



THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



JOOUST University Council introduce themselves to members of staff.

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JOOUST UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HOLD INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH STAFF



Members of staff listening in during the Staff Luncheon held on 4th August, 2023.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology Council led by the Chairman of the Council, Prof. Shem Wandiga, hosted university staff for a luncheon at the University's main campus. The luncheon offered an opportunity for the recently appointed Council to interact and familiarize themselves with university staff.

While addressing the congregation, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire, appreciated the Council's commitment to addressing issues that affect the University. He urged

members of staff to be at the forefront in championing excellent service delivery to its main clients, the students. "We have to deliver on our mandate and serve our students who are the main customers with utmost excellence." Prof. Bosire used the time to thank the Council for allowing such a moment to share with the staff and also thanked the staff for showing a good gesture by honouring the invitation by the Council. He boasted of JOOUST's prowess in research that has put it on the world map.

Prof. Shem Wandiga noted that the University was in

a state of transition after the exit of the former Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Agong', and part of the University Council. He re-emphasized the president's remarks on the importance of performance contracting and service delivery stating that Institutions and indeed public servants will be held to account for how they deliver on their mandate. "Let us endeavour to perform, the best way we can in order to grow this university to greater heights," said Professor Wandiga.

Professor Wandiga emphasized university reforms, urging staff

members to familiarize themselves with the reforms so that they are not caught off guard. He encouraged academic staff members to ensure that they identify and assist the least able students for government funding opportunities. He also encouraged the entire university fraternity to make every possible effort to make the University attractive to both local and international students through developing marketable programmes and fundable research proposals.

The University Council was able to tour various university projects at different stages of development and promised to prioritize which ones will be completed first to increase student tuition space.



Prof. Joseph Bosire, the Ag. Vice Chancellor hands a trophy to The Chairman of Council, Prof. Shem Wandiga, that was awarded during the ASK Show.



Members of staff queuing for delactables served during the luncheon.



Prof. Shem Wandiga, the Chairman of Council addressing members of staff.



Prof. Shem Wandiga (left) recieving a certificate of merit awarded to the University during the ASK Show held last month.



The taste was unforgettable!

VLIR-IUC SUB-PROJECT TWO KICKS OFF



The JOOUST VLIR-IUC Sub-project II members and stakeholders pose for a group photo during the launch of the Sub-project held at Kisumu Hotel on 31st July, 2023.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology VLIR-IUC Project officially launched Sub-Project II titled Building Capacity for Transformative Agri-Food Systems for Resilience in the Lake Victoria Basin of Kenya on 31st July, 2023 at Kisumu Hotel.

The Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire, while giving his opening remarks during the function noted that there are lots of opportunities for the programme particularly with respect to its five thematic areas. “We have a wonderful opportunity to make impact”, he

emphasized. Prof. Bosire added that the University is working closely with Kenya Innovation Agency, which is keen on innovation and more so commercialization of innovative products. The aim of this collaboration is to encourage research projects in universities to have an innovative dimension with a potential of commercializing research concepts.

While noting that the field of Agriculture is diverse in application, Prof. Bosire encouraged the school to strengthen the study of soil science which, he said, forms the bedrock of

agricultural practices. He also mentioned the University's interest on coming up with a department of veterinary science; a venture the University looks forward to embark on.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance Prof. Aggrey Thuo, posed a challenge to the team members to innovatively ensure that agrifood system produces both quality and quantity, with increased production to curb the drastic drop in acreage per family.

While revealing the sub-

project's roadmap, Dr. Caleb Olweny, who doubles as the sub-project team leader and Dean School of Agricultural and Food sciences affirmed that the food systems are under heavy attack due to climatic factors and other shocks adding that in Kenya alone, approximately fourteen million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition. He further enumerated both the short and long term objectives of the programme. He posited that the mid-term objectives of the project that will be rolled out in the first five years include; developing and promoting climate resilient agri-food systems and strengthening collaborative learning, exchanging programmes and outreach activities. The long term objectives spanning ten years will be to promote gender sensitive resilient and diversified livelihoods and establish a dynamic and responsive breeding programme.

Speaking at the same function, the Director center for e-learning and project lead for sub-project 1, Prof. Abeka, emphasized on the role of ICT urging the project personnel to take advantage of the potential and emerging trends in

technology such as the internet of things, big data technologies, Artificial Intelligence, remote and localized sensing. He also assured the sub-project team members that the ICT sub-project is ready to provide the support necessary.

Three members of staff have been identified for sponsorship to study in Belgium. They include; Kennedy Mutuku, a former valedictorian student, Dunston Aboje and Maureen Akinyi. The first 5 years envisions to have a total of 15 members of staff trained.

The sub-project has established linkage with The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) among others.

During the plenary session, invited participants gave their views on the the research topics presented by the students. The students were spurred to think on how to encourage a shift in the consumer perception in communities to embrace alternative food security incentives being tabled by sub-project 2 such as Quinoa. It was noted that the impact of the Universities in the region needs to be felt. They ought

to assess the needs of the neighbouring communities and intervene with sustainable solutions that will outlast the institutions. It was also emphasized that universities should engage more proactively in outreach activities to ensure their research outputs are shared widely with their respective neighbouring communities.

The stakeholders present also assured the sub-project team that they are ready to provide students with additional research material which they can work with from previous research. They also urged student to work closely with the County to ensure the research benefits are shared widely for greater impact.

The Sub-project team members were also urged to come up with ways of ensuring the farmer are best empowered in their practice. A representative of the invited farmers requested the sub-project team members to get in touch with them directly as the focal persons on the ground to establish the root causes of the challenges they are experiencing as farmers that is also affecting the production of the food.

PICTORIALS



Prof. Joseph Bosire, Ag. Vice Chancellor giving the opening remarks during the Sub-project II launch.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning Administration and Finance, Prof. Aggrey Thuo gives his remarks during the JOOUST VLIR-IUC Sub-Project II launch



Dr. Caleb Olweny, the Sub-project Team Leader gives an overview of the Sub-Project and its' medium and long term objectives.



Professor Emeritus, Prof. Adrian Mukhebi (left) sharing a light moment with School of Agricultural and Food Sciences faculty members



Participants listening to the presentations during the JOOUST VLIR Sub-project II launch.



Participants listening to presentations made by PhD Students before the plenary session.

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University of Science and Technology

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