

UR MONTHLY

The official newsletter of University of Rwanda



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NEW CHANCELLOR PATRICA CAMPBELL VISITS UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

On August 6th 2019, Ms. Patricia Campbell paid a visit to the University of Rwanda's HQ in Gikondo campus. Ms. Patricia was recently appointed by the cabinet as Chancellor of the University of Rwanda. As honorary figurehead, the Chancellor presides at graduation ceremonies and other university events.

The new Chancellor met NRI staff and toured laboratories together with the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof Cotton, to see the latest in research, teaching and learning with a focus on infrastructure development. Ms Patricia Campbell said that through her experience, she will do everything to help UR to reach success.

In a brief interview to UR Newsletter, Ms Patricia Campbell said, "The university's commitment to access diversity and excellence is second to none. I am delighted to be associated with a university that is truly global in its outlook and contribution to sustainable development at home and abroad."



UR-CST students during experimentation

UR-CST STUDENTS EMPOWERED WITH FIBER OPTIC SKILLS

According to Sylvia Umutesi, the training was a rare opportunity to learn and test all the components of fiber optic using real industry equipment.

“These companies did not show up to showcase their equipment, we rather worked together to explore all the technics behind fiber optic installation,” said Mutesi who is also at her final year in telecommunication engineering.

Dr Ignace Gatware, the Principal of College of Science and Technology noted that the main intent for the training was to link students to industry through technological transfer, which will have an impact for economic development.

For six time in a row, the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology organized a training workshop to equip students with industrial practical skills and field experience.

On this occasion, the training was facilitated by Liquid Telecom and KT Rwanda Networks to equip students with fiber optic skills. The move was initiated by the College in order to revitalize the academia-industry partnership for graduates to be competitive on labor market.

Among students who participated in training include Henry Christian Hirwa who is a level 4-student in electronics and telecommunication engineering. He reckons that the training played a vital role for students’ ability to undertake jobs for which they are trained.

According to Mr. Hirwa, fiber optic is a crosscutting subject and ultimate driver of modern telecommunication ; therefore it is paramount for students to master all its components. According to Sylvia Umutesi, the training was a rare opportunity to learn and test all the components of fiber optic using real industry equipment

He added that the initiative intends to give platform to industry so that they can interact and share with students some of expectations from graduates.



Dr Ignace GATARE handing certificate to a student



UJ's Professor Marwala TSHILDZI

PUBLIC TALK: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITH PROFESSOR MARWALA TSHILDZI

Prof Tshildzi Marwala the Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg in South Africa called on University of Rwanda (UR) community to start applying Artificial Intelligence-AI in their work in order to cope up with the Fourth Industrial Revolution-4IR which globally drive all economies.

The call was made during a public lecture that took place on 6th August, 2019 at University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology. AI is a technology where one gives machines the thinking capacity as human beings and perform activities as people do. This type of technology can work 24 hours without getting tired.

In the course of the lecture, Prof Marwala noted that Artificial Intelligence is multi-discipline through which students from various fields are invited to perform their tasks using this technology for equaling the demands of the fourth Industrial Revolution.

According to Prof Marwala, the use of IA would advance not only science areas but also other fields including linguistic, agriculture among others.

"I wish to see UR students taking Artificial Intelligence as a vital tool for their success ; the new technology can be applicable to all parts of economic life" Marwala said while encouraging deep specialization and training in building machines ready to supplement human efforts and provide good production at the same time.

Marwala dismissed some of the concerns that Artificial Intelligent can be very harmful to ecosystem. He informed that if at all the danger could happen, it would come from human beings who are controlling it.

He pointed out that people are the one who decide how robots would behave depending on assigned tasks.

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"I wish to see UR students taking AI as a vital tool for their success ; the new technology can be applicable to all parts of economic life."- Prof Marwala



WHY CHOOSE US?

MIKE KARANGWA

Recent developments in technology have turned the world into a global village, making the job market more competitive and jeopardising the security of jobs for many. And so to be safer, one has to upgrade one's skills to be more secure. But this has not been an easy path if busy work-life and endless commitments are to be considered.

So, how can one pursue education to enhance and master skills and generally be more 'marketable'?

The University of Rwanda welcomes 30,000 students and nearly 2,000 staff members..

