



Statement

By

Prof. Mabel Imbuga

Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

During the

Inauguration of JKUAT Arusha Campus

Thursday July 5, 2012

Arusha-Tanzania

Chancellor JKUAT, Prof. Francis Gichaga

Chairman, JKUAT Council Eng. Julius Riungu,

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

Registrars

Principals

Representative of Kenyan High Commissioner in Tanzania

Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr Magesa Mulongo

His Lordship Mayor, Mr. Gaudence Lyimo

Invited Guests

Students and Staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure for me to be here today to witness the inauguration of JKUAT Arusha campus. This event is significant to the history of JKUAT because this is the first campus that we have initiated beyond the borders of Kenya. However, this is not the first interaction of JKUAT with the East African Community.

Prior to the establishment of the campus we are inaugurating today, JKUAT has been at the forefront in promoting higher education and research in the East African region. From early 90s, JKUAT has been a centre of research and technology transfer for sub-Saharan Africa. During the period, JKUAT in collaboration with Japan aid agency, JICA, implemented a number of technology transfer training programmes in thematic areas including food technology, water analysis, electronics and electrical engineering and horticulture. Over 600 technical personnel including Tanzanian nationals benefited from the programme.

Indeed, it is the foundation of JKUAT in 1981, through a bilateral agreement between Japan and Kenya, that planted the initial international mission of the university. At JKUAT, we have maintained our founding character of offering practical, relevant and innovative training for economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen, in establishing this campus, JKUAT has been guided by the new East African spirit of regional integration aimed at providing free movement of goods and services in the common market. Our intention to open this campus was mooted way back in 2009. The choice of location was influenced by three main factors. The presence of international organizations in Arusha coupled with the rejuvenation of the East African Community, naturally provided a ready market. In addition, increased globalization equally demand that curricular of a modern university like JKUAT should be globally competitive. Furthermore, the Inter-university council for East Africa has been at the forefront of encouraging seamless transfer of students among universities in the region.

Since we opened our doors, mid-last year, we are happy with the progress of the campus, having registered close to 200 students, pursuing various programmes. Just like the proverbial tiny mustard seed, JKUAT intends to nurture the campus to grow a hundred fold

On behalf of JKUAT management, I pay special tribute to the various authorities, particularly the Tanzanian education regulatory bodies for their support thus far. We are also grateful to the Government of the Republic of Tanzania for extending sponsorship to a section of our students here.

I thank you most sincerely for listening to me.

It is now my pleasure to invite our High Commissioner, to give his address.