

Statement

by the Prof. Mabel Imbuga PhD, EBS

Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

During

Closing Ceremony

Regional Small Hydro Design for

Civil Engineers

AICAD

Thursday April 21, 2011

United Nations Environmental Program, Task Manager, **Mr. Peerke de Bakker**

The Chairman, Project Steering Committee, **Mr. G. Ngugi Waireri,**

The Acting Managing Director, East Africa Tea Trade Association **Mr. Geoffrey Rimbere,**

Project Management Director, Greening the Tea Industry in East Africa, **Mr. Abu Khasiani**

Distinguished guests,

Seminar facilitators,

Seminar participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to once again welcome you to the closing ceremony of the Regional Training Programme that had assembled 20 civil engineers to learn how to design small hydro facilities to generate electrical energy. I trust you have found the training practical and rewarding.

As we come to the end of our training programme, I wish to thank you for the commitment shown, and your willingness to acquire new knowledge. Your

presence here for a continuous twenty one days is a clear demonstration of your total commitment and willingness to learn, change and addresses the energy challenges that face our region. As you all know, the question of the high cost of traditional energy sweeping across the continent has immense social, political and economic consequences. I am sure that you have been following some of the consequences in that have had their toll in Uganda and here in Kenya. The contradiction for these energy cresses is that it is occurring in countries that are located within the tropics; endowed with enormous natural renewable energy sources that sadly remain untapped. Clearly this is a challenge that researchers in the continent need to focus on in order to alleviate the suffering of our people. It is

therefore pleasing for me to note that you are among the professionals that have been fortunate enough to receive this unique training programme aimed at exploiting renewable energy to spur development among our rural people. Remember that majority of our rural populations live in total darkness, particularly now that the cost of kerosene is far beyond their means.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is our expectation that you will utilise and transfer the acquired skills in your areas of work back home. This has indeed been a great opportunity for our institution, and I believe for you too. I would like to urge you to forge networks with fellow participant for exchanging lessons learnt and new technologies as a

means of continuous learning and improvement of Small Hydro Project development beyond this training programme. I also take this opportunity to urge you to be proactive in influencing those in government to start changing their attitudes in favour of renewable energy. After all, it is through your constant and aggressive lobbying that those in charge of public policy formulation and implementation could start changing their viewpoint on the use of renewable energy. Fortunately, you could enlist powerful environmentalist who favour the exploitation of renewable energy as part of environmental conservation effort.

I re affirm once again that we at JKUAT are committed to promoting courses for civil engineers in Small Hydropower development. We shall continue engaging in such programmes as part of our capacity building strategy to increase local expertise in the development of hydropower as well as other renewable energy resources. This would obviously be crucial in curbing the dependency on imported and expensive fossil fuels that are also sadly detrimental to environment conservation agenda.

In conclusion, JKUAT will continue to support a curriculum that addresses the technical capacity on Small Hydro Project development in the regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of JKUAT, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for making this training program a success. It is now my pleasure to declare the Regional Small Hydro Design for Civil Engineers officially closed.

I thank you most sincerely for listening to me.