University of Rwanda is the place to go. The university, with its strategically positioned colleges in all corners of the country, offers the best postgraduate programs, from various disciplines that include; social arts, science and technology, medicine and health science, education, agriculture, animal resources and veterinary science, among many others.

The university subscribes to the understanding that this is a demanding and competitive world, and so all programs are tailored to enable one to discover oneself.

Below are the key reasons you should choose the university of Rwanda.

- **Understands you need to be** competitive on global market place. Our programmes are designed to help you meet that goal.
- **Offers you an opportunity to** learn from a pool of leading academics and industry professionals experienced in teaching and research.
- **Enables you** to get timely support to ensure successful and timely completion of programme.

- **Offers you** a free access to online system that facilitates and enhances learning.
- **We want you to focus** on studies without financial interruption. Hence, it offers to you the best flexible and competitive payment modalities in the region and beyond.
- **We understand** that you have a busy working life or commitments. So we've created flexible study options.
- **We equip you** with entrepreneurial skills regardless their area of specialization.
- **Partnerships** with industry and renowned worldwide Universities ensures unprecedented opportunities that awaits postgraduate students.
- **For your safety and comfort**, you will enjoy living in Rwanda; one of the most secure, green, clean, inclusive and fast developing country in Africa.



"At University of Rwanda, Students play an active and important role in university life"

Professor Philip, The Vice Chancellor





RUFORUM'S TRAINING TO PROMOTE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN UNIVERSITIES

by Mike KARANGWA

A four-year leadership training programme aimed at vice-chancellors, principals and deans of 54 African universities has proved popular among university leaders and a third phase is planned, according to its organisers.

“African universities need to recognise that there is no replacement for thought leadership as innovation and advancement at universities is dependent on the quality of its leadership,” said Dr Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM’s acting deputy executive secretary for programme development and implementation.

Egeru said for a long time universities had been viewed as places for developing great ideas. *“However, they have not been able to earn credibility as places for turning ideas into actionable solutions, which would help them create avenues for influencing societies, government and the global environment.”*

RUFORUM Executive Secretary Professor Adipala Ekwamu said the programme was designed to enable university leaders to *“champion transformation of African universities into effective research and training institutions with strong frameworks and mechanisms for implementation of the vision and mission of their universities”*.

Ekwamu said the basis of the leadership initiative was to enable people to *“examine their own potential; their strengths and weaknesses and how they can be strengthened”*.

Based on the feedback from a survey received in June, university leaders believe there is also a need to train university council members as this could help improve relationships between the universities' governing councils and management. *“They need to come together and make joint decisions to improve service delivery in both the academic and administrative fields,”* Egeru said.

The third phase of training will take place from 2-6 December this year at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and more vice-chancellors and deans will be invited to reflect upon and learn from their leadership experiences, according to Dr Beatrice Muganda, director of higher education at Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR).

THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AS INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT AT UNIVERSITIES IS DEPENDENT ON THE QUALITY OF ITS LEADERSHIP



Kenyan senators visits UR

by Eric Mugisha

A delegation of legislators from the Senate of the Republic of Kenya on August 26th, 2019, led by **Hon. Knoch Wambua** had working visit at the University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences- Center of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management to see the progress of the center and discuss the challenges if any that it could be facing since its inception.

The delegation held discussions with the senior management of the University and the center's administrators

Public Lecture on robot

Akihiko Sugiyama



Sugiyama Akihiko from Yahoo Japan visited UR-CST and gave a lecture on Signal Processing for Robot Audition on emphasis on how signal processing helps a robot recognize user commands in adverse environment. researcher of acoustic signal processing. Mr Sugiyama is a world expert in acoustic signal processing.



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THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST VISITORS



PROF TSHILIDZI MARWALA

Vice Chancellor, University of Joburg visited UR and gave a talk on 4th Industrial Revolution



H.E AMBASSADOR LOMAS JOANNE

British High Commissioner, Rwanda visited UR and gave a talk to summer school attendees.



PROF SONKÉ BONAVENTURE

Professor at University of Yaounde visited UR centre for biodiversity and the National Herbarium



CARTA TEAM

Representatives from CARTA member universities spent a week in UR for a training on Research.



PROF LIZ GRANT

Prof Liz Grant is the Director of the Global Health Academy and Assistant Principal for Global Health.



WORLD BANK MISSION VISITS UR

Rwanda Priority Skills for Growth and Rwanda ACE II Technical Support Mission visits UR.