



Welcoming remarks
by
Prof. Mabel Imbuga, PhD, EBS
Vice Chancellor
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
during
the opening of Gender Awareness Week
at the Assembly Hall
Tuesday, June 21, 2011,
At 9.00am

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you in this year's Gender Week whose theme is "Gender equity for sustainable development". I believe the activities lined up to mark this important event in our calendar will go a long way in enhancing the understanding of gender issues affecting us as a University.

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology is dedicated to excellence in training, research and innovation. Consequently, the University is working towards achieving gender equity and inclusiveness of all persons to realise its vision and mission. An important strategy to bring about gender equity and equality through specific interventions is to integrate gender in institutional policies.

The University, through the Gender and Mentoring Center, is determined to ensure Government policies on gender mainstreaming are fully implemented. Gender week is among the many activities the University undertakes in order to achieve this goal. Last year, the University launched the Gender Policy to fast track gender mainstreaming. We have since been implementing the policy which has addressed gender parity for student admissions and staff recruitments and/or appointments.

The University has held workshops and other strategies for gender sensitization. To further strengthen the gains made, we are now working on anti-sexual harassment policy. This policy shall inculcate values and morals that are desirable in this institution.

Gender week at the University is thus a milestone towards attaining gender parity. The University seeks to provide an environment for its community to excel in all fields of human endeavor. Gender issues are key elements that need immediate attention to realise this.

With these few remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I now declare this year's gender week officially open and wish you fruitful interaction.

Thank you.