

UR MONTHLY

The official newsletter of University of Rwanda



IN THIS ISSUE

UNIVERSITIES DECLARE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

NOTE OF PROGRESS AT THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

NEW PHASE OF UR-SWEDEN PROGRAMME START WITH ENERGY

OUR STAFF DEVELOPED A MODEL TO MANAGE CO-MORBIDITY

A NETWORK OF 7000 UNIVERSITIES DECLARE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Networks representing more than 7,000 higher and further education institutions from six continents have announced that they are declaring a 'climate emergency', and agreed to undertake a three-point plan to address the crisis through their work with students.

The three-point plan, published in an open letter on 10 July, includes:

- Committing to going carbon neutral by 2030 or 2050 at the very latest.
- Mobilizing more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation.
- Increasing teaching and learning about environmental and sustainability education across curricula, campus and community outreach programmes.

The letter says: "The young minds that are shaped by our institutions must be equipped with the knowledge, skills and capability to respond to the ever-growing challenges of climate change. (...Continue on page 2)



Prof Beth KAPLIN

It is the first time HLIs come together to make a collective

The letter continue by saying that *"We all need to work together to nurture a habitable planet for future generations and to play our part in building a greener and cleaner future for all."*

Organisers of the open letter, the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education, known as EAUC, say it marks the first time further and higher education establishments have come together to make a collective commitment to address the climate emergency.

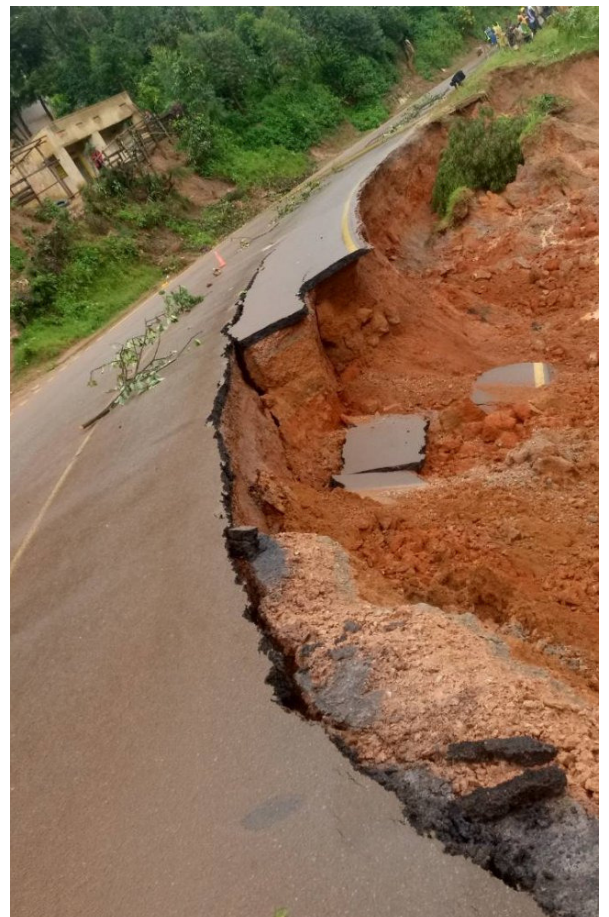
Asked about what UR can do to achieve three-proposed plan, UR's Prof. Beth Kaplin said *"I think this is very achievable. This will take dialogue and discussion among students and staff to develop strategies, and assessments of the carbon footprint for the campuses, and largest areas where carbon is emitted. This can lead to strategies for reducing and targeting specific actions to reduce emissions."*

According to Professor Brth Kaplin , this could be related to incentives for taking public transport, walking, for more efficient use of lights and other energy sources, and other such steps, along with steps like planting trees and reducing bare areas or high emission areas.

