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PRESS RELEASE

Makerere University develops employability and entrepreneurship skills curriculum

Makerere University students could be among the first graduates to earn a degree under an Outcomes Based Education (OBE) curriculum.

School of Distance and Lifelong Learning (SoDLL) Makerere University in partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK has developed an employability and entrepreneurship skills development program for school leavers as part of the Education Partnerships in Africa Project (EPA).

The GBP4500 project, funded by the British Council and aims to build the capacity of African Institutions of Higher Education in delivering employability and entrepreneurship skills in collaboration with local employers.

“The current Higher Education system based on simple knowledge-transfer and limited skills development in Uganda can further be improved with employability and entrepreneurship skills”, said Dr. G. L. Openjuru, the Dean School of Distance and Lifelong Learning. A Higher Education reform to an OBE system would therefore place special emphasis on learning outcomes and skills development to best meet student’s needs for employment.

Pilot trainings of out of school leavers have been conducted in three regional centers of Makerere University including Arua, Entebbe and Fort Portal. The feedback from the monitoring visits has led to the development of a curriculum and course materials for Employability and Entrepreneurship.

The project has been extended to assist Makerere develop a modern OBE based curriculum as a foundation for becoming a student-centred institution in the region. The project will liaise with all stakeholders to embed this reform as a national curriculum model for Uganda’s Higher Education.

In its final stages, the project will enable selected staff of Makerere receive training in OBE focused curriculum and programme design, form a team to design a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE) and train other members of the academic staff in the use of OBE oriented methods to deliver programmes at the University.

The OBE focused reform will promote skills development in all faculties of Uganda Higher Education Institutions and orient Uganda’s Higher Education standards to international standards.

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