Forum for African Women Vice Chancellors Launched - Empowering African women leaders for economic development

25th August, 2016
Nairobi, Kenya

The first Forum for African Women Vice Chancellors, FAWoVC was launched yesterday (24 August 2016) during the women leadership meeting on Higher Education for economic empowerment. This event took place during the side event for the upcoming sixth edition of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) happening this week in Nairobi, Kenya.

Addressing the opening session, the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Professor Judy Wakhungu, called for political commitment to gender mainstreaming in all productive sectors of Africa’s economy. Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng from UNESCO emphasised the need to strengthen collaboration, learning and building synergies among existing women forums in Africa so as to create meaningful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Gender disparity in agriculture persists because challenges facing women farmers are still inadequately tackled in agricultural policy strategy and programs” said Dr. Asa Torkelsson, the Economic Empowerment Advisor, UN Women during her presentation.
The event provided a platform for networking, lesson learning and mentorship among the female Vice Chancellors while tackling issues affecting the low number of women in STEM and leadership. The two day meeting brought together 20 Vice Chancellors from African Universities, representatives from German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), UN Women, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organisation (UNESCO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and RUFORUM. During the event, Professor Mabel Imbuga, Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology was elected the interim chairperson of FAWoVC.

Related articles linked to this press release include: Promoting Gender Inclusivity in Agricultural Sector through Collaborations and Women Vice Chancellors in New Growth Agenda for Africa.

Notes to Editors:
The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a network of 55 African Universities with mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established in 2004, with Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM signed MoU with the African Union and has mandate to support capacity building for science, research and technology development in Africa. RUFORUM has supported the training of over 1500 postgraduate students, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US$70 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

TICAD VI SUMMIT: The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Summit will be held at Kenyatta International Convention Center in Nairobi, Kenya on 27th -28th August 2016. This will be the first time TICAD is being held in Africa since its inception in 1993. The decision to host TICAD VI Summit in Africa was reached during the TICAD V Summit in 2013 when it was agreed that the venue of subsequent TICAD Summits be alternated between Japan and Africa. The interval of summit Meetings was also shortened from every 5 years to three (3) years. Please visit https://ticad6.net/ for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews with key delegates, contact Miss. Joan Apio, below.

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