"It may not be easy to go carbon neutral but I believe it certainly is possible. I think UR could make a position for a sustainability coordinator who could coordinate some of these initiatives on campus to reduce the carbon footprint." Prof Beth said

In a report published on its website, UN Environment warned in May that although young people are driving a global wake-up call on climate change and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, many universities are struggling with the concept and agenda of 'greening'.

The report said some schools and universities are leading by example and reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy and becoming "hotbeds of activism on the defining issue for a generation".





Prof Donna with a UR graduate

A PROGRESS OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Written by Prof Donna Hackley

The School of Dentistry (SOD) is nearing completion of the first year in its new academic campus where BDS and BDT students and faculty enjoy the improved classroom, laboratory and clinic spaces.

With its new home in Remera, SOD's pre-clinical training occurs in two large labs, one for training of restorative techniques (fillings, root canals and periodontal techniques), and the other for training in restorative fixed and removable prosthetics (implants, dentures and crowns).



SOD will soon receive a very generous donation from Rotary International, Germany, which will expand our training capabilities even further by adding 14 simulation training units and 10,000 plastic teeth.

Thanks to great collaboration between SOD leadership, HRH faculty from Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), and UR-CMHS, SOD is set to open its new 16-chair training clinic which is designed to maximize and modernize the training space for all of its students.

Infection prevention and control is of paramount importance and designated areas have been constructed to state-of-the-art standards including limiting access to trained personnel, physical separation of "dirty" and "clean" sides, a linear workflow, and close monitoring of sterilizer effectiveness.

The clinic also has its own designated radiography area, office management area, and storage.

“

"We come because we love our students who are eager to learn, open to new ideas and determined to attend class despite personal challenges." says Prof Donna

A total of seven HRH faculty members from HSDM participated in this academic year including general dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics, community dentistry, pediatric dentistry and periodontics. HRH faculty members continue to provide valuable education, mentorship and manpower to SOD.

With five returning faculty members participating between 2-6 years, it is evident that the professional collaborations with colleagues and the interactions with students keep this important partnership thriving.

On a personal note, this past trimester marked my 6th HRH rotation to the School of Dentistry and my 21st trip to Rwanda. In August 2013 I told my husband and two teenage daughters that I would be gone for “only four months, just this once.” As has happened with our entire team in dentistry since the start of HRH, I returned – again and again.

“

I take joy in the progress we have made together. I am most humbly blessed to be a part of this amazing journey.

**APPLICATION FOR
ADMISSION IN UR
POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMME IS OPEN.
APPLY NOW**



Equipment donated to the School of Dentistry

We come because we enjoy twinning with our colleagues and developing our medical discipline as well as our friendships. We come because we love our students who are eager to learn, open to new ideas and determined to attend class despite personal challenges. We come because we love Rwanda, a country growing in health, education, and economic sectors in spite of limited resources, and a country that welcomes us regardless of our gender, race, or religion.

This Land of 1,000 Hills is incredibly clean and breathtakingly beautiful. And above all, its people strive to build a country of peace and prosperity for the future. I have come to adore my SOD and HRH colleagues, and my beloved SOD students, and take joy in the progress we have made together. I am most humbly blessed to be a part of this amazing journey.

THE NEXT PHASE OF UR-SWEDEN PROGRAMME SET TO BE IMPACTFUL TO UR

BY DARIUS MURANGWA

On July 18, 2019 : Research team leaders who will drive the 4 phase of UR-Sweden Programme met to discuss major activities and working modalities that will mark the phase to be carried out until 2024.

The meeting was officiated by Amb. Dr Charles Murigande who noted that the coming 5 year phase will create a huge impact of the development of capacity within the University of Rwanda.

Murigande who is UR Deputy Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement also called on team leaders to recruit PhD candidates who will form a critical mass of academics who can teach well and conduct research on issues affecting the country.

"The coming 5 year phase will create a huge impact of the development of capacity within UR." says Dr Charles MURIGANDE

According to Raymond Ndikumana, the Overall Coordinator of UR-Sweden Programme the 2019-2024 phase is imbedded into the proposed 'Theory of Change' ; an approach that seeks to eradicate poverty and advance the development of the country through interdisciplinary research.

