

Moi University participates in 6th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Conference

Moi University is among the 105 member institutions of higher learning of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) taking part in the 6th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference, 2018 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi.

The one-week forum whose theme is “**Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Africa’s Agenda 2063**” brings together Universities from 37 African Countries.

The Conference and Higher Education Week kicked off on Monday October 22 and close on Friday October 26, 2018. The Conference was officially opened on Tuesday October 23, 2018 by Education Cabinet Secretary, Ambassador Amina Mohamed, on behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta. The opening ceremony was also graced by Uganda’s First Lady who is also the country’s Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, together with South Africa’s Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mrs. Naledi Pandor and Kenya’s Principal Secretary for University Education, Prof. Collette Suda.



Moi University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac S. Kosgey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Student Affairs, Prof. Nathan O. Ogechi, ACEII Deputy Centre Leader, Dr. Rose Ramkat and Public Relations Officer, Mr. Alfred Wandera, attended the opening ceremony. The Conference was preceded by the RUFORUM training workshop on Building a Pool of Professional Public Relations Officers in RUFORUM Member Universities to promote information gathering and visibility of Universities in Africa at Nairobi Safari Club from October 20 to 21, 2018. Mr. Wandera, attended the training. University of Nairobi Council chairperson, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, who spoke on behalf of all chairpersons of University Councils of RUFORUM member universities, lauded the forum, saying the spirit of inclusiveness exhibited at the Conference is commendable. “The Conference is a big boost to the Government’s “Big Four” Development Agenda and it will enable the Universities to outgrow their old ways of doing things,” said Prof. Ojiambo. Prof. Suda described the Conference as a monumental occasion to deliberate on the contribution of Science in the development of Africa.

Mrs. Pandor noted that Africa is at the heart of Science and Technology, outlining the aspects that she said are necessary to enable Universities attain them. She said Universities need freedom of expression, effective science policies, support of policy makers and closing of the trust gap between Governments and Knowledge institutions.

Mrs. Museveni, in her keynote address, said the young Africans dying in masses in the Mediterranean Sea trying to cross to Europe in search of “greener pasture” is because they have not been guided well on their potential. “If Africa is to develop, then we must adopt a real paradigm shift on the strategies we formulate and run,” said Mrs. Museveni.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, in the speech read on his behalf by Ambassador Mohamed, said improvement of Higher Education Sector in Africa is crucial for the continent’s development.

“Higher Education can play a pivotal role in agriculture and entrepreneurial sectors. I am confident that this meeting will take the way we do agriculture in Africa to another level,” said President Kenyatta.

The President noted that popularising agriculture among the youth with positive images will help change their attitude towards it and embrace it as a key employment sector to a majority of them.

“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit as it will contribute to moral growth,” added President Kenyatta.

Moi University is showcasing its innovations, researches and academic programmes at the Conference’s exhibition palour.

In his congratulatory message, Prof. Kosgey said Moi University is proud to be associated with RUFORUM for its continued support to Universities to address the important and largely unfulfilled role that Universities play in contributing to the well being of small scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout sub Saharan Africa region, and its cooperation agreement with the African Union to support the implementation of the new African Union for Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa, 2024 (STISA 2024).

“Moi University is confident that our partnership will grow stronger for the development of this country,” said Prof. Kosgey.

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