



**Remarks**

**by**

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**DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)**

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**During the CLOSING OF**

**GC-MS Instrumentation Training Workshop**

**Science Complex Theatre**

**On**

**Friday, August 26, 2011**

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are most delighted to host Third Instrumentation Workshop on Gas Chromatography & Mass Spectrometry that has been on for the last five days. It is gratifying to note that the workshop has drawn scientists in the field of Chemistry from sub-Saharan Africa. From the onset allow me to pay tribute to sponsors- the Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN Kenya) which is an initiative sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) and Syngenta International. The choice to host the workshop here at JKUAT and indeed at our Department of Chemistry is a demonstration of the growing stature that JKUAT is enjoying.

Dear participants, I would like to congratulate all of you for successfully completing the workshop. The PACN Kenya Hub currently hosted by the Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi was set up to enable chemistry scientists from other African countries and from further field to share ideas and best practice in research and education. The idea of the initiative is to foster innovation and support the emergence of scientific excellence. The challenge to

make Africa self sufficient in areas of weakness such as analytical capacity is great. I hope that with the training, the objectives of the PACN are expected achieved. It is my hope that you have learnt a lot in this training workshop and that y when you go back to your institutions you will disseminate whatever you have learnt to your students and colleagues.

For the Department of Chemistry, I am happy to note that besides the regular teaching, there are lot of activities in research and training. Indeed some of our members of our staff are involved in the training while others are course participants.

Furthermore a training workshop like this has other benefit to the host institutions like JKUAT. One such obvious advantage is its potential to strengthen the caliber of research and training of our students in the Department of Chemistry. This is a welcome gesture particularly JKUAT is hosting the Pan Africa University. Besides, a programme like this that draws scientists from the entire sub-Saharan

Africa has the prospect of fostering interstate relations among the countries of the continent. This is an idea that we at JKUAT are pleased to be associated with.

I hope you will keep up with this trend in future. Such programs put JKUAT on the continental and international academic maps.

It is now my pleasure to formally declare the workshop closed.

Thank you.