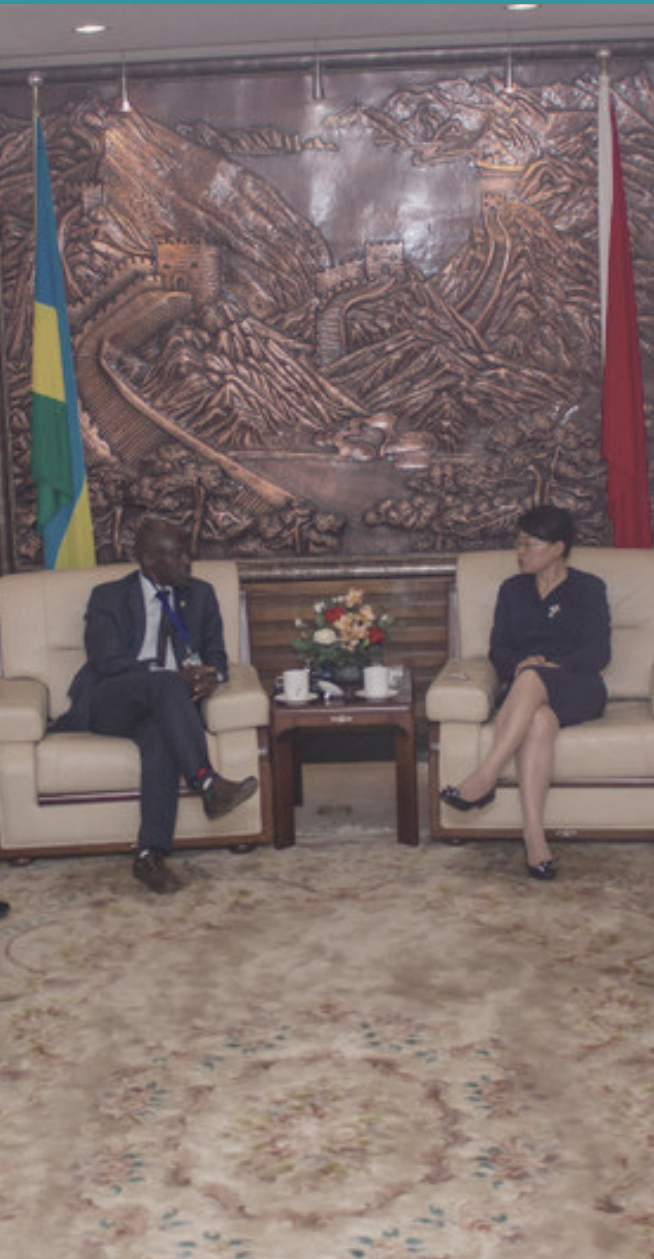
He added that the support will enable training of quality staff who will deliver success and ultimately complement to UR ambition to be a research led institution.

"The phase targets to build foundation and capacity for UR to contribute to poverty eradication while propelling Rwanda's economic transformation through collaborative research" Ndikumana said.

The Programme plans to enrol 80 PhD candidates who will be trained both at UR and in Swedish varsities on Sandwich mode. The support will also be extended to other key areas such as ICT, library, innovation, research management and research grants management.

All projects embrace national and regional priorities, global commitment such as SDGs and other crosscutting areas such as gender and environment.





