followed by interrogation by the opponent, and thereafter it was opened to the public before the examiner’s meeting sat to make their final decision.

In her remarks, the Dean School of Engineering Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Okello extended her appreciation to the supervisors, the panelists, and the public for their invaluable time in taking part in what she termed an examination that would lead to the award of a Ph.D. degree.

She specifically pointed out the supervisors, Eng. Dr. Michael Lubwama and Eng. Dr. Peter W. Olupot for their unreserved contributions towards Ph.D. outputs in the School of Engineering which she said, was more than ever charged to churn out as many PhDs as possible. She said this was a value chain system, meaning that the more Ph.Ds. supported, the more the Master’s students helped and in turn improve the teaching of undergraduate students.

The candidate, Dr. Vianney Andrew Yiga while giving his appreciation remarks to the panel and doctoral committee made special mention of Prof. John Baptist Kirabira who worked closely with his supervisors for a long time. He extended his appreciation to the family especially his mother, for the invaluable support.

“I have given my all, I have pushed myself. This work is for the Department, the College, the University, and Uganda and we are building a nation, ‘he said in conclusion.

Dr. Vianney Andrew Yiga was applauded for the number of publications he made in peer-reviewed journals in the course of his study. As attached below, the student exhibited a high level of appreciation of the different aspects of the study.