



ARU BULLETIN

PREPARED BY COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING UNIT

VOLUME: 01

SPECIAL EDITION

**INAUGURATION OF THE
ARDHI UNIVERSITY VLIR-UOS**

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A MESSAGE FROM A VRIL-OUS LOCAL COORDINATOR



Prof. Gabriel Kassenga is a former Deputy Vice Chancellor responsible for Academic Affairs, Research and Consultancy and currently he is a Local Coordinator of the VRIL OUS Institutional Cooperation Project. During the inauguration event, he gave the welcoming remarks on behalf of the Project Steering Committee.

Prof. Kassenga stated that the main objective of the project is to build capacity in education, research, innovation and societal outreach in order to foster an inclusive and sustainable built environment in a

rapidly urbanizing city, Dar es Salaam in line with SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). He further said that the event has brought together institutional collaborating partners, non-state actors, policy-makers, national and international researchers and it will act as a springboard for the establishment of new networks for the exchange of knowledge and experience on various aspects pertaining to the sustainability of cities.



The Project is anticipated to strengthen the capacity of Ardhi University in teaching and research with increased volume and quality of research outputs as well as outreach services to communities” added Prof. Kassenga. He emphasized that the VRIL OUS-IUC Project is also set to enhanced research capacity that will help to forge a strong link between the University and society through working together with communities and local authorities in the investigation of societal problems in search for pragmatic solutions. Furthermore, the enhanced capacity in research will open doors for the university to create more synergies with other research institutions Prof. Kassenga stressed.



Finally, Prof. Kassenga thanked the Flemish partners under the leadership of Prof. Rob Cuyvers for working hard together with local partners to make the Project a reality. He also conveyed a heartfelt gratitude to the Belgium Government through the Flemish Interuniversity Council – University Development Cooperation for financially supporting the capacity building efforts at Ardhi University.



INAUGURATION OF THE ARDHI UNIVERSITY VLIR-UOS INSTITUTIONAL UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROJECT

Ardhi University (ARU) in partnership with Hasselt University (UHasselt) under the generous financing of Belgium Government through the Flemish Interuniversity Council-University Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS) has officially launched a project on establishing a new center “The African Center for Sustainable Cities Studies” at Ardhi University on 2nd March 2023.

The Project was jointly launched by Hon. Minister of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST)

who was represented by Dr. Kenneth Hosea (Director of Higher Education in MoEST) and H.E. Peter Huyhebert, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium.

In his inauguration speech, Dr. Hosea said that the Ministry has the responsibility and mandate to promote the application of Science, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics and Innovation and to facilitate research in science and technology and capacity building of the workforce of Tanzania through training at different

education levels and thus this Institutional University Cooperation Programme aims at building capacity of Tanzanians in the fields of importance for the National development. He further emphasized that the capacity to be built through this Project will enable ARU to produce research results and develop innovative tools to foster inclusive and sustainable development in the country’s urban areas thus contributing to the efforts of the Ministry and the Government at large in using Science, Engineering, Technology



Mathematics and Innovation to support sustainable development.

“ I am optimistic that the Project will contribute to the Sixth Government’s efforts of alleviating poverty and inequality among the Tanzania populace and it will enable ARU to contribute effectively in realizing the National Five Years Development Plan III (2021/2022 – 2025/2026) and Vision 2025” said Dr. Hosea.

In March 2021, Ardhi University was selected to receive funding from the VLIR – UOS to support a research, training and community outreach project titled ‘Establishing a new centre, “the African Centre for Sustainable Cities Studies” to build capacity in education, research, innovation and societal outreach in order to foster an inclusive and sustainable built environment in a rapidly urbanizing city, Dar es Salaam (SDG 11 in Dar es Salaam)’ This is a ten years Institutional University Cooperation Project that involves Ardhi University in Tanzania and Hasselt University in Belgium as the lead Universities.

The two lead Universities work in collaboration with seven partner institutions in Belgium and four partner institutions in Tanzania through an integrated strategy that includes Research, Education and Training and Societal outreach activities.



The Project inauguration event was also attended by Prof. Evaristo Liwa, Vice-Chancellor of Ardhi University, , Prof. John Lupala (Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academics, Research and Consultancy), and

Prof. Ally Namangaya (Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Planning, Finance, and Administration), Prof. Rob Cuyvers (Flemish Project Coordinator), Prof. Gabriel Kassenga (Local Project Coordinator, Ardhi

University), Mrs. Geraldine Mabbe (VLIR OUS Global Partnership Manager), Ardhi University Staff as well as Representatives from Different Private Institutions



98 ACADEMIC STAFF TO BENEFIT WITH TRAINING SUPPORT IN VLIR-OUS PROJECT

The VLIR-OUS Project is set to support the training of 98 existing Ardhi University Academic staff members and those eligible to fill teaching positions at ARU over the course of the project's ten-year implementation period. The Project will support training of 54 staff for Masters Programmes and 44 staff for Ph.D. scholarships.

The project sites' research and community outreach initiatives will provide academics, practitioners, and the local communities with useful and adaptable solutions.

The project will also upgrade the ICT facilities at Ardhi University, provide staff training, and aid in the creation of innovative, efficient, sustainable, and inclusive city solutions.

Quoting Prof. Evaristo Liwa, the Vice Chancellor of Ardhi University,



These project activities will therefore significantly contribute to achieving the Ardhi University the Corporate Plan (2019/20 – 2029/30) aiming at achieving excellence in education and training, research, innovation, societal outreach, and partnership and internationalization.



VLIR OUS-IUC PROJECT TO CONTRIBUTE IN OVERCOMING DAR ES SALAAM CITY'S PROBLEMS OF RAPID GROWTH.

During the event to inaugurate VLIR-OUS IUC Project, The Vice Chancellor Prof. Evaristo Liwa said the Project will build capacity in Education and Training, Research, Innovation as well as Societal outreach to contribute in generating solutions to the challenges which the rapid growing cities such as Dar es Salaam are facing. Prof. Liwa underscored that Dar es Salaam City is expected to attain a megacity status by 2030 with over 10 million people whereby the population will have profound implications in terms of labor markets, housing, services infrastructures, environmental management and city-wide spatial planning. Therefore, the Project is anticipated to contribute to the sustainable growth of Dar es Salaam city and its wider region in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and SDG 11 in particular. Prof. Liwa continued by saying that the implementation of the Project involves

Sub-Projects, which aim to foster participatory planning and land-based resource use conflict management for sustainable growth of Dar es Salaam metropolitan and its wider region; improve urban water supply and sustainable sanitation resource recovery, sustainable energy and material uses for decent housing; . Increase the sustainability of urban foodscapes through agri-food entrepreneurship; and, promote sustainable urban transport systems.



Three exemplary sites in Ubungo and Kigamboni districts of Dar es Salaam Region, as well as Bagamoyo District of Pwani Region will be used to implement the Project activities.

These sites will make it easier to address the complexity that defines the systemic and social change catalyst processes in quickly expanding cities



All interested stakeholders are actively participating in all project stages at all of the chosen sites, including the conceptualization of the issue, the development of possible solutions, the implementation of all planned activities, and the dissemination of research results. And for that, it is expected that the training, research, and community outreach activities carried out throughout this Project and the corresponding findings will contribute to long-term changes in these pilot sites in order to achieve a more livable and sustainable city of Dar es Salaam



Prof. Liwa