CHINESE EMBASSY DONATES ICT KITS TO UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

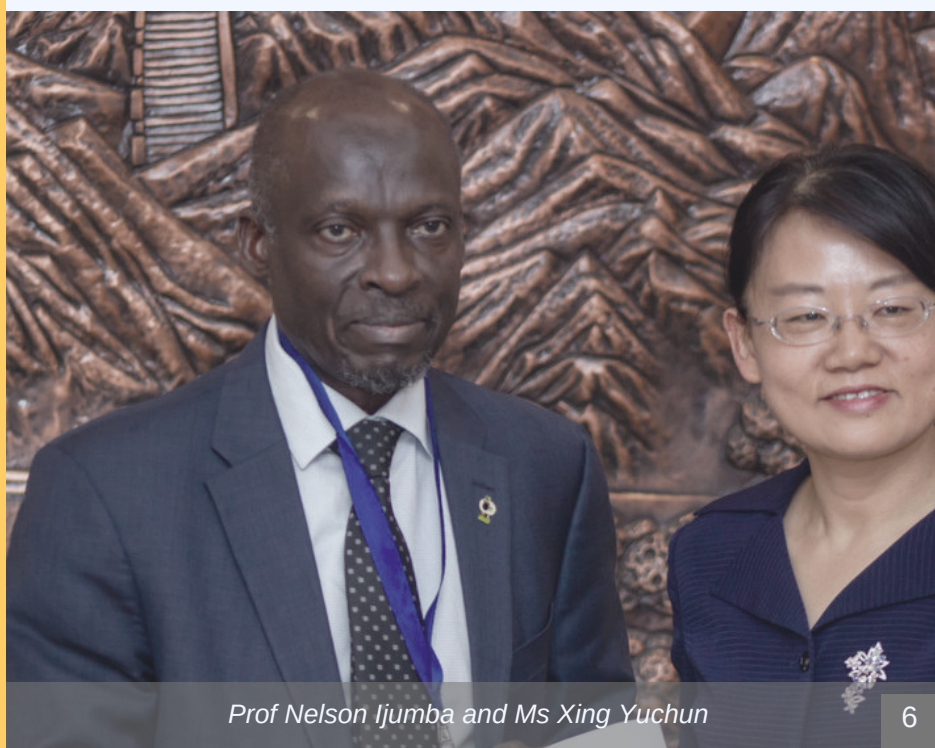
by Mike KARANGWA

"We thank the government of China and the embassy of China in Rwanda for supporting teaching and learning in University of Rwanda. We are honored to receive these IT equipment that will help contribute in strengthening IT based teaching activities," said Prof Nelson Ijumba, Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academics and Research, who attended the handover ceremony held in the Chinese embassy.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Political Counsellor Ms. Xing Yuchun spoke highly of the increasing cooperation and exchanges in all fields between China and University Rwanda and stressed the importance of ICT in teaching and learning.

Ms. Xing pledged that the embassy would further support teaching, and social and cultural exchange activities in University of Rwanda and revealed that the embassy and the UR will also work together to increase the number of UR staff pursuing Phd studies in China.

**DONATED EQUIPMENT HAS
THE VALUE OF 11,500,000
RWANDAN FRANCS**



Prof Nelson Ijumba and Ms Xing Yuchun



WRITTEN BY SCHADRACK NTIRANDEKURA

PRESIDENT OF CNU VISITS UR-CE

Professor Chen Zhijun, president of Chongqing Normal University, recently visited the University of Rwanda's College of Education at Rukara Campus. Professor Chen noted that he hopes the visit could strengthen academic collaboration between the two universities with an emphasis on teaching and learning Chinese Language and Culture.

In his welcome note, Professor Njoroge shared an overview of UR-CE and highlighted current status of teaching and learning Chinese language and culture at UR in partnership with Confucius Institute.

'We have not only given chance to the University of Rwanda students, but the program has also been expanded in secondary schools. We currently have thirteen (13) teaching centers where Chinese is being offered', Prof. Njoroge said.

While talking about opportunities offered by Chinese Language proficiency in Rwanda, Prof. Njoroge said ; "we wanted to give chance to Rwandans who wish to be exposed to the Chinese language and culture. Today, ability to speak Chinese is an advantage ; it is a plus for job seekers in Chinese companies. It is also an opportunity for business operators who would need to do business in Chinese companies".

