



Welcoming remarks
by
Prof. Mabel Imbuga PhD, EBS
Vice Chancellor
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
during
the PAUSTI Curriculum Review Workshop
at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great privilege and honour for me to welcome you to this important gathering that will lay the foundation of the Pan African University's Institute of Basic Science, Technology and Innovation to be hosted at JKUAT.

As we assemble here to start the process of curriculum review, we do this on the backdrop of increasing challenges facing the African continent that can be addressed through a strong, practical education. Thus quality higher education, in particular, is imperative if Africa is to generate homegrown solutions to her challenges and to fully participate in the global knowledge economy.

Higher education in the continent has for a long time been faced with the challenge of stemming brain drain. We have been losing some of the best brains in our

society and it is time to end this. This is why the Pan African University project is a timely development.

To operationalize the PAUSTI project, the University has prioritized four MSc. and PhD programme curricular to be adopted. These are;

Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Civil Engineering and Construction Management

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Mathematics—Applied/Pure and Statistics.

In order to ensure quality and relevance of the curricula in line with the strategic vision of PAU which is “to develop institutions of excellence in science, technology, innovation, social sciences and governance”, this workshop has been convened to review the selected draft curricula for launch in September 2011.

This three-day meeting will, among others, develop terms of reference and schedule of work to be continued after the September launch; draw up a list of possible resources for teaching and research and resource mobilization, and review of country action plan to finalise preparations for the launching the Institute.

I wish to acknowledge the confidence and honour the African Union has bestowed on us at JKUAT and pledge on behalf of the University Council, Senate, staff and students to work tirelessly to meet the targets set out for this project. Indeed, we are very ready for the September launch.

My sincere thanks to all of you as you contribute towards the realization of this continental dream of ushering in a new generation of leaders properly trained to lead in the transformation of the African continent.

I wish you enriching and fruitful deliberations for these three days you will be here.

Thank.

