Recognition Award for Your Contribution to RUFORUM and Advancing the Cause of Higher Education in Africa

Presented to

Professor Kathleen Muir Leresche

Professor Kathleen Muir Leresche receiving the award from Professor Lazarus Hangula, the Vice Chancellor of University of Namibia

Professor Kathleen Muir Leresche or Kay as known by RUFORUM fraternity, has been closely associated with RUFORUM since its inception. She has provided support and advice on the development of RUFORUM, particularly the two Strategic Plans (2005-2015 & 2015-2020), Competitive Grants (CGS) and the establishment of the Research Methods Masters Programme.
She has served on the RUFORUM Technical Committee since 2004 and has been actively involved with a series of Biennial conferences, planning meetings and mini reviews in Italy (Bellagio), Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

She assisted RUFORUM in materials for the website, developing CGS Guidelines and in producing GEAR (Graduate Environmental and Agricultural Research), a textbook now used widely across African, and Caribbean and Pacific regions. She has been directly involved in drafting funding proposals for a range of agencies including the European Union, MasterCard, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Carnegie, International Development Research Centre, and many others.

She engaged with Melissa Ho on the initial discussions with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and provided support for the core funding proposals in 2008 and 2013. Over the years Kay has provided wide ranging support to the RUFORUM Secretariat in drafting and reviewing documents, in developing new programmes and projects and updating the Competitive Grants guidelines and protocols and has engaged with donors, universities and students. She has actively lobbied for RUFORUM on a range of platforms and has helped to raise the profile of RUFORUM and Higher Education in Africa, which has attract broad support and recognition.

Kay is the Chairperson of the RUFORUM Technical Committee and has provided advice, technical support and assistance to all the Secretariat divisions, and the wider RUFORUM Network but in particular to Graduate Students and University Research Teams. She has always been there for RUFORUM. We today honour Kay for her outstanding contribution and dedication to RUFORUM and Higher Education in Africa.

*Windhoek, Namibia, 29 August 2015*