Prof. Chen commended the University of Rwanda-College of Education for the good initiatives taken for enhancing teaching and learning Chinese language and culture in Rwanda and promised continued fruitful relationships between UR and Chongqing Normal University.

Prof. Njoroge expressed gratitude to the visiting team for the visit to the University of Rwanda-College of Education and for the donation of language lab equipment which will boost teaching and learning of languages at UR-CE.

“

“We currently have thirteen (13) teaching centers where Chinese is being offered”, say Prof Njoroge



UR-CBE student produce cooking oil from avocado

Avocados could be the next money making opportunity in Rwanda following a breakthrough invention by Niyidukunda Mugeni Euphrosine a UR-CBE student that has managed to make cooking oil from these abundant fruits.

The 23-year-old innovator comes from Huye District, where she also has her business. She started the project in 2017, investing Rwf 40,000 of her own money . She bought a small processing machine which could help her produce larger quantities of oils.

She said that the idea of adding value to avocado fruits came up after realising that avocados in Mbazi were being sold at giveaway prices while others would rot due to lack of customers: "Previously, one avocado could cost Rwf 20 but farmers are now happy since I pay them Rwf 150 per avocado and I also get profit through value addition where I sell edible oil and hair oil."

"One litre of avocado edible oil costs Rwf 10,000 and a bottle of hair oil Rwf 2,000," she said.



"Unleash your creativity!"

UR Students won Kigali Master Plan logo contest

UR students namely Marius Igitangaza (4th year) and Patrick Kubwimana (5th year) from School of Architecture won the top prize on the Kigali City Master Plan Logo competition.

The competition was preceded by a revision process whereby One of our own faculty from the school of architecture in CST, Dr. Josephine Malonza was nominated to TAG- Technical advisory group that offered technical advice to the city of Kigali as regards the revision process.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Marius and Patrick for the well-deserved award and encourage all our students to always endeavor in competitions as they have so much talents in different fields.



The Spotlight



Dr Madeleine MUKESHIMANA

OUR STAFF CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY CARE

Dr Madeleine Mukeshimana is a senior Lecturer of Community Health Nursing; currently working in UR's Directorate of Research and Innovation. Madeleine is an emerging senior nurse who has contributed much to the quality care improvement through her research outcomes.

The recent research that has an impactful role on the Rwanda National Health System and improvement of quality care is her study which has adapted the Collaborative Care Model to manage the Co-morbidity of depression and chronic Non Communicable diseases.

This Model is aimed to manage and care for patients who have this co-morbidity. Before Madeleine adapted this model to the Rwandan context; patients with co-morbidity were being cared, managed separately.

It means that patients with different health conditions (depression and one or more chronic non communicable diseases) had to travel from one hospital for receiving treatment of one condition and then travel to another for the treatment of the other condition; or unfortunately; these patients could be cared only for the medical condition and are not aware of depression.

This would results in different major health consequences including drug interactions; high morbidity and mortality; non-adherence to treatment; financial costs etc...

Dr Madeleine is determined also to go beyond contributing to the improvement of quality care in Rwanda but also go extra miles to the region and beyond. It is in this context that from 10th to 12th May 2019; Dr Madeleine was presenting the "Adapted Collaborative Care Model to the Rwandan context" in the 2nd International Nursing and Midwifery Leadership conference, held in Accra, Ghana.

Dr Madeleine is implementing this model in 8 Rwanda district hospitals and the aim is to implement this model in all Rwanda district hospitals.

*"It was my dream come true when I had chance to be financially supported by UR-Sweden Programme to implement the Collaborative Care Model in Rwanda district hospitals." says **Dr Madeleine MUKESHIMANA***



University of Rwanda
welcomes you

**BECOME A
GOAL
ORIENTED
INDIVIDUAL**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS
IN POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES!**

Our university cultivates
hard-working and career driven
individuals, with strong goals.

Apply Now!
dcgs@ur.ac.rw

www.ur.ac.rw